

## महाशय धर्मपाल जी

संस्थापक चेयरमैन, महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लि०

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**27 March 2022 | 4pm Onwards**

महाशय चूनीलाल धर्मार्थ ट्रस्ट एवं महाशय धर्मपाल धर्मार्थ ट्रस्ट द्वारा संचालित एवं संवर्धित संस्थान

● महाशियाँ दी हट्टी प्रा० लि०, (दिल्ली, गुड़गांव, फरीदाबाद कुंडली, नागौर) ● सुपर डेलीकेसीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड नई दिल्ली ● माता चन्नन देवी अस्पताल, (जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली) ● एम.डी.एच. इंटरनैशनल स्कूल (जनकपुरी एवं द्वारका, नई दिल्ली) ● महाशय चूनीलाल सरस्वती बाल मंदिर (हरी नगर, नई दिल्ली) ● माता लीलावती सरस्वती विद्या मंदिर (टेगौर गार्डन, नई दिल्ली) ● महाशय धर्मपाल विद्या मंदिर (बेदगी, कर्नाटक) ● श्री संजीव गुलाटी चिकित्सालय एवं शोध केंद्र (ऋषिकेश) ● माता लीलावती वैदिक संस्कृति प्रशिक्षण केंद्र (उदयपुर, राजस्थान) ● माता चन्नन देवी आर्य कन्या गुरुकुल, (पिल्लु खेड़ा, हरियाणा) ● महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. दयानन्द आर्य विद्या निकेतन (आसाम, एम.पी., झारखण्ड एवं नागालैण्ड) ● एम.डी.एच. गरुशाला (अजमेर, नागौर-राजस्थान) ● माता लीलावती श्री कृष्ण वैदिक कन्या विद्यालय (खुशीपुरा, मथुरा) ● एम.डी.एच. परिसर निर्वाण न्यास (अजमेर, राजस्थान) ● महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. वेद रिसर्च फाउण्डेशन (कालीकट, केरल) ● महाशय धर्मपाल हार्ट इंस्टीट्यूट (जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली) ● एम.डी.एच. पार्क, (नागौर) ● महाशय धर्मपाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय अतिथि गृह, ग्रेटर कैलाश, नई दिल्ली ● महाशय संजीव कुमार धर्मार्थ औषधालय, नालागढ़ (हिमाचल) ● महाशय धर्मपाल यज्ञशाला आर्य समाज, त्रिनगर, नई दिल्ली

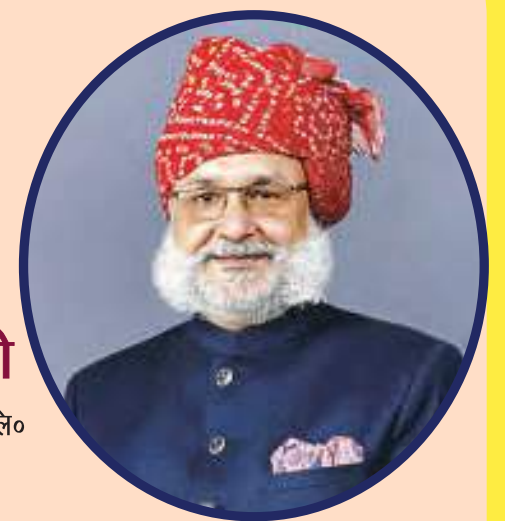
● महाशय धर्मपाल स्वावलंबन गृह, सिरसा जेल, सिरसा (हरियाणा) ● महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. सर्वोदय विद्यालय मलारना चौड़ (राजस्थान) ● गुरुकुल यमुनावट मंझावली फरीदाबाद (हरियाणा) ● महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं वैदिक शोध केंद्र हल्दीघाटी मार्ग उदयपुर ● महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं वैदिक शोध केंद्र नागौर ● श्री सत्य सनातन वेद मंदिर रोहिणी नई दिल्ली ● स्वामी आत्मानंद वैदिक गुरुकुल मलारना चौड़ (राजस्थान) ● श्री गोपाल गौशाला लोहारू, भिवानी (हरियाणा) ● महाशय धर्मपाल ओपन एअर थियेटर, भिवानी जेल (हरियाणा) ● महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल ट्रस्ट टंकारा (गुजरात) ● महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल ट्रस्ट अजमेर (राजस्थान) ● महाशय धर्मपाल भवन आर्य समाज खजुरी खास, नई दिल्ली ● महात्मा रामलाल ट्रस्ट इंदरपुरी (दिल्ली) ● महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल सोसाइटी दीमापुर (नागालैण्ड) ● सनातन धर्म मंदिर गुरुग्राम ● महाशय धर्मपाल सेवा भवन आर्य समाज डीसीएम रेलवे कालोनी, नई दिल्ली ● महाशय धर्मपाल संस्कृत भवन गुरु विरजानंद संस्कृत कुलम हरी नगर, नई दिल्ली



निवेदक

**महाशय  
राजीव गुलाटी**

चेयरमैन, महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लि०



● महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं खेल संस्थान सोनीपत (हरियाणा) ● युगपुरुष महाशय धर्मपाल एम.डी.एच. चेरिटेबल डायग्नोस्टिक भवन X-24 कड़कड़डूमा इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली 110092 ● महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) चेरिटेबल कैंसर हॉस्पिटल कड़कड़डूमा दिल्ली (अंडर डेवलपमेंट) X-25 कड़कड़डूमा इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली -110092 ● विश्वारा कन्या गुरुकुल रुड़की जिला रोहतक (हरियाणा) ● श्री महुयानन्द कन्या गुरुकुल महाविद्यालय चोटीपुरा, (उत्तर प्रदेश) ● संजीव गुलाटी स्मृति चिकित्सालय वन्देमातरम कुंज गंगा भोगपुर तल्ला पौड़ी गढ़वाल (उत्तराखंड) ● महर्षि दयानन्द वेद-विद्या आर्य गुरुकुल नली खुर्द (करनाल)















DCW SENDS NOTICE  
Woman alleges  
rape inside  
night shelter

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

A FORMER caretaker of a night shelter run by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) has alleged she was raped, molested and threatened at the facility, located in North Delhi. The woman, who is in her 20s, has further alleged that a 'mentally challenged' resident at the shelter was also raped by one of the accused.

In a police complaint, she has alleged she was removed from her job on March 4 after she approached the director, a woman, regarding the two alleged incidents. The shelter is managed by an NGO and all four accused — the director, a man accused of raping the woman and two others accused of molesting and threatening her — work with it.

An FIR has been registered against the director and three officials based on the complaint and DUSIB is conducting an enquiry.

"I worked at (the NGO) and during that time... sir raped me on January 8. Before this, sir and (another accused) touched me inappropriately and molested me... during a New Year's party at the shelter, (an accused) forced himself on me. That day, I managed to escape. The next day, I approached director ma'am about the incident. She threatened to file a false case against me and asked me to leave her office. I called ma'am the next day but she cut my call. When I met her at the

shelter and requested her to help me get a medical (test) done, she threatened to kill me. The same day, sir and (another accused) came to the shelter home at 6 pm and threatened to kill me... I didn't file a complaint because I was scared," the FIR quotes the woman as alleging. She alleged that on January 23, one of the accused allegedly raped a 25-year-old mentally challenged resident at the shelter. "When I came for duty in the morning, she told me she was experiencing a lot of pain and was bleeding," reads the FIR.

The woman told *The Indian Express*: "I showed her photos of all staffers and she pointed towards one... Later, in March, they removed me from the job without a reason." Police officers said they are looking for a counsellor to take the second woman's statement. "We will file a separate FIR once that is done," said an officer.

The Delhi Commission for Women meanwhile sent a notice to DUSIB and Delhi Police over "serious lapses" at the shelter. "She has alleged that she and a mentally challenged resident of the shelter were raped. This is very serious and warrants urgent action," reads the notice sent by DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal. DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "We have lodged an FIR and investigations are on." DUSIB member Bipin Rai said: "All four accused work with an NGO. We will remove the NGO and appoint someone else to manage the building. We have received the woman's complaint."

2005 Satyam-Liberty blasts:  
Court acquits accused, says  
prosecution attributed  
meaning to general words

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

ACQUITTING A man accused of trying to revive militancy in Punjab, a Delhi court has found gaps in the prosecution's case for trying to implicate him by attributing meaning to his telephonic conversations about crops, the weather, and watering of fields.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana acquitted Trilochan Singh, a driver, who was arrested in a Delhi Police Special Cell raid in 2007 as part of its investigation into the 2005 Satyam Cinema and Liberty Cinema bomb blasts. ASJ Rana said the "meaning attempted to be ascribed by the prosecution to the general words like plot, khet, fasal, paani, etc can only be accepted when it rules out the possibility of any error on the part of the police official".

The court said the "possibility of any enthusiastic police officer misinterpreting plain and simple words on account of suspicion and over zealous approach cannot be ruled out".

A total of nine persons were accused, out of which eight pleaded guilty. Trilochan decided to contest his case filed under IPC sections 121A (conspiracy to commit offences or to overawe, by means of criminal force or the show of criminal force, the Central Government or any State Government), 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy), as well as sections of the UAPA Act and the Arms Act.

Police relied on telephonic

The court said 'the possibility of any enthusiastic police officer misinterpreting plain and simple words on account of suspicion and over zealous approach cannot be ruled out'

conversations between a convict, Baljeet Singh, and Trilochan. The court said that on a plain and simple reading of the transcripts, "any conspiracy to commit a terrorist act is not discernible to an ordinary man". The prosecution had claimed that the accused persons knew that they were under surveillance and were hence speaking in coded words. The court, however, agreed with the defence counsel that the "interpretation of the coded words is based upon the police officer's personal subjective interpretation".

The court said there must be some credible material available on record justifying the meaning ascribed to plain and general words by the prosecution. "The words should have either been established as standard phrases in lingua franca used by the criminals or at least there must be a pattern discernible in the words used so that they can be interpreted in a particular manner," the court said. It said that in the absence of any material on record, "the doubt attached with the perhaps prejudiced or at least loaded interpretation rendered

by the prosecution cannot be dispelled with".

The Special Cell had registered the FIR alleging that the accused persons were connected to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), a terror outfit based in Germany. It was alleged that BKI had negotiated with militant outfit, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and conspired to overthrow the Indian government. The Special Cell had claimed that Trilochan was in touch with BKI outfit member Baljeet Singh, who planned to kill a Sikh religious leader, Baba Pyara Singh Panihari Wala, and some others and to revive militancy in Punjab.

The prosecution cited a telephonic transcript by Trilochan, which read: "I am waiting for you, let's go see some plot", and said it was a code for "let's conduct Paniharewala recce".

Baljeet asked Trilochan, "How are your fields?" and he replied, "They are really good. I keep watering them." The prosecution had alleged this was code for "men have been prepared" and the "work will be done". On Trilochan telling Baljeet, "It is very cold there is a need for clothes", prosecution said this meant "Baljeet was talking about handing out weapons to Trilochan". The conversation ends with Baljeet saying, "You wear socks and not pyjamas underneath. Your system is entirely different," to which Trilochan agrees. The prosecution had alleged that Trilochan was a driver employed with Haryana roadways and usually wore kurta-pyjama or a pant-shirt, and this conversation was to "misguide the intelligence agency".



उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय: महर्षि दयानन्द नगर, निकट सैण्टमेरी स्कूल, आदमपुर-चक्कर रोड, बिजनौर-246701

सन्दर्भ सं. 789/L-23/जनरल-2022 दिनांक: 26.03.2022

पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति हेतु लोक सुनवाई के लिए आम सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैसर्स बिन्दुस मिल्स लि०, ग्राम-चांगीपुर, तहसील-चांदपुर, जिला-बिजनौर, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा इटीग्रेटेड इकाई, चीनी इकाई की स्थापना क्षमता 10000 टोंपी०डी० एवं सह ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता-12 मेगावॉट तथा आसन्न इकाई क्षमता 150 के०एल०डी० एवं सह-ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता-3.5 मेगावॉट के साथ स्थापना किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में परियोजना की पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई हेतु प्रस्ताव उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिसके सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या-एस०ओ०-1533, दिनांक-14.09.2006 यथा संशोधित एस०ओ०-3067(ई) दिनांक-01.12.2009 के अनुपालन में पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति जारी करने से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई किया जाना आवश्यक है। इस सूचना के अन्तर्गत लोक सुनवाई से पूर्व क्षेत्रीय आम जनता को किसी भी आपत्ति/सुझाव हेतु 30 दिन का नोटिस दिया जाना प्राविधानित है। लोक सुनवाई पैनल की संरचना भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी उक्त अधिसूचना संख्या-एस०ओ०-1533, दिनांक-14.09.2006 यथा संशोधित एस०ओ०-3067(ई) दिनांक-01.12.2009 के प्राविधानों के अनुरूप होगी। उक्त उद्योग के परियोजना प्रस्ताव से सम्बन्धित अभिलेख निम्नलिखित कार्यालयों में अवलोकनार्थ उपलब्ध है

- (अ) कार्यालय जिलाधिकारी, बिजनौर।  
(ब) कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केन्द्र, बिजनौर।  
(स) कार्यालय अपर मुख्य अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, बिजनौर।  
(द) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, पंचम तल, केन्द्रीय भवन, सेक्टर-एच, अलीगंज, लखनऊ।  
(य) उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टीपीसी०-12वी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ।  
(र) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, महर्षि दयानन्द नगर, निकट सैण्टमेरी स्कूल, आदमपुर-चक्कर रोड, बिजनौर।

अतः समस्त सर्व साधारण एवं विशिष्ट नागरिकों को इस नोटिस के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि अपर जिलाधिकारी (प्रशासन), बिजनौर की अध्यक्षता में प्रस्तावित परियोजना स्थल मैसर्स बिन्दुस मिल्स लि०, ग्राम-चांगीपुर, तहसील-चांदपुर, जिला-बिजनौर, उत्तर प्रदेश में दिनांक-05.05.2022 को समय प्रातः 11:30 बजे लोक सुनवाई की कार्यवाही आहूत की गयी है, जिसमें तत्समय लागू कोविड-19 से सुझाव हेतु जारी दिशा निर्देशों के अनुपालन के साथ उपस्थित होकर कोई भी व्यक्ति अपनी मौखिक या लिखित सुझाव/आपत्तियाँ प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, बिजनौर अथवा बोर्ड मुख्यालय, उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टीपीसी०-12वी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ में सुझाव/आक्षेप प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के अन्दर लिखित रूप से दे सकते हैं।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी



PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PIMPRI, PUNE-411018

Expression of Interest for Design Competition for Creating Walk Through Video of the Visuals containing Advertisement Hoardings of the selected Corridor  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

In recent years, aesthetic considerations form undeniably one of the important aspects of urban experience. Design of the Hoardings and the location where they have been installed play a vital role in the innovative aesthetic experience of the city.

In that context, PCMC is hereby issuing this Express of Interest (EoI) for 'Design Competition for Creating Walk Through Video of the visuals containing Advertisement Hoardings of the selected Corridor'.

Interested eligible Competitors shall submit their proposals in accordance with the details provided in this EOI. The proposals shall be evaluated by a committee formed by PCMC and three winners will be identified. Prize of Rs. 5,00,000/-, Rs. 4,00,000/- and Rs. 3,00,000/- will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd winner respectively. The design received from winning competitors will be the intellectual property of the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation.

For further details please refer <http://www.pcmcindia.gov.in>

- Rajesh Patil, IAS  
(Municipal Commissioner)

Advt. No. 1466  
Date : 23 March, 2022  
Adv. PCMC-23/03/2022  
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation  
Pimpri-411018



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
Website: [www.plantauthority.gov.in](http://www.plantauthority.gov.in)

PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR AWARDS 2020-21 & 2021-22  
Under section 39(1) (ii) of PPV&FR Act, 2001 read with PPV&FR (Recognition and Reward from Gene Fund) Rules, 2012 and PPV&FR (Community Award from Gene Fund) Rules, 2018. INDIA'S HIGHEST AWARD/REWARD/RECOGNITION FOR FARMER(S) AND FARMING COMMUNITIES A unique aspect of Farmers' Rights in PPV&FR Act, 2001 which provides the facility to award, reward and recognize the farmers engaged in conservation of genetic resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection.

1. PLANT GENOMIC SAVIOUR COMMUNITY AWARD  
THE AWARD:- A maximum of five awards in a year, each consisting of cash of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only), a citation and a memento.  
WHO CAN APPLY:- A community of farmers who are engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been shared with others for varietal improvement.

2. PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR FARMER REWARD/RECOGNITION  
THE REWARD:- A maximum of 10 rewards comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only).  
THE RECOGNITION:- A maximum of 20 recognitions comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only).  
WHO CAN APPLY:- Farmers application engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been used as donors of genes in varieties registrable under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 (Duly to be forwarded by specified authorities and certificate from concerned institute to be attached).

HOW TO APPLY:- Application form and detailed guidelines may be downloaded from the website of the Authority [www.plantauthority.gov.in](http://www.plantauthority.gov.in) or may be obtained in person or by post on any working day from the office of PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi or its offices at Ranchi, Guwahati, Palampur, Pune and Shivamogga. (Please see the address from website) between 9.00 AM to 5.30 PM. Applications may be submitted either in Hindi or English. There is no application fee. Only complete form with supporting document(s) is to be submitted.

APPLICATIONS TO BE FORWARDED THROUGH: Chairperson/Secretary of the concerned Panchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee or concerned District Agricultural Officer or Director of Research of concerned Central/State/ Agriculture University or concerned District Tribal Development Office. However in case of applications for Plant Genome Savior Community Awards it can also be forwarded through concerned Zonal Project Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Now Director- Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI)-ICAR with official seal.

Last Date of Submission: The duly filled in application form along with supportive information, evidences/documents/details/proof of the claims made should reach the following address within 3 (three) months from the date of publication of the advertisement.

(Uma Kant Dubey)  
Deputy Registrar

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Govt. of India,  
S-2, 'A' Block, NASC, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur, New Delhi-110 012.  
Contact No : 011-25842846; E-mail: [uk.dubey@gov.in](mailto:uk.dubey@gov.in)

davp 01146/11/0006/2122



OFFICE OF THE A.D.M &  
COMPETENT AUTHORITY, CUTTACK

ADVERTISEMENT

No. 62/OPID Date 23.3.2022

Invitation of online claim application from the depositors of M/s Golden Land Developers Group of Companies (i.e. M/s GLP Developers Limited and M/s Golden Land Developers Limited) for identification of genuine depositors.

The General Public of the State of Odisha are hereby informed that in order to comply the orders dated 23.12.2015 passed by the Learned Designated Court, (under OPID Act.) Cuttack in I.A. Case No. 06/2014 filed against M/s Golden Land Developers Group of Companies and others and in order to initiate necessary action for identification of the genuine depositors and to ascertain their actual claim, online claim applications are invited from the depositors who have invested money in different deposit scheme of M/s Golden Land Developers Group of Companies i.e. M/s GLP Developers Limited and M/s Golden Land Developers Limited and have been defrauded by these company. which neither returned their deposits nor provided them with any land / plot as promised.

Applicants can submit their online claim applications through the Odisha Government website [www.opid.odisha.gov.in](http://www.opid.odisha.gov.in) on their own or by taking assistance of a "Mo Seva Kendra (MSK)". This website will remain open from dt.04.04.2022 at 11.00 AM to dt.03.06.2022 at 12.00 midnight for submission of online claim applications. The fees for submission of online claim application through the "Mo Seva Kendra", are indicated below, which has been notified by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of Odisha vide their Notification No. 558/E&IT dated 12.02.2021. The Offline / physical applications in this regard shall not be entertained.

The applicants should attach self-attested scanned copies of the relevant documents in support of their claim as indicated in the online application form. The authority may, in case, where feel necessary, refer any claim of deposit to Income Tax Department or other appropriate authority for verification. In case, it is noticed that any application is fake or based on false information, the applicant shall be liable for criminal action as per Law and the same application will be cancelled. Incomplete/defective applications are liable for rejection.

Fee prescribed for submission of online application through the Mo Seva Kendra.

1. Online application fill up and uploading - Rs.20.00.  
2. Printing of each page (Black and White, A4 size or less) - Rs.5.00.  
3. Scanning of each page (A4 size) - Rs.3.00.

N.B.: If the applicant encounter any technical problems while submitting online application he/she may contact in Toll Free Number 18003456770 / 155335, between 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM every day except Sunday for assistance.

Sd/-

Additional District Magistrate &  
Competent Authority, Cuttack  
OIPR-24178/11/0020/2122

BRIEFLY

Man 'thrashed'  
in road rage,  
accused held

New Delhi: A 33-year-old man was allegedly thrashed and his turban fell off after a scuffle broke out between him and three persons in South Delhi's Saket area. Police said the man was waiting at a traffic signal on his scooter when a car hit his vehicle. The car driver and the man allegedly got into a fight during which the accused hit him. The accused and his friends then fled the spot. Police said they took the man's complaint and arrested the accused driver for rash driving and outraging religious beliefs.

Pataudi double  
murders:  
'Mastermind'  
arrested

New Delhi: More than a month after two liquor businessmen were murdered in Pataudi, police Saturday said they have arrested the 'mastermind' of the case. Police said Ajay Jaillard, who allegedly has links with gangsters Kala Jathedi and Lawrence Bishnoi, had allegedly plotted the murder to establish his supremacy in liquor business. Preet Pal, ACP crime, said "Probe has found Jaillard planned the double murder and arranged shooters... He was in touch with certain gangsters and we are probing all angles. So far probe suggests he wanted to usurp liquor business and establish his dominance."

19-year-old  
shot dead

New Delhi: A 19-year-old was allegedly shot dead by his friend in front of a school in Dwarka Saturday. Police said a group of boys were fighting outside the school when one of the boys pulled out a pistol and fired at the victim. Police said they registered a case and have arrested the main accused. ENS

**Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute Of Medical Sciences**  
Raebareilly Road, Lucknow-226014, U.P. (INDIA)  
EPBX NO. 0522-2494000/2495000/2668700/2668800/2668900,  
FAX:- 0522-2668017/2668078

**Notice**  
**Application for Advertisement No. I-50/A, B, D, E/Rect/2021-22**  
**Computer Based Test (CRT) Exam 2021-22**  
Online Application forms link for the post of Sister Grade-II, Technician (Radiology), Medical Lab Technologist & Junior Medical Lab Technologist is going to be active from 29.03.2022.  
Please visit SGPGI website ([www.sgpgims.org.in/](http://www.sgpgims.org.in/)) / ([www.sgpgi.ac.in](http://www.sgpgi.ac.in))  
ADVT No. I/63/Rect/2021-22 Joint Director (Admin)

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (NIEPA)**  
(Deemed to be University)  
17-B, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110016

**ADMISSION NOTICE 2022-23**  
**(i) Integrated M. Phil - Ph. D Programme**  
**(ii) Ph. D (Full-time) Programme**  
**(iii) Ph. D (Part-time) Programme**  
Applications are invited for admission to the aforesaid programmes in areas related to Educational Policy, Planning and Administration from a broad inter-disciplinary Social Science perspective. Last date for receipt of application is **16th May 2022**.  
For further information and details, please visit [www.niepa.ac.in](http://www.niepa.ac.in)

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**  
ALLAHABAD  
Zonal office, Budh marg, Patna, Bihar-800001, E mail: [zopatna@indianbank.co.in](mailto:zopatna@indianbank.co.in), PH:0612-2508237

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **12.04.2022**, due to the Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, from the undernoted borrowers/Guarantors. The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below.

Sl No. Branch	Name of the Account & Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors	Details of Immovable Properties	Reserve Price (in Rs) Earnest Money Deposit Bid Incremental Amount	Secured creditor's Out-standing Dues Property ID Encumbrance on Property
01 PATNA CITY BRANCH	<b>M/S Nice Leather</b> (Pro- Md. Husne Alam Ansari), Md. Husne Alam Ansari, Shakila Begum & Zaidia Khatoun All at at Moghalpura, Barakat Khan Ka Akhara, P.O- Jhauganj, Patna City, Patna- 800008	All part & parcel of Residential land & Building situated at Mohalla -Barkat Khan ka Akhara,Moghalpura, P.O- Jhauganj, Patna City, Patna-800008, survey plot no-3007(P), Circle No.121 ward No-22/28, present 50, Holding No-196(old), W-233/196, Sheet No-215, measuring land area- 01 katha 11 dhurki, Registered Sale Deed no-355 dated 14.01.2002 in the name of Shakila Begum W/o Md Husne Alam Ansari & Zaidia Khatoun W/o Md Husne Alam Ansari Book No-01, Volume No-19, CD-12 page no-383-402 Boundary (as per deed)North: plot No-3008, South: 8' wide common Gali, East:Part plot of 3007 & 3009, West: Corporation Gali	<b>₹4634000.00</b> (Rupees Forty Six lakhs thirty four thousand Only) <b>₹463400.00</b> (Rupees Four lakhs sixty three thousand four hundred Only) <b>10,000.00</b>	Rs.5910092.00 (Rs. Fifty nine lakhs ten thousand ninety two only) as on 19.07.2021 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon till realization of bank's dues <b>IDIB20202174</b> Not Known
02 PATNA CITY BRANCH	<b>M/S S. Footwear (Pro- Md. Sabir Ansari),</b> Md. Sabir Ansari S/o Late Md. Shamsher Ansari ,Md. Sakib Ansari, S/o Late Md. Shamsher Ansari Md. Taufik Ansari, S/o Late Md. Shamsher Ansari Ms. Zeba alias Naaz Parveen, D/o Late Md. Shamsher Ansari, All R/o Barkat Khan Ka Akhara, Mogalpura, Jhauganj, Patna City, District-Patna, Bihar, 800008	Registered Mortgage: All that part and parcel of the Land and Building along with present/future construction thereon, vide registered Mortgage Deed No. 3466 dated 08.05.2015, Book No. 01, Volume No. 64, Page No. 99-110 In the joint name of Md. Sabir Ansari, Md. Sakib Ansari, Md. Taufik Ansari & Ms. Zeba alias Naaz Parvin are son and daughter of Late Md. Shamsher Ansari; <b>(i)</b> Total area measuring 10 Dhur, comprising in Ward No. 22/28(O), 47(New), Holding No.-292 Sheet No. 215, M.S. Plot No. 2294 & 2295(P), Circle No. 121, Situated at Mohalla Mogalpura Katra, Barkat Khan Ka Akhara, Mogalpura, Patna City, P.S.-Khajekala, PO-Jhauganj, District-Patna, Bihar and bounded as under(as per deed): North: Akhtari Khatun, South: M.S. Plot No. 2996 & 2997, East: Gali Corporation, West: Soni Parvin. <b>(ii)</b> Total area measuring 611 Sq Ft, comprising in Ward No. 22/28(O), 47(New), Sheet No. 215, M.S. Plot No. 2997, Circle No. 121, Holding No. 292, Situated at -Moshalla Mogalpura Katra, Barkat Khan Ka Akhara, Patna City, P.S. Khajekala, PO-Jhauganj, District-Patna, Bihar and bounded as under(as per deed No. 3466 dated 13.08.2003): North: M.S. Plot No. 2994, South: Lekhadhari Ka Niz Rasta of vendor, East: M.S. Plot No. 2996, West: M.S. Plot No. 2999	<b>₹5093000.00</b> (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Ninety three thousand Only) <b>₹509300.00</b> (Rupees Five Lakhs Nine thousand three hundred Only) <b>10,000.00</b>	Rs.11579838.00 (Rs. One crore fifteen lakhs seventy nine thousand eight hundred thirty eight only) as on 07.12.2019 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses till realization of bank's dues. <b>IDIB20202175</b> Not Known

Bidders are advised to visit the website ([www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact [ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com](mailto:ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com) and for EMD status please contact [ibapfin@mstcecommerce.com](mailto:ibapfin@mstcecommerce.com). For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131, 03340609118, 09330102643 and Authorised Officer- 8986185704. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

Date : 25.03.2022  
Place : Patna

Authorised Officer  
Indian Bank



New Delhi







VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	73,599
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	86
OXYGEN SUPPORT	4
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	1

DELHI: TOTAL CASES	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,805	9,719
ICU BEDS	2,210	2,192
Cases	112	100
Recoveries	1	27,644
Deaths	1	27,182
Tests	120	27,182
Mar 24	112	27,644
Mar 25	120	27,182
Total	464*	18,37,864
		26,150
		3,72,60,686

\*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Mar 24	Mar 25
Cases	N/A	N/A
Deaths	N/A	N/A
GURGAON		
Cases	52	41
Deaths	0	0

## PLAN TO EMPLOY 20 LAKH PEOPLE IN 5 YEARS

## Budget offers jobs booster for long Covid

GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

AS THE capital emerges from Covid's long shadow, the Delhi budget presented on Saturday focused on the need to create and provide jobs and boost economic recovery. It was with this aim that Manish Sisodia, the Deputy CM who also holds the Finance portfolio, christened it a 'rozgaar budget', attempting to lay out a roadmap to provide jobs to 20 lakh people in the next five years.

The Rs 75,800 crore budget for financial year 2022-23 saw an increase of about 13.3 per cent as compared to the revised estimates of previous financial year's budget of Rs 67,000 crore. At 21.5%, education got the highest allocation yet again, followed by health at 13% and transport and roads at 13%. Allocation to all three heads saw a slight decrease – between 1 and 2.5 percentage points – as compared to the previous financial year.

Sisodia said that under the rozgaar budget, the aim was to increase Delhi's working population from 33% to 45%. "I am presenting an agenda to create new jobs for the people of Delhi and to boost economic recovery from the damage caused in recent years due to Covid, GST, and demonetisation. This will encourage trade, industry and business and will create a large number of employment and business opportunities for the citizens of Delhi. The schemes and proposals presented in this budget will not only provide new entrepreneurship opportunities to the youth of Delhi, but will also benefit the already established enterprises and businesses," he said.

Sisodia said Rs 800 crore has been allocated to create job opportunities and employment. The government is planning to launch an 'employment audit' in all its departments and agencies to review the work done and jobs provided each financial year, he said.

"Currently, the total population of 1.68 crore and 56 lakh people have some employment. Our aim is to make this 76 lakh. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, we are aiming to increase the percentage of the working population of Delhi from the current 33% to 45% in the next five years," said Sisodia.

To this end, the budget speaks about positioning Delhi as a retail and wholesale hub, with a special focus of the food business.

After the budget, Kejriwal said it was a miracle that the budget had increased 2.5 fold in seven years. "We aim to create 20 lakh new jobs in the next five years. Just saying it takes courage. This was not an electoral promise, this was the budget. And we have presented a framework to create jobs," he said, thanking Sisodia.

The government will focus on eight sectors for job creation – retail, food and beverages, logistics, supply, travel and tourism, entertainment, real estate, and green energy. Kejriwal briefly outlined

the government's plan of redeveloping five traditional markets, developing a bazaar portal which will open up the global market to Delhi traders, creating a garment hub in Gandhinagar, developing traditional food hubs and food trucks that will operate till 2 am.

The CM said that the budget not only takes into account job creation, but also addresses increasing costs by providing free education, healthcare, electricity, water, and travel for women.

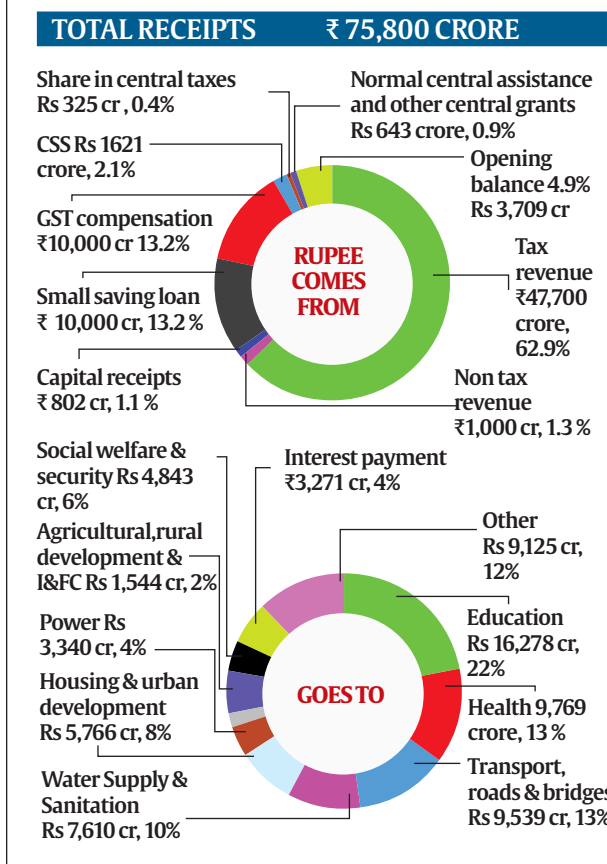
Presenting the budget, Sisodia said, "We have dealt with the pandemic but we are all aware of the severe damage it has caused to the social and economic progress of the entire country. Delhi is no exception to this. In the last two years, for immediate relief, some ex-gratia help has been given to the aggrieved and needy families/people by arranging financial assistance, ration, food etc., but immediate help is just an instant help, people need jobs."

Sisodia said the aim of the budget and policies was to not just provide jobs, but to enable others to do the same, but said there was a difference in the way the Delhi government views this.

"When we say that our children become job givers not job seekers, I want to make it clear here that we are not talking about making them self-employed like those self-employed in our country over the last few decades. Famous economic journalists Anshuman Tiwari and Anindya Sen Gupta have written in their recent book 'Ulti Ginti', 'Swarozgar Bharat ka sabse andhera kona hai'. The Delhi government is aware of the bitter reality of the accreditation of self-employment... I also want to inform the House that every second person among the workers of India is self-employed... and out of our self-employed population, 60 percent are engaged in agricultural work and the remaining 40 percent have small shops or practices like running a workshop, providing some service or the other, hawking, repairing, retailing, carpentry, blacksmith, an electrician, a painter or running a salon. Out of all these self-employed people in the country, only 4% are able to provide employment to other people. The remaining 96% of the self-employed are their own workers in their work or their family members are working with them without any salary. I am not saying that this is wrong. It is good to run your household by being self-employed but this is not the comprehensive solution that we need at the national level. To create nine crore new jobs, we have to create entrepreneurial self-employment on a very large scale which means we will have to create entrepreneurs," he said.

The Assembly also saw newly elected Punjab finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema and speaker Kuktar Singh Sangwan in attendance. They were invited to understand the process of budget preparation and presentation, said AAP members.

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## DELHI BUDGET 2022-23: ADDING TO THE PRIORITY LIST



Chief Minister Kejriwal, Deputy CM Sisodia at the Delhi Assembly on Saturday. PTI

## BUDGET ALLOTTED FOR SCHEMES/ PROJECTS

PROJECTS AND SCHEMES	₹3,434 cr	Housing & urban development (8%)
₹ 8,817 cr Transport gets boost (20%)	₹ 4,924 cr	Social welfare and security (11%)
₹ 7,310 cr Education (17%)	₹ 1,156 cr	Rural development, agriculture
₹ 5,567 cr Medical and public health (13%)	₹ 3,336 cr	Energy
₹ 6,710 cr Water supply, sanitation (15%)	₹ 2,346 cr	Other

₹43,600 CRORE

## Health budget sees marginal dip after sharp increase during pandemic

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

A MAJOR chunk of this year's health budget has gone towards expansion of health infrastructure in Delhi. A total of Rs 1,900 crore has been allocated for construction and remodelling of hospitals, whereas Rs 475 crore has been allocated for setting up new mohalla clinics and polyclinics.

The total outlay for the health sector stood at Rs 9,769 crore for 2022-23. This is, in fact, a decline of 1.6% over Rs 9,934 crore allocated to the sector last year. This is the first time the health budget has gone down since the AAP government came to power. There had been a jump of nearly 29% in the healthcare outlay last year amidst the pandemic.

Notably, no allocation has been made for Covid vaccination, which received a Rs 50 crore allocation last year. The outlay for infrastructure of four new hospitals and redevelopment of 15 existing ones will add around 16,000 hospital beds, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said in his budget speech. The four hospitals in the pipeline are a 2,716-bed facility at Siraspur and three 671-bed ones at Madipur, Hastal, and Jwalapuri. The government had allocated Rs 1,293 crore for the expansion of tertiary care facilities in the previous budget.

As for primary care, the government allocated Rs 475 crore for setting up more mohalla clinics and polyclinics. Of the 1,000 clinics planned during the first term of the AAP government, 520 have been set up so far. The government has not allocated funds yet for its mahila mohalla clinic project – neighbourhood clinics for women where they can seek gynaecological consultations – which was announced last year but work could not begin amidst the pandemic.

"We have to understand that India's new poverty is coming from disease. Every year, 5.50 crore people in India, that is 4.6% of the entire population, becomes poor due to disease. Of these, 72% are poor only because of the expenditure on basic medical care. This is why there is a need for mohalla clinics and why they were successful in Delhi," Sisodia said.

Experts point to two key areas that the government needs to focus on in order to make Delhi healthy. Dr M C Misra, former director of AIIMS, Delhi, said, "It is good that the government is increasing health infrastructure. But we also need to audit whether whatever they have already set up is working properly. After all, a hospital bed is not just about a hospital bed. Do they have doctors, nurses and other staff? Initially, mohalla clinics used to draw staff from Delhi govern-



Sisodia at Vidhan Sabha to present the Delhi budget 2022-2023. Prem Nath Pandey

ment hospitals. That does not help. We need to see whether all the services such as emergency care, routine surgeries are in fact happening. Outsourcing is not an issue; in fact, sometimes it is cost-effective, but even for that we need an external audit to see what is actually happening." He said the government needs to find a workaround to provide care at par with its autonomous Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences at a much lower cost.

Other than health infrastructure, the Delhi government also allocated Rs 160 crore for setting up a cloud-based Hospital Information Management System and a QR code-based e-health card. "This will help in identifying patients and getting basic information about their disease with geo-tagging. This system will also help in getting information about family trees, that is

family members," Sisodia said. There will also be a 24x7 toll-free helpline for cardholders to book appointments in Delhi hospitals.

The government also allocated Rs 15 crore for Aam Aadmi Yogshala. "450 yoga teachers trained by DPSRU, Government of Delhi, are teaching yoga daily to more than 15,000 people according to their time and convenience," Sisodia said.

Shailaja Chandra, former health secretary of Delhi, said, "Delhi already has a large network of public hospitals – more than any other city in India. That is not to criticise setting up more hospitals and mohalla clinics but the thrust on building infrastructure seen as a solution to reducing the incidence of diseases has left out public health and preventive health altogether. Delhi has the highest prevalence of lifestyle diseases topped by obesity even among kids. Investment in yoga is good but it is not enough to take care of the large proportion of people who are falling prey to hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. A few cycle tracks are just not enough when there aren't any pavements in most places even to walk."

"Pollution also affects health very adversely... The government must find ways to disincentive travelling alone in cars along with measures like congestion tax," she said.

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE OUTLAY for water supply and sanitation in the 2022-23 budget has seen an increase as compared to the previous financial year. The proposed outlay for this year is Rs 7,610 crore, around 10% of the total budget estimate for the year. In comparison, the outlay for the 2021-22 financial year was Rs 3,274 crore, which was 5% of the total budget outlay for that year.

A total of Rs 6,710 crore has been proposed for water supply and sanitation projects, with the outlay for water supply schemes being higher than that for sanitation. Water supply projects include rehabilitation of existing water treatment plants, replacement of the old distribution system, and managing leakage.

The outlay for water supply subsidies to the consumer is around Rs 602 crore. The water bills of around 6.5 lakh consumers are zero every month under the scheme of providing 20-kilo litres of free water per month.

The outlay for sewerage and drainage projects includes the state government funding for the third phase of the Yamuna Action Plan that aims at cleaning the river. The allocation to provide sewerage facilities in unauthorised colonies and interceptor sewers has also seen an

increase this year.

The budget also makes a provision of Rs 705 crore to revive the Najafgarh drain. Floating wetlands and aerators will be deployed in the drain to treat the water, and the area will be developed as a tourist destination.

In his budget speech, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia identified 24x7 clean drinking water and the clean Yamuna as "two more big dreams" that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has given to the people of Delhi. "Better management of water coming to Delhi from outside, and better harvesting of rainwater will ensure 24 hours water in the coming three years," he said. The work of "providing 100% sewer in unauthorised colonies" will be completed by the end of the year. He said that in two years "the Yamuna will be completely cleaned".

Manoj Misra, former Indian Forest Service officer and convenor of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan, said, "Any effort to improve the sewerage network is welcome. The claim to rejuvenate the Yamuna in two years will have to be taken with a pinch of salt. Taking care of the pollution load in the river is just one aspect of rejuvenating the river since it is an ecological challenge. But the only thing that is in the Delhi government's hands is to reduce the pollution load in the river. It should be good enough if that is taken care of."

## DU graduate jumps to death off flyover

**Gurgaon:** A 23-year-old woman died after allegedly jumping off Rajeev Chowk flyover in Gurgaon on Saturday afternoon. The reason for the alleged suicide is yet to be ascertained, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sapna, a resident of Hans Enclave in Gurgaon, police said. She was pursuing a professional certification course in management accounting and had done her graduation from DU.

According to police, the incident took place around 2.30 pm.

DCP (East) Virender Vij said, "It appears to be a case of suicide. She parked her scooter on the flyover and jumped off it. She suffered injuries on head and body and was rushed to a hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival. No suicide note has been recovered. Her family has been mentioned any reason for the death. The post-mortem will be conducted tomorrow." Police have initiated inquest proceedings under CrPc section 174. Police said she had some marks on her wrists suggesting that she had slit her wrists before jumping. **ENS**

## BJP versus CM as Kashmir Files row simmers in capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

SENIOR BJP leaders, MPs, and party workers led by state president Adesh Gupta staged a protest near the Delhi Vidhan Sabha against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's statements on the film *The Kashmir Files*, even as the latter said the BJP was politicising the plight of Kashmiri Pandits.

Former Union Health Minister and MP Harsh Vardhan said: "The development that took place in J&K in the past seven years has not happened in 60 years since Independence."

During a press conference after the budget, when asked about his statement on *The Kashmir Files*, Kejriwal said, "In the last 20-25 years since the Kashmiri Pandits' exodus, the BJP has been at the Centre for 13 years. In the last 8 years, the BJP has been in the Centre. Has even one family been rehabilitated in

Kashmir? No one. What the BJP has done is politicise the issue. And now they want to earn crores by making a movie on their pain. Over Rs 200 crores have been earned. We have two demands: put this movie on YouTube so everyone can watch it, and whatever has been earned should be used for the rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits. And second, concrete steps should be taken so that Kashmiri Pandits can go back to their homes."

On Kejriwal's statements on uploading *The Kashmir Files* on YouTube, MP Ramesh Bidhuri said, "Why has he not uploaded his advertisements and development works on YouTube?"

Addressing protesters, Gupta said Kejriwal, who "made fun" of Hindus and Kashmiri Pandits in the Assembly, will meet the same fate as the Congress, Lalu Prasad Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav.

"This is not the first time Kejriwal has shown his anti-Hindu mentality," he said.

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

DELHI UNIVERSITY'S Law Faculty Saturday cancelled a talk by senior advocate Prashant Bhushan on 'Challenges to The Indian Constitution' 20 minutes prior to the event, citing "unmanageable behaviour" by students. Bhushan, however, alleged there was pressure to cancel the event given the topic, and his stand against the current dispensation.

After he was denied entry to speak inside the Law Faculty campus, Bhushan ended up delivering a short lecture outside on the road. In a notice issued less than half an hour before the talk was scheduled at 11 am, Law Faculty Dean Usha Tandon said, "This is to notify that the permission to hold the program organised by some students of CLC (Campus Law Centre) relating to 'Challenges to Indian Constitution' to be held today stands cancelled. As per the decision of the meeting of the Committee on Seminar and



Bhushan delivered a short lecture outside, on the road

Conference Rooms Booking, the cancellation is in light of the developments and the unmanageable behaviour of the students since March 25..."

Vivek Raj, a student and one of the organisers, said: "We had permission to hold the event in the seminar hall. We had been asking for the key since yesterday evening but we were refused. We told them that the room has been closed for the last two years because of the pandemic, so we need the keys to clean the room and get it in order. We then started a protest, after which the authorities called the police."

"Yesterday during the ruckus, Deputy Proctor Gunjan Gupta told us that the decision was taken at the top to cancel the event. Today in the notice they are saying it's because of our behaviour," he alleged.

Asked for the reason behind cancellation, Gupta refused to comment, saying, "I'm not the right person. You should talk to the authorities." Proctor Rajni Abbi, a former Delhi mayor from the BJP, said the topic or Bhushan himself was not the reason for cancellation. "Yesterday the students created a ruckus. They had an altercation with police and misbehaved with me... I don't think in any reasonable manner we could have handed over the keys to them yesterday. If something untoward happened at night, if they got drunk, who would have been responsible? They created a huge problem in the library; they were banging doors. Because of this we decided to cancel. If students misbehave, they will not be allowed whether it is Prashant Bhushan or anyone else in the country," she said.

Asked if such a last-minute

decision was unfair to the speaker, Abbi said, "It is not fair to the speaker, but if some fight broke out at the event, who would have been responsible? The speaker, regardless of who it is, should also have thought that if permission was denied, should he have delivered the lecture there? He also did the wrong thing by standing on the road and delivering a lecture."

Bhushan said authorities had informally told the organising students that the talk would not be permitted. "Soon after they publicised the talk, the university authorities at the top must have received some instruction from their political bosses saying how can you allow Prashant Bhushan to give a talk here... I went today because it was my duty and responsibility to meet the students and talk to them, since their permission had been cancelled without any good reason."

"Today was a classic example that a speaker whose views are against this government will not be permitted to speak in this university," he said.

## 3 doctors in shortlist for AIIMS top job

**New Delhi:** Three doctors have been shortlisted to take over from Dr Randeep Guleria as the director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences. They include head of the AIIMS trauma centre and orthopaedic surgeon Dr Rajesh Malhotra, head of the department of endocrinology Dr Nikhil Tandon, and the executive director of (Translational Health Science and Technology Institute) and a professor of gastroenterology Dr Pramod Garg, according to officials in the know of the matter.

A four-member committee had received applications of 32 doctors, including 12 from within the institute for the position.

Dr Guleria was to complete on March 24, which was extended for a period of three months till the new director is finalised. "He will complete his tenure on 24.03.2022. President AIIMS is pleased to extend his tenure w.e.f. (with effect from) 25.03.2022 by three months or by the time new Director is appointed, whichever is earlier," an internal memorandum said. **ENS**



New Delhi





# Govt & Politics

## Congress to run three-phase campaign against price rise from March 31

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE CONGRESS on Saturday announced a three-phased campaign — ‘Mehngai-mukt Bharat Abhiyaan’ — against price rise, under which it will organise rallies and marches across the country from March 31 to April 7.

Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference here that in the first phase of the campaign, Congress workers and others would protest outside their houses and at public places on March 31.

He said people would garland LPG cylinders, beat drums and ring bells to highlight the issue of inflation and seek to draw the attention of the “deaf BJP government against the insurmountable increase in the prices of cooking gas, petrol and diesel”.

“The Congress president, in consultation with the general secretaries and state in-charges, has decided to champion the people’s cause in a three-phased programme — Mehngai-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan,” he said.

From April 2 to April 4, the Congress, along with NGOs, religious and social organisations, and resident welfare bodies, will organise dharmas and marches at the district level across the country, he added.

On April 7, the party will organise “Mehngai-mukt Bharat” dharmas and marches at all state headquarters, Surjewala said.

“The people of India have been betrayed, duped and deceived by the Modi government. After keeping the prices of petrol, diesel, gas cylinders, piped natural gas and CNG unchanged for 137 days to secure the votes of people, the last one week has been a nightmare for every household,” he added.

## ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS MP WINS SANSAD RATNA AWARD

*New Delhi:* Andaman and Nicobar Islands MP Kuldeep Rai Sharma was awarded the Sansad Ratna Award 2022 in New Delhi on Saturday, Sharma said the award is recognition of his hard work in his constituency. He said he has also worked towards the rights of children in the area. The award was given by Chief Election Commissioner of India, Sushil Chandra, in the presence of Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal. **ENS**

## Akhilesh appointed UP Leader of Opp: ‘Our goal is to fight for issues of people’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 26

SAMAJWADI PARTY chief Akhilesh Yadav, who quit his Lok Sabha membership to stay as MLA, was on Saturday appointed Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Earlier in the day, he was elected leader of the SP legislature party at a meeting of the party legislators in Lucknow.

The SP is the largest Opposition party in the 403-member Assembly with 111 MLAs. With six MLAs of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party and eight MLAs of the Rashtriya Lok Dal, the SP-led alliance has 125 seats.

“Akhilesh Yadav, a member of the UP Legislative Assembly and leader of Samajwadi Party is ap-



Akhilesh Yadav with newly elected SP MLAs. *PTI*

pointed Leader of Opposition... Under Section 1(h) of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Members Emoluments and Pension) Act 1980,” Principal Secretary (UP Vidhan Sabha Secretariat) Pradeep Dubey said.

“We are taking the pledge that the goal of the Samajwadi Party’s ‘111’ is to fight for the issues of people,” Akhilesh tweeted in Hindi.

Akhilesh had won from

Karhal constituency in Mainpuri district in the recently concluded Assembly elections in the state. He had defeated Union minister and BJP leader SP Baghel by over 60,000 votes. On Tuesday, he had resigned as Azamgarh MP.

The meeting of SP MLAs in which Akhilesh was elected leader of the SP legislature party, meanwhile, brought to fore the differences between Akhilesh

and his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav. “Though I am an MLA from SP, I was not invited to the meeting. I tried to contact SP leaders but I have not got any information about it...” said Shivpal.

After being at loggerheads since 2017, the uncle-nephew duo had decided to bury their differences ahead of the Assembly elections. Shivpal, who had formed a new party after quitting the SP in 2017, won from his traditional Jaswant Nagar seat in Etawah on an SP ticket this time. Asked about Shivpal’s absence in the meeting, SP state president Naresh Uttam Patel said, “Only SP MLAs were called for today’s meeting. On March 28, a meeting of MLAs of the alliance partners, irrespective of whether they had contested on ‘bicycle’ (SP symbol) or their party symbols, will be held...”

## MoD nod for setting up 21 new Sainik schools; academic session to begin in May

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

WITH AN aim to establish 100 new Sainik schools across the country in a partnership model, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Saturday approved the setting up of 21 such schools, in partnership with NGOs, private schools or state governments.

The academic session for these new schools is scheduled to begin in the first week of May.

“The objectives behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of setting up 100 new Sainik schools is to provide quality education to students in tune with the National Education Policy and give them better career opportunities, including in the Armed Forces. It also gives an opportunity to the private sector to work hand-in-hand with the government towards nation building,” a press release from the MoD read.

Unlike the existing Sainik schools that are completely residential, seven will be day schools and the rest will have residential arrangements.

Besides their affiliation to the respective education boards, the schools will function under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society and will follow the rules and regulations in partnership mode prescribed by the society.

## ODISHA

## BJD sweeps urban local body polls

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 26

THE BJU Janata Dal won the urban local body (ULB) elections in Odisha by a landslide, clinching all three corporations and 73 other ULBs. This came just weeks after the party swept to victory in rural polls, forming zilla parishads in all 30 districts in the state.

Elections were held in a total of 109 ULBs, including 105 notified area councils (NACs) and municipalities, and counting was held on Saturday. Counting for Dhamnagar NAC was postponed pending re-polling in some booths due to disruptions

## Govt extends PMGKAY for six more months

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE CENTRE on Saturday extended for six months its free food grain scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the popularity of which is considered as one of the factors playing a significant role in the BJP’s return to power in Uttar Pradesh.

In a statement, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has decided to extend the PMGKAY till September 2022 in “keeping with the concern and sensitivity towards poor and vulnerable sections of society”.

Later in the evening, the Prime Minister tweeted, “The strength of India lies in the power of every citizen of the country. To further strengthen this power, the government has decided to continue the PMGKAY for six more months till September 2022.”

Under the scheme, 5 kg of food grains (wheat, rice, coarse grain) is provided to each beneficiary each month free of cost. The beneficiaries are those covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

About 80 crore beneficiaries are covered under the scheme and the quantity provided under

FREE FOOD GRAIN SCHEME: PREVIOUS 5 PHASES			
Phase	Period	Allocation (Lakh MT)	Financial Implication (Rs crore)
Phase-I	April-June, 2020	121	46,061
Phase-II	July-Nov, 2020	201	76,062
Phase-III	May-June 2021	79.39	26603
Phase-IV	July-Nov 2021	198.78	66279
Phase-V	Dec, 21-Mar 2022	159.05	53344
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 months</b>	<b>759.22</b>	<b>268349</b>

the scheme is over and above their entitlements under the NFSA.

This will be the 6th phase of the PMGKAY. Phase-V of the scheme was to end in March 2022. The Centre had launched the PMGKAY in April 2020 during the first wave of Covid-19.

Describing the PMGKAY as the world’s “largest food security programme”, the ministry said, “The government has spent approximately Rs 2.60 lakh crore so far and another Rs 80,000 crore will be spent over the next 6 months till September 2022 taking the total expenditure under PM-GKAY to nearly Rs 3.40 lakh crore.”

“This will cover nearly 80 crore beneficiaries across India and like before would be fully funded by the Government of India,” the ministry said.

Giving the reasons for extending the scheme, it said, “Even though the Covid-19 pandemic

has significantly abated and economic activities are gathering momentum, this PM-GKAY extension would ensure that no poor household goes to bed without food during this time of recovery.”

“Under the extended PM-GKAY each beneficiary will get additional 5 kg free ration per person per month in addition to his normal quota of foodgrains under the NFSA. This means that every poor household would get nearly double the normal quantity of ration,” it said.

According to the ministry, the government had allocated about 759 LMT of free food grains under the PMGKAY till Phase 5.

“With another 244 LMT of free foodgrains under this extension (Phase 6), the aggregate allocation of free food grains under the PM-GKAY now stand at 1,003 LMT of food grains,” the ministry said.

## After Uttarakhand, all states should implement Uniform Civil Code, says Giriraj

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, MARCH 26

UNION MINISTER Giriraj Singh on Saturday said Bihar and other states should try to implement Uniform Civil Code as announced by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

Keeping one of the pre-poll promises, Dhami’s Cabinet earlier this week announced that a committee of experts will be formed on Uniform Civil Code. If implemented, Uttarakhand will be the second state in the country to do so after Goa.

“We thank Dhamiji... Every state of the country should implement it [Uniform Civil Code]. Let it be one-state, one-law,” Singh told reporters here.

When asked about possible resistance from ally JD (U) and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar towards any such bid, the Union minister said, “This country has always believed in ‘Sarve Santu Niramaya’ and ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ and, thus, has always believed in secularism. What some people are following now is political secularism.”

The BJP Begusarai MP, who recently upset ally JD(U) by saying that Hindus are not safe in Begusarai following a crime incident, said: “I will try to speak up for rights of Hindus. I have been talking about law on population control. I do not know the party line but I will continue to speak my mind.”

Although Chouhan’s supporters deny that Madhya Pradesh is following in the footsteps of its neighbouring state, several times in the past Madhya Pradesh has adopted laws and policies first enacted in UP — from the Freedom to Religion Act, 2021, to the Property Recovery Act, an MP Anti-Gangster Bill has been proposed on the lines of the UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## ‘Accountability law a chance for Opp to back positive reform agenda’

LAST MONTH, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced his government’s intention to enact the Rajasthan Guaranteed Right to Services and Accountability Law that civil society organisations have been demanding for quite some time. In an interview with **HARIKISHAN SHARMA**, the Soochna Evm Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan’s (SR Abhiyan) **ARUNA ROY** and **NIKHIL DEY**, who started pushing for this law through the statewide Jawabdehi Yatra, explain the need for an accountability law in India. Excerpts:



Nikhil Dey

**How are you reaching out to the people right now? Will you restart the Yatra?**

We ended with the declaration that the Yatra is temporarily suspended but the Andolan continues... After the Rajasthan Assembly commenced its Budget session, the SR Abhiyan began a dharna in Jaipur with the dual objective of demanding a law in the Budget session as well as educating people about the proposed Act and its importance. We have been encouraged by the fact that the chief minister reiterated during his Budget speech on February 23 the government’s intention to pass the Rajasthan Guaranteed Right to Services and Accountability Law.

**Why do we need an accountability law? Do we need to make constitutional provisions for it?**

The accountability law flows clearly from the



Aruna Roy

Constitution...The Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice that examined the Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011, which was the first legislative attempt to define citizens’ rights to grievance redress, clearly stated it.

**Does the draft law cover all government servants or a section of the lower bureaucracy?**

The law covers any functional and body involved in the delivery of public services, or is acting on behalf of the state in the delivery of goods or services, or fulfilling other state responsibility. Thereby it covers public-private partnerships, sub-contractors etc. The law is leveraging the existing supervisory structure to enforce accountability.

**Do you want a separate accountability law for each**

**state or a uniform law for the entire country?**

Like RTI, this is a subject that can be legislated either centrally or in the states. We began the campaign for an accountability law and grievance redress together at the state and Centre...

**If Rajasthan enacts the accountability law, will you undertake the yatra in other states?**

Absolutely! Many campaigns and networks from different states have already reached out to the SR Abhiyan for organising public discussions on the need for an accountability law at the state level. In the current political framework, it is essential for the Opposition to not just react to the BJP’s politics of hate but also to demonstrate a positive and constructive agenda of reform that upholds democratic participation and citizen-centric governance. The accountability law is such an opportunity.

**If the Centre does not respond positively to your demands, will you campaign for such a law?**

The hope is also that the law in Rajasthan will force the Centre to respond more positively to such a demand that is bound to grow in different parts of India...We believe that this law is an essential part of a participatory democratic framework, as long as people would fight to protect democracy they will campaign persistently and actively for a law of this nature.

**FULL INTERVIEW ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## Explained Ruling BJD strengthens its hand

THE BJD’S landslide wins in the rural and urban polls hold importance with Assembly and general elections just two years away. The previous major elections in the state had seen BJP make strong inroads, challenging BJD’s prospects in the state. The recent results, however, have placed BJD in a decisive position with neither BJP nor Congress making a significant impact.

## After success of ‘Bulldozer Baba’ in UP, ‘Bulldozer Mama’ rolls into MP politics

**IRAM SIDDIQUE**  
BHOPAL, MARCH 26

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was bestowed with the sobriquet “Bulldozer Baba” during the campaign for the recently concluded elections in the state. First mentioned by the Samajwadi Party as a jibe, the BJP decided to adopt the moniker and promote it as an affirmation of the Adityanath government’s policy of using the machine to raze illegal properties of criminals.

The campaign paid off as the BJP returned to power in UP in a convincing fashion. Now, the sobriquet seems to have found a space in the political discourse in Madhya Pradesh as the saffron



Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

party tries to build up Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as someone who is tough on crime.

The term “Bulldozer Mama” made its appearance earlier this week when BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma placed a row of bulldozers outside his government bungalow in Bhopal along with a hoarding that read, “*Beti ki suraksha mein jo banega rora, mama ka bulldozer banega hathora* (Uncle CM’s bulldozer will hammer those who impede the security of our daughters).”

The hoarding was put up after the district administrations in Sheopur, Seoni, and Shahdol razed the houses of three rape-accused, and, on March 18, Raisen district officials demolished the allegedly illegal homes and shops of some Muslims named in an FIR filed following their clash with some Adivasis.

On March 23, as the BJP government completed two years in power, Chouhan visited Sharma’s home and was greeted with chants of “Bulldozer Mama (uncle) Zindabad”. The CM seemed to relish the sobriquet and later thanked the MLA in a tweet, saying, “Uncle’s bulldozer has always worked. It won’t stop till all criminals are swept away. We won’t spare anti-social elements.”

State BJP president V D Sharma told *The Indian Express*, “The state under the leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan has always dealt with criminals with an iron fist and he will continue to do so.”

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**



IN THE COURT OF THE XXXVIII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT HOSKOTE  
C.N.O.4408/2016

**BETWEEN : COMPLAINANT :  
Mr. IRIS COMPUTERS LIMITED  
AND : ACCUSED :  
PG. MICRO SYSTEMS PVT LTD.  
NOTICE OF PROCLAMATION WARRANT TO  
THE ACCUSED**

1. **PG. MICRO SYSTEM PVT LTD.**,  
SCP-22 Sector-14 Market, Near Huda Office,  
Gurgaon, Haryana Rep its Directors.  
2. **SANJAY JAIN**, Director, Authorized  
Signatories, PG.Micro System Pvt Ltd, SCP-22,  
Sector -14 Market, Near Huda Office, Gurgaon,  
Haryana, and Also at: C-66/8, Majlis Park,  
Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi - 110033.  
3. **RAJESH KUMAR PANDEY**, Director,  
PG.Micro System Pvt Ltd., C-13, Gali No.5,  
Majlis Park, Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi-110033.  
Take notice that, the complainant has instituted  
the above case against you under section 138 of  
N.I. Act, hence you are hereby directed to appear  
in person or through a pleader on **30.03.2022 at  
11 AM** before this court to answer the said claim.  
Take notice that in default of your appearance, the  
above case will be heard and consequences will  
follow:  
Given under my hand and the seal of the court  
this **25th day of march 2022.**  
By Order of the Court, Sheristadar  
XXXVIII A.C.M.M., Court, Bangalore.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

e-tender Notice No. 87 of 2021-22 (Open)-  
Engg/DDU. On line (through e-tendering)  
for the following work is invited by DRM/  
Engg/DDU for and 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.  
(i) Tender No. 72-DDU-SR DEN-II-21-22,  
Name of work with its location : Balance  
work of FOB and raising of UP & DN PF from  
RL to HL at PRY station in GC section under  
ADEN/Gaya. (ii) Advertised Value :  
₹2,14,49,321.32, (iii) Earnest Money :  
₹2,57,300/-, (iv) Closing Date & time for  
submission of e-tender : 14.04.2022, Up-to  
12:00 hrs. 5. Website particulars of e-  
tendering : www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager/  
ECR/Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya  
PR/01891/DDU/Engg./T/21-22/32

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

OPEN TENDER Batch No. 112/21 dated : 25.03.2022  
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials-"participation in through" web portal of IREPS-  
www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time  
for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.

S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Published on/time	Closing on
01	11210003B	Inhibited mineral insulating oil	71555 Ltrs.	10.03.22/23:45:31	18.04.22
02	04225003B	Bolster assembly complete with bolster web stiffener	300 Nos.	16.03.22/13:15:14	25.04.22
03	03210119	Motor for traction motor cooling blower for locomotive	30 Nos.	21.03.22/12:05:03	18.04.22

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS-  
www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and  
detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the  
above portal.  
PR/01895/HQ/Store/T/21-22/48 Principal Chief Material Manager/ECR/Hajipur

**Office of the Superintending Engineer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle, P.W.D., NAINITAL-263002**

phone/Fax:- 05942-235728/232030 E-mail: sepwdat@rediffmail.com

फ़ोन/फैक्स 904/ 41-एम्-02/21-22 दिनांक 26.03.2022

**शुद्धि-पत्र**  
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 100/41 एम्-02/2021-22 दिनांक 06.01.2022 द्वारा आमंत्रित  
राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक ई-निविदा जो कि दिनांक 12.01.2022 को अपलोड होगी थी, दिनांक  
08.01.2022 से आदर्श आचार संहिता लागू होने के कारण अपलोड करने की प्रक्रिया अग्रिम  
आदेशों तक स्थगित की गयी थी। वर्तमान में आदर्श आचार संहिता समाप्त हो चुकी है। अतः  
कार्य की राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक ई-निविदा (E-Tendering) दिनांक 30.03.2022 से  
<https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पोर्टल पर ऑन लाईन उपलब्ध होगी।  
निविदा से संबंधित अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

हस्ता/-  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
द्वितीय वृत्त, लोनीगिरी,  
नैनीताल

**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

Ro.No.- 99 Tender Notice Dated:- 26.03.2022  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-II) SHP, Maneri, Uttarkashi  
invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of  
tenders is given below :  
Tender No: 01/EE(Civil-II)/SHP/Maneri/2022-23  
Name of work:- Annual M&R of Pilangad-I (2x1125 Kw) SHP in  
Bhatwari, Distt- Uttarkashi.  
Estimated cost : Rs.24,25,656.47 (Excluding GST)  
Date of availability of bid document on website : 28.03.2022  
Last Date for submission of bids; 26.04.2022  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender  
document can be downloaded from the nigram website  
"www.ujvn.com" Executive Engineer (Civil-II)SHP, Maneri  
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**NIDAR UTILITIES PANVEL LLP**  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Knowledge Park, Hiranandani Business Park,  
Powai, Mumbai - 400 076, Maharashtra, India. [www.tuco.in](http://www.tuco.in)

**Nidar Utilities Panvel LLP**, a Distribution Licensee invites e-  
tenders against the Tender Specification No. NUPLLP/Short/22-23/ET/25 at [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)  
for purchase of Short-Term power upto 5.50 MW RTC for the  
period 16 April 2022 to 31 July 2022 as per the  
guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of  
India dated 30 March 2016 and amendments thereof.  
The tender documents will be available to the Bidders only  
through e-tender website viz.[www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).  
Bids are to be submitted on [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) only  
and the hard copy of the Technical Bid is to be submitted on  
the above mentioned address. All the other details, terms &  
conditions are mentioned in the tender document.

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Sd/-  
Authorised Signatory

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 32/P-69/2021-22/TMC/HQ/**  
**NCR/Prayagraj Dt. 23.03.2022**

**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Central  
Railway, Subedarganj, Prayagraj-211015, invites the following E-Procurement  
Tenders:  
(The complete information along with tender document of this E-Procurement  
Tender are available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> upto 15:00 hrs. of the  
due date of tender opening).

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Tender Value	Earnest Money
1.	TMC 1332122	Various type of Hydraulic Pump. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document [Acceptable Make: Plasser, Veljan Denison, Parker-Denison Only]	₹ 10,29,990/-	₹ 20,600/-
2.	TMC 1342122	Cutting Chain Assembly Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document [Acceptable Make: Plasser or Equivalent]	₹ 98,97,951/-	₹ 1,98,000/-
<b>Quantity</b>		For Sl. No. 1 & 2: As per Section IV of tender document		
<b>Date of Opening:</b>		For Sl. No. 1 & 2: 22.04.2022		

**Note.-** 1. The complete information along with Tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available on website <http://ireps.gov.in> upto 15:00 hrs. On the due date of tender opening. 2. Following condition has been included in Tender Document vide Railway Board Letter No. 2001/RS(G)/779/7 Pt I Dated: 29.06.2017 "Whenever tender is floated with purchase restriction from sources approved by nominated authorities and there exists a suspected cartel situation by approved sources or the rates available from approved/sources are adjudged unreasonably high, despite fair efforts as permissible, the purchaser reserves the right to place order on firms outside the approved vendors list, without any restrictions." 3. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 4. This tender notice has also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). 5. Allocation for Security deposit and Earnest money is "Deposit Misc Stores 00844523. 6. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 320/22(R)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRO NCR

**PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION, CHANDIGARH**  
SCO 74-75, BANK SQUARE, SECTOR-17B, CHANDIGARH  
E-mail : ctopswc@punjab.gov.in  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
TENDER No.: PSWC/CTO/2021-22/05  
Punjab State Warehousing Corporation invites online bids for the selection of  
"Information Technology Service Provider" on contract basis for providing IT related  
services.  
Closing date and time 18.04.2022 at 2.00 pm  
For details log on to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
Note : Any addendum(s)/Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.  
Managing Director

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता  
(परियोजना) जन स्वां अभिं विभाग, भरतपुर  
E-mail:- acepbpr@gmail.com

**संशोधन क्रमांक 05 निविदा सूचना सं 03/2021-22**

इस कार्यालय की निविदा सं. 03/2021-22 में संशोधन करते हुए निविदा दिनांक 06.04.2022 का सांघ 6.00 बजे तक आनलाईन सबमिट की जाकर दिनांक 7.04.2022 को खोली जावेगी। पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं SPPP पर उपलब्ध है।

UBN No. - PHE2122WLOB13697 हस्ता:-

अधि. अभि. एवं तक सहा.  
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता (परि.)  
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, भरतपुर

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Bhavana, D/o Sohan Lal, R/O B-802 Jwala Puri, Camp No-4, Delhi. Age : 19 years, Height : 4'3", Complexion-Fair, Face-Round, Wearing-Blue colour Top and Black Colour Jeans has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi, since 17.01.2022 in this regard a case vide DD No. 71A dated 18.01.2022 has been registered at PS. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.  
E-mail : cicc@cbi.gov.in SHO  
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi  
Fax : 011-23011334 DP/155/OD/2022 Ph : 011-25268394, 25280980

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely Gaurav Sharma, S/o Devender Kumar, R/o F-20/86, Second Floor Sec-15, Rohini, Delhi. Age : 41 years, Height : 5'10.5", Complexion-Wheatish, Face-Oval, Built-Healthy, Wearing-Black colour round Neck T-Shirt & Blue colour striped pant and chappal in his feet has been missing from the area of PS. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi, since 17.03.2022 at 6.30PM. In this regard a DD No. 7A dated 18.03.2022 has been registered at PS. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.  
E-mail : cicc@cbi.gov.in SHO  
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi  
Fax : 011-23011334 DP/1370/RD/2022 Ph : 011-27571162, 8750870327

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Dy. CEE/JUDW acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 56-W/Elect/19-20/T/04/RT/GSW. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & can be seen/downloaded. The Tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards Tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net Banking/Debit/Credit Cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual/offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.

Name of work	Lighting and Wiring arrangement of stores Depot, JUDW to be developed as Model Depot		
Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Single Packet System
Tender Sale Closing Date	21.04.2022 at 15:30 hrs.	Date Time of Upload Tender	30.03.2022
Pre-Bid Required	No	Pre-Bid Query till date	N.A.
Advertisement Value	₹47,09,477/- including all taxes GST etc.	Tendering Section	Tender & Works/ Electrical branch Jagadhari Workshop
Earnest Money	₹94,200/-	Validity of offer	45 Days
Tender Document Cost	NIL (as per Part-I clause No. 3 of Indian Railways GCC July 2020)	Period of Completion	90 Days
Bidding Start Date	15 Days before opening of tender as per IREPS provisions	Bidding End Date	21.04.2022 upto 15:30 hrs.
Tender Opening date & time	At any time thereafter 15:35 hrs. on dt. 21.04.2022. The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserve the right to open the tender at any time after closing of tender.		
No.: 56-W/Elect/19-20/T/04/RT/GSW		Dated: 26.03.2022	

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
E-Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-031-2021-22 Sr. Div. Sig. & Telecomm. Engineer/Works, North Central Railway, Prayagraj

**E-Tender Notice**

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Coordination / North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite **E-TENDER** on prescribed form for the following works upto 12:00 hrs. on the opening date of E-Tender mentioned therein. The details of the Tender are as under:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of Work (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Completion Period	Date of Opening of Tender
1	031	S & T work in connection with construction of ROB in lieu of LC-10'C on MNJ-BRE section & LC-72 'C' at railway Km. 997 / 13-15 at SSL station of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway.	6362117/-	127300/-	0/-	06 Months	21.04.22
<b>2 Availability of tender form:</b> Tender forms are available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>							
<b>Earnest Money to be deposited :</b> The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through Internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Earnest Money in any other form than specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenders without earnest money shall be summarily rejected.							
<b>Time &amp; Place of Opening of Tender:</b> Tender will be opened through E-Tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj at or after 12:30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day.							
<b>5 Validity of offer :</b> 45 days from the date of opening.							
<b>6 Right of Railway to deal with tender:</b> Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons. 332/22 (P)							
North central railway		<a href="http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>		@ CPRONCR			

IS 15700:2018 उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद  
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, वृन्दावन वृत्त,  
भूतल, हस्त सं-2, अग्रिम कार्यवेत्ता, वृन्दावन रोडना,  
लखनऊ-226029, ई-मेल: circlevrinda@upavp.in  
सं-0-714/एम-22/06 दिनांक: 26.03.2022  
**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
वृन्दावन वृत्त के अधीन ई-निविदा सूचना सं 713/एम-22/05 दिनांक 26.03.2022 द्वारा "Operation & Maintenance of 37.50 MLD STP based on Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Technology at Sector-10B, Vrindavan Yojna No-2, Lucknow" की ई-निविदा दिनांक 12.04.2022 (सांघ 05:00 बजे तक) आमंत्रित की गयी है। ई-निविदा का विवरण परिषद की वेबसाइट <https://upavp.in> एवं ई-निविदा <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

**कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा अधीक्षक, कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा चिकित्सालय पाण्डु नगर कानपुर।**

:- अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना :-

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा चिकित्सालय पाण्डु नगर कानपुर में वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-2023 हेतु अथवा नया ठेका होने तक चिकित्सालय में स्थानीय कर्म के माध्यम से औषधियों की आपूर्ति हेतु सरकारी संस्थानों में आपूर्ति करने वाले अनुभवी, वैलिड ड्रग लाइसेंस धारक, औषधि विक्रेताओं से तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय पक्ष निविदायें अलग-अलग सीलबन्ध लिफाफे में दिनांक 08.04.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 10:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 12:00 बजे चिकित्सालय की गतिविधि समिति के समक्ष खोली जायेंगी। तकनीकी पक्ष में सफल होने वाली फर्मों की ही वित्तीय पक्ष की निविदाओं पर विचार किया जाएगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रश्न, शर्तें एवं अन्य माप्यताओं आदि की सूची दिनांक 01.04.2022 से 05.04.2022 तक किसी भी कार्यदिवस में प्रातः 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक चिकित्सालय के कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकेंगी। निविदा प्रश्न रूपया 300.00 (तीन सौ रुपये मात्र) के नकद भुगतान पर प्राप्त किया जा सकेंगी। किसी कारणवश कार्यालय बन्द/अवकाश होने की दशा में यह निविदा अगले कार्यदिवस में उसी समय डाली व खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रश्न को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को होगा।

UPID-174325 Date-25.03.2022  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-4**  
**ROOM NO. 307, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHANDEWALAN**  
**KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005**

**Corrigendum No. 1-to NIT No-03/EE (P) SR.II (2021-22)**

In reference to above said NIT it is hereby inform that the date has been extended on 01.04.2022.

Other term and condition of tender shall remain the same.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1312 (2021-22) Dy. S.E (P) SR.II

**STOP CORONA, 1. Wash Your Hands 2. Wear Mask 3. Maintain Social Distance**

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Directorate of Floriculture Srinagar Kashmir**  
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 - email: - kashflori@rediffmail.com  
GIST OF Fresh e-Tender Notice No. 66 of 2022  
Dated:- 26/03/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for **Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Lidder View Park, Pahalgam** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below:-  
The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ:-

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit	Cost of tender document
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	4,42,000.00	44,200.00	200/- in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website [www.dirflorimr.in](http://www.dirflorimr.in) / [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	26.03.2022 from 03:00 PM to 15.04.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	26.03.2022 from 04:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	15.04.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	18.04.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidder. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited. In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/-  
Accounts Officer,  
Member Secretary

DIPK-20083/21

**GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEALTH DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
(Telefax: 0194-2496089, E-mail ID: xennmhchdk@yahoo.in)  
Gist of e-tender

**NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/375/e-tendering Dated:-25.03.2022**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost. (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rupees)	EMD Amount (in Rupees)	Time of Completion (in Days)	AA Accorded Vido No:	TS No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Replacement of Faulty After-Cooler Assembly of 750 KVA (Cummins Make) DG Set no.03 at Govt. Super Specialty Hospital, Srinagar.	5.51	200	11000	3	MC/Plan/ 7631-33, Dt:16.03. 2022	MED/K/TS/ 216, Dt: 23-03-2022

- Downloading of Bids:-** The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from **25.03.2022 (18.00 hrs)** and can be downloaded from **25.03.2022 (18.00 hrs)**.
- Uploading:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site **26.03.2022 (10.00 hrs)** to **31.03.2022 (14:00hrs)** in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :-** The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 31.03.2022 at 16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of **Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar**

MHCHD/TS/13093-98  
Dt:-25-03-2022  
DIPK-20057/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar

**ARC, DG (S) CABINET SECRETARIAT**

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED ON PLAIN PAPER FOR SALE OF VEHICLES "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".

1.	DL-12C-5582	Maruti SX4, 2011	5000/-
2.	DL-12C-5066	Ambassdor Car, 2011	5000/-
3.	DL-1V-0594	Tata Mini Bus,1988	5000/-
4.	DL-12C-8180	Ambassdor Car, 2012	5000/-



# EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### JHARKHAND Three Maoists shot in Latehar

*Ranchi:* Three Maoists were shot dead by the security forces at a forest in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Saturday, police said. The Maoists belonged to Triiya Prastuti Committee (TPC). "As per preliminary information, it was known that among the three deceased, one was sub-zonal commander" and another was area commander of the banned outfit," police said. **PTI**

### MADHYA PRADESH EOW raids teacher's house

*Gwalior:* A government school teacher, whose house was raided by the Economic Offences Wing of Madhya Pradesh police on Saturday for alleged disproportionate assets, has turned out to be the owner of 20 colleges, an official said. The raids were carried out at the house and other premises of Prashant Parmar, he added. **PTI**

### UTTAR PRADESH Four held for video of Som

*Meerut:* Four men have been arrested in Meerut for allegedly creating and sharing an objectionable video featuring former Sardhana legislator Sangeet Som on social media. Police team has been sent to Telangana to arrest a cloth vendor, said to be the main accused. **ENS**

### NHRC ORDER TO U.P.

### 5 years after 'frame-up', journalist gets Rs 2 lakh relief

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 26

MORE THAN five years after a handcuffed journalist was paraded and humiliated with casteist slurs by the Etah police in public, the Uttar Pradesh government has given a Rs 2-lakh compensation to him on the direction of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The human rights body also ordered departmental inquiry against police personnel who implicated journalist Sunil Kumar in a molestation case.

"We paid Rs 2 lakh to Sunil Kumar as directed by the NHRC. The inquiry into the matter is going on and departmental action will be taken against cops if found guilty," said Additional Superintendent of Police, Etah, Dhyananjay Singh Kushwaha, adding that the amount will be recovered from the police personnel responsible for the act.

In a complaint to the NHRC, Sunil Kumar (35), who works for a local news channel, said he was framed by the police in a case related to molestation of a girl after he conducted a sting operation in which a few police personnel were seen taking money from vehicles loaded with animals.

## SC restrains Tripura police from acting against students who tweeted on violence

**DEBRAJ DEB**  
AGARTALA, MARCH 26

THE SUPREME Court has restrained the Tripura Police from taking any action against four students who had posted on social media against the alleged communal violence in the state last year.

A Bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant Friday heard four separate petitions and issued the order, tagging them all with rest of the petitioners who sought recourse from the Supreme Court.

"Pending further orders, there shall be a stay of further proceedings in case dated November 3, 2021, West

## Minority tag for Hindus: SC hearing on March 28, govt yet to file counter-affidavit

Plea says Hindus in minority in 7 states, one UT, but can't avail of schemes for them

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G.**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE UNION government is yet to file its counter affidavit in the Supreme Court in a petition which has raised the politically sensitive prayer to identify minorities at the state level as laid down in the 2002 TMA Pai case and grant minority status to Hindus in states where their numbers are lesser. Censured by the top court last time for dragging its feet in the matter, the BJP-led government has instead sought to shift the onus of dealing with the question from one ministry to another.

On January 7, an SC bench of Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh had given the Centre four weeks as "last opportunity" to reply to the petition filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay in August 2020.

As the Centre failed to file any response even after this, the SC on January 31 imposed a cost of Rs

7,500 on it, to be deposited with the SC Bar Association Advocates Welfare Fund and gave it one "further opportunity" of four weeks.

Conveying its displeasure, the Bench also told Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, who appeared for the Centre, "You have to take a stand".

"Definitely we will take a stand. It is almost ready. Only because of the (Covid-19) situation we could not get it signed," the law officer had replied.

But with the matter due for hearing again on March 28, an Office Report drawn up by the SC Registry has noted that no counter-affidavit has been filed, though the January 31 order was communicated to all the three respondents – Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Law and Justice and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

"The counsel for the Ministry of Minority Affairs has neither filed counter affidavit nor submitted proof of depositing Rs 7,500 with the Supreme Court Bar Association Advocates Welfare Fund, to date,"

said the March 25 report, adding that no one had even filed "vakalatnama" on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. It added that "however, an office memorandum... dated October 9, 2020, from Rajendra Kumar Bharti, Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs... has been received stating therein that the subject matter of the... petition is related to the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004, and the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, which comes under the purview of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Minority Affairs, respectively. As MHA... has no role to play in the matter, it is requested that Ministry of Minority Affairs... may deal with the matter in consultation with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Law and Justice... and also protect the interest of MHA in the writ petition".

Upadhyay had moved the SC with his prayer first in 2017 and sought quashing of the October 23, 1993 government notification issued under Section 2(c) of the National Minorities Commission (NCM) Act declaring Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis as 'minority'. He said Jains were also added to the list in 2014, but not Hindus, though they are minority in seven states and one union territory, as per 2011 Census.

The SC then asked him to approach the NCM which took the stand that it "does not have the jurisdiction to deal with the prayer..." and that under Section 2(c) of the NCM Act, only the centre can declare a community as a 'minority'. Upadhyay again moved the SC where a bench headed by then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi sought the assistance of Attorney General K K Venugopal.

But by the time it was listed next for hearing, CJI Gogoi had demitted office and the new Bench headed by his successor CJI S A Bobde dismissed the plea without assigning any reasons.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## Militants barge into SPO's home, kill him

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 26

SUSPECTED MILITANTS on Saturday killed a Special Police Officer (SPO) and wounded his brother in a shootout in Central Kashmir's Budgam.

On Saturday evening, militants barged into the house of the SPO Ishfaq Ahmad at Chadbugh village of Budgam and fired indiscriminately on him. In the shootout, the police officer and his brother were critically wounded.

Both were taken to a hospital in Srinagar where doctors declared the SPO dead on arrival. The SPO's brother is in critical condition, they said.

"SPO Ishfaq Ahmad and his younger brother Umar Jan (a student) were fired upon by terrorists at their residence in village Chadbugh area of Budgam. However, Ishfaq Ahmad succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom. Area cordoned off, search operation in progress," the police said in a tweet.

Kashmir Valley has seen a sudden spurt in militants attacks this month. This is the third incident in Central Kashmir's Budgam in past fortnight. On March 10, suspected militants abducted and killed Army soldier Sameer Ahmad Malla from Lokipora village of Budgam. Malla, who was posted in Jammu, was home on leave when he was abducted on March 8. His body was found two days later.

## IIT Madras scholar alleges sexual assault, 8 booked

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
CHENNAI, MARCH 26

A RESEARCH scholar at the IIT Madras accused her fellow scholar of sexually assaulting her repeatedly and also harassing her at work place along with his accomplices, including two of her professors, for nearly four years after she joined the institution in 2016.

The institute said it was "coop-

erated with the investigating authorities" and that it has extended "all support" to the victim during the external investigation, even after her scholarship period ended.

Apart from the physical and mental trauma at the institution and during a trip to Coorg, the scholar was prevented from using the laboratory equipment to work on her thesis, the woman claimed.

The police have filed a case, naming eight persons in the FIR.

## MP varsity probes 'namaz by student on campus'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BHOPAL, MARCH 26

FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS from a right-wing group, a university in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district is looking into a video of a student allegedly offering namaz on the campus.

Harisingh Gour Central University has constituted a six-member committee to inquire into the alleged incident. A video that purports to show this has been shared widely.

University registrar Santosh Sohgaara said: "The six-member committee will make its recommendations within three working days. Based on their report, further course of action will be decided."

## BIRBHUM KILLINGS: DAY AFTER HC ORDER

# CBI takes over probe, team visits village

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA, ATRI MITRA & SWEETY KUMARI**  
RAMPURHAT, KOLKATA, MARCH 26

A DAY after the Calcutta High Court ordered a CBI probe into the killings in Birbhum district's Bogtui, a 30-member team of the central agency visited the village on Saturday and started investigation into the case.

Bhadu Sheikh, a deputy pradhan owing allegiance to the state's ruling Trinamool Congress, was murdered on Monday, triggering attacks in the village where assailants set several houses on fire that charred at least eight people to death.

CBI deputy inspector general (DIG) Akhilesh Singh, who along with the team reached the nearby Rampurhat town on Friday night, said, "We have started our investigation. But we cannot say anything on the matter right now."

Over a dozen agency sleuths visited the Rampurhat police station where two cases have been registered in Sheikh's murder and the retaliatory attack. They collected details of the probe carried out by the police and the special investigation team (SIT) before the central agency was asked to take over the case.

The officials along with



CFSI experts collect samples in the presence of CBI officers at Bogtui village in Birbhum district, Saturday. Partha Paul

forensic experts stayed for hours inside the charred house from where seven bodies were recovered. They used a 3D scanner machine and collected samples from the house and other dwellings that were set afire.

The CBI on Friday registered an FIR under Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 147 (rioting) and others of the Indian Penal Code on the complaint of sub-inspector Dhruba Jyoti Dutta of the Rampurhat police station.

Twenty-one people have been named in the FIR.

Senior district police official said, "The CBI was handed over the post-mortem reports of the bodies but they may get fresh autopsies conducted."

Later, the CBI DIG along with two other officials also went to

the Rampurhat police station and held a meeting with inspector general of police (Western range) Bharatlal Meena and Birbhum superintendent of police Nagendra Tripathi.

Also, an agency team went to the Rampurhat court to prepare a case for an appeal to hand over the 22 suspects arrested by the police in the two FIRs. The CBI team is also likely to visit Batashpur where relatives and victims of the killings are staying to record their eyewitness accounts.

Mihail Sheikh, who lost his eight relatives in the retaliatory incident, said, "We came to know that a CBI team will visit us. We will help them in every possible manner." The SIT has arrested 22 people, including TMC block president Anarul Sheikh, in the two FIRs.

## AMU likely to adopt CUET after govt declines exemption request

**ALIFIYA KHAN**  
PUNE, MARCH 26

ALIGARH MUSLIM University (AMU) had written to the University Grants Commission (UGC) last month seeking exemption from Central University Entrance Test (CUET) citing, among other reasons, a subjective matter in the Supreme Court pertaining to its admissions, an internal communication accessed by The Indian Express has revealed.

However, AMU's request was not granted by the government as a reply sent by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on March 15 clarified that the common entrance test will not affect the university's inherent power to admit students of its choice as per existing eligibility criteria and quotas.

According to a senior AMU official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the ministry's reply will be placed before the committee set up by the university's Academic Council for consideration. However, the official

added that the university, in all likelihood, will adopt the entrance test given that it is funded by Union government and the MoE has clarified that CUET will not impact reservation at AMU.

Starting this year, CUET is the only gateway for admissions to undergraduate programmes across 45 central universities.

When asked whether central universities that reserve seats for minorities, such as AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia, will also have to adopt CUET, UGC Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar had told reporters that the test is compulsory and will not affect the quota of reserved seats at such institutions.

In his letter written to the UGC on February 21, AMU vice-chancellor Tariq Mansoor wrote that the question of admissions in AMU is subjudice in the Supreme Court and that the university be left out of the CUET until the matter is decided in the top court.

He also said that in order to fulfil its objective of promoting Oriental and Islamic studies and

give instruction in Muslim theology and religion besides promoting cultural and education advancement of Muslims as per the AMU Act, the university recognises certificates of almost 151 madaris/institutions and their passouts are eligible to get admissions at various courses of AMU. The letter stated that their eligibility to appear in CUET will be adversely affected if the centralised test will not admit them.

In the reply sent to him, the MoE stated that the interim order by SC on status quo to be maintained in admission process cited by the AMU in its original letter, does not bar the AMU from participating in any test for selection of candidates but is mainly applicable in context of reservation quota which will not be affected as university will follow its own rules, eligibility and quota for admissions. Citing that the students of madaris/institutions who are currently eligible will continue to be so, the letter stated that CUET will be used only for preparing the merit list of candidates.

## Rajasthan Cong MLA's son among 5 booked for 'gangrape' of minor

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, MARCH 26

A CASE has been registered against five people including the son of a Congress MLA from Rajasthan for allegedly gangraping a 15-year-old girl in February last year, said police on Saturday.

According to the police, an FIR in this regard was registered in Dausa district on Friday. The incident has also prompted the National Commission for Women to ask the Rajasthan police to arrest all accused at the earliest.

The Congress in New Delhi said it would act sternly against anyone accused of criminal activity in its party and not spare them irrespective of their position, unlike the BJP.

Claiming that the Congress does not have the culture of shielding criminals, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the party would take action after the investigation into the alleged crime.

"The complainant has said in the FIR that the incident took place in February 2021. Five people have been booked in the case including Deepak Meena, the son of MLA Johari Lal Meena. One of the accused had been sent to jail

in May last year after the police found his role in a theft case at the complainant's house," said Dausa additional SP Lal Chand Kayal.

Kayal added that the complainant, a resident of the Alwar district, has claimed that she was taken to Dausa where she was gangraped. "The complainant has said in her FIR that the person, who was jailed last year, took her to a hotel in Dausa where three persons raped her apart from two other men who were already present there. The MLA's son is one of the accused. At the time when the person was sent to jail last year, the allegations related to gangrape were not leveled by the complainant. Following the theft, money worth Rs 15 lakh along with jewellery were recovered from the accused," said Kayal.

"The complainant said that the accused also made a video of the gangrape and threatened her," said the SHO of the police station where the case has been registered. "A case has been registered for offences including gangrape and relevant sections of the IT Act, SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act) and the POCSO Act," the SHO added.

The victim and the MLA's son are from the same community, said the SHO.





Photographs: Krishn Kaushik



(Clockwise from top left) Maksym Stodolia, a former journalist, is now a volunteer, organising training in self-defence, distributing aid supplies; remnants of Lviv's Soviet past can be seen in its trams, old cars, and arts school for children has been converted into a volunteer base; a band performing in front of the Lviv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, a common sight at most open spaces in Lviv even now



# ‘WE WILL WIN BECAUSE WE CAN’T LOSE’

Among the westernmost cities of Ukraine, and now the world’s entry point into the country, Lviv is removed from the war but readying for it. KRISHN KAUSHIK captures a city and its people living in that transitory moment when the past, which lingers in Lviv’s Soviet remnants, is set to make way for an uncertain new

## IT’S WAR

**FEB 24:** Russian forces launch a “special military operation”, invading Ukraine’s Donbass region from Crimea in the south and Russian territory in the east. Russia also bombs several cities, including Kharkiv, port city of Odessa, and Ukrainian capital Kyiv

■ Explosions are also heard in Lviv oblast (province)

**FEB 25:** Russian forces enter from the north towards Kyiv, from the east towards Kharkiv and Sumy. In the south they reach Kherson, and move to Mariupol

**MARCH 1:** Russian troops continue to make progress along these ingress lines, continuously pounding many of these cities with cruise missile, rockets, artillery shells and ballistic missiles. They reach the outskirts of Kyiv

**MARCH 11:** Airport and airfield in Lutsk hit by Russian missiles. Lutsk is about 150 northeast of Lviv, and a little over 110 km from Polish border

**MARCH 13:** Russia fires missiles at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center, also called Yavoriv military base, 30 km northwest of Lviv,

and just 10 km from Poland’s border. A military training facility, it has hundreds of International Legion volunteers training. The attack kills 35 and injures over 130. No foreigners are killed

**MARCH 18:** Russia attacks airport just outside Lviv. Missiles target an aircraft repair plant. No casualties

■ Russia’s progress towards Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Chernihiv, Sumy etc has largely been stalled. But street fighting and shelling is on.

NAMED AFTER one of Ukraine’s most famous movie and theatre directors, the Les Kurbas Academic Theatre is housed in a beige five-storey building, which looks less baroque than the rest of Lviv. Closer than 300 metres from the city centre, it has suspended its programmes to provide shelter to Ukrainians fleeing the war launched by Russia, now on for more than a month.

Founded in the 13th century, Lviv was named by the King of Ruthenia after his son Lev, which meant lion. Which is why it is called the Lion City locally. Now, a month into the war, as Russia destroys Ukrainian cities, Lviv, which has been largely untouched so far, despite three explosions on the outskirts on Saturday, has become the world’s entry point into the country.

Among the westernmost cities of Ukraine, Lviv is also reflective of the cross-roads of history and geography, and the clashing geopolitics of world powers, that mark this region. If the Russian invasion has turned most of Lviv’s residents against an overbearing Moscow, the remnants of the city’s Soviet past are still visible. Like most of Ukraine, people here know both Russian and Ukrainian; the younger generation has picked up English from Hollywood films and TV shows, but hardly any of the elderly know it. Unlike the Latin script used in the rest of Europe, Ukrainians use Cyrillic, like Russia. And while being part of the West is a dream that has got new wings, in a city that is nearly all white, one of Lviv’s favourite street foods — like in large parts of the former Soviet republic — is kebabs, a throwback to the bloc’s Caucasus links.

However, the heavy Russian hand has ensured — at least for now — the levelling of these many different layers into one common, Ukrainian identity.

Across Lviv, like the Les Kurbas Academic Theatre, people have opened their doors to countrymen fleeing the war; others have picked up arms to join it. Mayor Andrii Sadovyi says the city, with a population of around 7.1 lakh, has provided shelter to around 2 lakh people since the war began. More than 37 lakh have passed through on their way to other countries.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the face of the country’s fightback, is everywhere. While nobody brings him up, unless asked, his photos can be seen at volunteer centres, on tote bags, as posters in bars and on street billboards.

At the theatre, a dozen-odd temporary beds are lined along the walls, including on the stage, sheltering about five families from Kharkiv and capital Kyiv. The theatre’s lead actors are its principal volunteers; two of

them sing Ukrainian folk songs for the refugees, hoping to ease their pain.

The story of Alina Gaivoronskaya, 29, among the refugees at the theatre, is common now, with other families that have been split and uprooted. A sales manager from Kharkiv, among the first cities targeted by Russia, she left her home on the 11th day of the war, when bombing came to her neighbourhood. Gaivoronskaya first moved to the outer part of the province and, when war reached there too, managed to take a train to Lviv.

“When I left, my home was not damaged, but now I don’t know,” she says, worried for her parents who live outside Kharkiv and have not been able to leave.

Gaivoronskaya, who doesn’t know English, hopes to make her way to Germany. “It’s safe,” she says, adding helplessly, “I don’t know what I will do.”

Antony Tsiona, 24, a documentary filmmaker, is helping translate what Gaivoronskaya is saying. From Kyiv, he is capturing the experiences of those like her, to convey the trauma of his countrymen. Tsiona’s parents, both actors, met at the theatre, and his father is now its director.

In its appearance, Lviv is like any other quaint town in these parts, with cobblestoned streets not really conducive to driving, small cafes and bars, grand churches,

university buildings, opera houses, museums. The difference lies in the ancient trams still trundling across the city, the old Soviet vehicles visible on the streets, jostling with the Porsches, BMWs and Bentleys — 31 years after Ukraine left the Soviet Republic.

In a street on the eastern part of the city, an old man is selling Soviet-era coins — 1 ruble can be bought for 20 Ukrainian hryvnia. In his bag, he carries a small album, containing an old photograph of him shaking hands with what seems to be former US president George H W Bush. A closer look reveals it is Bush Senior’s wax model.

H W Bush had been the US president in 1991, when the Soviet Union came apart. He is most remembered in Ukraine for giving a speech weeks before the country voted for independence, warning against “suicidal nationalism”. This was seen as support for the USSR, which was hoping to retain influence over its rebellious republics.

The coin-seller isn’t the only one out on the business-as-usual Lviv streets. There are musicians playing at most open spaces, with the plaza in front of the Lviv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre a coveted spot, couples walking dogs, youths taking selfies. On Friday, the war has been particularly easy to forget; it has been almost 72 hours without any air siren.

The sirens are sounded at detection of any

in-bound Russian aerial attack. On Friday, the peace is finally broken around 4:30 pm, but perhaps lulled by their relative safety, few pay heed.

And yet, war has been inching closer. Russia has attacked a military station and an airport near the city, and on Saturday, hit a telecommunications tower, while its ally Belarus has deployed forces that are seeking to march into Lviv from the north.

Outside the city’s limits, a group of youth are readying themselves for just such an eventuality. Neither members of armed forces or the territorial defence that many civilians have joined, they are volunteers teaching locals self-defence.

Maksym Stodolia, 20, a journalist who lives on the outskirts of Lviv, is a member of the Galizian Arma, which is coordinating training in self-defence and medical aid, and supply of donations like night-vision goggles and bullet-proof vests to soldiers on the frontline, and medicines and surgical equipment to cities facing Russian pounding. There are many such organisations across Ukraine now.

Stodolia says the Galizian Arma was created by army veterans with battle experience, and now has over a hundred volunteers. They have converted an arts school for young children into their base.

On Friday, they had two American volun-

teers over to teach basic first aid. Medicines coming in from all of Europe are sorted and delivered to Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Dnipro cities, among others. Stodolia says he desperately wanted to join his friends on the front. “But they told me to stay in Lviv and help, send medicines, and other important things.”

Volunteers say that while help has been unprecedented, sometimes the quality is an issue. Stodolia shows a combat helmet that has seen the Vietnam War and is now unusable. Alex Manzyuk, 34, who handles medical aid, says often all they can retrieve from donated medical kits are gloves and gauges, even as demand has been rising. Germany is the leading donor, sending the best quality equipment.

Among those helping out is Carlos Fransisco, who has this evening brought food and tea for seven soldiers who have come from Peru, his native country. He claims to have coordinated movement of more than 200 soldiers from Peru and other nations to the frontlines.

Tony Soza, 42, has come from Lima. Soza says he was a soldier with the Peruvian army for 15 years, and later joined American private companies which were part of the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — during 2006-2009, and 2012-2013, respectively. These tours paid him US\$1500-\$2000 per month.

In Lviv, he was not looking to fight, but help, Soza says. For now, along with six other soldier friends, he is providing security for evacuation of the Peruvian Embassy staff. He says they are doing it for free, but with their “expenses” covered.

However, Soza adds, he is open to joining the war, “for good money”. He claims another group from South America is already on the frontlines in Ukraine.

After the Ukrainian government announced an International Legion, asking foreigners to join the fight against Russia, it is believed to have received nearly 40,000 applications. Military experts say the actual number of foreigners on the frontlines though is no more than a few thousand.

The other big group here from different parts of the world is journalists, whose number runs into hundreds. With the war also being fought on the information front, Ukraine has set up a media centre in a three-storey bar in Lviv. Important officials hold regular interactions, facilitating information about refugees and providing needed help.

Alcohol sales were banned within city limits after the war began, till Saturday, and the stacked bars across Lviv would not sell any. However, as many marvelled, being in the city felt like a vacation, given the abundance of choice and availability of what was needed, unlike the eastern parts which have borne the brunt of Russia’s attack.

There are sobering reminders of this though, especially in news of journalists killed on the front. The latest to die is a Russian journalist who used to work for an independent media platform, taking the toll to five in the past month.

Lviv itself is prepared for the long haul — and the cost of that. Two days before the war began, Bohdan Tykholoz, a philosopher and literary critic, wrote in the local newspaper *Lviv Now* that Ukraine will win and Russian President Vladimir Putin will lose.

He wrote about how for Ukrainians it was about fighting for their homeland. He talked about Putin’s mortality and Russia’s feet of clay.

“Our forests will become hiding places, fields battlefields, cities and villages traps and labyrinths, every stone a weapon, every action resistance, and every word a manifesto of dignity and freedom,” Tykholoz wrote. “We will win because we can’t lose.”



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
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Why cannot India say that the war is unjustified? Why cannot India appeal to Russia to stop raining bombs on the civilian population and destroying homes, schools and hospitals?

Why cannot the Prime Minister travel to Moscow and Kyiv and try to mediate a cease fire like the Prime Minister of Israel who is making a brave attempt to do so? What has rendered India so incapable of any initiative and so impotent to intervene?

# This horrific war must end

I HAVE been extremely distressed by the war which Russia is waging on Ukraine (that will enter the 32nd day when you read this column). When I began to take interest in developments around the world, six words uttered by Pope John XXIII (the ‘Good Pope’) had made a deep impression on me: *No More War, Never Again War*.

Since then, of course, there have been many wars in the world — big, small; short, long; on own territory, on the border, in a far away land; proxy wars etc. The one eternal truth that emerged from these 20th/21st century wars was that there will be no winner at the end of the war. War appears to offer no solution to any festering problem. Despite India’s convincing victory in the 1971 war, India and Pakistan remain bitter rivals locked in a territorial dispute. Despite two superpowers taking turns to ‘liberate’ Afghanistan, that country is under the firm control of the Taliban.

## POT & KETTLE

Thirty years after Russia supposedly threw off the yoke of the Communist Party, Russia’s ruler is a former member of the feared intelligence agency of the former Soviet Union. Mr Vladimir Putin has been in office since May 2000 and wields absolute power. Under Mr Putin’s rule, Russia has annexed Crimea, recognised the two break-away ‘republics’ of

the Donbas region of Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk), prised two regions from Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia), and extended military assistance to Syria to quell a civil war. However, nothing prepared the world for the war that Russia is waging on Ukraine.

It must be admitted that everything that Russia has done in the last 20 years, the Western countries, especially the United States, had done in the 20th century. Regime change was a favourite past-time of American presidents. Instigating civilian unrest, engineering military coups, plotting political assassinations, installing puppet regimes, imposing economic sanctions — nothing was forbidden. The most deplorable and unjustified war waged by the United States was in Vietnam. In 2003, the US invaded Iraq on the blatantly false pretext that Saddam Hussein had accumulated weapons of mass destruction.

## CAUSE IS NO CAUSE

What is unfolding in Ukraine is a heart-rending tragedy. The origins of the Russia-Ukraine war may be traced, partly, to the unrelenting expansion of NATO. At the end of the Cold War, unified Germany took the place of West Germany and the then US Secretary of State James Baker assured Russia that NATO will not ‘move an inch beyond Germany’. The German border was 5,439 kilometres away from

Russia. Since 1999 NATO has expanded to include 14 new member-countries. As Georgia and Ukraine tilted towards the 30-member NATO, and the organisation too seemed willing, Russia drew the red lines. If the two countries joined NATO, Russia will be staring at NATO across its border. Far from NATO not moving an inch beyond Germany, NATO would have arrived within an inch of Russia.

Russia was genuinely concerned about its security and it received no credible assurances from the US or other NATO countries, but no one had crossed the Russia-drawn red lines. In fact, when Russia annexed Crimea (which was part of Ukraine) and two regions of Georgia were absorbed into Russia, the US and the NATO countries quietly acquiesced. There was no reason for Russia to escalate its opposition to Ukraine and start a destructive war.

The extent of devastation and destruction in Ukraine caused by the war is horrendous. Of Ukraine’s population of 44 million, nearly 3.5 million have fled the country and another 6.5 million (including half of all children) have been displaced from their homes. Towns have been razed; the port city of Mariupol has been reduced to a rubble. Millions are stranded without food, water or medicine. Thousands have been killed. Yet, Ukraine’s President and the people are defiant and have refused to surrender. Whenever the war ends, there will be no winner. Certainly, Russia will not

be a winner. It will not be able to ‘annex’ Ukraine. On the contrary, Russia would have earned a hostile neighbour and a permanent enemy, it would have lost thousands of young soldiers and billions of rubles worth of military hardware, many young and talented Russians would have quietly left the country and its economy would be crippled. Russia will gain neither security nor respect.

## DIMINISHED INDIA

As an Indian I feel helpless. I am clueless about the Indian government’s policy. In my view, no argument can justify the war. So, despite the six principles outlined by the External Affairs Minister, why cannot India say that the war is unjustified? Why cannot India appeal to Russia to stop raining bombs on the civilian population and destroying homes, schools and hospitals? Why cannot the Prime Minister travel to Moscow and Kyiv and try to mediate a ceasefire like the Prime Minister of Israel, who is making a brave attempt to do so? What has rendered India so incapable of any initiative and so impotent to intervene?

This essay is not intended to be a scholarly analysis of the conduct of foreign policy. This is a personal view that I hold and that I have heard from several thoughtful observers: the silence in the face of a grave moral challenge and the repeated abstentions in world fora have diminished India.

inside  
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



## FEAR OF EC

For nearly a year the Gandhis haughtily ignored the G23 letter, but have now adopted a more conciliatory tone. The attempt at some sort of rapprochement is probably motivated less by the belated realisation of the party’s rapid decline and more because of apprehensions that an open confrontation or split would offer a pretext for the Election Commission to intervene and freeze the Congress symbol, accounts and properties. Legitimacy of leadership cannot be demonstrated merely by a show of hands, as is the Congress’s normal practice, the constitutional procedure would have to be strictly adhered to. The de facto president, Rahul Gandhi, is reluctant to take formal charge as he does not want to shoulder blame for the Congress’s poor performance. On the other hand, the paranoid Bhagat family remains firm that they cannot hand over charge to anyone other than a very trusted loyalist, but one with some stature is hard to find. Incidentally, when Rahul attended the CWC, he was taken aback to find that though the meeting was deliberately packed with many special invitees, the only voices defending him were Ashok Gehlot and Mallikarjun Kharge. While leaving, he remarked in an aside to his companion that the silence weighed heavy.

## INDIVIDUAL CLOUT

The only G23 rebel with whom Rahul Gandhi has interacted is Bhupinder Singh Hooda. While he dismisses other party rebels as armchair leaders with no grass-roots support, Gandhi realises that the Congress will be in trouble in Haryana without Hooda, who wields sizeable influence in his bastion of Sonipat-Rohtak and is the only prominent Congress Jai leader in the state. While the elder Hooda is with the rebels, his son Deepender remains in the Gandhi camp. Another prominent Congress family is also divided. But here the father is backing the Gandhis, while the son demands introspection by the high command. But this family’s differences are not for public consumption.

## IGNORING AAP WIN

It is customary for chief ministers to congratulate their newly elected counterparts in other states. But many Opposition leaders, vying for leadership of the non-BJP, non-Congress space, were conspicu-

ously silent over the Aam Aadmi Party victory in Punjab. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik were among the few prominent leaders who graciously congratulated Bhagwant Singh Mann.

## FORGOTTEN NAMES

Among the several nuggets that author Pramod Kapoor brings out in 1946, his meticulously researched history of the short-lived Royal Indian Navy (RIN) mutiny, is that Admiral John Henry Godfrey, who headed the RIN at that time, was the inspiration for spy thriller writer Ian Fleming’s character ‘M’, the boss of his swashbuckling hero James Bond. In real life, Godfrey was Director of Naval Intelligence in 1939 appointed Fleming as his assistant and treated him as his son. Godfrey was made the scapegoat by his naval bosses in London and replaced the day after the mutiny ended. Another interesting character in the book is Rishi Dev Puri, a good-looking daredevil who played a key role in fomenting the mutiny, but was discharged from the navy three weeks before the actual event. His influential family whisked him away to Shimla to run the family owned Devices Hotel on the Mall. Incidentally, Puri, who once earned a living as a professional piano player in London, was the younger brother of Vidya Vikas Purie, who, along with his children, founded the India Today media empire.

## SAVARKAR PLACE?

BJP MP and president of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Vinay Sahasrabudde, has taken note of the fact that a prominent circle in the heart of New Delhi still carries the British royal family’s surname, Windsor. Sahasrabudde has written to the New Delhi Municipal Corporation demanding that Windsor Place, which is in any case a confusing address as it incorporates bungalows standing at the intersection of several prominent roads, including Janpath and Ashoka Road, should be re-named after Veer Savarkar. The New Delhi Municipal Committee authorities are believed to be considering the request sympathetically.

## BALANCING ACT

In the last lap of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav’s campaign, party MP Jaya Bachchan made some fiery speeches against the ruling BJP, accusing it of telling nothing but lies and hiding its weaknesses by pointing a finger at others. Perhaps to compensate, Amitabh Bachchan flew down for Yogi Adityanath’s swearing-in ceremony held on Friday.

history  
HEADLINE

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA

manraj.grewal@expressindia.com



AS THE AAP government in Punjab orders its offices to put up photos of its mascot Bhagat Singh, what little known is that there was another, a revolutionary who also died young, who was his hero.

Kartar Singh Sarabha was 19 when he was hanged to death in Lahore in 1915. By then, the engineering student from University of California, Berkeley, was a writer, publisher, co-founder of the Ghadar movement and a freedom fighter.

Prof Chaman Lal, who has penned a book on Sarabha, says Bhagat Singh’s Naujawan Bharat Sabha would never start a meeting without first garlanding Sarabha’s photo.

Dr Gurbhajan Singh Gill, a poet-historian, recounts how Bhagat Singh’s mother Vidyawati told him he always carried Sarabha’s picture in his wallet. “He used to tell her that Sarabha was his *ustad*.”

Bhagat Singh was seven when he first saw Sarabha. Newly returned from the US, with a fire in him against the British empire, the 18-year-old would visit Bhagat Singh’s father Kishan Singh. The court ruling convicting Sarabha mentioned that Kishan Singh had given Sarabha Rs 1,000 for his movement. “It was a very princely sum for those days,” Prof Lal points out.

Dr Gurdev Singh Sidhu, an authority on the Ghadar movement, says Sarabha was born into a highly educated family — one of his uncles was a doctor in the British army while another was a senior officer in the forestry department. Sarabha, who lost his father at three and mother at 12, was brought up by his grandfather Badan Singh Grewal, who moved him from Malwa Khalsa high school to Arya High School, Ludhiana, before packing him off to Cuttack where his uncle was posted.

At Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, his teachers included the famous nationalist Beni Madhab Das, who inspired Subhas Chandra Bose, a year his junior. “A sharp and gregarious youngster, he must have been influenced by the two,” says Prof Jagmohan Singh, Bhagat Singh’s nephew, who has been doing research on him.

From Cuttack, Sarabha headed to Berkeley, to pursue Electrical Engineering in 1912. Soon he came into contact with Lala Hardayal, an acclaimed Sanskrit scholar, Sohan Singh Bhakna, a farmer, and Pandurang Sadashiv Khankhoje, an agricultural scientist who formed the Pacific Coast Hindustan Association in 1913. It was a precursor to the Ghadar

# The Boy General who was Bhagat Singh’s hero



Bhagat Singh (left); and Kartar Singh Sarabha, hanged at the age of 19

Party, that was formed on July 15, 1913, with the express aim of overthrowing the British government in India. Sarabha, who had by then left studies, was its youngest founding member.

The party set up a printing press in San Francisco, and brought out its first issue of *The Ghadar* in Urdu on November 1, 2013, followed by the Punjabi edition on December 13. Susan McMahon’s book *Echoes of Freedom: South Asia Pioneers in California* mentions how besides his role in bringing out the paper, “Sarabha was one of the most active fundraisers in the organisation, holding meetings in the rural areas where the farmers donated generously.”

Sarabha worked shoulder to shoulder with the much older Ghadri “babas”, who began to call him ‘Bala Jarnail (Boy general)’.

With World War-I breaking out in July 1914, the Ghadris decided to return to India, with the plan of stoking mutiny among Indian soldiers. Sarabha sailed back in October 2014, and began to criss-cross the country. “He went anywhere where there was a cantonment with Punjabi soldiers. He was absolutely fearless, people called him a dynamo. He could cycle for 100 km a day,” says Prof Chaman Lal.

He was often accompanied by fellow Ghadar party member Vishnu Ganesh Pingle from Pune. The two had met in California.

By February 2015, the British authorities had got a whiff of the conspiracy, and began to arrest Ghadar party members,

ahead of their plan to stage an uprising on February 21 after capturing Mian Mir and Ferozepur Cantts.

Sarabha managed to hoodwink the cops and headed out to Russia. Lore has it that Sarabha and his friends were close to Peshawar near Afghanistan when they began to hum the song “*Singh naam sher dajo chade gaj ke, bani sir sheran de ki jaana bhaj ke* (Men who are brave like a lion, don’t run).” It resonated so much with Sarabha that he decided to return and was arrested early March.

The trial into what came to be called the Lahore conspiracy case resulted in the execution of 24 Ghadris.

The first FIR filed against Sarabha by the British police says he had two books, one was *Indian Sociologist* published by Shyamji Krishna Varna, who had set up India House in London, and the second, *Speeches from the Dock*, featuring Irish freedom fighters who were executed.

Prof Chaman Lal says the judges, seeing his young age, asked him to think over his statement. “Sarabha made a much stronger statement the next day, leaving no one in doubt about his intention. When asked about the three colours of the Ghadri flag, he said they represented liberty, equality and fraternity.”

Subsequently, he was awarded the death penalty. When his grandfather visited him, he made light of the sentence, telling him how everyone has to die but he would be immortalised in death.

Sarabha was hanged with six others, including his friend Pingle, on November 16, 1915.

she  
SAID

RINKU GHOSH

rinku.ghosh@expressindia.com



IT IS banded about like a miracle mantra for righting all wrongs, but the term “women empowerment” itself sounds disempowering at best, a condescension at worst. Women don’t need to be empowered, they are the power. And that, in long-held patriarchal hierarchies, takes time to manifest itself, working its way up like a trelis through gaps called opportunities. Empowerment robs the woman of her agency and seems like a charitable gift bestowed by the man or society at large. The assumption being that had they not considered her worthy enough of attention, she would not get there. The woman then seems like the recipient of favours and is expected to be grateful for a good turn done

# Empowerment? No thanks

by somebody else.

Last week, British-Iranian aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe understood this the rather hard way. After a long-drawn series of diplomatic efforts, Zaghari-Ratcliffe arrived in the UK from Iran after six years of incarceration. She was ostensibly picked up for spying, but Iranians used her as a bargaining chip to extract something from the UK. All she did on her return was protest against being used as a tool of British diplomacy and ask why she couldn’t have been brought home much earlier. Expected to be demure and thankful to the authorities for negotiating her release, she was trolled for being “ungrateful” and for questioning her “saviours”.

So, what is it that had everybody gunning for her? For one, she said it like it is, implying that her release was delayed to prolong negotiations over the UK’s repayment

of a 400 million-pound debt it owed to Iran. Two, she contradicted her husband Richard, who thanked the British government for getting his wife home. “What’s happened now should have happened six years ago,” she thundered. Third, she spoke her piece looking good, neatly turned out, bright nails and all, looking every bit the fighter than the victim. And although former foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt said that Zaghari-Ratcliffe didn’t owe anybody gratitude but the system owed her an explanation, she was judged, shamed and abused for not conforming to the stereotype that is so casually handed out to women to wear. A poster unbelievably read, “BTW - wish I looked that good when I am ‘broken’.” #senderback” Some even lambasted her for allowing herself to be caught, by “stupidly” travelling to a hostile country in the first place.

Everybody forgot that while she stood

free on a podium, she fervently appealed that other political prisoners be freed from Iran. She just reminded everybody that she was grateful that her imprisonment had given her an opportunity to understand their plight, that civilised London society was ungrateful to those in captivity, who provided them daily fodder to rant against injustice at global high tables.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe reminded us of many of other unthoughtful words that we like to “empower” women with. Some of them are “woman boss” or “boss woman”, making her look like a sub-species of bosses and somehow less capable or different. If she is too “bossy”, then you undermine her original vision as being unrealistic and impractical. Then there’s “momprenneur”. The maternal traits in a woman certainly don’t make her different from any other aggressive entrepreneur. Besides prefixing “mom” makes

her look cutesy and needy for some serious consideration because she has fulfilled her primary social responsibility to the human race by birthing and raising a child. It is about under-cutting her self-worth, definitely not enabling it. And the one we get routinely is, “She’s a strong woman.” Next time you say that to anyone, remember that she appears so because she has run out of options in life. Women don’t need to be gender-qualified for the roles they play, the attitudes they embody or the personality they become. They certainly don’t need words that sound encouraging but imply that they finally deserve something.

The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace, graciousness or gratefulness depending on the context. Today’s context demands that we be gracious. Not only to Zaghari-Ratcliffe but to all women out there.

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen\_singh



# New heroes in New India

LAST WEEK marked a month since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian president made an appeal for people who loved freedom and democracy to come out into their cities, their streets and their squares bearing symbols of support for Ukraine. In India the day passed without anyone doing this as has every day since Vladimir Putin began his horrifying war against the people of Ukraine. It is so evil a war that maternity homes, hospitals, and shelters marked ‘children’ have been bombed. Flourishing, beautiful cities have been reduced to rubble. But these atrocities evoked in India barely audible noises of sympathy, condemnation, or concern.

It is not just the Government of India that has seemed unmoved by the horror of what is happening in Ukraine. Ordinary Indians seem equally impervious. It is my unhappy task to spend some time every day on Twitter because it is today’s public square. And what has astounded me is the number of people who are not part of the BJP’s troll army who have expressed hatred of the West and deep sympathy for Russia. Putin’s argument that he was forced to invade Ukraine because NATO was inching too close to Russia’s sphere of influence has more support in India perhaps than in any other democratic country.

Having spent my formative years in an India that was deeply anti-American and passionately pro-Soviet, memories of that time have returned in floods every time I made my excursions on social media. I cut my political teeth when Indira Gandhi was prime minister and remember that there was not a single newspaper office in Delhi then in which you could express admiration of the Americans without being called a CIA agent.

At the same time, it was considered perfectly acceptable to be quite literally in the pay of the Soviet Union. People who sent their sons and daughters to American universities were not ashamed to expound hypocritically upon the ‘evils’ of capitalism in the drawing rooms of Delhi. This had something to do with the East India Company mindset that developed collectively under the British Raj. Then came our shift from grim socialist economic policies to more liberal ones and India changed. Or so we thought.

It appears now that the change was illusory. Beneath our obvious affection for American colleges, culture, food, airport novels and Hollywood appear to remain intact political ideas that have a more definite connect with autocracies than democracies. While trying to make the case on social media that we should at least be horrified by the way Putin has attacked civilian targets, I have found myself subjected to an avalanche of tweets that order me to shut up because there is no difference between what the Russians are doing and what the Americans did in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. But there are differences. Big, vital differences. It was the American media that attacked its own government for its wars. In Russia journalists who criticise Putin end up jobless or dead. It is the strength of American institutions that halt the possibilities of an autocrat taking charge. We saw this most recently when Donald Trump tried to cancel a general election to stay in power.

What has disturbed me most in the past month is to see the number of young Indians on social media who seem to believe that autocracy is a better idea than democracy. So, I have not only been told to shut up about my sympathy with Ukraine but to remember that the Prime Minister knows best what is in India’s national interest and a ‘prestitute’ like me has no right to question this.

This contempt for dissidence has been manifesting itself for a while on social media. It is not just well-known BJP trolls who screech their hatred of ‘libtards’ and liberal values but genteel housewives, doctors, teachers, writers, and students. It is as if they have not noticed that as a country that proudly claims to be the world’s largest democracy, liberal values are to be cherished and not treated with disdain. Could it be possible that in the ‘new’ India it is autocrats like Putin and Xi Jinping who have become the new heroes?

Ukraine’s only crime was that it demanded the right to be a free and democratic country instead of one bullied into submitting to the will of autocratic Russia. It is extraordinary and very sad that Indians, with no known political allegiances, do not see where India should stand. Millions of Ukrainians have been displaced in the past month. Women and children have died horribly in shelters that would not have been attacked under the international rules of war. And, yet the only voices of sympathy for Ukraine I hear in India’s public square are those that say that we cannot speak out openly against Putin’s atrocities because we rely on Russia for our military supplies.

Dissent is so absent from the conversations in India today that there are not even questions asked about why we have not moved away from our debilitating dependence on Russian armaments decades after the Soviet Union died. Putin’s ugly war has revealed a side of India that proves those international watchdogs of democracy right when they label ‘new’ India as being only ‘partly free’. Listen to voices on social media and you will discover that most Indians wear this label as a badge of honour.



THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, MARCH 27, 2022

# 12 THE WORLD

## TOPOF THE WORLD



Taylor Hawkins. AP

### US Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins dead

**Los Angeles:** Taylor Hawkins, for 25 years the drummer for Foo Fighters and best friend of front-man Dave Grohl, has died during a South American tour with the rock band. He was 50. There were no immediate details on how Hawkins died, although the band said in a statement on Friday that his death was a "tragic and untimely loss." Foo Fighters had been scheduled to play at a festival in Bogota, Colombia, on Friday night. Hawkins' final concert was Sunday at another festival in San Isidro, Argentina. "His musical spirit and infectious laughter will live on with all of us forever," said a message on the band's official Twitter account. "Our hearts go out to his wife, children and family." **AP**

### NORTH KOREA US urges China, Russia to slam North Korea

**Washington:** China and Russia should tell North Korea to avoid more "provocations" after it resumed intercontinental ballistic missile testing this week, US State Department spokesperson Jalina Porter said on Friday. At the UNSC meeting on Friday, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the US would propose a resolution "to update and strengthen" Security Council sanctions. She declined to specify what those new measures might be. **AGENCIES**

### BAHAMAS William says backs any Caribbean decision on future

**Nassau:** Britain's Prince William has said he supports and respects any decision Caribbean nations make about their future, as Belize, the Bahamas and Jamaica consider cutting ties with the British monarchy. At the end of a tour with his wife Kate, William, Queen Elizabeth's grandson, acknowledged the relationship between the three Caribbean states and the Crown was changing. "Next year, I know you are all looking forward to celebrating 50 years of independence – your Golden Anniversary," he said in a speech in the Bahamas capital Nassau. **REUTERS**

## China says no survivors in plane crash with 132 on board

**Beijing:** Chinese authorities officially confirmed on Saturday that there were no survivors in the crash of a China Eastern 737-800 earlier this week with 132 people on board. The announcement by an official of the Civil Aviation Administration of China at a late-night news conference was followed by a brief moment of silence. Investigators have identified 120 of the victims through DNA analysis, state media reported. Construction excavators dug into the crash site Saturday in the search for wreckage, remains and the second black box. Searchers found the cockpit voice recorder on Wednesday but have yet to find the flight data recorder. **AP**

## CALLS RUSSIAN PRESIDENT A BUTCHER

# This man can't remain in power: Biden says in challenge to Putin

### AGENCIES

WARSAW, MARCH 26

PRESIDENT JOE Biden, in a challenge to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, on Saturday called for his removal, saying, "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power." Biden also used a speech in Poland's capital to make a vociferous defence of liberal democracy and the NATO military alliance, while also saying Europe must steel itself for a long fight against Russian aggression.

In what was billed by the White House as a major address, Biden spoke in front of the Royal Castle, one of Warsaw's notable landmarks that was badly damaged during War II.

He unleashed an angry tirade against Putin for the claim that his invasion is intended to "de-Nazify" Ukraine. Biden called that claim "a lie," noting that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is Jewish and his father's family was killed in the Holocaust.

He borrowed the words of Polish-born Pope John Paul II and cited anti-communist Polish dissident and former president, Lech Walesa, as he warned that Putin's invasion of Ukraine threatens to bring "decades of war."

"In this battle we need to be clear-eyed. This battle will not be won in days, or months, either," Biden said. The crowd of about 1,000 included some of the Ukrainian refugees who have fled for Poland and elsewhere in



US President Biden meeting Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw on Saturday. AP

the midst of the brutal invasion.

"Today, Russia has strangled democracy and sought to do so elsewhere," he said. "We must commit now, to be this fight for the long haul," Biden said.

He marveled at the spirit and resolve of Ukrainian refugees in the aftermath of Russia's deadly invasion as he embraced mothers and children and promised

enduring support from Western powers. Biden called Putin "a butcher" in response to a question after meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw, including several from Mariupol, the city that has been flattened by days of shelling from Russian forces. Asked what he thinks of Putin and of what has happened in Mariupol, Biden said simply:

"He's a butcher."

"Your freedom is ours," Biden told Poland's President, Andrzej Duda earlier, echoing one of that country's unofficial mottos.

At the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, the two leaders spoke of their mutual respect and shared goals to end the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "Although times are very difficult, today

Polish-American relations are flourishing," Duda said.

He also met with Ukrainian ministers in his first in-person encounter with the country's top leaders since the Russian invasion began on Feb. 24, part of what American officials hope will be a powerful display of the United States' commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty.

## Japan's Kishida sees high chance of Russia using nuclear weapons

### REUTERS & NYT

TOKYO, MARCH 26

JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER Fumio Kishida said on Saturday the prospect of Russia using nuclear weapons was "increasingly real", welcoming a visit by the US ambassador to Hiroshima, the first city to suffer a nuclear attack.

Japan, the only country attacked by atomic weapons, has regularly spoken out against nuclear armaments. "When the possible use of nuclear weapons by Russia is increasingly real, I believe Ambassador Emanuel's visit to Hiroshima and his experience of seeing the nuclear reality will become a strong message to the international society," Kishida told public broadcaster NHK. "I believe

### MOSCOW CONDUCTS MILITARY DRILLS ON ISLES DISPUTED WITH JAPAN

RUSSIA WAS conducting drills on islands claimed by Tokyo, Japanese media said on Saturday, days after Moscow halted peace talks with Japan because of its sanctions over Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine. Russia's Eastern Military District said it was conducting military drills on the Kuril islands with more than 3,000 troops and hundreds of pieces of army equipment, Russia's Interfax news agency said Friday. Japan's Foreign Ministry and PMO could not be reached outside business hours to comment on the exercises. **REUTERS**

our visit was meaningful." He said Russia's war in Ukraine shows the difficulties of creating a world without nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Dmitri A. Medvedev, the former Russian president and vice-chairman of Russia's Security

Council, said the country was prepared to use nuclear weapons against the US and Europe if its existence was threatened. Russia's defence minister, Sergei K. Shoigu, also mentioned Russia's nuclear weapons in remarks released on Saturday.



Nepalese foreign minister Narayan Khadka, left, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Kathmandu on Saturday. AP

## Wang Yi meets Nepal's leadership, signs 9 MoUs

### YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, MARCH 26

NEPAL AND CHINA on Saturday signed nine agreements, including construction of railway line from Kerung-Kathmandu—a key project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The two sides signed nine MoUs following the meeting between Foreign Ministers Narayan Khadka and Wang Yi, who arrived in Kathmandu on Friday night on a three-day visit. Yi's visit comes less than a month after Nepal's Parliament ratified the \$500 million US grant against China's advice.

Besides extension of the railway line from Kerung along the Tibet border right up to Kathmandu, the two sides also decided to conduct fresh feasibility study for construc-

tion of transmission line.

Minister Yi, who also met Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, handed over Pokhara International Airport, the first outside Kathmandu. The airport has been built at a cost of Rs 14 billion, which China loaned to Nepal.

Yi will also be meeting President Bidhya Devi Bhandari besides two former Prime Ministers, Pushpa Kamal Dahal of the Maoist Centre and KP Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist.

Officials said China has also agreed to enhance technical cooperation to Nepal. Apart from the Pokhara airport, the Chinese side will soon be handing over the Amiko highway after repair. Nepal has agreed to let Chinese health workers provide health and medical services to Nepal as well.

## Saudi airstrikes hit Yemen's Houthis after Jiddah attack

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANAA, MARCH 26

A SAUDI-LED coalition fighting Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen unleashed a barrage of airstrikes on the capital and a strategic Red Sea city, officials said on Saturday. At least eight people were killed.

The overnight airstrikes on Sanaa and Hodeida — both held by the Houthis — came a day after the rebels attacked an oil depot in the Saudi city of Jiddah, their highest-profile assault yet on the kingdom.

Brig. Gen. Turki al-Malki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, said the strikes targeted "sources of threat" to Saudi Arabia, according to the state-run Saudi Press Agency or SPA.

He said the coalition intercepted and destroyed two explosives-laden drones early Saturday. He said the drones were launched from Houthi-held civilian oil facilities in Hodeida, urging civilians to stay away from oil facilities in the city.

Footage circulated online showed flames and plumes of smoke over Sanaa and Hodeida. Associated Press journalists in the Yemeni capital heard loud explosions that rattled residential buildings there.

## Pak Interior Minister advises Imran to call polls after budget

### SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 26

PAKISTAN'S INTERIOR Minister Sheikh Rashid on Saturday said that he has advised Prime Minister Imran Khan to call elections after presenting the budget, claiming that the cricket-turned politician's popularity had increased following the Opposition's submission of a no-trust motion against him.

Rashid, however, said the idea for early elections after present-

ing the federal budget for fiscal year 2022-23 was his own opinion and should not be taken as the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s stance, *the Dawn* reported.

Talking to reporters on Saturday, Rashid said that voting on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Khan can be held on April 3 or 4.

He said that he was giving the likely dates for vote on the presumption that the motion of no-trust would be presented in the National Assembly on March 28.

"The voting is held between



On the outskirts of Kyiv on Friday following a Russian attack. AP

### ZELENSKY ADDRESSSES DOHA FORUM

## Russian forces take Chernobyl workers' town; fighting rages in Mariupol

### GLEB GARANICH & NATALIA ZINETS

MARIUPOL/LVIV, MARCH 26

RUSSIAN FORCES have taken control of a town where workers at the defunct Chernobyl nuclear plant live, the governor of Kyiv region said on Saturday, and fighting was reported in the streets of the besieged southern port of Mariupol.

However, intense fighting was reported in a number of places on Saturday, suggesting there would be no swift let-up in the conflict, which has killed thousands of people, sent some 3.7 million abroad and driven more than half of Ukraine's children from their homes, according to the United Nations.

Russian troops seized the town of Slavutych, which is close to the border with Belarus and is where

workers at the nearby Chernobyl plant live, said Oleksandr Pavlyuk, the governor of Kyiv region.

On the other side of the country, in Mariupol, Mayor Vadym Boichenko said the situation in the encircled city remained critical, with street fighting taking place in the centre. The city has been devastated by weeks of Russian fire.

In an address on Saturday to Qatar's Doha Forum, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy compared the destruction of Mariupol to the destruction inflicted on the Syrian city of Aleppo by combined Syrian and Russian forces in the civil war.

"They are destroying our ports," Zelenskyy said, warning of dire consequence if his country — one of the world's major grains producers — could not export its foodstuff. "The absence of exports from Ukraine will deal a blow to countries worldwide." **REUTERS**

## IN BRIEF

### UK to send vital food supplies for besieged Ukrainian cities

The UK will provide GBP 2 million in vital food supplies for areas of Ukraine encircled by Russian forces, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Saturday. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the decision follows a direct request from the government of Ukraine, with the supplies covering a rapid donation of dried food, tinned goods and water. Warehouses in Poland and Slovakia are being readied to supply these goods from early next week. "This vital donation of food and supplies will help support the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's barbaric invasion," said Truss. **PTI**

### Thousands of Russians in Prague protest against the war



Anti-war protests in Prague. Reuters

Thousands of Russians marched through Prague on Saturday, waving the white-blue-white flag that has become a symbol of protests against Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Carrying signs that read "Killer" over a picture of President Vladimir Putin and chanting "No to War", protesters walked from Prague's Peace Square through the centre of the Czech capital. Police put the number of marchers at about 3,000. **Reuters**

## Taliban blocked unaccompanied women from flights: Officials

### KATHY GANNON

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 26

AFGHANISTAN'S TALIBAN rulers refused to allow dozens of women to board several flights, including some overseas, because they were travelling without a male guardian, two Afghan airline officials said Saturday.

The officials said dozens of women who arrived at Kabul's international airport Friday to board domestic and international flights were told they couldn't do so without a male guardian.

Some of the women were dual nationals returning to their homes overseas, according to one of the officials. Women were denied boarding on flights to Islamabad, Dubai and Turkey on Kam Air and the state-owned Ariana Airline, said the officials.

The order came from the Taliban leadership, said one official. By Saturday, some women traveling alone were given permission to board an Ariana Airlines flight to western Herat province, the official said. However, by the time the permission was granted they had missed their flight, he said.

The airport's president and police chief, both from the Taliban movement were meeting Saturday with airline officials. "They are trying to solve it," the official said. **AP**

### FOREX CRISIS

## Lankan newspapers run out of newsprint, suspend publication

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

COLOMBO, MARCH 26

SRI LANKA'S TWO major newspapers on Saturday suspended their publication over newsprint shortage and price escalation caused by the country's all-time worst foreign exchange crisis.

The *Island*, an English daily along with its sister *Sinhala paper Divayina*, ceased to print as the newsprint scarcities and price escalations hit the media organisation. "We regret to in-

form our readers that we have been compelled to suspend the publication of *The Island* print edition on Saturday until further notice in view of the newsprint shortage," *Upali Newspapers Limited* said in a statement.

Sri Lanka is facing its all-time worst foreign exchange crisis after the pandemic hit the nation's earnings from tourism and remittances. The import costs of newsprint also rose remarkably since the government's decision early this month to float the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar.

## EXPLAINED Economy hits rock bottom

SRI LANKA is facing an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to shortage of foreign exchange. A sudden rise in prices of key commodities, power outages and fuel shortage forced thousands of people to queue up outside petrol filling stations.



## THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



ARTS etc

## Inked For Glory

An interview with the filmmakers of *Writing with Fire*, India's Oscar nomination in documentary feature this year

## eye

POINT OF VIEW

## The Myth of Bad Behaviour

Shelja Sen on why we are not just accountable for our children; we have to be accountable to them



## PEOPLE LIKE US

Director Nagraj Manjule on his latest film, nurturing talent and his cinematic universe that propels his method of storytelling

Alaka Sahani

WHEN NAGRAJ Manjule watched the video of Ankush Gedam dancing during a Ganapati immersion procession in Nagpur's Gaddigodam area, the filmmaker was instantly captivated by his unbridled energy, swagger, and spirit. It was 2017 and Manjule was in the process of finalising the cast of *Jhund*, which tells the story of a sports teacher (Amitabh Bachchan) training young slum-dwellers of Nagpur to play football and unwittingly propels them towards a better life. In the next few days, the filmmaker received several other videos of then 24-year-old Gedam running and playing football. They were sent by Manjule's associate and younger brother, Bhusan, with the message: "Don mil gaya (We have found Don)".

Before the making of *Jhund*, Gedam was drifting through life after Class XII — taking up odd jobs as a delivery boy and working in

eateries — while nursing the ambition of joining the police someday. Manjule found Gedam's screen presence fetching, even though his look with long hair was developed later. "Be it the casting for *Fandry* (2013), *Sairat* (2016) or just-released *Jhund* — my belief is that we should choose an actor who appears close to the character. But they need not be identical," says the Pune-based director, known for "authentic casting" to imbue the storytelling with his signature raw and realistic vibes.

The 44-year-old director's casting motto combined with his sharp instinct has set a benchmark when it comes to introducing new faces on the Indian screen. He has tried fresh casting since his very first work, the National Award-winning short film *Pistulya* (2010), when he cast young Suraj Pawar, who belongs to the backward Pardhi community from Ahmednagar, in the titular role. He later played Pirya in *Fandry* (2013) and Prince in *Sairat* (2016). In *Fandry*, Somnath Awghade, who had dropped out of school after Class VII then, essayed the character of Jabya, a teenager infatuated with an upper-class girl,



SQUAD GOALS

(Left) Nagraj Manjule; in the film, Amitabh Bachchan trains young slum dwellers in football

though acutely aware of his lower caste identity. In *Sairat*, too, he introduced Rinku Rajguru as feisty Archie, and Akash Thosar as the affable Parshiya. Rajguru was a Class VII student and Thosar was pursuing his bachelor degree when they made their landmark debut. They are also in *Jhund* — Rajguru as a football player from a remote village and Thosar as a local toughie — which featured nearly 30 newcomers. The debutants include Sayli Patil, Priyanshu Kshetriya (Babu), Allen Patrick, Angel Anthony and Kartik Uikey.

Before these handpicked prospective actors face the camera on Manjule's sets, they undergo extensive training, rehearsals, and workshops. Prior to the making of *Fandry* and *Sairat*, most of the young actors in the cast lived with Manjule and other members of his team. The comparatively bigger cast of *Jhund* lived in a bungalow in Pune's Kothrud for nearly a year. "Whenever we write a story, we create a world that's based on the imagination. At times, it's based on real life, then you add your imagination to it and build the characters," says Manjule, who has now set up a farmhouse in Narhe, in the outskirts of Pune, and hosts multiple creative activities there.

Fondly called "Anna" by the young actors, Manjule's tried-and-tested method involves a lot of hand-holding, boosting their morale, and even enacting the scenes. "I didn't know anything about acting. I used to just follow Anna's instructions while shooting for *Fandry*. For *Jhund*, I had to learn how to play football and practised for nearly one-and-half years," says Awghade, who plays the role of Imraan in *Jhund*. Unlike him, Gedam was an experienced football player and had taken part in slum tournaments. The 29-year-old, however, was not sure if he could cry on camera, having failed to do so once during his audition. "In one crucial scene, I'm drunk, sad, crying, and, also, angry over not getting my passport. Anna not only showed me how to do it but also gave them the confidence to handle different emotions at the same time," recalls Gedam.

From the onset, it is evident that *Jhund* is not merely a sports film. It's a social drama that makes a plea for society to be more inclusive and empathetic towards those living on the margins.

&gt;&gt; CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

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Shubhra Gupta

Shubhra Gupta is film critic with The Indian Express

The Marvels of a Missus

The series never strays too far from its leading lady and her struggles to break into the all-boys comic club

I'M MISSING Midge, she who headlines the Amazon Prime show, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, which has topped off its penultimate Season 4 with a dazzling caught-in-the-snowflakes-in-NYC act. The motor-mouth female comic, with her rat-a-tat lines, and fabulous outfits, works hard to make us forget an indifferent Season 3. She waltzes into an illegal strip club with a solo set, managing to make it a somewhat respectable space, much to the horror of its rough-and-tumble regulars. She talks down a much more established rival, never abandoning her sartorial sharpness even at her lowest: the costumes and the window dressing in the series are a constant delight.

There's a special joy in watching a woman looking all comers in the eye, battle-and-riposte-ready, and our Midge, played with sparkly bio by Rachel Brosnahan, possesses that ability in spades. Despite all the low blows and buffetings, sometimes created by her own inability to see sense, Midge Maisel refuses to give up.

For those not up to speed with the happenings in Midge's not-so-marvellous life, here's a quick recap. What does an Upper West Side Jewish housewife in the late '50s-early '60s America, with a handsome husband and two good-looking children, and surrounded by nosey, loving, constantly-interfering parents and in-laws do when she finds herself without said spouse (who is having a bit on the side in the office), and without the money to support herself? Her discovery that zero prospects can be turned into a rollicking stand-up act is a revelation. From that moment on, Midge is set on a learning curve, living without the comfortable crutches a woman of her class has taken for granted, playing with the spotlight, digging into her life experiences for comic gold, and wielding anger as a weapon.



MIC DROP

We never see Midge rumpled even when she is ruffled

Revenge is what she wants. Getting her own back at the forces that have left her grappling with pending bills grocery, milk, dry-cleaning — and a big loan from in-laws (Kevin Pollak and Caroline Aaron) who have restored her to her plush apartment. Her ex-husband Joel (Michael Zegen) and his pregnant Chinese girl-friend hover uneasily. Then there's her agent Susie (Alex Borstein, consistently terrific), who often seems to be at cross-purposes with her ambition. Her mother's (Marin Hinkle) tentative stepping into the highly competitive field of matchmaking, and her father's (Tony Shalhoub) hilarious foray into journalism (with a column in *The Village Voice*, no less, which gets a great Nixon vs Kennedy scene) also get space, and the episode in which their sex lives become a punchline is a hoot.

The best comedies are always more than just gags and funny lines, and characters trembling on the border of being caricatures: they tell you about manners and mores. New York-based Jewish families of the time would have had no difficulties in recognising themselves in the Maisels and the Weissmanns, with their constant squabbling and stepping on each other's toes. Privacy? What's that? The cabal of matchmakers who have divvied up NYC among themselves, keeping a sharp eye on eligible bachelors and potential brides feels familiar. Our Sima Aunty, self-styled matchmaker par excellence, who currently holds such sway on the global market, could have learnt a thing or two from these ladies and their ferocious commitment to the cause of moneyed matrimony.

What's truly interesting is just how conservatism and modernism plays out in the America of the time. When Midge is forced to fend for herself, she is up against a philandering husband, disapproving parents and in-laws, and sundry other naysayers. How do women groomed strictly to be perfect wives and mothers, carve out an identity for themselves? We never see Midge, who is back to being called by her 'proper name' Miriam, in this season, rumpled even when she is ruffled. The person who is allowed to be messy and unkempt is the mannish Susie, with her dodgy mobster pals. The rundown club's strippers are never portrayed in an undignified fashion. They may be wiggling and jig-gling, and baring their flesh, but they are people with a paying job.

But this series, created by Amy Sherman-Palladino and produced by husband Dan Palladino, never strays too far from its leading lady, whose struggles to break into the all-boys' club of stand-up comedy has been mined from real-life people and situations of the time. Sixty years on, how much have things changed, for women who want to stand up and be counted? It is a question worth asking.

‘Indian filmmakers retaining decision-making roles is a huge part of this moment’

The filmmakers of India's first Academy Award-nominated documentary feature on their subject

Tanushree Ghosh

Was the Academy's recent diversity policy key in *Writing With Fire's* selection?

**Rintu Thomas, 35:** After the whole #OscarsSoWhite (movement, since 2015), the Academy's documentary branch took its diversifying efforts most seriously, with more people of colour, more women as voters, from outside of the US, and that has a huge bearing on films like *Writing With Fire* (WWF) or *Attica* this year, or *Collective* and *The Mole Agent* last year.

**Sushmit Ghosh, 39:** We are the only film that doesn't have a big producer, streamer or a studio behind it. The nomination, a big win in itself, has opened up a conversation, pan-industry, about how far an independently produced film can go and what the meaning of independence truly is.

Non-fiction filmmakers are rarely invited to film-industry roundtables. Rintu, as part of Maitri, a female-first initiative between MAMI (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) and Amazon Prime, how do you see your role?

**Thomas:** It was a thoughtfully curated table. I realised I was the only one from the world of non-fiction but it was a joy to reach across and share notes of our shared struggles as women writers, producers, creators. Usually, a table like this would have a string of well-known names and I appreciated how this was a different experience. Therefore, the importance of — and our role as — gatekeepers who open doors and keep it open, share knowledge so that not everybody has to reinvent the wheel.

The camera stays at the journalists' eye level. Talk about the film's feminist lens.

**Ghosh:** Feminism believes in the sanctity, equity and dignity of all life. Those are the kind of characters we met while filming *WWF*. It's interesting that this film on an all-women journalistic collective has been shot by two male cinematographers. Aesthetically, Karan (Thapliyal) and I decided to shoot the film from Meera, Suneeta and Shyamkali's perspective. As we followed them, we were constantly bent down as we filmed the world from their imagined eyes. The world looks much more imposing, the stakes much larger as the women take on patriarchy and oppression in the spaces they inhabit. The scenes, in long takes, stays more on the women's faces as they responded and reacted to the world around them.

What visible changes, in the course of filming over four years, did you witness?

**Ghosh:** The fact that Dalit women are stepping out of their homes to work as journalists is in itself a reimagining of cultural conversations. You see the literal impact of their work in one of the first montages of the film where roads get built, access to water is ensured to farmers and electricity is supplied to homes. The mainstream media in these regions is almost entirely composed of male journalists, usually from dominant castes. In a scene, Suneeta reports on a murder with nuance and sophistication, while her male peers bumble around trying to find an angle for their story.

Female solidarity is heartening to see. But



ASHISH SHAH

why aren't there any showdown?

**Thomas:** An incredible amount of power and strength in the film's narrative comes from the way the women at *Khabar Lahariya* lift each other, in mentoring that's firm yet gentle. I find the imagery of women-led institutions missing from our popular culture. When it comes to representing women's relationships, it's mostly through the lens of them being competitive with each other. In this story, we share an alternative narrative — one that foregrounds trust and friendship.

Tell us about positioning Satyam, a young

man with political aspirations, in the film.

**Ghosh:** Satyam is an extremely complex, grey character, definitely not black or white. Having him in the film was important because of Meera's interest in him. She was interested in a long-form journalistic piece that explored the story of young men and women and how they are looking at the world that we are in right now, and what the future of the youth can be. We framed these choices that our youth face in two characters — Satyam and Suneeta. Both have difficult circumstances but choose radically different paths in chasing their dreams.

Earlier this week, *Khabar Lahariya* said in a statement that the film 'eclipses', 'distorts' their work. What do you have to say?

**Ghosh:** We absolutely agree that the film does not fully capture *Khabar Lahariya's* 20-year-long journey. We were on the ground filming with them during 2016-19, as they transitioned from a print to digital news agency. The film is located in this time frame and it speaks to their power and agency both as women and as journalists with a rich history of rural grassroots journalism. The film *Khabar Lahariya* journalists viewed in January 2021 is the same film that premiered at Sundance and has been shown globally (including those where *Khabar Lahariya* journalists were present and engaged in conversations about the film) and that the *Khabar Lahariya* team watched more recently. The safety and protection of *Khabar Lahariya's* work has always been at the forefront of our filmmaking process, which we've led with care and constant communication with the *Khabar Lahariya* team, from our first meeting to recent weeks, and are committed to continuing to engage with and address all concerns.

Your thoughts on cultural appropriation?

**Thomas:** We go into this process deeply

aware that the power dynamic is always tilted in favour of the person behind the camera. In 13 years as documentary filmmakers, our approach has been to invest a lot of time in making that relationship as equitable as possible. It always starts by acknowledging our role as outsiders to the realities of our protagonists and waiting for the moment when they choose us as the tellers of their story. We took the same approach to WWF, a story on media makers.

The Indian documentary has been on a rise in the last two years, how do non-fiction filmmakers navigate the shrinking spaces in India?

**Ghosh:** Countries in Asia like Indonesia or South Korea have a robust culture of supporting documentary filmmakers. Ironically, India is one of the largest film-producing countries in the world and yet we don't have a single public funding grant made available to documentary filmmakers. This an opportunity for mainstream production houses to fill this void and set up funding infrastructure for docu-makers, provide bursaries for student filmmakers, amplify the work happening at Docedged Kolkata, which remains the go-to place in India for feature documentaries.

And that's why one needs international networks and collaborations?

**Thomas:** For the first year of filming, we self-financed it. After the first few schedules, we realised this was going to be a longer-term project, its scale was growing. We kept writing proposals and pitching at several markets and forums, where we were asked, 'who is your US or European producer?' Changing the language around Indian filmmakers telling their own stories while retaining key producing and decision-making roles, which was important for us, is also a huge part of this Oscar moment.

PEOPLE LIKE US

» FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

THIS AMBITION is reflected in the way the film captures the nail-biting match between Gaddigodam's team and that of an elite college in the neighbourhood. "We designed everything in detail — the movement of the ball, the emotion of the players, and the response of the crowd," he says, about the sequence which was shot over two weeks.

Elaborate designing and detailing have also gone into drawing a convincing performance from the group of novice actors sharing the screen with Bachchan, the original angry young man of Indian cinema. "I had rehearsed with them prior to the shoot. They knew they had to act without any fear of the camera or being intimidated by Bachchan Sir's presence," says Manjule, and adds that the credit goes to Bachchan for putting everyone at ease.

Manjule tells *Jhund's* story with a certain mellowness and sass. His slum dwellers exude confidence. Dressed in their finery, they scale the wall to enter the college playground where their match with its students is being held. The director attributes the shift in his tone to the characters' demands. "*Fandry's* Jabya has an inferiority complex but he can hurl a stone too. *Sairat's* Parshya is delicate but also daring. In *Jhund*, Don, Babu, Raziya, and Monica are different from them," he says, about his new bunch of characters who are assertive, irrespective of all the adversities they encounter.

As someone who is aware of the faultlines in our society, does Manjule feel a rage? "There is rage but not blind rage. I had frustrations when I was young. As I went for

higher studies and started doing better, I learnt that it is not always necessary to lash out," he says. After a pause, he adds: "*Yatna hai dil mein* (there is pain in my heart). However, at different stages of life, you feel and react differently." That could be the reason that when Bachchan's character tells his proteges that they can't spend their entire life fighting, it rings a bell among the characters who had never shied away from courting trouble earlier. Hot-tempered Don, when harassed by a local musclem, advises his friend Imraan to say sorry and end the matter. "This is a realisation that I had myself," says Manjule.

While the movie traces the initiatives taken by Vijay Barse, founder of Slum Soccer, the writer-director has let several autobiographical elements seep into the script. Though many people assumed Monica's trouble alluded to the controversy surrounding the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Manjule says that the story track was inspired by his struggle. "I had to run around for the caste certificate and to get my passport done. A number of my relatives work in stone quarries. They still don't have official identification documents," he says.

For Manjule, who has written scripts of all his directorial work, every story has its own distinct nature. "That's sacrosanct for me. I want to maintain the story's uniqueness and temperament. Usually, I don't start writing a script until the story has taken shape in my mind," says Manjule.

Addressing the criticism that the story of *Jhund* meanders in the second half, Manjule says: "Who says that every story has to be told in a certain way? When the title of my



THREE'S COMPANY

Manjule's tried-and-tested method of direction involves a lot of hand-holding and boosting the morale of the actors

film is *Jhund*, you should expect the story of *jhund* (a group of characters)."

There is a perceivable change in the way *Jhund* handles romance, almost with a touch of fairy tale. Manjule, however, disagrees. "Does it come across as a fairy tale because this boy (Don) hasn't studied much and *thoda atpata sa hai* (a bit peculiar) while the girl (Bhavana) is rich and drives a Mercedes? I had once written a poem about how our simple dream becomes a fairy tale. Loving a girl is not an impossible dream. I would give credit to Bhavana that she steps down from higher status in society and falls in love with Don. She can, perhaps, help him lead a better life. If this is a fairy tale, there should be more of them," says Manjule.

Manjule is happy that his movies have initiated conversations regarding some key social issues. "Without a diagnosis, you won't find the cure. What I try to say through my movies, probably concerns many people. It's not about me alone. When dinosaurs attack human beings in a movie, no one has anything to say. What can you tell a dinosaur? It is imaginary. But my stories are about us, about people around us," he says.

The director, who has been called "an excellent storyteller" by actor Aamir Khan and "fearless" by director Anurag Kashyap, however, does not rule out experimenting with different kinds of stories and genres in the

future. Manjule's next movie, *Ghar Banduk Biryani* (2022), features him as an actor. Apart from making an appearance in all his feature films, he has acted in several other movies including *Highway* (2015), *The Silence* (2016), and *Naal* (2018).

For Manjule, acting is a welcome break before he takes up the ambitious project on Shivaji Maharaj. "Today, I understand Shivaji better. He dreamt big. He and his ideologies have united the people of Maharashtra in spite of all the societal divisions," he says. In a much-talked-about scene in *Jhund*, Bachchan is shown paying his respect to Shivaji Maharaj, Jyotirao Phule, Shahu Maharaj and Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Just like sports, cinema has the power to transform lives. After Manjule nurtured the talent of the youngsters in his cast and drew out compelling performances that has given them a new identity, almost all of them today aspire to have a career in movies. Thosar and Rajguru have already worked on several projects after *Sairat*. Awghade, who went back to school after filming *Fandry*, plans to learn the ropes of filmmaking after completing his graduation. It's the same for Gedam. "My life was too hard earlier. Now, people, who never cared about me, have been calling me to compliment my work. I am enjoying this phase of my life. I am ready to take up any kind of job that I get in the world of cinema," says Gedam.



# Flipping the gaze back on the myth of bad behaviour

We are not just accountable for our children, we have to be accountable to them



IMAGINE  
BY SHELJA SEN

RAUNAK WAS six years old when he was punished by his teacher for “bad behaviour”. He was made to sit in his class during break time for a week. And what was the “bad behaviour”? Raunak had not been regular with his homework, and in the class, rather than sitting and working, he would be found staring out of the window. Things came to a head when Raunak tried his best to write a few lines, but his teacher immediately scratched it out with a red pen and wrote, “Shoddy work.” Raunak was devastated and started crying, and when other children started making fun of him, he reacted by hitting a child and running out of the class.

When I met Raunak, I was struck by Raunak’s playful energy, glee and confidence, despite what had happened in school. He shared his love for insects with me and how he wanted to grow up to be an “entomologist” (he had to explain to me what it meant). A part of me relished the conviction of his dreams, and another part could not stop wondering; “Will this confidence start fading away as the world starts convincing him that he is not good enough? How will his dignity be stripped off in the coming years with the single story of being “lazy”, making him doubt his own dreams? Will there be a time, many years from now, when he would come back to me – slouched shoulders, sapped of all his joyous energy, struggling with depression, drugs or self-harm as a reaction to years of judgement and invisibility? Misunderstood, dismissed and diminished just because he did not fit in with society’s idea of a good child. Sounds farfetched? Let me deconstruct this drama of “bad behaviour” to explain.

**Each child is wired and inspired differently:** Raunak’s parents described him as an exceptionally bright boy but assumed that he was lazy as he could not keep up with the school work. Raunak told me that he struggled to write, and no matter how much he tried, his teacher was always unhappy with his work. My initial assessment was that Raunak had graphomotor difficulties (also called Dysgraphia), which made it difficult for him to hold his pencil correctly and, therefore, making the writing process painful and exhausting. Most “bad behaviour” classified as “does not sit still”, “refuses to study”, “gets bad grades” speaks of children who are wired differently. They are not doing this on purpose or because they are lazy or “dumb”. They are neurodivergent, and typical classroom struc-



GETTY IMAGES

tures do not play to their skills and strengths.

**Children are not passive recipients of hardships:** The more intense the anguish, the stronger the response. Raunak told me, “I want my teacher to like me, but she does not like me.” This statement made with a tremulous voice and drooping corners of the mouth brought an instant lump in my throat. How often have I heard this statement from children when they do not get the message of what I call WOW (acronym) – You are *worthy* as you are, you are *original* and unique, and you are *welcome*, you belong. When children do not get the message of WOW, they do what they can to protect themselves. They might withdraw, try to please others or lash back as a way to keep themselves safe. Take any “bad behaviour” from shouting, rudeness, hitting, lying, stealing, drug use, and you will find a story of a child trying to find a way to survive, numb the pain or respond to abuse.

**Stories not only describe children’s lives but shape their lives too:** When we start telling single stories about children, not only do we diminish and overlook their abilities, but it also makes them live their lives according to these problem stories. Raunak, at the age of six, had started believing that he was “dumb”, “lazy”, and though at this age he was able to shrug it off with his playful energy, in time, maybe, that could become the dominant story of his life. Children start internalising these stories and measuring their worth according to them, robbing them of their sense of agency of their own life.

## SOUL SEARCH

Rather than jumping to conclusions, let’s stay curious. When we meet a child who has got the label of ‘bad behaviour’, let’s not ask ‘what’s wrong with him?’ but wonder, ‘what is he trying to protect?’

## Children’s behaviour always makes sense:

“Bad behaviour” is not a call for judgement but an opportunity for us to see what is implicit in the pain. Anger might hide pain of not being seen, frustration as a testimony to seeking meaningful friendships, and hitting out as a way to not let shame define them. We have to stand up to the dominant narratives around children’s “bad behaviour” as they are extremely dangerous. So rather than jumping to conclusions let’s stay curious. When we meet a child who has got the label of “bad behaviour” let’s not ask “what’s wrong with him?” but wonder, “What is he trying to protect? Is this the only thing that is helping him to keep going? How is it sustaining him to live with the pain?”

**This power drama has no villains:** I would like to clarify that it is important that we do not blame Raunak’s teachers, classmates or even his parents for his experiences. There are no binaries of good–evil as we are all indoctrinated into this dominant idea of a “good child/bad child” and pushed to promote it. Even psychologists, psychiatrists and therapists can be recruited into this dangerous manufacturing of good behaviour and fixing children. Requests and referrals for “needs anger management”, “get better grades”, flood our systems and unwittingly, we can become the teeth and claws of this dangerous beast. It is the institutional violence against children that we have to stand up and not let it divide us.

Raunak’s parents decided that rather than

apologising, they had to become advocates for their child. They worked hard with the school management and teachers until there was a higher acceptance of his neurodivergence, acknowledgement of his richer stories and inclusion of him as a valued member of the class. I admired their commitment to their child but I also cannot but feel annoyed about what an uphill task it is for every parent who takes on that role. What about our role in this? Every time we judge or diminish a child, we misuse our power. The scary bit is that nobody is there to hold us responsible as we are all complicit in this drama of power.

*We are not just accountable for our children; we have to be accountable to them too.* So, I am leaving you with a few questions to reflect on:

- What role do I play in being complicit to this drama of power?
  - What can I do when faced with “bad behaviour” without diminishing or dismissing the child?
  - What role do I play in making this world a safer space for each and every child?
- Imagine, if we always put children first. As Nelson Mandela put it, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, writer, co-founder, Children First. In this column, she curates the know–how of the children and the youth she works with. She can be reached at [shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com](mailto:shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com)

## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## Here Comes the Sun

It’s what gives the wood spider dewdrop necklaces and rainbow bridges in the skies

IT REALLY is something we should try to do every day or at least as frequently as possible. Watch the sun come up at dawn and go down again at dusk. For no two sunrises and sunsets are the same. Unfortunately, we have built our cities (especially the big ones) and fashioned our lives in such a way that dawn and dusk gazing is virtually impossible. At dawn we’re still asleep and will rear up like cobras if awoken, at dusk we’re usually battling traffic on our way home from work. But dawn and dusk watching can serve as a tonic far better than anything else.

Take the hills and mountains: Still snuggled in bed, you are awoken by the melodious whistle of the blue rock thrush singing from the roof of the cottage opposite yours. Soon enough, other birds join in and when you hear the maniacal call of the great barbet, yodelling right across the valley to his ladylove, you know you’d better get up. Outside it is crisp and cool as a salad. In the pearl grey-blue haze, you can barely discern the majestic panoply of the mountains floating halfway across the sky. But wait a few minutes. The sky lightens to peach and suddenly the imperious silver mountain is etched in tangerine-gold as the first misty rays of the sun touch it. You watch mesmerised as adjoining peaks quietly illuminate. All too soon they are silvery white and half-hidden by the teal blue haze in the sky – and already there are low banks of clouds drifting across.

You shift focus. A gold and black dragonfly, profusely bejewelled from wingtip to wingtip, waits stock-still on the stem of a plant, waiting for the sun to warm its mighty flight muscles. A ladybird, pearled with dew, trundles laboriously like a Volkswagen Beetle, investigating the heart of a great maroon dahlia. The wood spiders are squatting in the centre of their dewdrop necklaces draped over the foliage. On the ground, a fuzzy brown woolly-bear caterpillar spangled with silver dew makes its way across the fragrant soil. The leaves in their myriad shapes from hearts to scimitars backlit by the sun look



RANJIT LAL

## POCKETFUL OF SUNSHINE

Watching the sunrise or sunset can actually be good for your well-being

like a treasure-trove of jagged emeralds. All too soon the sun is platinum bright, the black shadows and the dawn has changed to day. But your mood has been lit up for the rest of the day.

Early that evening there is a rainstorm that clears soon enough. From the west, the sun shoots gilded rays across the dark green valley, as in the east, the great gun-metal clouds still glower like a massed battalion in dignified retreat. A rainbow spans the sky like a suspension bridge as parakeets shoot across it dart-like. On the other side of the valley, a locked white house glimmers faintly in the fading light as the sky now turns to Prussian, washed with brushstrokes of pink. Dusk swiftly gives way to darkness, silence and stillness and already the first stars begin to prickle and wink as a fingernail moon hangs, sharp as the blade of a scalpel. Here at least, there is peace on earth.

Sunset and dusk on the coast can be so different. At first, the entire ocean ahead is a vast pulsating sheet of beaten gold. Swiftly the blinding light softens until you can actually look at the sun – first shooting a bar of pure bullion across the restless water and then, like a frosted tangerine taken from the fridge, slowly sinking into the grey-blue sea. The wavelets, frothy and lace-like, sigh and hiss quietly as they expire in a welter of rainbow bubbles at your feet, they are done for the day. But you, sitting on the damp dark sand or gingerly on a jagged rock are mesmerised by the sun – watching until it sinks into the water and gradually disappears.

Even hard-core city-dwellers need not deprive themselves of these treasures. On a late-evening flight from Ahmedabad, I remember being stunned when the entire sky outside the vast terminal window suddenly flamed lava-gold. It lasted but a few moments, but held one transfixed. Those on red-eye or pre-sunset flights need only to look out of their aircraft windows for a show they are unlikely to forget. In the city canyons, giant plate-glass skyscraper facades blaze like sheet flame gloriously if briefly.

There is a magnetic, hypnotic effect that both dawn and dusk have that is impossible to resist, a spell cast over all that beholds them. Photographers know this only too well and unleash their cameras only now. Every dawn brings with it a new beginning, it is time to step out, and every dusk a serene closure, it is time to return home. Either way, they tell you that you are a part of the great scheme of things, which in these bleak and hostile times can be so redeeming and comforting.

## ‘It will take time for new work to start coming with the same energy as before’

Sunil Shanbag on theatre in the post-pandemic era, rebuilding the stage and reflecting on new stories

Dipanita Nath

DURING THE pandemic, as several members of the theatre community came together to help artistes in distress, Mumbai-based theatre director Sunil Shanbag encountered an elderly *lokanayak* performer whose deep sense of self-respect was preventing him from taking help. “Don’t give me charity, give me a job,” he said. The performer had a chronic medical problem for which he had to take medication every day. When he realised that his son had lost his job during the pandemic, he began to look at his medicines as a luxury. He stopped taking the pills and, within a week, his health started to fail.

“What kind of a job can you give a 75-year-old who is ill and all theatres have shut down? These were some of the difficult moments during the pandemic,” says Shanbag, who was a part of TheatreDost, an initiative that supported 600 families over six months.

Two years after the first lockdown in India, World Theatre Day 2022, on March 27, is being marked by artistes who are returning from a devastation. Theatres are open but the cracks are evident, in the form of fellow artistes who died or left the scene, financial difficulties and a shaky infrastructure. Shanbag is among the veterans of the art form who are now helping rebuild the stage. Excerpts:

For the last two years, World Theatre Day

has been marked by anxiety and uncertainty. Are you in a more hopeful mood this year?

I am an optimist so I don’t have to make the extra effort and I feel a great sense of pride in the creative community, across art forms. People have shown resilience and the ability to fight and bounce back. For instance, Mumbai’s set workers and technicians are a part of a small union and it became easy to work through them to contact those who needed support. The pandemic told us that unless we have representation and support systems, the future will be difficult.



Do you see a return to the normal now that theatres are open?

There is a fair amount of activity since the government allowed auditoriums to operate at 100 per cent occupancy. Many of the bigger theatre companies are now slowly coming back. It has created confidence. But two years is a long time for a system that is mostly entrepreneurial and not supported

by the state or otherwise, where the economies are quite poor, and which is dependent a lot on daily-wage workers. In Maharashtra, the *lavani* and *tamasha* artistes have suffered hugely. The biggest impact was on the daily wage workers – the technicians, set boys, booking clerks, managers, ushers and others.

Will these experiences result in theatre now telling new kinds of stories?

Theatre does not react instantly. There is a



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

## STAGE RIGHT

(Left) Sunil Shanbag; a file photo of one of his directed plays, *Deewar*, staged in Mumbai

lot of self-reflection but it will take time for new work that deals with the experience of the last two years. Many actors haven’t come back to the city from their villages and towns. Films and television supported a lot of actors during the lockdowns, but they block actors contractually for long periods of time making it hard for them to commit to live performances. Theatre in Mumbai has always depended on the balance between film and TV work, and theatre. That balance has been upset. Those theatre people who moved to doing other work will find it hard to justify a return to the uncertainties of theatre. Many took up alternative work like running taxis, food services, selling spices, and so on.

What about new performers?

In the absence of accessible formal train-

ing, most theatre people learn by doing. Even actors, who have trained formally in an institution, often find that they have to unlearn and relearn in regular productions. For most of two years, where were the productions for them to perform in?

Why aren’t you creating a new play?

In our view of theatre, creating a play is not the only way to be in theatre. There are multiple projects happening that are focussed on the ecosystem. We are developing a residency in Kashid, on the coast south of Mumbai, which we hope will nurture new work. I am also working with a new university which is starting a visual arts major, to help develop the course and design a black box space. But, yes, in the middle of all this, I am hoping a new play will come.



# 16 ECONOMY

## SECTOR WATCH AVIATION

### Scheduled foreign flights resume today: India to connect with 63 countries

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

SIX INDIAN airlines and 60 foreign airlines will start connecting India with 63 countries Sunday onwards as the aviation regulator DGCA has published the final schedule for international flights. The scheduled international flights will resume after a two-year suspension, imposed in March 2020 on account of the Covid pandemic.

According to the new summer schedule, foreign airlines will operate 1,783 weekly flights, while Indian carriers will operate 1,466 departures every week. Market leader IndiGo will operate 505 departures per week, followed by Tata Group-owned Air India at 361 weekly flights, and its subsidiary Air India Express at 340 flights per week.

The resumption of scheduled international operations is expected to happen in a staggered manner. As per the last schedule prepared before the pandemic hit, a total of 4,700 international flight departures were being operated every week from Indian airports — with the split between international and domestic being approximately 50:50. Till Saturday, international flights in India were operating through air bubble arrangements with 37 countries.

The countries that get added as a result of scheduled operations include Iran, Malaysia, South Korea, Poland, Myanmar, Turkey, Yemen and Egypt. Even as scheduled operations replace air bubble flights, the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will continue to be applicable for international arrivals into India.

Dubai-based Emirates — which has the biggest operations in India for a foreign airline — will operate 170 flights a week. Sharjah-headquartered Air Arabia will operate 140 flights, including 30 Air

**EXPLAINED**  
**Staggered restart**

THE RESUMPTION of scheduled international operations is expected to happen in a staggered manner. As per the last schedule prepared before the pandemic hit, a total of 4,700 international flight departures were being operated every week from Indian airports.

Arabia Abu Dhabi's flights from the UAE capital.

Sri Lanka Airlines will operate 128 weekly departures, while Oman Air will operate 115 flights every week from various destinations in India to Muscat.

Among European carriers, British Airways will operate 49 departures per week, while German carrier Lufthansa will operate 32 flights a week. Air France will fly 20 flights every week, and its group airline KLM will fly to Amsterdam from India 18 times a week.

Connecting India to Southeast Asia, Singapore Airlines will fly 65 times a week from Indian airports, its low-cost arm Scoot will operate 38 departures. Malaysian carrier AirAsia Berhad will operate 71 flights, while Malaysia Airlines will operate 30 departures a week. Thailand, one of the top tourist destinations from India, will also see connectivity through Thai Airways and Thai Smile, with weekly departures of 36 and 21, respectively.

A significant connectivity is also being provided between India and African countries with airlines such as Air Tanzania, Egypt Air, Ethiopian Airlines, Rwand Air and Kenya Airways operating weekly flights.

Among the US-based carriers, United Airlines and American Airlines will operate 28 flights and seven flights every week, respectively.

## GOVT ENTERS INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS

# Revenue impact, India Inc concerns slow Aus FTA talks

KARUNJITS SINGH  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

A PROPOSED interim trade agreement between India and Australia in advance of a full-fledged Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is facing delays, as the government has had to enter inter-ministerial discussion about the impact the proposed agreement on domestic industry and revenue implications of reducing duties on certain imports from Australia, according to officials aware of developments.

At the start of trade negotiations, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had announced that the two countries were aiming to conclude an interim or early harvest trade deal by December 2021. In a joint statement issued by India and Australia on Monday, both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison "re-committed to concluding an Interim CEA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) at the earliest," and a full fledged agreement by the end of the year. India has been pursuing early harvest agreements in FTA talks as a way to address easy issues in trade first, so industry can start benefiting



JNPT port, near Mumbai. Key exports to Australia include petroleum products, pharma products and gems & jewellery. *File*

from lower tariffs quickly.

"Certain departments including the department of revenue are concerned (about lowering duties). That is being sorted out," said an official requesting anonymity. The official said that any agreement would likely require a relaxation in tariffs on coal which accounted for 77.5 per cent of imports from Australia in the first 10 months of the fiscal.

"I don't foresee coal becoming an issue because it has to be a part of the agreement otherwise they cannot meet WTO requirement of covering substantially all the trade (between two countries)," the of-

ficial said. WTO rules require that any trade agreement eliminate trade barriers including duties on substantially all the trade between two countries.

India largely imports coking coal from Australia which attracts a Customs duty of 2.5 per cent. Other key imports from Australia include gold, copper ore and inorganic and organic chemicals and LNG. Fruits and vegetables are also an important part of imports from Australia accounting for about 1.6 per cent of imports in the first 10 months of the fiscal. India will likely seek to exclude agricultural products from any trade agree-

ment with Australia. Australia's Trade Minister Dan Tehan had said in February that Australia understood that dairy, wheat and beef were sensitive issues for India.

India's key exports to Australia include petroleum products, pharmaceutical products and gems and jewellery. India is seeking lower tariffs for exports from labour-intensive sectors including textiles and leather products as one of its key priorities in ongoing negotiations. India is also looking to secure a more relaxed visa regime for Indian students and professionals looking to study or work in Australia.

Another official who did not wish to be quoted said India was wary of entering into a deal too quickly, keeping in mind issues that have arisen from past trade deals. "Getting the best deal is our top priority, so that we avoid the unfavourable FTAs we signed in the past. FTAs are going to last for a long period and it's in fact good that absolute due diligence is being done," the official said.

India has sought to review FTAs signed with South Korea, Japan and the ASEAN group of nations which have resulted in increasing trade deficits with these trading partners.

## Number of recognised startups at 65,861 now from 726 in FY17

Number of recognised startups has risen from 726 in 2016-17 to 65,861 as on March 14 this fiscal, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha



**THE GOVERNMENT** had launched 'Startup India' initiative on January 16, 2016, with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for

nurturing the startup culture that would further drive economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale

**Recognised startups are spread across over 640 districts and have reported a creation of more than seven lakh jobs with an average of 11 jobs being created by them** Source: Govt data/PTI

employment opportunities

**"SUSTAINED GOVERNMENT** efforts in this direction have resulted in increasing the number of recognised startups from 726 in FY 2016-17 to 65,861 in FY 2021-22 (as on 14th March 2022)," Goyal said

**SPREAD ACROSS** 56 diversified sectors such as IT services, finance technology, technology hardware, enterprise software, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology

**THE STARTUP** India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization...Rs 945 crore has been allocated under the scheme for a period of four years starting from 2021-22

# Fuel prices hiked: 4th rise in 5 days

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

PETROL AND diesel prices were hiked by 80 paise a litre each on Saturday, the fourth increase in five days as oil firms passed on to consumers the spike in cost of raw material.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 98.61 per litre as against Rs 97.81 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 89.07 per litre to Rs 89.87, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

All the four increases since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22, have been of 80 paise a litre. These increase increases are the steepest single-day rise since the daily price revision was started in June 2017.



**A pump in Guwahati. Auto fuel prices were raised by 80p each on Saturday. PTI file**

In four increases, petrol and diesel prices have gone up by Rs 3.20 a litre. Prices had been on a freeze since November 4 ahead of the assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab — a period during which the cost of raw material (crude oil) soared by about \$30 per barrel. **WITH PTI**

## The statement comes after co-founder NR Narayana Murthy's son-in-law Rishi Sunak, UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, was accused of profiting from Vladimir Putin's regime by the British media

"I welcome commitments already made by a number of firms to divest from Russian assets — and I want to make it crystal clear that the government supports further signals of intent. I am urging firms to think very carefully about their investments in Russia and how they may aid the Putin regime — and I am also clear that there is no case for new investment in Russia," Sunak had said in a statement issued by the UK government on March 13.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24 this year, several companies from across the world have announced they would either temporarily restrict or stop providing services to Russia and its citizens. On the other hand, countries have imposed economic sanctions and seized assets belonging to Russian companies and their businessmen.

## Voda Idea shareholders okay ₹14.5K cr fundraise

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

SHAREHOLDERS OF Vodafone Idea have approved a proposal to raise Rs 14,500 crore, the debt-ridden telecom operator said in a filing on Saturday.

Shareholders approved the proposal at the extraordinary general meeting held on Saturday.

It had placed special resolution of issue of equity shares worth Rs 4,500 crore to the group firms of promoters Vodafone and Aditya Birla Group for transaction at the EGM. As part of its fundraising, VIL had sought shareholders' approval to raise Rs 10,000 crore through sale of equity or through a mix of ADR, GDR and FCCBs. **WITH PTI**

## BRIEFLY

### Vaishnav, growth

**New Delhi:** The economy can grow consistently at 8 per cent for 20 years, leading to the generation of up to 1.5 crore new jobs and bringing out 3.5 crore people out of the poverty every year on the basis of the capital investment strategy of the government, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

### NCLT president

**New Delhi:** New-age technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be used for early resolution of matters, including insolvency cases, National Company Law Tribunal president Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar said.

### YatraOnline IPO

**New Delhi:** Yatra Online Ltd has filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi for an initial public offering that includes fresh issue of shares worth up to Rs 750 crore. The initial public offering (IPO) would also have an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 93,28,358 equity shares.

### Toyota hike

**New Delhi:** Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Saturday said it will increase prices of its entire model range by up to 4 per cent from April 1 to offset the impact of rising input costs. The company noted that prices are being hiked due to the rising input costs. **PTI**

# Akasa Air to launch ops from June: CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 26

AKASA AIR is all set to roll out its commercial operation from June, its CEO Vinay Dube has said here.

Speaking at an interactive session on the sidelines of Wings India 2022, Dube on Friday said the airline hopes to have a fleet of 72 aircraft in the next five years.

"We hope to launch our first commercial flight in the month of June. We are working very closely with Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation) to get our licensing done," he said replying to query. He further said the airline plans

to have 18 aircraft on ground as part of its fleet within 12 subsequent months of launching and then add 12 to 14 every year making it 72 in five years.

"We are very excited and serve number of people with warmth and affection and kindness," he further said.

To begin with, Akasa Air will have services from metros to Tier II and III cities. There will also be flights from metros to metros so that the aircraft is moved around the system, the CEO had earlier said. Dube had said the airline targets to start overseas flights in the second half of calendar year 2023 once there are 20 planes in its fleet.

# Domestic coal supply to be made on proportional basis: PowerMin

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE POWER Ministry on Saturday said it will not be possible to supply coal other than on proportionate basis to make up any shortfall.

The Ministry of Power in a statement said it is monitoring the coal supply situation in the country and has taken steps to ensure adequate coal supply and coal stocks based on the domestic coal received from Coal India Ltd (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) and captive coal mines.

As per the decision taken in the ministry in consultation with

## Production in captive coal mines allotted to power plants may be maximised to the limit permitted by the Ministry

state gencons, IPPs (independent power producers) and central gencons, domestic coal supply will be made proportional to the coal received from CIL/SCCL for all the gencons and it will not be possible to give more coal other than on proportionate basis to make up any shortfall, it added.

It has issued a circular direct-

ing certain actions to be taken on priority to enhance the supply of domestic coal.

Firstly, production in captive coal mines allotted to power plants may be maximised to the limit permitted by the ministry.

Secondly, it has been decided that a lesser number of rakes would be made available to such power plants where there is slackness in prompt unloading of coal from rakes.

This step has been taken to maximise the utilisation of available railway rakes. Therefore, this aspect may be monitored at the state government level and unloading of coal may be ensured within the given norm. **WITH PTI**

# Sebi plans reducing timelines for open, buyback offers

**New Delhi:** To reduce the overall time taken for the completion of open and buyback offers, markets regulator Sebi has suggested changes in the timelines for procedural activities, including a lesser time period for tendering shares.

The proposed changes would bring down the overall time taken for completion of open offers to 42 working days from the current 62 working days, while in the case of buyback offers, the time period will reduce to 36 working days from 43 working days at present.

As per Sebi, the changes would be "investor-friendly".



**Sebi building, Mumbai. As per the regulator, the changes would be 'investor friendly'. File**

In this regard, the watchdog has issued a consultation paper, and comments have been sought till April 15. **PTI**

# Fujifilm bets on imaging solutions to detect diseases

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

FUJIFILM IS leveraging its imaging solutions for prevention and early detection of disease.

It recently launched the "Never Stop" campaign, which seeks to sharpen the accuracy of diagnostics by using its advanced tools of AI and IoT for digital radiography, endoscopy, ultrasound, MRI and CT systems. The company says it's creating an ecosystem of precise, intelligent and accessible solutions for better outcomes.

Koji Wada, MD, Fujifilm India, said, "Fujifilm India has always been at the forefront of healthcare innovation. For us, it has been about celebrating the 'Never Stop' spirit of people and inspiring them to learn the possibilities that good healthcare can bring. We want to shape the future of healthcare in India with our leading tech, equipment and solutions and this campaign captures the sentiment perfectly. With this, we want to further strengthen our commitment to deliver sustainable products, drive social changes and never stop innovating solutions for a better world."

## Threat list: FCC adds Kaspersky, some China telcos

**Washington:** The Federal Communications Commission has added Russia's AO Kaspersky Lab, China Telecom Corp and China Mobile International USA to its list of communications equipment and service providers deemed threats to US national security.

The regulator last year designated five Chinese companies including Huawei and ZTE Corp as the first firms on the list, which was mandated under a 2019 law. **REUTERS**

boosting renewable energy.

While the Mediterranean rim states pressed for a cap on wholesale gas prices to shield poorer households, opponents said this would entail public cash subsidising fossil fuel generation.

The leaders charged the European Commission with urgently assessing what short-term options, from price caps to tax rebates, could help reduce gas and electricity prices.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi told a news conference after the summit that the EU executive would discuss options with large oil and electricity companies.

"We expect to have some proposals by May," he said.

Spain and Portugal did secure permission to implement temporary measures to curb their electricity prices.



**Debris of a burning house, destroyed after a Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine. AP**

The war in Ukraine has pushed energy prices to record highs and prompted the

European Union to seek to cut Russian gas use by two-thirds this year, by finding gas elsewhere and







# Veterans’ day out on opening night

Ajinkya Rahane's mini blitz cancels out Dhoni's quickfire fifty as KKR beat CSK by six wickets

**SYNOPSIS:** Umesh Yadav's powerplay burst, MS Dhoni's 50 but it is Ajinkya Rahane's 44 that helped KRR seal a win

**ABHISHEK PUROHIT**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 26

A TWO-wicket powerplay burst by Umesh Yadav followed by Chennai Super Kings' mid-innings stumble and struggle to score against spin meant they put up only 131 despite MS Dhoni's fifty. Riding on Ajinkya Rahane's 44, Kolkata Knight Riders cantered to the target to beat the defending champions in the opening game of the Indian Premier League 2022 by six wickets.

## Dhoni brings the crowd alive

MS Dhoni is nearing 41 and hadn't played a competitive game since the IPL 2021 final last October. And he walked in at 61 for 5 against Varun Chakaravathy and Sunil Narine, two spinners he has found perhaps the hardest to tackle over the years. The crowd – despite the restricted capacity which meant the bottom tiers were almost entirely vacant – began to cheer for him as soon as he started to descend the dressing-room steps. Even as Dhoni scratched to 2 off 10, the crowd tried to get him going by chanting his name. Meanwhile, Narine kept ripping carom balls past his outside edge. Dhoni's first boundary came off a misfield at mid-off but even then, he was on 15 off 25 going into the final three overs.

Finally, to the fans' utter delight, he woke up, prospering against the pace of Andre Russell and Shivam Mavi even as the dew began to make an impact. He delayed his cut and slap-pull to beat the sweeper and deep square leg respectively. He lunged at a dipping full toss to ensure he sliced over extra cover into empty spaces. The highlight was



Ajinkya Rahane's 44 off 34 at the top of the order effectively shut CSK out and ensured KKR had the buffer to absorb some blows along the way.

an almost-helicopter clip off Russell that split the gap between deep midwicket and long-on for four. Dhoni would end on 50 off 38, his first half-century in the IPL in three years. It increased CSK's innings run-rate marginally from 5.55 to 6.55, and would

make no difference to the outcome of the game, but it did bring Wankhede alive for a while. Dhoni's acceleration was also noteworthy as the man who replaced him as captain, Ravindra Jadeja, managed an unbeaten 26 off 28.

## Umesh bosses the powerplay

Umesh Yadav did not get a single game in IPL 2021. He got a mere two games in IPL 2020. But with Pat Cummins and Tim Southee unavailable for this game, he was right in the mix for the IPL 2022 opener. KKR coach Brendon McCullum had spoken about his solid powerplay record due to his ability to swing the new ball and take early wickets.

And Umesh set the tone right at the start of the tournament with a somewhat erratic – not out of character – opening over interspersed with some seriously good deliveries. At the end of the powerplay, his figures read 3-0-12-2. The very first delivery was a no-ball and a couple of wides were to follow in the first over. But he also kept the batsmen guessing, getting one to cut in and cramp them and then getting the other to swerve away sharply.

Ruturaj Gaikwad followed one such massive curler that was headed head high to the lone slip and only managed to tickle it through. The left-handed Devon Conway wasn't allowed room to hit to his strengths square of the wicket. Off the first ball of Umesh's third over, a frustrated Conway tried giving him the charge but only ended up chipping tamely to mid-on.

On another night, Umesh will inevitably go for runs but on the first night of the league, he was completely switched on.

## CSK stumble

After Umesh's strikes had left CSK at 28 for 2, Robin Uthappa had sort of revived them to 49 for 2 in the eighth over. It wasn't a blitz but Uthappa had played a lovely pick-

up off Umesh that just sailed over the deep square leg boundary, and was looking in reasonably good nick. Ambati Rayudu had just launched Chakaravathy casually beyond the deep extra cover rope.

Then Uthappa – probably attempting one of his walk-and-tap singles to long-on – walked past a Chakaravathy wide that slipped down the leg side and was stumped. Next over, Rayudu was run out after a mix-up with Ravindra Jadeja, who first began to jog, causing Rayudu to respond, and then abandoned the idea. Local man Shivam Dube came in and immediately tried to take on Andre Russell's heavy short ball that got big on him and spooned it to short mid-wicket. In the space of three overs, CSK had gone from 49 for 2 to 61 for 5. And fortunately for them, the score could have been worse had KKR capitalised on a couple more run-out opportunities. The situation would allow Chakaravathy and Narine to get in some more quiet overs to finish with a combined damage of only 38 runs in their 48 deliveries.

## Rahane seals the deal

Ajinkya Rahane may have lost his India Test spot but he can still be pretty useful in such middling T20 chases. His 44 off 34 at the top of the order effectively shut CSK out and ensured KKR had the buffer to absorb some blows along the way. Rahane was typically strong through extra cover and straight down the ground but the standout was a pull off Adam Milne that ended in the upper tier beyond deep square leg. He even brought out the reverse-sweep for four against Jadeja, but gave it away when he whipped Mitchell Santner straight to midwicket.

**Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 133 for 4 (Rahane 44, Bravo 3-20) beat Chennai Super Kings 131 for 5 (Dhoni 50\*, Umesh 2-20) by six wickets**

## EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

## Two sides of same coin

Two new IPL captains Shreyas Iyer (leading KKR for the first time) and **Ravindra Jadeja** (replacing someone named MSD) did seem to feel the pressure at the toss. Iyer seemed more composed – he has after all a season of captaincy for Delhi Capitals under his belt – but he also forgot the three new caps given this season. “Myself, Billings, and ... I forget the name!”. Shortly he remembered and yelled out, “Rahane”. Well, it was Rahane who he replaced in the Test team recently. Jadeja seemed more under the pump. He averted the gaze of the host Danny Morrison, who as ever was hyping up everything in his now-familiar accent and tone, preferring to look mainly at the side towards the pitch as he answered. There was another comeback

man of sorts. Ravi Shastri, commentator turned coach, turned to commentary again from this IPL. Were there nerves? You must be kidding! As ever, he boomed. Not surprising as he once told about his first-ever day in the commentary box many decades ago. When did you feel at home Ravi? “The first day itself. I felt like I belonged here... Yeah there were butterflies. And you were doing it with the big boys, yaar. There was (Tony) Greig there. There was Chappell, Stackpole there. Guys who had done television. Barry (Richards) was there. Thommo (Jeff Thomson) there. Henry (Blofeld) was there in Sri Lanka. The triangular series. You knew. Immediately when you went there, you knew you can hold your own.”

## Learning on the job

For Chennai Super Kings, change of captaincy has happened, but as the franchise's chief executive Kasi Viswanathan told this paper, the change of guard would be gradual. **MS Dhoni** has handed over the reins to Ravindra Jadeja, but he would mother-hen the latter to grow into the job. The lead-up to the IPL-15 opener offered a glimpse. As the two teams did their warm-ups, CSK head coach Stephen Fleming got into a deep on-field conversation with Dhoni. The newly-appointed skipper wasn't in the frame, happily doing the knocking in one of the practice nets. Jadeja will learn on the job under Dhoni's tutelage, the master passing on experience, and tricks, to his pupil. Through the dressing room glass shield at Wankhede, TV cameras smartly captured one of those moments; between



his food morsels, the ex-captain talking to his successor and Jadeja listening intently. CSK have a clear transition plan, by the time Dhoni hangs up his playing boots, the chosen one would be his own man.

# Sandhu trails Thippong by two shots

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

AS EXPECTED at the Delhi Golf Club, the first couple of pages of the leaderboard were inundated with Indian names. But all of them were chasing an unheralded Thai going into the final round of the DGC Open.

Coming into the event, not many would have heard of Nitithorn Thippong, and with good reason. The 25-year-old had never led an Asian Tour event before coming to Delhi, but a two-under par 70 on Saturday took the golfer from Bangkok to an eight-under aggregate and a two-shot lead over India's Ajeetesh Sandhu at the Lodhi Course.

Not that Thippong was the only one from his country in contention. Settee Prakongvech's 70 was enough to put him in sole possession of third spot, a further shot back, on a day when dropped shots were more frequent than birdies and eagles with

only 11 players breaking par.

If one goes by pedigree and past record, Gaganjeet Bhullar (fourth at four-under) has to fancy his chances. Nine wins on the Asian Tour (the most by an Indian) and local knowledge should count for something.

Thippong didn't have everything going his way, and had to grind out a decent round. “I just focus on my process, just play, and have fun. I didn't hit many greens today, but I made a lot of great up and downs, I think I made almost all my up and downs,” he reflected.

Sandhu went backwards in relation to par with a round of one-over 73, and it was an eagle at the par-five 14th hole that gave him the chance to be in the final group, sandwiched between the two Thais.

The winner of the 2017 Yeangder Tournament Players Championship fought through the day to stay in the running.

“A difficult day. The wind was off, the course was firm. It was a very good test out there today,” the 33-year-old from

Chandigarh said. “I hung in there today, didn't really have my best day. Off the tee, with the irons, and with the putter, everything was kind of average. But I'm glad I'm still up there and I'll have a shot to win tomorrow, so that means a lot.”

Veer Ahlawat, the leader at the halfway mark, had a disappointing day with a 78, but only five shots behind Thippong.

Bhullar was in an upbeat mood after finishing his third round with a birdie. “The last four to five holes were playing really tough and the moment you missed the green there, making an up and down was not easy. I'm glad I finished the round with a birdie on the 18th,” he said. “On such days, it's very important to gauge the conditions early on in the round. I've played in worse conditions in Europe so I used that experience today. I kept telling myself that no one is going to hit low scores, so just keep making fairways and greens and keep making the up-and-downs.”

# Messi scores with a mis-hit on return

**BUENOS AIRES:** ARGENTINA SCORED twice in three minutes late in the second half, including a curiously mis-hit effort from Lionel Messi, to cement a 3-0 win over Venezuela in Friday's World Cup qualifier in Buenos Aires. Argentina had already qualified for Qatar before Friday's game and were on top throughout against the last-placed side in the South American qualifying group and the only one of the 10 South American sides never to reach the World Cup finals.

They got the breakthrough their pressure deserved 10 minutes before half-time when Nicolas Gonzalez knocked home Rodrigo De Paul's inviting low cross from six meters out.

Substitute Angel Di Maria scored a lovely second in 79 minutes when he ran on to a through pass from De Paul and then chipped the ball over three Venezuelan defenders from outside the box. Messi himself got the third three minutes later when he chested down a Di Maria pass before scuffling the ball past a helpless keeper, Wuilker Farinez. “We are very happy,” said De Paul, “we love playing in this shirt. The best thing about this group is that it treats every game as a final.” “This is what it's all about. Never letting up.” The defeat was Venezuela's 10th in their last 12 games and the win extended Argentina's unbeaten run under coach Lionel Scaloni to 30 games going back to July 2019. The home side, who were without four players suspended for breaching COVID-19 quarantine rules ahead of September's suspended game against Brazil, has never lost to Venezuela in eight home qualifiers. The two-times world champions and current Copa America winners will be joined in Qatar by Brazil, Ecuador and Uruguay, while Peru, Colombia and Chile are battling for fifth place and a playoff spot against a team from the Asian confederation.

## Giroud on target

Olivier Giroud defied the doubters again as he marked his France comeback by scoring his 47th international goal when the world champions beat Ivory Coast 2-1 in a friendly on Friday. Giroud, who had not been called up since his country were knocked out in the last 16 of the European Championship last year, cancelled out Nicolas Pepe's opener to move four goals shy of Thierry Henry's France all-time scoring record before Aurelie Tchouameni wrapped up the win in stoppage time. The AC Milan forward, who rarely disappointed coach Didier Deschamps despite limited playing time when he was at Chelsea, was included in the squad following Karim Benzema's injury.

REUTERS

ANURAG BACHAN'S DROANACHARYA- IAS

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