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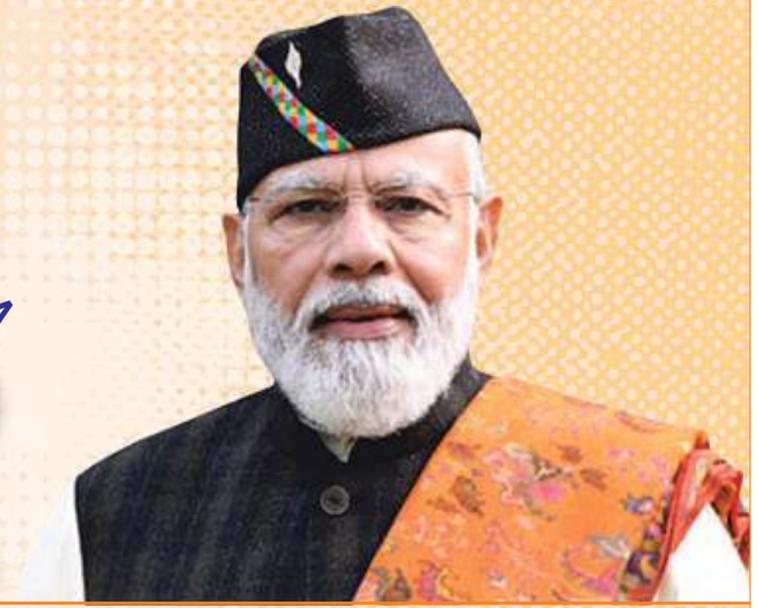


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Chief Minister-Designate, Uttarakhand

**Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister

# Oath Ceremony

Date : 23rd March 2022 | Time: 02:30 PM

Venue: Parade Ground, Dehradun

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# The Indian EXPRESS

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## PUTIN THOUGHT HE COULD SPLIT NATO, IT'S NOW STRONGER: US PRESIDENT Among Quad, India shaky on Ukraine, says Biden; Modi, Boris discuss crisis

PM underlines need for diplomacy, end to hostilities; grave situation, says Johnson

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has said that among the Quad countries, India is being "somewhat shaky" in terms of showing support against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Both Australia and Japan, who make up the Quad with India and the US, have criticised Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

This comes a month after the four leaders — Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida — met virtually for the Quad leaders' summit. Their joint statement did not criticise Russia then.

Biden's statement also came on a day when US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and her counterpart, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla. The two secretaries discussed the "situation in Ukraine", the Ministry of External Affairs had said on Monday.

Addressing a business roundtable of CEOs in



US President Joe Biden in Washington DC. Reuters

Washington, Biden said: "The one thing I'm confident, knowing Putin fairly well — as well as, I guess, another leader could know one another — is that he was counting on being able to split NATO. He never thought NATO would stay resolved — stay totally, thoroughly united. And I can assure you, NATO has never been stronger or more united in its entire history than it is today, in large part, because of Vladimir Putin."

"But in response to his aggression, there has been — he's pretty — we presented a united front throughout NATO and in the Pacific. The Quad is, with the possible exception of India being somewhat shaky on some of this. But Japan has been extremely strong, so has Australia,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## 'Russia-China axis not good for India... US can help with defence supplies'

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

FRAMING THE Russia-China alignment over Ukraine as a standoff between autocracies and democracies, visiting US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland told *The Indian Express* here Tuesday that US was ready to help India move away from de-



VICTORIA NULAND  
U.S. UNDER SECY OF STATE (POLITICAL AFFAIRS)

pendence on Russia for defence supplies. Excerpts from an exclusive interview:

**On the Russia-Ukraine crisis, how do you read India's statements?**

We had very broad and deep conversations (Nuland met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and her counterpart Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## We are at capacity, can't accept another wave of refugees, says Warsaw Mayor



EXPRESS FROM THE FRONTLINE  
KRISHN KAUSHIK  
WARSAW, MARCH 22

AS UKRAINIANS fleeing the war

continue to head to the border with Poland, Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski has said that the city has reached its capacity to accept refugees, and if there is another wave, Europe and the US will have to step in and share the burden.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Trzaskowski said the Russian invasion has proven Poland's stand right, and Europe needs to be more assertive against Russian President Vladimir Putin. Ukraine, he said, is also fighting

for Poland's freedom.

"We are at capacity, we cannot accept 100,000 more refugees," he said.

Trzaskowski, who has also worked as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for a year, called Putin a "war criminal" and said India must stand united with Western democracies against Russia.

"We would expect India to be with us, and to support a strongly narrow stance against

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Cabinet approves merger of Delhi's three civic bodies, AAP hits back

Unification an excuse, civic body polls deferred because BJP is scared: AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE UNION Cabinet gave its nod Tuesday to The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which aims to merge the Capital's three municipal corporations — South, North and East — ten years after the trifurcation of the civic body. Officials said the amendment is likely to be scheduled in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament.

The Cabinet approval comes days after a press conference scheduled by the State Election Commissioner to announce the MCD poll dates was deferred at the last moment after the Centre expressed its intention to unify the three civic bodies.

While the BJP has been ruling the civic bodies for the last 15 years, it faces a tough challenge from the AAP this time. Two weeks ago, when the State Election Commissioner decided to defer the announcement, it drew a sharp reaction from the AAP which accused the Commissioner of succumbing to pressure from the BJP.

On Tuesday, senior AAP leader Atishi said the sweeping mandate that her party got in Punjab had scared the BJP, which is why it

### EXPLAINED North & East vs South

THE MCD was trifurcated in 2012 when the Congress government of Sheila Dikshit controlled Delhi. It was done to decentralise governance. But the North and East civic bodies came under financial strain and there was unequal division of resources between these and the cash-rich South MCD.

wants to postpone MCD elections.

"Unification of MCDs is an excuse. It has nothing to do with elections. The truth is that BJP is scared of Arvind Kejriwal and of AAP. BJP has been in power in the municipal corporations for 15 years now. The party has been in power at the Centre for 7 years. In all this time, they never did anything for unification. A day after the exit poll results, which showed that AAP was sweeping Punjab, they made the state election commission postpone the announcement of the MCD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### BUSINESS AS USUAL



### THE WORLD



NO DEAL WITHOUT MEETING PUTIN, SAYS ZELENSKY

NO SURVIVOR FOUND IN CHINA EASTERN CRASH  
PAGE 16

## Complainant wants to drop name of Gehlot's son from cheating FIR

SAGAR RAJPUT  
MUMBAI, MARCH 22

THE 33-YEAR-OLD businessman, who is the complainant in the case of cheating, breach of trust and intimidation that was registered at Nashik in Maharashtra against 14 persons, has told the local police that he wants to retract the complaint against one of the accused — Vaibhav Gehlot, the son of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

According to senior officers, the complainant Sushil Patil's supplementary statement was recorded on Monday by the police in Gangapur, where the case



Vaibhav Gehlot

has been registered, in which he said Vaibhav Gehlot was named in his complaint due to a "misunderstanding caused by... Sachin Valera".

Valera has been identified as a Gujarat-based Congress worker and alleged mastermind in the case.

On Tuesday, Nashik Police Commissioner Deepak Pandey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## ED attaches assets of firm that gave loans to Uddhav brother-in-law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, MARCH 22

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 11 residential flats of city-based Pushpak Bullion at a real estate project developed by Shree Saibaba Grihanimiti Pvt Ltd, a company promoted by Shridhar Madhav Patankar.

Patankar is the brother of Rashmi Thackeray, wife of Maharashtra Chief Minister and

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray.

The ED action against Pushpak Bullion is in connection with its money laundering case against the company for allegedly accepting demonetised currency of Rs 84.5 crore against 258 kg of gold between November and December 2016.

The agency claimed Pushpak Bullion gave over Rs 30 crore from the proceeds to Shree Saibaba Grihanimiti as unsecured loans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



At least eight houses were set on fire in Birbhum on Monday night. Partha Paul

## Houses burnt, 8 killed in retaliatory attack after TMC leader's murder

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA, ATRI MITRA & SWEETY KUMARI  
RAMPURHAT, KOLKATA, MARCH 22

THE MURDER of a deputy pradhan in Bogtui village in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Monday evening sparked off a chain of events that led to at least eight houses in the area being attacked and set on fire, resulting in eight deaths, including that of women and children.

Police said two FIRs have been filed — one over deputy pradhan Bhadu Sheikh's killing and the other over the attack on the houses. Eleven people have been arrested in the second case. While police denied any polit-



Relatives of Bhadu Sheikh, a deputy pradhan associated with TMC who was killed in Birbhum on Monday. Partha Paul

ical angle and said it was a case of rivalry between two groups, the incident found an echo in New Delhi and Kolkata as the Union Home Ministry sought a report from the state government, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Fleeing food shortage, economic misery, first trickle of Lankan refugees at Tamil Nadu coast

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, MARCH 22

THE RIPPLES of Sri Lanka's economic crisis are now being felt on Indian shores.

On Tuesday, 16 Sri Lankan nationals, all Tamils from the Jaffna and Mannar regions in the north, reached Tamil Nadu in two batches. The first set of six refugees, including three children, were stranded near an island off the coast of Rameswaram and rescued by Coast Guard. The second group

of ten reached late in the night.

Sources in Tamil Nadu Police told *The Indian Express* that the refugees were fleeing unemployment and shortage of food in Sri Lanka. And reports from the northern Tamil-dominated regions of Lanka indicate that this may just be the beginning. Intelligence officers in Tamil Nadu have obtained information that "around 2,000 refugees" are likely to arrive in the coming weeks.

The six refugees in the first batch include a young couple and their four-month-old son, and another woman and her



Gajendran (24), his wife Mary (22) and their son Nijath were among six rescued by the Coast Guard. Express

two children. Local officials have verified their identities: Gajendran (24), his wife Mary Clarine (22), and their son Nijath (4 months); and, Tiore Anistan (28), and her children Moses (6) and Esther (9).

The identities of the second group, which includes three women and five children, are being verified.

"The six refugees in the first group told the police that they were forced to flee after struggling for food for several weeks. They claimed they paid around

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Petrol and diesel prices hiked after 4 months, LPG to cost Rs 50 more

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

AFTER A gap of over four months, petrol and diesel prices saw a rise on Tuesday as oil marketing companies (OMCs) hiked the prices of both fuels by about Rs 0.8 per litre. The first of what analysts expect will be a series of hikes pushed the price of petrol

in the national capital to Rs 96.21 per litre and diesel to Rs 87.47 per litre. OMCs also increased the price of LPG by Rs 50 per cylinder, bringing the price of a 14.2 kg cylinder to Rs 949.5 in the capital.

The prices of both petrol and diesel are expected to rise further as crude oil prices have increased sharply due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The

price of Brent crude has increased by 40 per cent to \$114.2 per barrel, up from \$81.6 barrel when OMCs last revised fuel prices. India imports about 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

State-owned OMCs kept the prices of both petrol and diesel constant since November 4, when the Centre announced a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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FROM PAGE ONE

‘Russia-China’

Shringla) about what’s in this war... Russia itself and President Putin have become so much more aggressive... (in a way) so brutal that President Biden actually called him a war criminal.

That has implications for all of us and those are the kind of conversations we had, including the fact that Russia is now seeking and seeking out help from China in this field. They are looking for money, and they are even looking for weapons and that is tightening the alignment between Russia and China, which isn’t good for us and is not good for India. We are also worried about President Putin who has made loose statements about chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons... As the autocracies tighten their relationship... it is very important for democracies to stand together. We feel a real understanding and evolution in India’s position, but you have a historical relationship. We are all re-evaluating where we are with Russia... and it’s important that we do it together.

Besides historical ties, India’s dependence on Russia for defence supplies is crucial.

Among the things we talked about, is this legacy of security support from the Soviet Union and Russia at a time when the US was less generous with India. Now, of course, times have changed and we are very eager to do more and more on the defence side with India.

We also talked about the fact that, in this context, is Russia (going to) actually be a reliable supplier for India, a supplier you want to have? Look at how poorly Russian equipment is performing on the battlefield. Some 60 per cent of their surface-to-air missiles are not even operational, they have lost vast amounts of equipment. Sanctions are going to make it harder to have financial relationships, and, most importantly, Russia has lost so much equipment so quickly in this conflict. So, are they actually going to have the supply lines?

What we have been saying is, among other things, we have had over this last month, this massive US and allied partner-led effort to source Soviet-made equipment and other equipment for Ukraine. So if we can help provide that for Ukraine, we can also provide alternatives for India to make this transition that you yourself are seeking to make. It was a very rich discussion. You don’t want to get

trapped in a dependency with a guy like Putin, and there are alternatives and we are eager to be your partner.

But that could take time?

It will take time... but (India) talked about how some of the weapons (it) needs can actually be produced in Ukraine, and some of the weapons can be produced in eastern Europe and in some other parts of the world. We understand there is an evolution here but we also are pretty open about the fact this is a major inflection point in the autocratic-democratic struggle, and we want and need India’s voice in that.

What are the prospects of a waiver from CAATSA as India is getting the S-400 air defence system from Russia?

I’m not going to get ahead of the process. But we are having very good conversations with a number of steps through and we will see where it goes. But it’s certainly very much on our minds, that if we want to do more together with India, we need to work through this process.

The Chinese Vice Foreign minister drew a parallel between NATO’s eastward expansion in Europe and the Quad in the Indo-Pacific.

Obviously, China is trying to seek an advantage for itself in this conflict, as it always does. But again, what threatens China most: open and free societies who offer their people a different way of life than the Communist party of China offers for Chinese people.

So NATO is a defensive alliance, of voluntary alignment of countries who asked to join together to defend themselves. In the Indo-Pacific strategy, we are talking about the great democracies of the region, working together to protect themselves and to advance prosperity, and free and open commerce and navigation and all of these things. All of the things that the autocrats want to change, want to threaten. So I’m not surprised that the Chinese are trying to draw parallels here. Because, in both cases, we’re talking about trying to keep the world free for democratic governance.

Who is a bigger threat — Russia or China?

The worry now is that they intensify their efforts together. They learn from each other, whether it is how to coerce a neighbour economically, or militarily. Whether it’s about how to go in the UN system and undercut the rules of the road that the US, India and other democracies have built to favour freedom. Whether it is that they let each other off the hook by financing each other’s militaries.

How do you see India’s purchase of oil from Russia?

On the oil side, for the US, and for a number of other countries who are less dependent on Russian energy at the moment, it

was a relatively straightforward decision to cut off. For other countries, some in Europe, but some in other parts of the world, it’s going to be a transition to Russian oil and gas dependence and we understand that... We have said that, in the context of India’s (imports), it’s actually a relatively small amount of your energy mix. So that is understandable.

I think we have seen very generous humanitarian support for Ukraine from India. India’s strong voice in terms of stopping this war, have humanitarian corridors and get back to diplomacy.

President Biden said that among the Quad, India is being ‘somewhat shaky’ in terms of showing support against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Is that a fair characterisation?

Well, again, I think India’s coming from a different historical context, is making its own evolution from a different starting point than we were. But I do think that for President Biden, and for us, after working so hard, early in the term to have a stable and predictable relationship with Russia, it’s really jarring, painful and awful to see the course that Putin has taken. That’s why having these conversations of what we are seeing, and their impact is important for India and the US to work together, as we seek to do more together.

Warsaw Mayor

dictatorship and against people who are war criminals.” He said over 2 million Ukrainian refugees have crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border since the invasion on February 24, and 300,000 are now in Warsaw.

“To illustrate the magnitude of the problem, when there was a refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, 200,000 refugees were crossing to Europe in a month. And we have 300,000 in one city alone.”

He said Warsaw faces three main challenges to manage this influx. “First of all, we need to help them and accommodate them. Most of the people who were coming at the beginning were taken care of by their family and friends. Now they need accommodation and basic help.”

The second challenge, he said, is that the Central government has shifted all the administrative duties to the city administration “which means we have to register them, and also we will also be responsible for distributing money and financial aid offered by the government.”

And then there are “problems of a long-term nature, because Ukrainians were granted citizenship status very similar to our citizens. So they have access to free education, free healthcare and so on. We need to provide it. We are responsible for schools.”

He said Warsaw alone has 100,000 students now from Ukraine.

Last week, the Polish government passed a law granting Ukrainians in the country access to social benefits for 18 months. But after 18 months, Trzaskowski said, “We will see how the situation will develop. We hope that the war will end soon. But if it doesn’t, I presume that these privileges will be extended... I hope that we will have stability in Ukraine by then.”

“If there is a second wave, we need a system offered by the European Union and the United Nations. We cannot do it alone. Most of what has been done has been based on civil society, on non-government organisations, on thousands of volunteers, on the city services.”

He said there needs to be “a relocation system in Europe and the world, and we need to share the burden. All of us.” There needs to be a “system in place, where the United Nations and the European Union will start helping us out in a way which is much more synchronised and prepared. Because for now, a lot is based on improvisation.”

Asked about Poland’s changed stand against refugees, as it has in the past refused to accept refugees from Syria and Libya, Trzaskowski said the reasons are both political and cultural. “There are many different reasons,” he said.

As minister of European Affairs in the previous liberal government, he said, “We were ready to accept Mediterranean refugees on a voluntary basis to show solidarity in Europe.” But when the government changed in 2015, with Law and Justice Party’s Andrzej Duda’s becoming the President, the policy changed.

“The new government, the conservative government, decided to renege on that decision and they weren’t able to accept anyone, and even started an anti-refugee campaign for elections,” Trzaskowski said. He was Duda’s main challenger in the 2020 Presidential elections, but lost narrowly to him.

“But now the situation is completely different because everyone understands in Poland that Ukraine is fighting for our freedom as well. And for the security of the trans-Atlantic alliance. So we are doing our bit. And we are helping as much as we can.”

He admitted, though, that for “some people” the question of “cultural and linguistic affinity is important”. He said the “support for the Ukrainian cause and the welcoming instinct of the Polish society has been overwhelming this time”.

Civic merger

election date saying they want to unify the three bodies. Why did they do it now? Because they are scared of AAP and of Arvind Kejriwal. They know that the people of Delhi will reject their policies of corruption,” she said.

According to sources, BJP’s state unit wants the elections to be postponed by six months so that it can get the chance to work under a unified corporation and show people that things had changed after the Centre’s decision. The MCD was trifurcated in 2012 under the Congress government headed by Sheila Dikshit, with the stated aim of decentralisation of governance. Over the years, however, the division put financial strain on the North and East civic bodies and led to unequal division of resources between these and the cash-rich South MCD.

Some more amendments have also been cleared in the principal Act of 1957 to ensure a more robust delivery architecture for greater transparency, improved governance and efficient delivery of civic services for the people of Delhi, officials said.

Houses burnt

summoned the chief secretary, and the state government set up a Special Investigation Team. Opposition parties targeted the state government for the “deteriorating law and order”, with the BJP walking out of the state Assembly in protest.

Police said Bhadu Sheikh, 38, the deputy pradhan who is associated with the ruling Trinamool Congress, was standing near the Bogtui crossing late Monday evening when four men on two motorcycles allegedly lobbed crude bombs at him. Sheikh was taken to the government hospital in Rampurhat block, but died on the way.

Hours later, a cluster of houses, including that of Fatikh Sheikh and those belonging to relatives of Sona Sheikh — two of the accused in Bhadu’s murder who are now absconding — was allegedly attacked and set on fire, leading to the death of eight people. While the charred bodies recovered from the houses are yet to be identified, police said women and children are among those killed. Meena Bibi, the wife of accused Fatikh Sheikh who succumbed to her burn injuries in hospital, is the only one to have been identified so far.

On Tuesday morning, a big crowd gathered outside Bhadu Sheikh’s house to mourn his death while the family prepared for his last rites. Across the narrow lane from Bhadu’s house stood the burnt houses, including of Sona Sheikh’s relatives from where the bodies were recovered. Bhadu’s younger brother Jehangir said, “After my brother was killed, hundreds of people from five villages gathered here. People were angry and they gave vent to their anger. We do not know who did what in the crowd.”

Villagers and his family members accuse Sona and Fatikh of killing Bhadu and say they were all friends and party colleagues but fell out as Bhadu gained political and financial clout. Their bitter rivalry took a new turn on January 5 last year when Bhadu’s brother Babar Sheikh was murdered.

“My brother, Sona Sheikh, Fatikh Sheikh and the other accused all worked for the Trinamool Congress. My brother used to pay them Rs 20,000 to 30,000 every month. But they were jealous that he was getting rich and powerful... He had several businesses. Even the day before yesterday, we got a call from them threatening to kill my brother,” said Jehangir.

Bhadu’s 85-year-old father Marfaus Hossain said, “Sona Sheikh, Chunnun Sheikh... all of them were with my son Bhadu. A year ago, they killed my elder son Babar Sheikh. Police did not arrest anyone. After a few months, they surrendered in court and got bail.”

Referring to the 11 arrests in the second case, Bhadu’s wife Tebila Bibi said, “Police have arrested our people. They should be released. I lost my husband and want the culprits who killed my husband to be hanged.”

Speaking in Kolkata, West Bengal DGP Manoj Malviya said an SIT headed by ADG CID Gyanwant Singh has been set up



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**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Retail inflation at an 8-month high, Narmada river-linking project, and the Ukraine crisis**

In this episode of 3 Things, we discuss the latest retail inflation numbers and the Par Tapi Narmada River linking project. We also go over the latest from Ukraine

Biden on India support against Russia aggression

in terms of dealing with Putin’s aggression,” he said.

Last month, Biden had said that India and the US were trying to resolve their differences on the issue.

In a virtual summit with Modi on Monday, 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, Shringla later said Morrison expressed his understanding of India’s position, 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.

On Saturday, Kishida called out Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, describing it as a “serious development” that has “shaken the foundation of international order”. Modi, who held talks with Kishida at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, did not mention Ukraine directly and referred to “geopolitical developments”. Biden’s public comments are the first indication of Washington’s assessment of New Delhi’s approach.

Earlier this month, the US State Department had recalled a cable to American diplomats that instructed them to inform counterparts from India and the United Arab Emirate (UAE) that

their position of neutrality on Ukraine put them “in Russia’s camp”, Axios, a US news outlet, had reported.

On Tuesday, Modi spoke to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose office at 10, Downing Street said the leaders discussed the “grave situation in Ukraine” and Johnson said “he believed the actions of Putin’s regime were deeply disturbing and disastrous for the world”.

“The pair agreed that Ukraine’s integrity and territorial sovereignty must be respected,” said the statement released by 10, Downing Street. The leaders said Russia needed to adhere to the UN Charter, and both agreed that “respect for in-

ternational law was the only way to ensure global peace and prosperity,” it said.

The Indian PMO’s readout of the call said the two leaders had a “detailed discussion” on the situation in Ukraine. “Prime Minister Modi reiterated India’s consistent appeal for cessation of hostilities and a return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. He emphasised India’s belief in respect for international law and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states as the basis of the contemporary world order,” the PMO statement said.

The difference in the tone of the two statements reflected the public positions of the two countries on the issue.

to probe the incident. “Whether the house was set on fire in retaliation to the deputy gram pradhan’s death or whether it was due to some other reason is being probed,” added Malviya.

The DGP also said, “It is not political rivalry. It could be deep-rooted personal enmity between two groups.”

The inspector-in-charge and sub-divisional police officer of Rampurhat block, under which the village falls, have been suspended.

A TMC delegation headed by State Transport Minister Firhad Hakim, who is also the mayor of Kolkata, visited the spot and met Bhadu’s family members.

Later, speaking to reporters, Hakim said: “Those who have maligned the image of West Bengal by conspiring to carry out this incident will not be spared. Anyone and everyone who is involved will be arrested, whether they are from the CPM, BJP or the TMC.”

Seeking an “urgent update” from Chief Secretary BP Gopalika, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, who has been in a long standoff with the state government, tweeted, “Horrible violence and arson orgy #Rampurhat #Birbhum indicates state is in grip of violence culture and lawlessness.”

Responding to Dhankhar’s tweet, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to the Governor, saying, “It pains me that you have chosen an unfortunate incident... that resulted in loss of precious lives, to pass sweeping and uncalled for comments on the law and order situation in the State... As you are aware that in this incident, one important TMC party functionary, who was also Upa-Pradhan of the Gram Panchayat, was brutally attacked and killed by some unknown miscreants. The political identity of the perpetrators of the crime is a subject of the investigation. Moreover, fire in some houses resulted in the loss of precious lives. The possibility of a larger political conspiracy to malign the image of the State cannot be ruled out.”

State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi to “appraise him of the situation” and later said Joint Secretary-level officers of the Home Ministry would visit Bengal soon. The Bengal BJP also filed a PIL in the Calcutta High Court demanding a CBI and NIA probe.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh called it a “local conflict”.

Petrol, diesel

Rs 5 per litre cut in excise duty on petrol and a Rs 10 per litre cut in excise duty on diesel. The freeze in price revisions continued in the run-up to the Assembly elections in five states earlier this month. Ordinarily, the prices of petrol and diesel are revised daily, in line with a 15-day rolling average of benchmark prices of petroleum products.

On Sunday, OMCs hiked the price of bulk diesel by Rs 25 per litre, taking bulk prices well above prices at retail pumps. The bulk price of diesel in Mumbai is currently Rs 122 per litre while the price at retail pumps is Rs 95 per

litre.

Experts note that the prices of both petrol and diesel need to be hiked by about Rs 0.52 for every \$1 per barrel increase in the price of crude oil to allow OMCs to maintain their marketing margins. As the price of crude has increased by nearly \$33 per barrel since the last price revision, OMCs may need to hike prices by as much as Rs 17 per litre for both petrol and diesel to restore marketing margins to normal levels.

However, an increase in refining margins — the difference between the price of crude oil and the value of petroleum products produced using crude oil in a refinery — may allow refiners to continue to absorb some of the impact of higher crude oil prices. Analysts have noted that the Centre may also reduce excise duties on petrol and diesel, which are still above pre-pandemic levels, to reduce the impact of high crude oil price on consumers. Central excise duty on petrol is still Rs 8 per litre higher than pre-pandemic levels while excise duty on diesel is still Rs 6 per litre higher.

Cheating case

transferred the investigation to the Economic Offence Wing in the case, which had prompted the BJP in Rajasthan to target Ashok Gehlot and the ruling Congress, which is also an ally in Maharashtra’s MVA government.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Pandey said, “In his statement to police that was recorded on Monday, he has said that he does not have any complaint against Vaibhav Gehlot. The complainant has said that the main accused in the case would often take his name due to which he named him in his complaint.”

On March 17, following the directions of a Nashik court, the police had registered a case under IPC sections 420 (cheating), 468 (criminal breach of trust), 468 (forgery for cheating), 471 (forged records), 504 (intentional insult), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) against the 14 persons, including Vaibhav Gehlot. According to police, the accused colluded and lured Patil, a civil engineer, into investing in their company with the promise of high returns, offered him the role of a non-active partner — and duped him of Rs 6.8 crore.

Initially, the case was registered on the basis of the complainant’s application and the court’s order. The complainant’s statement was also recorded then. However, on Monday afternoon, he came to the police station on his own and said he wants to divulge some facts of the case. He said he had named Gehlot in his complaint by mistake and wants to remove his name from the FIR following which his supplementary statement was recorded,” a senior officer told The Indian Express. In the supplementary statement, Patil told the police that he has never met Vaibhav Gehlot and that he did not give or send any money directly to him.

Patil said he was deceived by Valera, who allegedly claimed that he was closely affiliated with the

Rajasthan Chief Minister and his son. Valera had also claimed that Vaibhav is part of his company, named Abhik Advertisement Pvt Ltd, and helps in bagging contracts from the Rajasthan government,” said the officer.

The complainant told the police that after verification, he was now “reasonably confident” that Vaibhav is not part of the group that duped him.

While Vaibhav’s name has not been removed from the FIR yet, police sources said it would be done after Patil records his statement with the local magistrate. “We shall now present him in court and his statement shall be recorded again after the process to remove Vaibhav Gehlot’s name from the FIR will start,” said the officer.

When The Indian Express tried to reach Patil for comment, the call was answered by a man who described himself as a “family friend”. “Patil is currently admitted in the ICU ward of a hospital and won’t be able to talk,” he said.

Apart from Gehlot and Valera, the others booked in the case have been identified as Kishan Kantelia, Sardar Singh Chauhan, Pravin Singh Chauhan, Suhass Surendrabhai Makwal, Niravbhai Maheshbhai Virmabhat, Biswaranjan Mohanty, Rajbir Singh Shekhawat, Pragesh Kumar Vinodchandra Prakash, Sanjay Kumar Desai, Sawan Kumar Parner, Rishita Shah and Viraj Panchal.

Uddhav, ED

This money, it said, was transferred through a clutch of shell companies.

In a statement, the ED said the attached assets include 11 residential flats in a real estate project called Neelambari in Thane promoted by Shree Saibaba Grihanimiti. The flats are said to be worth Rs 6.45 crore.

According to the ED, its investigation found that Mahesh Patel, a director of Pushpak Group “siphoned off and layered funds” of Pushpak Group companies. In one such instance, the ED claimed that Pushpak Realty Developer transferred Rs 20.02 crore to a clutch of entities controlled by an accommodation entry provider, Nandkishore Chaturvedi, “after layering it through various connected/unconnected entities”.

This money, it claimed, was subsequently parked in a real estate project developed by Shree Saibaba Grihanimiti.

“Nandkishore Chaturvedi who operates a number of shell companies further transferred the money through his shell company Humsafar Dealer Private Limited in the garb of extending unsecured loans in excess of Rs 30 crore to Shree Saibaba Grihanimiti Pvt Ltd. Thus, the money siphoned off by Mahesh Patel in connivance with Mr Nandkishore Chaturvedi was parked in the real estate projects by Shree Saibaba Grihanimiti Pvt Ltd,” the ED said.

When his comments were sought, Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray said, “I was inside the Legislative Assembly. I don’t have much information. I will collect in-

formation and get back.”

Eknath Shinde, Minister for Urban Development, said: “These are vengeful actions against us. Such use of Central investigative machinery is detrimental to democracy. The BJP is working to create obstacles in the MVA government’s work and to destabilise the government... Shiv Sena is not afraid of such action. The government will continue its work.”

Tamil refugees

Rs 50,000 to fishermen who dropped them on the fourth island off Arichal Munai within Indian waters. According to them, many more families are finding ways to flee to India due to the acute shortage of food and fuel, and lack of income,” an official said.

“They were rescued on a hovercraft, and given food at the Coast Guard camp, before being handed over to the police. The police said all of them have been shifted to the Mandapam refugee camp near Rameswaram,” the official said.

“The second group reached on a fibre boat. They left the Mannar coast last night and claim to have spent a total of Rs 3 lakh for the journey. The boat had developed a technical snag en route and they had to spend almost the entire day repairing it midsea before reaching near the Pamban bridge in Rameswaram around 9 pm,” the official said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, V S Sivakaran, an activist based in Mannar, warned that this may be the beginning of an exodus.

“Many people whom I know are planning to leave Sri Lanka, some have relatives in Indian camps, some have contacts in Tamil Nadu. There is panic and anxiety about tomorrow. It is almost certain that the price of rice will touch Rs (Sri Lanka) 500/kg in another week. Today, it is Rs 290/kg of rice, Rs 290/kg of sugar and Rs 790 for 400 grams of milk powder,” he said.

The price of milk powder, for instance, jumped by Rs 250 over the last three days, he said. Last week, he pointed out, the Sri Lankan government postponed school exams indefinitely due to a paper shortage.

Sivakaran’s assessment of an impending exodus was underlined by sources in the Lankan government and local political observers, who had witnessed a similar exodus during the peak of the civil war there in 1989. That exodus came to an end with the war winding down in 2009. Since then, there have been isolated cases of Lankan Tamils coming to India on fishing boats.

Suresh Premachandran, who heads the political outfit Eelam People’s Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), said the working class is facing the heat. “Construction workers and daily wagers are struggling due to inflation across the country. Given the previous exodus, people in Mannar and Jaffna may be looking for ways to reach India. It may be the beginning. More people are likely to leave the country unless the economy stabilises,” he said.

CORRECTION

ON 22.03.22, PAGE 8

A PHOTO caption wrongly identified BJP MP S S Ahluwalia as Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The error is regretted.

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## Delhi most polluted capital in world, finds air report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

IN TERMS of annual average PM2.5 levels in 2021, Delhi ranked as the most polluted out of 107 capital cities in the world, according to the 2021 World Air Quality Report.

The city is topping the list for the fourth consecutive year. It topped a list of 92 capitals in 2020, 85 such cities in 2019, and 62 in 2018. The report is based on PM2.5 data from 6,475 locations in "117 countries, regions and territories around the world," and is prepared by IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company.

The report said: "India was home to 11 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2021. Delhi saw a 14.6% increase in PM2.5 concentrations in 2021 with levels rising to 96.4 µg/m3 from 84 µg/m3 in 2020. No cities in India met the WHO air quality guideline of 5 µg/m3. In 2021, 48% of India's cities exceeded 50 µg/m3, or more than 10 times the WHO guideline." The report draws data from government-operated monitoring stations, privately-owned ones, and stations operated by institutions.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment, said, "We know this from the regulatory data in India that pollution is bouncing back after 2020, which was a hard lockdown... Post-recovery period calls for stringent implementation of action across NCR..."

She added, "To understand if existing policies are working or not, post-recovery trend will have to be looked at after the reopening of economy in 2021. Action will have to be scaled up and harmonised. Focus would have to be clean energy transition... We already know this is what we need to do. Some of these have started to kick in, but it isn't happening at the required scale and intensity."

## Absence of rains behind soaring temperatures, no respite anytime soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE ABSENCE of rainfall has been keeping the temperature above normal in Delhi over the past week. The maximum tempera-

ture reached as high as eight degrees above normal on March 20, when this year's highest, of 38.3 degrees Celsius, was recorded.

On Tuesday, the maximum temperature fell to 34.6 degrees Celsius, four degrees above the normal for this time of the year.

"The temperature is not coming down below normal because of the absence of rain. There has been a dry spell in Delhi for around 25 days now, and it is unlikely to rain for the next 10 days," said R K Jenamani, senior scientist, India Meteorological

Department (IMD). March had not witnessed any rain in 2018 either, he added. "It might happen once in a few years. March is known for dry spells and for high variations in temperature since there is a transition from winter to summer," Jenamani said.

"From March 15 to 19, the temperature from J&K to Uttarakhand was above normal," he said. An increase in the speed of westerly winds over Delhi has caused a fall in temperature over the past two days. The

influence of the westerly winds will continue for the next five days, keeping the maximum temperature below 38 degrees Celsius, since high wind speed can prevent heat from consolidating over an area, Jenamani said.

The IMD forecast indicates that the maximum temperature could remain at around 35 or 36 degrees Celsius till March 27.

The normal rainfall for Delhi from March 1 to 22 is around 10.8 mm. The city has received no rain in this month so far.



**SRF Foundation & SPIC MACAY present**  
**MUSIC IN THE PARK**  
at Nehru Park, Chanakypuri  
26th March - 4:00 PM onwards



**Sanjeev and Ashwini Shankar**  
(Shahnai)

Mithilesh K Jha - Tabla



**Sanjay Subrahmanyan**  
(Camatic Vocal)

S Varadarajan - Violin  
Neyveli B Venkatesh - Mridangam



**Ulhas Kashalkar**  
(Hindustani Vocal)

Suresh Talwalkar - Tabla  
Tanmay deochake - Harmonium



**Vikku Vinayakram**  
(Ghatam)

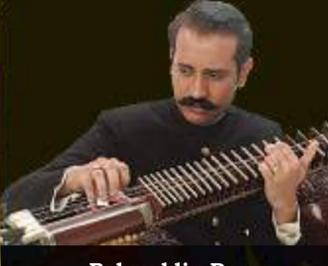
Salvagram Vinayakram  
Swaminathan Selvaganesh



**Praveen Sultana**  
(Hindustani Vocal)

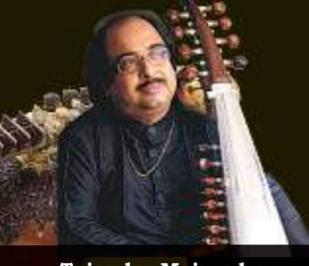
Shadaab Sultana Khan, Mithilesh K Jha,  
Paromita Mukherjee

**27th March - 4:00 PM onwards**



**Bahauddin Dagar**  
(Rudra Veena)

Sanjay Agle - Pakhawaj



**Tejendra Majumdar**  
(Sarod)

Ojas Adhiya - Tabla



**Ashwini Bhide Deshpande**  
(Hindustani Vocal)

Vinod Lale - Tabla, Vinay Mishra - Harmonium



**Shahid Parvez**  
(Sitar)

Ojas Adhiya - Tabla



**Sajan Mishra**  
(Hindustani Vocal)

Swaransh Mishra - Vocal, Rakesh Mishra - Tabla  
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<b>Mr. A. K. Jha</b> IfoS Retd. Former Additional Principal Chief Forest Conservator (WB)	<b>Mr. Varesh Sinha</b> IAS Retd., Former Chief Secretary Gujarat	<b>Mr. S. Handa</b> IRS Retd., Former Chief Commissioner of Income Tax	<b>Mr. Y. S. Shahrawat</b> IRS Retd., Former Chairman Land & Ports Authority of India	<b>Mr. D. D. Sharma</b> IfoS Retd. Former Joint Secretary to GOI	<b>Mr. K. P. Sasidharan</b> IAAS Retd. Former DG, CAG	<b>Mr. Premal Sharma</b> IRTS Retd., Former Member, Railway Board	

### Interview Program Details

Most Comprehensive Interview Guidance Program

#### Comprehensive Sessions

- ➔ Personality and interview facing techniques by B. Singh Sir, Avadh Ojha Sir and S. Handa Sir
- ➔ Budget and economic survey by Vibhas Jha Sir
- ➔ Current Affairs by a panel of NEXT IAS faculties
- ➔ Polity and Governance by Ashish Kumar Sir and Atish Mathur Sir
- ➔ Home State by Ruchika Ma'am, A.P. Singh Sir and NEXT IAS faculties

#### One to One DAF Discussion

- ➔ One to one discussion on strengths, weaknesses, prizes, scholarships, areas of interest, extra-curricular activities, service preferences, gap in study, optional subject selection etc.
- ➔ Exclusive one to one DAF discussion sessions for Engineering background candidates.

#### Mock Interviews (2 Nos.) Offline/Online

- ➔ 5 Member interview panel consists of retired Civil Servants, personality and HR experts, psychologists and senior subject matter experts.
- ➔ For engineering graduates, engg. subject matter experts will be made available.
- ➔ Recording of Mock Interview will be made available to the candidate for self analysis.

#### Exclusive Sessions for Engineers

- Lectures covering basic concepts, areas of application and previously asked questions of engineering subjects of CE, ME, EE, EC and CS/IT.
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VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS  
**67,012**



PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 72  
OXYGEN SUPPORT 11  
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 3

DELHI: TOTAL CASES  
**18,64,003**

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	10,225	10,153
ICU BEDS	2,305	2,282

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Mar 21	108	98	0	22,079
Mar 22	104	120	1	28,300
Total	488*	18,37,367	26,148	3,71,43,757

\*Total active cases in Delhi

	Mar 21	Mar 22
Cases	N/A	N/A
Deaths	N/A	N/A

	Cases	Deaths
GURGAON	47	57
Delhi	0	0

## NINE MEMBERS OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL DISSENT

# DU green signal to common entrance test

ARANYA SHANKAR  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

DELHI UNIVERSITY'S Academic Council (AC) Tuesday approved undergraduate admissions for the academic session 2022-23 based on the Common University Entrance Test (CUET). The agenda item was passed with nine dissents. With this, DU will now let go of its age-old practice of holding UG admissions based on cut-offs calculated on the basis of Class XII Board results.

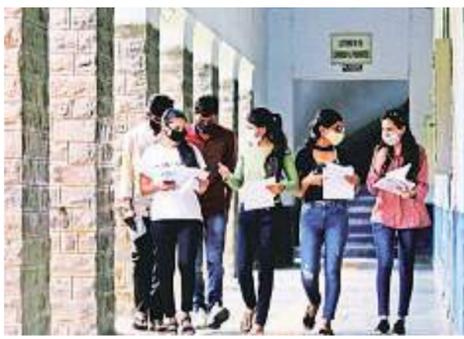
"We have passed CUET for the coming academic session and will now gear up for its implementation. There were nine dissents. Since this is an academic matter, the AC is the final authority in the matter. It does not need to be taken to the Executive Council," said Registrar Vikas Gupta.

With the CUET now passed, candidates need only to have passed the Class XII Board ex-

ams to take the entrance exam. They will appear for the CUET in only those subjects that they have cleared in Class XII. In case the subject is not mentioned in the CUET, candidates will appear in one that is similar or closely related to what they have studied in Class XII. Overall merit will be calculated based on a combination of subjects in which a candidate has appeared.

According to the tentative structure of the CUET, there will be three sections. Section-I will have questions on reading comprehension, verbal ability, synonyms and antonyms. Candidates can opt for one out of 13 languages for this section. Section-II will be subject-specific, and 27 subjects have been listed so far under it. Section-III will have two sub-sections — general tests for vocational and open eligibility programmes.

Admission to all supernumerary seats, excluding foreign students, will also be done



With the CUET, candidates need only to have passed the Class XII Board exams to take the entrance exam. *Archive*

through the CUET. For courses under the faculty of music and fine arts, and B.Sc in physical education and sports, combined the CUET score and performance-based test, with 50% weightage to both, will be given. Minority colleges like St

Stephen's and Jesus and Mary will hold admissions through the CUET. However, for the School of Open Learning and the Non-Collegiate Women Education Board, admissions will be conducted as earlier. Dissenting members pointed

out several apprehensions regarding the CUET.

"Admission to undergraduate courses through the CUET is very problematic as it does not take into consideration a student's class XII marks. It is thus total devaluation of class XII study and marks. Plus, it puts into extreme disadvantage students who want to change stream," said AC member Mithuraj Dhusiya.

In their combined dissent note, the nine AC members said "admission through the CUET will make the terrain even more unequal".

"Such a filter will result in an additional expenditure of parents and students towards coaching and therefore, marginalises those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds," they said.

"In imposing a new system starting from 2022-23, we are ignoring the fact that the current batch of class XII was forced to study online and maybe finding

it difficult to cope with the stress already. This change is too sudden and too huge for them," they added.

They also said the new system will "curtail the autonomy of institutions to respond to ground realities".

"Science Courses sometimes have as much as 30% dropout within a year as students shift to technical courses or decide to prepare for that again. Cut-offs are decided so as to have desired over-admission to ensure that seats do not go empty at any cost within a few months of admission closure..." they said.

"As minimum eligibility for various courses, are we justified in replacing English by 'Any one language'? Has the premise for requiring English as minimum eligibility changed?... For UG courses where the medium of instruction is English and no reading material is available in any other language, this may create issues for students and teachers," they added.



MCD staff has gone on strike more than 50 times over the past five years. *Archive*

## Bill to merge MCDs likely to give Centre funding option

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE BILL that aims to merge Delhi's three municipal corporations is likely to have clearly defined provisions for devolution of funds between the Delhi government and the civic bodies, as well as provisions for direct funding from the Centre.

At present, the BJP-ruled civic bodies and the AAP government have been at loggerheads over funding, with MCD saying the Delhi government does not give its due share. The AAP however alleges that corruption is the reason for civic bodies lacking funds. The economic crisis has led to the staff going on strike over 50 times in the past five years.

A senior BJP leader said the Bill that will be tabled in the Budget session will likely have a provision that provides more avenues to the MCD for generating funds through the Centre. "Also, in the existing slabs, it could be made binding for the Delhi government to pay the share of MCDs," said a senior BJP leader.

At the moment, the Centre can give direct funds only under certain schemes like Swachh Bharat, but this cannot be used for day to day running of the MCDs. The changes will help the party send out a message to the public of how they plan to fix the fund crisis if voted to power again, the leader said.

Another senior Delhi BJP leader said the party also wants to avoid a situation where peo-

KEJRIWAL WRITES TO AMIT SHAH

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday wrote a letter to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking regularisation of all contractual employees of the NDMC. "I would like to draw your kind attention to the issue... There are around 4,500 RMR employees waiting to become regular employees of the NDMC," he wrote.

ple feel having AAP control both the state and civic body will allow smoother functioning of the latter.

"So we had asked the senior leadership to think of changing the provisions. In other UTs, such arrangements already exist," he said. Among the reforms being considered by the party dispensation are direct election of mayor and her tenure being increased to at least two-and-a-half years instead of the existing one year.

The BJP had swept the 2017 elections, winning 181 out of 270 wards and an absolute majority in each of the corporations.

The AAP came a distant second with 48 seats while the Congress, which won 30 seats, made significant gains compared to the 2015 Assembly polls, when it drew a blank.

## CM names armed forces prep school after Bhagat Singh

SHEETAL BANCHARIYA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday said the Armed Forces Preparatory School, announced by his government last year, will be named after freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

"The cabinet had last year announced that we (Delhi government) will build a school where students will be trained for getting into armed forces. We have named it after Shaheed Bhagat as a tribute to the revolutionary on his 91st death anniversary. Students will be taught all skills required to get into officer-level positions in armed forces such as the Army, Navy and Air Force," Kejriwal said.

The school will come up at Jharoda Kalan with a campus of 14 acres. Students will be able to take admission in classes IX and XI in the school. It will have 200 seats — 100 in class IX and 100 in

class XI. As many as 60 seats will be for boys and 40 for girls in each grade. The admission process will be two-staged with an aptitude test first, followed by a physical fitness test.

"As many as 18,000 applications have already been received for just 200 seats," Kejriwal informed. He said the residential school will be free of cost and any Delhi resident will be able to get admission. He also announced that retired army and naval officers will be inducted as faculty members, who will be able to guide students based on their real-life experiences. The Shaheed Bhagat Singh Armed Forces Preparatory School will have an academic wing and a 'service preparatory' wing, he added.

The written test for admission to class IX will be held on March 27, whereas the entrance exam for class XI will be held the next day. Those who clear the written exam will then be called for personal interviews.

## BRIEFLY

Saurabh Bharadwaj nominated as DJB VC

New Delhi: The Delhi government Tuesday nominated AAP MLA from the Greater Kailash constituency Saurabh Bharadwaj as the new Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Jal Board. "Short of words to thank my leader Arvind Kejriwal ji for giving this responsibility. All that I know about administration and public service, I have learnt it from our CM sir," said Bharadwaj in a tweet. Before Bharadwaj, the Rajendra Nagar MLA Raghav Chadha was the Vice-Chairman.

Mohalla clinics to come up at eight Metro stations

New Delhi: The Delhi government will soon set up mohalla clinics on the premises of eight Metro stations to provide health facilities to the public. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has agreed to the proposal. The eight stations include Lal Quila, Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid, Kashmere Gate and Rajiv Chowk.

Infant's body found in microwave: Mother held

New Delhi: A day after a two-month-old girl child was found dead inside a microwave at her home in Chirag Dilli, the Delhi Police said they have arrested the mother for allegedly smothering the baby and hiding her body. The baby's body was sent for a post-mortem on Tuesday and doctors told police she is suspected to have died because of smothering.

Car robbed at gunpoint from teacher

Gurgaon: Two unidentified men robbed a car from a 36-year-old teacher at gunpoint in Bilaspur on Monday evening. Police said the accused are yet to be arrested. According to police, the incident took place around 5.15 pm when the victim, Yashpal, who teaches chemistry at a private school was on his way to his tuition class at Pachgaon. **ENS**

CBI to probe Chintels society collapse, says Haryana CM

Chandigarh: More than a month after a portion of a tower collapsed at Chintels Paradiso society in Gurgaon's Sector-109, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Tuesday announced in the Assembly the matter would be probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

"We will hand over the matter to the CBI," said Khattar after a heated argument with former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda over the issuance of licence to the society.

"We have come to know that the licence to Chintels society was issued during their (Hooda's) government," he said.

Responding to the allegations, Hooda said, "Arrest me if an offence has been committed by merely giving a licence during my regime." The former chief minister added that there was widespread corruption during the regime of BJP-JJP alliance. Khattar then referred to the cancellation of recruitments made during the previous Congress regime and specifically pointed out irregularities in the recruitment of JBT teachers. "Our government is investigating all cases to eradicate corruption, and whoever is found guilty will not be spared at any cost," he added. **ENS**

## Auto driver killed in crash, BMW owner held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

A 35-YEAR-OLD autorickshaw driver was killed after a BMW car allegedly rammed into the vehicle in the early hours of Monday on the Delhi-Meerut highway. The deceased, Sher Mohammad, was heading home when the accused hit him before fleeing the spot. Police said they have arrested businessman Anoop Gaba for alleged rash driving and negligence.

Gaba lives with his wife and son in Vivek Vihar, and was out driving with the latter when his vehicle allegedly hit the auto.

The two allegedly left the car and went home, said police.

Priyanka Kashyap, DCP (East) said, "We asked locals and found that a group of people had taken the injured autorickshaw driver to a hospital while the accused had fled. We called the crime team to inspect the spot. During investigation, the owner of the BMW was identified and arrested."

The car had a Noida registration number. After several raids, Anoop was arrested, police said.

"We are conducting a test to check the blood alcohol level. We have been told that Anoop is a businessman and also deals in properties," said a police officer.

idea of a chakka jam, nor was she physically present in Northeast Delhi during the riots or part of any group or organisation.

Ishrat, who got married on June 12, 2020 when she was briefly released on interim bail for 10 days, said: "My mehendi was still etched on my hands when I returned after my interim bail was over. Most couples go on vacations together but I spent my time back in prison, in isolation. I have not even seen my in-laws' house properly and I am glad I get to do that now. My husband's family has fully supported me through this ordeal. I



## COLD COMFORT

A labourer carries water bottles as temperature rises in the capital. *Praveen Khanna*

still find it unbelievable that I have been released. My faith in the judiciary is strong."

She was arrested on February 26, 2020 and spent two years in jail. "I am adjusting slowly and starting small like using a mobile phone again. I spent 11 stints in Covid isolation. These days I wake up in the morning and think my roll call is being done by the jail staff. During festivals we used to get special food with a sweet dish called 'bada khana'. I used to distribute it in jail... This Holi, I told my mother I will distribute it at home too," she said.

"The incarceration was 50



Former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan. *Cajendra Yadav*

times tougher due to Covid. For the first year, I was not even pro-

duced at court. I did not know the allegations against me and that took a toll. I saw my family for the first time after eight months had passed," she said.

Ishrat had a Quran, a few books, two buckets and trays with her in jail. She used to kill time reading newspapers, which she said were "heavily censored" by jail staff, and was unable to sleep due to frequent commotions in her barracks. She had applied to teach the children of inmates, who spend their lives with their mothers in incarceration. However, when that was rejected, as were other options

like working at the prison library, she instead taught yoga to elderly prison inmates.

"The women inmates in my prison were from the backward areas of Northeast Delhi. They don't even understand the meaning of thank you and please. You deal with them with love. I salute the women who work in this heat, with blisters on their fingers from operating the chulhas in the kitchen. I came from a well off family and was relatively better off. My case may have been bigger, but that doesn't make their struggle any smaller," she said. Jahan said she plans on

working for the welfare of women inmates, and help them with better access to legal counsel, revamp the mulaqat system as "many inmates haven't seen their family members for over 4 years", and push for prison authorities to set up a food factory inside the jail.

She also intends to keep her protest alive. "This was my trial by fire and I passed. I have nerves of steel now, learned the value of time and became wiser. I will fight not just against CAA NRC but also against any injustice. I was a different Ishrat Jahan before my arrest," she said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

# Akhilesh chooses Assembly seat, resigns from Lok Sabha

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 22

IN A STEP that will boost the morale of the Samajwadi Party in the state, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has decided to retain the Assembly seat he won in the recent polls, giving up his Lok Sabha membership from the Azamgarh constituency instead.

Senior Samajwadi Party leader and Rampur MP Azam Khan, who like Akhilesh won in the Assembly polls, has also sent his resignation from Lok Sabha to the Speaker's office, sources close to him said. Khan is currently in jail on criminal charges.

Akhilesh met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Parliament House in New Delhi to put in his papers. The SP chief had almost single-handedly spearheaded his party's campaign in the polls, emerging as the only real contender against Yogi Adityanath. In the recent Assembly elec-



Akhilesh handing over his resignation to Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday. Express

tions, Akhilesh had won the Karhal seat in Mainpuri by 60,000-odd votes, beating BJP MP SP Singh Baghel. It was his first Assembly election.

SP leaders were apprehensive that Akhilesh might not retain the Assembly seat and prefer the more relaxed parliamentary option. With the BJP already on the offensive, the move would have been seen as the SP chief chickening away from what is set to be a heated Assembly floor. "The decision to hold on to

Karhal, despite having just five MPs in Parliament, shows that the SP chief's priority is to build the party in UP," a senior leader said.

In an interview to *The Indian Express*, senior SP leader and Katheri MLA Lalji Verma had said: "It is natural that Akhilesh Yadav becomes the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly." The prospect of Akhilesh as Leader of the Opposition means the BJP can't expect to have an easy run either. Unlike the last term when the SP had 47 MLAs, this time it has 125 in the 403-member House, including six MLAs of ally SBSP and eight of the RLD.

Similarly, jailed SP leader Azam Khan resigned from his Lok Sabha seat (Rampur) on Tuesday to hold on to his Assembly seat of Rampur, one of his confidants said.

With his bail order in the last case being heard by the Allahabad High Court, the 11-time MLA is likely to be among Akhilesh's chief advisors.

## Supporters of BJP, TIPRA Motha clash; 2 cops among injured

Agartala: Several people, including two policemen, were injured during clashes between supporters of ruling BJP and Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council's ruling TIPRA Motha at

Kalshi village in South Tripura district. An official from Tripura Police headquarters said the clashes erupted over selection of beneficiaries of public schemes in the village around 12.30 pm but was

soon brought under control. Later, supporters of both sides again clashed near a BJP office in which officer in-charge of Baikhora police station Rajib Saha and constable Siraj Ahmed were injured. ENS

## MUSIC NOTES

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana Tuesday tried his skills on the 'Kinnara', an indigenous stringed musical instrument, as its only surviving exponent and Padma Shri winner Darshanam Mogulaiah visited him at his official residence. At a felicitation arranged for the folk artiste, and three other Padma Shri winners, Mogulaiah initially played some songs on his Kinnara. At the end of the session, the CJ readily obliged to a request from Mogulaiah to try the instrument.

## FOR AMBEDKAR

WITH BOTH the ruling and opposition parties vying with each other for the legacy of B R Ambedkar, CPI(M) MP in Rajya Sabha John Brittas has submitted a motion in the Upper House to declare April 14, birthday of the father of the Indian Constitution, as a public holiday. Pointing out that the government has been declaring April 14 every year as a closed holiday on a year-to-year basis for the past several years, Brittas in his notice for the motion said it is high time the government took urgent steps to declare Ambedkar Jayanti as a regular public holiday. What drives the MP, it appears, is the confidence that no party or MP would oppose such a motion.

## SCARY TALES

URGING THE MPs to educate people and take a few measures themselves to ensure road safety, Union minister Nitin Gadkari spilled some "secrets" to them on Tuesday. Gadkari said a ministerial colleague had discovered that his driver had vision in one eye for a long time. A Chief Minister, he said, had told him that his driver was totally blind and used to drive listening to the noises. Gadkari narrated these instances to the MPs to tell them to get eye check ups done for their drivers frequently. He also advised them not to take "easy routes" to acquire driving licences for themselves and for their staff.

## CHANGE OF GUARD

THE MINISTRY of Education has handed over the charge of the vice-chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Central University to Prof Anand Prakash, the senior-most faculty of the institute. Prakash replaces Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, under whose watch as vice-chancellor in-charge, the Motihari-based university saw alleged irregularities, including in setting up research centres, as reported by *The Indian Express* last December. While Sharma's term as V-C ended in February 2021, he was given an extension by the Centre till the appointment of a successor.

## Goa: Sawant to take oath on March 28; PM, Shah to attend

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, MARCH 22

THE SWEARING-IN ceremony of Goa Chief Minister-designate Pramod Sawant will be held on March 28, the Goa BJP announced on Tuesday, a day after Sawant staked claim to form the next government in Goa with the Maharashtra Gomantak Party and three Independent MLAs before Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai.

The oath-taking ceremony will be held at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigao with top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadra in attendance.

Goa BJP president Sadanand Tanavade said on Tuesday that Chief Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh, Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam



Pramod Sawant

and Basavraj Bommai of Karnataka are also expected to attend the event.

He said UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami may also attend the ceremony that is expected to have about 5,000 people in attendance.

The announcement comes a day after the party's legislature committee named caretaker Chief Minister Sawant as the leader of the legislature party, giving him his second term as Goa Chief Minister. Senior leader Vishwajit Rane, who was also in the race for the top job, had proposed Sawant's name and it was endorsed unanimously by the party's newly elected 20 MLAs.

## Uttarakhand: Dhami to take oath as CM today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, MARCH 22

PUSHKARSINGH Dhami will take oath as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on March 23, the BJP announced on Tuesday. The ceremony is scheduled to be attended by PM Narendra Modi.



Pushkar Singh Dhami

Dhami's Cabinet will also take oath during the ceremony starting 2.30 pm at Parade Ground, Dehradun.

Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president JP Nadra are also scheduled to attend, besides Uttarakhand CM Yogi Adityanath and his counterparts from Madhya Pradesh and Haryana.

### BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH C.P. (CAA)/21(AHM) 2022 CONNECTED WITH C.A. (CAA)/5 (AHM) 2022

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013; And In the matter of Sections 230 - 232 read with other relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013; And In the matter of Gangavaram Port Limited; And In the matter of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited; And In the matter of Adani Gangavaram Port Private Limited; And In the matter of Composite Scheme of Arrangement among Gangavaram Port Limited and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited and Adani Gangavaram Port Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors;

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and now deemed to be incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office at Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382 421, Gujarat, India.

.... Petitioner Company 1

Adani Gangavaram Port Private Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office at Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 382 421, India.

.... Petitioner Company 2

#### NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE PETITION

A Joint Company Petition under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013, for sanctioning the Composite Scheme of Arrangement among Gangavaram Port Limited and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited and Adani Gangavaram Port Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors, was presented by the Petitioner Companies on 15 March 2022. By order dated 16 March 2022, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ("Hon'ble Tribunal") has admitted the aforesaid joint company petition and fixed the hearing of the said joint company petition on 27 April 2022 before the Hon'ble Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or soon thereafter.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said joint company petition should send, to the Petitioner Companies' advocates at the address mentioned hereunder, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the Hon'ble Tribunal and the Petitioner Companies' advocates on or before the date of hearing fixed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, i.e. 27 April 2022. Where such person seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice.

A copy of the petition will be furnished by the Petitioner Companies' advocates to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Dated: 22 March 2022

Sd/-

Address: Singhi & Co., Advocates & Notary, Singhi House, 1, Magnet Corporate Park, Near Sola Bridge, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad - 380 059.

## PROFIT AND NO LOSS

### FE CFO AWARDS 2022

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Chief Guest

### Shri Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles

Leadership Talk

### Sanjiv Mehta

Chairman & Managing Director Hindustan Unilever Limited

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RERA REGISTRATION NO.:  
RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/544/276/2022/19  
(www.haryanarera.gov.in)

Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, ie. tcepharyana.gov.in).

#### PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	SignatureGlobal ( India ) Limited							
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 80 Of 2018 DATED 02.12.2018. Building Plan Approved on 07.03.2022 Memo No. ZP-1498/SD(DK)/2022/6092							
3. Location	Sector 88A, Gurugram, Haryana							
4. Provisions Project Area	1141 no. of apartments available out of total 1141 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 8.93125 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-croche of 2000 sq.ft.							
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms								
Apartment details								
Category (Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqm(approx)	Carpet Area sqft (approx)	Balcony Area sqm(approx)	Balcony Area sqft(approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking Amount 5%	On Allotment 20%
1BHK	8	36.961	397.848	7.980	85.897	1756859	83548.08	356667
1BHK+STORE	295	38.887	418.580	5.544	59.676	1817712	87901.80	366526
2BHK+STORE (MQ)	56	59.903	644.796	10.576	113.840	2808143	135407.16	566629
3BHK TYPE-I (1 UNIT FOR MQ)	392	59.996	645.797	10.505	113.076	2812347	135617.37	567469
3BHK TYPE-II	390	59.781	643.483	9.420	101.397	2802629	135131.43	565526

\*Rate mentioned above does not include GST and other charges such as Stamp Duty, Registration Fees etc.

Balance amount payable shall be equivalent to the amount payable as per the construction link payment plan of the project as applicable in terms of construction stage at relevant point of time

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles. • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Meranti / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.
8. Applications Timelines	(i) Apply Online at TCP website (https://edraw.tcepharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home) for submitting application for allotment of dwelling units by e-Draw, starting from date 23.03.2022. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 06.04.2022.

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law. 2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats. 3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat. 4. Supportive Affidavit and certificate suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded at TCP website while submitting application for allotment. Applicant shall also upload ID Proof & Address Proof Le Adhaar Card & Pan Card. Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned. 2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued. 3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tcepharyana.gov.in).



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Promoter urges every applicant to inspect the project site and shall not merely rely upon any architectural impression, plan or sales brochure and therefore, requests to make personal judgment prior to submitting an application for allotment. Unless otherwise stated, all the images, visuals, materials and information contained herein are purely creative/artistic and may not be actual representations of the product and/or any amenities. Further, the actual design may vary in the fit and finished form from the one displayed above. Journey time shown, if any, is based upon Google Maps which may vary as per the traffic at a relevant point of time if applicable. T & C Apply. 1 sq. ft. = 10.7639 sq. ft.

7053-121-121

## FROM THE GALLERY

## FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"This is Question Hour. It takes quite a bit of the country's money to prepare this... Please let the House function."

HARIVANSH NARAYAN SINGH, Deputy Chairman.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Now that this ministry is no longer in the business of running a national airline, why does it even need to be a separate ministry? What is it actually doing?"

MAHUA MOITRA, TMC member, during the discussion on demands for grants of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

## 5 QUESTIONS



RJD MP MANOJ KUMAR JHA TALKS TO KAUNAIN SHERIFF M.

**You raised the issue that the Rajya Sabha does not have members from Kashmir, even as the House was discussing the Jammu and Kashmir Budget**

As a democratic nation, it should worry us a lot that a critical region like Jammu & Kashmir... and its Budget is being debated and discussed... yet we don't have any members (from there). That worries me as a citizen and somebody who values constitutional morality.

**Do you think because of that local aspirations are missing in the J&K Budget?**

What is missing fundamentally is the popular voice of the people. No matter what the local bureaucrats in Kashmir and Delhi decide for the people, it won't be the people's decision. That is worrisome.

**You specifically pointed out that the issue of children in conflict has not been addressed.**

Because I have been following Kashmir as a teacher. Children in the conflict are facing huge psychological problems... problems with regard to education and opportunity. This has not been accorded any importance.

**You said the digital mode of education in Kashmir has collapsed and needs to be addressed in the Budget**

In view of the restrictions due to (abrogation of Article 370) and due to Covid-19, the digital mode of education collapsed in Kashmir. We didn't pay any significant heed to this issue. We did not look at this issue from an education prism. As a result of which the younger generation has suffered immensely.

**What should have been the focus of the J&K Budget**

The topmost focus of the Budget should have been to not look at Kashmir simply as a law and order issue. Kashmir is not a law and order problem. The Budget should have addressed the problem of alienation. The approach should be to minimize alienation. We have to openly accept the reality, entirely focus on those critical areas, and send a message that the government wants to engage with the people.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari arrives at the Parliament House on Tuesday. Amit Mehra

## Gadkari makes EV push: Price on par with petrol vehicles in two yrs

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

ROAD TRANSPORT and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari made a strong pitch for electric vehicles on Tuesday in Lok Sabha, assuring members that the price of these would be on a par with petrol ones within two years.

He made a string of promises — reducing the Delhi-Mumbai road travel time to 12 hours by the end of the year; completing the Zoji-la tunnel by 2024 instead of the 2026 deadline; no toll within 40 km on any national highway; and a road to Kailash Mansarovar from India (Pithoragarh) by 2023.

Replying to a 12-hour discussion on demands for grants for his ministry, Gadkari said: "Within a maximum of two years, the cost of electric scooters, cars and auto-rickshaws will be the same as petrol scooters, cars and auto-rickshaws. Prices of lithium-ion batteries are coming down. We are developing this chemistry of zinc-ion, aluminium-ion, sodium-ion batteries. If you are spending Rs 100 on petrol, you will spend Rs 10 for using electric vehicles."

Emphasising on shifting to cost-effective fuel, Gadkari urged MPs to adopt hydrogen-based transport technologies and take the initiative in their respective constituencies to use sewage water for producing it. Hydrogen will soon be the cheapest fuel alternative, he said.

Gadkari urged focus on green fuel and green technology. He urged MPs that the infrastructure development should be prioritised while considering the "environment and ecology sensitively" — but not in "an exaggerated way". He said the country should start thinking about "electricity-based public transport" to reduce pollution.

"We want development, we want job opportunities, we want exports and we want the environment, too. I urge you to rise above politics and in the national interest think about ways to develop our infrastructure. We should all come together and decide what rules and laws we need to make."

He also promised to significantly improve road infrastructure by 2024.

"American roads are not good because America is rich but America is rich because American roads are good. To make India pro-

perous, I assure that before December 2024 India's road infrastructure will be like America," he said. Gadkari said road projects worth Rs 62,000 crore have been started in the national capital to ease traffic and tackle pollution.

Gadkari said it now takes only 40 minutes to travel to Meerut from Delhi, as against four hours earlier. "Our aim is to reduce the cost of construction and improve quality," he said.

On the progress in infrastructure, the minister said road travel between Delhi to Jaipur and Delhi to Haridwar now takes 2 hours. Similarly, the travel time from Delhi to Amritsar is now four hours.

He urged MPs to make plans for cable cars and ropeways and promised to "clear them soon". "There is no dearth of funds. You make plans, I will get the roads built," he said.

With the Opposition lauding Gadkari's work, the cut motions moved by them were withdrawn. "We all extend our appreciation to you for having the wonderful performance of the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways... It is not proper on my part to move cut motions. So, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw all the cut motions in my name," RSP MP N K Premachandran said.

## Slammed over *The Kashmir Files*, BJP counter: Opp reviewing film, not discussing J&K Budget

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

ON A day when the Opposition lashed out at the ruling party for "giving political colour" to *The Kashmir Files* movie, BJP Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi counter-attacked, saying "it (Opposition) was not debating on the issue of empowerment of Kashmiris or the Jammu & Kashmir budget, and instead was reviewing the movie".

During the discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir budget on Tuesday, Naqvi said that "some people are rattled by *The Kashmir Files* because it exposes sins committed by some influential people and political parties".

"I am very disappointed...I thought that members would talk about the empowerment of Kashmiris. However, it was more about reviewing *The Kashmir Files* movie and little about the budget...I understand their problem. Because the movie has brought to the open the files of the sins committed by some influential families and political parties, something that was suppressed earlier," Naqvi said.

"People kept suffering till the Article 370 was abrogated; it is natural that some are



BJP Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and (right) Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. PTI

now troubled by it (the movie). However, in today's Kashmir, representatives from Gulf countries are visiting for investing in real estate, telecommunication, and the agriculture sector. This is a big change," he said.

During the discussion, Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy also highlighted that the Valley is witnessing a positive change in the tourism sector since Article 370 was abrogated. "In the tourism sector, we are

moving forward. I want to inform you that this month, 322 flights were made operational for Jammu. In Srinagar, 512 flights were for tourists. For the next three months, there is no room availability in Srinagar. There was no facility for night flights, we have made arrangements for that also. This is the reality of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370," Reddy said.

However, Shiv Sena MP Priyanka

## Opp disrupts both Houses over fuel, LPG price hike

Members of Cong, TMC, DMK walk out of LS; sloganeering in RS leads to adjournment twice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

MEMBERS OF Opposition parties, including those from the Congress, TMC and DMK, walked out of the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, demanding a rollback of the fresh hike in the price of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. The price of petrol and diesel has gone up by 80 paise per litre and LPG cylinder will be dearer by Rs 50.

The Opposition also disrupted the proceedings in the Rajya Sabha and the House had to be adjourned twice amid sloganeering.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Lower House, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "All the apprehensions we had expressed about an increase in price of petrol, diesel and LPG after the Assembly elections in the five states have proved true today."

DMK member TR Baalu also flagged the fuel and LPG cylinder price hike, amid demands for a rollback from the Opposition benches. "The government of India has increased the price of petroleum products. There has been an increase of more than Rs 50 per LPG cylinder. This is not correct. The government of India should roll back this hike," Baalu said.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the prices have gone up to extreme levels as far as fuel, diesel and domestic gas are concerned. "We ask the government to roll back the hike. To lodge a protest against the move of the government, we staged a walkout today," Bandyopadhyay said.

On Tuesday, oil marketing companies hiked the price of petrol and diesel by 80 paise a litre amid a sharp rise in the price of crude oil, and that of domestic cooking gas by Rs 50 per cylinder after over four months.

Later, addressing a press conference, senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Anand Sharma and Randeep Singh Surjewala, accused the government of "looting" Rs 10,000 crore



Congress leaders Anand Sharma, Mallikarjun Kharge and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury during a press conference in New Delhi, Tuesday. Anil Sharma

from the people by hiking the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

"The anti-people and anti-poor mindset of the Modi government has been exposed once again. By raising 80 paise on petrol and diesel, the government has taken out Rs 10,000 crore from the pockets of the poor people today." Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said.

"The 'lockdown' on the prices of gas, diesel and petrol has been lifted. Now the government will continuously increase the prices. If you ask the prime minister about the epidemic of inflation, he will say #ThaliBajao," senior Congress Rahul Gandhi posted on Twitter.

"They (the government) can give all tax reliefs to those who do not need it, to the rich, but this is what the poor get," Sharma said. Meanwhile, in the Rajya Sabha, the fuel and LPG price hike reverberated and the House had to be adjourned twice as the Opposition members staged a protest against the government move.

There was din in the House after Chairman Venkaiah Naidu refused to admit Opposition members' notice under Section 267 to discuss the price hike, leading to adjournment. When the House resumed, it was adjourned again within minutes as the Opposition members continued with the sloganeering.

## Infiltration down, but significant number of terrorists present in launch pads: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

INFILTRATION FROM Pakistan has reduced considerably but a significant number of terrorists remain present in various launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

In written replies to questions pertaining to the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border with Pakistan, ministers of state for home affairs Nityanand Rai and Nitish Pramaik gave details of steps taken by the government in countering the menace of infiltration and dropping of arms and ammunition using drones.

Rai told the House that the infiltration across the Line of Control has decreased significantly since 2018 in Jammu and Kashmir. He said in 2021, the figure of infiltration stood at 34 whereas it was 143 in 2018, 138 in 2019 and 51 in 2020.

However, there was a word of caution as the minister informed the House that "as per inputs, a significant number of suspected terrorists remain present at various launch pads in Pakistan/Pakistan-occupied Kashmir".

## Panel asks ministry to study scope of extension to PMGKAY scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

BARELY A week before the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) ends, a parliamentary standing committee has asked the Food Ministry to make an "objective assessment" and find out to what extent the scheme has helped beneficiaries and for how long it needs to be continued.

While "applauding" the Centre for launching PMGKAY, the Committee said the ministry had "not carried out or proposed a study or an objective assessment" of the foodgrains scheme launched in 2020 as the government's economic response to the Covid pandemic.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the entire country in multiple ways. It has impacted the food delivery system with direct and indirect consequences on lives and liveli-

hood of people, especially the most vulnerable sections of the society," said a report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, tabled in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Committee is headed by TMC leader and MP, Sudip Bandyopadhyay and the PMGKAY provided an additional five kilograms of foodgrains per month to beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act.

Spread over five phases, with a total allocation of Rs 759.22 lakh tonnes and financial implication pegged at Rs 2.68 lakh crore, the scheme is scheduled to end March 31, 2022.

The Food Ministry had earlier informed the Standing Committee extension of the scheme beyond March, 2022, would be considered by it "based on the prevailing situation" in the country.

Observing that food subsidy is "still very high" and there is "scope to reduce it further", the Committee has asked the food depart-

ment to optimise the Food Subsidy Bill.

While doing so, however, the department may not compromise the demands of beneficiaries and also the preparedness for unwaranted situations such as Covid-19, it said.

The Committee also expressed concerns on the huge dues owed to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) by some departments.

"The Committee notes with concern that a large amount of dues are outstanding against the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education) on account of foodgrains provided to them by FCI for various welfare schemes on payment basis," the report said.

"The Committee feels that inability to liquidate the outstanding dues of FCI over the years would adversely affect the functioning of FCI and put burden on ever-rising Food Subsidy Bill," the report said.

## Ukraine evacuation praiseworthy, but govt could have done better: Opp

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

MEMBERS FROM across the Opposition and treasury benches on Tuesday lauded the government's Operation Ganga which was aimed at evacuating Indian citizens from Ukraine amid Russian invasion.

Participating in the discussion on Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the financial year 2022-23, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "There is no doubt that the Government of India had embarked upon a massive evacuation effort so as to evacuate our stranded people, including students, from Ukraine. So, the government, along with private airlines and Air Force, deserve to be applauded."

"In the same vein, I would like to flag the attention of this government to the fact that the chaos and consternation with regard to

the evacuation of stranded people could have been averted provided we had taken a little more proactive measures," Chowdhury said.

Observing that the situation was "precarious", Chowdhury said, "Given the intensity and the precarious situation prevailing over there, the government could have been more proactive. However, there is no doubt that it was a large-scale humanitarian approach taken together by the departments of Civil Aviation, Defence and External Affairs. It certainly deserves to be applauded."

Chowdhury also wanted to know whether Operation Ganga is still on or is there still any need to evacuate any person from Ukraine.

Earlier in the day, Initiating the discussion, Congress member Ravneet Singh lauded Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian students from Ukraine. He also raised the issue of lower allocation of Regional Connectivity and said the government should increase the allocation of the scheme.

Raising the issue of high airfare, Singh said: "The tariffs comes under provision of Sub-rule 1 of Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. They (airlines) decide the tariffs their own. The government should fix and regulate it."

BJP member Mahesh Sharma compared NDA government's seven years' rule with the rule of previous governments in 67 years before 2014. The country had only 75 airstrips in 67 years, which has increased to 130 in the past seven years, he said. He said there were 395 aircraft in the scheduled airlines in India in 2014, which has increased to 716 aircraft in 2021.

DMK member S R Partiban said, "When Air India flights were with the government, the government was able to successfully rescue our Indian citizens stranded in various countries during the Covid-19 crisis. But during the Ukraine war crisis, the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation delayed sending flights to rescue medical students and other civilians straggling in various parts of Ukraine."

# THIS SHAHEEDI DIWAS, DELHI'S ARMED FORCES PREPARATORY SCHOOL WILL BE NAMED IN HONOUR OF SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH



**"My heartfelt tribute to  
Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh"  
- Arvind Kejriwal**



# 10 GOVT & POLITICS

**In first, Defence Acquisition Council approves procurement from start-ups**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE DEFENCE Acquisition Council for the first time has cleared the procurement of 14 items worth Rs 380.43 crore from Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) start-ups. These items will be procured by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

In a meeting chaired by Defence minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday, the DAC also approved a new, simplified procedure to fast-track procurement from iDEX start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises.

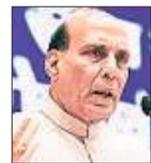
"The procurement cycle... will be around 22 weeks as per the new procedure. Suitable incorporation will be made in the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2022. The DAC also approved the simplified procedure for Make-II category projects on similar lines of iDEX procedure and would considerably bring down the time taken from prototype development to Contract signing in Make-II projects," said a statement from the Ministry Tuesday.

The iDEX programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018 to foster innovation and incorporate cutting-edge technology in the Armed Forces within a swift time-frame.

It is expected that around 25-40 items, after the successful prototyping by the iDEX start-ups, will be ready for procurement by the year's end.

On Tuesday, the DAC also accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition proposals for the Armed Forces amounting to Rs 8,357 crore.

The DAC said modernisation requirements of the defence forces are to be indigenously sourced and import should be resorted to only as an exception.



**Rajnath Singh** was chairing the DAC meeting

## G-23 to Sonia: Don't rely on a select few

Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari and Vivek Tankha meet Cong president; more such meetings likely

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi Tuesday held a lengthy discussion with Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari and Vivek Tankha as she stepped up efforts to placate the leaders of the G-23 dissident group to find unity in a party facing an existential crisis.

Sources said they told her the leadership should not rely on a select few to run the affairs of the party and must establish a collective decision-making model.

In another reconciliatory gesture, Sonia is learnt to have congratulated Ghulam Nabi Azad, one of the key leaders of the G-23, over the phone after he received the Padma Bhushan. She had met Azad last week.

Rahul Gandhi, on his part, had a frank discussion with former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

The rapprochement efforts by Sonia are seen as an attempt by her to cool tempers and not let the situation get out of hand.

To quell the discontent, some of the G-23 leaders could be accommodated and given organisational responsibilities; Sonia, however, is learnt to have told the three leaders that a major surgery — in other words, a massive overhaul — is not possible now, given



(From left) Vivek Tankha, Manish Tewari and Anand Sharma outside Sonia Gandhi's residence in Delhi, Tuesday. Anil Sharma

that a new president is to be elected in August-September.

"Minor surgeries", however, still seem possible.

Sources said the leaders flagged several issues related to the functioning and decision-making of the party.

They told her that the leadership's "preference for a few leaders" when it comes to handing out organisational assignments was undesirable.

While the G-23's old demands — elections to the Congress Working Committee in

line with the party constitution, revival of the Parliamentary Board, and putting in place an elected Central Election Committee (the body which finalises and approves the party's candidates) — were, of course, discussed, sources said the practice of appointing district Congress presidents from Delhi was flagged as a point of concern.

Sources said Sonia responded positively to their suggestions and agreed that there was a need for a change in the way the party functions now to take on the challenges. "It was a very productive dialogue," one of the

### EXPLAINED

#### Sonia attempts damage control

SONIA GANDHI'S decision to engage with the G23 stems from the realisation that the narrative of the Congress being a house divided is harming the party no end. Most of the G23 leaders believed that the time was not ripe for an open showdown with the Gandhis, but were deeply unhappy that the leadership did not give them a hearing. By engaging with them, Sonia is trying to ensure that the situation does not go out of control.

leaders said. One of the leaders told Sonia that the party cannot function the way it is now, saying there has to be a "newness" in its approach.

Sonia will likely meet some more leaders of the G-23 in the coming days.

While some of these leaders said Sonia is trying to shield Rahul Gandhi, most of the members of the group were appreciative of the efforts being taken by her.

**Cong chief meets Himachal leaders, takes stock of election readiness**

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday met a delegation of senior leaders from Himachal Pradesh to review the party's preparations for Assembly elections later this year. Separately, Rahul Gandhi held a meeting with the top leadership of the party from Gujarat, which will go to polls along with Himachal.

Sonia underlined the need for unity, a routine suggestion that the leadership gives at such huddles. But with this meeting, Sonia has signalled that she is back in action. It was Rahul Gandhi who had been holding such meetings with state leaders. Sources said most leaders argued that the Congress can make a comeback in Himachal.

The emergence of AAP was also a point of discussion. After the AAP's landslide victory in Punjab, there were fears in the Congress that its impact could be felt in neighbouring Himachal. But most of the leaders who attended the meeting told Sonia that AAP may not be a big factor in Himachal and that the situation in Punjab and Himachal was not similar.

The sense was that the AAP will register its presence and not go beyond that. But some of the leaders admitted there could be some desertions from the party.

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann are set to hold a road show in Mandi on April 6.

"It was a routine meeting. What can we expect when 20-odd leaders, including many who don't see eye to eye with each other, sit together? One person even suggested to Sonia that she should hold one-to-one meetings with all the leaders to know the reality on the ground," a leader said. "Everyone said we should get our act together and be united. But are we united?" said another leader.

Rahul, meanwhile, held a meeting with Gujarat Congress chief Jagdish Thakor and CLP leader Sukhram Rathva. Rahul is likely to travel to Gujarat in the first week of April to flag off a 'padayatra' (foot march) that the party is taking out from Sabarmati Ashram to Delhi to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

## BJP's Gujarat poll drive: Painting lotus on public walls

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJKOT, MARCH 22

WITH THE Gujarat Assembly elections on the horizon, Rajkot city unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a drive to paint its election symbol lotus on walls that is now targeting public offices and parks in the city.

Termining the move "inappropriate", the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced to follow suit if the authorities don't take action against the ruling party.

Kamlesh Mirani, president of the Rajkot city unit of BJP launched the campaign on Monday by painting on a lotus sketch at the entrance of the party office in Karanpara.

The state wide campaign was launched by state BJP president CR Paatil from Ahmedabad and Surat on March 13 where



The lotus symbol painted on the wall of Bahumali Bhavan that houses government offices in Rajkot city. Chirag Chotaliya

he and other leaders painted party slogans on public walls.

By late morning on Tuesday, saffron-coloured lotus paintings dotted the entrance of Race Course garden in Rajkot as well as the

compound wall of Bahumali Bhavan that houses government offices.

"As per instructions from the state leadership, we have launched the drive to paint lotus symbol on city walls. The campaign will go

on till March 31," Mirani told *The Indian Express*.

"We have given a contract for the work to one person per ward... for an average 10 to 12 paintings every day," he added.

State assembly elections are scheduled to be held towards the end of this year.

On the reason behind the BJP drawing its election symbols even on walls of public buildings and parks, Mirani said, "It is not easy to get walls in cities for such paintings. Therefore, we are drawing paintings on the walls of premises belonging to our workers and well-wishers after getting their consent."

Mirani added, "We do it before every election. Once the elections are formally announced, the EC whitewashes them."

Shivlal Barasiya, president of Rajkot unit of AAP, objected to the BJP's move and said, "This is not the right use of public property and officials concerned should take action."

# 'Opposition parties don't have a narrative that contrasts the BJP's consistently'

In this explained. Live session, political scientist Suhas Palshikar analyses the results of the five Assembly elections, decodes the political culture that fuels the BJP and talks about what went wrong with the Congress in UP



### On Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP)'s victory in Punjab and its prospects in the national Opposition space

It had pitched itself as a non-party movement and kept all political parties away. Although it didn't have many seats in 2017, AAP capitalised on the disenchantment, disappointment and also the expectations which the farmers' movement kindled in both Punjab and western UP. In Punjab, this angst had a particular vehicle in the form of a relative newcomer like AAP.

Every national combination will now have to take the AAP much more seriously as it is probably the only multi-state party of some heft at the moment. If it succeeds in Gujarat even partially to emerge as the main Opposition, then it could stake its claim as a national opponent of the BJP much more strongly by the end of this year. It could look at itself as the leader of a national coalition through a pre-election or post-election arrangement.

### On whether the results in UP signal an Opposition failure

You could blame the Opposition to a limited extent because the Congress was already making as much noise as it could, even before the election. The blame perhaps lies at the doors of the Samajwadi Party (SP), which was not very active during the past five years, or at least that is what its critics have been saying. Also, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) went into hibernation. The absence of a continuous Opposition narrative over the last five years helped the BJP. Structurally too, both the Congress and BSP are virtually non-existent. So UP suddenly became a two-party contest in which the SP appeared inadequate to take on the BJP. The BJP didn't win for what its leaders said during the campaign. It scored because of its low-intensity, low-volume campaign of five years, leading into what I have called the "exploitation of the Hindu-Muslim faultline." Yes, there was a repressive regime, which would practically disallow its opponents to function normally. But other than that, brutal as it may sound, Opposition parties, including the SP, do not have a complete narrative of their own that contrasts the BJP's consistently. You can-



(Left) Suhas Palshikar, political scientist; (right) Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, *The Indian Express*

## AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

### On eliminating caste from electoral politics

Caste is not only a political factor, it is a pre-existing social reality. As long as that remains, it will always influence elections. Talking about caste becomes essential because social and economic disadvantages are faced by those belonging to the lower side of caste hierarchies. I would argue that talking of caste alone is never sufficient, but it is going to be an inevitable factor as long as

our society is deeply divided.

### On why politicians don't talk about medical education and real issues

I think the simple reason is that welfare is a plank that works and things given free pertain to the lives of much larger sections of society than talk about IITs or such centres of excellence. Education matters to a very minuscule section of voters. That's probably an answer that one can think of.

not play politics just around the elections. If you want to survive in this politics, you have to speak the same language, operate within the same framework that the BJP works in.

The only genuine challenge Opposition parties face now is fund crunch. They don't have resources to mobilise cadres for five years and can just about manage their election campaigning. Perhaps this is why their voice falls silent.

### On the BJP's strategy

To take a very broad brush into the past, it all began in the 1970s when RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras aligned the organisation with politics on the one hand and expanded its caste base on the other. Govindacharya and "social engineering" came much later but it was Deoras who started the internal transformation of the RSS outlook. Besides, the Jana Sangh merged with the Janata Party experiment in the 1970s and the Right became a part of the mainstream. The second shift came in the 1990s when BJP leaders Atal Bihari

Vajpayee and Pramod Mahajan mooted the idea of a coalition to exercise power. So, this became an important aspect of the BJP's politics with its leaders saying they would keep aside their core agenda and go along with concerns of coalition partners.

The present UP scenario was almost rehearsed in the 1980s in terms of the combination of the Thakur and Brahmin votes on the one hand and the lower OBCs and non-dominant OBCs on the other. Of course, the party stoked fundamental fault-lines on the basis of a communal majority. That was a common thread and added to the mobilisation politics. Then came Narendra Modi.

### On the political culture that made BJP successful

I think the process started in the 1990s, or slightly earlier, along with the Ramjanambhoomi Andolan. That was the inflection point at which public opinion shifted. The middle ground changed in the 2002-2004 period and, therefore, it became possible for Modi to cultivate this

changed public opinion in a very skillful manner over the last 10 years. This shift hasn't happened overnight; there has been history of three decades.

### On the yearning for a harder, sterner state

As students and observers of India's politics, we definitely missed the possibility that in the chaos of the 1990s, there could have been a craving for a strong state. A strong state didn't necessarily mean a repressive state. There were warning signals all along because we already had Indira Gandhi's second regime of the 1980s, where she implemented various anti-terror laws. This entire discourse, about terrorism and anti-terror laws, or anti-terror jurisprudence laws for that matter, needs to be revisited. Some of these measures are now being used against citizens.

### On Mandal vs Mandir

This victory shows that the electoral aspect of Mandal and its energy have now been completely or successfully absorbed by the BJP. And therefore, for SP, BSP or the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the currency of the Mandal factor is lost. The process had already happened during the ten years of Congress rule between 2004 and 2014. In contrast, the BJP's perseverance ensured the resonance of the Mandir factor, even during the ten years of Congress rule. It was on the backburner but it was simmering till majoritarianism came to the fore in 2014. My sense is that the BJP, before 2014, was really an active player in India's politics though not as visible.

### On being Muslims in UP

The question about what it means to be

Muslims, poor, middle-class or privileged, is deeply disturbing. They are at a dead end. Not that their livelihoods will be taken away immediately, and probably never will, but their dignity has been trampled upon. As a community, Muslims could go back into the cocoon of their religiosity and thus become much more religious, inward looking and orthodox, not reformist. The other possibility is their acquiescence. They will settle for their second-class citizenship and live with as much space they can find in this situation. The third possibility will take a long time to materialise politically, which is to forget their status and align with various non-sectarian forces in different states. This was noticed fleetingly during the CAA and farmers' agitations where all communities came together. There is no easy way out because minorities are continuously under suspicion.

### On whether India today is politically similar to Poland, Hungary, Turkey or Russia

In certain respects, we align with the global corrosion of democracy. Brazil and Philippines are two examples, India could be the third. India's crisis is not just about Muslims but of a national majority claiming it owns the nation. Spain is undergoing the same crisis; France can face this anytime.

### On reforms in the Congress

The question isn't about the family controlling the party or not. It's about what the family does to the party. Does its leadership deliver anything for the party? UP is an excellent example of this ambiguity and cluelessness. Having been out of power for so long, there was just no chance for the Congress to make major gains in UP. Instead of investing so much energy there, Priyanka Gandhi ought to have focussed on Uttarakhand, Punjab or Goa, smaller and manageable states.

### On the difference between Congress and BJP regimes

The hard state was practised by the Congress only very briefly and in an infamous manner in the mid-1970s. The BJP has normalised the hard state. This is the fundamental difference.

### On the rise of Yogi

I would like to believe that he was nurtured for the electoral advantage. The BJP, in its current form, is just not used to sharing of leadership or credit. You cannot have two leaders of the same psychological make-up who want the limelight only upon themselves. That co-existence is going to be a very tough call for the BJP.



SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

# Muslim traders not allowed to bid for stalls in festivals in coastal Karnataka

KIRAN PARASHAR  
BENGALURU, MARCH 22

ROOTED IN the recent hijab row, a sharp divide on religious lines has come to the fore in the coastal Karnataka districts. The organising committees of some annual festivals have banned Muslim traders from bidding for stalls where they could have put up stalls to sell their products. The organising committees reportedly took the decision under pressure from some Hindu groups after many Muslim traders closed their shops against the Karnataka High Court's recent verdict on hijab.

Muslim traders have been banned from the March 31 auction for sites being organised by Mahalingeshwara Temple for the April 20 festival. A notification by the temple management clearly mentions that "shops will be given only to Hindus".

The *Indian Express* couldn't reach out to the temple authorities despite multiple attempts. This is for the first time that temples have barred Muslim traders' participation. Hosa Marigudi temple in Kaup in Udupi district, too, refused to allow shops/stalls to Muslims on March 18 for the two-day annual fair on Tuesday and Wednesday. Temple administration com-

mittee president Ramesh Hegde said they passed a resolution to allow only Hindus to participate in the auction of shops.

Hindu Jagarana Vedike Mangaluru division general secretary Prakash Kukkehalli said the decision was taken as "devotees were outraged since Muslims closed their shops against Karnataka High Court's hijab verdict on March 17".

In Dakshina Kannada district, including Mangaluru city, many of the temple managements passed similar resolutions and also installed hoardings to declare the same.

Mangaluru City police commissioner N Shashi Kumar said

he has brought the issue to the notice of the civic administration. "We are finding out who installed these hoardings. If the civic agency files a complaint, we will consult our legal team and take action accordingly," he said.

Mohammed Arif, secretary of Udupi District Street Vendors' and Traders' Association, said such a situation had never cropped up before and "we are requesting the Hindu leaders to not allow religious divide". "Of the 700 registered traders, 450 are Muslims," he said.

Similar situation was witnessed in Shivamogga where a Bajrang Dal activist was murdered recently.

# Sensodyne fined Rs 10 lakh for misleading ads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE CENTRAL Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), the consumer watchdog, has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on toothpaste maker Sensodyne for misleading advertisement of its products and has asked the company to discontinue the ads in seven days, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the ministry said the CCPA, headed by Nidhi Khare, additional secretary, department of Consumer Affairs, recently passed an order against misleading advertisements of Sensodyne products, which make the claims "Recommended by dentists worldwide" and "World's No.1 sensitivity toothpaste".

According to the statement, the CCPA on February 9 passed an order directing "discontinuation of advertisement" of Sensodyne products, which show endorsement by foreign dentists.

# India to play crucial role in new world order: TN Governor

New Delhi: Observing that India has a crucial role to play in the emerging new world order, Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi on Tuesday said the country was moving forward with a mantra of "Compete and Conquer".

In an interaction with a team of National Defence College of Delhi, Ravi said India has seen over 10,000 start-ups in 2021 against 400 in 2014. The country is widely appreciated for its role in the two major global crisis — climate and environment — Ravi told NDC team in Chennai.

The NDC team comprising 15 officers of Armed Forces, two officers from Civil Services and officers from friendly foreign countries of Australia, Iran, Nepal, Uzbekistan, is on a study tour of Tamil Nadu. During the interaction, the Governor said Tamil Nadu reflects vividness of a rich diversity of India with its richness of language, literature and history. ENS

# Bulldozer will not stop until criminals are finished, says Chouhan

IRAM SIDDIQUE  
BHOPAL, MARCH 22

REINFORCING HIS government's 'zero tolerance' towards criminals in Madhya Pradesh and projecting himself as a strict administrator, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that "Mama's (himself) bulldozer will not stop until all the miscreants are finished".

He was at Chandpur village in Silwani tehsil of Raisen district where a clash between tribals and those from Muslim community had taken place on March 18 in which one Raju Adivasi had died.

On Monday, posters carrying picture of Chouhan, along with a bulldozer, and text declaring to "bring down properties of rapists and sexual assault accused" were put up across Bhopal. The posters came up after in three instances of rape in Sheopur, Shahdol and Seoni districts, the administrations of the respective districts razed the houses of the accused.

On March 18, according to the police, a mob had set ablaze two shops and motorcycles belonging to the Muslim community in Chandpur village, leading to a clash in which Raju Adivasi



CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

was killed, while 53 people from both sides sustained injuries.

Two cross-FIRs were registered and the district administration demolished two "illegal" shops and a house belonging to the Muslim community. However, four days after the incident, videos of tribal leaders of Gondwana Gantantra Party have surfaced, alleging that the clash was fuelled by RSS and Bajrang Dal members. Taking cognisance of the statement, Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh demanded an independent probe by an all-party panel of Vidhan Sabha.

Addressing a gathering at Chandpur village, Chouhan said, "Those indulging in hooliganism will be wiped out from MP."

This is not the first time when Chouhan has tried to project himself as a strict administrator. During a public event in Hoshangabad's Babai on December 25, 2020, he had given an ultimatum to the mafia to leave Madhya Pradesh.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



Mr. Bhavya Haren Desai employed with us has been suspended from his present employment with us due to serious fraud, forgery, theft of our Company's finances to the tune of closely Rs.5 Crores. His acts of siphoning and routing of illegal money is presently under investigation in FIR No.30/2022 date 12.03.2022 filed with CEN Belagavi Police Station, KARNATAKA, wherein he, his wife, other family members including his accomplices in crime are being investigated for prosecution. He is presently absconding after his criminal acts surfaced. Action to dismiss him from employment according to law is under process. He is suspected to be having some of our Company's properties, credentials including IP material still in his possession and he might still make unlawful use of it for wrongful gains both personally or through his accomplices. Therefore public, vendors, business associates, esteemed customers and all concerned with us are hereby cautioned not to entertain or interact with Bhavya Haren Desai or anyone claiming on his behalf touching our company's business and affairs. All are hereby also requested to kindly inform and keep us posted if he makes any such contacts or communication and also kindly let us know his whereabouts if known.

Prakash Sarvi  
DGM Finance  
Mob.: +91 99805 52312  
MG Automotives (Bus & Coach) Pvt. Ltd  
Survey No. 274, N.H. 4A, Desur Village,  
Belgaum, Karnataka - 590014

Date: 23rd March, 2022.

## DR. HOMI BHABHA STATE UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI SEARCH COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

APPLICATIONS/Nominations are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Homi Bhabha State University (HBSU), Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has established the HBSU as a Cluster University, with the Institute of Science, Mumbai; Elphinstone College, Mumbai; Sydenham College, Mumbai; and Secondary Training College, Mumbai, as the Constituent Colleges. The Institute of Science is the Lead Institute of the University. The University is an independent degree-granting entity with its own Rules and Regulations. This is the first University of its kind in the State of Maharashtra and is established as per the guidelines of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). The University is expected to charge the Higher Education system in the State with new vigour.

A transparent and an objective process is provided under the Maharashtra Public Universities Act 2016 for selection of the Vice-Chancellor which is aimed at selecting a scholar of eminence with leadership and administrative abilities who would be able to transform the University into a Centre for Academic & Professional Excellence.

The Hon'ble Governor of the State of Maharashtra and the Chancellor has formed a three-membered Search Committee for recommending suitable names for the post of Vice-Chancellor of this University. The nominations/ applications are now invited by Search Committee from eminent academicians who fulfil the qualifications and experience prescribed for the post of Vice-Chancellor as per the Gazette of Government of Maharashtra, dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and who are willing to take on this challenging assignment. All the necessary details regarding essential qualifications & experience, desirable experience, expected skills & competencies and application format are available on the University web site <https://hbsu.ac.in>

The interested candidates/ applicants must provide detailed chronological Resume in the format available on the University website. Additionally, they should provide a two page write up about their suitability for the post, two page write up about their vision for the University and name and contact details of the three referees (distinguished individuals well acquainted with the work of the applicant) along with reference letters. Institutions may also nominate suitable candidates for this post.

The Search Committee has appointed Dr. Sandeep Mishra, Assistant Registrar, IIT, Pune as the Nodal Officer. Nominations/ Applications may be sent in the prescribed format in hard (4 copies) as well as soft copy to the Nodal Officer at the under noted address so as to reach on or before 22.04.2022. Applications received thereafter shall not be entertained.

Address : Assistant Registrar, Indian Institute of Information Technology Pune, Near Bopdev Ghat, Kondhwa Annexe, Yewalewadi, Pune, Maharashtra-411 048.

E-mail : ar@iitp.ac.in  
Contact No. : 9496959828

If required, short-listed candidates would be invited for personal interaction with the Search Committee. However, mere fulfilling the minimum requirements does not give the right to the candidate to be called for interaction.

It is an outstanding opportunity for eminent academicians to take this prestigious university of higher learning to greater heights.

CHAIRMAN  
SEARCH COMMITTEE  
DGIPR/2021-2022/C-5379

Date : 22.03.2022



## NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR & OCEAN RESEARCH

Vasco-da-Gama, Goa-403804

INVITATION FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS 42<sup>nd</sup> INDIAN SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) (erstwhile NCAOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Government of India is the nodal agency responsible for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. The 42nd Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (42-ISEA) to Maitri and Aharati will be launched in November, 2022. The summer team (short term) component of 42-ISEA shall return to India in March 2023, whereas, the winter team (long term) of 42-ISEA would return to India during January-March 2024.

The 42-ISEA embarks on a new journey of scientific research. ESSO-NCPOR (erstwhile NCAOR) welcomes long term innovative scientific proposals in thematic areas and its sub themes in different disciplines.

NCPOR welcomes nominations from organisations for selection of the Expedition Leaders for Indian research bases -Maitri, Bharati and Expedition Voyage.

Proposal/s along with all essential endorsement and certificates in the prescribed format [available on NCPOR website] has to be submitted on email ([antarcticsscience22@gmail.com](mailto:antarcticsscience22@gmail.com)) latest by 13th April 2022.

Complete programme, eligibility, and application information is available at: <http://www.ncpor.res.in/>

No: NCPOR /05/2022  
davp 12111/12/0001/2122

Sd/-  
Director, NCPOR

# शहीदों की चिताओं पर लगे हरे हर बरस मेले वतन पे मिटने वालों का यही बाकी निशां होगा

## शहीदी दिवस 23 मार्च, 2022

हरियाणा सरकार

### भारत मां के महान सपूतों भगत सिंह, राजगुरु एवं सुखदेव की शहादत को शत-शत नमन

“आज़ादी के क्रांतिकर्ता अमर  
शहीद वीर भगत सिंह, सुखदेव  
और राजगुरु को शहीदी दिवस पर  
शत-शत नमन। मां भारती के इन  
महान सपूतों का बलिदान देश  
की हर पीढ़ी के लिए प्रेरणास्रोत  
बना रहेगा। जय हिंद।”  
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

सूचना, जन सम्पर्क एवं भाषा विभाग, हरियाणा

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## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## THE REAL TEST

Common entrance test for central universities is welcome. But supply crisis in higher education needs urgent attention

**T**HE IRRATIONALITY OF a system of high marks, higher cut-offs and an assessment system that rewards unimaginative, rote learning has, for long, taken a toll on students and educators. The compulsory common entrance test for admission to undergraduate courses and colleges under central universities is, therefore, a welcome first step in fixing a broken system. For one, the Class XII board examination results will no longer have a bearing on admission to these 45 universities, flattening out the differences in assessment practices across various boards. The accompanying end to absurd outcomes such as 100 per cent qualifying marks for prized courses in Delhi University comes not a day too soon. Second, students can opt to write the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) in any of 13 languages, which levels the field significantly. Third, it spares students from the expense and hassle of writing multiple entrance examination tests. But, for all those pluses, the entrance test is not a magic bullet to the complex challenge of equality and quality in higher education.

A lot will rest on the structure of the test, and the goals with which it is designed. The National Education Policy, while recommending just such a reform in the university admission process, had called for "a high-quality common aptitude test, as well as specialised common subject exams ... that test conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge and shall aim to eliminate the need for taking coaching for these exams". The apprehension that the CUET can be gamed by a super-nimble coaching industry is not unfounded. The National Testing Agency (NTA)'s task will be to ensure a less mechanical way of screening applicants and assessing the aptitude for college education. The unreasonable cut-off must not be replaced by another test score. Neither, after all, is a foolproof measure of ability. Nor should 12 years of schooling be completely disregarded in the admission process or reduced to the performance in a make-or-break examination. The government and the school boards must find a way to give weightage to a child's schooling career.

Finally, a single piece of reform must not obscure the larger, structural reasons for the crisis. In a young country, where education is tied up with the aspirations of people across classes, the demand for higher education is growing, as is evident in the 11 per cent rise in gross enrolment between 2015 and 2020. The number of quality higher education institutes has not kept up, resulting in lakhs of applicants for a few universities and elite colleges — and leaving out vast numbers without the education they deserve. For the government, that's the urgent task that demands attention and resources. Without an expansion in education infrastructure, more private and public investment in colleges and universities, the majority of young people will continue to be saddled with sub-par education that sets them up for unemployment and frustration. That's a crucial test for the future.

## WAR AND PRICES

Surge in fertiliser prices, amid crisis in Ukraine, affects India. But it can act to mitigate the impact on farmers

**I**NDIAN FARMERS MAY well be collateral beneficiaries of the disastrous Russian invasion of Ukraine. Soaring international prices of agri-commodities, thanks to shipping disruptions in the Black Sea, have improved crop realisation prospects even as a bumper rabi harvest of wheat, mustard, maize and barley is in the offing. The outlook for the ensuing kharif cropping season seems equally promising. If current prices hold, or don't significantly fall, farmers will have the incentive to plant more area under cotton, maize, soyabean, groundnut, sesame and sunflower. That would help promote crop diversification, especially weaning farmers away from paddy and sugarcane.

There is, however, one elephant in the room: Fertilisers. India is an importer of plant nutrients, whether in finished form or as raw material and intermediates. Urea and diammonium phosphate (DAP) are currently trading at \$1,200 and \$1,300 per tonne, respectively, as against their corresponding year-ago levels of \$400 and \$500. The landed price of muriate of potash (MOP) imported into India has, likewise, surged from \$247 to \$592 per tonne; so have those of inputs such as phosphoric acid (from \$795 to \$1,530), sulphur (\$225 to \$450) and ammonia (\$475 to \$1,150). The reason is simple: Russia is the world's largest urea exporter and, together with its strategic ally Belarus, accounts for around 40 per cent of the global trade in MOP. Russia also figures among the top five DAP-exporting countries. With a crucial supply source getting cut off by a combination of war-linked suspension of cargo movements and financial sanctions, the entire international fertiliser trade has been thrown into jeopardy.

What can India do? Three things, probably. The first is to rely less on floating import tenders, which will only further drive up global prices in a seller's market. A better option is to contract directly — with Canada, Israel and Jordan for potash and Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Togo and Egypt for phosphates — using government channels. Similar sourcing of, say, 1.5-2 million tonnes each of urea and DAP is possible even with China. With kharif sowings starting from mid-June, there is a reasonable time window to tie up supplies. The second is to initiate a campaign, well ahead of the season, to induce farmers to reduce consumption of urea, DAP and MOP and replace these with complex fertilisers having less, but more balanced, nutrient content. Third, the maximum retail price of urea has been unchanged since November 2012. A minimum 25 per cent hike is in order now — to prepare farmers for eventual price decontrol and a flat per-acre subsidy regime.

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Russian cosmonauts' suits may or may not have showed support for Ukraine. But there is a larger point in the controversy

**W**HEN RUSSIAN COSMONAUTS Oleg Artemyev, Denis Matveev and Sergey Korsakov docked the Soyuz MS-21 spacecraft at the International Space Station on Friday, many on earth read into their bright yellow suits with blue trim a gesture — of support for Ukraine (with its yellow and blue flag) and of defiance against the Russian state. As speculation exploded online, Russian officials offered a series of clarifications: There was a lot of the yellow material in storage, so it was used for the uniform; the suits were designed months in advance, so they couldn't be a symbol of anti-war protest; the colours honour the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, the alma mater of the three cosmonauts.

Whatever the real explanation — Russian cosmonauts are usually kitted out in blue — the controversy and its setting in space blur the sharp lines that, on the ground, separate the parties on different sides of the war. The only reason that the ISS continues to stay in orbit and do its valuable work is the dedicated teamwork of the 15 nations involved, including the US and Russia. Cooperation in space has already suffered with the launch of Europe's Mars rover, ExoMars, being postponed due to the involvement of the Russian space agency, Roscosmos. And while Roscosmos has threatened to pull its support from the ISS over western sanctions on Russia, that is not an option for the crew on board. The ISS is a significant feat of international collaboration in the post-Cold War era, with Russia controlling the propulsion system, and the US providing the power.

Over 60 years ago, Yuri Gagarin had talked about experiencing a perspective shift as he looked down and marvelled at the pale, blue dot. Perhaps, from 400 km above the earth's surface, the ISS crew has developed a similar understanding of what really matters.

# The New World Disorder

Self-serving stances of great powers on Ukraine point to a world more likely to be marked by conflict, hubris



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

**EVEN AS UKRAINE** faces extraordinary devastation, a new world disorder is becoming apparent. The United States has to do the balancing act of providing a strong response to Russia. But it is also hemmed in by the fact that it is dealing with an armed nuclear power and needs to avoid direct confrontation. Whether this balancing act can be pulled off remains to be seen. Europe is now caught between its desire to send a strong message to Russia and sanctimonious moralising. But its credibility is impugned because it is simply not willing to pay even the minimal economic price for a strong stand.

Russia in the meantime has made a classic mistake. It is one of the great mysteries of international politics that despite their terrible record at winning asymmetric wars, powerful countries continue to think they can win. Post World War II history is full of examples of conflict between a seemingly strong power and a weaker adversary resulting in immense losses for the former, if not full defeat. Andrew Mack's classic study "Why Big Nations Lose Small Wars: The Politics of Asymmetric Conflict," had made this point as early as 1975. Seemingly weak adversaries can do surprisingly well for a number of reasons: The fraying of political will of the stronger power, greater ideological cohesion, international support for the weaker power, the practical difficulties of waging war or constraints on the use of certain kinds of weapons. One of the arguments that used to be made for the possible strength of weaker adversaries is that they have degrees of freedom: They can engage in guerrilla warfare, insurgency or even targeting civilians. But one of the striking things about modern wars is that none of the great powers have shown much restraint in the tactics they use: The Russians are as ready to use any tactics necessary, as the devastating destruction of Mariupol suggests.

Ivan Arreguin-Tolt, in *How the Weak Win Wars*, had argued statistically, that since 1950 the percentage of wars that seemingly stronger powers win was dropping to less than half. But if you consider significant wars from Afghanistan to Iraq, the illusion of power is even more striking. Countering guerrilla

warfare, insurgency, urban warfare, civil rebellion or even a war against gang lords has not proven easy for any state. Power is a necessary instrument for defence. But there is something surreal about the hubris of states that, time and again, get misled by metrics of power. If there is one lesson that all great powers need to draw, it is this: How elusive notions of power can feel when confronted with seemingly weaker enemies.

The only definition of a superpower in the contemporary world is not that it is a power that can achieve its objectives by force. It is that it can, to a certain degree, absorb the costs of failure, as the United States has, and Russia has been unable to. Russia may eventually terrorise and bomb Ukraine into submission. It has not been clear from the start what Putin's eventual political objective was. Even the Russians themselves are admitting to high casualties. Russia finds itself in a Ukraine with a fourth of its population displaced, cities devastated, its adversaries to the West more united, its economy deeply hurt. After this, any agreement may be a face saver, but hardly a victory.

The rest of the world, meanwhile, is smelling an opportunity and a space for new equations seems to open up. India and China are a case in point. India and China's equivocation on Ukraine is appalling. Taking a stand against Western hypocrisy, and looking out for one's interests are worthy causes. But if the stand against Western hypocrisy, say, in Iraq and Afghanistan, is itself not to be even more hypocritical, then a clear-cut condemnation of Russia is warranted. No one is against countries looking after their own interests, and it would be imprudent to merely brandish principles. But here is the core point for both India and China. What kind of world order do they want to build, which also serves their self-interest? 'Exposing Western hypocrisy' is a trope that the West's own actions have invited. But it is not a serious answer to the question of the kind of world we want to build. Nor is the argument that both India and China are giving — that condemnation serves no purpose and they are using less public channels to get their message across

to Russia. There is absolutely no evidence that that message is meant to put serious pressure on Russia, while there is a lot of evidence that Russia seeks to exploit the schism between the rest and West for its own advantage.

The India-China dyad is interesting at the moment. Speculation about a visit to India by Wang Yi has heightened expectations. Is there an unintended silver lining here? India's actions on Russia might just convince China that all talk of India being in the American camp was always premature. This is not a bad reputation to have in this context. China will, for the moment, try and secure some détente with India in the face of recent tensions. A détente with India will also be a trophy against US claims of more global support. How credible this opportunity is and how much India can trust Xi remains to be seen. But the crucial question in relation to the Ukraine crisis is this. China has been equivocal in its public statements on how much it will support Russia; it recognises the potential liability of Putin, but the prospect of a pro-Chinese regime in Russia (all the better if weaker) and a weakening of America is very tempting. Could India and China, the two important states with stakes in Russia, get across a unified message to Russia? Or will they both cynically fish in troubled waters, not contributing to pressure on Russia or making the world safer?

So an America understandably losing capital outside the West because of its hypocrisy, a Europe still speaking in forked tongues, a Russia that would rather see the world and its own citizens suffer, and India and China using western hypocrisy as a cover for displaying an outright cynicism is not a good portent for a world order. Putin may not yet survive his blunder. Ukraine will almost certainly pay an impossibly high price for Putin's hubris. But the self-serving stances of all the great powers make it more likely that the world will be marked by more miscalculations, conflict and hubris, rather than a dampening of conflict and more cooperation.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

## THE CASE AGAINST RUSSIA

ICJ order is binding on Moscow, constitutes part of its international legal obligations



PRABHASH RANJAN

**THE INTERNATIONAL COURT** of Justice (ICJ) — the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN) — has ordered Russia to immediately suspend its military operations in Ukraine. In short, to end the war instantly. This decision of far-reaching significance was rendered by the ICJ in response to Ukraine's application for indication of provisional measures under Article 41 of the ICJ Statute. Provisional measures under the ICJ Statute are the international equivalent of an interim injunction that can be provided by the court to preserve the rights of the parties pending a final decision on the merits of the case.

Ukraine moved the ICJ against Russia accusing it of falsely claiming that Ukrainians are committing genocide in their territory and using this untruthful premise to start an illegal war. This, Ukraine believes, breaches its rights under the Genocide Convention — a treaty that is binding to both Russia and Ukraine.

ICJ's reasoning is in three parts. First, the court held that it had prima facie jurisdiction in the case because the subject matter fell under the Genocide Convention. Russia tried to wriggle out of this dispute. It contended that its formal basis for use of force against Ukraine was its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter (a patently illegal argument, but this issue is not before the ICJ). The court rejected Russia's argument and held that the existence of a dispute is a matter of substance, and not a question of form or procedure. Since 2014, Russia has

been repeatedly accusing Ukraine of committing genocide in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Just before the military invasion, Russian President Vladimir Putin mentioned ending the genocide in Ukraine as the reason to use force. Ukraine vehemently rejects this charge. Prima facie, this shows the existence of a "dispute" under Article IX of the Genocide Convention — the compromissory clause that bestows jurisdiction on the ICJ.

Second, after establishing prima facie jurisdiction, the ICJ held that the objective of indicating provisional measures is the preservation of the rights claimed by the parties, pending the decision on merits. Ukraine argues that it has a right under the Genocide Convention not to be falsely accused of genocide and rely on this wrong pretext to use force against its territorial integrity. Since the current proceedings were only for provisional measures, the ICJ did not decide definitively whether Ukraine has such a right under the Genocide Convention. Nonetheless, the ICJ found Ukraine's right plausible, which is adequate for the current purposes. Further, the court found that a sufficient connection exists between Ukraine's plausible right and the provisional measures (immediate suspension of military operations) it has sought.

While the court did not decide on whether Russia has breached the Genocide Convention, as this is a question of merits, it did express doubt over whether a country

can unilaterally use force against another country for punishing or preventing an alleged act of genocide. This indicates that Russia's use of force is difficult to justify under the Genocide Convention.

Third, the ICJ held that if it does not indicate provisional measures, that is, order cessation of military action, there is a real and imminent risk of irreparable harm to Ukraine's rights. This is because of the magnitude of destruction that the ongoing war has caused.

ICJ's decision is binding on Russia and constitutes part of its international legal obligations. If Russia continues its military actions, it will be a brazen violation of international law. Cynics argue that none of this matters because the remedy for not complying with ICJ rulings lies with the UN Security Council, which has Russia as a permanent member. But just because authoritarian populist leaders like Vladimir Putin don't care for international law does not diminish its significance. International law, even if not sufficient, is necessary to maintain global order. The ICJ decision is an impactful step in that direction. The weight of global opinion against Russia on its egregious abuse of international law is mounting with each passing day. Russia can keep ignoring this only at grave peril to itself.

The writer is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, O P Jindal Global University. Views are personal



## MARCH 23, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

### GANDHI & THATCHER

**THE CORDIALITY** AND warmth exhibited by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Mrs Indira Gandhi on Sunday night at Heathrow airport remained unabated on Monday when they met alone to discuss "everything and anything under the sun" and then jointly spoke about bilateral economic relations at the official level meeting. It is not known what the two prime ministers discussed when they met alone for over an hour. An official spokesman would simply say that they discussed international relations affecting the world in general and the two countries in particular. However, British officials have pri-

vately indicated that they merely reviewed the world political and economic situation. But if what Mrs Gandhi told a BBC TV interviewer is any indication, it is unlikely that either of them had budged from their original stand, especially in regard to Afghanistan, South Asia and happenings in Latin America.

### DEFENCE SPENDING

**THE DEFENCE** MINISTRY has voiced concern over the developments in India's neighbourhood, which have brought big power conflict close to India's door. These developments have grave implications for the security of the country, the ministry has said. The

Ministry's alarmist view is contained in the annual report it has distributed to MPs who are to discuss in the next few days the government's defence spending. Parliament has already been asked to the budget to approve a defence outlay of Rs 5,100 crore — the highest in a year since independence.

### OVER POLICED

**OPPOSITION** MEMBERS in the Lok Sabha on Monday accused the Union Home Ministry of turning a blind eye to the killing of innocent people in the name of anti-dacoity operations in Uttar Pradesh and to reports of collusion of ruling party men with dacoits.

# The end of denial

The truth of Kashmiri Pandits can coexist with all other truths. Listen to understand, to lessen the pain, but not to fan the flames



C R Sasikumar



ANCHAL MAGAZINE

THIS HAS COME after a long pause. Over the last week, my mother — who has grappled with hypertension for three decades — experienced plummeting blood pressure levels. She's reliving her memories of the 1990s — the exodus, the struggle, the alienation and humiliation from the people with whom we sought shelter after our displacement from Kashmir. The recent movie on the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits, *The Kashmir Files*, has brushed against those wounds, even as she refuses to watch it, for she dreads that it will make it worse for her.

Friends and acquaintances contacted me after watching the movie. Eight years ago, a friend in Delhi had told me in a dismissive tone: "You feel deeply about the Kashmir issue." She called to say after watching it: "It's raw, do not show it to your parents."

My parents, like other displaced Kashmiri Pandits, do not need to watch a movie to know. They lived through it all — the ethnic cleansing for being a religious minority, the fear for their lives, the flight for safety, the struggle to rebuild from scratch, the uncertainty about the next meal, the focus on education despite the dire circumstances. The resilience despite the turmoil.

Others ask if what is shown in the movie is true — the rapes, the targeted killings, the Kashmiri Muslim neighbour signalling that a Kashmiri Pandit engineer was hiding in a rice drum when terrorists came to kill, the woman who was raped and then cut alive by a mechanical saw, the bodies of a poet and his son mutilated and hung from a tree, Kashmiri Pandits, including infants, lined up and shot dead by terrorists in Nadimarg.

It is. This is the truth which Kashmiri Pandits have written about. In Kashmiri, there's a saying: *Apuz chhu tul katur ti poz chhu aftab* (The lie is like frozen water, the truth is like the sun. The lie is short-lived like frozen water, and remains only as long as the truth is hidden).

The truth is not just limited to the slogans and the killings, it extends to the build-up of animosity against the community long before the first prominent Kashmiri Pandit killing in 1989. Accounts have been written of the collapse and complicity of the politicians, bureaucrats, police, armed forces, intelligence agencies and other organs of the state machinery, many of whom are now defensive despite being witnesses of the ethnic cleansing.

Kashmiri Pandits did not disappear into the thin air. As hit-lists were curated and pasted in public, as targeted killings and exodus took place, as they had to shift to shoddy accommodations and tents in inhuman conditions in the 1990s, they were not considered human enough by any of the governments.

Civil society failed to be civil. It stayed silent. In fact, it went a step ahead to deny the truth about Kashmiri Pandits. Many continue to do so till date.

I was one year old in 1990. Growing up, I would often scan news reports about us but not to much avail. I would sit through movies

"based" on Kashmir, waiting for a mention of Kashmiri Pandits. An insignificant territory to explore for mainstream filmmakers, they would often be a fleeting reference. In one such movie shot in Kashmir and released in 2014 with a running time of 162 minutes, Kashmiri Pandits had a mention: One line.

In the popular narrative, a Kashmiri Pandit was always erudite. But the moment they asserted their truth, they were labelled "communal", "victims who flaunt their victimhood" and try to seek "revenge".

Prominent "liberal columnists" suggested Kashmiri Pandits had not suffered enough, that they were not killed in large enough numbers. In 2019, a columnist wrote the word "camps" will be repeated ad nauseam to claim continuing victimhood. As recently as last week, another wrote: "Memory is not always reliable".

Kashmiri Pandits would rush to explain. The onus was on victims to produce proof. Meanwhile, the killers of Kashmiri Pandits got glorified as "messiahs".

The void and denial of these 32 years have brought Kashmiri Pandits to such a point, where their internalised pain has come to the surface in the form of outbursts, as they see a movie as a medium of being seen and heard. One may disagree with the filmmaker's politics, but it has come closest to depicting the facts.

That even now the maker of the recent film gets Y-grade security, when just five months back several Kashmiri Pandit employees fled for their safety after the targeted minority killings in Kashmir, speaks volumes about our dismal rank in priorities, beyond being used as political capital by the ruling government. That many of these displaced Kashmiri Pandits, who had returned for employment under the PM package, have still not been provided the promised accommodations tells us that the government needs to take more measures, rather than simply canvassing for a movie.

On their own, Kashmiri Pandits have attempted to document and narrate their truth of ethnic cleansing since the 1990s through books, documentaries, websites. Did you care to listen — without denials,

comparisons, or ifs and buts? No. Kashmiriyat became a misnomer, without even an acknowledgement of the truth, forget an apology.

An entire generation passed away yearning to return to their homeland, a generation grew up not knowing what home means. Three decades — that's the timeline. I cannot bring back my nani (maternal grandmother), who could speak only in Kashmiri and who in her late years suffered memory loss, forgetting the count of her own children, but remembering every detail of her time in Kashmir.

To the political leaders in Kashmir, who are still issuing qualifying statements, I say: "Kashmiri Pandits nikaal nahi gaye, nikaale gaye (Kashmiri Pandits did not leave, they were forced to leave)". State the truth, so that coming generations of Kashmir and this country know this history should never get repeated with any community.

Both sides suffered in Kashmir. Our truth can coexist with all other truths. Listen to understand, to lessen the pain, but not to fan the flames.

And for the man who stood up in a movie hall inciting fellow moviegoers against Muslim women and others issuing similar statements, a few questions. With heightened polarisation, it's easy to cite the Kashmiri Pandit story to evoke hatred. But what have the Pandits done in these 32 years: Have they picked up guns? Have they incited violence? Have they called for revenge? Our grandparents and parents left behind their homeland, without even thinking of the consequences of restarting lives from scratch, to save their lives and to protect the dignity of the 'womenfolk'. We picked up pens, not guns. Do not insult our resilience and suffering through such statements. Do not lose your sense of humanity.

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The Afghan Taliban must be elated by the de facto recognition of their government, although they know that they will have to soften their rigid positions on some fundamental issues to achieve full diplomatic recognition."  
— DAWN, PAKISTAN

## How BJP won four states

BJP CMs implemented the Modi model of governance, which focuses on tech-based last-mile delivery of welfare schemes



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

AT THE OUTSET, I would like to compliment my fellow karyakartas, party leaders and fellow chief ministers for the BJP's spectacular victory in the recently concluded assembly polls. I have been asking myself what could have led us to this historic victory.

The year 2014 has been a watershed moment in the history of Indian polity. A new model of administrative structure and governance that puts people at the heart of its delivery was introduced that year. The outcomes of the recently concluded assembly elections are a testimony that the Modi model of governance has provided a recipe for the BJP's success across the country.

The narrative constructed by opinion makers that the Modi factor is a force to reckon with only in the Lok Sabha elections and does not have much of a relevance in state polls has led to many miscalculations by opposition parties. The myth of anti-incumbency and caste-based experiments have not worked for them: Voters voted unanimously for governance and development. These results have questioned the conventional political wisdom and have decisively debunked the petty politics that does not have good governance at its core.

For the first time in many years, Uttar Pradesh (after 37 years) and Uttarakhand re-elected the party that ran the outgoing government. No political pundit or strategist could have predicted this electoral miracle a few years ago.

So, what is this Modi model of governance? Having been a chief minister for the last 10 months, I have been observing it from close quarters, and striving to ensure its success in Assam. This model is rooted in the exceptional trust and affection people have for the prime minister. And this is inspired by the principles of cooperative federalism, wherein the state government works in complete sync with the Prime Minister's Office and other central ministries to ensure high precision last-mile delivery of the prime minister's flagship schemes. The double-engine governance model enables states to complement the Centre in ensuring the implementation of schemes. This is turning out to be a game changer.

Take the case of Uttar Pradesh — 2.5 crore farmers benefited from PM-Kisan (23 per cent of all farmers beneficiaries came from UP), 1.5 crore cylinders under PM-Ujjwala were given in UP (17 per cent of all India numbers), over 10 lakh houses were built under PM Awas Yojana, over 1.3 crore Ayushman Bharat cards were distributed and over 15 crore people got free ration under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana. In Manipur, over 22 lakh people received free ration under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana and over 60,000 houses were built under PM Awas Yojana. These numbers are evidence of successful

governance. The specific focus of the prime minister to turn states in the Northeast and the coast into centres of growth has also been instrumental in Goa and Manipur reposing their faith in BJP governments.

Since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invested a lot of his focus and energy in certain schemes which, collectively, will ensure holistic development and poverty eradication with the household as the basic unit. Be it the success of the aspirational districts programme leading to the aspirational block programme or the Jal Jeevan mission or building toilets across the country, the focus towards taking the most vulnerable population alongside in the journey towards a new India is evident. This approach is the soul of the Modi model of governance which goes beyond just service delivery and creates a direct interface with the Indian citizen. The model could be closest to a welfare model that has streamlined the delivery of specific benefits to the poorest sections of the society through extensive use of technology, such as the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity. The tech-based approach has also enabled a pilferage-free service delivery mechanism, unlike during the UPA government. Metaphorically, Modi's governance model is an extension to his radio show, Mann ki Baat, wherein he directly connects to his people.

Going further, all the schemes which emanate from this model — PM Ujjwala, PM Kisan, Jan Dhan, NREGA, PM Awas, Ayushman Bharat and PM Garib Kalyan — have been successfully implemented in each of the states that the BJP won in these elections. Many of these schemes are financed by the Centre but implemented at the state level. Their success can happen only when the chief minister's office works in close coordination with the PMO. As chief minister, my responsibility is to ensure that all the schemes prioritised by the PM reach the intended beneficiaries.

The 2022 CSDS post-poll survey reports that voters in the five states that had elections rated PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, PM Kisan, PM Ujjwala, Jan Dhan and Ayushman Bharat as some of the most effective government schemes. The findings also showed that a large number of beneficiaries of these schemes, particularly the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, voted for the BJP. These findings are not surprising to BJP karyakartas — however, for others, it does indicate how the Modi model can neutralise anti-incumbency or negative propaganda.

The key lesson for political watchers is that unwarranted confrontation with the PMO or deliberately sabotaging central government schemes will not yield electoral success. Punjab is a case in point. Voters in New India are demanding, they want development, not drama. And development in New India is last-mile delivery. For that the entire state machinery has to be galvanised.

As we celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with a vision to make India once again the "vishwa guru", we must remember that we can achieve the goal only if we strive together. The Modi model seems to do that.

The writer is chief minister of Assam



MEERAN CHADHA BORWANKAR

## Equality as a whole

Time for gimmicks like 'all-woman police stations' has passed

ON MARCH 8, International Women's Day, a Commissioner of Police in Tamil Nadu appointed women police officers as "heads" of police stations for a day. These officers held the posts for precisely 24 hours. Getting himself photographed with them, the commissioner said that it is "to recognise, honour, celebrate and cherish the role of women in our uniformed services".

He is not alone in designing such inane superfluities. Politicians in many states have created "all-woman police stations" and looked for glory, admiration and, of course, votes. You cannot dupe citizens with gestures without substance. Perhaps, some are gullible but ask a citizen who had to travel 10 km to reach the "all-woman police station" to seek redressal when the nearest one was just next door. And this is because the citizen is a woman.

Why can't we attend to her at the nearest police station? Are we saying that male police officers are not sensitive enough to understand the grievance of a female victim? That they do not have to be trained to investigate crimes against women? Most police leaders feel that creating all-woman stations is unjust to both male and female officers. They give an impression that men in uniform are uncaring, inconsiderate and insensitive and that women officers are capable of dealing with only crimes against women. And we all know that it is not true.

Many police officers reacted strongly against designating women as heads of po-

lice stations for a day. One officer said that "it's time men stopped using women in uniform for photo-ops. The commissioner's intentions may be honourable but he is unfortunately ruled by his own socialisation". About all-woman police stations, an officer commented that they "compartmentalise women officers rather than give them the independence of work". It is "a step in the reverse direction" because women officers are interested in all kinds of police work, not just in women-related matters.

The first all-woman police station was created in Chennai in the early 1990s, when there were hardly any women in the police. It has lost its relevance today, as most police forces in states and Union territories have 30 per cent or above reservations for women. If police and political leadership are sincere in their commitment to the cause of women, they should bring their number to the level of the pledged percentage. As per the Bureau of Police Research and Development, we have only around 10 per cent women in the police. This gap can be filled by conducting special recruitment drives. It may surprise some that there are around 25 per cent women in the Bihar police, the highest among all states. It is followed by Himachal Pradesh with around 19 per cent and Tamil Nadu at 18 per cent. Delhi certainly needs to improve on its ratio of 12 per cent women. Among Union territories, Chandigarh and Ladakh are doing well with above 18 per cent women. Jammu and

Kashmir, among the lowest with about 3 per cent women in the police, needs not only urgent recruitment drives but also sensitisation of its political and police leadership about this dismal failure.

However, mere recruitment and induction of women will not suffice. These officers have to be trained well in all police subjects and deputed in both urban and rural police stations. The inclination to post women police officers in computer sections, counselling cells, reception desks, etc needs to be discouraged. The creation of infrastructure like toilets and changing rooms for women in police stations is a crying need, as highlighted in a study conducted by the Centre for Police Research, Pune (2015-16) on 'Gender Friendliness of Maharashtra Police'. The women officers who were contacted flagged the need for more cooperation from their male colleagues. They sought leadership training and experience-sharing workshops to sharpen their professional skills. They are keen to lead police stations, divisions, zones, districts and commissionerates — not for a day but on tenure postings.

A greater number of women will change the dynamics of the traditional, masculine and authoritarian way that police stations work. I can foresee some conflicts and adjustments, which are a natural part of any social change. For a smooth transition, training in gender, respecting and cooperating with female colleagues must be an integral part of

basic police training. These topics also deserve to be emphasised during refresher courses and in-service workshops. A police station is a cohesive unit and is crucial in providing timely services to citizens. A change in its gender profile shall not disrupt its functioning, if the staff receives appropriate training and regular positive messages from leaders. Hopefully, women will make police stations more honest and transparent in their dealings with citizens.

Women in uniform provide an extremely powerful symbol of positive authority, confidence, empowerment and social change. Let us stop applauding "all-woman police stations", a meaningless symbolic gesture that is regressive, both conceptually and in practice. Instead, let us induct more women so that each police station in the country has them in adequate numbers to attend to all citizens, including women victims and complainants. And that women's issues are addressed at the nearest police posts instead of their being sent to specific ones.

The uniform is meant to help and assist all citizens and not to discriminate amongst them based on gender, caste, class or religion. Therefore, it is high time that we discard futile, populist acts and become authentic in our commitment to knowledgeable, skilled and competent law enforcement.

The writer is former Commissioner of Police, Pune

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GOOD DIPLOMACY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A matter of Quad' (IE, March 22). It is self-interest that is being fiercely protected not only by Ukraine but also by those who are, more or less, mute witness to the war. India has so far trodden wisely by refusing to take sides, while the overtly ambitious China sees in the Ukrainian crisis an opportunity to play a bigger role in the emerging world order. Any wonder, then, the growing interaction of Quad members is not going down well with Beijing. Despite overtures from China and a prospective visit of its foreign minister to India, New Delhi would do well not to take China at face value.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A matter of Quad' (IE, March 22). China's belligerence in the Indo-Pacific region is visible not just on the ground in its words. The move from calling the Quad "foam in the Pacific Ocean" a few years ago to now the new rhetoric of an "attempt to create NATO in Asia" shows China's issues with the grouping. It is also important to note that Quad partners' are accommodative of India's stand on the Ukraine crisis. The Australian ambassador to India, for example, accepted independence in foreign policy as an important principle. This is crucial in two ways. First, it will help India to maintain its long-held principle of "strategic autonomy".

Second, it will help delineate India's position on Ukraine from that of China and Pakistan.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

### PAROCHIAL PARTY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Ill-tempered party' (IE, March 22). The topic of the seminar did not involve any matter of sensitivity in Kerala, but was on Centre-state relations, where there was no real difference of opinion between the Congress and the CPI(M). It is quite unfortunate that the Congress in Kerala is playing into the hands of the BJP. Parochial politicking within the regional unit of the party is preventing national leaders from participating in a seminar on a topic where the Congress and CPI-M are on the same side.

SS Paul, Nadia

### WELL DONE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Striving for gold' (IE, March 22). In December last year, Lakshya Sen won the Bronze in the BWF World Championships in Spain and he has also beaten world champion, Kean Yew Loh, in the Indian Open final. And now, he has won Silver at the All England Final. He may have been disappointed but he played a great game. Indian badminton's future is in safe hands.

Bal Govind, Noida

# 14 EXPRESS NETWORK

4 arrested in Mathura for assaulting man over beef suspicion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 22

MATHURA police on Tuesday arrested four persons for allegedly beating up a pick-up van driver over suspicion that he was transporting beef and smuggling cattle at Raal village.

Police said that members of a cow vigilante group on Sunday stopped the pick-up van at Raal village and beat up the driver, 35-year-old Amir. Later, residents of Raal village also arrived at the spot and thrashed the driver. The villagers also beat up two members of the cow vigilante group — Vikas Sharma and Balram Thakur — mistaking them to be the associates of Amir, added police.

All the injured have been admitted to a hospital where their condition is said to be stable.

Police have registered two FIRs in connection with Sunday's incident at Jait police station.

The first FIR was based on Amir's complaint in which 16 people, including Vikas Sharma and Balram Thakur, have been named. Another FIR was filed by Vikas Sharma against 14 named and 120-150 unidentified persons. Vikas has alleged that the accused took away his gold chain and a wristwatch.

The video of the incident, in which a mob can be seen beating a man while his shift has been ruffled off, has gone viral on social media.

"Among the four persons arrested, two were named in the FIR. The accused were identified through a video of the incident," Additional Superintendent of Police (Mathura) Martand Prakash Singh said.

Police also said that no beef was found in the vehicle and added that Amir was carrying bones of dead animals to a factory in Sikandra Rao in Hathras.

A resident of the area, Ramesh Balmiki, has got the licence from the district administration to dispose of dead animals, said the ASP.

The ASP added that Balmiki used to send the remains of animals to a factory in Hathras.

## Haryana passes Bill against conversion, Cong walks out

Provision of imprisonment of one to five years; fine of not less than Rs 1 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 22

AMID PROTESTS by the Congress and even a walkout, the Haryana Assembly on Tuesday passed the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022. The government says the Bill is aimed at preventing religious conversions "through force, undue influence or allurements" while former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said such a law would lead to an increase in the domestic disputes in the cases of inter-religion marriages.

According to the Bill, the onus of proof lies with the accused. If conversion is done by allurements, use of force, fraudulent means of coercion, then there is a provision of imprisonment of one to five years and a fine of not less than Rs 1 lakh. Similar Bills in the recent past have been passed in BJP-ruled states including Himachal

Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Opposition Congress termed the proposed legislation as a political agenda adding the move would deepen the communal divide while Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that the Bill is aimed at instilling fear among those who commit crimes.

The Bill, which was tabled in the Assembly on March 4, was taken up for consideration Tuesday. Congress MLA Raghuvir Singh Kadian said that this Bill



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar at a press meet on Tuesday. Kamleshwar Singh

smacks of divisive politics adding that such a law is not in the interest of future generations. He also referred to the displacement of lakhs of people during the Partition while urging the government to refer the Bill to the Select Committee of Vidhan Sabha for its examination.

But Khattar said: "A person can change religion as per his own free will, but it will not be allowed to happen to anyone forcibly. Action will be taken against such people if they convert religion by deceit or by giving any kind of greed. The purpose of this Bill is to control forced religious conversion."

On the other hand, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda insisted that there was no need to bring a fresh law adding there are already provisions in the law to deal with cases of forcible conversions, if any. While pointing out possible implications of the new law, Hooda

said that it may increase dispute among the families where inter-religion marriages have taken place. "The inter-religion marriages take place between the persons from Hindu and Sikh families in the region. If a dispute takes place between the husband and wife after two years of marriage and a complaint is lodged against him (for forcible conversion of religion), then the man would be behind the bars." Hooda also suggested that there should be a provision in which no such complaint is lodged after a month of marriage.

Congress's Kiran Choudhry termed the proposed legislation as a "scary Bill" alleging that it would "deepen the communal divide". "Marriage is a personal domain and this proposed law is invasion in the personal domain" said Choudhry alleging that the move is violative of article 25 of the Constitution and it would have ramifications in long term.

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"As Ram-Janaki Path (from Ayodhya to Janakpur) is crossing through the Virat Ramayana Temple site, the Central government has been giving compensation of Rs 16 lakh per katha. Khan would have easily got Rs 2.4 crore for the land he donated," said Kunal.

Kunal added: "Hindu families, too, have donated about 15 acres land for the temple. We are grateful to them as well."

He said the temple, which is being modelled on Rameshwaram theme, would be 270-foot high, 540-foot wide and 1,080-foot long. The main 33-foot idol will be of Lord Rama worshipping Lord Shiva. In all, there will be 14 temples and four ashrams depicting journey of Lord Rama. There will also be temples of Lord Krishna and Sun God.

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## Can reopen Pandit cases if something specific, says DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 22

JAMMU AND Kashmir's Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, on Tuesday said that the cases relating to exodus and killing of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990s can be reopened if something specific comes up.

"If something specific comes up, we will definitely pay attention," he said when asked about the demand by Kashmiri Pandits to reopen cases pertaining to their exodus and massacre.

"We have been pursuing and will keep pursuing any case related to terrorism. We will not spare anyone who is responsible for terror crime and strict action will be taken," Singh said.

His remarks come amid a controversy over The Kashmir Files, a movie that focuses on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in 1990. An advocate and social worker Vineet Jindal



J&K DGP Dilbag Singh

has in a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind has sought direction to the UT administration for reopening all the cases pertaining to the massacre of Pandits during 1989-90 and also for the constitution of a Special Investigation Team to investigate them.

DGP, who earlier flagged off motorbikes to be used for border patrol and women helpline at Gulshan Ground here, also said that security of the borders has

always been an issue of concern as Pakistan-based terror agencies are using different tactics which include infiltration bids, pushing of terrorists, supplying weapons and narcotics via tunnels, and now by using drones etc. to foment trouble in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Kashmir Files: Sec 144 in Kota

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, MARCH 22

FEARING A law and order situation arising post the screening of The Kashmir Files and in view of religious festivals ahead, the Kota district administration has imposed

Section 144 of the CrPC from Tuesday (March 22) to April 21.

"...in view of 'The Kashmir Files' playing at cinema halls and to maintain law and order in the district, there is a need to suspend gathering of crowds, protests, assemblies and processions," reads the March 21 order.

## UAE CEOs in J&K to explore investment

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 22

A MONTH after India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a free trade agreement, CEOs from Gulf countries are in Jammu and Kashmir to explore investment opportunities.

The J&K administration had also inked several agreements with investors at Dubai

Expo2020, a global exhibition hosted by UAE, two months ago.

Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce department, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, said at the Expo, investors had showed "a lot of interest with regard to Jammu and Kashmir".

"Most of them had doubts that the situation there (in Kashmir) is not good, that it is a conflict zone. We invited them so that they see for themselves

Constable killed in shootout in Srinagar, LeT militants escape

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 22

A POLICEMAN was killed in a shootout with Lashkar-e-Toiba militants during an operation in Srinagar on Tuesday.

"On a specific input regarding movement of terrorists in a vehicle around Soura of Srinagar city, a covert team of Srinagar Police was following them," police said. "The terrorists boarding the vehicle, however, fired indiscriminately upon the team."

Constable Amir Hussain was critically wounded in the shootout and later died at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

Police said, while the covert police team returned fire, the militants managed to escape in the rush of people. "The fire was retaliated leading to a brief shootout in which one terrorist was injured," police added.

A civilian was killed on Monday by the suspected militants, two non-local labourers and three paramilitary personnel were injured in militants attacks since Saturday.

The wreath laying ceremony of the slain policeman was held at the District Police Lines in Srinagar, which was attended by top police and civil officers. IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the militants involved in the

shootout have been identified as Basit Rehan and his associate. He said that the militants are associated with Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).

## Muslim man donates land worth Rs 2.4 crore for temple in Bihar

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, MARCH 22

A MUSLIM petroleum transporter donated 71 decimal (one decimal is 100th part of an acre) land worth Rs 2.4 crore for the upcoming Virat Ramayana temple near Kesaria in East Champaran. The Rs 500-crore project, which will be the biggest Ramayana temple in the world, is being developed on 125-acre land by Mahavir Mandir Trust.

Ishfaq Ahmed Khan, who has over 30 acres land in East Champaran, told The Indian Express that he donated the land after coming to know that the temple trust was struggling with the land acquisition. "When Mahavir Mandir Trust secretary Kishore Kunal started the process of land acquisition, the high land cost came in the way. Since the project is coming up in my backyard, I decided to donate the land."

He also appreciated other Muslim families who sold their



Ishfaq Ahmed Khan is a resident of East Champaran

Khan's relatives sold 7-acre land for the project at a price cheaper than the market rate. The trust has so far acquired 103 acres and needs 20 acres more. The temple is likely to be completed by January 2025. A single-piece granite Shivalingam is being carved out at Mahabalipuram and it will reach East Champaran in six months.

Mahavir Mandir Trust secretary and former IPS officer Kishore Kunal said: "We are deeply touched by Khan's gesture. At a time when circle rate is Rs 4 lakh per katha (2,040 square feet), he decided to donate the land."

He also appreciated other Muslim families who sold their

land at Rs 25,000 to Rs 60,000 per katha (over last five years) to the Trust.

"As Ram-Janaki Path (from Ayodhya to Janakpur) is crossing through the Virat Ramayana Temple site, the Central government has been giving compensation of Rs 16 lakh per katha. Khan would have easily got Rs 2.4 crore for the land he donated," said Kunal.

Kunal added: "Hindu families, too, have donated about 15 acres land for the temple. We are grateful to them as well."

He said the temple, which is being modelled on Rameshwaram theme, would be 270-foot high, 540-foot wide and 1,080-foot long. The main 33-foot idol will be of Lord Rama worshipping Lord Shiva. In all, there will be 14 temples and four ashrams depicting journey of Lord Rama. There will also be temples of Lord Krishna and Sun God.

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## Documentary 'inaccurate', says Khabar Lahariya, filmmakers stand by portrayal

TANUSHREE GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

RURAL MEDIA organisation Khabar Lahariya has said the makers of the Oscar-nominated documentary *Writing with Fire* have represented it inaccurately and captured only a part of its story. In response, the filmmakers, Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, released a statement standing by the portrayal.

"Khabar Lahariya's statement is an acknowledgement of the fractured and complex times we are in. While their statement is



A still from Writing with Fire

deeply disappointing to us, we remain committed supporters of their mission, work and onward journey," they said on Tuesday. *Writing with Fire* is compet-

ing in the Documentary Feature category at the Oscars.

Khabar Lahariya's statement, which came a week ahead of the 94th Academy Awards on Monday, says the film "eclipses" their work of over 20 years and captures only a part of their story — "and part stories have a way of distorting the whole sometimes".

The women-led media collective acknowledged the film as "powerful and moving". But it added that the documentary's presentation of it "as an organisation with a particular and consuming focus of reporting on one party and the mobilisation

around this, is inaccurate".

The filmmakers wrote: "Khabar Lahariya has a rich legacy as a grassroots media organisation. Yet a film must take a focus to tell a story of one aspect or another of the whole picture."

The statement said the organisation watched the film only recently. The filmmakers, however, wrote: "It was important to us to share the film with Khabar Lahariya before any other audience. In January 2021, we travelled from Delhi to Banda to set up a screening in person with the key contributors before the world premiere of the film..."

## Danish Siddiqui parents lodge complaint in ICC against Taliban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE FAMILY of slain Pulitzer-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has lodged a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to probe his killing and to punish those responsible, including high-level commanders and leaders of the Taliban, their lawyer Avi Singh said on Tuesday.

Siddiqui, 38, a Reuters journalist, was on an assignment in Afghanistan when he was killed on July 16 last year. He was covering clashes between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar city.

Addressing a press conference, Singh said a formal complaint has been filed against top Taliban commanders including Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, Supreme Commander of the Taliban, and Mullah Hassan Akhund, Head of the Leadership Council.

## Maharashtra ASHAs face ire over male organ replica in family planning kit

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY  
MUMBAI, MARCH 22

TO SENSITIZE people from rural Maharashtra about family planning, for the first time, Maharashtra has included a mold of a phallus in its family planning counseling kit. But this has backfired as many ASHAs (accredited social health activists), who are responsible for counseling couples with the phallus sample, are facing the heat due to stigmatisation.

The ASHAs in Maharashtra conduct door-to-door counseling on family planning that includes educational discussion about sterilisation, sex, birth control and fertilisation among others.

So far, the discussions were being held with the help of pamphlets and booklets with pictorial presentations. But now, for the first time, the public health department has added two tools for more practical representational purposes — a replica of the uterus and a mould of phallus.

"The kit is being used for the time being... When ASHAs go in the

field, this (kit) helps to demonstrate the usage. It is included along with other family planning methods. This is especially important for newly-married couples who need much more awareness," said Dr Archana Patil, head of Directorate of Health Service.

"Through the tools, the ASHAs can also demonstrate the process of wearing condoms," she added.

But this initiative has turned into an embarrassment for the ASHAs.

Most ASHAs operate in their own villages where they know the people. According to them, working with the replica is embarrassing as they often have to face unwanted insults.

"Earlier, we used to counsel couples with pictures. But now, as soon as we take out the mold, the family members, especially the men, take offence. They claim we are corrupting their wives," said an ASHA from Some men from the villages have complained about the replica, which is apparently providing a "false impression of phallus" to the newly-wed women.

## Karan Singh son Vikramaditya quits Cong, cites its 'disconnect' with J&K

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, MARCH 22

IN A setback for the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, Vikramaditya Singh, the son of veteran party leader Dr Karan Singh, resigned from its primary membership Tuesday.

In his resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Vikramaditya said: "It is my belief that the INC is unable to realise and reflect the sentiments and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He also tweeted, "My position on critical issues vis-à-vis Jammu & Kashmir which reflect national interests do not align with that of the Congress Party," adding that the Congress "remains disconnected with ground realities".

Though he had not been active politically for some time, Vikramaditya's resignation came as a jolt to the Congress, especially in the Jammu region, as he is the son of Dr Karan Singh and the grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of undivided Jammu and Kashmir.

When contacted, Vikramaditya, 57, told The Indian Express that the Congress had lost "all connection with the people on the ground".

"I had suggested to the high command for certain changes in the organisation, but there was no response. It was unable to realise and reflect the aspirations of people at both the national level and in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Elaborating, he referred to issues, such as the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s strikes in Pakistan's Balakote following the terror attack on the CRPF convoy in Pulwama, abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, and delimitation of the J&K Assembly and the Lok Sabha constituencies.

He refrained from spelling out his future plans, but sources said he may join the BJP as his younger brother Yuvraj Ajatshatru is already with the saffron party.

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA  
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK  
E-Tender Notice No. 83 for 2021-22 (Online)**

**ONLINE E-Tenders in "B-1" Form** for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State Form Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered/Unregistered Contractor or international Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

Tender document download on our web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in> Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. \*Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

**Note :- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 17 (Seventeen) (Costing up to Rs. 500.00 Lacks) Works And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below web site.**

- [www.mahapwd.gov.in](http://www.mahapwd.gov.in)
- <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	21.03.2022 From 11.05	to	04.04.2022 Up to 17.00
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\* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.

\* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document.

\* All eligible/ interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering.

\* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

**Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors.**

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division, Nashik

O.C.Sign by E.E.

DGIIPR-2021-22/5366

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-I dated 22.03.2022. Following e-tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah for the following work: "Tender No. : TN-132-2021-22. Name of work : 1. At B.R. Singh Hospital - Renovation of one 20 bedded ITU (Medical) in the 1st floor of Metro Building. 2. Provision of accommodation of Oxygen Generation Plant including storage for cylinders at B.R. Singh Hospital including all other ancillary works under SSE/NB.R. Singh Hospital under the jurisdiction of AEN/W/Sealdah. Tender Value : ₹ 75,95,091.03. Cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) : NIL. EMD : ₹ 1,51,900. Date & Time of Closing of Tender : 12.04.2022 at 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 12.04.2022 at 15.30 hrs. Completion Period for the work : 06 months. Tender document and details at [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected.

SDAH-221/2021-22  
Tender Notice is also available at websites : [www.eindianrailways.gov.in](http://www.eindianrailways.gov.in) / [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

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

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

## DASHBOARD, AS ON MARCH 21

**750** DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

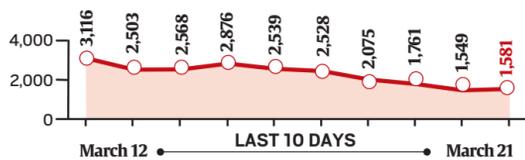
**New cases** 1,581

**Active cases** 23,913

**Deaths** 33

Weekly CFR: 1.41% | Overall CFR: 1.20% | Total deaths: 5,16,543

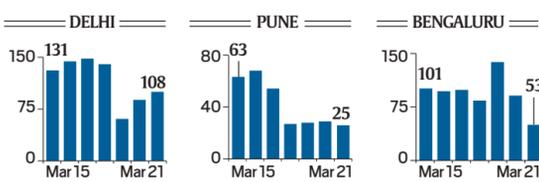
## NEW CASES, DAILY



## CASES IN THE STATES

State	ON MARCH 21			Weekly positivity
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	
Kerala	495	6,260	24	3.68%
Mizoram	287	1,649	1	10.93%
Delhi	108	505	0	0.44%
Maharashtra	99	1,276	0	0.38%
Telangana	73	639	0	0.31%

## CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 7 DAYS



## INDIA TOTAL DOSES

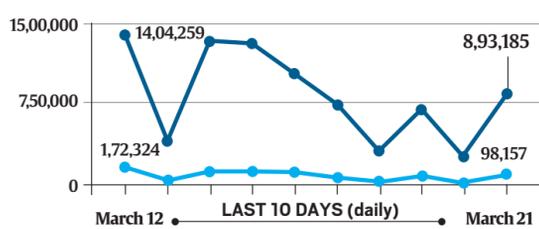
(Adults 1st dose: 91,19,67,586; 2nd: 78,62,27,909; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 5,62,94,499; 2nd: 3,58,14,910; Age group 12-14 1st dose: 34,19,633 Precautionary: 2,18,77,407)

181,56,01,944

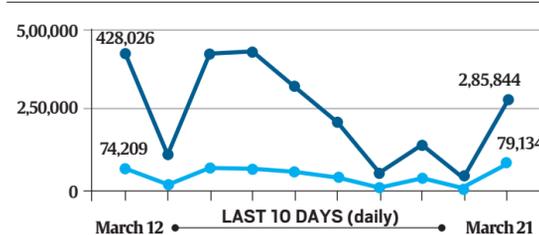
■ First dose ■ Second dose

March 21 total: 31,04,641

## ADULTS



## AGE GROUP 15-18



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## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

# CUET & India's campuses

Application forms for the Common University Entrance Test for central universities will be available from April. How many students will it impact, and in which courses? A look at the scale of India's UG education.

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

FROM THE academic session 2022-23, admission to undergraduate programmes in all 45 central universities in the country will take place through a common entrance test. Given the pool of undergraduate students in the country — over 3 crore were enrolled in various higher education institutes in 2019-20 — the move will have a wide impact on how they get into central universities, especially those that relied on Board marks.

On Tuesday, the University Grants Commission (UGC) issued a public notice on the proposed Common University Entrance Test (CUET), for which application forms will be available in the first week of April. Even state, private and deemed-to-be universities are free to adopt the CUET, which will be conducted in 13 languages: Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Urdu, Assamese, Bengali, Punjabi, Odia and English.

A look at the scale of India's undergraduate level education in terms of enrolment, institutions and courses:

## How many students are enrolled at the undergraduate level in India?

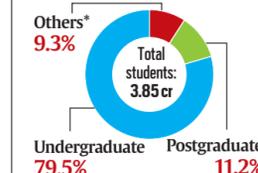
According to the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20, out of 3.85 crore students enrolled in all levels of higher education in India, 3.06 crore, or 79.5%, were at the undergraduate level, followed by postgraduate, with 43.1 lakh students or 11.2% (Chart 1).

For now, admissions to postgraduate courses are not mandated to be held under any common entrance.

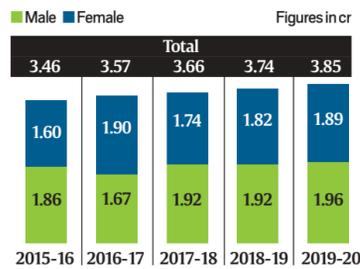
Enrolment has been growing over the years. At undergraduate level, it has risen from 2.74 crore in 2015-16 to 3.06 crore in 2019-20, and at PG level, from 39 lakh to 43 lakh. (Chart 2 shows growth across levels.) The next AISHE report is likely to capture the impact of the pandemic on enrolment.

## Which courses account for the largest chunk of UG students?

A total of 96.56 lakh students were pursuing BA in 2019-20; 47.1% of them were male and 52.9% female. Another 47.55 lakh students (48.7% male, 51.3% female) were in BSc and 41.6 lakh (51.2% male, 48.8% female) in BCom. Engineering and technology had 37.27 lakh,

CHART 1  
STUDENT ENROLMENT BY LEVELS: 3 cr AT UG

\*Diploma 6.9%; Integrated 0.8%; PG Diploma 0.6%; PhD 0.5%; Certificate 0.4%; M Phil 0.1%

CHART 2  
GROWTH OF ENROLMENTTABLE 2  
DISTRIBUTION BY SELECTED UNIVERSITY TYPES

Type	Male	Female	Total
Central	3.73 lakh	3.47 lakh	7.20 lakh
Central open	6.45 lakh	5.22 lakh	11.67 lakh
Institution of natl importance	2.21 lakh	72k	2.93 lakh
State public	12.87 lakh	12.91 lakh	25.78 lakh
State open	7.33 lakh	4.75 lakh	12.08 lakh
State pvt	8.34 lakh	4.42 lakh	12.76 lakh
Deemed (govt)	26k	13k	39k
Deemed (aided)	28k	28k	56k
Deemed (pvt)	4.65 lakh	3.23 lakh	7.88 lakh
Grand total	1.31 cr	1.40 cr	2.71 cr

TABLE 3  
LEVEL-WISE DISTRIBUTION IN CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

Type	Male	Female	Total
UG	2.77 lakh	2.63 lakh	5.40 lakh
PG	63,195	60,610	1.24 lakh
PhD	13,253	10,941	24,194
Integrated	6,295	5,072	11,367
Diploma	6,127	2,266	8,393
Certificate	3,275	1,497	4,772
PG Diploma	2,713	2,235	4,948
MPhil	1,193	1,083	2,276
Grand total	3.73 lakh	3.47 lakh	7.20 lakh

Source: AISHE 2019-20

with the break-up skewed towards male students (70.8%). In contrast, medical courses at UG level had a higher number of female students, at 59.5% out of 13.5 lakh (Table 1).

## How many of the undergraduate students are studying in central universities?

Of 72 lakh students in 48 central universities in 2019-20, 5.4 lakh were pursuing undergraduate programmes (Tables 2 and 3). Also, 13.97 lakh of 25.78 lakh students in state universities, and 8.4 lakh of 12.76 lakh in state private universities were undergraduate students.

## How many new students apply each year?

While a consolidated number is not immediately available, in 2021, 12.96 students

cleared class 12 under CBSE alone, with a pass rate of 99.37%. It is estimated that when state Boards and other Boards such as ICSE are taken into account, the number of class 12 candidates each year is over 1 crore. And due to revised assessment policies in view of the pandemic, pass percentages have gone up across boards.

## How diverse are the campuses in terms of caste and religion?

The AISHE report found that 14.7% of students across higher education institutes in 2019-20 belonged to the Scheduled Castes, 5.6% to the Scheduled Tribes and 37% to Other Backward Classes. Another 5.5% were Muslims while 2.3% belonged to other minority groups. In central universities, 13.73% belonged to

the SCs, 4.5% to the STs, and 17.9% to the OBCs, while 8.41% were Muslims. In state public universities, 12.34% belonged to the SCs, 3.93% to the STs, and 34% to the OBCs; 5.28% were Muslims. In state private universities, the breakup was 7.54% (SC), 4.41% (ST), 21.96% (OBC) and 4.24% (Muslim).

## What is the status of faculty?

On March 21, the government shared in the Lok Sabha that out of 19,366 sanctioned faculty positions in the central universities, 6,558 are vacant. Also, since August 2021, 8,589 posts in the central universities, IITs and IIMs have been advertised for which the selection processes are on, the government added in a written response.

## What could change in Delhi Univ admissions

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

IN EACH of the two previous admission seasons, more than a quarter of Delhi University's undergraduate admissions were cornered by students who scored 95% or more in their class 12 Board exams that were considered for cut-offs — a system that will now be replaced by the Central University Entrance Test (CUET).

Data accessed by *The Indian Express* show that in the 2020 and 2021, 57.31% and 66.18% of undergraduate admissions in DU went to students who scored more than 90%, while students who scored below 85% got just 19.9% of admissions in 2021, and 27.19% in 2020.

These findings are based on DU data on 70,612 UG admissions done through the cut-off system in 2020, and on 61,307 out of 71,748 admissions for which figures were available in 2021. Until 2021, admissions to most UG programmes in DU was conducted on the basis of

## DU UNDERGRADUATE SEATS

Class 12 (best 4)	2021*		2020**	
	Intake	% of total	Intake	% of total
Over 95%	24,446	39.87	18,820	26.65
90-94%	16,124	26.30	22,352	31.65
85-89%	8,502	13.86	12,578	17.81
80-84%	5,039	8.22	7,552	10.69

\*Data available for 61,307 out of 71,748 seats  
\*\*Data for 70,612 seats  
Source: DU

the class 12 Board scores in four subjects in which applicants scored the highest.

On Monday, UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar announced that the first ever mandatory common entrance test for admission to undergraduate programmes in all the 45 central universities, including DU, will be held in

the first week of July. Admission to undergraduate courses in these universities will be based solely on the CUET score, and class 12 Board marks will not carry any weightage.

The 2021 admission season saw class 12 Board exams scores and cut-offs reach an all-time high. With different boards awarding students exceptionally high marks in the pandemic year, ten programmes in DU began their admissions with a 100% cut-off — of 94 that had their first cut-off at 99% or higher.

DU data for 2021 show that almost 39.87%, or 24,446, of the 61,307 admissions were cornered by students who scored 95% or higher — this was the marks range with the highest number of admissions. This was followed by 26.3%, or 16,124 seats, in the 90-94% range.

In 2020, the biggest chunk of admissions had taken place in the 90-94% marks range, at 31.67%, or 22,352, of 70,612 admissions. That year, roughly one-fourth — 18,820 — of the seats went to students who had scored 95% and above.

In both years, the number of admissions decreased as the marks range went lower. The drop in the number of admissions in the 85-90% range is stark. In 2021, students in this marks range got 8,502 or 13.86% admissions, and in 2020, 12,578 or 17.8% of the total. This also indicates that admissions to a majority of DU undergraduate programmes closed at cut-offs over 90%.

With the CUET in place this year, students need only to pass their school-leaving exams. Within DU, the administration's stand has been that this shift will create a more level-playing ground by doing away with concerns on varying marking practices in different boards.

In 2021, students with the highest mean admission percentage in DU — or average scores on the basis of which students of that board got admission — were from the Kerala Board with 1,672 students (95.99%), followed by Rajasthan (1,511 students, 93.01%), Haryana (2,470 students, 90.72%), CISCE (2,389 students, 90.03%) and CBSE (59,199 students, 86.48%).

## EXPERT EXPLAINS

## Unseeing Bhagat Singh: Why India has stopped at only talking about him

CHAMAN LAL

THE PUNJAB government's decision to display a likeness of Bhagat Singh — based on a painting by one Amar Singh — rather than any of the revolutionary's four available authentic photographs at its offices is illustrative of the approach taken over the years by India's governments towards the hero who was hanged by the British on this day, March 23, ninety years ago.

The image — and imagery — that is frequently invoked on social media and in political discourse derives from certain romanticised stereotypes rooted in the folklore around the unparalleled bravery and fearlessness of Bhagat Singh, who was only 23 when he gave his life for the nation.

## Pre-independence: Mixed signals

From 1929, when he was arrested and jailed, to 1931, news and pictures of Bhagat Singh — his statements in court and hunger strikes for better prison conditions — were published widely in newspapers in multiple languages across India. And yet, after his execution, Bhagat Singh's own writings were allowed to slip into oblivion.

Between 1931 and 1936, at least 200 pieces of writing, including nearly 100 books in Hindi, Tamil, Urdu, English, Punjabi, and other languages — many of them written by Bhagat Singh's comrades and contemporaries, and individuals who knew him personally — were proscribed. Some of these writers were penalised; Jitendra Nath Sanyal, who was acquitted in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, was jailed for two years for writing Bhagat Singh's biography.

The first major personality to eulogise Bhagat Singh was EV Ramasamy Naicker, founder of the anti-Brahminical Self-Respect Movement, who wrote an editorial in the March 29, 1931 issue of his journal *Kudi Arasu*. Months later, Periyar got Bhagat Singh's seminal 1930 essay 'Why I am an Atheist' published in the September 27, 1931 issue of *The People of Lahore*. A translation in Tamil, by P Jeevanandham, was published in *Kudi Arasu* in 1934.

Dr BR Ambedkar wrote a mild editorial in his Marathi newspaper *Janta* at the time, and prominent leaders of the national movement, including Gandhi, Nehru, Sardar Patel, Subhas Bose, and Madan Mohan Malaviya paid tributes through press statements.

Interestingly, while Gandhi accepted



black flowers in Karachi from activists of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha for not being able to save the life of Bhagat Singh, a Congress resolution condoning the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev ran into hurdles. As per Gandhi's wish, the resolution moved by Nehru and seconded by Malviya, paid tribute to Bhagat Singh, but asked the nation's youth to not follow his path. It passed by only a thin majority of delegates.

Gandhi also refused to associate with the memorial planned by Naujawan Bharat Sabha and Punjab Congress leaders in Lahore,

for which an appeal for a fund of Rs 10 lakh was issued. The plan could not come through as the Naujawan Bharat Sabha was banned, and Congress leaders in Punjab dragged their feet in view of the Mahatma's disinclination.

## Post 1947: Mostly lip service

Bhagat Singh's undisputed appeal for the youth notwithstanding, none of the more than 1,000 universities of independent India, including more than 250 controlled by the government, was named after him. It is only recently that an engineering college in

Ferozepur, Punjab, which already carried his name, has been upgraded to a university. A proposal to name Chandigarh airport after Bhagat Singh is stuck in technicalities.

Until four decades after his execution, Bhagat Singh's writings were not collected in a single volume; however, they are now available in many languages and in international editions. The Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University remains unfilled 15 years after it was created, and no major academic programme or research has been organised under its aegis.

Bhagat Singh (as also others like Chandrashekhar Azad and Masterda Surjya Sen) does not find a place in the portrait gallery of Parliament's Central Hall, even though the somewhat lesser known revolutionary Hemu Kalani, who was executed before he turned 20 in 1943, was featured in 2003 after then Home Minister L K Advani took a personal interest.

In 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt had thrown bombs in the same complex, then called the Central Assembly, to 'make the deaf hear'. The reluctance to name institutions after Bhagat Singh, honour him in Parliament, or promote his ideas and vision even while paying lip service to him in

speeches reflects a dichotomy similar to the one of not using his authentic picture in government offices and advertisements.

Indeed, a statue of Bhagat Singh was unveiled in the Parliament House complex by then President Pratibha Patil in 2008. But even in this case, members of the revolutionary's family had complained about the way he looked. Freedom fighters too had objected, and Fahmida Riaz, the late Urdu poet from Pakistan, had written a poem saying this was not the face of the real Bhagat Singh.

When the Government of India issued Rs 5 and Rs 100 coins in Bhagat Singh's centenary year 2007-8 showing him wearing a hat, Akalis in Punjab protested that his turbaned form had not been depicted. Interestingly, in the 1970s, then Chief Minister Giani Zail Singh had unveiled a statue of Bhagat Singh with a hat in the presence of his younger brother Kultar Singh at Nawanshahr (Now Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar), but the statue was later replaced with a turbaned version.

Chaman Lal is a retired professor of JNU and Honorary Advisor to Bhagat Singh Archives and Resource Centre, Delhi Archive, New Delhi. He is editor of *The Bhagat Singh Reader*.

MEANWHILE

## WAR UNWINNABLE: UN CHIEF GUTERRES

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said this "absurd" war is "unwinnable" and inevitably it will have to move from the battlefield to the peace table as he voiced concern that reverberations from the conflict threaten to spiral into a global hunger crisis. Voicing concern that 10 million Ukrainians have been forced from their homes and are on the move, Guterres said the world is seeing appalling human suffering and destruction.



## NATO SUMMIT LIKELY TO DISCUSS RESPONSE IF RUSSIA TURNS TO BIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR WEAPONS

## Putin can use chemical weapons: Biden

## AGENCIES

LVIV/KYIV MARCH 22

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden said recent accusations by Moscow that Ukraine held chemical and biological weapons were not merely false, but a sign that President Vladimir Putin might be planning to use such weapons himself.

"Now he's talking about new false flags he's setting up including, asserting that we in America have biological and chemical weapons in Europe, simply not true," Biden said at a business event on Monday. "They are also suggesting that Ukraine has biological and chemical weapons in Ukraine. That's a clear sign he's considering using both of those."

The Russian embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Russia's defense ministry has accused Kyiv, without providing evidence, of planning a chemical attack against its own people in order to accuse Moscow of using chemical weapons in the invasion of Ukraine that began on Feb. 24.

Biden on Monday also urged US companies to make sure their digital doors are locked tight because of "evolving intelligence" that Russia is considering launching cyberattacks against critical infrastructure targets as the war in Ukraine continues.

Biden said the administration has issued "new warnings that, based on evolving intelligence, Russia may be planning a cyber-attack against us... The magnitude of Russia's cyber capacity is fairly consequential, and it's coming."



Biden is travelling to a NATO summit in Brussels this week. Reuters

The Kremlin on Tuesday rejected US warnings that it may be preparing to conduct cyber attacks in response to Western sanctions, and said it did not engage in "banditry". Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "The Russian Federation, unlike many Western countries, including the United States, does not engage in state-level banditry."

Washington expects more atomic moves from Putin in the days ahead. Moscow is likely to "increasingly rely on its nuclear deterrent to signal the West and project strength" as the war and its consequences weaken Russia, Lt. Gen. Scott D Berrier, director of the Defence Intelligence Agency, told the House Armed Services Committee recently.

Concern about these smaller arms has soared as Putin, in the Ukraine war, has warned of his nuclear might, has put his atomic forces on alert and has had his military carry out risky attacks on nuclear power plants. The fear is that if Putin feels cornered in the conflict, he might choose to detonate one of his lesser nuclear arms.



An apartment block damaged by bombing in Kyiv on Monday. AP

## No deal without meeting Putin, says Zelenskyy

REUTERS &amp; AP MARCH 22

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that it would not be possible to negotiate an end to the war in his country without meeting Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin. Zelenskyy told European public television networks such a meeting could discuss the future of occupied Ukrainian territory, but more time would be required to resolve the issue.

"It's a compromise for everyone: for the West, which doesn't know what to do with us with regard to NATO, for Ukraine, which wants security guarantees, and for Russia, which doesn't want further NATO expansion," Zelenskyy said late Monday in an interview with Ukrainian television channels.

He also repeated his acknowledgement made earlier this month that Ukraine could not now secure NATO membership.

"I believe that until such time as we have a meeting with the President of the Russian Federation... you cannot truly understand what they are prepared



Zelenskyy is set to virtually address the Japanese Parliament on Wednesday to rally support. AP

to do in order to stop the war and what they are prepared to do if we are not ready for this or that compromise," Zelenskyy said in the interview.

Zelenskyy has sought a meeting with Putin for nearly a year, but the Russian leader has refused and instead demanded the Ukrainian President resolve his country's "civil war" with separatist territories linked to Moscow. Zelenskyy said that Kyiv will be ready to discuss the status of Crimea and the eastern Donbas region held by Russian-backed separatists after a ceasefire and steps toward providing security guarantees.

## 'SPILL-OVER EFFECTS' DISCUSSED

## China, Pakistan share concern about sanctions on Russia, says Beijing

## REUTERS

BEIJING, MARCH 22

CHINA AND Pakistan share concern about "spill-over effects of unilateral sanctions" on Russia over its war against Ukraine and called for a ceasefire and diplomatic resolution of the crisis, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Old allies China and Pakistan have refrained from condemning Russia over its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, unlike Western countries that have imposed unprecedented financial and corporate sanctions in response to what Russian President Vladimir Putin

calls a "special military operation". "Both expressed concerns about the spill-over effects of unilateral sanctions," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement following a meeting on Monday in Pakistan between the neighbours' foreign ministers.

"Both called for a ceasefire through diplomatic dialogue and hope that based on the principle of indivisible security, a fundamental solution to the Ukraine problem can be found," the Chinese ministry said. Pakistan's foreign ministry also issued a statement on the talks in Islamabad, echoing the call for a ceasefire, but it did not mention concern about sanctions.

## Ukraine retakes key Kyiv suburb as more bombs strike Mariupol

AP &amp; REUTERS KYIV, MARCH 22

UKRAINE SAID it retook a strategically important suburb of Kyiv on Tuesday, while its forces battled Russian attempts to occupy the encircled port city of Mariupol.

Civilians fleeing Mariupol said the city was under relentless bombardment, with block after block of destroyed buildings and corpses in the streets. But the Kremlin's ground offensive in other parts of the country advanced slowly or not at all, knocked back by lethal Ukrainian hit-and-run attacks.

Explosions and bursts of gunfire shook Kyiv, and heavy artillery fire could be heard from the northwest, where Russia has sought to encircle and capture several suburban areas of the capital, a crucial target.

## '10k Russian soldiers killed in war'

RUSSIA'S PRO-KREMLIN Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, citing the Defence Ministry, reported that almost 10,000 Russian soldiers had been killed. The report was quickly removed, and the newspaper blamed hackers. The Kremlin refused to comment.

Thousands of civilians are believed to have died, though

the total remains unclear. Estimates of Russian military casualties vary widely, but even conservative figures by Western officials are in the low thousands. Russia's invasion has driven more than 10 million people from their homes, almost a quarter of the population, according to the United Nations. AP

Hundreds of thousands of residents are believed to be trapped inside under near constant shelling, with no access to food, water, power or heat. "There is nothing left there," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address to the Italian Parliament on Tuesday.

Early Tuesday, Ukrainian troops drove Russian forces from the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle, Ukraine's Defence Ministry said. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kyiv from the northwest.

## Putin critic Navalny given 9 years in jail

ASSOCIATED PRESS MOSCOW, MARCH 22

RUSSIAN OPPOSITION leader Alexei Navalny was convicted of fraud and contempt of court and sentenced to nine years in a maximum security prison on Tuesday, in a trial Kremlin critics see as an attempt to keep President Vladimir Putin's most ardent foe in prison for as long as possible.

A judge also ruled that Navalny would have to pay a fine of 1.2 million rubles (about \$11,500). Navalny can appeal the ruling.

Navalny, who is already serving 2½ years in a penal colony east of Moscow, had been accused of embezzling money that he and his foundation raised over the years and of insulting a judge during a previous trial.

The politician has rejected the allegations as politically motivated. It wasn't immediately clear whether Navalny is expected to serve this sentence concurrently with his current one or on top of it, and which maximum security facility he will be transferred to and when.

Navalny's Twitter account responded: "(Nine) years. Well, as the characters of my favorite TV series The Wire used to say: 'You only do two days. That's the day you go in and the day you come out.' I even had a T-shirt with this slogan, but the prison authorities confiscated it, considering the print extremist."

## IN BRIEF



Ukrainian refugees board transport at a square next to a railway station in Przemysl, Poland. The number of Ukrainians fleeing is now 3,556,924, UNHCR said. Reuters

## 96-year-old WWII Holocaust survivor killed in Kharkiv

He survived the Nazi Buchenwald concentration camp during World War II. He survived the Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp in the same war. And the Bergen-Belsen camp. Last week, Boris Romanchenko, a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor, was killed when shelling hit his ordinary flat in the war-ravaged Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. "It is with horror that we report the violent death of Boris Romanchenko in the war in Ukraine," the memorial for the Buchenwald survivors said on Monday. Germany's parliament on Tuesday paid tribute to Romanchenko. Reuters

## Russian Nobel winner journalist sells medal for refugees

Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov says he wants to auction off his 2021 Nobel Peace Prize medal to raise funds for Ukrainian refugees. Muratov called Tuesday in the independent Novaya Gazeta newspaper, which he edits, for people to "share with refugees, the wounded and children who need urgent treatment what is dear to you and has a value for others". Muratov is asking auction houses about the possibility of organising a sale. Muratov said last year he was giving away his share of the Nobel prize money to causes including independent media, a Moscow hospice, and care for children with spinal problems. AP

## Ukrainian theatre's new drama: Making dumplings for soldiers

## CARA ANNA

DROHOBYCH, MARCH 22

THE THEATRE was empty. The seats were covered against dust. But it was a moment of drama that Alla Shkondina had prepared for all her life.

She has retreated from the spotlight and now makes dumplings to send to soldiers, working alongside fellow artists in the Drohobych repertory theatre's cafe. It's one small part of



Volunteers prepare varenky inside a theatre in Drohobych. AP

a massive war effort by defiant volunteers across the country who often find themselves playing unexpected roles.

In the theatre's warmly lit cafe, where snack bar popcorn has gone stale in the nearly month since Russia's invasion, artists in this community near the foot of the Carpathian Mountains in southwestern Ukraine were rolling and filling dough to add to the thousands of dumplings they've sent to the front, or to displaced people in need.

"We did more than 3,000 pounds of meatballs," said theatre director Mykola Hnatenko. "One hundred fifty kg of stewed cabbage with meat. More than 10,000 verenyky (dumplings) with potato. Seventy kilograms of filling for borscht. Eighty kilograms of fried fish. Two thousand pancakes with meat, and 500 sweet pancakes. Now we've decided to do more food with proteins like meat."

In the courtyard, men, their hands blackened with soot,

chopped wood for the cooking fires, overseen by the theatre's deputy director, Sergei Havdjak, dressed in military-style drab.

Hnatenko seemed especially proud of the borscht the volunteers were sending to soldiers in places like the capital, Kyiv, where some areas have collapsed into brutal street-to-street fighting in near-freezing weather. He showed a cellphone video of a distribution of food in Kyiv, with a smiling soldier flashing a "V" for victory sign. AP

## ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

## Two teachers killed at school in Sweden, student arrested

CHRISTINA ANDERSON BASTAD, MARCH 22

TWO TEACHERS were killed at a high school in Malmo in southern Sweden, and a student was arrested on suspicion of murder, the police said Tuesday. The motive for the attack was unclear.

The police found both victims, two women in their 50s, injured at Malmo Latin School late Monday, after getting a report of an attack there, Petra Stenkula, the head of the Malmo police, said. The women died of their injuries later Monday. The police arrested an 18-

year-old man on the scene, and Stenkula said they were investigating whether he called the police himself.

Swedish news media reported that the attacker had been carrying an axe, a knife and a hammer, but Stenkula said police were still waiting for a forensic examination to determine the weapon used. Such crimes are uncommon in Sweden, but in the past year there has been a series of attacks in the country's schools. Stenkula said it was too early to determine the motive for Monday's murder or the relationship between the teachers and the student. NYT

## Wallets, IDs but no survivors found in China aircraft crash

DAKE KANG &amp; NG HAN GUAN WUZHOU, MARCH 22

MUD-STAINED WALLETS. Bank cards. Official identity cards. Poignant reminders of 132 lives presumed lost were lined up by rescue workers scouring a remote Chinese mountainside Tuesday for the wreckage of a China Eastern flight that one day earlier inexplicably fell from the sky and burst into a huge fireball.

No survivors have been found among the 123 passengers and nine crew members. Video clips posted by China's state media show small pieces of the Boeing 737-800 plane scattered over a wide forested area, some in green

## EXPLAINED What will the probe look like?

CHINA WILL lead the investigation, which will include a representative from the US crash investigator, National Transportation Safety Board, plus representatives from Boeing and CFM. Key to the investigation is recovering the black boxes. As long as the black boxes survived and can be downloaded, investigators should be able to get a good idea of what happened.

fields, others in burnt-out patches with raw earth exposed

after fires burned in the trees. Each piece of debris has a number next to it, the larger ones marked off by police tape.

Search teams planned to work through the night using their hands, picks, sniffer dogs and other equipment to look for survivors, state broadcaster CCTV reported. The steep, rough terrain and the huge size of the debris field were complicating the search for the black boxes, which hold the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, CCTV and the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Drones were being used to search the fragments of wreckage that were scattered across both sides of the mountain into which the plane crashed, state media reported. AP

## Pfizer to send 4 mn Covid pill courses to poorer nations

THE NEW YORK TIMES MARCH 22

PFIZER SAID on Tuesday that it has agreed to sell up to four million treatment courses of its Covid-19 pills for use in 95 lower-income countries that are home to about four billion people, with the first supplies expected to become available next month.

The company's supply agreement with UNICEF covers all countries classified as low- or lower-middle-income, as well as some upper-middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the world.

## Arab attacker kills four in Israel and is shot to death: Police

Jerusalem: An Arab assailant killed at least four people in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba on Tuesday before he was fatally shot by a passerby, in one of the deadliest such attacks in Israel in years, police and emergency services said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Israeli media reports identified the attacker as an Arab citizen of Israel, a former high school teacher who had been imprisoned over alleged links to the Islamic State.

"It appeared to be a single terrorist who went on a stabbing spree," police spokesman Eli Levy said on Channel 13 TV. "A civilian took the initiative and shot and killed him." REUTERS

# VALIDATES NEW DIGITAL LAW PLAN, NEED FOR DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK: MoS IT

## 'Big Tech weaponised internet amid conflict, presiding over splinter-net'

AASHISH ARYAN & LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

AMID THE continued "weaponisation" of the internet by some Big Tech platforms during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict bringing back the focus on the sweeping powers of social media platforms, India is readying a new cybersecurity and data governance framework.

These actions by Big Tech companies put into perspective and call for a renewed focus on an "Atmanirbhar internet" call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which laid focus on reducing dependency on services being provided by these global firms, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

Citing the example of some Russian banks and their subsidiaries being banned from the international SWIFT network, the minister said it was due to the focus of the government's self-build initiatives that the country now had alternatives to these global arrange-

ments if India ever found itself in a similar position.

"If we were depending on SWIFT alone, we are gone. But we have UPI, fintech platforms in India that have reduced our reliance on a SWIFT type of an international money transfer platform. We are seeing through our thinking of Atmanirbhar Bharat that we should not depend on Indian internet being controlled or influenced by these big tech platforms alone," Chandrasekhar said.

Such actions by companies, countries and big tech platforms, which have taken "positions that are very partisan", are resulting in a "splinter-net", he added.

"Two phenomenon are very visible: one is weaponisation of the internet of which we were aware of in some sense. The second is the phenomenon of the splinter-net. The internet is increasingly being splintered, driven by power of some Western countries. These platforms have now become dominant and in the event of a conflict between two sovereigns, they are being weaponised and there are no laws that would prevent this," Chandrasekhar said.



File

"If we were depending on SWIFT alone, we are gone. But we have UPI, fintech platforms ... that have reduced our reliance on a SWIFT type of platform"

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MoS, ELECTRONICS & IT

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, companies, countries, Big Tech platforms and intermediaries have announced a slew of sanctions which have either stopped

or cut off services being provided by them to Russia and its citizens. Some of these measures include stoppage of payment services, refusal by intermediaries to operate in Russia and not allowing their citizens to post.

"It is disturbing that internet intermediaries aren't doing enough to combat cybercrime and hacking attacks. The use of sanctions to cut off access to internet is disturbing. It is quite a troubling precedent. These recent events strengthen India's case for data localisation, national champions, resilient internet network architecture, native open APIs (application programming interface) and a strong cyber security command centre," Chandrasekhar told *The Indian Express*.

"It is validating our thinking in terms of a new digital law, the need for a data governance framework. We will basically create a framework which will have the data protection law, a digital law and other cyber security statutes. Architecturally, we want to build the cyberspace jurisprudence rather than doing it piecemeal or in catch up mode," he added.

The actions by Big Tech companies and intermediaries also violate basic principles of net neutrality and basic idea of openness of internet as they have now become "gatekeepers", he said.

"The platforms are now controlling the access to the internet in many ways, be it through monopolies of search engines, duopolies of app stores, or devices." In 2015, Chandrasekhar had written to then telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, urging him that the telecom ministry committee, which was then formed to look into the Net Neutrality issue, must take a "holistic 360 degree approach" before coming to any final conclusion on the matter.

Earlier in 2013, it was on Chandrasekhar's public interest litigation that the Supreme Court had struck down section 66A of the Information Technology Act.

These Big Tech companies, which initially rallied on government support to become the behemoths that they are today, are now presiding over splinter-net and the balkanisation of internet by imposing sanctions on countries, he further said.

# I-T searches 25 premises linked to Hiranandani Group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, MARCH 22

THE INCOME Tax Department on Tuesday searched 25 premises in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai connected to real estate major Hiranandani Group.

An official said the searches pertained to issues of alleged tax evasion including foreign assets owned by the Hiranandani family as revealed in the Pandora Papers records investigated by *The Indian Express* last year.

The tax authority also searched the residences of Niranjan Hiranandani, founder of the Hiranandani Group, and his brother Surendra Hiranandani.

A Hiranandani group spokesperson said, "The group has already clarified that the offshore trust/assets held by the family abroad is fully bonafide and compliant with all laws. Further, all queries of the authorities are being fully ad-

## ALLEGED TAX EVASION

■ An official said the searches pertained to issues of alleged tax evasion including foreign assets owned by the Hiranandani family as revealed in the Pandora Papers records investigated by *The Indian Express* last year

dressed and we assure our full cooperation in the matter."

As per the Pandora Papers records, Niranjan and key members of his family were beneficiaries of the British Virgin Islands (BVI)-based The Solitaire Trust with assets of over \$60 million.

The Hiranandani family had earlier said that The Solitaire Trust was a personal investment vehicle of Niranjan's son, Darshan Hiranandani, and the Hiranandani

Group had not received any benefit out of it.

In October last year, Darshan Hiranandani, responding to queries mailed by *The Indian Express*, said, "It is my personal trust that has built up assets since 2007. Any money routed to the Trust is money sent by me." Niranjan was the 'reserve director' in at least three firms set up in the BVI by his Dubai-based son, records in the Pandora Papers showed. The BVI Business Companies Act provides for the nomination of a reserve director to act in the event of the death of the sole director of a company.

Records of Trident Trust Company showed that Darshan set up at least 25 companies as a director and The Solitaire Trust as the settlor in the BVI between 2006 and 2008. In subsequent years, the shareholding of these companies were transferred to The Solitaire Trust, which had assets of over \$60 million by May 2017.

# Markets jump over 1% on Ukraine truce hopes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, MARCH 22

AFTER REMAINING in the red for most part of the day, domestic markets on Tuesday shot up over 1 per cent in the last hour of trade on positive global cues.

Despite high crude prices, the Sensex bounced back 1,059 points from the day's low of 56,930 to end at 57,989.30, up 697 points, or 1.22 per cent. It hit an intra-day high of 58,053. The Nifty closed at 17,315.50, up 198 points, or 1.16 per cent. The rally was led by IT, oil and gas, and energy stocks. Reliance Industries was among the top gainers in the Sensex pack, rising 2.59 per cent.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The domestic market started with a negative bias taking cues from rising crude prices and hawkish signals from Fed on aggressive policy tightening. However, the trend reversed as European markets opened on a positive note buoyed by hope that Ukraine may consider working towards a truce."

Analysts said a hawkish US Fed and the 10-year yield in the US rising to 2.29 per cent are headwinds for global markets.

**EXPLAINED**  
Manoeuvre oil, US Fed stance

IN THE early hours of trading, domestic markets fought back the lows caused by a hawkish US Fed and rising oil prices. However, rise in global markets buoyed sentiments of investors here.

# Oil mixed as EU dithers on Russia oil ban

London: Oil was trading mixed Tuesday as the dollar strengthened and it looked unlikely that the EU would pursue an embargo on Russian oil. Brent rose 86 cents, or 0.6 per cent, to \$116.48 a barrel by 1:47 p.m. EST, while USWTI crude fell 34 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to \$111.78. Meanwhile, US stocks regained some lost ground as investors braced for a Fed rate hike. The Dow rose 0.64 per cent to 34,772.78, the S&P 500 around 1 per cent to 4,507.09 and the Nasdaq 1.89 per cent, to 14,100.36. **REUTERS**

## BRIEFLY

### SC, Amazon plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court would list for hearing "as early as possible" Amazon's plea seeking preservation of Future Retail's assets and resumption of arbitration on the RIL deal. **PTI**

### Tesla gigafactory

Berlin: Tesla will deliver the first cars from its \$5.5 billion Grünheide plant Tuesday, with likely to handover to 30 chosen clients. **REUTERS**

### Fitch forecast

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings cut India's FY23 growth forecast to 8.5%, from 10.3% earlier, on soaring energy prices and rising inflation.

### SBI staff strike

New Delhi: State Bank of India said banking services may get impacted to an extent as various employees' unions have called for a two-day strike on March 28-29.

### Tata price hike

New Delhi: Tata Motors will hike prices of commercial vehicles range by 2-2.5%, as per individual model and variant, from April 1. **PTI**

# Jul-Sept 2021 NSO survey: 'Urban jobless rate at 9.8%'

New Delhi: Unemployment rate for people in urban areas in the 15 years and above age group fell to 9.8 per cent in July-September 2021 from 13.2 per cent in the same quarter the previous year, as per a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Joblessness or unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.

The UR was high in July-September in 2020, mainly due to the staggered impact of nation-wide lockdown restrictions which were imposed to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Joblessness for persons of age 15 years and above in April-June 2021 was 12.6 per cent in urban areas, the 12th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

It also showed that unemployment rate among females (age 15 years and above) in urban areas also declined to 11.6 per cent in July-September 2021 from 15.8 per cent a year ago. It was 14.3 per cent in April-June 2021. **ENSWITHPTI**

# HC allows Invesco plea against order on ZEE EGM

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday allowed an appeal filed by Invesco Developing Markets Fund against a single-judge order granting interim injunction on holding an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEE) to remove its CEO Punit Goenka.

A division bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and Milind Jadhav, while quashing and setting aside the single-judge order of October 2021, directed that status quo be maintained for three weeks, to enable ZEE to appeal against the order in the Supreme Court.

Invesco is the single-largest shareholder of ZEE with a 17.88 per cent stake. A ZEE spokesperson said the company will take "required steps in accordance with the law" and in the best interest of its stakeholders.

Legal observers said that ZEE will certainly appeal against the order. **FE**

# KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
#49, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Floors, 'East Wing', Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001  
Phone :080-22265383 Fax: 080-22267901 Website: [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in) email: [ceoemiadb@gmail.com](mailto:ceoemiadb@gmail.com)  
No: KIADB/HO/Allot/C.No.35940/17382/2021-22 Date: 22.03.2022

## NOTIFICATION INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOTMENT OF AMENITY PLOTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPED BY THE BOARD

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (hereinafter referred to as Board), a Statutory body constituted under the KIAD Act, 1966 with an object of promoting the establishment and orderly development of industries in the Industrial Areas developed by it. The Board has made provisions for amenity plots in the Industrial areas developed in order to cater to the requirement of the Industrial entrepreneurs as per Sec. 14 (C) of the KIADB Act, 1966.

The Government in C&I Department vide notification No.CI 86 SPQ 90, Bangalore Dated: 13.3.1991 (Visit [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in) for downloading the same) has specified certain activities as amenities in the industrial areas developed by the Board.

The Government in C&I Department vide letters No: CI 180 SPQ 2017, Dated: 08.02.2018 and No: CI 78 SPQ(E) 2021 dtd. 07-06-2021 (Visit [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in) for downloading the same) has set guidelines for allotment of amenity plots formed in the Industrial Areas developed by the Board on 99 years lease basis.

Further, the Government in C&I Department vide G.O. No.CI 180 SPQ 2017 dated 08.03.2019 (Visit [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in) for downloading the same) has also set the eligibility criteria and procedure for allotment of amenity plots formed in the Industrial Areas development by the Board.

Hence, as per the said G.O dated 08.03.2019, applications are invited online from the Private Undertakings/eligible entrepreneurs seeking allotment of amenity plots. Applications shall be filled by remitting a sum of Rs 2,000/- towards application fee through D.D drawn in favour of CEO & EM, KIADB, Bengaluru and submitting documents of their project supporting the following in the format Annexed to this notification:

- The objectives and activities of the institution and public cause served by it since its establishment;
- The length of existence of the institution and its registration under relevant act;
- The financial position of institution;
- The present location of the institution;
- The benefit likely to accrue to the general public of the locality by allotment of the civic amenity site;
- The Bonafide and genuineness of the institution as made out in the annual reports, audit report etc.;
- The need of the civic amenity site by the institution for providing the civic amenity in entrepreneurs shall be carried out as per the procedure laid out in:
  - Govt notification No.CI 86 SPQ 90, Bangalore Dated: 13.3.1991
  - Letters Nos: CI 180 SPQ 2017, Dated: 08.02.2018 & No: CI 78 SPQ(E) 2021 dtd.07-06-2021 of the C&I Department, Government of Karnataka.
  - G.O. No.CI 180 SPQ 2017 dated 08.03.2019.

## BELAGAVI REGIONAL ZONE

The details of amenity plots and nature of activity for which the applications invited as stated above, are indicated below:

Sl. No.	District	Industrial Area	Plot No	Extent in Acres	Nature of Activity	Category
1.	Dharwad	Gamangatti	2	2.21	Skilled Training	Gen
2.	Dharwad	Gamangatti	5(B) & 5(C)	4.00	Education Institution	Gen
3.	Dharwad	Gamangatti	106	0.50	Petrol Bunk	SC/ST
4.	Dharwad	Raypur	92	2.00	Educational Institution/Hospital	Gen
5.	Hubli	Tarihal	65-P	0.50	Storage & Outlet of LPG Cylinder /Fuel Station	Gen
6.	Dharwad	Belur	604-A	2.00	Hotel	Gen
7.	Dharwad	Belur	604-B	1.15	*Common Service Centre	SC/ST
8.	Dharwad	Belur	2C1 to 2C5	2.27	Hospital	Gen
9.	Gadag	Narsapura	21	0.22	Petrol Bunk	Gen
10.	Gadag	Narsapura	54	0.74	Hotel	Gen
11.	Belagavi	Kanabargi	CA-5	0.80	Hotel	Gen

\*Common Service Centre: Multi Utility activities specified in the Govt. Notification No. CI 86 SPQ 90, Bangalore Dated: 13.3.1991 excluding any Fuel Station, Weigh Bridge, Godown, Warehouse, Cinema Theatre, disposal of solid wastes and effluent treatment plants, storage & outlets of LPG Cylinders, Chemicals, Solvents, Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene and other oils.

The format for Application and the list of documents to be submitted along with the Application form may be downloaded from KIADB website.

The last date for filing Application is 21-04-2022. For further details you may contact KIADB Offices mentioned below.

KIADB Office	Phone No:
Bangalore Head Office	080-22265383
Executive Engineer, KIADB Zonal Office Belgaum	0831-2475963/2457243
Executive Engineer, KIADB Zonal Office Dharwad	0836-2468697/2469734

## KALABURAGI REGIONAL ZONE

The details of amenity plots and nature of activity for which the applications invited as stated above, are indicated below:

Sl. No.	District	Industrial Area	Plot No	Extent in Acres	Nature of Activity	Category
1.	Raichur	Manvi	1A	0.50	Petrol Bunk	SC/ST
2.	Raichur	Manvi	1B	1.00	Hotel	Gen
3.	Raichur	Manvi	1C	1.64	Skill Development Center	Gen
4.	Raichur	Yaramaras	5	0.85	Hotel	Gen
5.	Raichur	Yaramaras	26	0.60	Petrol Bunk	Gen
6.	Kalaburgi	Nandur Kesaratagi 2nd Phase	CA-3	4.03	Educational Institution	SC/ST
7.	Yadgir	Kadachur MSME Layout	354	3.20	Hospital	Gen

The format for Application and the list of documents to be submitted along with the Application form may be downloaded from KIADB website.

The earlier notifications issued inviting applications for allotment of amenity plots vide notification dated 15-06-2019 & 04-07-2019 have been cancelled vide publication No. KIADB/HO/ALLOT/4338/2020-21 dated 02-09-2020.

Applications submitted as per the earlier notifications dtd. 15-06-2019 & 04-07-2019 are not valid for this notification, and those applicants shall file fresh applications as indicated herein.

The last date for filing Application is 21-04-2022. For further details you may contact KIADB Offices mentioned below.

KIADB Office	Phone No:
Bengaluru Head Office	080-22265383
Executive Engineer, KIADB Zonal Office, Ballari	0583-2235871
Executive Engineer, KIADB Zonal Office, Kalaburgi	08472-257557/258048

Applications which are either incomplete or not accompanied by Application fee shall not be considered and the Board has right to reject any application without assigning any reasons and decision of the Board in this matter shall be final and binding on every Applicant.

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: 22-03-2022

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer & Executive Member

[Applicant's Letter Head]

## Application Format for Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board Application Form for allotment of Civic Amenity Site under the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (Allotment of Civic Amenity Sites)

To  
CEO&EM  
Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board  
4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan,  
Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

- a) Name of the Applicant: (Proprietor/ Partnership/Institution, Association, Trust or Society (in Block Letter)  
b) Name of the office bearers of the Institution  
c) If Institution is registered under relevant Act, number and date of such registration (Enclose a copy of the Certificate of registration)
- Address of the applicant
- The date of Resolution passed for seeking allotment (a copy should be enclosed)
- Category: General/SC/ST/OBC
- Application Fee Amount: DD No: Date:
- Amenity Plot Number: Name of the Industrial Areas: Purpose:
- Details of the capacity of the institution to provide the type of civic amenity for which site is offered (a brief write-up on their letterhead to be enclosed)
- The objectives and activities of the institutions and public cause served since its establishment (A brief write up on the objective and Activities of institution like brochure, copy of Annual Report and audit report, etc, if any may be enclosed.)
- The financial status (Annual Audited Balance Sheet for the last three years shall be enclosed)
- Present location of the Institution
- A brief write-up/undertaking for need of civic amenity along with benefits to accrue to general public of the locality through this project along with land utilization sketch.

I hereby declare that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and nothing has been concealed. If the above information is found to be incorrect, my application for the allotment shall be rejected and the amount paid as Application fee to be forfeited by Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant & Seal

## List of documents to be furnished along with this application

- Certificate of Registration
- Caste Certificate of SC/ST/OBC Category applicants
- Proof of Resolution passed for seeking allotment
- Application Fee
- Brief write-up on Institution Capacity on letterhead
- Brief write up on the objective and Activities of institution like brochure, copy of Annual Report and audit report, etc
- Annual Audited Balance Sheet for the last three years
- Brief write-up/undertaking for need of civic amenity along with benefits to accrue to general public of the locality through this project along with land utilization sketch.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
 (01905-272269 Fax:- 272862 Email: ee-dhar-hp@nic.in) Dated: 22.03.2022

**INVTATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
 The Executive Engineer, Dharampur Division, HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering systems from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Starting date for bid downloading bid	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Deadline for submission of bid	Time Period
1.	C/O 30.00 Mtrs span RCC Bridge(Double Lane) on Dwaru Darku Padhar road at RD 3/195 (Sh- C/O Substructure, Superstructure and Both side approaches)	2,07,36,629/-	2,40,000/-	30/03/2022	05/04/2022	Nine Months

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,  
 Dharampur Division,  
 HPPWD Dharampur,  
 Distt: Mandi (H.P)  
 on behalf of Governor of H.P

7857/HP

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PDA, PAHALGAM**  
 Ph. /Fax No: 01936-243125 Email: ceopdahalgalam@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**E-NIT SI NO- EE/PDA/ 34 of 2021-22 dated / 03/2022**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, the Executive Engineer, Pahalgam Development Authority, Pahalgam (PDA) hereby invites E-tenders in double cover system from the registered contractors registered with Central, State, Union Territory Governments for the following works/ items.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated/ Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Class of contractor	Time for Completion
01	Operation, upkeep and maintenance of 2.00 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant and Intermediate pump at Laripora Pahalgam for a period of one year (2022-23)	39.16	Rs 1000/-	Registered / Experienced company, Firms / AAY Class Civil / Electric contractors / Joint ventures.	01 Year
02	Operation and maintenance of Sewerage Net work of STP at Pahalgam for 2022-23	6.43	Rs12860/-	DEE, CEE	01 Year

Position of funds = Demanded  
 Position of AA = Accorded  
 Position of AA = Accorded

Terms and conditions:-  
 1. The bidding document consisting of detailed specification and bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of the contract and other related details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per scheduled dates given below:-

Sl. No.	Date of issue of tender notice	19-03-2022
02	On line bid submission start date	24-03-2022 from 10.am
03	On line bid submission last date	04-04-2022 up to 4.00 pm
04	Date and time of opening of on line technical bids (Cover A)	05-04-2022 At 12.00 Noon
05	Date and time for opening of financial bids (Cover B)	To be notified Separately.

Executive Engineer,  
 Pahalgam Dev. Authority, Pahalgam

Dated 19-03-2022 DIFK-NB-7899

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION BILLAWAR**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
**E-NIT No: EEB/PMGSY/05 OF 2021-22 DATED: 19.03.2022**

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Billawar on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 29.03.2022 for the following work including Defect Liability & Maintenance Period of three years for Stage-I and five years for Stage-II and five years for Bridges after construction.

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Package No.	Name of the PU	Connett Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Maint. Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Total (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Time Allowed for Completion	Call of Tender	Time and Date of Opening of Tenders	Class of Contractor
1	2	Billawar	209.91	25.19	235.10	0.06	4.70	06 Months	1st	30-03-2022 10.00 A.M.	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/Railways or equivalent having eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Document for the work.

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 19-03-2022.  
 3. Cost of Bid Form: Rs 6000 per package (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt.  
 4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).  
 5. \*Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.  
 6. Bids must be uploaded alongwith Scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 7 in shape of e-challan/ treasury challan/receipt No. & date, e-NIT No. favouring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Billawar by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0559-PWD (Revenue) and Scanned copy Earnest Money/Bid security should be in the form of CD/RFD/R/BG from scheduled commercial Bank as mentioned in Column 8 of above table in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Bid security for the schemes listed shall be Pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Billawar payable at Billawar and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of bid as referred to in the Appendix to ITB.  
 7. The original documents, when submitted by L1 for the cost of tender document, EMD should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to Participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.  
 8. (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://pmgstenders.gov.in from 06.55 PM On 21-03-2022 to 29-03-2022 (5.00PM). (b) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://pmgstenders.gov.in from 05.00 PM on 23-03-2022 to 05.00 PM on 29-03-2022. (c) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 22-03-2022 at 12.00 Noon in the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Billawar, Ward No. 7 Tilla Billawar Near Sub-District Hospital Billawar to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents.  
 9. The site for the work is available.  
 10. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 10 A.M on 30-03-2022 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.  
 The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://pmgstenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Billawar, Ward No. 7 Tilla Billawar Near Sub-District Hospital Billawar.  
 11. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

Sd/  
 Executive Engineer,  
 PMGSY Division, Billawar

Dated: 19.03.2022 DIFK-19902

**JHARKHAND STATE SPORTS PROMOTION SOCIETY**  
 (A CCL- State Govt. of Jharkhand Joint Initiative)  
 C/o Mega Sports Complex, Khelgaon, Hotwar, Ranchi-835217

**Registration under Society Act No.519**  
**Registration under GST No. 20AACAJC129**  
**OUR MISSION- OLYMPIC GOLD**  
**Contact no.:7992375053**

Ref. No. JSSPS/CEO/Civil/e-tender/ 2021-22/ NIT09/488 Dated 15-03-2022

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
**NIT No 09 of 21-22**

1. Tenders are invited on-line under two part system on the website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> from the eligible bidders having Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) issued from any agency authorized by Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA), Govt. of India and which can be traced up to the chain of trust to the Root Certificate of CCA, for the following work:-

Description of work	Location	Estimated Cost of Work (Including GST) (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Days)
AMC for housekeeping works for a period of 24 months at Khelgaon Mega Sports complex, Hotwar, Ranchi under JSSPS.	Mega Sports complex, Khelgaon, Ranchi	4,75,54,526.94	5,94,500.00	730 days

Note: The bid documents will be available on the website(s) [www.centralcoalfields.in/](http://www.centralcoalfields.in/) [www.jharkhandcclsports.in](http://www.jharkhandcclsports.in) and can be downloaded by the bidder up to the bid submission end date.

(i) For Site visit of location of work, the prospective bidder(s) may contact Shri Aditya Prakash, Dy. Manager(C)/JSSPS, Mobile no: - 7992321500.

Tender inviting authority	Contact Person(s)/Tender Dealing Officer(s)
CEO/LMC,JSSPS	Member (Civil )/JSSPS, M No:-9431392787

2. Time Schedule of Tender:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date	Time
a.	Tender e-Publication date	23.03.2022	18.00 Hours
b.	Document download start date	24.03.2022	10.00 Hours
c.	Document download end date	09.04.2022	17.00 Hours
d.	Bid Submission start date	24.03.2022	10.00 Hours
e.	Bid submission end date	09.04.2022	17.00 Hours
f.	Start date for seeking Clarification on-line	24.03.2022	10.00 Hours
g.	Last date for seeking Clarification on-line	03.04.2022	17.00 Hours
h.	Date of Pre-bid meeting (if any)	NA	NA
i.	Technical Bid (Cover I) opening date	11.04.2022	11.00 Hours
j.	Last date of receipt of EMD through DD / BC at the office of CEO, JSSPS, Ranchi	09.04.2022	17.00 Hours
k.	Price Bid (Cover II) opening date	To be notified later	

Sd/  
 C.E.O, LMC, JSSPS

PR 266643 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(21-22)D

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY**  
 (Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Department)  
 ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 27001:2013, ISO 45001:2018 CERTIFIED

**TENDER NOTICE**  
 (Tender No.: JNP/M&EE/US/SEZ-POWER SUPPLY/2022/E-312)

Online E-tenders are invited by JNPA for the "Procurement of Short Term Power Through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process" for its SEZ under Tender No. JNP/M&EE/US/SEZ-POWER-SUPPLY/2022/E-312. The detailed Tender Notice & Tender Documents are available on the JNPT's Website <http://www.jnport.gov.in> and DEEP Portal Website: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ppa/index.jsp>.

INDIA'S OWN SUPERPORT CHIEF MANAGER (M&E) & CEO (SEZ)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely Khushi Saha D/o Raj Saha R/o H.No. A-49, III floor Pandav Nagar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from her residence since 07.03.2022. In this regard, a case DD.No 87A dt. 07.03.2022 has been registered at P.S. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing / kidnapped girl are as under.

**Age: 19 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Mehroom Colour T-shirt and black colour Jeans green sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing girl then please inform P.S. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.**

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639**

Sd/- S.H.O  
 Laxmi Nagar, Delhi  
 PH.011-22542441

DP/949/ED/2022

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Priti, D/o Motilal, R/o H.No. 570, D-Block, Jhuggi Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Age 16 years, Height 4'5", Complexion Shallow, Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing Grey colour denim jacket and blue colour jeans pant has been missing since 13.02.2022 at 09.30 pm 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 case FIR No. 143/2022 dated 13.02.2022 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Fax: 011-23011334 SHO  
 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 PS: Shahbad Dairy, Delhi  
 DP/1660/ON/2022**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Divyanshika Tanwar, D/o Vikas Tanwar, R/o B-E-6, Double Story, GDA Market Bridge Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Age 17 years 6 months, Height 5'4", Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Strong Built, Wearing White colour suit salwar and white shoes in feet has been missing since 02.03.2022 from Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya Vivek Vihar, Delhi. 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 FIR No. 189/2022 dated 06.03.2022 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl

**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Fax: 011-23011334 SHO  
 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 PS: Vivek Vihar, Delhi  
 DP/769/SHD/2022**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr. P. C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that that accused person Ashish Sharma @ Aashu S/o Ved Prakash Sharma R/o H.No. 537, IIIrd Floor, Katra Ramumal, Behind PS Lahori Gate, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Cr. Case 1802/2019 e-FIR No. 33410/2017 U/s 379/411 IPC has been registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Ashish Sharma @ Aashu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ashish Sharma @ Aashu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ashish Sharma @ Aashu of Cr. Case 1802/2019 e-FIR No. 33410/2017 U/s 379/411 IPC, registered at PS.Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.05.2022

By Order,  
 Ms.Neha Gupta Singh,  
 Metropolitan Magistrate Central,  
 Room No. 286 Tis Hazari Court Delhi

DP/2071/N/2022-  
 Court matter

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES & GROUND WATER SURVEY CIRCLE SIHAVA BHAWAN CAMPUS, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (1st Call)

System Tender No.:95455/NIT No.:12/SAC/2021-22, Raipur, Dated 17.03.2022  
**Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 07.04.2022 at 17:30 Hour (IST):**

**Name of Work : RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK, HEAD SLUICE, WASTE WEIR, REMODELLING AND C.C.LINING FROM R.D. 0 TO 360 M OF CANAL NO. 1, FROM R.D. 0 TO 150 M OF CANAL NO. 2 AND FRONTAL R.D. 0 TO 600 M OF CANAL NO. 3, CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO.V.R.B. 05 NO OUTLETS AND 1.70 KM APPROACH ROAD OF SEONI TAR BUND SCHEME OF ARANG BLOCK OF RAIPUR DISTRICT.**

Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 139.69 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 24.03.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

**NOTE :-** All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-  
 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
 Water Resources Division, Raipur  
 for, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources & Ground Water Survey Circle, Raipur (C.G.)  
 68885

**Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD, Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD, for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date of downloading Bid	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed	Deadline for submission of bid
1	C/O Basket Ball ground at Open space available near Lalpani School(SH-P/F Breast Wall, Retaining Wall, fencing of ground and main gate etc. under Smart City project).	Rs. 1,23,93,880/-	23-03-2022	Rs. 2,48,000/-	Rs. 5000/-	Seven Month	29-03-2022

The bidders are advised to note other details, of tenders from the department website, www.hptenders.gov.in. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application without assigning any reason.

7855/HP  
 "HIM SUCHANA AWAM JAN SAMPARK"

**NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (UP)  
 Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

**Re-Tender Work**

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. in Lacs)	Publication
a)	<b>Rs. 30.00 Lacs to 100.00 Lacs</b>			
1	48/DGM(NTC)/S.M./E/M-III/2021-22	AMC for Electrical Works of Command Control Center Building Near Mahamaya Flyover sector-94, Noida	Rs. 35.49	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time
2	51/DGM(NTC)/S.M./E/M-III/2021-22	SITC of VRV type A/C System work for 1 <sup>st</sup> floor at command center sector-94, Noida	Rs. 73.47	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time

The above tender can be uploaded by dated 29.03.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Prequalification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated 30.03.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Office  
 Sector-39  
 Sr. Manager  
 E&M-III, Noida

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल सं-02, गढ़वा**  
**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-RWD/SD/GARHWA/09/2021-22

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति की राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	गढ़वा जिला के रमकण्डा प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत उदयपुर चैनपुर मार्ग पर ग्राम उदयपुर के लहैया टोला में टुकू पंधल नदी पर पुल निर्माण कार्य।	3,13,41,000.00	6,26,900.00	10000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 24.03.2022  
 3. ई-निविदा प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 11.04.2022 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।  
 4. कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल सं-02, गढ़वा / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, एफ.एफ.पी. भवन, रौंठी में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 12.04.2022 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।  
 5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान - मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, एफ.एफ.पी. भवन, रौंठी।  
 6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 13.04.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे।  
 7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल सं-02, गढ़वा।  
 8. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 7004019730  
 9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल सं-02, गढ़वा के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।  
 10. प्राककलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।  
 विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पढ़ पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
 ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल सं-02, गढ़वा

PR 266684 Rural Development(21-22)#D

**E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer, CD-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

1. NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/159 (ID No. 2022\_IFC\_218998\_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Repairing and Renovation of Boundary Wall between RD 1000 m to RD 1100m, 1150 m to 1350 m, 1350 m to 1650 m on both sides of Nasirpur drain. E.C. Rs. 35,86,098/- Earnest Money:- Rs. 71,722/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 23.03.2022 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively.)

**Note :- 1)** Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

2. Amendment(s)/ alteration(s)/ corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

Sd/-  
 Dip/Shabdarth/0741/21-22 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER /CD-I

**Directorate of Mines Department of Mines & Geology Government of Jharkhand**  
 Nepal House (Yojna Bhavan), Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, Email: [director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in](mailto:director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in)

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
**"Invitation of Bid for grant of Mining Lease"**

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 15of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004 (Subsequent Amendments) and the Jharkhand Minor Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2017 (Subsequent Amendments) notified there under, Government of Jharkhand has identified a Stone block for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease in [SAHIBGANJ] District, Jharkhand, through electronic auction and hereby invites bids in digital format only, from eligible bidders.

Terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document for the Mineral Block and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from website of MSTC <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/jharkhand/index.jsp> for the purpose of information only. Time lines, notification, updates and other details of the e-auction process are available on the website of MSTC and the website of Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Jharkhand <http://www.jharkhand.gov.in/mines-geology>.

The details of the mineral block are summarized below

Block	Concession Area Ha.	Resource (Cubic meter)	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	Date of Opening of tender
CHALPAHAR STONE BLOCK	30.56 Acre (12.36 Hectare)	2820722.90	12.04.2022	12.04.2022	13.04.2022

Those interested and eligible for bidding can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the tender fee of INR 25000.00 (Indian Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) plus GST as applicable (non-refundable), from the website of e-auction platform provider. After purchase of the Tender Document, eligible bidders can register themselves on the above-mentioned website. On successful registration, eligible bidder will obtain Login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process.

Sd/-  
 Director/Mines  
 PR 266694 (Mines and Geology) 21-22 (D) Department of Mines & Geology Govt. of Jharkhand



### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	<b>Name of Work</b>	Annual Zone for maintenance of Bridge including painting and greasing on steel girder bridge and other bridge including ROB's in the SSE/W/DL/Line under ADEN/DLI
2	<b>Approx Cost of Work</b>	Rs.99,99,999/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Only).
3	<b>Earnest Money to be Deposited</b>	Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lakh Only).
4	<b>Cost of Tender Document</b>	Rs. 0.00/-
5	<b>Date &amp; Time of submission of bid and opening of tender.</b>	19.04.2022 @15:00 Hrs.
6	<b>Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.</b>	www.ireps.gov.in

\* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. \* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. \* No manual offers are acceptable. \* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or tender gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/01/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 21.03.2022 602/2022

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### KONKARN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

#### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Regional Electrical Engineer, Konkarn Railway Corporation Limited, Shirwad, Karwar invites Sealed Bids from experienced contractors for Escorting / en-route operation, trouble shooting and "A" check of Diesel Alternator DA set (Greaves / Cummins make) fitted in Power Car of EOG type LHB coach trains (Express trains) of Madgaon Depot of Konkarn Railway of Karwar region for a period of two years. E-Tender No. KR-KW-EL-AMC-T-9-2021 Dated: 22/03/2022. Cost of work: ₹ 124.64 lakh (excluding GST). Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid: 13/04/2022 up to 15:00 hrs. For further details please visit: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

### Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited

SARAS SANKUL JLN, MARG, JAIPUR - 302017 Phone No. 0141-2702501-508; Telefax 0141-2702135 Website: [sarasmkfed.rajasthan.gov.in](http://sarasmkfed.rajasthan.gov.in); Email: [dpm-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:dpm-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in); [rcdf-rj@gov.in](mailto:rcdf-rj@gov.in)

#### Invitation of Expression of Interest

Expression of interest is invited for empanelment of reputed, experienced and bonafide Architect cum Structural consultant for civil construction and Dairy consultants for establishment of new / expansion of various Dairy plants, Cattle Feed plants, Seed Processing Plant & Powder plants etc of RCDF, Jaipur (Raj.). Last date & time of submission of bid is dated 12.04.2022 at 6.00 PM Other details can be obtained from our website: [www.sarasmkfed.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sarasmkfed.rajasthan.gov.in) & <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> i.e. spp portal.

(UBN: CDF2122SSRC01467) Dated: 21.03.2022

### TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD

TENDER NOTICE : TANGEDCO/SWAP/SW-03/2022

TANGEDCO invites offers from Utilities and Traders for banking of power on a short term basis for the period commencing from 01.04.2022 to 20.05.2022 and will accept the return of power by TANGEDCO from 01.06.2022 to 31.08.2022. The offer should reach the office on or before 23.03.2022 at 13:00 Hrs and will be opened at 15:00 Hrs on the same day in the Office of Chief Engineer / Private Power Projects, TANGEDCO, VI Floor, Eastern wing, NPKRR Maitilgi, 144, Anna Salai, Chennai - 2. Specification is available in TANGEDCO Website [www.tangedco.gov.in](http://www.tangedco.gov.in)

### SBI

IT Contact Centre, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Kapas Bhawan, 2nd floor, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

#### CORRIGENDUM - 5

Please refer to RFP No. SBI/GITC/IT-CONTACT CENTRE/2021/2022/826 Dated: 02.02.2022 for Procurement of Outbound Contact Centre Technology Stack, Corrigendum - 5 dated 22.03.2022 can be accessed under Procurement news at Bank's website <https://www.sbi.co.in>.

Place: Navi Mumbai Deputy General Manager  
Date: 23.03.2022 IT CONTACT CENTRE

### DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Vibhuti Khand, Gombi Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Ph.: 0522-4918502, 4918510, Fax: 0522-4918506 Website: [www.drmlims.ac.in](http://www.drmlims.ac.in)

Ref. No. RMLIMS/MM/eq(2021)-22/5188 Dated: 21.03.2022

#### Tender Notice

On-line offers are invited through GeM Bidding/Custom GeM Bidding/BOQ Based GeM bidding from Manufacturer/Direct Importers/Authorized Distributors/Dealer/Accredited Agents for the supply & installation of various items for the various departments.

The Vendors are required to submit their offer on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e. technical & financial bid as per norms of GeM portal.

For detailed information like Name of Equipments, Date of Submission and opening of bid etc., you may please visit the GeM portal [www.ge.m.gov.in](http://www.ge.m.gov.in). The list of equipments will also be available on our website [www.drmlims.ac.in](http://www.drmlims.ac.in) for reference only. The offer will be accepted On-Line only on GeM portal with terms and conditions as mentioned in GeM bidding documents.

**Director**

### ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING MINIRATNA COMPANY) (UNDER MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT)

(An ISO 9001: 2015 Company)

G.T.Road, Naramam Kanpur-209217

Visit us: [www.alimco.in](http://www.alimco.in), Email: [dgm\\_mm@alimco.in](mailto:dgm_mm@alimco.in) / [manager2\\_mm@alimco.in](mailto:manager2_mm@alimco.in) Ph. 0512-2770172, Fax 0512-2770051, TOLL FREE No. 18001805129

#### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ALIMCO invites EOI (Expression of Interest) from Leading Manufacturers/Service providers having well established manufacturing facilities at their works/factory in the field of PCB Fabrication, Components Procurements, PCB Assembly through SMT line flow Machine, Testing and Supply of assembled PCB etc., may send their proposal to ALIMCO by giving complete details about their Business, Financial Capabilities, Product Portfolio, Manufacturing Facilities, Testing Facilities, Packing details including Anti static packing etc., Interested Manufacturers/Service provider may visit our website [www.alimco.in](http://www.alimco.in) for more details about the EOI.

Proposal to be sent by post/email at the above mentioned address so as to reach us on or before 12.04.2022.

**Dy. General Manager(MM)**

### Uttrakhand Rural Roads Development Agency

(An Agency of Rural Development, Govt. of Uttrakhand) 1st Floor, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Opp. I.T. Park, Sahasrabudha Road, Dehradun Ph.: 0135-2608125 Fax No. 2608126 Email: [urda@pangsy.nic.in](mailto:urda@pangsy.nic.in), [urda@yahoo.com](mailto:urda@yahoo.com)

#### PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice- 28/2021-22

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttrakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora, Dehradun, Pithoragarh & Tehri for 06 number of Packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 19.35 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 23-03-2022.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in [www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 (ii) of ITB with CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement 29-03-2022 01:00 PM For further details please log on to [www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in)

**Chief Engineer URRDA, Dehradun**

\*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

पत्र सं 3450/11-02(VI)TCO/URRDA/21 दिनांक 22.03.2022

### WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

(SINGLE TENDER) TENDER NOTICE NIT No. TKD-03-2022 Date: 19.03.2022

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / TRS / Electric Loco Shed, Tuglakabad, New Delhi - 44, acting for and on behalf of The President of India, invites Single E-Tenders against the following Tenders, with the closing date 19.04.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. TENDER No. - TKD-03-2022, Name of Work And Station - AMC of M/SABB make IGBT Traction Converter of three phases Electric Locomotive. Station: Electric Loco shed, Tuglakabad, QTY - 616 Loco Motors, Estimated Cost (In Rs.) - 3.62.09,391.68, Cost of Tender Form - Nil, Earnest Money (In Rs.) - 3, 31,100/-, Completion Period - 02 Year (24 Months), Tender Closing Date & Time - 19.04.2022 15:00Hrs. Note: Complete details are available in the tenders posted on Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(TRS) Electric Loco Shed, WCR Tuglakabad, New Delhi

कोरोना को है हराना, तो दीकारकण जरूर कराना

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. DDU/EL/G/e-Tender/21-22/28

On line (through E-Tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/ Elect/DDU for an on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

**SI 1. Name of Work with its location :** No. DDU/EL/G/P/21-22/14 Sub-Electrical work : Pd. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction Arrangement of 150 Amp. CLS Panel suitable for 25 KV/AAT over DDU division. Approx cost of the work : Rs. 7557738.68. Tender closing Date : 21.04.2022 15:00 Hrs. Website particulars of E-Tendering : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) SI 2. Name of Work with its location : No. DDU/EL/G/E/21-22/22 Sub-Electrical work : (A) Replacing Installation of DG set for Oxygen Plant at DRH DDU (B)-Repair / Replacement of defective Power supply arrangement, wiring and Indoor lighting of Crew Controller Office and Hoiler at DDU and (C) Improvement of Illumination level in between Inter Cabin to X-ing Cabin for Haul operation in Up Yard at DDU Under Sr. SE/PH/DDU

Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 1813993.49. Tender closing Date Time : 21.04.2022 15:00 Hrs. Website particulars of E-Tendering : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Sr. Divnl. Elect. Engr. (G) East Central Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Division PR/01873/DDU/EGEN/21-22/48

### RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064.

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/146/2021-22/16 Dated: 21.03.2022

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> from experienced/reputed contractors in the field.

Tender No	RWFSTPT_CWD_7500_2223	RWFSTPT_FW_0_500_22-23
Due Date & Time	13.04.2022 at 14:15 Hrs.	
Scope of Work	Carriage of Steel Scrap Consisting of Condemned Railway Wheel Discs from various Railway Units in India to Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 by Road.	Carriage of Railway Products i.e. Finished/ Semi Finished Wheels from Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 to various Railway Consignees in India, by Road.
Distance slab	0-500 Kms	
Quantity	7500 MT	2292 MT
Est.Tender Value	Rs.1.44,37,500-00	Rs.39,53,700-00
EMD Amount	Rs. 2,22,200-00	Rs. 79,100-00
Contract Period	12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance.	

Principal Chief Materials Manager

### HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehta, Shimla-171013, H.P. Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623043 FAX: 0177-2626320 Website: [www.hpsecd.in](http://www.hpsecd.in)

No.: HPSEDC/PCB/CAQMS/2K22-11232 Date: 22.03.2022

#### e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance Services of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in Shimla under Rate Contract agreement and will be valid for two years. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 31/03/2022 (11.30 AM) through Video Conferencing. Last date for online e-bid submission is 18.04.2022 (upto 02.30 PM) and shall be opened on 19.04.2022 at 3.00 PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website [www.hpsecd.in](http://www.hpsecd.in) and <https://hptenders.gov.in>.

**GENERAL MANAGER (TECHNICAL)**

0831/HP

### RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

#### Notice Inviting Bid

(A) Bids for Design, Manufacture, Testing at manufacturer's works for supply & delivery of Hardwares for 400 KV (Assorted Type) (BN-9018002127 & UBN: VFN2122GLOB01772) are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on 21.04.2022.

(B) Bids for Design, Manufacture, Testing at manufacturer's works for supply & delivery of 11kV, 120 kN AND 11kV, 160 kN DISC Insulators (Ball & Socket Type) (BN-9018002132 & UBN: VFN2122GLOB01773) are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on 20.04.2022.

(C) Bids for Design, Manufacture, Testing at manufacturer's works for supply & delivery of 220V, 800 AH tubular type lead acid battery set & 48V, 800 AH VRLA type battery set (BN-9018002131 & UBN: VFN2122GLOB01771) are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on 11.04.2022.

(D) Bids for Design, Manufacture, Testing at manufacturer's works for supply & delivery of battery charger suitable for charging of 220V, 600 AH tubular type lead acid battery set (BN-9018002130 & UBN: VFN2122GLOB01770) are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on 11.04.2022.

(E) Bids for Purchase of Pipe type Earthing Sets (132 Sets) for 400kV D/C (Quad Moose) transmission line (BN-9018002128 & UBN: VFN2122GLOB01774) are invited from interested bidders up to 06:00 PM on 07.04.2022.

(F) Bids for Purchase of ACSR Moose Conductor (352.20 Kms) (BN-9018002126 & UBN: VFN2122GLOB01775) are invited from interested bidders up to 06:00 PM on 20.04.2022.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl> departmental website.

RRVNP/ITR-5388/2022 Raj.Samwad/C2/11/3241 Superintending Engineer (Contract-I), Jaipur

### आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, नवा रायपुर

पूरखोती मुकाना के समीप, सेक्टर-24, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर (छ.ग.) E-mail: [trfice@nic.in](mailto:trfice@nic.in), Website: [www.trfice.gov.in](http://www.trfice.gov.in), Phone:0771-2960530, Fax:0771-2960531

क्र./टी.आर.आर्./रा.ज.स.महो./2022-4228 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक:10.03.2022

#### राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय साहित्य महोत्सव, रायपुर 19-21 अप्रैल, 2022

/रोडोय पत्र आमंत्रण/

आदिमजाति मुकाना एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, नवा रायपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा दिनांक 19-21 अप्रैल, 2022 तक तीन दिनों के राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय साहित्य महोत्सव का आयोजन करने का है। इस लिए दिनांक 19-21 अप्रैल के दिनों में जनजातीय साहित्य महोत्सव का आयोजन करने एवं दिनांक 19-21 अप्रैल के दिनों में जनजातीय साहित्य महोत्सव का आयोजन करने के लिए रोडोय पत्र आमंत्रण जारी किया है। इस महोत्सव में जनजातीय साहित्य का समर्थन एवं प्रचार प्रसारण किया जायेगा। इस महोत्सव में जनजातीय साहित्य का समर्थन एवं प्रचार प्रसारण किया जायेगा।

इस अवसर पर रोडोय पत्र आमंत्रण, बुद्धिजीवी, सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ता एवं लोक कलाकारों को जनजातीय साहित्य का समर्थन एवं प्रचार प्रसारण करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है।

1. जनजातीय साहित्य में सार्वजनिक - सांस्कृतिक कार्य	7. जनजातीय साहित्य अंशों का संग्रह
2. जनजातीय साहित्य में विभिन्न मंचों पर प्रदर्शन	8. जनजातीय साहित्य एवं जनजातीय साहित्य
3. जनजातीय साहित्य में अनेकानेक प्रदर्शन कार्यक्रम	9. जनजातीय साहित्य : नूतन बुद्धिजीवी एवं साहित्यकार
4. जनजातीय साहित्य में विभिन्न प्रकार के साहित्यकार	10. जनजातीय साहित्य में जनजातीय अंश
5. जनजातीय साहित्य में जनजातीय साहित्यकार	11. जनजातीय साहित्य - नूतन बुद्धिजीवी
6. जनजातीय साहित्य में जनजातीय साहित्यकार	12. जनजातीय साहित्य में जनजातीय साहित्यकार

हस्ता. / (रामो जी आदिवादी) संचालक, आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)

68839

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WW)

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI CHANDRAWALI: WATER WORKS NO. II CIVIL LINES : DELHI-11 Office Telephone No.: 011-23815504 E-mail: [eeplantww.djb@gmail.com](mailto:eeplantww.djb@gmail.com)

#### SHORT PRESS NIT No. 53/(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Tender Processing Fee (Fresh)	Publication date of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date & time for receipt of tender from e-procurement solution
1.	Construction of foundation and shed for the incineration unit at Raw Water Inlet Haldipur WW Phase-I. (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_219345_1)	4356975/-	87200/-	500/-	22.03.2022	29.03.2022

The more detail required above can be seen on website [www.delhi.govtprocurement.com](http://www.delhi.govtprocurement.com)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 1294 (2021-22)

Sd/- (ER. B.L. KURU) EX. ENGINEER(C) PLANT, WW C/o CE(WW)

"STOP CORONA; WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

### DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WATER) PROJECT-I THROUGH EE (PROJECT) WATER-VII JAL SADAN, LAJPAT NAGAR-II, NEW DELHI-110 024 Office Telephone No. 011-29818410 E-mail id: [executivewater7@gmail.com](mailto:executivewater7@gmail.com)

No. F-7(141)/DJB/Press NIT/EE/Project/W-VII/2021/220 Date: 21.03.2022

#### PRESS NIT No. 05 (2021-22) Re-Invited

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement and Tender ID	Last Date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of 900 mm dia PSC water main from District park Hazi Khas to Anubindo marg under EE (Proj) W-VII	4,14,91,942/-	8,29,850/-	21.03.2022 2022_DJB_219279_1	04.04.2022 up to 3:00 PM

The details of the tender can be seen on web-site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 1293 (2021-22)

Sd/- (ANIL KUMAR) EE (Project) W-VII

"WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No: 1<sup>st</sup> SULAIMAN COMPLEX DALGATE SRINAGAR (xen.sewerageued@yahoo.com)

GIST of Fresh Short Term e-NIT No: 39 of 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, U.T of J&K e-tenders are invited from registered Electro-Mechanical Contractors or work shop holders or SSI unit holders for the following work:

S. No	Name of work	Cost of work (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion
1.	Fabrication Providing and Fitting of Tail Piece within Flaw Sewage Sump Well at 17.08 MLD STP Brari-Numbal	0.31	200/-	05 Days

**IMPORTANT DATES**

1 Date of publishing	18.03.2022
2 Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.03.2022 to 28.03.2022 upto 4.00 PM
3 Bid submission Start Date	18.03.2022 from 4.00 PM
4 Bid submission End Date	28.03.2022 upto 4.00 PM
5 Date & time of opening of bids (online)	29.03.2022 at 2:00 PM or any other convenient date.

Tender Receiving Authority : Executive Engineer S&D Division 1<sup>st</sup> Sulaiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar

Sd/- Executive Engineer S&D Division 1<sup>st</sup> Srinagar

No: SDD/CC/3659-70 Dated: 18.03.2022 DIPK-19866

### NAGAR PANCHAYAT, SHRI BANSHIDHAR NAGAR

Nagar Panchayat Office, Shri Banashidhar Mandir road, Shri Banashidhar Nagar, District- Garhwa, Jharkhand - 822121 Phone No.: 7763988693 email ID: [pnpanagaruntari@gmail.com](mailto:pnpanagaruntari@gmail.com) (NIT No. 07/2021-22) Reference No.- ULB/NIT/SHRI BANSHIDHAR NAGAR SEPTAGE/TENDER/19/10/2022/ Date:-

#### Tender Notice (1st Call)

##### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Name of Work : Construction & Commissioning of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant of Capacity 6 m<sup>3</sup>/day at Shri Banashidhar Nagar town (Jharkhand) followed by Operation and Maintenance including desludging operations for 5 years

2. Estimated Cost (INR): Construction Cost: ₹ 1,36,52,734/- Operation & Maintenance Cost: ₹ 87,57,955/- Total: ₹ 2,24,10,689/-

3. Bid Security (INR): ₹ 2,24,000/- (Rupees)

4. Cost of Bid Document (INR) ₹ 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only); non-refundable

5. Time of Completion: 1 year of construction which comprises 9 months of construction and 3 months of defect liability period including one month of trial run and 5 years of O&M post DLP

6. Date of publication of tender: 16-03-2022, 17:00 Hrs

7. Document downloading start date: 16-03-2022, 17:00 Hrs

8. Start date for seeking clarification: 05-04-2022, 17:00 Hrs

9. End date for seeking clarification: 16-03-2022, 14:00 Hrs at Chamber of Executive Officer, Nagar Panchayat Office, Shri Banashidhar Nagar Mandir road, Shri Banashidhar Nagar, Distt. Garhwa, Jharkhand - 822121.

10. Pre bid meeting date, Time & Venue: 08-04-2022, 17:00 Hrs

11. Bid submission end date: 09-04-2022, 17:00 Hrs

12. Last day for the submission of Bid Security, cost of bid document: 11-04-2022, 11:00 Hrs

13. Bid opening date (online): 11-04-2022, 11:00 Hrs

Complete bid document is available on website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in> other details can be seen in the bidding documents. \*Bid security 1% of Bid amount.

कार्यालय के बिरो के वेबसाइट [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in), [www.garhwa.nic.in](http://www.garhwa.nic.in), <https://uhd.jharkhand.gov.in/Other/Notifications.aspx> एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपात्रक पदाधिकारी, नगर पंचायत, श्री बंशीधर नगर। PR 266600 (Urban Development) 21-22 (D)

### कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त, जैसलमेर

क्रमांक:- अ.अ/ जैसल / 2021-22 / 3722 दिनांक :- 08/03/2022

निविदा सूचना संख्या 07/2021-22

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जैसलमेर जिले में भवन एवं सड़क निर्माण कार्य के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी के सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत साठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूरसंचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से कार्यों हेतु ई -टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट [www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in), <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, व <http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

**NIB Code -PWD2122A3488**

क्र.	जिला	कार्य/पैकेज का नाम व स्थान	अनुमानित लागत (लखों में)	धरोहर राशि 2% & 0.5%	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा बिडकी नाम प्राप्ति कार्यालय का नाम
1	जैसलमेर	PWD2122WSOB16706 Construction of Govt. College Building at Bhaniyana. Block Sankara Distt jaisalmer	432.19	864380/- 216095/-	12 माह	श्रीमान् अति. मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. रंगमणि द्वितीय जोधपुर (मु. वाइमेर)
2	जैसलमेर	PWD2122WSOB16707 Repair work including Construction of One New Room at ADR Building Jaisalmer	22.36	44720/- 11180/-	05 माह	अधीक्षणी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. खाण्ड प्रथम जैसलमेर
3	जैसलमेर	PWD2122WSOB16708 Const. of Various roads under BADD Package No. RJ-17-01/MS-I/BADP/21-22 Div.I Jaisalmer	82.00	164000/- 41000	06 माह	अधीक्षणी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त जैसलमेर
4	जैसलमेर	PWD2122WSOB16709 Const. of Various roads under BADD Package No. RJ-17-02/JSM-II/BADP/21-22 Div.II Jaisalmer	144.00	2888000/- 72000/-	06 माह	अधीक्षणी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त जैसलमेर

हस्ता. / (एच.एस. गौड़) अधीक्षणी अभियन्ता सा.नि. वि. वृत्त जैसलमेर

DIPR/C/3710/2022

### WESTERN RAILWAY

#### REDEVELOPMENT OF UDHNA STATION

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Surat invites offer through e-tender portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following tender: Tender No. Dy.CE(G)ST/EP/CI No: 10/03/2022. Name of Work: Redevelopment of Udhna Station at Udhna of Mumbai Division in Western Railway, NIT Value: ₹ 211,92,97,546/-, EMD: ₹ 1,05,96,500/-, e-Bid Closing Date: 21/05/2022 at 11:00 hrs. e-Bid Opening Date: 26/05/2022 at 15:00 hrs. Instruction to the tenderers: 1) Only e-offers submitted online through e-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed offers will not be entertained. 2) The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available in electronic format on our website. 0814

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Revision Petition No. 865/2019 (Against the order dated 14 Feb 2019 in Appeal Number 196/2012 of the State Commission Delhi)

DR. POONAM SINGH



(from Left) Dinkle Shah, Geeta Chouhan and Surendra Kasare have rebuilt their life after tragedies robbed their ability to walk. But now the wheelchair and basketball have given them wings.

## Nadal out for six weeks with rib stress fracture

REUTERS  
MARCH 22

RAFAEL NADAL has suffered a stress fracture in his rib and will be out for up to six weeks, the Spaniard's team said on Tuesday. Nadal, the winner of 21 Grand Slam singles titles, complained of a chest issue during his run to the final of the ATP 1000 event in Indian Wells, California last week.



Upon his arrival in Spain on Tuesday, Nadal visited his medical team in Barcelona for tests which revealed "a stress fracture of the third left costal arch".

"This is not good news and I did not expect this," Nadal said in a statement sent by his team.

"I'm disappointed and sad because after a good start to the season I was coming to a very important part of the year with very good feelings and good results.

"I will always had that spirit of fighting and...I will... work hard (for) my recovery." Nadal's injury occurred during his three-set semi-final victory over teenaged compatriot Carlos Alcaraz but he still played the final in which he went down to American Taylor Fritz - his first loss in the season after 20 consecutive wins.

His doctor said that the 35-year-old will be out of action for "four to six weeks", ruling him out of next month's Monte Carlo Masters and putting doubts over his participation in the ATP 1000 events in Madrid and Rome in May.

The French Open, the year's second major at Roland Garros where Nadal has won a record 13 titles, is scheduled to start from May 22.

Nadal started the 2022 season unprepared and with uncertainty looming over him due to a foot problem that forced him to miss a chunk of the 2021 season including Wimbledon, the Olympics and the U.S. Open.

After suffering a bout of COVID-19 before arriving in Melbourne in January, Nadal said he had even considered retiring when the foot problem that has troubled him throughout his career resurfaced last year.

But that did not stop the left-handed player from Mallorca from winning three consecutive titles in 2022, including the Australian Open that helped him to increase his major Grand Slam haul to 21 and take sole ownership of the men's record he had previously shared with Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer.

# Wheelerers on Wings

With ultimate target being the Paralympics, Project Mumbai to appoint full-time physios and counsellors for the players

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, MARCH 22

WING-CHAIR might be a better descriptor for what learning to race around in a wheelchair did to Geeta Chouhan's confidence: it helped her fly from the literal corner of her home where she was expected to sit quietly all day, into a world of superhero champions in sport.

Earlier this month, five wheelchair basketball (Wheeler) teams, invited by Project Mumbai, played at the sport's spiritual centre in Mumbai - the Mastan Nagpada grounds, that hidden gem of the city where everyone in the neighbourhood is a connoisseur of the game having watched Abbas Muntasir fly as playmaker. And where the rookie able-bodied player, Mushtaq, marvelled at how Wheelerers played at a frenetic pace and shot down baskets after getting off from specially-designed vehicle rampways that reminded him of being "3D Terminator maafik [like]." For those like Geeta, the echoing applause of Nagpada would mean a world of appreciation, a far cry from their initial struggles of acceptance.

### Beating polio and patriarchy

After she was struck by polio at age 5, Geeta's family - a father who stayed furious at her and older brothers who preferred she sat in a corner and didn't come in their way - had all but hidden her from view. They had

noticed her condition only after she didn't walk for close to four months, and chose to ignore her presence altogether thereafter. "In our caste in UP, girls don't really study or go out and work. But I reached Class 10 somehow. Brothers would say, 'you are getting food to eat twice a day, then why do you need to step out?' They feared they'll be laughed at because of me. But I wanted to prove hum useless cheezin nahi hai [we are not useless things]. The moment I saw someone play basketball on a wheelchair, I knew I wanted to do this," Geeta recalls.

For someone who wanted to join the army as a child, it had been tough when her family pinned her to one corner, and when neighborhood children refused to even let her sit on the same bench. "People are so ignorant, they think disability spreads," she says with a caustic laugh about a desolate childhood. "But I was very sad when I was told 'disability waalon ka koi kaam nahi hai fauj mein [those with disability have no business being in the army].'" It took her a few competitions after she started playing to realise how masterfully Pune's Army Paraplegic team

played her favoured sport. "Maybe getting a medal for our country will be the next best thing for us," she says. Watching a few para-athletes wheel around in a small space close to her rehab centre at Haji Ali, she was smitten by the sport. An acquaintance at Mazgaon Docks fashioned her a customised wheelchair with a footrest. Now, a leading Indian car-maker's UK-based design head is working on a mobile, accessible, portable-washroom vehicle for the Wheelerers, while a leading bank is chipping in with prosthetics and high-end basketball wheelchairs.

But for Geeta, some scars remain. "Papa naaraaz rehke guzar gaye [died after remaining angry] when I was 33. Now I look for respect from people as well as winning medals." Able-bodied hoopsters can jump. Wheelerers have to shoot the same height sitting. "Upper body needs 200 percent stamina, power. We have to dribble, push the chair and not clash. Cut maarke nikalna hota hai [You have to dodge and move past] without getting blocked," she chuckles. In her spare hours, she trains to move zigzag on the court. "Sometimes I just take off from Borivali right upto

Malad. Darne jaungi toh marr jaungi [If I get scared, I'll die]. I've fallen many times on court defending. Even seen stars in front of eyes [fainted]. But got up on my own and resumed playing," Geeta says.

Surendra Kasare, a BMC worker, recalls his accident on a slippery road when his bike skidded and a bus left him crushed, and bound to a wheelchair. Basketball at the Sion hospital centre gave him hope, as did his mother's frantic efforts to keep him alive. "We lived in the slums. I used to fix potholes and unclog drains for the BMC before the accident, which left me paralysed in the lower body. You know, many youth victims of accidents contemplate suicide. Just the bedsores early on can push you to the edge. But I told myself I have one life only. My mother who works as a househelp helped me stay alive. I had to do something with this chance."

At 24, he plunged into wheelchair basketball, but mere inspiration is just the start. "I lost sensation in my lower limbs. In such scenarios, you have to be careful with injuries because you might not feel the pain, but wounds can get nasty," Kasare says.

### Earthquake to taking up sport

Dinkle Shah works with a renowned consultancy, and then rushes to train for her Wheelerers training, where she plays defense. "Keeping opponents to low scores is like a top-of-the-world feeling," she says. At age 5 in the Bhuj earthquake of 2001, Dinkle was found amidst debris by her family, severely

bleeding from her head. The spine impact went unnoticed and she was restricted to a wheelchair. "We had gone for a family function to Bhuj from Bombay then. There were tragic scenes all-round. I had passed out from injury and didn't get treatment for nine hours. Lost memory, and was in ICU for weeks," Dinkle recalls.

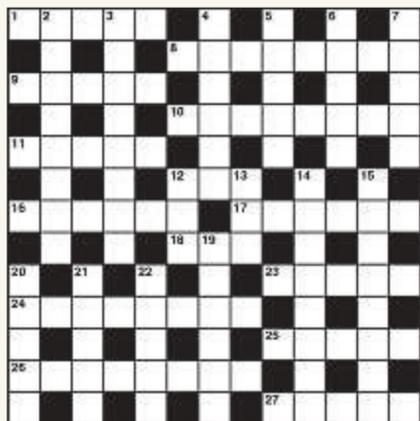
It was post-recovery that she found life toughest. "Life turned upside down for me and my family. I struggled to study, as 10-11 schools rejected me just because I would be added responsibility. But mostly, wherever I went all eyes used to be on me," she recalls. Not very kind eyes. "It was traumatic." By the time she pursued MBA, colleges had gotten more sensitive, and a rampway was built by her principal.

Shishir Joshi, co-founder and chief executive of Project Mumbai, says children as young as 8 are now beginning to train for wheelchair basketball, and is now looking to appoint full-time physios and counsellors for the Wheelerers, with the ultimate target being representing India at the Paralympics. "By raising awareness, we want at least 1000 wheelchair basketball players in India. The atmosphere at Nagpada was electric, and they loved watching the Wheelerers play. I'm sure support in all forms, with tech and other resources, will pour in," he stresses. For anyone that knows Nagpada basketball, those are the toughest spectators to please. And on a March weekend, they watched wing-chairs take flight.

Brothers would say, 'you are getting food to eat twice a day, then why do you need to step out?' They feared they'll be laughed at because of me. But I wanted to prove hum useless cheezin nahi hai [we are not useless things]. When I watched basketball on a wheelchair, I knew I wanted to do this."

GEETA CHOUHAN,  
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PLAYER

## CROSSWORD 4695



- ACROSS**  
11 A salesman's pitch (5)  
8 Request certain to give satisfaction (8)  
9 Considering getting something for nothing (5)  
10 Complaint of untidiness (8)  
11 Like prices that have sharply risen? (5)  
12 To the southeast there's a large stretch of water (3)  
16 Grab a bit of sleep perhaps (6)  
17 Happen to get increased yield (4,2)  
18 Still up to date (3)  
23 Depended on the French worker (5)  
24 Cash exchanged in pure monetary transaction (8)  
25 Cast worth going out to see (5)  
26 Enthusiast takes charge (4,4)  
27 Behind? That's serious (5)
- DOWN**  
2 Aiming to improve the outside of the house (8)  
3 Do they help one to see what one is eating? (8)  
4 Watergate clue is incorrect (6)  
5 Fabric that's light when worn (5)  
6 Leader is ridiculed in speech (5)  
7 Courage shown by a man with practical skill (5)  
12 Afraid to have one's fling? (3)  
13 Work and play (3)  
14 How teams are organised to a certain extent (8)  
15 Become embittered and go off (4,4)  
19 Possibly run and see to make certain (6)  
20 Fruit that's big in New York (5)  
21 Fine adjective or a verb maybe (5)  
22 Demonstrated method of splitting poles (5)

Solutions Crossword 4694: Across: 1 Share issue, 6 Pump, 10 Tears, 11 Reprorate, 12 Eyeliner, 13 Ideas, 15 Alights, 17 Seeking, 19 Laggard, 21 Puritan, 22 Graph, 24 Mounties, 27 Inherited, 28 Newsy, 29 Dose, 30 Astronomer. Down: 1 Site, 2 Analysing, 3 Easel, 4 Springs, 5 Umpires, 7 Usage, 8 Press agent, 9 Domineer, 14 Daily grind, 16 Heathers, 18 In the swim, 20 Demotes, 21 Plunder, 23 Ashes, 25 Tenon, 26 Dyer.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Deep inside you crave emotional adventure. Some of you, especially March-born Arians, have had enough of one particular relationship. It's time to move on and make way for more interesting companions. But it's also good for you to look to older or wiser people for the right advice.
- Taurus (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
There's no chance of your head ruling your heart at the moment. Quite the contrary. Almost every important step you take will be dominated by passions and feelings that are beyond your control. That's the simple reason why you should be sensibly cautious.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
You are very trusting, but the fact is that certain individuals don't have your brand of integrity. You may therefore be best advised to maintain a cautious distance from people who are acting strangely. Inspiration is one thing, the wilder fringes of your imagination, another.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Everything that occurred towards the end of last week was pushing you in one direction. What happens now may be pulling you in another. Don't be unduly concerned by the consequences of changing your plans. You might find that partners are more willing to adjust and adapt than you thought.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Don't allow domestic problems to undermine your confidence at work. Probably the major issue today is money, and your latent insecurity may be popping its head above the covers. Don't worry, for the stars are actually in a relatively benign mood.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
You must wait and see what transpires next week before making fresh plans. You see, your grasp on reality may be a little slight at the moment, not that you're unusual in that. On the other hand, your imagination is in fine fettle. It's all down to those strange bedfellows, Neptune and Mars.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
The Moon is currently expressing a secretive influence on your Libran psyche. There'll be a lot going on that you'd rather not talk about, and nobody should expect you to betray confidences. They'd better stand back and allow you to do what you think is proper.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)**  
The current fascinating relationship between Venus, Uranus and a clutch of other planets, is maintaining a lively mood, and we must therefore anticipate a number of options. Among these are dramatically changed travel plans, adventurous journeys and romances.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)**  
If you have an Achilles' heel, it's probably your repeated failure to account for the consequences of your actions. The Moon should remind you that all ambitious steps must be planned. But such planning is almost impossible today, so enjoy your day-dreams but don't expect anything to come of them.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
You must beware of getting embroiled in power struggles. You see, other people think only the best of you and, if you respond in kind, you could be on the receiving end of some truly amazing generosity over the coming weeks. In many ways, you deserve a stroke of good luck.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
This should be a period of renewed optimism. When planets move into lively regions of your chart, as they are now beginning to do, you should find that, although partners expect more of you, you will benefit from their abundant help and best wishes. If you're having trouble making up your mind then that's your prerogative.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Take extra care when gambling, taking risks, or indulging in speculative ventures of all kinds. Granted, there are profits to be made, but your judgment and timing will have to be impeccable. The moment you take your eye off the ball, then events will begin to take a number of strange twists

## 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.

Kittens are wide-eyed, soft and sweet. With \_\_\_ in their jaws and feet. - Pam Brown (7)

DRYEE                      ATUWLN

AHMES                     BEGRID

## SUDOKU 4782

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 4781

## DHARAMBIR SETS NEW PARA ASIAN RECORD

Dubai: Dharambir set a new Asian record in the men's F32/51 club throw event en route winning a silver on the opening day of the 13th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships here. India won three medals on the opening day with Devendra Singh also clinching a silver in the F44 men's discus throw event, while Jyoti Behera claimed a bronze in 400m women's final T37/38/47 final. **PTI**

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: How IPL won over other boards

## Rest of the world falls in line

Most of the other boards started by taking an adversarial approach to IPL, but realised subsequently that not releasing players could be to their own detriment

ABHISHEK PUROHIT  
MARCH 22

OVER THE years, overseas cricketers have played a major role in making the Indian Premier League what it is. Be it Chris Gayle, AB de Villiers or Lasith Malinga, the foreign stars have pulled in fans and entertained them with their exploits. We take a look at the availability of overseas players this IPL season, with one cricket board after the other making way in their national team's schedule to accommodate the lucrative T20 league.

## ENGLAND

Dimitri Mascarenhas was the only England player in the inaugural IPL in 2008. Talks between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over releasing marquee English players for the IPL had been fruitless. The ECB wanted reciprocal access to Indian stars for its own T20 league. Mascarenhas was able to get a deal as he wasn't contracted to the ECB and his county Hampshire agreed to a limited participation arrangement that, in the words of its chairman Rod Bransgrove, took "into account the realities of the situation." It would be a while before the ECB would wake up and acknowledge that the situation had irrevocably changed. Even as some of the leading lights of world cricket headed to India, England welcomed New Zealand for a three-Test series, two games of which ran parallel to the IPL in May 2008. At the same time, Australia travelled to the West Indies for a Test series that also clashed with the IPL.

Mascarenhas featured in just one game for Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2008. In the IPL 2022 auction, 11 England players were bought by franchises, in addition to two that were retained. The IPL still got blamed by some in England for their latest Ashes debacle, and Ben Stokes made the call to skip the auction to focus on his red-ball game. But such rare individual decisions aside, for a while now, as England white-ball captain Eoin Morgan had acknowledged in 2020, "We are using the IPL as a vehicle to try and grow players."

England's is a particularly relevant case; their cricket season, along with West Indies', coincides with the IPL, and unlike West Indies, they have had the clout to keep some of their key players away from the IPL. But even the once mighty ECB has had to give in.

This year, for instance, England have nothing scheduled for April and May. Their Test series with West Indies ends on March 28, just two days after the start of the IPL. Their next assignment is a home Test series against New Zealand starting June 2; the IPL ends on May 29. Jonny Bairstow is the only IPL 2022 participant who is part of the England Test squad in the West Indies, and is likely to miss the first three games for Punjab Kings.

## England players in IPL 2022

Jonny Bairstow (Punjab Kings), Benny Howell (PBKS), David Willey (Royal Challengers Bangalore), Liam Livingstone (PBKS), Chris Jordan (Chennai Super Kings),



Kagiso Rabada (PK) has chosen to be at the IPL instead of playing the Test series against Bangladesh. Faf du Plessis (RCB) has retired from international cricket. **IPL**

Sam Billings (Kolkata Knight Riders), Tymal Mills (Mumbai Indians), Jos Buttler (Rajasthan Royals, retained), Moeen Ali (CSK, retained) **Available from IPL 2023:** Jofra Archer (MI) **Withdrawn:** Alex Hales (KKR), Jason Roy (Gujarat Titans), Mark Wood (Lucknow Super Giants)

## AUSTRALIA

"I fully respect the IPL as a tournament. They're at the forefront of the T20 game. It's been a really important tournament for the skill development of some of our players, so it's important not to underestimate that going forward," Australia selection chair George Bailey said last month, echoing Morgan's sentiments.

Bailey was speaking while announcing Australia's squad for their ongoing Pakistan tour. Despite Bailey's vote of confidence, though, Cricket Australia won't be releasing its contracted players for the IPL while the national team is playing, irrespective of whether the player in question is part of the Australian squad that is in action or not.

The Test leg of Australia's tour of Pakistan ends this week before the start of the IPL but the limited-overs leg will go on till April 5. Six IPL-bound players - Aaron Finch, Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott, Marcus Stoinis, Jason Behrendorff and Mitchell Marsh - are part of the Australian white-ball team in Pakistan, and won't be available for the first two weeks of the league.

Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and David Warner - all in the Test squad - do not have to do limited-overs duty in Pakistan but will still not be able to turn out for their franchises until the Pakistan tour ends because of the CA directive. The same applies to the soon-to-be-married Glenn Maxwell, who is also contracted to the Australian board.

Once the Australian contingent arrives in

India, it is set to stay for the duration of the IPL as Australia's next assignment, a tour of Sri Lanka, is only in June.

## Australia players in IPL 2022

Pat Cummins (KKR), Josh Hazlewood (RCB), David Warner (Delhi Capitals), Nathan Ellis (PBKS), Sean Abbott (Sunrisers Hyderabad), Jason Behrendorff (RCB), Mitchell Marsh (DC), Matthew Wade (GT), Nathan Coulter-Nile (RR), Riley Meredith (MI), Daniel Sams (MI), Aaron Finch (KKR, replacement), Glenn Maxwell (RCB, retained), Marcus Stoinis (LSG, drafted)

## SOUTH AFRICA

Cricket South Africa has had an arrangement to release its players for the IPL. But the window having expanded to include 74 games this season, the Bangladesh home series that stretches until April 12 became a test of loyalty for the South African IPL stars, according to captain Dean Elgar.

"They mustn't forget that Test cricket or one-day cricket got them into the IPL and not the other way around," Elgar declared.

Well, Elgar's team-mates chose their IPL franchises over the upcoming two Tests against Bangladesh, although some of them are involved in the preceding three-ODI series that ends on Wednesday.

"CSA's current MOU with @SACAplayers (the South African Cricketers' Association) states that CSA is not at liberty to refuse players the opportunity to take part in the IPL, as CSA and SACA look to balance the livelihoods and opportunities of players and their national duties," the South African board stated in a straightforward admission of its helplessness. South Africa are anyway scheduled to tour India for five T20Is starting June 9, so at least acclimatisation won't be a problem

after a two-month stay for the IPL.

## SA players in IPL 2022

Marco Jansen (SRH), Aiden Markram (SRH), Lungi Ngidi (DC), Kagiso Rabada (PBKS), Rassie van der Dussen (RR), Dwaine Pretorius (CSK), David Miller (GT), Dewald Brevis (MI), Quinton de Kock (LSG), Faf du Plessis (RCB), Anrich Nortje (DC, retained)

## WEST INDIES

Again, West Indies have the largest overseas contingent at the IPL with as many as 14 players bought and three retained. But only three of them - Kyle Mayers, Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph - are on duty for the England Tests ending on March 28, meaning they won't miss more than a couple of games for their franchises.

The T20I leg of England's visit, which involved the likes of Kieron Pollard and Nicholas Pooran among other IPL stars, was completed back in January. West Indies' next engagement is an away ODI series against Netherlands, starting May 31.

This is seamless window creation, especially by West Indies' rocky standards of the past. Pollard has spoken about how he was 'blacklisted' by the previous regime in the Caribbean board; at one point, he didn't figure in the ODI setup for three years. Before that, he had missed another two years. The current regime has been much more willing to make peace, even tweaking the schedule of regional selection tournaments to ensure more of its global T20 stars can participate.

## West Indies players in IPL 2022

Sherfane Rutherford (RCB), Fabian Allen (MI), Evin Lewis (LSG), Odean Smith (PBKS), Obed McCoy (RR), Romario Shepherd (SRH),

Rovman Powell (DC), Dominic Drakes (GT), Nicholas Pooran (SRH), Dwayne Bravo (CSK), Shimron Hetmyer (RR), Kyle Mayers (LSG), Jason Holder (LSG), Alzarri Joseph (GT), Sunil Narine (KKR, retained), Andre Russell (KKR, retained), Kieron Pollard (MI, retained)

## NEW ZEALAND

Way back in 2010, New Zealand Cricket realised that any resistance to the IPL could cause havoc in their already limited player pool and allowed their contracted players to play the league.

Accordingly, all of their 12 IPL 2022 players, including captain Kane Williamson, have opted out of the home white-ball series against Netherlands starting March 25 and ending April 4. "That's just part of the current cycle of what it looks like in world cricket," admitted New Zealand coach Gary Stead. New Zealand take on England next in a three-Test away series that starts on June 2 at Lord's.

## NZ players in IPL 2022

Kane Williamson (SRH, retained), Daryl Mitchell (RR), James Neesham (RR), Trent Boult (RR), Tim Southee (KKR), Tim Seifert (DC), Glenn Phillips (SRH), Finn Allen (RCB), Adam Milne (CSK), Mitchell Santner (CSK), Devon Conway (CSK), Lockie Ferguson (GT)

## AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan do not get to play much bilateral cricket anyway. Their white-ball tour of Bangladesh ended on March 5, and they take on Ireland next only in July. Their player count in this IPL has gone up to five with Rahmanullah Gurbaz coming in as Jason Roy's replacement at Gujarat Titans, making it three Afghans at the franchise.

## Afghanistan players in IPL 2022

Rashid Khan (GT, drafted), Noor Ahmad (GT), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (GT, replacement), Mohammad Nabi (KKR), Fazalhaq Farooqi (SRH)

## SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka ended their bilateral duties for now with the Bengaluru Test against India, and their five-man contingent should be available throughout the league, with the country's next assignment a home series against Australia in June.

## Sri Lanka players in IPL 2022

Chamika Karunaratne (KKR), Bhanuka Rajapaksa (PBKS), Maheesh Theekshana (CSK), Dushmantha Chameera (LSG), Wanindu Hasaranga (RCB)

## BANGLADESH

Mustafizur Rahman (DC) is the only Bangladesh player in this IPL. He is with the ODI squad in South Africa, where the ongoing series ends on Wednesday, and will likely miss the first match.

Lucknow wanted to rope in Taskin Ahmed as the injured Mark Wood's replacement, but the Bangladesh Cricket Board refused to release him. Taskin is part of the Test squad on duty in South Africa until April 12.

PUNJAB KINGS  
KINGS OF MESSING UP

A change of name did little to alter the fortunes or the nature of underperformance. Kings XI Punjab or Punjab Kings, for years, the problems that haunt them have been the same - imbalanced squad, bizarre team selection, gross inconsistency and a knack of freezing in close finishes. So inept that they could be a blueprint on how not to run a franchise.

## THE PAST

Year after year, they have contrived to set up imbalanced sides. Usually, they are a blend of high-voltage cricket stars and unknowns of domestic cricket. There would be a surplus of resources in one department and utter deficiency in the other. For example, last edition they had good openers but little depth in bowling. Murugan Ashwin was their second-best spinner; Chris Jordan took the new ball with Mohammed Shami. They had just one reputed all-rounder too - the wildly erratic James Neesham. Few teams have undergone as many wholesale revamps as Punjab, yet no team has looked further from cracking the IPL code than them. Since reaching the final in 2014, they have won only 39 percent of their games.

## THE PRESENT

As is in their bloodline, they have batting firepower but not bowling ammo. The top-five features some of the most dreaded hitters in world cricket - Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, Shikhar Dhawan and Mayank Agarwal. All-rounder Shah Rukh Khan is no slouch with the bat either. But bowling is not just thin, but skeletal on paper, with just Kagiso Rabada as a prominent name. Sharing his workload would be the untested Odean Smith, Arshdeep, Rahul Chahar & Harpreet. Lack of depth in bowling could haunt them yet again.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Besides all their structural concerns, they have always lacked an inspiring leader, and it has not benefited them that they have kept changing captains. Mayank Agarwal, the latest in the line, the 13th to lead the franchise in 14 seasons, has thus inherited a crown of thrones. He comes with little experience in leading his domestic side, and probably would have to learn the ropes on the go. A tough task is for him to steer them into the knockouts, though it would be a small achievement if they are to finish at a better spot than in the last two years (sixth out of eight teams).

## Bhatia, Rana power India to 110-run win over Bangladesh

PRATYUSHRAJ  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

AN INCONSISTENT India kept their semi-final hopes alive with a comfortable 110-run victory over Bangladesh in Hamilton. India registered a comprehensive win on a sluggish surface at the Seddon Park, but they were far from at their dominant best.

The heavy fluctuations in the batting performance were again a concern as they only managed 229 for 7 in their allotted 50 overs after Mithali Raj opted to bat first. Yes, the pitch was used a day before for a Pakistan and West Indies tie. It was low and slow, but the way Indian batters threw away their wickets, was outrageous. One of the reasons why India find themselves in a tricky spot is that they have not gelled as a unit so far, and it is something which sticks out on the ground during their losses against Australia, New Zealand, and England. India has failed to bring their A game to the tournament barring the win against West Indies.

Smitri Mandhana and Shafali Verma put on 74 runs for the first wicket, India's first 50-run opening stand in the tournament. But the way Smitri (30 off 41b; 3x4) got out was abysmal; she mistimed a pull shot in a tame fashion. Mandhana's wicket opened the floodgates for Bangladesh. In a span of five balls, India lost Smitri Mandhana, Shafali Verma (42 off 42 balls; 6x4, 1x6) and skipper Mithali Raj (0). **BRIEF SCORES: India: 229 for 7 in 50 overs (Yastika Bhatia 50, Shafali Verma 42; Ritu Momi 3/37, Nahida Akter 2/42); Bangladesh: 119 all out in 40.3 overs (Salma Khatun 32; Sneh Rana 4/30, Jhulan Goswami 2/19)**

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