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PEACE TALKS IN ISTANBUL

First ray? Russia says will scale back near Kyiv, Ukraine floats neutral status

Russia says long way to go; Kyiv calls for Putin-Zelenskyy meet

JONATHAN SPICER & GLEB GARANICH
ISTANBUL, KYIV, MARIUPOL, MARCH 29

RUSSIA PROMISED on Tuesday to scale down military operations around Ukraine's capital and north, while Kyiv proposed adopting neutral status, in confidence-building steps that were the first signs of progress towards negotiating peace. Their talks took place in an



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with the Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul on Tuesday. AP

Istanbul palace more than a month into the largest attack on a European nation since World War-II. Russia's invasion has been

halted on most fronts by stiff resistance from Ukrainian forces who have recaptured territory

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FM underlines growth, flags war challenges: Oil prices, supply disruption

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE BUDGET will help keep the focus on sustained growth recovery but the Ukraine war poses a fresh set of challenges, from disruption in supply chains to rising oil prices, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Rajya Sabha Tuesday. Replying in a debate on the Appropriation and Finance Bills, Sitharaman reiterated that the Centre "is conscious of the need to balance the imperatives of growth and also make sure India's recovery post-Covid is sustained and sustainable."

"...this Finance Bill has been presented at a time when the revival from the pandemic days is



Nirmala Sitharaman in Rajya Sabha. PTI

still an ongoing job and we are focusing on a sustained growth recovery, with a predictable taxation regime and ensuring newer challenges before us. At the time of the Budget presentation, I had not taken on board the Omicron (wave) and now we are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Home Minister Amit Shah with Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma on Tuesday. PTI

Meghalaya, Assam take key step to resolve border row

Solution on 6 of 12 spots; Shah says 'historic'

TORA AGARWALA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

IN WHAT has been termed as a "historic day" for the Northeast, the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya on Tuesday signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to resolve part of their five-decade-old inter-state border

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

EXPLAINED
E Key turn but twists ahead

MEGHALAYA WAS carved out of Assam in 1972, and has held a different interpretation of the border since. The resolution at six of the 12 areas under dispute is significant, but the remaining points of friction are more complex and may prove to be a bigger challenge.



SARISKA FIRE

An IAF chopper Tuesday sprays water on a fire that broke out in the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. PTI

REPORT, PAGE 8

Meanwhile, war business as usual at arms stopover town in Poland



KRISHN KAUSHIK
RZESZOW (POLAND), MARCH 29

THE FIRST glimmer of hope for Ukraine may have emerged from Istanbul, but no one's taking any chances in Rzeszow. This

small town in southeastern Poland, with a population of just 2 lakh and a city about 10 km wide, continues to be the hub of a massive military transfer operation that has enabled Ukraine to put up an unexpectedly resolute defence against Russia.

At the heart of Rzeszow is City Hall, which has Ukraine's blue-and-yellow flag in the front along with the white-and-red of Poland. And, it's through Rzeszow's civil airport, barely 100 km from the border, that

weapons shipped from the West are transported to Ukraine, which then make their way to the frontlines — from Kyiv to Mariupol.

Marek Swierczynski, a top military analyst in Poland, told *The Indian Express* that Rzeszow "has become the main spot" for the transfer of weapons that have stalled Russia's advances across the front. Once military equipment lands at Rzeszow-Jasionka Airport, it is loaded onto

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



CAN'T TAKE WORLD PEACE FOR GRANTED: JAISHANKAR **PAGE 6**

34 non-J&K residents have bought land in UT: Govt in LS

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE GOVERNMENT told Lok Sabha on Tuesday that 34 people from outside Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have bought land in the Union Territory — including in Kashmir — since August 2019.

"As per the information provided by the Government of J&K, 34 persons from outside the UT of J&K have bought properties in the UT of J&K after abrogation of Article 370. The properties are located in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur and Ganderbal districts," Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, told Lok Sabha in response to a written question. While Reasi and Udhampur are in Jammu, Ganderbal is in Kashmir.

Sources in the J&K administration said all these properties have been purchased by individuals, including businessmen and professionals, from Punjab and Delhi. According to sources, in all the cases, the plots of land are not very big and largely suited for setting up holiday homes or farmhouses.

"Following abrogation of Article 370, land prices in J&K have appreciated almost six times. Plots available for Rs 3 lakh per kanal are now selling for Rs 18 lakh per kanal. Many people are investing with the future in mind. There is confidence among investors that peace will eventually prevail in the Valley and that investments made now

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

UPSC INTERVIEW

SCORE IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP

ANIL SWARUP
IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary School Ed. Govt of India.
Topic: Different UPSC Services and Officer Like Qualities

VINOD ZUTSHI
IAS (Retd.) Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India.
Topic: DAF Analysis

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New Delhi

TAKES AIM AT CENTRE

Regret not being allowed to ensure ration at doorstep: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Monday that he regrets not being allowed to implement the doorstep delivery of ration scheme in Delhi.

Kejriwal, whose government in Delhi has been at near-constant loggerheads with the Centre, said its government in Punjab will implement the schemes that were not being allowed in Delhi.

"I became the CM but there's a regret that I have. I haven't been allowed to implement this (doorstep delivery of ration) scheme in Delhi. For the last four years, I have pleaded with the Centre but they refuse to allow it. Our shoes have worn off making rounds of their offices to get this done, but they have their own vested interests. But then, God has been very kind. When there were roadblocks on one path, he



Was speaking at Assembly

opened another for us. We've implemented the scheme in Punjab... The Centre has only put roadblocks in our way. They held up the Mohalla clinic project for two years. Then they stopped the CCTV project. We were forced to protest inside the L-G house to get the file (for CCTVs) cleared."

Addressing the house during the ongoing budget session of the Delhi Assembly, he said AAP's ideology was love for the country,

staunch honesty and humanity.

"Many people ask me what our ideology is. I tell them, AAP's ideology has three pillars — *kattar desh prem, kattar imandaari, insaaniyat*. We have a staunchly honest government in two states now," he said. Speaking about the 'Rozgaar budget' that the government tabled this year, Kejriwal said his government was not afraid to make commitments to the people.

"For the first time in the history of independent India, a government has had the courage to present a 'Rozgaar Budget'... The AAP government in Punjab regularised 35,000 employees and announced 25,000 new government jobs. The AAP government in Delhi has announced the generation of 20 lakh jobs in 5 years through its budget. AAP's work initiates a country-wide conversation on governance; like governments copied our schools, Mohalla clinics and free electric-

ity, they will be compelled to create jobs too," he said.

Meanwhile, senior AAP leaders Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj said it was the BJP-led Centre that had opposed the regularisation of Kashmiri migrant teachers in Delhi schools.

"It was our government that offered permanent jobs to Kashmiri Migrant teachers. BJP's L-G ordered that since it is a services related matter, the elected government of Delhi has no right to take final decisions. BJP Spokesperson Pinky Anand opposed the regularisation of Kashmiri migrant teachers when the SLP was filed," she said.

BJP leaders, however, accused AAP of opposing the regularisation in court. "The AAP often takes cudgels against the L-G and one fails to understand why AAP leaders kept mum when the L-G was stopping them," said Delhi BJP General Secretary Harsh Malhotra.

Another GitHub app accused granted bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

A DELHI court granted bail to 20-year-old engineering student Niraj Bishnoi, who is accused of allegedly creating an app on GitHub, where photos of hundreds of Muslim women alongside derogatory comments were posted for 'auction'.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dr Pankaj Sharma Monday observed that Bishnoi is a first-time offender "having already been suspended from college" and that such "prolonged incarceration would be detrimental to his overall well-being and career" since he is young. The court said he has "roots in the community and he's not a flight risk".

Bishnoi was arrested by Delhi Police's Special Cell from his home in Assam on January 6. Police said he has been named in four other cases related to the app, and for allegedly harassing a Congress official online. Bishnoi has been granted bail upon furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000 subject to conditions that he will not contact the victim or tamper with evidence, and will share his location with the investigating officer.

The prosecution opposed his bail arguing that the investigation is ongoing and Bishnoi allegedly created an objectionable app used to "promote enmity between communities". To this, the court noted that the probe is complete and a chargesheet has been filed in the case.

Halt station for Green and Pink Metro lines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE DELHI Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Tuesday inaugurated the city's first 'halt station' at Punjabi Bagh West Metro station to provide an interchange facility between the Green and Pink lines. The station was inaugurated by DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh.

According to officials, the DMRC has built a station that connects two operational corridors for the first time. The platforms are 155 metres in length and are connected by a 212-metre long Foot Over Bridge (FOB) with two extra-large lifts on each platform to carry 26 passengers each.

The station will provide inter-

connectivity between line 5 or the Green line (Brigadier Hoshiar Singh to Inderlok/Kirti Nagar) and line 7 or the Pink line (Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar).

Earlier, people used to either take a rickshaw or walk for 20 minutes after exiting the Pink line Metro station, to board the Green line towards Bahadurgarh and outer parts of the city like Nangloi and Mundka.

With the halt platform in place, commuters who want to interchange between the two lines can use the FOB and board trains without any hassle. "There will be boarding and deboarding facilities on this station as a result of which passengers interchanging trains between the Green and Pink lines will be able to use the facility," said a DMRC official.

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VALEDICTORY SESSION

Shri Rajnath Singh*
Hon'ble Minister of Defence
Government of India

GUESTS OF HONOUR



Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma
Hon'ble Minister of State for MSME
Government of India



Shri Ajay Bhatt*
Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence
Government of India



Mr. Ibraev Akylbek
Hon'ble Deputy
Defence Minister of Kyrgyzstan

EMINENT SPEAKERS



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Department of Defence Production
Government of India



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Ministry of MSME & CMD, NSIC



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4 THE CITY

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITALVACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
78,501PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **64**

OXYGEN SUPPORT

VENTILATOR SUPPORT **0**DELHI: TOTAL
CASES
18,64,734HOSPITAL BEDS **9,791**ICU BEDS **2,203**Recoveries **18,38,140**Deaths **26,151**Tests **3,73,00,750**

Total active cases in Delhi

Total **9,791**Vacant **9,727**Deaths **N/A**Cases **N/A**Deaths **N/A**

GURGAON

Cases **29**Deaths **0**

NOIDA

Mar 28

Mar 29

Cases **N/A**Deaths **N/A**

GURGAON

Cases **29**Deaths **0**

ONE OF THE MEN TRIED RESCUING THE OTHER THREE

Four trapped after falling into sewer while repairing wires, rescue op on



During the rescue operations, Amil Bhatnagar

AMIL BHATNAGAR &
JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

FOUR PEOPLE were trapped after falling into sewer in Outer Delhi's Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar on Tuesday afternoon. Until late night, rescue operations were underway to try and save the men. Police said three of the men were working to repair wires but accidentally fell into the sewer, and an auto-rickshaw driver who tried to get inside the sewer to save them was also trapped.

The three linemen were identified as Bacchu Singh, Pintu and Suraj Sahni, and the auto-rickshaw driver as Satish Singh (38). The linemen worked for a private contractor and were asked to fix telecom wires, officials said.

Brijendra Kumar Yadav, DCP (Outer North), said, "We received a call at 6.34 pm saying that three workers were at the sewer for MTNL wire work on Main Bawana road and had gone missing. The Station House Officer along with beat staff rushed to

"The sewer is deep and we are trying to locate them. There are many entangled wires in the sewer line," said an official at the site

the spot and cordoned off the area. Delhi Fire Services and ambulances were called to the spot as well."

Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said they received a call at 6.25 pm and sent four fire tenders to the spot.

Between 16 and 20 firemen are undertaking rescue operations. An officer said, "We don't know what their condition is. The sewer is deep and we are trying to locate them. There are many entangled wires in the sewer line."

A team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) arrived for rescue operations, and around 11 pm, a rescuer attempted the first dive.

After discussing a strategy, officials made several knots in

ropes to provide an effective hoisting movement for the NDRF diver.

Due to a lack of space for oxygen equipment and hoisting wire, excavators have been called to the spot to dig and widen the manhole in order to help with the rescue operations, police said.

Harinder Singh, an acquaintance of Satish Singh from Sardar Colony in Sector 16, said, "We came to know that our friend's brother went inside the sewer line. He was on his rickshaw when he saw a crowd. When he came to know that some people are trapped, he immediately hoisted a rope to go inside and has been trapped since. He has three children."

As the rescue operation began, electricity supply across the Main Bawana road was shut down as a precaution. Officials said methane gas had built up and was detected by the rescue team.

A wooden mesh was visible a few feet away from the sewer hole, and it was estimated that the four people were below the wooden structure.

‘AAP does not oppose unification (of MCDs)... problem is the timing’

BJP is like a child trying to delay an injection, says AAP MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak. Excerpts from an interview

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

What is your opinion on the unification of MCD?

Let's first understand the issue. The issue is whether there should be small states or big states. Everyone believes there should be smaller states for better governance. The question that arises then is where does one get resources from to run a smaller state. There was one MCD in Delhi till 2010. Thereafter, 272 wards were divided to make three corporations (in 2012). Now the issue is unification. AAP does not oppose it, we are in favour. You can make two corporations, or five, it does not matter because the issue is of governance. Can you govern or not? Delhi is not very big; 272 wards are not unmanageable. If the party which has been in power in MCD for 15 years cannot govern around 100 wards in smaller corporations, how will it govern 272 wards under a unified body? Secondly, the issue of unification on the basis of faulty division of resources is very old. South has more resources, North doesn't have much. We fully agree with this. But the problem is the timing. BJP has been in power in the Centre since 2014 and in MCD since 2007. They could have taken this decision at any time... This is undemocratic.

Say in Gujarat, BJP is losing elections and it says that it wants to merge three districts and unification is required, so elections should be delayed. Will the country accept this logic? And if this country is governed by this logic, then elections can never take place in this country. Then only the powerful will want to rule for life and elections are not required.

You can do the unification after the polls or it could have been six months before too. Why do you want it right now? Because you have lost Punjab elections. Modi ji is scared of Kejriwal ji and that is why they are running from elections. It is clear.

We reported recently that the Centre wants to cut out the "middleman" and fund the corporation directly. Do you think something will change on the ground as a result?

In 2015-16 the Delhi Cabinet sent a proposal to the Centre asking them to fund the MCD directly... But how much money is given to MCDs by the Centre to begin with? In India, all municipal bodies get Rs 488 per person (living in their jurisdiction). Noida gets this money, Ghaziabad gets it, Gurgaon gets it, but Delhi does not get it. The Chief Minister and the Finance Minister have written to the Union Home Minister as well as the Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister, asking them to give this money directly to corporations... But they don't do it.

How much do you think this (BJP) can benefit the BJP?

BJP just wants to postpone its loss for some time. Small children



"Any party, if it starts believing at a point that it does not need anyone else, is headed for a downfall."

make a lot of excuses on the day they are supposed to get an injection. They say they are not feeling well, etc. But ultimately, they do get the injection. BJP ko bhi injection haar ka toh lagega (BJP will also get the injection of loss). The people of Delhi are fed up... Garbage dumps are increasing every day; whether you enter Delhi from Gurgaon, UP or Haryana, you are welcomed by landfills. We compare ourselves

to developed nations, and this is the condition inside the capital... As per our internal survey, we will probably win 240-260 seats as per the current situation. There is a lot of anger among people on how elections can be delayed. You can tamper with institutions; people don't really get that much of an idea. But elections are the core of a democracy.

AAP has seen successes in education and health, but in terms of infrastructure, the Deputy CM has himself said there is a need to expedite PWD projects. Potholes, too, have become a major issue.

First, the minister has himself acknowledged there is a need to work on this front. It shows that we have a realisation. This sensitivity... this intention is a big thing in itself. We are not saying that we have improved Delhi 100 per cent, but we have done that work in Delhi, which no one in the country could have imagined.

You can see in UP, Goa, Rajasthan or other states, you will find cows and buffaloes roaming in government schools, there are no children, no education is imparted, the entire system has collapsed. So, when it comes to schools and hospitals, we have done plenty of work, and on other issues too, we are working.

Of late, many councillors from Congress and BJP have joined AAP. Do you not trust your workers or policies or is your organisation not strong enough yet that you can field strong candidates?

Any party, if it starts believing at a point that it does not need anyone else, is headed for a downfall. You make a great swimming pool, put water in it and then decide you will not remove this water or put new water in the pool. You will notice that in six months, the water will be dirty. So, no organisation can run unless there is a possibility of people continuously joining it. Whenever we take someone into the party, we conduct a thorough

BRIEFLY
12 wanted gangsters arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Special Cell arrested 12 wanted gangsters, some of whom are allegedly involved in the murders of Congress leader Vikas Chaudhary and Shiromani Akali Dal youth leader Vikramjeet Singh, after raids were conducted across five states this month. DCP (Special Cell) Manishi Chandra said the 12 worked for Armenia-based gangster Lucky Patial and jailed gangster Kaushal.

Heat wave in parts of city

New Delhi: Parts of Delhi-NCR recorded a heat wave Tuesday, and similar conditions are forecast for Wednesday and Thursday. The maximum temperature at weather stations, including at Lodhi Road, Ridge, Aya Nagar, Gurgaon and Faridabad, touched 40 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive day.

Labourer killed as soil mound caves

Gurgaon: A 22-year-old labourer died after soil caved in at an under-construction commercial site near Sikanderpur Badha village at Sector 84 in Gurgaon on Tuesday morning. Police and fire department officials said six labourers were working in a basement, dug at least 30-feet deep, when the incident took place. **ENS**

24 hours, 90 firefighters: Ghazipur landfill blaze still not under control

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

NEARLY 24 hours after a massive fire broke out at the Ghazipur landfill site Monday afternoon, officials said it continued to rage in some parts of the area. The Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said more than 90 firefighters have been working since Monday to control the fire. At present, four fire tenders and six JCBs have been deployed at the landfill site.

Local residents complained of difficulty breathing as fumes from the blaze spread to nearby colonies. Fire officials Tuesday said they have been facing multiple challenges in the firefighting operation.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police registered an FIR against unknown persons under IPC sections 287 (making atmosphere noxious to health), 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), and 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others). Police said an investigation will be conducted



Fire officials Tuesday said they have been facing multiple challenges in the firefighting operation. Gajendra Yadav

to ascertain the cause.

"We are waiting for the fire to be extinguished, then we will question guards and workers at the site to see if any mischief was involved," said an officer.

On Monday, the DFS received a call at 2.27 pm and rushed to the spot with 50 firemen and six fire tenders.

The fire spread to different piles of garbage within minutes, and officials said highly com-

bustible material, methane emission, smoke, unstable ground and heaps of garbage posed a challenge.

DFS chief Atul Garg said, "We initially sent six fire tenders to the Khaata area at Ghazipur. After 6 pm, we called four more fire tenders to help control the blaze. It takes time to control these landfill fires. The waste is dumped without any segregation, making it difficult to con-

123 booked, bus burnt as protest by private firm employees turns violent in Manesar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, MARCH 29

POLICE BOOKED 123 people for allegedly vandalising two buses after protests by employees of a manufacturing company at IMT Manesar turned violent Tuesday evening. Police said the protesters set a bus on fire and shattered the window panes of another bus after some of them were detained and taken to the police station.

Police said the employees of the company at Sector 3 have been protesting since March 3 demanding the reinstatement of employees who were allegedly

terminated. Earlier this month, at least 30 women employees had staged a protest outside the office of the Gurgaon Police Commissioner on the issue.

In a statement, police said they received a complaint from JNS Instruments Ltd stating that since March 3, some of its employees have been protesting and sloganeering. The company officials were unavailable for comment.

Subhash Boken, spokesperson, Gurgaon police, said the complainant said the protests were related to the company's decision to transfer nine women employees to their Bhiwadi

plant's line in November 2021.

The complainant said that out of nine, five had joined and four had not, and their case is sub-judice in the labour department.

Police said that at 5.45 am on Tuesday, protesting employees sat outside the company's gate and forcibly stopped other employees from entering the premises. Police said that as per the orders of a court issued on December 24, 2021, the entry of protesters was barred within 1,000 metres from the company's gate. The complainant alleged that the protesters had disobeyed the court's orders.

Ajay Kumar, naib tehsildar,

Manesar, said, "The protesters claimed that they were protesting against wrongful termination of some of the workers. On Tuesday morning, the protesters blocked both the gates of the company and sat outside, violating the court's directions. We gave them several warnings, but when they refused to move, instructions were given to detain them in two police buses and they were taken to the police station."

Subash Chand, SHO, IMT Manesar police station, said that after protesters were detained, some others gathered outside and damaged the buses.



The initiative is to set an example and push public to adopt EVs and reduce vehicular pollution, an official said. Archive

the type of (dry/wet-lease) of EVs at their own level, based on resources available with them."

"The finance department's approval is required in respect of number of electric vehicles to be hired for the first time, but not required for extension of existing contracts... or fresh hiring of the same number of vehicles in subsequent years after observing all formalities," reads the office memorandum issued by Secretary (Finance) with the approval of Deputy CM's office.

The committee has however

exempt special category vehicles like ambulances, fire and enforcement vehicles falling from switching to electric.

It further said electric cars purchased/leased/hired should be GPS-enabled.

Asked if the high expense was the hindrance to making EVs mandatory for official purposes, Transport principal secretary cum commissioner Ashish Kundra said, "Cost is not an issue as the government gives incentives for purchasing electric cars, but if you buy a car,

you will have to manage secondary expenses like maintenance, charging infrastructure, etc... So, it is not as if department's cannot buy e-cars. The transport department, the DPCC, GAD have purchased EVs, but we haven't made it mandatory for all departments."

He added, "We have started with hiring and leasing. As manufacturing of electric cars and supply chains progress, the government will also gradually make purchasing such cars mandatory in future."

PURCHASE OF ALL VEHICLE TYPES TO CONTINUE

Green push: Delhi govt to hire only electric vehicles for official purposes

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE DELHI government will, going forward, hire and lease only electric vehicles (EVs) for official purposes. However, purchase of petrol, diesel and CNG vehicles for bureaucrats, ministers and senior officials will continue.

After its formation in August last year to prepare a broader policy on electric vehicles, a Delhi government committee has decided to continue with the

previous scheme that allows purchase of all vehicle types.

Sources said the government has not made purchase of EVs mandatory since they are costly, there is a lack of charging infrastructure, and is not mandatory under the 'Delhi EV policy'.

Departments, bureaucrats and senior officials can purchase petrol, diesel and CNG vehicles as per the previous guidelines, with the net dealer prices (NDP) fixed at Rs 4.75 lakh.

The committee has, however, revised the guidelines for hired

and leased cars, and has made it compulsory that all such vehicles used for commute of GNCTD officers should be electric.

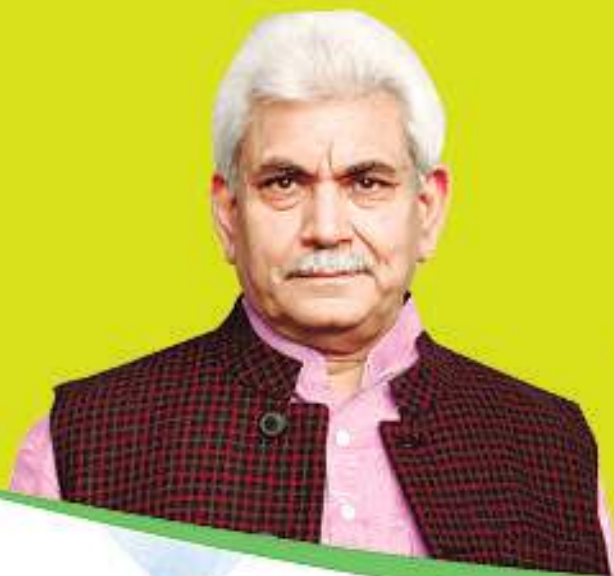
Shifting to electric cars for official purpose is to set an example, and push the public to adopt e-vehicles and reduce vehicular pollution, an official said.

The revised guidelines state: "All leased/hired cars used for the commute of GNCTD officers shall be electric and department, grantee institutions/autonomous bodies will decide

Jubilant
Jammu
Kashmir



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Towards
Transparent
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of Revenue Records scanned

55200 Musavi
(maps) scanned

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- No mechanism available for citizens to view or monitor the status of their revenue records
- Citizens were dependent on the officials for the purpose
- Neither transparency nor convenience

NOW

- Citizens can monitor and view the status of their land records online
- More than 6.50 lakh citizens have viewed the status of their land records so far
- The feedback of the citizens has resulted in purification and updation of land records

JAMMU AND KASHMIR AGRICULTURAL LAND (CONVERSION FOR NON AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES) REGULATIONS, 2022 NOTIFIED

Change in Land
Use (CLU) process
simplified

Applications to be
filled online

Disposal within
30 days

Jammu and Kashmir Land Pass Book Rules 2022

- Online issuance of Land Pass Book
- Unique Number for every Land Pass Book
- Carry the same evidentiary value as certified copies of Record-of-Rights.
- Land Pass Book in three languages

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6 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



LANKA CONNECT

IN COLOMBO for the bilateral meetings and the BIMSTEC Summit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar saw the news that scheduled surgeries at a local hospital were suspended due to shortage of medicines and only emergency surgeries were taking place. He immediately asked Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay to contact the hospital authorities and find out how India can help. Jaishankar has had a personal connection with Sri Lanka from his early diplomatic career. From 1988 to 1990, he served in Sri Lanka as First Secretary at the Indian High Commission and was political adviser to the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF).

SPECIAL GUESTS

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana on Wednesday had some special guests at his official residence – Padma Bhushan awardees and Covaxin-makers Bharat Biotech MD Krishna Ella and Joint MD Suchitra Ella. The CJI said Covaxin had saved lives all over the world, particularly in the developing countries, and praised the couple for bringing name to the country. CJI Ramana told Krishna Ella that he could not have achieved all this without Suchitra Ella's partnership. He said it was an inspiring story for promotion of scientific research in the country. The CJI also felicitated Padma Shri winners actress Sowcar Janaki, who has acted alongside three former chief ministers – N T Rama Rao, M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa – and folk artist Sakini Ramachandraiah.

TDP foundation day: Naidu talks of threat to 'Telugu motherland', attacks Jagan

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD MARCH 29

THE 'TELUGU Motherland' is facing an existential threat, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu said Tuesday, as he called for a renewed struggle to "reconstruct" Andhra Pradesh.

At an event to celebrate the party's 41st foundation day, Naidu criticised the YSRCP government led by Chief Minister Jagan Reddy of stalling development and churning away industries with "its anti-business policies".

"This motherland is facing a threat under this regime and we have to fight to regain 'Telugu pride'," Naidu said, adding, "The state has fallen back into the hands of forces of destruction."

Naidu said after the state's bi-



Naidu in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

furcation in 2014, the TDP regime came out with a "grand plan" to create new opportunities by developing Amaravati as the capital on the lines of Hyderabad. "The present government has stalled Amaravati and also chased away industries. There has been no development in three years," he said.

Shivpal skips SP meeting with allies; his party says 'disrespected, has options'

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, MARCH 29

AFTER A brief patch-up during the Uttar Pradesh polls, differences between Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Yadav were evident again after Shivpal skipped a meeting of SP and its allies at in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Tuesday's meeting was convened by Akhilesh Yadav and was attended by leaders of all SP allies. Only Shivpal's PSP(L) did not send a representative.

SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said: "He was invited but couldn't come. I don't know why. There will be a discussion with him soon to figure out the future strategy as he is an ally."

PSP(L) spokesperson Arvind Singh Yadav said: "Shivpal Yadav was on his way to Etawah from Delhi and couldn't make it to today's meeting at such short notice. He is a big leader, and he had supported the SP, but it doesn't mean he doesn't have other options. He had considered Akhilesh Yadav as his leader but despite this, he has been disrespected repeatedly."



S Jaishankar with other BIMSTEC foreign ministers in Colombo on Tuesday. AP

Can't take world peace for granted: Jaishankar

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

UNDERLINING that "recent developments in Ukraine" have led to "international disquiet", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that the "maintenance of international peace and security, and even stability can no longer be taken for granted".

Speaking at the BIMSTEC foreign ministers' meeting in Colombo, Jaishankar said: "The international system is going through a very challenging phase, perhaps one of the most difficult in recent memory. The challenges of Covid-19 pandemic have not yet fully abated. But recent developments in Ukraine have added to international disquiet. We have all underscored that the maintenance of international peace and security, and even stability can no longer be taken for granted. We must recognise that we face headwinds – both from the global economy and, in some cases, from within our own domestic economies."

"Under these circumstances, as we shore up our domestic capacities, we also need to broaden and deepen cooperation under BIMSTEC. We need more working together in many more areas; we need more effective and fast-paced cooperation. We need to intensify and build on what we have achieved in the last 25 years," he said.

The foreign ministers' meeting comes a day before the virtual BIMSTEC Summit, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leaders of other countries belonging to the grouping. Besides India and Sri Lanka, the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

The BIMSTEC Summit, being hosted by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the current chair of the grouping, is expected to focus on expanding economic engagement. Not wanting to share the stage with Myanmar's rulers, India is learnt to have leaned on Sri Lanka

to host it on a virtual platform.

On Tuesday, Myanmar's Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin joined the meeting virtually; the rest were all present in person.

Jaishankar said the leaders from participating countries will adopt the BIMSTEC Charter on Wednesday. This will give this grouping the "international personality", formally state its purposes and principles, and lay out the basic institutional architecture through which the grouping will carry out work.

"This is a landmark achievement in our effort to develop the institutional architecture for BIMSTEC. But we must not rest on this achievement and instead move on to 'next steps' that can be taken to further strengthen BIMSTEC. I am confident that we will identify priority institution building tasks and areas of cooperation, and task our senior officials to work with the Secretary General for their realisation," Jaishankar said.

He also pushed for acceleration of efforts to boost trade and economic ties. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Not approached by anyone over Presidential elections: Patnaik

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 29

ODISHA CHIEF Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday said that neither the government nor the opposition parties have approached him so far over discussions on the Presidential elections. The election for the new President of India is scheduled in July this year.

Patnaik, who is on a three-day visit to Delhi since Monday, visited the Parliament on Tuesday and interacted with Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha over various issues of state interest.

Interacting with reporters, Patnaik said, "I have come to Parliament to meet my party MPs and to take up the developmental schemes of Odisha."

When asked whether there should be a consensus between the government and opposition over a presidential candidate, Patnaik said, "I haven't given a thought to it. There is time for presidential elections and no one has approached us so far."

Party national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sasmit Patra said, "In our meeting with the CM, various issues of state interest were discussed. He also met MPs from other parties but there was no formal interaction or meeting as such."

Patnaik is expected to meet senior BJP leaders and also Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party, however, declined to comment on his schedule. He is also likely to hold discussions with BJP leaders as three of the seats will fall vacant in July with BJD Rajya Sabha members Prasanna Acharya, N Bhaskar Rao and Sasmit Patra set to retire. And one seat held by Subash Chandra Singh, who won the mayoral election recently, will fall vacant after he resigns.

PM in Bengal address: Violent intimidation against democracy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

AMID A war of words between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and opposition BJP in West Bengal over the recent deaths in violence in the state's Birbhum district, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said at a function that intimidation through use of violence is a violation of democratic rights.

"It is our democratic right to take part in political activities. But if someone's political activities are stopped through intimidation and violence, then that is a violation of those rights," Modi said in his video address from Delhi to the Matua Dharma Maha Mela at Shreedham Thakurnagar in West Bengal, a stronghold of the politically influential Matua community.

"That's why it is our duty to oppose the mentality of violence anywhere in society. It is our duty towards the society and the nation," Modi said in his address.

Nine people, including women and children, were burnt to death last week in alleged retaliatory violence following the death of a TMC leader in Bagtui area of Birbhum district, a TMC bastion. The CBI has taken over the probe following directions of the Calcutta High Court. Extolling Harichand Thakur, the 19th century social reformer and spiritual head of the Matua community whose birth anniversary was observed on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said that Thakur's teachings become more relevant when faced with violence in society. He said another aspect of Thakur's teachings was to sensitise people about their duties towards the society.

"Today, when we see killings and an attempt to divide the society on the basis of language and region, the teachings and philosophy of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur becomes more relevant," he said. "I would like to ask the Matua community to raise their voice against violence."



PM Modi virtually inaugurates houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, in Madhya Pradesh. PTI

Two crore families in rural India given pucca houses: PM

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, MARCH 29

OWNERSHIP OF homes by women has empowered them and strengthened their say in financial matters of the household, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after inaugurating 5.21 lakh houses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Gramin in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday.

Putting emphasis on cooperation among states in implementation of Central policies, Modi virtually took part in griha pravesh (housewarming) of the beneficiaries.

Addressing them, Modi said, "Our government has provided pucca houses to 2.5 crore families across the country – of these, 2 crore houses are in rural areas. More than 30 lakh PM Awas houses have been approved in Madhya Pradesh, of which more than 24 lakh have been completed."

Emphasising on the participation of backward tribes such as Baiga, Sahariya and Bhabha, he said, "The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government (in MP) deserves to be applauded not only for effectively implementing the Centre's schemes but

also extending its benefits to the most backward tribals, who had never thought of owning a pucca house (earlier)."

Speaking on the need to conserve water, Modi took a pledge with the beneficiaries to build 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district of the country by next year. These ponds, he said, should be new and big. "The benefit of MGNREGA can be taken in their construction. It will play an important role in protection and promotion of the environment," he said.

Modi also said that PM Awas Yojana is the first step towards alleviation of poverty, which were earlier limited to mere slogans. "When the poor sleep under a pucca roof, they will be able to concentrate on their children's education and other works with confidence."

Chief Minister Chouhan, who was on an official tour of Chhatarpur district, told the beneficiaries: "A provision of Rs 10,000 crore has been made in next year's state Budget to ensure construction of 10 lakh houses under PM Awas in the next three years. Besides houses, toilets, cooking gas, electricity connection and drinking water will also be provided to the beneficiaries."

TN minister accused of harassing Dalit officer stripped of portfolio

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 29

TAMIL NADU Transport Minister R S Rajakannappan was stripped of his portfolio on Tuesday, two days after he allegedly harassed a Dalit officer in his constituency Ramanathapuram.

Rajakannappan's Transport portfolio has been allocated to S Sivasankar, Raj Bhavan said in a press release, in what could be termed the first Cabinet reshuffle after Chief Minister MK Stalin came to power in May 2021.

Sivasankar's Cabinet portfolios – including Backward Classes Welfare – have been allocated to Rajakannappan. He has been redesignated as Backward Classes Welfare Minister.

Top sources in the government confirmed that the reason for the reshuffle was the complaint against Rajakannappan for harassing Block Development Officer Rajendran. The alleged



Rajakannappan has been given Backward Classes Welfare

incident took place on Sunday. "He harassed a Dalit officer, using casteist slurs. So the Chief Minister gave him the portfolio that looks after backward communities and their welfare, probably to teach him a lesson," a source said.

Rajendran, 57, from Mudukulathur in Ramanathapuram was summoned by Rajakannappan to his Sivaganga residence on Sunday. According to his statement, the moment he entered the minister's residence and wished him, Rajakannappan called him an "SC (Scheduled Caste) BDO".

"That was the first thing he said, 'SC BDO'. Then he said I only listen to the Chairman... He was shouting at me... He said he was

retaining me in the position only because I belong to the SC community," Rajendran said.

"He said he would not let me continue anymore in the position, that I will be transferred soon to a northern district. Shouting at me, he said I have no right to sit in the seat and kept on calling me 'SC BDO', at least 5-6 times. I was sitting and crying before him. He treated me like a dog and (he) said get out of the house...", he said. "Here, I am submitting what exactly had happened, nothing more or less. The incident put me to extreme mental trauma, I haven't had such an insult in my 57 years of life."

Known for money and muscle power, Rajakannappan had faced many corruption allegations and changed several parties over the years. A former minister of the first Jayalalithaa Cabinet in 1991-96, he was made accused in a disproportionate assets case. However, he was acquitted in 2015.

US Deputy NSA likely to visit this week

New Delhi: US Deputy National Security Advisor Daleep Singh, who has been the architect of sanctions against Russia, is likely to visit India on Thursday for bilateral meetings, sources said on Tuesday.

South Block sources said Singh, one of the key officials crafting the sanctions against

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his inner circle, will brief the Indian establishment on the "scale and scope" of the sanctions.

"The Americans and the Europeans have been asking the Indian officials to make sure that Russia is not able to circumvent the sanctions... Singh will be able

to convey the urgency of the implementation of sanctions," a source said.

India has always maintained that it is against "unilateral sanctions", but it has followed the sanctions on Iran – when the US leaned on New Delhi to bring down oil imports to zero.

ENS

Amid raging Maharashtra battle, MVA, BJP slug it out via state, central agency 'proxies'

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, MARCH 29

ON MARCH 22, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached properties worth Rs 6.45 crore of a company owned by Shridhar Patankar, brother-in-law of Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president, Uddhav Thackeray.

Three days later, the ED attached properties worth Rs 11.35 crore of Sena MLA Pratap Samal in a case of Rs 5,600 crore fraud at the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL).

The ED's move came after the Sena-ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is-

sued a notice to Opposition BJP leader Mohit Kamboj Bhartiya for "inspection" of his residential building in Mumbai. Bhartiya has been vocal against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)-led Maharashtra government.

As the BJP, which rules the Centre, and the Sena-led MVA, which includes the NCP and the Congress, continue to be locked in a bitter conflict, a proxy battle seems to have been waged by the two camps by unleashing various central and state agencies against each other over the last two years, in which enquiries, summons, arrests, property attachments, and even property inspections have been used as weapons. This is not only

to intimidate leaders of rival camps but also to send out a signal that any action by one side will see retaliation by the other.

While central agencies including the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Income Tax (IT) and CBI have been probing cases linked to the Sena, NCP and Congress leaders, Maharashtra government-controlled agencies like the police and civil bodies have been going after BJP leaders too.

Currently, two MVA leaders and ex-ministers in the Thackeray cabinet, Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik, are behind bars in connection with ED cases.

Soon after the ED's 22 March move, NCP chief Sharad Pawar

called it a "gross abuse of central agencies to settle political scores". Sena leader and its most vocal face, Sanjay Raut said, "If the Opposition feels that by pressuring the main pillar (Uddhav) of MVA you can get the government to fall and implement President's rule, then all I can say is – wake up."

There are several instances of tit-for-tat action through the agencies controlled by either side.

On February 21, the BMC had inspected the eight-storey Juhu bungalow of the BJP's Union minister Narayan Rane for alleged irregularities. On August 25 last year, the Maharashtra police arrested Narayan for making a derogatory remark against

Uddhav. He got bail on the same day. On February 2 this year, Nitesh was arrested in an attempt to murder case.

On March 13, the Mumbai police crime branch recorded the statement of Opposition leader and ex-CM Devendra Fadnis in a case related to alleged phone-tapping carried out by the State Intelligence Department.

On March 14, the Mumbai police lodged an FIR against BJP leader Pravin Darekar for allegedly using bogus membership of a labour society to get elected as a director of one of the state's biggest cooperative banks, the Mumbai District Central Cooperative Bank.

Two months earlier, an FIR was filed against BJP leader Girish Mahajan and 28 others on charges of extortion, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy, causing hurt to extort confession or property, forgery and theft, which was based on a complaint filed by a lawyer Vijay Patil.

As regards the central agencies, the ED arrested former Maharashtra minority affairs minister Nawab Malik and ex-home minister Anil Deshmukh on February 23, 2022 and November 2, 2021, respectively, on money laundering charges.

The arrest of Malik, who had been taking on the Centre and BJP leaders such as Fadnis aggressively, was considered to be

so "inevitable" that he himself had tweeted about having heard of the ED's impending raid at his Kurla residence two months prior to his arrest while also claiming that he was ready to "welcome them wholeheartedly with tea and cookies".

Seven other MVA leaders have been probed by the ED in 2021 alone. In July 2021, the ED attached a sugar mill worth Rs 65 crore in Satara leased to a company related to Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and his wife Sunetra as part of its probe into a money laundering case pertaining to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank. In September 2021, Sena leader Anil Parab appeared before the ED in a bribery and

money laundering case linked to Deshmukh.

A security establishment officer says the past two years have been "chaotic" in Maharashtra, which has not seen different governments at the state and central levels for more than a decade. "What makes it worse is that their ruling parties don't see eye-to-eye, making it worse for officers in investigating agencies who have to do a tight rope walk."

A senior IPS officer in Mumbai, requesting anonymity, said the rivalry between MVA and BJP and their use of police and central agencies are taking a toll on morale. "It further hurts when the cases from either side don't sustain in the courts."

7 IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I would still think that for the benefit of the House, even if a Member is absent, I would like to respond to them because the issues are important...”

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN,
Finance Minister, in Rajya Sabha

5 QUESTIONS

SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA,
BJP MP FROM BHILWARA, RAJASTHAN,

SPEAKS TO APURVA VISHWANATH

You raised the issue of non-Hindu Scheduled Tribes (STs) getting reservation today (Tuesday)

Yes. My simple point is that when a member of a STs converts to another religion, they should not get the benefit of reservation. A large number of Scheduled Tribes are converting to Christianity and, despite this, are eligible for reservation, which is not fair. They (Christians) say their religion has no caste. Reservation is on the basis of caste, so why should they take the benefit.

The reservation for STs is not based on caste though.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar said the reservation for Scheduled Tribes is to give equality to those who protect our forests and wildlife. They have their distinct culture, but they also have a Hindu ancestry. But once you become a Muslim or a Christian, you are not a tribal anymore.

But if one chooses freely to convert, they are still part of the tribe.

But they are pressured into converting, and will continue to get reservation. This is a big problem in tribal areas. I received many representations about it. If the reservation is stripped off, then conversions will also stop. Now there is nothing to stop them. However, if they come back to Hinduism then they should be eligible.

But the Constitution recognizes Dalit Buddhists and Dalit Sikhs.

That is for Scheduled Castes only. There cannot be a Dalit Muslim or a Dalit Christian because the Constitution does not recognise that term. If those religions do not have caste, why should they get benefits of reservation.

What is the way forward?

The government must bring an amendment to the Constitution and ensure that those who convert do not get reservation. The benefits must go only to the real STs.

‘Only BJP recognises work of all ex-PMs’

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE BJP is the only party that acknowledges the contributions of all the previous Prime Ministers of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he highlighted the upcoming museum that celebrates the work of former Prime Ministers to silence criticism that the ruling party ignored his predecessors.

According to a party leader, addressing BJP MPs at the parliamentary party meeting held at Ambedkar Auditorium here, Modi said the Rs 270-crore museum at Teen Murti is an example of the party's commitment to acknowledge all previous Prime Ministers, irrespective of the party they represented.

The museum, which will showcase the life and legacy of all 14 Prime Ministers, is expected to be inaugurated on April 14, the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar. According to party leaders, the date has also been chosen as a mark of respect



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, PM Narendra Modi, BJP chief J P Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah during the BJP parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi, Tuesday. *Anil Sharma*

to Ambedkar.

The Prime Minister also asked the MPs to undertake various programmes as part of “samajik nyay pakhwada” (fortnight dedicated to social justice) from its foundation day on April 6 to April 14, senior party leaders said. The party MPs were asked to reach out to people, especially the disadvantaged sections such as Scheduled Castes, to highlight various government

programmes for their welfare.

A resolution was also passed at the parliamentary party meeting, applauding the decision to extend the free food grain scheme PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojna for another six months. Also, the BJP MPs were asked to ensure that the target of vaccinating 7 crore teenagers as part of the Covid vaccination drive is achieved.

Union minister Arjun Ram

Meghwal told reporters after the meeting that the Prime Minister instructed the party MPs to spread awareness about the government's welfare schemes for housing, nutrition and free food grains among others.

At the meeting, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan gave a brief account of the upcoming “Pariskha pe Charcha”, the Prime Minister's address to students ahead of their examinations.

HATE APP CASE FIRs lodged in Delhi, Mumbai, six held: govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

POLICE HAVE registered FIRs in Delhi and Mumbai and arrested six persons in connection with the cases against ‘Sulli Deals’ and ‘Bulli Bai’ apps, the government said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to a query, Union MoS for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said the government is not aware of any formal statement from any of the UN officials slamming the Indian government for the alleged harassment of Muslim women in the country.

Over 1,200 CAPF troopers died by suicide in 10 yrs: govt in LS

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

MORE CENTRAL Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel died by suicide in the Covid-19 pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 than in any year in the past one decade, and more than 1,200 personnel died by suicide in the last 10 years, according to data provided to Parliament on Tuesday.

The government told the Lok Sabha that 156 CAPF personnel died by suicide in 2021, and 143 in 2020. In 2019, 129 such deaths were recorded, according to data.

According to data available with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 1.53 lakh cases of death by suicide was recorded in 2020, up from 1.39 lakh in 2019.

The data on suicide deaths of CAPF personnel was provided by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai to Lok Sabha in a

written reply to a question. Rai said that in the last 10 years 1,205 CAPF personnel have died by suicide.

The CAPF comprises forces such as CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, BSF, NSG and Assam Rifles (AR). Together, they have 9 lakh personnel.

The data comes at a time when the issue of stress among forces personnel has been a topic of discussion in the backdrop of recent incidents of fratricide in BSF — seven BSF personnel have been killed in such incidents this month alone. There have been more than 25 incidents of fratricide reported in the forces since 2019.

Sources said these incidents have occurred largely due to harsh working conditions, coupled with family issues and unavailability of leave when required. In 2019, Home Minister Amit Shah had said that leaves available to CAPF personnel would be increased to 100 days from the existing 75 days. This is

yet to be implemented.

A proposal by CAPFs to increase casual leave of CAPF personnel from 15 days to 30 days on the lines of defence personnel has also not been accepted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Rai informed the House that a task force was set up in October 2021 to identify relevant risk factors as well as relevant risk groups and suggest remedial measures for prevention of suicides in CAPFs and Assam Rifles (AR) personnel. The composition of the ‘task force’ was modified in December 2021, he said.

“Domestic problems, illness and financial problems are some of the contributory factors among others behind the incidents of suicide,” he said.

Rai said the government is taking steps to take care of mental health of CAPF personnel. “As part of the process, ‘Art of Living’ courses are being conducted for CAPFs... which have positive impacts on jawans,” he said.

Workshops in schools needed for awareness on child abuse: DMK MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

REGULAR WORKSHOPS should be organised in schools to create awareness among students as well as teachers on child abuse, DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said on Tuesday during Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha.

Expressing concern over the growing number of child abuse cases, Siva said that according to the National Crime Records Bureau Report, between 2018 and 2020, around 40,000 cases

have been registered under the POCSO Act.

“These are registered cases, and there are many unregistered cases as well. The number declined in 2020 during the Covid period, but now, it has started rising again,” he said.

“Children are very vulnerable in our society and this sort of sexual abuse against them impacts them very much physically and mentally and sometimes leads to traumatic memories which the children may carry throughout their lives.”

Siva said the majority of the schools in India either do not have a mechanism to deal with such situations, or if they do, a significant majority of the students are not aware of the law at all.

“So, this is a very serious issue and the absence of mechanism has to be addressed very seriously... There is a need for immediate intervention to make it mandatory for every school that regular workshops are held for both, students and teachers, and awareness must be created,” he said.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS BILL

Opp: Amendment an attempt to tinker with ICAI autonomy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

MEMBERS OF the Opposition parties on Tuesday accused the government of interfering with the functioning of autonomous bodies and taking control of independent institutions. The accusations were made in the Lok Sabha during the debate on a Bill to amend the Chartered Accountants Act that gives the government greater control over the disciplinary committee of the Indian Chartered Accountants Institute (ICAI).

The Bill — to amend the Chartered Accountants Act 1949, the Cost and Work Accountant Act 1959, and the Companies Secretary Act 1980 — was introduced by MoS (Corporate Affairs) Rao Inderjit Singh.

Most members objected to the proposal that the disciplinary committee of the ICAI, which has five members, should have three non-CAs and Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), as the chairman. The committee is supposed to coordinate the efforts of the three professions.

Participating in the debate, Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, “It is unclear how the conflict of interest between disciplinary and administrative functions will be addressed if the council continues to recommend who could be on the committee. The three councils already have com-



Cong leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in Lok Sabha. *PTI*

mittees for coordinating among themselves. It is unclear why there is a need to set up another coordination committee. The proposal for Secretary, MCA, heading it will impinge upon the independence of the institutes. There is a gap between the cup and the lip.”

The Bill had been first introduced in December last year but was sent to a standing committee for further deliberations.

DMK leader A Raja questioned the intention of the government in bringing such a Bill. “Some of the provisions of the Bill deserve to be appreciated but some create apprehensions that the government has some agenda. For Bar Council, the chairman is a lawyer. For Medical Council, chairman is a doctor, but for ICAI committee, chairman will be a non-CA? Not being judge of one's own case is applicable to individuals, not for institutions. In case of institutions, domain knowledge is important,” he said, asking for the Bill to be sent to a Select

Committee.

TMC's Saugata Roy, who was part of the Standing Committee that deliberated on the Bill, said, “The Standing Committee had mentioned some things on the autonomy, which the Bill has not followed. The bureaucrats of the MCA have increased their stranglehold on the three professions. You have thrown the baby with the bathwater in the name of regulations. The disciplinary committee has more non-CAs than CAs.”

NCP's Supriya Sule also suggested the government had some “hidden agenda”.

BJP's Jhansi MP Anurag Sharma sought to allay the fears. “The autonomy of the institutes has not been tinkered with. A disciplinary committee is proposed because the institute has been able to take action only in a few cases of misconduct. There are more than 3.5 lakh CAs in India but none of our best practices are recognised internationally. Best practices of western countries have been studied by the ministry before bringing this Bill,” he said. Taking potshots at the Congress, he said, “During the UPA rule, there was a buddy system, where everyone of the same ilk protected their interests. If an independent body is being created for disciplinary action, what is the problem.”

Last week, the ICIA asked for status quo to be maintained. However, the House panel dismissed the concerns and endorsed the Bill.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER



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CENTRAL VISTA REVAMP

Rs 1,119-cr bid lowest for Executive Enclave that will house new PMO

ANISHA DUTTA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE EXECUTIVE Enclave that will house the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Cabinet Secretariat, India House and the National Security Council Secretariat, a key part of the Central Vista re-development project, has received four bids among which Ahluwalia Contracts India Ltd, which is headquartered in Delhi, made the lowest bid of Rs 1,119 crore.

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) had opened the financial bids for the tender on Tuesday afternoon and had estimated the project to cost Rs 1,160.17 crore for the construction and maintenance for five years.

Tata Projects Limited, which is constructing the new Parliament building as a part of the Central Vista revamp, submitted a bid of Rs 1,154.95 crore, while NCC Limited quoted Rs 1,158.31 crore. Larsen & Toubro



The enclave is a key part of Central Vista project.

Limited, which won the bid to construct the first three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat in 2021, had the highest bid of Rs 1,317.95 crore.

According to the CPWD tender document, the project would include the PMO, a Hyderabad House-like conference facility to be called India House, the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council Secretariat.

The CPWD had first invited pre-qualification bids for the project on November 24 last year, with an estimated cost of Rs 1,171 crore, and received bids from six

firms, which were then asked to submit financial bids by Tuesday.

The Vice-President's enclave and the new Parliament House will be the first buildings to be completed, and work on shifting the National Museum to the North and South Block will commence last, in the elaborate plan for the Central Vista revamp that requires moving people and offices over the course of the next six years.

The North and South Block, which house the Union home, finance and defence ministries, apart from the PMO, will be the last to be vacated because these crucial departments will need to be set up in their newly built offices first.

The existing plots in the South Block, where the buildings are proposed to be built, will first be demolished, as per the plan.

The plots where the PMO and the Executive Enclave are proposed to be built are currently occupied by Defence establishment hutments that have

been relocated to KG Marg and Africa Avenue in New Delhi.

Work on Prime Minister's new residence will also go beyond the December 2022 completion target, The Indian Express reported on November 4, 2021.

The New Parliament building that has an ambitious target of completion by October this year is 44% complete at a cost of Rs 480 crore incurred so far, the government informed Parliament earlier this month.

The government's aim is to conduct the Winter Session of the Parliament in the new building. Nearly 80% work for the re-developed Central Vista Avenue or the Rajpath has been completed at Rs 441 crore, while the physical progress for the Vice-President's enclave is at 3%, and the three new Common Secretariat buildings, too, are at 3% with Rs 243 crore spent so far, according to a response in Parliament by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



New Delhi



Delhi swimmers held for rape of woman in Bengaluru: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 29

FOUR SWIMMERS from Delhi have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the gang-rape of a woman from West Bengal in Bengaluru on March 24, police said on Tuesday.

The arrested four have been identified as Rajat, Shivanar, Dev Saroi and Yogesh Kumar – all Delhi residents who were in Bengaluru on training.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Vinayak Patil told The Indian Express that the accused are professional swimmers and were in the city for training. “We are yet to conclude whether they were state-level or national-level swimmers. In Bengaluru, they had visited swimming pools in Sadashivanagar and Basavanagudi on several occasions,” the DCP said.

According to police sources, Rajath had befriended the victim on a dating app and the two subsequently chatted on Instagram.

According to the complainant, she met Rajat over dinner on the evening of March 24. In her complaint, filed on March 25, the woman stated that the accused were in an inebriated state and that they raped her one after the other. The accused subsequently left her home, the complaint stated.

On learning that the police were looking for them, the accused allegedly fled from the room they were staying in.

A special team formed to crack the case nabbed the accused from different parts of Bengaluru, police said.

The accused are in judicial custody, DCP Patil said.

Indian charged with attempted murder of Kerala woman in UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, MARCH 29

A 23-YEAR-OLD Indian man has been charged with attempted murder for stabbing a female student, also Indian, inside a Hyderabad restaurant in east London.

Sriram Ambarla was arrested from Hyderabad Wala biryani restaurant in East Ham for stabbing Sona Biju, a university student from Kerala, who worked part-time as a waitress at the restaurant. The accused, who appeared before a court here on Monday, was remanded in custody for the next court appearance on April 25.

“Officers attended alongside the London Ambulance Service and found a woman in her early 20s with stab injuries. She was taken to hospital where she remains in a serious, but stable, condition,” a Metropolitan Police statement said on Monday. The accused has no fixed address in London. CCTV footage appears to show the moment of the attack on Friday afternoon at the restaurant.

It is believed the victim was serving her alleged attacker as a customer before he stabbed her with a knife, with other customers and staff being threatened against intervening.

Karnataka names anti-untouchability scheme after Dalit boy

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 29

THE KARNATAKA government has announced Vinaya Samarasya Yojana, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state.

The scheme has been named after a three-year-old Dalit Vinay, whose family, residents of Miyapur village in Koppal district, was slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 by the village leaders in September last year for the boy’s “offence” of straying into a local temple.

Karnataka social welfare minister Kota Shriniwasa Pojary told the state Assembly Monday that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will launch Vinaya Samarasya Yojana on April 14 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, and that they were also checking the avail-

Massive fire in Sariska Tiger Reserve, IAF choppers deployed

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, MARCH 29

A MASSIVE fire has broken out in the Sariska Tiger Reserve and Air Force helicopters equipped with water sprays are battling to bring it under control, said Rajasthan Forest Department officials Tuesday.

“An 8-10 sq km area in the Akbarpur range has been affected,” said Roop Narayan Meena, Field Director, Sariska Tiger Project, Alwar.

The fire was first noticed on Sunday. The next day, officials tried to get it under control, without much success; strong winds ensured that the blaze reached the hills, Meena said in a statement. Authorities then called in the Disaster Management Department.

On Tuesday, Air Force Helicopters sprinkled water on affected areas and the fire in the hills was partially extinguished, said Meena. The helicopter operations will continue, said the statement.

At least nine tigers, including cubs, are known to move around in the area which has been affected by fire, forest officials said.

“Sariska has a total of 27 tigers. Around nine tigers including four adult tigers and tigers and five cubs/sub-adults are known to move around in the area in Akbarpur where the fire



An IAF chopper Tuesday sprays water on a fire that broke out in Sariska Tiger Reserve. PTI

has broken out. Some of the tigers that move around in the area include tigers ST-14, ST-17

and ST-23,” said a senior forest official who didn’t wish to be named.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

Attack on witness nothing to do with case: UP govt to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE UTTAR Pradesh government has told the Supreme Court that the March 10 “attack” on a witness in the October 3, 2021, Lakhimpur Kheri violence case had nothing to do with the case as alleged “but was the outcome of an altercation after some people threw ‘gula’ (powdered colours) on the witness”.

As per the FIR lodged by the Lakhimpur case witness, Diljot Singh, the attackers threatened him saying that the “Respondent No. 1 (Ashish Mishra) is out on bail and the ruling party has also won the election and that they will see to him”.

However, the state government said in an affidavit filed in the top court that during the course of the investigation, the witness’ “Gunner Manoj Singh (assigned to protect him as per this Hon’ble Court’s Orders)...as well as 3 independent eyewitnesses to the incident were examined, and all four persons stated that the incident occurred suddenly due to an altercation” between the witness “and the attacker party over the throwing of ‘gula’ on him”.

It added that “as per the statements of the eyewitnesses, at around 8.15pm on March 10, Diljot and his gunner Manoj Singh reached a primary school near Danga on a tractor trolley laden with sugarcane where some people were playing Holi. The group threw ‘gula’ on Diljot, to which he objected, leading to an altercation. One of the miscreants hit Diljot with a belt and others kicked and punched him”.

The state said that contrary to the FIR lodged by Diljot, “all the witnesses were ad idem on the fact that none of the miscreants mentioned either the Respondent No. 1 (Ashish Mishra) or the ruling party winning the elections, and that the incident was the result of a sudden altercation due to the dispute over Holi colours, and had no relation to the October 3, 2021, incident”.

Those who allegedly assaulted the witness were arrested on March 11 and released on bail on March 14, the affidavit added.

The state filed the affidavit in response to a petition by the kin of some of the victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, seeking cancellation of the bail granted to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra. Eight people, including four farmers, were killed when a convoy of vehicles, including one belonging to Ajay Mishra, ran over them on October 3, 2021. Two BJP workers, the driver of one of the vehicles and a journalist were also killed in the ensuing violence.

Ashish was granted bail by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on February 10. Appealing against this in the Supreme Court, the petitioners contended that the “state had not effectively opposed Ashish’s bail application”. In its affidavit, the state termed the contention “completely untrue”. Issuing notice on the appeal by the kin of the victims, the SC had asked the state government to ensure protection to all the witnesses in the case.

To this, the state in its affidavit said the families of all the victims and the witnesses have been given security under the Witness Protection Scheme 2018.

99 witnesses given security in farmers’ death case, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 29

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police said that it has provided security to 99 persons who are witnesses to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident of October 3 last year in which Union minister Ajay Mishra’s son Ashish Mishra and others allegedly moved down four farmers and a journalist during a protest against the Centre’s now repealed three agriculture laws.

Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman said that security was provided to 99 witnesses, including the deceased’s family members. According to the police, statements of over 200 people have been recorded in the case.

A gunman each has been provided to witnesses who statements were recorded before a magistrate, it is learnt.

Ashish and 13 others were booked under various charges. Ashish and his relative Virendra Shukla, are out on bail while the other accused are lodged in jail.

Besides the death of four farmers and a journalist, several others were injured.

In the second case, in which the BJP leaders and the driver were killed, the police have also recorded statements of around 200 persons. However, no security was provided to any of the witnesses in the case, said a police official.

The official added that the place affected by the fire is a thick forest area.

Around 200 forest officials, drivers, nature guides and residents of nearby villages have been called in to help, said the statement.

Meena said fire’s cause is yet to be ascertained.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Head of Forest Force), Deep Naryan Pandey said that more than 100 forest staff have been sent to the fire affected area.

“Tropical dry forests are fire prone because they contain high fuel. This time the fire has spread from the top of the hill. Our main concern in a 3-4 square kilometre area was for a mother and her two cubs. The fire was proceeding towards that direction but the helicopters managed to extinguish the fire. The peripheral fire could be controlled. The government is taking all prompt measures to control the fire. One advantage in the context of tigers is that in tropical dry forest fires, bigger animals can run away and escape the flames and the main casualties are smaller animals such as reptiles. There are no villages in the area. We have sent hundred people from three divisions today to Sariska. The IAF helicopters will continue their operations. We are hoping that the fire will be controlled by tomorrow,” said Pandey.

Hema Committee report will shatter idols: Parvathy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 29

NOTED ACTOR and key face of Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) Parvathy Thiruvoth has said that if the report of the Justice Hema Committee, which looked into the problems of women actors in Malayalam film industry, comes out, “several idols would be broken”.

Parvathy was speaking at Soorya Festival, a cultural event organised by Soorya Stage and Film Society. Criticising the delay in publishing the committee report, the actor said, “Let us wait for the election time. Suddenly, the report would come out. It is my prediction. Suddenly, it is going to be a women-friendly government. If the report comes out, several idols, who we are worshiping, would be broken,” she said, adding, “apparently our lives are more dispensable than we thought. Their power, position and egos are more important”.

Earlier this month, the state government informed the Assembly that the committee report cannot be made public as the report contained personal experiences of women in the industry.

Justice Hema Commission was constituted in the wake of the abduction and sexual assault of actor Bhavana in 2017. The commission had submitted the report to the government in December 2019. The WCC, a collective of women professionals in the film industry, has been demanding that the report be published. Instead of disclosing the report, the government has formed another committee to study the recommendations of the commission.

AICTE ISSUES FRESH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Norms revised: Physics, Maths a must to pursue engg, tech UG courses

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

ADMISSIONS TO most engineering and technology undergraduate degree programmes will require students to have mandatorily pursued Physics and Mathematics at the high school level, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) announced on Tuesday, in what is being seen as a partial rollback of the eligibility norms it released last year.

The previous norms had left the question of mandatory subject combinations on the universities and engineering institutes, making it technically possible for those who may not have studied Physics and Maths at the higher secondary level to pursue UG degree courses in engineering and technology.

Last year, speaking to *The Indian Express* after the norms were issued, Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan and former head of Defence Research and Development Organisation V K Saraswat had urged caution over the AICTE’s move to offer flexibility to admit students without Maths and Physics in high school and offer them remedial bridge courses to cope in class. The issue had also come up at a meeting of NITI Aayog following which the AICTE had agreed to define the engineering branches to which this flexibility will be applicable.

According to the AICTE ‘Approval Process Handbook’ 2022-23 released on Tuesday, at

EXPLAINED

Rethink on previous norms

THE AICTE had defended its decision to revise the entry norms in engineering courses last year by describing it as a step towards encouraging interdisciplinarity. However, top scientific experts had reasoned against the move, terming it retrograde and a step in the wrong direction – observations which forced a rethink.

least 18 out of 29 recognised engineering and technology degree courses – including Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Textile Engineering – at the UG level have Physics and Maths listed as “mandatory at 10+2 level” against their names.

The third subject can be anything from among Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronics, Information Technology, Biology, Informatics Practices, Biotechnology, Technical Vocational subject, Agriculture, Engineering Graphics, Business Studies, Entrepreneurship.

As many as 15 courses require a student to have studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in high school. However, a student who may not have studied Maths, but had

‘Can we eat money?’: Despair in Lanka amid economic crisis



Sri Lankans wait to buy cooking gas in Colombo. AP/File

the Russia-Ukraine war. The setbacks have hurt the tourism industry that is the bedrock of the Lankan economy.

Susai says that her usual expense on essentials for a family of three, her mother, daughter and her, was around Sri Lankan Rs 30,000 a month. “But this month, I have already spent Rs 83,000... My salary is Rs 55,000 and we can manage with cash sent by my husband. But can we eat money?”

Dr Samantha Kumara, a dental surgeon from the Kurunegala northwestern province, is in a similar situation. His son is studying in Australia and he has not been able to send money to him. “All dollar accounts have

been frozen,” says Dr Kumnara.

A senior official in Colombo says “every person is suffering”. “The government is trying to make people work from home, but the load shedding is a challenge. Hospitals are affected as there is no diesel for generators.”

The official adds that the government hopes to announce some financial assistance.

Milinda Rajapaksa, Additional Director General, Ministry of Information, says they are banking on Indian and Chinese credit lines. “In April first week, the Finance Minister will meet chiefs of the World Bank and IMF. Talks have been held already with the IMF on a restructuring plan.”

SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

Court: No stigma attached to former TERI chief Pachauri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

A DELHI court has said that no stigma can be attached to former TERI chief R K Pachauri in the alleged sexual harassment case lodged against him by a former colleague as the prosecution could not prove its case before his death.

Additional Sessions Judge Mohinder Virat passed the order in an application filed by Pachauri’s son seeking leave to continue the revision petition against an order to put him on trial in the case. The revision petition was filed by Pachauri.

Arguing on the behalf on Pachauri’s son, lawyer Ashish Dixit said that allegations made in

the complaint have caused stigma on the impeccable reputation of his late father and have caused irreparable loss to the family.

However, the court said, “In the present case, the revisionist had died before conclusion of the trial against him. As such the prosecution could not prove its case...hence there can be no stigma on the deceased Dr RK Pachauri in the given set of circumstances.”

Pachauri, who was chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change when it shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in 2007, passed away on February 13, 2020 after a prolonged cardiac ailment. He was 79.

A Metropolitan Magistrate had in 2018 ordered framing of charges against Pachauri.

NREGS wages revised, less than 5 per cent hike in 21 states, UTs

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE CENTRE has notified fresh wage rates under rural job guarantee programme NREGS for financial year 2022-23, with 21 out of 34 states and Union Territories getting less than 5 per cent increase and 10 states getting more than 5 per cent hike. There is no change in the wage rates of three states – Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

The wage rates, notified by Ministry of Rural Development under sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, will be effective from April 1. A notification of this effect was issued by the Ministry on Monday.

Of the 31 states and UTs, which saw a hike in wages, the maximum 7.14 per cent has been recorded in Goa – from Rs 294 per day in 2021-22 to Rs 315 per day in 2022-23. The lowest increase of 1.77 per cent is in Meghalaya where the new wage rate has been fixed at Rs 230 per day from the existing Rs 226 per day.

Apart from Meghalaya, two other states – Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland – have also witnessed an increase of less than 2 per cent in NREGS wages.

The NREGS wages have been increased 2-3 per cent in Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. In Maharashtra, Odisha, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, the wages have been increased 3-4 per cent, while in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the hike is 4-5 per cent.

Only 10 states – Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Kerala,

EXPLAINED
Some relief to workers

THE NREGS has emerged as a safety net for migrant workers who returned to their villages after the Covid-19 outbreak. The annual wage revision is significant as a large number of people earn their livelihood by working at the NREGS sites. While the increase is moderate, it will provide some relief to the NREGS households from the price rise.

KARNATAKA Halal food is 'economic jihad': BJP general secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, MARCH 29

WITH SOME right-wing groups now giving a call to boycott 'halal' meat, BJP National general secretary C T Ravi likened halal food with 'economic jihad'. For the past few days, there was a flurry of messages on social media appealing to Hindus to shun halal meat, especially after Ugadi, which is the Hindu New Year festival.

A day after Ugadi, a section of "non-vegetarian" Hindus offer meat to God and celebrate the New Year. Many offer such meat, which some right-wing activists are asking people to skip.

This call comes close on the heels of ban on Muslim vendors around temples during the Hindu religious fairs in parts of Karnataka. "Halal is an economic jihad. It means that it is used like a jihad so that Muslims should not do business with others. It has been imposed. When they think that halal meat should be used, what is wrong in saying that it should not be used?" Ravi told reporters in Bengaluru.

He said the halal meat offered to 'their God' is dear to them (Muslims) but for Hindus, it is somebody's leftover. He also said that halal has been designed in a planned way so that the products should be purchased only from Muslims and not others.

WAGES PER DAY IN RUPEES				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	Per cent increase	Absolute change
Andaman & Nicobar	294	308	4.76	14
Andhra Pradesh	245	257	4.9	12
Arunachal Pradesh	212	216	1.89	4
Assam	224	229	2.23	5
Bihar	198	210	6.06	12
Chhattisgarh	193	204	5.7	11
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	269	278	3.35	9
Daman and Diu	269	278	3.35	9
Goa	294	315	7.14	21
Gujarat	229	239	4.37	10
Haryana	315	331	5.08	16
Himachal Pradesh	254	266	4.72	12
Jammu & Kashmir	214	227	6.07	13
Jharkhand	198	210	6.06	12
Karnataka	289	309	6.92	20
Kerala	291	311	6.87	20
Lakshadweep	266	284	6.77	18
Madhya Pradesh	193	204	5.7	11
Maharashtra	248	256	3.23	8
Manipur	251	251	0	0
Meghalaya	226	230	1.77	4
Mizoram	233	233	0	0
Nagaland	212	216	1.89	4
Odisha	215	222	3.26	7
Puducherry	273	281	2.93	8
Punjab	269	282	4.83	13
Rajasthan	221	231	4.52	10
Sikkim	212	222	4.72	10
Tamil Nadu	273	281	2.93	8
Telangana	245	257	4.9	12
Tripura	212	212	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	204	213	4.41	9
Uttarakhand	204	213	4.41	9
West Bengal	213	223	4.69	10

Karnataka and Goa – have seen an increase of more than 5 per cent.

In absolute terms, the NREGS wages have been increased in the range of Rs 4 to Rs 21 per day across 31 states and UTs for 2022-23.

Under sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the MGNREGA, 2005, the Union government fixes state-wise wage rates for unskilled manual workers, who work under the rural job guarantee scheme.

The MGNREGA wage rates are fixed according to changes in the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agriculture Labour), which reflects the increase in the

inflation in rural areas.

According to the new wage rates, five states and UTs with the highest NREGS wages are Haryana (Rs 331 per day); Goa (315); Kerala (311); Karnataka (309); and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (308). Five states with lowest NREGS wages are Tripura (212); Bihar (210); Jharkhand (210); Chhattisgarh (204); and Madhya Pradesh (204).

The NREGS wage rates stands at Rs 213 per day for both Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Rs 216 for Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, Rs 222 for Odisha and Sikkim, Rs 223 for West Bengal and Rs 227 for Jammu and Kashmir.

In J&K L-G conference, boycotts, walk-outs by some elected officials

ARUN SHARMA & NAVEED IQBAL
JAMMU/SRINAGAR, MARCH 29

A NUMBER of local elected officials in Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday stayed away from a virtual conference organised by Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, while some others walked out of meeting rooms as they were not given a chance to speak, it is learnt.

The conference was organised by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj from 10.45 am to 5 pm. It was attended by DDC chairpersons, sarpanchs and other Panchayati Raj Institution members, besides top officials.

The Lt Governor left the programme at around 1.30 pm, telling officials to note down points raised by others and send it to him later, it is learnt.

Pulwama council Chairman Abdul Bari Andrabi told The Indian Express that PAGD members did not participate in the meeting. He said while they did not want to take a confrontational approach, "we wanted to make the point that despite all the claims of Panchayati Raj and strengthening of political leadership at grassroots, it is not present on the ground".

He added that other than identifying particular works in their areas, "the councils have no

role beyond that." He also stated that despite government claims of 29 line departments working under the DDCs, "not a single file is brought or the council consulted on any other spending in the district."

Shopian council members said many from the DDC council as well as Panchayats did not attend "due to security reasons." A member who attended the meeting but did not wish to be named said the agenda of the meeting was unclear" and that no members of the nine blocks in the district were given a chance to speak.

"There are serious concerns of security and accommodation at the PRI level. When people are given accommodation also, it is provided in Srinagar. How can a sarpanch travel between Srinagar and Shopian constantly?" the member said.

Some elected officials said they were informed about the meeting late.

Kishtwar DDC chairperson Pooja Thakur said she boycotted the meeting as she was informed about it only on Monday evening.

A DDC member from Kahara constituency, Mehraj Malik, said he travelled 60 km to the Doda Deputy Commissioner's office to virtually attend the conference. He said he left after an hour as he was made to only listen to the speeches.

Those who did attend and spoke raised multiple issues.

Muslim ban: Unease grows, temple committees, traders admit pressure

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 29

AS THE ban on Muslim traders from setting up stalls on temple premises or at temple fairs in Karnataka spreads across the state, dismay is growing among temple committees organising the festivals as well as traders. On Monday, two BJP leaders went vocal with their opposition to the move, urging the state government to take action.

The call first came after Muslim traders in coastal Karnataka downed shutters in protest against the hijab court order. Since then, a rule in an old Act is being cited to keep them out of temple premises and fairs.

Among the fairs and temples where Muslim traders, who have run shops for years, have recently kept out of are the annual Hosa Margudi and Kollur Mookambika fairs, and the Bappanadu Durgaparameshwari, Mangaladevi and Puttur Mahalingeshwara temples in Dakshina Kannada.

Bappanadu, a shrine near Mangaluru, incidentally is considered a symbol of communal harmony. The Durgaparameshwari temple there is said to have been built with the contributions of Bappa, a Muslim merchant. The head of its management committee said he had turned down the VHP's demand

to keep Muslim traders out, but they had themselves stayed away due to the row.

The ban has hit Muslim traders just when they were looking forward to normal profits post-Covid. The six-month temple fair season in coastal Karnataka, from November to April, is nearing its end. During this period, the region sees 40-50 annual festivals, with traders from outside Karnataka too coming to put up stalls.

Hussain, 54, of Haleangadi village in Dakshina Kannada district, has been selling toys for 35 years, having taken up his father's business. "The annual festival season and Urs start around November and end by April. All these years, we would do business in at least 40-50 places. Never did we imagine that religion would become a reason to boycott us."

Hussain says fellow shopkeepers who are Hindus also feel bad about what is happening. "We live together for at least six months during this time. We share food, work for each other... Those who are in this business will never join this anti-Muslim campaign because they know our pain. It is outsiders who are pressuring the temple authorities."

He says that after paying rent for setting up stalls – Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 – and salaries to staff, their profits are minimal and have been falling. "In some places, we earn up to Rs 30,000, but in oth-

ers, we barely break even or end up with losses. But, if we do well, these six months help us through the remaining six."

Adds Hussain: "I do not know any other job or business... but I don't want my children to continue in the toy business."

Suleiman, 55, from Mangaluru, says the ban is the last straw and he has made up his mind to give up the toy selling business he has been in for 25 years. "It is sad... When we meet temple committee members, they request us to stay away saying they are under pressure, that some Hindu organisations have threatened them with dire consequences if they allow Muslims to do business at festivals."

Mahaveer, who heads the management of Bappanadu Shri Durgaparameshwari Temple and is its 'Dugganna Savantharu' since coronation in 2008, says it is the first time such a situation has arisen at the temple's annual festival, which goes back at least 400 years.

"As part of the administration we have not barred any Muslim from the festival as this temple also symbolises harmony between communities. Yes, we did receive a request from the VHP to not allow Muslims to do trade, but we declined it. But, sensing the situation, the Muslims who had enrolled stayed away. Some of them who had registered with-

drew their applications while others never applied."

The Dugganna Savantharu said calls to bar Muslims first started after the emergence of Covid, with hate messages spreading on social media. "We faced this for the first time at the Durga Parameshwari temple in Kateel last January. From then, it spread to other parts."

The Rule 12 of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 2002, being cited to keep Muslim traders out, states, "No property, including land, building or sites situated near the premises shall be leased to non-Hindus."

Prakash Kukkehalli, the leader of the Hindu Jagaran Vedike, which was at the forefront of the anti-hijab protests, has said they are just following rules set by the government and that people who do not subscribe to the same cannot be allowed to do business.

A Hindu shopkeeper who had installed his toy shop at the recently concluded Bappanadu Shri Durgaparameshwari Temple festival said that everyone has been silenced by the threat posed by pro-Hindu outfits. "If I speak out against them, they will ensure I can't install shops at other festivals."

The shopkeeper also asks why police had not taken any action against people who had put up posters spreading hateful propaganda.

Kumaraswamy says govt silent, CM Bommai puppet in hands of right-wing groups


EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 29

LEADER OF Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly H D Kumaraswamy has criticised Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai over his government's silence on calls to ban Muslim traders at temple festivals, terming him "a puppet in the hands of Hindu right-wing groups".


"Our CM is a puppet of some organisations. He is running the government on their orders. To save his chair, he is listening to whatever they say. Where is the stand of the government on calls for boycotting a community in business matters? No decision has been taken by the government," Kumaraswamy said.

His reaction has come at a time when only a few from the ruling BJP and the Opposition parties have spoken publicly on the issue. The BJP government has claimed that a ban on non-Hindus on temple premises is allowed under the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997.

"It is the responsibility of the home minister and the government to protect all the people of the state. Those who calling for boycott of communities are enemies of the country and need to be arrested," he said on Tuesday.



Ministry of Finance
Government of India



Attention! GST Taxpayers

Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover# is upto a Specified limit* can opt for
GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2022-23
by 31st March, 2022

The eligible taxpayers, who wish to avail the composition scheme may opt in for composition scheme by performing the following steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):

01

Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface


02


Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy


03


Fill the form and submit


BENEFITS


 Easy & Convenient

 Attractive Tax Rates

 Minimum Compliance Requirement

 Available for supply of Goods as well as Services


 Less Bookkeeping

 Auto Renewal and Easy to Opt-out


Type of Suppliers		#Aggregate Annual Turnover in FY 2021-22
Supplier of Goods	Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States	upto ₹ 75 Lakh
	Taxpayers registered in other States	upto ₹ 150 Lakh
Supplier of Services		upto ₹ 50 Lakh

For more details please refer to Section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019- Central Tax, 2/2019-Central Tax (Rate) both dated 07.03.2019




For FAQs please scan



GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers



Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

 @cbic_india  @cbicindia  www.cbic.gov.in

FROM PAGE ONE

Meghalaya, Assam take first step to resolve border row

dispute.

“Today is a historic day for a dispute-free Northeast,” Shah said.

“In July last year, I had met the chief ministers of the Northeastern states in Meghalaya, and appealed to them that these (border) issues be resolved. I am happy that this (agreement between Assam and Meghalaya) has been achieved in such a short time,” he said.

Shah said that in a very short span of time, six out of 12 issues have been settled between Assam and Meghalaya, and about 70 per cent of the border between the two states has become dispute-free.

He said strong political will had been shown by the two chief ministers, and the Government would make the Northeast dispute-free after discussions with all states. “This agreement exemplifies cooperative federalism and will provide a roadmap for resolution of other border disputes between states,” he said.

Since July last year, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma have

been in talks to solve the long-standing dispute along the 884-km border, which has witnessed frequent flare-ups.

Last year, both state governments identified six of the 12 areas under dispute -- Hahim, Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata, Ratacherra -- for resolution in the first phase.

Tuesday’s agreement was based on the final set of recommendations made jointly by both states in January this year: out of 36.79 sq km of disputed area taken up for settlement in the first phase, Assam would get full control of 18.51 sq km and Meghalaya 18.28 sq km.

Officials said the next step will involve delineation and demarcation of the boundary by Survey of India in the presence of representatives of both governments. It will then be put up in Parliament for approval. The process may take a few months, they said.

“We knew that resolving all 12 areas of differences at a go would have been difficult, but if we approached it one by one, then it would be possible,” Sarma told reporters. He added that in the next six-seven months, the second phase of resolution would commence for the remaining sites.

Sangma said the agreement would not have been possible without “political will and leadership.” “Over months, the committee formed by the respective state government travelled ex-

tensively to the disputed sites, spoke to villagers...it is because of this hard work we managed to reach a consensus,” he said.

While Assam has a BJP-led NDA government, Meghalaya has at its helm the MDA headed by Sangma’s National People’s Party with the regional United Democratic Party and BJP as coalition partners.

Following the initial meeting last July between Sangma and Sarma, five more rounds of meetings were held in the following months.

Subsequently, ministerial-level regional committees formed by both states made frequent visits to the disputed areas, and submitted reports based on five mutually agreed principles: historical perspective, ethnicity of local population, contiguity with boundary, peoples’ will and administrative convenience.

A number of attempts had been made in the past to resolve the boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya. In 1985, under then Assam chief minister Hiteswar Saikia and Meghalaya chief minister Captain W A Sangma, an official committee to resolve the issue was constituted under the former Chief Justice of India V V Chandrachud. However, a solution was not found.

A senior official from Assam had earlier told The Indian Express that there was a vital difference between attempts made earlier and now: the problem has been “broken down to chew-

able bits” and the low-hanging fruits identified first.

“Among the four states Assam has border disputes with, Meghalaya was the softest to handle and the six areas taken for study did not have large differences,” he had said.

The frequent meetings among the two CMs -- Sangma and Sarma have met as many as eight times since July -- also went a long way towards significant progress in the talks. “The remaining areas of dispute are more complex,” the official had said.

During British rule, Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, besides Mizoram, which later became separate states. Last July, in a sharp escalation of the boundary dispute between Assam and Mizoram, at least five Assam Police personnel were killed in violent clashes at a contested border point where tensions had been simmering.

On Tuesday, the Union Home Minister said that during the past three years, the Government had signed several agreements for ending extremism and for “lasting peace” in the Northeast.

“Looking at the journey from 2019 to 2022, we have seen many big achievements in establishing peace in the North East, NLFT agreement in August 2019, Bru-Reang agreement on January 16, 2020, Bodo agreement on January 27, 2020, Karbi Anglong agreement on

September 4, 2021, and today’s Assam-Meghalaya border agreement. Development of the Northeast is not possible unless disputes between states are resolved and armed groups surrender,” Shah said, according to a statement issued by the Government.

(WITH DEEPTIMAN TIWARY)

34 non-J&K residents have bought land in UT: Govt in LS

will lead to profitable business opportunities in future. It is a welcome move if people wish to operate bed and breakfast kind of holiday homes, in partnership with local people,” said an official.

In December 2021, in a written reply to a question, MoS Rai had told Parliament that “a total of seven plots of land have been purchased by persons from outside the UT of J&K (since August 2019). All the seven plots are located in Jammu division.”

Article 35A barred people from outside J&K from acquiring properties in the region. In October 2020, the Centre notified new land laws for J&K which, among other provisions, allowed purchase of non-agricultural land by outsiders. These new amendments, however, are not applicable to the UT of Ladakh.

SHOOTS OFF LETTER

Mamata urges Opp parties to put up united fight against BJP

ENS & PTI
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI,
MARCH 29

EXPRESSING CONCERN over an alleged attack on democracy by the BJP government at the Centre, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday urged all opposition parties and their chief ministers to take a united stand against the BJP.

In a letter, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo alleged that central agencies such as the CBI, Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Income Tax Department are being used by the Centre to target, harass and corner political opponents as part of its vendetta politics.

“I am writing to you to express deep concern over a direct attack on this country’s institutional democracy by the ruling BJP. During the recently concluded winter session of Parliament, the BJP bulldozed through the Delhi Special Police (Amendment) Bill, 2021, as well as the CVC (Amendment) Bill, 2021, in the midst of an opposition walkout. These laws enable the Centre to extend the tenure of directors of ED and CBI up to 5 years in blatant violation of a Supreme Court judgment,” the letter read.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offers flowers at the statue of Bhanu Bhakta, in Darjeeling, Tuesday. Express

All parties must resist the BJP’s intention to misuse the central agencies for suppressing opposition leaders, she said. The central agencies, she claimed, string into action just when the elections are round the corner.

BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said the TMC and CM Mamata Banerjee never followed the democratic and federal norms in Bengal. Now, she is

going against the judiciary. “She wrote to the Congress chief ministers. But here, Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury demanded a CBI inquiry into incidents of violence and imposition of article 355 in the state. What will the Congress CMs say?”

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, “Mamata Banerjee is the most prominent voice against the BJP and will remain that.”

Bharat Bandh: Despite court intervention, attendance low in Kerala govt offices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 29

GOVERNMENT OFFICES in Kerala reported low attendance on Tuesday, the second day of the 48-hour nationwide general strike called by various non-BJP trade unions, despite a state government order, which said the absence of employees participating in the strike would be treated as dies non.

Normal life and businesses across the state were hit for the second consecutive day as protesters prevented bus services from running and forced shops to down shutters.

On Monday, the government was forced to issue an order saying that unauthorised absence of employees and teachers during the general strike would be treated as dies non following an intervention of the Kerala High Court. A division bench of Chief Justice S Manikumar had directed the government to issue orders to prevent employees from engaging in the general strike against the policies of the Union government.

The order issued by the chief secretary said that pay for the days on which the strike is taking place would be withheld from the salary for next month. No leave would be granted to employees and teachers on strike days except for unavoidable reasons.

The order, however, did not appear to have much effect on ensuring attendance at government offices. At the state secretariat, less than 200 employees turned up for duty against a staff strength of 4,800. In many other government offices, agitating employ-



CITU and Anganwadi workers stage a protest in Shivamogga, Karnataka, on second day of Bharat Bandh. PTI

ees, belonging to both the ruling LDF and opposition UDF, allegedly prevented others from appearing for duty.

Although the court said trade union activities, pertaining to statutory provisions under the Trade Unions Act, cannot be allowed to impede governance, leaders of the ruling CPI(M) came out against the high court directive. Party state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan compared the court’s attitude to saying “shut your mouth and do your job”. “Employees should be ready to strike, abandoning their salary for two days. The court intervention is a challenge to the democratic system. However, the strike is not sponsored by the government,” he said.

10 BKU members arrested for rioting, Tikait protests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

TEN MEMBERS of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) were arrested in Muzaffarnagar for alleged rioting and assault.

According to police, a scuffle erupted in a restaurant on Monday night between the employees and BKU members. It was alleged that they misbehaved with the staff of a hospital where those injured in the scuffle were brought. On Tuesday, BKU leader Rakesh Tikait sat on a protest with hundreds of his supporters demanding their release.

“We received information that several BKU

MADHYA PRADESH CRICKET ASSOCIATION
Holkar Stadium, Race Course Road, Indore 452003, Ph.: 0731-2543602

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
MPCA invites 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) for 'pre qualification' of agency for the following works for the International cricket stadium of MPCA at Gwalior (MP)
(1) Passenger Lifts (2) High-mast mounted floodlight system (3) Electrical, HVAC, Fire hydrant system (4) Stadium chairs. Interested agencies may download the EOI documents from the website of MPCA www.mpcaconline.com between 30.3.2022 to 5.4.2022.
Hon. Secretary - MPCA

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Mahanadi Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-273508 & Fax: 0135-273508
CIN No U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 29.03.2022
Office of Executive Engineer (M) Ranganga Power Station, UJVN Limited, Kalagarh, Distt. Pauri Garhwal invites online tender from interested parties. Detail of tender is given below.
e-T. No. 27/EE(M)/Klg/2021-22
Name of work/supply/services etc.: Hiring of one no. light motor vehicle (Mahindra Scorpio or equivalent) along with driver for twelve months for the office of General Manager (R&S).
Estimated cost: Rs. 5,46,924/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website : 30/03/2022
Last date for submission of tender : 20/04/2022 up to 16.00 Hrs.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)
“Avoid wasteful use of Electricity”

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION, CUTTACK MAHANADIBIHAR : CUTTACK-753004
Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. RWS SCTC11/2021-22

The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sum bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

1. Nature of work : Rural Piped W/S Schemes.
2. No. of tenders : 8 Nos.
3. Tender Paper Cost : ₹ 10,000/-
4. Value of Work : ₹ 203.54 Lakh to 392.59 Lakhs
5. Class of Contractor : "Special" & "A" Class & "B" Class
6. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal : 11 hour of 08.04.2022 to 22.04.2022 up to 17 hours
7. Date & time of seeking tender clarification : 21.04.2022 up to 17 hours
8. Date & time of opening of tender : 25.04.2022 at 11:30 Hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack
9. Time of completion : 365 days
10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tenders.orisssa.gov.in>.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
RWS Division, Cuttack
OIPR-25022/11/0019/2122

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD
(A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING)
8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009

E-TENDER NOTICE
Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of Built-up Dwellings/ Commercial Units on Free Hold Basis in U.T. Chandigarh
It is hereby notified for the information of general public that e-Tenders are invited for the sale of Built-up units. All the Commercial Units and Residential Units are being sold on Free-Hold basis. E-Tenders are invited individually for each of Built-up Unit.
1. The E-Tender process is open for all the citizens of India as well as NRIs/PIOs above 18 years of age. The persons already having any property (Residential or Commercial) can also participate in the E-Tender.
2. The Built-up Units shall be allotted to the highest eligible bidder, quoting above the reserve price of the Built-up Units. The GST will not be applicable on the consideration/premium of the units.
3. All willing participants may visit the official website www.chbonline.in to understand the detailed procedure for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and e-bids. The Terms & Conditions and the detailed List mentioning localities/sectors of Built-up Units and reserve price can be downloaded from the official website of the Chandigarh Housing Board i.e. www.chbonline.in
4. In order to submit e-bids, every prospective bidder is required to get himself/herself registered at <https://tenders.chd.nic.in>.
5. Stickers have been pasted at each the Built-up Unit for better identification and Site Offices have been provided at different Sectors/Location to facilitate inspection by the prospective bidders. The location of each of the unit on google map, address of the Site Offices and contact details of the officials are available on the official website www.chbonline.in. The days specified for the inspections of the units are as under:-

6. Schedules of dates for e-Tender of the Units:-

1. Starting date and time for bid submission	From 30th March, 2022 (10:00 A.M.)
2. Closing date and time for bid submission	Till 19th April, 2022 (upto 10:00 A.M.)
3. Opening of e-bids	19th April, 2022 (10:15 A.M. onwards)

Chief Accounts Officer
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh
WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE.

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-07205
Open Tender Enquiry No. 369P-2/EMP-W-11936 Dated: 28.03.2022
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022, POWER, 83397_1 for Annual Maintenance Contract for maintenance of Computer Systems, Printers, Scanners & UPS installed at GGSSTP Office.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.03.2022 from 05.00 P.M. onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://pspcl.in>.
13141/Pb RTP-22/22

CESC LIMITED

TENDER INVITING COMPETITIVE BIDDING of ENABLING WORK FOR WET LIMESTONE BASED FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION SYSTEM (WLFGD)
CESC Limited is selling up Wet Limestone Based Flue Gas Desulphurisation System in its 3x250 MW Thermal Power Plant at Budge Budge, West Bengal.
CESC invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for various enabling works.
Details available at "Vendor" section of CESC website www.cesc.co.in.
Apply within 7 days with required details.

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY
(Registered under Society Act XXI of 1860)

Reference to EOI AWES-2022/EOI/LMS/01 issued on 20 Feb 2022. Last date for receipt of EOI extended upto 12 Apr 2022.

For details please log on to
www.awesindia.com

Directorate of Mines
Steel & Mines Department
Government of Odisha
Email.directormines@orissaminerals.gov.in
Date: March 29, 2022

Notice Inviting Tender
“Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Iron Ore and Manganese & Iron Ore”

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10 (B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Odisha has identified 4 (four) Minerals Blocks as under for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease:

- a) 2 (two) mineral blocks of Iron Ore
- b) 2 (two) mineral blocks of Manganese & Iron Ore

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mcl/index.jsp>)

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited. Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of a tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is May 09, 2022 and the last date for submission of the bid is May 17, 2022 on or before 15:00 hours (Indian Standard Time). The Price of Tender Document for mineral block is Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh)

Sr. No	Name of the Block	Mineral	Type of Block
1.	Koira Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Expired Lease
2.	Kedesala North-East Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Virgin Block
3.	Kusumdihi Manganese & Iron Ore Block	Manganese & Iron Ore	Expired Lease
4.	Orahuri Manganese & Iron Ore Block	Manganese & Iron Ore	Virgin Block

Sd/-
Director of Mines, Odisha
OIPR-30004/11/0011/2122

TAMIL NADU LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY,
4th Floor, Integrated Office Complex for Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department, 571, Anna Salai, Saidapet Veterinary Polyclinic Campus, Nandanam P.O., Chennai - 35.
Tel No. 044-24345362, Fax No.: 044 - 24345361 e-mail: tnlida2016@gmail.com

Tender Notice
Sealed tenders are invited under “**Two Cover**” System for the following

S. No.	Details	Quantity
1.	Livestock Insurance - Rates of Premium	1,50,000 cattle units
2.	Orthopaedic Surgical Equipment Sets (Basic)	28 Nos.

Individual tender documents with full details can be downloaded free of cost from www.tenders.tn.gov.in upto **17.04.2022, 5.00 PM**
Pre-Bid meeting on 05.04.2022 – 11.00 AM
Last date for submission of tenders: **18.04.2022, 11.00 AM**
Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above website
DIPR/1564/Tender/2022
Chief Executive Officer.
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

ED lookout circular: Journalist Rana Ayyub stopped in Mumbai from leaving for London

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI,
MARCH 29

JOURNALIST RANA Ayyub was stopped from flying to London at Mumbai International Airport Tuesday evening based on a look-out circular issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which is probing her in connection with a case of alleged money laundering.

“I was stopped today at the Indian immigration while I was about to board my flight to London to deliver my speech on the intimidation of journalists with @ICFJ (International Center for Journalists). I was to travel to Italy right after to deliver the keynote address at the @journalismfest on Indian democracy,” Ayyub tweeted.

Sources in the ED said Ayyub had been summoned twice but she responded to only one summons following which the look-out circular was issued against

her. Based on this, Ayyub was detained by immigration authorities and ED was informed.

Ayyub was issued fresh summons Tuesday for appearance in Delhi on April 1.

Ayyub told *The Indian Express*, “I got the first summons in September or October last year when Mumbai ED was probing a forex violations case. I not only met them but provided them all the required documents. The next time I got summons in January, but I had Covid and so sought more time.”

According to Ayyub, she received the fresh summons from ED after she had been detained at the airport. “I was told I have to go back home. I was supposed to receive an award and also address the newsroom of the *Guardian* newspaper. My entire plan has been public all this while and I have always been in touch with ED. In fact, ED Delhi is asking for documents that I have already submitted with Mumbai ED, but they keep asking me to get them.

I have written several emails to Mumbai ED for the same but got no response,” Ayyub said.

In February this year, the ED attached bank deposits to the tune of Rs 1.77 crore belonging to Ayyub in connection with the case. The ED case is based on an FIR by UP police last year where it was alleged that Ayyub collected funds through Ketto platform in the name of Covid relief work but diverted the funds.

“Investigations conducted by Directorate of Enforcement make it abundantly clear that the funds were raised in the name of charity in a completely pre-planned and systematic manner and the funds were not utilized completely for the purpose of which the funds were raised,” the ED said in a statement then.

According to the ED, investigations found that instead of utilising the funds for relief work, Ayyub parked some of the funds by opening a separate current bank account. “(She) also created a Fixed Deposit of Rs 50 lakh from

the funds raised on Ketto and subsequently did not utilize these for relief works. She deposited a total of Rs 74.50 lakh in PM Cares fund and CM Relief Fund,” the ED said. “Accordingly, at the stage of investigation, the proceeds of crime are quantified as Rs 1,77,27,704 and the interest generated upon the said FD of Rs. 50 lakh.”

The money attached by ED is in the form of bank deposits in three different bank accounts.

The ED alleged that her sister’s and father’s accounts were used to park funds and Ayyub prepared “fake bills” to “claim expenses on relief work”.

The UP police FIR against Ayyub was registered in September 2021 at Indrapuram police station in Ghaziabad on a complaint from one Vikas Sankrityayan. Apart from sections of IPC and IT Act, the police had invoked Section 4 of Black Money Act alleging that she illegally acquired money from general public in the name of charity. Ayyub had rejected these allegations.

PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing Jabalpur
(An Institute of National Importance, established by an Act of Parliament)
Dumna Airport Road, Jabalpur (M.P.)-482005

Short Employment Notice

Institute invites application from eligible candidates for **Student Internship** (Posis:02) of the ongoing DST-SERB Sponsored Project entitled "Modelling suspensions of active swimming micro-organisms under external gradients via Bioconvection. File No: CRG/2018/000105". The last date of submission for application is 12th April 2022. For further details please visit our website www.iiitdmj.ac.in

Registrar

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

NOTIFICATION

The Notification no. **45th Batch Act. Appt./2021**, has been issued for apprenticeship for ITI-300 seats and NON ITI-74 seats under Act. Apprentice 45th Batch, year 2021. Please visit BLW's official website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in blw. ITI/NONITI or www.blwactapprentice.in for full details of the said notification and to apply online.

PROB/BLW/P-11 **General Manager/P**

f t /banaraslocomotive "Website: <https://blw.indianrailways.gov.in/>"

राष्ट्रीय औद्योगिक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान गुवाहाटी
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH GUWAHATI

Advt. No. **NIPERG/Project/2022/March/3** Date: 29/03/2022
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW (ONLINE) FOR PROJECT POSITIONS
NIPEER, Guwahati invites promising candidates to fill the position of **Junior Research Fellow (JRF)** for Core Research Grant (CRG) – SERB sponsored project through Walk-in-Interview (Online mode).

Project title: **Deciphering the redox chemistry of physical plasma-treated clinically relevant lipids as novel therapy against ovarian cancer.**

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Man lynched over cattle theft suspicion in Tripura, 2 arrested

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, MARCH 29

A 26-YEAR-OLD man was lynched on suspicion of cattle theft in Baramura village of Tripura’s Sepahijala district on Tuesday. Police later arrested two people after victim’s father lodged a complaint.

Litan Miah from Tarapukur area, a bordering village in Dhanpur area of Sonamura sub-division, was badly beaten up early morning at Baramura on the suspicion that he tried to steal cattle, a senior official from Jatrapur police station said. Litan later died when he was being taken to a hospital, he said.

“We have registered a case and arrested two persons on the complaint of Litan’s father. Investigation is still going on,” he said. Those arrested were identified as Sentu Debnath and Amar Chandra Das.

Police said they were informed on Tuesday morning that villagers have apprehended a cattle thief. A police team

Left badly injured, Litan Miah died when he was being taken to a local hospital

reached the spot and took the badly-injured suspect to a local hospital. “He was referred to Govind Ballabh Pant (GBP) Hospital in Agartala and died on the way,” the police official said.

A large group of people later gathered and blocked the road close to Dhanpur, which is also the home turf of Opposition leader Manik Sarkar, and the locality of Union Minister of State for Social Justice Pratima Bhoumik.

Reports of cattle smuggling are common in Tripura as the state shares a semi-porous border with Bangladesh. A manager of Dhyan Foundation, an NGO running a shelter specifically for cows recovered from smugglers, said they receive around a 100 new animals every month.

Senior Bihar JDU leader shot outside home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 29

JDU STATE secretary and vice chairman of Danapur Nagar Parishad was shot dead by unidentified assailants on Monday night, police said on Tuesday.

Police said that Dipak Mehta (47) was shot at by some unidentified assailants at around 10.15 pm at his house on Monday night. The assailants fired 10 rounds of bullets at him at the gate of his house, police added. He was taken to a private Patna hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Patna City SP (West) Rajesh Kumar said: “We have collected CCTV video footage and are investigating both political and personal enmity angles. Mehta had land dispute with a local resident”. No FIR has been lodged yet, police said.

Mehta had unsuccessfully contested the 2020 Assembly election from Danapur seat on the RLSP. The party merged with JDU in 2021. With upcoming municipal council polls due in June-July this year, Mehta, a rising politician from OBC Kushwaha community, could have been targeted by his political rivals, said one of his relatives.

Ex-PM Deve Gowda’s wife gets I-T notice

Bengaluru: JD(S) leader and former minister HD Revanna on Monday said that his mother and wife of former PM H D Deve Gowda, Chennamma Deve Gowda received Income Tax Department’s notice.

Revanna said that his mother received notice for the land owned by his family in Doddapura and Paduvalahippe in Hassan district.

“I-T notice has been issued to my mother seeking all details pertaining to our property. We will submit our response as per the law,” he said.

“...We are growing sugarcane on our land... Have my parents made crores of rupees? Have we purchased any new property? Why is one political party being targeted?,” he added. **ENS**

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7	General Manager – Finance	1
8	DGM – PRO	1

1) Refer PMRDA's website - pmrda.gov.in -> Careers for educational qualification, experience, age limit, how to apply etc.
2) Closing Date of Submission - April 16, 2022

(Dr. Suhas Diwase, IAS)
Metropolitan Commissioner
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority

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द्वारा प्रसारित
उ.प्र. राज्य हथकरघा निगम लि.

अतिरिक्त की अभिव्यक्ति सम्बन्धी विज्ञापि (Expression of Interest)

राज्य सरकार के उपक्रम उ.प्र. राज्य हथकरघा निगम लि. कबीर मयन, जी.टी.रोड, कानपुर अपने आगरा परिक्षेत्र के निम्नलिखित विक्री केन्द्रों / सम्पत्तियों / परियोजनाओं की भूमि / भवन को निगम की सहभागिता योजना / किराये पर देने हेतु इच्छुक हैं। निगम की निम्नलिखित विक्री केन्द्रों / सम्पत्तियों को सहभागिता योजना / किराये पर देने हेतु इच्छुक संस्थायें / इकायाँ / समितियाँ जो हथकरघा / हस्तशिल्प क्षेत्र में कार्य कर रही हैं एवं इस क्षेत्र में उनका कम से कम 3 वर्ष का अनुभव है। निम्नलिखित विक्री केन्द्रों / सम्पत्तियों का मौका मुआझिना कर जहाँ जिस स्थिति में है से सम्बन्धित अपना प्रस्ताव दिनांक 11 अप्रैल 2022 को 4 बजे तक प्रमारी विपणन परिक्षेत्र आगरा को प्रस्तुत कर सकती हैं। प्रत्येक प्रस्ताव के साथ रु. 5100/- का डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट “उ.प्र. राज्य हथकरघा निगम लि. कानपुर” के नाम से देय संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। यह धनराशि किसी भी दशा में वापस नहीं होगी। विक्री केन्द्र का 70 प्रतिशत क्षेत्रफल ही सहभागिता योजना / किराये पर दिया जायेगा। पृथक-पृथक सम्पत्तियों के प्रस्ताव निर्धारित प्राकृष पर पृथक-पृथक प्रस्तुत करना होगा।

क्र. सं.	सम्पत्तियों का विवरण एवं पता	सम्पत्तियों का प्रति माह बेंस सहभागिता कमीशन/किराया दर	स्थानीय स्तर पर प्राकृष प्राप्त करने हेतु सम्पत्तें सूत्र एवं प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करने हेतु प्रमारी का नाम एवं मो. नं.
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प्रबन्ध निदेशक

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No.: KSTIDCL/ADM/Advt/2021-22 **Date: 28.03.2022**

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7	Monthly Remuneration	INR 1,75,000 per month (Consolidated)
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9	Contact	All the Interested Applicants can submit their credentials to the following E-mail ID: kstidcl.bgl@gmail.com
10	Last Date of Application	13.04.2022

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India**, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is Where is”, “As is What is” and “Whatever there is” basis on **05.05.2022 (Thursday)**. Other details of the e-auction are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Description of the property (Property ID for e-auction: SBIN35716353251)	Name of Mortgageor/ Guarantor	Date of 13(2) Date of 13(4) under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold EMD Bid Increment Amount
1.	M/s Charter Awadh Educational Trust, Sri Satyendra Kumar S/o Sri Ram Awadh Singh, Managing Trustee & Co-Borrower; Sri Lal Mohar Ram S/o Sri Agraht Ram, Trustee & Co-Borrower; Sri Rakesh Kumar S/o Sri Sachchidanand Singh, Trustee & Co-Borrower; Smt. Punam Kumari D/o Sri Ram Awadh Singh, Trustee & Co-Borrower; Sri Ram Bihari Ray S/o Sri Suresh Rai, Trustee & Co-Borrower	Rs. 4,43,12,342/- as on 27.08.2017 plus accrued Interest, Charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc, less further recovery	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: Property belonging to Sri Satyendra Kumar. All that part and parcel of the property Sale Deed No.6407 dt. 08.08.2013 consisting of Khata No.88, Plot No.622, Thana No.94, Area- 1.25 Acres, Mauza- Belwaiya, PS & Anchal- Dinara, Sub Registry Office Bikramganj, Dist- Rohtas, Boundary: North-Niz, South-Sri Ram Singh & Radha Kishun Singh and Niz Rasta, East-Pokhara, West-Niz.	Guarantor: Sri Jai Prakash Gupta, Sri Mintu Kumar Gupta, Sri Pintu Kumar Gupta, Smt. Baby Devi, Sri Chandrashekhar Singh, Sri Raj Nath Singh, Sri Ram Awadh Singh, Sri Anil Kumar & Smt. Fulwaria Kunwar.	12.06.2018 18.01.2021	₹4,00,00,000/- ₹40,00,000/- ₹25,000/-

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- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold will all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002.

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Date : 28.03.2022
Place : Patna

AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

Not far enough

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Delhi trip could have provided a healing touch, a chance to rebuild trust. It did little to thaw the freeze in bilateral ties



SUJAN CHINOY

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER and state councillor Wang Yi's visit to India on March 24-25, the first by a senior Chinese official since the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in 2020, was low-key and shorn of expectations. Arranged at short notice as part of Wang's tour of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal, his touchdown in New Delhi appeared to be an add-on to the itinerary. Contrary to the media hype, this was not the first time that he was meeting his Indian counterpart, S Jaishankar, since the bloody incident at Galwan in June 2020. Nor was it a "resumption of dialogue". Unlike the aftermath of the India-China border war in 1962 and the shorter hiatus after India's nuclear tests in 1998, dialogue between India and China has continued at multiple levels despite the standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Before Wang Yi's visit, the two foreign ministers met thrice in person, once in Moscow in 2020 and twice in Dushanbe in 2021, apart from engaging in virtual conversations.

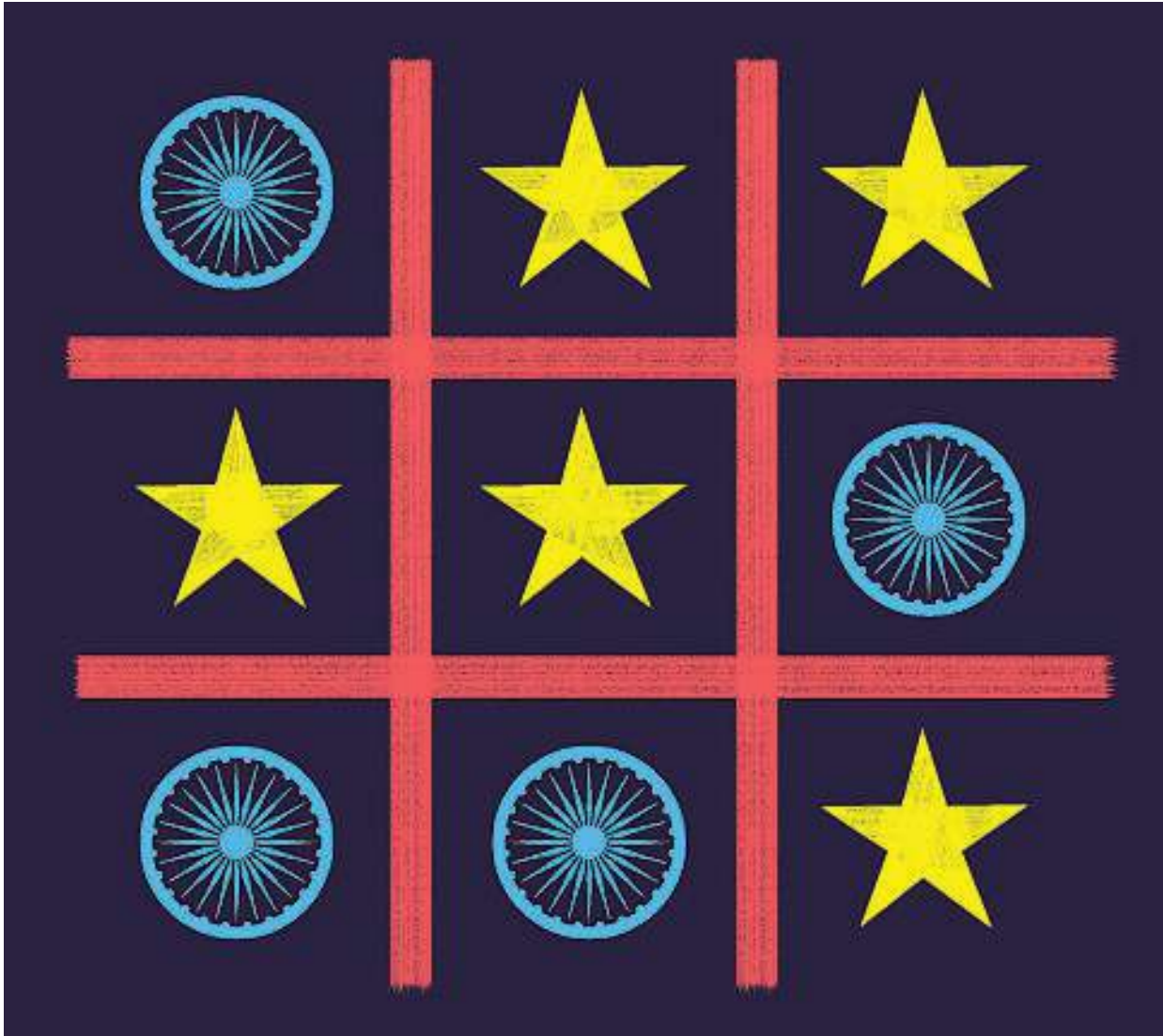
That the Chinese side should have proposed a visit by Wang to India as part of his tour of South Asia is unsurprising, given that it is standard practice for visits by Chinese leaders to cover several countries. Wang Yi's participation as "guest" at the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) hosted by Islamabad on March 22-23 is the first such attendance by any Chinese foreign minister. The tour served several objectives for China.

First, it was an effort to convey to the world that China is a big power assuming a leadership role in engaging the region to develop consensus on important issues such as Afghanistan and Ukraine. Second, it was aimed at ensuring the success of the in-person BRICS summit later this year. Third, Beijing intended to consolidate the impression that China and India have a shared interest in ensuring that Russia is not isolated, and further, to suggest that there is a rift between the US and India over Ukraine.

Fourth, by becoming the first P-5 country to send a foreign minister to visit Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, China sought to convey to the international community that it is a "responsible" power in contrast to the US, which withdrew from Afghanistan and has since subordinated Asian security to its priorities in Europe, thus making it an unreliable partner. Fifth, Wang's participation at the OIC CFM meeting signalled China's desire to be seen as a strong and sympathetic backer of the Islamic world, making common cause against stereotyping by the West.

A stand-alone visit by Wang to India, in any case, would have been difficult to set up in the absence of a clearly agreed-upon agenda, adequate preparation and demonstrable outcomes from India's point of view, especially on the core issue of disengagement in the border areas.

Wang's visit ought to have provided a healing touch and a chance to rebuild trust. It did little to thaw the deep freeze in bilateral ties. By all accounts, he stuck to the boilerplate formulation that "the border issue should be put in its proper place in bilateral ties", a euphemism for demanding India's acquiescence in China's unilateralism without linkage to other fields, including trade, which continues to lean disproportionately in China's favour. His Indian interlocutors no doubt hammered home the point that peace is a prerequisite for normal ties.



C R Sasikumar

There exists a wide chasm in positions on bilateral issues and on strategic themes such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Indo-Pacific and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. As it is, the multilateral space for cooperation between India and China has shrunk in recent years with Beijing gratuitously interfering in India's internal affairs and attempting to rake up the Kashmir issue at the UN Security Council. By making an insensitive reference to Kashmir at the OIC CFM meeting in Pakistan, and playing to the gallery there, Wang precluded any chance of forward movement.

For China, itself in occupation of Kashmir's territory in Aksai Chin and the Shaksgam valley, such machinations are perhaps a means to divert attention away from the treatment of its own Islamic and other minorities. In Xinjiang, there is little evidence on the ground of the respect for the "Islamic civilisation" and "Islamic wisdom" that Wang Yi alluded to while in Pakistan.

Given the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, China is keen to signal to countries in the region that the idea of the Indo-Pacific is a red line for China, akin to NATO expansion

Recently, Chinese scholars have encouragingly referred to India's 'strategic autonomy' as a key factor in New Delhi successfully resisting US pressure to toe the line on Ukraine. Such guile is unlikely to alter New Delhi's appreciation of the hard reality of adverse Chinese policies, its expanding strategic and military ties with Pakistan and its growing shadow in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

for Russia. It has not gone unnoticed in Beijing that Nepal's parliament recently approved a \$ 500 million US government aid programme under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which provides an alternative to infrastructure and developmental finance under the BRI.

Recently, Chinese scholars have encouragingly referred to India's "strategic autonomy" as a key factor in New Delhi successfully resisting US pressure to toe the line on Ukraine. Such guile is unlikely to alter New Delhi's appreciation of the hard reality of adverse Chinese policies, its expanding strategic and military ties with Pakistan and its growing shadow in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. The lack of agreement on disengagement at the remaining friction points in the border areas may make it difficult for visits at the apex level to resume.

There is much greater international appreciation today of India's principled position on the war in Ukraine than there is of China's strategic ties to Russia. The global situation is complex. The security imbroglio in Europe is likely to endure. At this juncture, one wonders if there is any merit in India participating in either the in-person BRICS summit or the 19th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the RIC (Russia-India-China) grouping to be hosted by China later this year.

The writer, a former diplomat, is a China specialist currently serving as the Director-General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Underlying Mr Biden's gaffe was a truth that Russia's president cannot be trusted to honour a peace deal."

— THE GUARDIAN

A Ukraine lesson for NATO

In future, NATO will need a declared deterrence policy with identifiable red lines to act as trigger points for a credible response



S K SAINI

TODAY, THE GLOBAL media is focused on the war in Ukraine, with images and footage of death, destruction, agony and despair being beamed live for everyone who cares to see the havoc that a war causes. On February 24, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine began, NATO activated its multinational response force for the first time in the military alliance's 73-year history. "NATO is responding to this crisis with speed and unity," said Jens Stoltenberg, secretary-general of the grouping. "We must reset our collective defence and deterrence for the longer term; today we tasked our military commanders to develop options across all domains," he said later.

In an extraordinary meeting of NATO members, formal requests were made by officials of eight Eastern European and Baltic nations on February 24, including Poland, to invoke Article 4 of NATO's 1949 treaty. Article 4 allows any member nation to call for a consultation of the organisation's governing body when "the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of any of the parties is threatened". It was invoked the last time in February 2020 by Turkey after Syrian government forces killed dozens of Turkish soldiers. Across the Atlantic, the US President said: "The United States will not send troops to Ukraine, which is not a member of NATO but defend every inch of NATO territory with the full force of American power."

Later, Ukraine's proposal to impose a no-fly zone to deter Russian air attacks and Poland's offer of sending MIG fighters to Ukraine were summarily turned down, as these would constitute acts of war against Russia.

On the other side, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the West in the first week of the invasion that "whoever tries to hinder us" in Ukraine would face consequences, "you have never seen in your history". He also ordered Russia's military on February 27 to put its deterrence forces, which include nuclear weapons, on "special alert". He explained to his defence chiefs that this was because of "aggressive statements" by the West, amid widespread condemnation of his invasion of Ukraine.

Russia had annexed the Crimean peninsula in 2014 and has now launched a full offensive on Ukraine despite sanctions being in place and the threat of more punitive sanctions. Therefore, any escalation beyond this should have been at NATO's initiative by configuring a more robust and bold response. Perhaps NATO wanted to avoid a direct confrontation with Russia, which led to self-imposed restraint and a sort of mental paralysis of its military commanders. NATO lost the mind game by overestimating the Russian reaction to its response. On the other hand, Russia always underestimates the West's willingness to take risks and raises

the threshold. In this case, Russia would not have taken any precipitate, overwhelming or irrational actions. This meek surrender during a grave contingency is likely to have long-term detrimental ramifications for NATO's credibility, deterrence and collective European defence.

While Ukraine is not a formal member and NATO is not obligated to defend its territorial integrity, four of its members — Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania — share borders with Ukraine. The precautionary deployment of NATO forces to its Eastern borders should have been more dissuasive after 2014, irrespective of economic considerations. In the present scenario, NATO should have arrayed viable force levels along its borders for deterrence and posed a "threat in being" to restrict Russia's freedom of action — which it currently enjoys and can, therefore, conduct operations with impunity.

Before undertaking this deployment of forces, NATO should have invoked Article 5, which outlines a common pledge from all NATO countries that they will come to one another's defence if one of them is attacked. It has been invoked only once — in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

NATO should have also provided more useful weapons and equipment to Ukraine, which would have helped to fortify the staying power of the resistance forces. These should have included man-portable surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank weapons, weaponised UAVs, lasers and jamming equipment, among others.

Moreover, policy decisions like sending troops to Ukraine, the imposition of a no-fly zone and the provision of fighter aircraft should not have been debated under the media glare. This conveyed an impression of fear and inaction to avoid provocation and escalation. The lack of a well-thought-out plan for political and strategic messaging by NATO emboldened the other side to disregard its threats and actions as hollow and symbolic.

To mitigate the deprivations faced by civilians caught in combat, NATO could have undertaken humanitarian missions by sea and air to demonstrate its will and uphold the values that the West propagates. Such missions need to be supported by a narrative of justice. There are many more options for demonstrative action that can be executed to show intent, commitment and resolve. No doubt this will heighten risk but calculated risks need to be taken to retain the initiative and overcome passivity and inaction.

In the future, NATO will need to have a declared deterrence policy with identifiable red lines to act as trigger points for a credible response. Rhetoric and symbolic responses seem hollow and do not dissuade. However, credibility does not require a response to be particularly painful. To execute such a range of options, NATO countries will have to enhance their defence budgets and the combat capabilities of their militaries, which have been neglected for decades based on erroneous threat perceptions indicating a low probability of war.

The writer is a former vice-chief of the Indian Army staff and Southern Army Commander



AKHILESH MISHRA

The clue in the picture

Why a photo from the UP swearing-in frames the BJP as a party

WHAT ARE THE lessons one can draw from the recent assembly elections in five states? Two conclusions are obvious. First, the Congress party's footprint across the country has shrunk further and the family that monopolises the party is now just one push away from oblivion. Second, the BJP has decisively won record pro-incumbency votes in four of these five states. These four pro-incumbency verdicts are not an aberration. After the early decades of independent India, the BJP has the best record of pro-incumbency verdicts — both at the Centre and the state level.

So, what explains this phenomenal success of the BJP in repeatedly winning the trust of the people across the length and breadth of the country?

A viral photo from Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani's Twitter timeline, taken during the swearing-in ceremony of Yogi Adityanath, holds an important clue. The picture shows Nitin Gadkari, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda in one frame, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. One current and three former presidents of the party are sitting with a prime minister who has won the biggest return mandate in five decades, at the swearing-in ceremony of a second-time chief minister. None of them is from the same family, not one of them is even a second-generation politician. They are all

first-generation *karyakartas* who have risen to the very top by sheer hard work. All of them come from humble backgrounds and represent diverse social bases and castes. From Maharashtra to Gujarat and from Himachal Pradesh to Uttar Pradesh, they represent the diversity of India. In their idiom and mindset, they are rooted in the Indian civilisational ethos, rather than trying to find validity through imported concepts. And, most importantly, all are high achievers in their personal lives, yet they all subsume their individual egos in the larger cause of their party as a vehicle for national development.

However, the message from that picture is not about the individuals in it. The image is merely a metaphor for what the BJP's contribution has been to India's resurgence.

What are the ideals that we expect from our political parties in a normative democracy?

First, political parties must enable the best talent in each generation to rise to the top based on their hard work and commitment. Second, they must represent the diversity of the country in all its forms — regional and societal. Third, political parties must foster a common national purpose rather than act as personal advancement vehicles. Fourth, they must put the nation first while the personal interest of the political activist must be the last priority. Fifth,

parties must hold some timeless values, irrespective of the transitional nature of political power. Sixth, political power must not be the end goal, but merely a means to change society and the nation for the better.

Commentators are excited if a political party exhibits even one or two of these six traits. But consider the BJP. Is there any other political party in the country which comes even close to it in broadly imbuing all of these traits of an ideal political party? When every other party, without exception, has reduced itself to being the personal vehicle of a family or an individual, it is the BJP alone that stands tall, representing the true ideals of the freedom fighters who fought for a democratic nation.

The history of the BJP itself is its message. The Jana Sangh, the precursor to the BJP, was formed for a cause that was neither regional nor parochial nor based on a personal grouse. Political power of any significance eluded the founders for many decades. And yet, the party never wavered from its ideological path. The founders never chose greener pastures for quick political gratification. The BJP leadership and thousands of faceless workers chose to work hard on the ground rather than compromise on their principles. It is this ideological commitment, and the character imbued from the ideals of the RSS, that makes the BJP the only political party in India to

have never split. It is the only political party in India that has six living former national presidents, all still with the party. All of them had selflessly stepped aside when the time came for the next generation.

Sushma Swaraj's last tweet thanked PM Modi for fulfilling a long-cherished dream within her lifetime — the abrogation of Article 370. She was not a minister then, not even a party office-bearer. Yet, it is the national achievement that excited her, not her personal position. That is how the BJP has changed India fundamentally — by changing its politics. The BJP has offered a template to the romantics, showing them that it is possible in politics to put principles above power and yet be successful. The BJP collectively, and PM Modi personally, represent the ideals that we expect from our political parties and politicians. That is why the BJP repeatedly inspires trust in the people. For, the BJP is the only party that makes the people feel that it is one of them. For it is from among them. If they can do it, others can too. If there is one message that we can distil from the recent elections, it is that the voters, for all of the above reasons and more, are saying, "#IamTheBJP".

The writer is CEO, Bluekraft Digital Foundation and was earlier director (content) MyGov

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRIEND IN NEED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Besieged Colombo' (IE, March 29). Looking at the financial crisis brewing in Sri Lanka and its fallout on law and order, more refugees from Sri Lanka can be expected. In an effort to bail out the island nation, India is doing the right thing by offering financial aid to the Rajapaksa government. India's selfless help as Sri Lanka's immediate neighbour stands in sharp contrast to China's heavy investments in that country, albeit with ulterior motives. While India must seize the opportunity to put its relations with the island nation on an even keel, it must also desist from going overboard, keeping the complicated Indo-Sri Lanka relations in mind.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

TALK TO PEOPLE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Veil and prejudice' (IE, March 29). The tradition of Muslim women wearing the hijab has now become a matter of controversy, like so many other rituals and customs of the largest minority in the country, adding to the growing belief that there is selective targeting. Many religions have practices that may appear anachronistic but they continue because of the diversity of the country and their potential of becoming flash-points of violence if summarily done away with. While the hijab matter is

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● FOR DEEPER INDIA-MEXICO TIES: MARCELO EBRARD CASAUBON

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with the Supreme Court, our politicians must realise that a better and more enduring way to change these practices is through dialogue and debate, and not through forcible or legal methods.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

WRONG SOLUTION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An answer called CUET' (IE, March 29.) The UGC proposal of CUET as a remedy for the maladies in our university admission reeks of a familiar obsession of the current government — to bring about uniformity in every sphere of life. High cut-offs, no matter how absurd they may seem, also ward off mediocrity. To combat stress, the riot act should be read out to coaching centres pushing students into an unhealthy race for securing admissions to premier institutes.

Raja Bandoopadhaya, Vadodara

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday. *Reuters*

UK

Queen Elizabeth and royals pay tribute to her late husband

London: Britain's Queen Elizabeth made her first public appearance in five months on Tuesday when she joined the royal family and other dignitaries at a memorial service to her "remarkable" husband Prince Philip, who died last year. Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who was by his wife's side for more than seven decades, passed away at their Windsor Castle home in April, two months shy of his 100th birthday. Only 30 mourners were able to attend his funeral service then due to strict coronavirus rules, which meant the queen poignantly sat alone as her husband of 73 years was lowered into the Royal Vault of St George's Chapel of the castle. **REUTERS**

CHINA

New carrier rocket makes maiden flight

Beijing: A modified version of China's Long March-6 carrier rocket with solid strap-on boosters made its maiden flight on Tuesday, sending two satellites into the planned orbit. The rocket blasted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The modified rocket is China's first type of carrier rocket equipped with solid strap-on boosters. It uses non-toxic and non-polluting propellants and can send satellites to the sun-synchronous orbit. **PTI**

NEPAL

Nepali Congress to forge alliance with coalition

Kathmandu: The Nepali Congress, the principal ruling party with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba at the helm, on Tuesday decided to forge an alliance with its coalition partners the CPN-Maoist Centre led by Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" and Madhav Nepal's CPN-Unified Socialist for the local-level elections scheduled in over 700 local units on May 13. The decision was taken during a CWC meeting held at the central party headquarters in Sanepa. **PTI**

SEVEN KILLED IN MYKOLAIV BOMBING

Signs of progress in talks, but fighting on at several fronts

THE NEW YORK TIMES
MARCH 29

RUSSIAN MILITARY strikes and Ukrainian counteroffensives continued across the country on Tuesday, and it remained to be seen if the progress both sides reported in peace talks would shift the dynamic of the fighting. In the talks, held in Istanbul, Russia promised to reduce military activity near the capital, Kyiv, where its forces have struggled, and Ukraine outlined potential concessions of territory that Russia had long seized in Crimea and the east of the country.

On Tuesday morning, a Russian attack destroyed much of a regional government building in the southern port city of Mykolaiv, leaving seven dead, according to the governor, Vitaly Kim. Another Russian missile strike destroyed an oil depot in the Khmelnytsky region in western Ukraine, according to local authorities.

Mykolaiv, nestled along the Black Sea coast between Odessa and the Crimean Peninsula, has been under heavy siege by Russian forces since the start of the invasion. Russian forces have not yet been able to take control there.

In the northwest of the country, a Russian missile struck an oil depot in the Rivne region on Monday night, the second to be destroyed there, according to Vitaly Koval, the regional governor, who posted a video update from the scene. He said emergency workers were assessing the damage, and by midday on Tuesday, emergency workers were trying to extinguish the fire.

On Monday, a Ukrainian counteroffensive had pushed back Russian forces in the hard-fought area of Irpin near Kyiv.

Russian oligarch Abramovich seen at Turkey peace talks

REUTERS
ISTANBUL, MARCH 29

RUSSIAN BILLIONAIRE Roman Abramovich, who is sanctioned by the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, made a surprise appearance in Istanbul on Tuesday at the first direct peace talks in weeks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators.

The two teams sat facing each other at a long table in the presidential office on an Ottoman palace grounds. The Russian oligarch sat in the front row of observers wear-



The regional administration building hit by cruise missiles in Mykolaiv on Tuesday. *AP*

In Mariupol, thousands of residents are still trapped, sheltering in basements with little access to electricity, food and water during a constant Russian barrage. No humanitarian corridors were opened on Monday, and, according to the Institute for the Study of War, Russian forces continued to take territory around the city. But by Tuesday, things looked more promising. A new evacuation convoy of 34 buses carrying civilians was able to leave from neighbouring city of Berdyansk.

CALLS IT EXPRESSION OF MORAL OUTRAGE

I make no apologies, says Biden on his remarks on Putin

MICHAEL D SHEAR
WASHINGTON, MARCH 29

PRESIDENT JOE Biden on Monday stood by his comment that Vladimir V Putin should not remain President of Russia, but he said it was an expression of his own horror over the invasion of Ukraine and not a change in American policy aimed at seeking to remove Putin from office.

"I was expressing the moral outrage that I feel, and I make no apologies for it," Biden told reporters at the White House, rejecting criticism from around the globe in the last two days about the potential diplomatic consequences of his words. The President said no one should have interpreted his comments as calling for Putin's ouster.

"It's ridiculous," he said of the questions about his speech in Warsaw on Saturday, when he said, "For God's sake, this man can-



US President Joe Biden

not remain in power." On Monday, Biden said: "Nobody believes I was talking about taking down Putin. Nobody believes that."

The fallout over Biden's words in Warsaw underscored the dilemma that he and the NATO allies face about how to condemn the war in Ukraine and pressure Russia without shutting down any relationship with Moscow that might help end the invasion.

The West will also have to decide whether Moscow would be allowed back into the global economy, whether to lift sanctions and how to resume diplomatic relations if Russia pulls back its forces. Biden's remark drew some praise for its toughness and clarity but also warnings and criticism. **NYT**

Will create group to analyse power of sanctions, says Zelenskyy

THE NEW YORK TIMES
MARCH 29

IN HIS nightly address on Monday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine said that his office would create a group of experts this week to analyse the effectiveness of sanctions against Russia, which he has said do not go far enough.

"Our goal is for the sanctions to work as intended, and so that there is no possibility to circumvent them," Zelenskyy said in a translation of his remarks shared by his office. "This must be a goal for the whole democratic world, without exception. No exception."

Countries and businesses supporting Ukraine have used sanctions to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. While those sanctions have been successful in isolating Russia economically and socially, they have not cut off one of its main sources of revenue: oil and gas. "Ukraine cannot and will not agree with the passive sanctions position of some entities towards Russia," he said. **NYT**



Many shops were shut and pedestrians were sparse even in the half of the city that remained open on Tuesday. *AP*

Shanghai lockdown tests zero-Covid limits, shakes markets

KEN MORITSUGU
BEIJING, MARCH 29

CHINESE AUTHORITIES sought to reassure companies and jittery investors on Tuesday as a two-phase lockdown of Shanghai's 26 million people entered its second day, casting an unusual quiet over the normally bustling centre of finance, manufacturing and trade.

The Omicron outbreak in Shanghai is one of a series across the country that is testing the government's ability to enforce a strict "zero-Covid" strategy without overly disrupting the economy and people's daily lives.

Many shops were shuttered and pedestrians were sparse even in the half of the city that remained open. The lockdown is being conducted in two phases to limit the disruption, starting with the Pudong financial district and adjacent areas on the east side of the Huangpu River that divides Shanghai.

The shutdown has added to anxiety in financial markets over Russia's war on Ukraine, the US Federal Reserve's effort to cool surging inflation by raising interest rates and other challenges facing the global economy.

Market reactions, includ-

EXPLAINED What is known about BA.2

BA.2 now represents nearly 86% of all sequenced cases, as per WHO. BA.2 has been called the "stealth variant" because it is slightly harder to track and can only be found by genomic sequencing. Scientists say a possible explanation for the recent rise in BA.2 could be that the global uptick happened at the same time that many countries lifted public health interventions.

ing Monday's 7% drop in oil prices in London don't reflect the "true reality of the situation," but investors already were uneasy about China and the global economy, said Michael Every of Rabobank.

Two deaths have been reported, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic to 4,638. Outside of mainland China, new cases have declined in Hong Kong following a recent wave that has led to more than 7,000 deaths. Shanghai recorded 4,477 new cases on Monday, all but 96 of them asymptomatic. **AP**

FDA nod to new Moderna, Pfizer booster for fifty-plus

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MARCH 29

US REGULATORS on Tuesday authorised another Covid-19 booster for people age 50 and older, a step to offer extra protection for the most vulnerable in case the coronavirus rebounds.

The Food and Drug Administration's decision opens a fourth dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to that age group at least four months after their previous booster.

Until now, the FDA had cleared fourth doses only for

people 12 and older who have severely weakened immune systems. The agency said this especially fragile group also can get an additional booster, a fifth shot.

The latest expansion, regardless of people's health, allows an extra shot to millions more Americans — and the question is whether everyone who's eligible should rush out and get it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to weigh in.

Everyone eligible for a first booster who hasn't gotten one yet needs to, FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. But the second booster is only for these higher-risk groups.

Vote on Imran no-trust vote on April 3, says minister

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 29

THE VOTING on the no-confidence motion against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will be held on April 3, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said on Tuesday.

Rashid was addressing the media in the federal capital over the latest political situation after the Opposition parties submitted a no-confidence motion against Khan on Monday during a session of the National

Assembly. "There will be a debate on the no-confidence motion on March 31, followed by voting on April 3," he said, adding that Khan would emerge victorious.

He predicted that all estranged allies would come back to support the government headed by Khan as already done by Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q).

He also said all roads have been cleared and there was no blockade in part of the city after the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Opposition



Imran Khan is heading a coalition govt and can be removed if some of the partners decide to switch sides. *Reuters*

parties held separate political rallies on Sunday and Monday.

The remarks came as the Pakistan opposition alliance in the last midnight power show vowed to bring down the beleaguered government of Khan.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), which among others include Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-I), organised a big rally on the Srinagar Highway in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Khan on Tuesday

strictly directed his party lawmakers to either abstain or not attend the National Assembly session on the day of voting. All members are "required to adhere to his directions in true letter and spirit" and should keep in mind the "intention behind the provision of Article 63(A) of the Constitution of Pakistan," he said.

Khan also warned the party lawmakers that "every or any" violation of the directions would be treated as an "express defection" in terms of Article 63(A). **PTI**

Biden proposes \$1.8 bn for Indo-Pacific strategy

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, MARCH 29

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has proposed \$1.8 billion to support his Indo-Pacific Strategy along with another \$400 million to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the strategically vital region.

The US, India and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

"In the Indo-Pacific, America is strengthening its role and expanding its cooperation with longtime allies and partners, including new diplomatic, defence and security, critical and emerging technology and supply chain, and climate and

global health initiatives, while supporting stronger ties between our European and Indo-Pacific allies," Biden said on Monday.

Meanwhile, Biden on Tuesday sought to assure Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong that his administration remains focused on the Indo-Pacific region even as they deal with the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Even as we address the crisis in Europe, my administration is strongly supportive of moving rapidly to implement the Indo-Pacific strategy ... and the United States is a proud Indo-Pacific nation," Biden said. Lee acknowledged that the timing of the visit underscored Biden's commitment to the region and that US would continue to "strengthen its strategic interests in the region."

‘ACTIONS ARE NOT INDICATIVE OF THE MAN I WANT TO BE’

I was out of line and I was wrong: Will Smith apologises

JAKE COYLE
LOS ANGELES, MARCH 29

THE DAY after slapping Chris Rock on the Oscars stage and upending the 94th Academy Awards, Will Smith issued an apology to the comedian, to the academy and to viewers at home, saying he was "out of line" and that his actions are "not indicative of the man I want to be."

The fallout from Smith's actions during Sunday's ceremony continued Monday as Hollywood and the public continued to wrestle with a moment that stunned the Dolby Theatre crowd and viewers at

home. The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences condemned Smith striking Rock, who had made a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, and said it would launch an inquiry.

Later in the day, Smith gave a stronger apology than he did in his best actor acceptance speech, which notably hadn't included an apology to Rock.

"Violence in all of its forms is poisonous and destructive," said Smith in a statement issued by his publicist and posted on Instagram. "My behaviour at last night's Academy Awards was unacceptable and inexcusable. Jokes at my expense are a part of the job, but a joke about Jada's



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage at the Oscars on Sunday. *AP*

medical condition was too much for me to bear and I reacted emotionally. I would like to publicly

apologise to you, Chris. I was out of line and I was wrong. I am embarrassed and my actions were

not indicative of the man I want to be. There is no place for violence in a world of love and kindness."

The 53-year-old actor added apologies to the film academy, producers of the telecast, attendees, viewers and the Williams family. Smith was honoured on Sunday for his role as Richard Williams, father of Venus and Serena, in "King Richard." "I am a work in progress," added Smith.

After calling a board of governors meeting Monday to discuss the incident, the film academy said it review Smith's actions and "will explore further action and consequences in accordance with our bylaws, standards of conduct and California law." The Los Angeles

Police Department said Sunday it was aware of the incident but was not pursuing an investigation because the person involved declined to file a police report.

The joke touched a nerve. Pinkett Smith, whose head is shaved, has spoken publicly about her alopecia diagnosis. Smith strode on stage and slapped Rock across the face. Back in his seat, Smith twice shouted for Rock to "get my wife's name out your (expletive) mouth." Within an hour, Smith won best actor, receiving a standing ovation. During his five-minute acceptance speech, Smith spoke about defending his family. He also apologised to the academy. **AP**



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

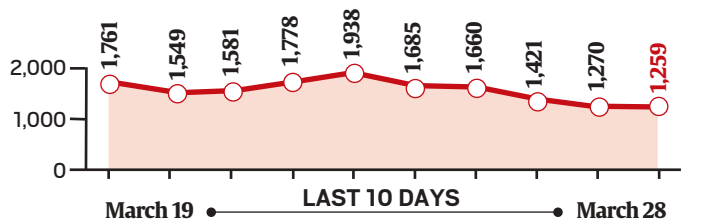
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

DASHBOARD, AS ON MARCH 28

757 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	New cases 1,259	Active cases 15,378	Deaths 35
Weekly CFR: 18.29% Overall CFR: 1.21% Total deaths: 5,21,070			

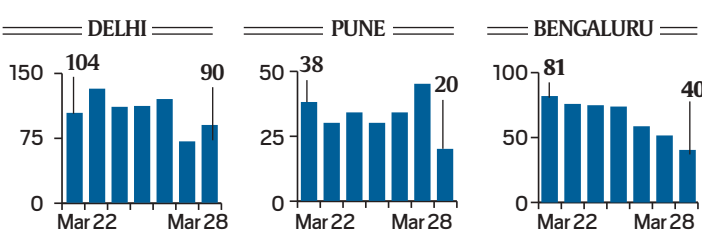
NEW CASES, DAILY



CASES IN THE STATES

State	ON MARCH 28			Weekly positivity
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	
Kerala	346	4,513	25	2.88%
Mizoram	248	1,162	3	10.95%
Maharashtra	110	964	0	0.39%
Delhi	90	444	0	0.40%
Karnataka	48	1,761	1	0.30%

CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 7 DAYS



TOTAL TESTS

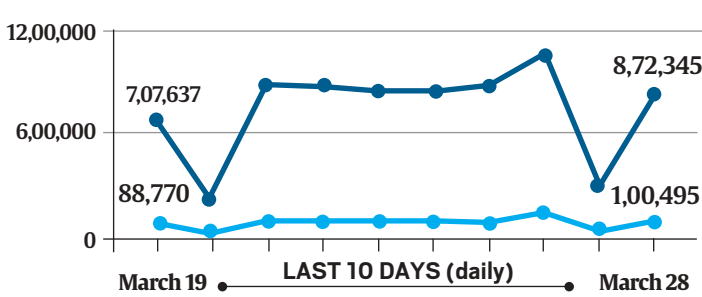
TESTS ON MARCH 28 5,77,559	WEEKLY POSITIVITY 0.25%	OVERALL POSITIVITY 5.46%
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INDIA TOTAL DOSES

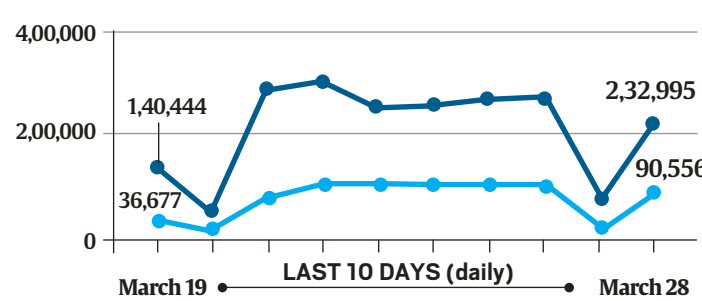
(Adults 1st dose: **91,26,18,295**; 2nd: **79,19,51,662**;
15-18 age group 1st dose: **5,69,24,555**; 2nd: **3,74,81,738**;
Age group 12-14 1st dose: **1,36,84,215**; Precautionary: **2,27,30,034**)

■ First dose ■ Second dose March 28 total: **27,54,826**

ADULTS



AGE GROUP 15-18



EXPERT EXPLAINS

FAIZAN MUSTAFA

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

IN JANUARY 1947, Pandit G B Pant said in the Constituent Assembly: "A satisfactory solution of questions pertaining to minorities will ensure the health, vitality and strength of the free State of India... The question of minorities... has been used so far for creating strife, distrust and cleavage... Now it is necessary that a new chapter should start... Unless the minorities are fully satisfied, we cannot make any progress..."

This week, the Government of India submitted a detailed affidavit in the Supreme Court on the issue of who is a minority, and how minorities are defined in the Constitution. This affidavit complicates the claim of "minority appeasement" — after all, if Hindus too are a minority (in some places) as the affidavit rightly states, how can schemes of minority welfare be criticised as "appeasement"?

Government's affidavit

BJP has been talking of "justice for all and appeasement of none" to oppose minority rights. On the day she took over as Minister for Minority Affairs in May 2014, Najma Heptulla had said there were too many Muslims in India for them to be called a minority. The government has now had a welcome change of mind — it is not averse to granting minority status to Hindus in Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, a few Northeastern states, and Lakshadweep.

The government has sought the dismissal of the petition filed in 2020 by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay — the affidavit says Hindus can be declared a minority in a few states, and minority welfare schemes are not in violation of Article 15 that prohibits discrimination "only on the basis of religion"; the schemes are for the benefit of the poorer sections among minorities, and the government has a duty under Articles 38 and 46 to protect the interests of the weaker sections of the people.

The government has also defended Parliament's jurisdiction to enact The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, and The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2005. The affidavit says minorities are defined both nationally and at the level of states.

In an earlier petition filed by Upadhyay, the Supreme Court had referred the issue of grant of minority status to Hindus to the NCM. A sub-committee set up by the NCM in 2019 rejected all the prayers: declaration of Hindus as a minority in states where they are not in majority; declaration that the 1993 notification of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis etc as minorities under The NCM Act as *ultra vires* the Constitution; framing of guidelines for the dec-



It has been argued by some that Muslims in India are not a minority because of their large population. But numbers are not a guide to any authoritative definition. File

laration of minorities at the state level; and defining minorities in terms of the 1992 UN Declaration on Rights of Minorities.

The new affidavit suggests the government has now gone against the views of the NCM.

The definition of minority

"Minorities" (or "minority") appears at four places in the Constitution — in the headlines of Articles 29 and 30, and clauses (1) and (2) of Article 30. The Constitution does not define "minority".

The most obvious definition is that a minority is a group that is numerically smaller than the majority in a society. But the preponderance or the lack of numbers alone is not a guide to any authoritative definition. In apartheid South Africa, minorities exercised power and domination over the rest of the society. In some countries, the numerical line dividing minority and majority is so thin that it may be impossible to delineate a minority group. Alternatively, a society may be composed of different groups, none of which forms a minority, numerically speaking. The criterion of numbers may be important, but it is not a sufficient condition for any definition of a minority.

A second component of the definition is that the minority group must be non-dominant in society and the polity. A group can be conceptualised as a minority when its values and worldviews are either not reflected at all, or are insufficiently reflected in the public sphere and in the constitution of societal norms. These factors reinforce each other — marginalisation and exclusion are extremely important. Muslims satisfy both tests, viz. numerical inferiority and non-dominance. Their representation in Parliament and state Assemblies is at an all-time low.

But numerical size and non-dominance may not necessarily result in a minority/majority problem. A group may be numerically smaller than others, and its values may be incompletely reflected in dominant political or social norms, but this may not lead to dependency or a feeling of exclusion. Parsis are a good example.

The Constitution talks of only religious and

linguistic minorities. It does not recognise sexual minorities such as LGBTQ+. Also, the Supreme Court has accepted only the numerical inferiority test, i.e., less than 50% in a state's population, for a group to be recognised as minority under Article 30(1).

Supreme Court judgments

This author has long maintained that the PILs for the recognition of Hindus as minority were not required. These petitions have been filed to create needless public discussion on issues that have already been settled in authoritative judgments of the Supreme Court.

In *Re: The Kerala Education Bill* (1958) a seven-judge bench rejected districts as a unit to determine the minority status of a group within the state of Kerala. It took the "state" as a unit to determine minority status.

The 11-judge bench in *TMA Pai Foundation* (2003) laid down that in the absence of any special definition of minorities, any community, religious or linguistic, which is numerically less than 50% of the population of a state is entitled to the protection of minority rights.

The Supreme Court has consistently observed that minorities are to be defined at the level of states, which were carved out on linguistic basis, as Article 30 uses the words "minorities, whether based on religion or language". This author has argued for years that Hindus are entitled to the status of minority community in Kashmir, Punjab and several Northeastern states. A Tamil Brahmin can set up a minority educational institution in a state other than Tamil Nadu — in fact, as linguistic minorities, Hindu groups are running hundreds of educational institutions.

Thus, Hindus are entitled to recognition as a linguistic minority in the whole of India, what to speak of just the seven states/UTs that this PIL mentions. The Centre's affidavit mentions several linguistic minorities that the government of Karnataka recognises. The Supreme Court had held in *DAV College* (1971) that Hindus are a minority in the state of Punjab.

Religious, linguistic minority

Article 30 gives the same rights to religious

and linguistic minorities, but does not say these minorities must necessarily be determined at the level of the state. In its 2019 report, the NCM said that under section 2 of the NCM Act, 1992, the Centre alone is entitled to notify a community as a religious minority. This was not consistent with the law laid down by the apex court, and the Centre's affidavit cites the example of the Maharashtra government, which in 2016 recognised Jews as a minority in the state.

Two views are possible as to the recognition of minorities. One approach can be to define religious minorities nationally and linguistic minorities on the basis of the state. The Government of India under the NCM Act has already notified some religious groups as religious minorities for the entire country.

The second approach can be to accept the dissenting opinion of Justice Ruma Pal in *TMA Pai Foundation*. The learned judge had observed that whether or not a group is a minority must be determined in relation to the source and territorial application of the particular legislation against which protection is claimed. If a law of Parliament is being challenged, minorities must be defined nationally; if it is a state law, then minorities must be determined at the state level keeping in view numerical inferiority within the state concerned.

In an erroneous decision in 2005, the Allahabad High Court held that Muslims are not a minority as they are too many in number, and also quite powerful. The "threat of extinction" test is not relevant here. The court also held that no one is a minority in India, and thus made minority rights irrelevant. In a controversial judgment, the Supreme Court in *Bal Patil* (2003) refused to recognise Jains as a minority. A three-judge bench not only went against larger bench judgments but also negated the constitutional vision of the preservation of distinctive identities.

The court said no new religious group is to be recognised as a minority, and that the NCM must work towards reducing the list of religious minorities and finally do away with it altogether. This was a call for assimilation — but the Constitution wants integration, not assimilation. Article 25 does not give freedom of religion only in respect of existing religions. It does not bar the birth of new religions. New religions can come into existence, and such groups may be recognised as religious minorities.

In 1930, the erstwhile Permanent Court of International Justice defined community not in terms of numbers, but in terms of shared religious, racial, and linguistic traditions that the group wished to preserve and perpetuate. The existence of a community is not dependent upon recognition by law, it observed. In *N Ammad* (1998), the Supreme Court rightly held that minority status is a matter of fact, and does not require state recognition or declaration.

(Prof Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, is one of India's most eminent experts of constitutional law. These are his personal views.)

THIS WORD MEANS ARTICULATED ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE

Military off-roader for marshy, snowy terrain

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 29

THE INDIAN Army has issued a Request For Information (RFI) for the supply of Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles to be deployed in Ladakh and Kutch.

WHAT: An Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle is a twin-cabin, tracked, amphibious carrier for off-road mobility. The special design exerts low ground pressure, and a pull-push mode of locomotion between the cabins facilitates mobility over varied terrains like snow, desert, and slush. A ballistic protection in the cabin body

protection from small arms fire.

These vehicles are very useful to move troops or supplies in snow-bound terrain and in marshy/sandy environments; they can reach where wheeled vehicles can't, and can be very effective for patrolling and rapid deployment in operational situations.

WHERE: As per the RFI issued on March 25, the Army requires 18 such vehicles — 12 for Nimu in Ladakh (snow-bound terrain) and six for Bhuj (marsh lands of the Rann of Kutch).

REQUIRED: The RFI says the vehicles should be able to perform at heights of 18,000 ft in glaciated and snow-bound conditions and in salty/dry marshes. They should be able to



The vehicle is a twin-cabin, tracked, amphibious carrier. Wikimedia Commons

seat 10 soldiers with full combat load (excluding crew), and should have inbuilt ballistic protection. They should have an operating range

of not less than 150 km in cross-country terrain in the plains and at an altitude of 15,000 to 18,000 ft in the mountains. The vehicles should have a service life of at least 15 years.

MANUFACTURERS: Several Western companies build Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles. The NASU vehicle of Finland is used by the Finnish, French, Belgian, and US armies. The Bandvagn 206, developed by a Swedish company that is now part of BAE Systems, Platforms and Services, is used by the Swedish army. The British and US militaries also use the Bandvagn 206. The Russian Army uses the DT-30 Vityaz and the GAZ 3344 that are manufactured in that country.

Nepal's grant from the US, and what it means for its equations with China

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, MARCH 29

CHINESE FOREIGN Minister Wang Yi was in Nepal on a three-day visit last week, seen as a response to a series of developments that China sees as being against its interests.

Nepal's Parliament on February 27 ratified a \$500 million grant from the United States as part of the aid agency Millennium Challenge Corporation's Nepal compact. The funds are for road and power projects. While China had asked Nepal not to ratify it calling it a 'Pandora's box', the US had warned that failure to do so may lead to a review of their 75-year-old bilateral relationship.

Nepal ratified the deal a day before the February 28 deadline set by the US, a sign that China's influence on Nepal could be on the wane. And, in a sign of a growing bond with the US, Nepal at the United Nations General Assembly condemned Russia for its invasion

on Ukraine — while India and China abstained. In 2014, Nepal had abstained from voting on Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Changing equations

While Deuba is considered close to the US, what would rankle with China is that none of the major communist parties — Maoist Centre led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Unified Socialists led by Madhav Nepal, or Communist Party of Nepal—Unified Marxist Leninist led by former PM KP Oli — opposed the ratification. The first two voted with the government; the UML remained neutral.

Until last June, the three parties were in the Communist Party of Nepal, and China had acted openly to bring them together and consolidate the friendship between Chinese and Nepali communist parties. All that crumbled when the Communist Party split into three, resulting in Nepali Congress leader Deuba replacing Oli as Prime Minister in July.

During his first tenure as PM in 2025-16,



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi with his Nepal counterpart Narayan Khadka in Kathmandu Saturday. AP

Oli had signed a series of framework agreements with China on trade and transit with access to the sea route, ending a monopoly arrangement with India.

The warmth appeared to be missing when Wang visited. Nepal proposed revival of "joint committees" to take up border dis-

putes. Four years after Nepal had signed up to be part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it showed less enthusiasm about it, demanding more grants in Chinese projects than loans that could lead to a debt trap.

But Nepal's politics is complex. The UML still favours the implementation of BRI projects, with Oli telling Wang these should be carried forward without delay. Oli, whose party is the biggest in Parliament, is seen as having strong prospects of returning to power when Nepal goes to polls by the year-end.

"Wang Yi's visit reflects China's sense of insecurity, but at the same time China chose to appear caring, concerned and condescending instead of demonstrating its disapproval," a senior executive of a think-tank said.

China's stakes

Among the offers Wang made to Nepal were a push for BRI projects including a railway line between Kerung and Kathmandu and transmission line (despite a lack of en-

thusiasm from Nepal), fulfilment of promises made by President Xi Jinping during his October 2019 visit, and support to development projects based on "Nepali people's aspirations". At the same time, he sent out a message that China would get actively involved if there were any internally or externally inspired activities directed against China from Nepal's territory, but that China would stand by Nepal in defence of its sovereignty and right to self-determination on internal issues against any outside moves. Wang also promised Covid-19 vaccines and other help, while Nepal agreed to allow Chinese health workers to run health facilities and set up another large hospital in Kathmandu.

China has often presented itself as a pragmatic friend of Nepal. "In times of crisis, like the blockade from India in the late 1980s, China had told Nepal to mend fences with India as China was not yet ready to replace India," recalled a former commerce secretary. China's presence in Nepal grew as the cir-

cumstances evolved after 2006 — enhanced presence of the US and European countries, changing equations with India, and exit of the monarchy. When Xi visited in October 2019, it was over two decades since the last visit by his predecessor. He promised investment in energy, trade and investment, post-earthquake reconstruction, and tourism and hospitality, as China competed with India in investment. China also took an interest in Nepal's politics, encouraging rival communists to come together in the parliamentary elections of 2018. It enhanced cooperation with government agencies including the Nepal Army, as well as with left parties and influential leaders. And it has opened the door for thousands of Nepali students in its educational institutions, and opened Confucius centres in Nepal to teach Mandarin.

In a way, China is investing in the future leadership of Nepal. So its interest is long-term, and it seems determined to confront competitors, primarily the US and India.

17 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹51,151



RUPEE

₹75.98



OIL

\$112.41



SILVER

₹67,515

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of March 28

SENSEX: 57,943.65 ▲ 350.16 (0.61%) NIFTY: 17,325.30 ▲ 103.30 (0.6%) NIKKEI: 28,252.42 ▲ 308.53 HANG SENG: 21,927.63 ▲ 242.66 FTSE: 7,570.65 ▲ 97.51 DAX: 14,765.14 ▲ 347.77

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
ELECTRIC MOBILITY

E-scooters catching fire: TransportMin orders investigation, ropes in DRDO arm

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE MINISTRY of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has ordered a probe into recent incidents of electric scooters made by Ola Electric and Okinawa catching fire. The Ministry is learnt to have reached out to the Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) to carry out investigations into the incidents.

Last week, an Ola S1 pro electric scooter, the top of the line vehicle the company makes, caught fire in Pune while parked on the roadside of a busy commercial area.

The CFEES, a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been tasked by MoRTH to probe this incident, investigate if any structural issues or manufacturing defects led to the abrupt fire, and propose remedial measures to prevent such instances in future.

In another incident in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, an electric two-wheeler manufactured by Okinawa went up in flames, claiming the lives of a man and his daughter. Both of these two-wheelers had been tested and received their vehicle type approvals before they were launched.

Ola Electric said it was investigating the root cause behind its scooter catching fire. "We're in constant touch with the customer who is absolutely safe. Vehicle safety is of paramount importance at Ola

THE INCIDENTS

■ Last week, an Ola S1 pro electric scooter, the top of the line vehicle the company makes, caught fire in Pune while parked on the roadside of a busy commercial area

■ In another incident in Vellore, an electric two-wheeler manufactured by Okinawa went up in flames, claiming the lives of a man and his daughter

and we are committed to the highest quality standards in our products. We take this incident seriously and will take appropriate action and share more in the coming days," the company said in a statement. Okinawa, however, claimed that the fire in its electric two-wheeler was an "evident case of short circuit due to negligence in charging the vehicle". The company said it was waiting for the complete investigation to unfold.

Industry experts are blaming the thermal runaway of the Lithium-ion battery for the reason behind the fire. "Owing to the onset of summers in India, the ambient temperature of the Lithium-ion batteries in the EV can go up close to 90-100 degree celsius and could result in a fire in some cases," an industry expert said.

CS RAJAN TO BE CHAIRMAN & MD FOR 6 MONTHS FROM APR 3

IL&FS resolves ₹55,000-cr debt; Uday Kotak to exit as tenure ends

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 29

INFRASTRUCTURE LEASING & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) has addressed debt resolution of Rs 55,000 crore, or nearly 55 per cent of the debt, after the group became a defaulter, and the government superseded its board in October 2018.

The tenure of Uday Kotak as non-executive Chairman will end on April 2 and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has appointed CS Rajan Chairman and MD of IL&FS for six months with effect from April 3. The IL&FS group retained its overall resolution estimate at Rs 61,000 crore as of October 2018. "IL&FS is a case study for how we should think about the future of structure, regulation and governance and how we built a resolution framework in areas that are non-man's land," Kotak said.

"The debt addressed till date (Rs 55,000 crore) represents over 90 per cent of the overall esti-



IL&FS non-executive Chairman Uday Kotak (right), whose term ends on April 2, and CS Rajan, the to-be Chairman and MD, at IL&FS office in BKC, Mumbai. Amit Chakravarty

mated resolution value. Resolution of remaining Rs 6,000 crore debt will move into FY23," IL&FS MD CS Rajan said.

IL&FS headquarters at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai has been sold to Brookfield for Rs 1,080 crore. "One of the toughest things for me was on March 25 when we filed with NCLT for the sale of this iconic building," said Kotak. On October 2, 2018, the government stepped in to take control of crisis-ridden IL&FS by

moving the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to supersede and reconstitute the board of the firm, which has defaulted on a series of its debt payments. The incremental resolution of over Rs 2,700 crore since November 2021 comprises Rs 1,080 crore from sale of IL&FS Headquarters (TIFC) in BKC Mumbai, Rs 900 crore under Khed Sinnar claim settlement with NHAI, Rs 230 crore from settlement of IFIN's non-performing loan accounts and Rs 520 crore

Cost of key materials like cement & steel have risen over 20% yearly as of March 2022

Developers, so far, have been cautious about increasing prices as the market was recovering from the aftermath of Covid-19

Rising cost will impact developers in the affordable and mid-market segments relatively more as they are already operating on lower margins

Source: Colliers India/PTI

'Average construction cost up 10-12% in last one year'

Average cost of construction for housing projects rose 10-12% over the last one year owing to a higher input cost due to supply-side constraints, Colliers India said



50% crew to get pre-flight alcohol test daily: DGCA

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

AIRLINES MUST ensure that 50 per cent of cockpit and cabin crew members are subjected to pre-flight alcohol test daily, the DGCA said on Tuesday.

"In case of flying training institutes, 50 per cent of instructors and 40 per cent of student pilots shall be subjected to pre-flight breath-analyser on daily basis," stated the notice issued by the

The notice has been issued in view of an increase in volume of air traffic

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The notice has been issued "in view of reducing trend of COVID-19 cases and increase in volume of air traffic as a result of resumption of normal operation", it noted. WITHPTI

SHARES DIVE 7.08% ON BSE

Hero MotoCorp denies reports of ₹1K cr bogus expenses found by I-T

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp shares dove 7.08 per cent to Rs 2,208.35 on the BSE on Tuesday after media reports said the Income Tax Department has found that the company made bogus expenses of over Rs 1,000 crore and cash transactions for a farmhouse in Delhi worth over Rs 100 crore.

A notification to the BSE, the two-wheeler maker said. "The allegations made in the press report are not borne out of any docu-

ment that have been served on us or our internal documents. Therefore, we categorically deny the speculative press reports."

Income tax officers conducted search operations on about 40 premises of Hero MotoCorp for a few days beginning March 23. I-T officials had said that the operations were part of a tax evasion investigation against the company.

"The assessment proceedings pertain to the company's financial

transactions for multiple years based on documents/ electronic devices seized during the search operations," an official had said, adding the company had booked bogus purchases and had unaccounted cash expenditures.

A tax demand on unaccounted financial transactions would be issued to the company after the assessment proceedings are completed, another official had said. FE

Subramaniam named FedEx CEO

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES, MARCH 29

FEDEX CORP on Monday named its operating chief, Raj Subramaniam, as the new CEO effective June 1, succeeding company founder Fred Smith, who started the global delivery conglomerate with more than a dozen plans in the 1970s.

Subramaniam, 54, joined FedEx in 1991 and is also a company director. He moves into the



Raj Subramaniam Company

role as the company faces mounting competition from historical rival United Parcel Service and former customer Amazon.com.

Smith, 77, will transition to the role of executive chairman, overseeing sustainability, innovation, public policy and other global issues, FedEx said. Smith, who served as an officer in the US Marine Corps in Vietnam, officially launched Federal Express in 1973 with 389 team members and 14 small planes.

Russia-Ukraine talks: Global markets rise

REUTERS
NEW YORK, MARCH 29

US STOCKS rose on Tuesday, lifted by signs of progress in peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, while a widely tracked part of the Treasury yield curve flashed warning signs for the economy as it neared inversion.

Moscow has decided to drastically cut military activity around Kyiv and northern Ukraine, while Ukraine proposed adopting a neutral status but with international guarantees that it would be protected from attack. Risk-on sentiment returned with European stocks rallying and gold prices slipping, while Brent crude prices dropped to \$108 a barrel. The pan-European STOXX 600



Exchange in Frankfurt. Reuters

index climbed 1.6 per cent to its highest in nearly a month, and extended gains to a third straight session. At 12:14 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 194.92 points, or 0.56 per cent, at 35,150.81 while the Nasdaq Composite was up 172.74 points, or 1.20 per cent, at 14,527.64.

Adani Group achieves Navi Mumbai airport financial closure

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE ADANI Group on Tuesday said it has achieved financial closure for the greenfield airport project in Navi Mumbai with SBI underwriting its entire debt requirement of Rs 12,770 crore.

A statement by the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate read, "Navi Mumbai International Airport Private Ltd (NMIAL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), has achieved financial closure for the greenfield international airport project at Navi Mumbai...with the execution of financing documents with the State Bank of India (SBI)."

"The SBI has underwritten the entire debt requirement of Rs 12,770 crore for the NMIA project," it further said. SBI Capital Markets acted as the financial advisor to SBI.

Adani Enterprises Ltd — an Adani Group company — had taken over the Mumbai international airport and the Navi Mumbai airport project from the GVK Group last July. WITHPTI

Weaknesses in compliance, audit among lenders: RBI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 29

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has found weaknesses in compliance, risk management and internal audit in entities regulated by it during supervisory exercises in recent years.

RBI Deputy Governor MK Jain said disconnect was observed between the risk appetite framework as approved by the board and actual business strategy and decision making, weak risk culture which was amplified by absence of guidance from the senior management, improper risk assessment, repeated exceptions to risk policies, conflict of interest especially in related party transactions and absence or faulty enterprise-wide risk management. Audit process unable to capture irregularities, non-coverage of certain areas under scope of audit, compliance and audit not collaborating with each other, lack of ownership and accountability, inadequate review of

EXPLAINED The concerns

THE RBI observed failure or delay in detection and reporting of non-compliance, persisting sub-par compliance, deficiencies in compliance testing with respect to inadequate coverage, among others.

practices that require alignment to address interests of all stakeholders, non-compliance or delay in compliance with audit observations were some of the major concerns identified, Jain said while addressing a meet organised by the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning. It is important to ensure financial institutions are board-driven and do not end up being dominated by individuals, he said. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

Petrol tops ₹100

New Delhi: Petrol on Tuesday in Delhi crossed ₹100 a litre after a hike of 80 paise in its price and 70 paise for diesel.

New IndiGo CFO

New Delhi: InterGlobe Aviation appointed Gaurav Negi the CFO of airline IndiGo.

Tata Coffee rejig

New Delhi: Tata Consumer Products announced merger of all businesses of Tata Coffee with itself as part of a reorganisation plan.

Insider trading

New York: Seven Indian-origin persons were charged with insider trading in a scheme by which they made over \$1 million in illegal profits, the US SEC said. PTI

Nielsen takeover

Bengaluru: Nielsen Holdings will go private for \$10.06 bn in a deal led by Elliott Management and Brookfield Asset Management. REUTERS

GICHFL branch

New Delhi: Non-banking financier GIC Housing Finance Ltd (GICHFL) inaugurated its first 'Pink branch' at Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi. ENS

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of The Superintending Engineer (TW),
Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir,
Jaipur-302006, TELE FAX NO.0141-2201022
Regd. Office: Vidhyut Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005

E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders for Operation & Maintenance of 33/11 KV Sub-Stations identified, in respect of various Circles under the domain of Jaipur Discom against TN-521. Participating bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement portal <http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> from 28.03.2022 (11:00 AM) onwards. Last Date/Time for receipt of online bids through e-procurement portal is 30.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website <http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> & <http://energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/vvn/> UBN: VVN21225LOB00822
JPR 2694 (2022)
Raj.samwad/C/21/13596

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
CIN:U31200UP1992PLC014506

Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Non-Solar Renewable Power on Short Term basis

Bids are invited by "Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida - 201310 (U.P.)" for procurement of 50 MW non-solar renewable power during 01.07.2022 to 30.09.2022 as per the Guidelines of Ministry of Power, Govt dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on www.msctcommerce.com.

The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability.

For any clarification, contact at e-mail id powertrading@noidapower.com or mobile no. 9718804966.

Head (Power Purchase)

DELHI JAL BOARD; GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CE (SDW)-NW THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-IV
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT KONDLI, KONDLI, DELHI-110096
Ph: 011-22613156, Mob.:9650290862 E-mail: eesdw4.djb@nic.in

PREES Tender Notice - N. J. T. No. 26 (2021-22)/EE (SDW)-IV

S. No.	Description of work	Date of Uploading on E-Procurement solution / Tender ID	Estimated cost/ Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date of Opening of Tender
1.	Fabrication supply fixing testing and commissioning of bar screen in the sewage incoming Chambers at Kondli Gharoli S P S	26-03-2022/ 2022_DJB_219693_1	59300/-	Rs.500/-	08-04-2022 at 03.15 PM

For further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1318 (2021-22)

STOP CORONA - "Wash Your Hand, Wear Mask & Maintain Social Distance"

Sd/-
(R. K. Kaushik)
Executive Engineer (SDW)-IV

जयपुर सिटी ट्रांसपोर्ट सर्विसेज लिमिटेड, जयपुर
(राजस्थान सरकार का उद्योग) अधिनियमित किया गया, पुराना सीमा क्षेत्र, जयपुर
पुलिस स्टेशन के पास, काकोली, टिकट स्टेशन, जयपुर-302005 पिन नं. 0141-2744602, 2744776
Website: transport.rajjasthan.gov.in/jctai; ईमेल - jctai-bids@gmail.com

क्रमांक :- प्र.नि./जे.सी.टी.एस.एल./2021-22/बी - 3719 दिनांक :- 21/03/2022

कार्यालय आदेश

जे.सी.टी.एस.एल. के बस-क्यू शैल्टर्स पर विज्ञापन व खरबदार हेतु जारी बिड नं. 04-2021-22 (UBN No. JCT21225LOB00006) में बोली प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक 21/03/2022 तक कोई बोली प्राप्त नहीं होने के कारण उक्त बिड में बोली प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक 04/04/2022 (2.00 PM) तक बढ़ाई जाती है।

मुख्य निरीक्षक अधिकारी
राज.संवाद/सी/21/13590

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
अलकातलिया ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 405/2021-22 Date: 28.03.2022

No. NIT/2021-22/24852-71
On Award-Behror: Narnaul Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00782)
On Meria-Ras Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00783)
On Suket-Jalm-Pipliya-Bhawani-Mandir-Dug Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00784)
On Udaipur-Salumar Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00785)
On Banswara-Road Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00786)
On Bani-Pindwara Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00787)

कार्य का विवरण	अंतिम राशि (रु.)
Collection of Toll Tax for a Period of 01 Year on following Road:-	1641.98 Lakh
On Meria-Ras Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00783)	1396.65 Lakh
On Suket-Jalm-Pipliya-Bhawani-Mandir-Dug Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00784)	1053.00 Lakh
On Udaipur-Salumar Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00785)	1017.51 Lakh
On Banswara-Road Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00786)	486.05 Lakh
On Bani-Pindwara Road UBN: (JPRRC21225LOB00787)	160.00 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रश्न डाइरेक्ट करके की अंतिम दिनांक 25.03.2022 प्रातः 09:00 बजे से 04.04.2022 सां. 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा करने के लिए निविदा सूचना, खरीदारी सूचना, डाइरेक्ट करके व खोलने की शर्तों सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं
संशोधन वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajjasthan.nic.in> तथा
<http://roads.rajjasthan.gov.in/rsrdc> पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संस्थाओं को अपने बिजनेस
हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

सहायक


AURANGABAD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ASCDCL)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ASCDCL invites firms possessing relevant capabilities to respond to this RFP for following

1. Supplying Services for Driving and Conducting in Smart City Buses for ASCDCL (2nd Call)

Sr.No	Tender ID No.	Bid Due Date
1.	2022_ASCDC_766086_2	12/04/2022 by 5.00 PM


The tender document can be downloaded from <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
ASCDCL



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SILCHAR
(An Institution of National Importance)
Assam – 788 010
Phone : (03842) 244879, Web Site: <http://www.nits.ac.in>
Fax : (03842) 224797, EPAD@nits.ac.in

Corrigendum
The tender published vides NIT No. NIT-E/Estate/2021-22/19 dt. 23.03.2022 for the work of "Preparation of conceptual plan, drawings & design, estimation, DPR/Bid documents/tendering/Finalization of bid documents and Execution of the construction of 150 capacities Girls Hostel No. 4 (A) at NIT Silchar" has been cancelled due to Administrative reason.
Sd/- Registrar



HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513
2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320 Website: www.hpsecd.in
Tender No.: HPSEDC/AC/2022- Date: 29-03-2022


e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Rate Contract for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning (SITC) of various ACS in Govt. Deptts. / Boards / Corporations in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 07/04/2022 (11:30AM) through Video Conferencing.
Last date for online e-bid submission is 25/04/2022 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 26/04/2022 at 2:30PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsecd.in and <http://hptenders.gov.in>.
General Manager (Technical)
08674HP



ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्लॉट नं. 1, नौलेख पार्क 4, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी 201308 जिला-गौतमबुद्ध नगर
ईमेल: authority@gnida.in वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in
Ref: GNIDA/Asset/2021-22/503 दिनांक: 28.03.2022

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
वरि. प्रबन्धक (एस&ट) ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा को ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-GNIDA/Asset/2021-22/499 दिनांक 28.03.2022 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या-01 के कार्य ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। समस्त नियम एवं शर्तें ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए वेबसाइट देखते रहें।
क्र.सं. कार्य का नाम कार्य का अनुमानित लागत
1. Supply of Vehicle on hiring basis in Greater Noida रु. 150 लाख
क्रम सं. 01 को दिनांक 30.03.2022 से 13.04.2022 को 5:00 बजे सायं तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 18.04.2022 को 11:00 बजे तक खोली जाएगी। वरि. प्रबन्धक (एस&ट)
Follow Us On  OfficialGNIDA

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sonu Chaturvedi** S/o Laxminarayan Chaturvedi R/o VPS Sujauli, Distt. Bahraich, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 368/2020 u/s 20/25/29 NDPS Act., P.S. Timarpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sonu Chaturvedi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sonu Chaturvedi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. have been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sonu Chaturvedi** accused of FIR No. 368/2020 u/s 20/25/29 NDPS Act., P.S. Timarpur, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.04.2022.
By Order: Ms. Neelofar Abida Perveen
Special Judge-NDPS-02 (Central)
Room No. 222, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/2128/N/22




JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph.No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id:- pds.juidco@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/MWSS/JUWSP/2022/460 Date: 29/03/2022
Tender ID: 2021_JUADB_56491_1
PRNo.: 264878
Corrigendum- 1
All bidders are herby announced that Corrigendum- 1 is released for tender having NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/MWSS/JUWSP/2022/460 and Tender ID: 2021_JUADB_56491_1 for "Construction and five years of Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System in Medininagar (Intake works, Rising main, 17 MLD Water treatment plant, Clear water main, Elevated service reservoirs, Distribution network and House service connections)". The bidders are advised to consider the same before submission of their bids against the tender.
Note: Corrigendum- 01 can be referred from the e-tender site of Govt. of Jharkhand i.e., (<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>)
Sd/-
PR 267248 Urban Development and Housing(21-22)#D Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi




JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph.No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id:- pds.juidco@gmail.com
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Sd/-
PR 267248 Urban Development and Housing(21-22)#D Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION


General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Male (depicted in the photo) name: **Rohit**, residence and family is **Unknown**, 35 years of age was found in unconscious condition at Jalabi Chowk, Near Geeta Public School on 22.03.2022. He got admitted in SGM Hospital Mangol Puri, Delhi where Doctor declared him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 15-A has been registered at Police Station Sultanpuri, Delhi.
His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 35 years Approx., Height: 5'5" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue T-Shirt and pant.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.
SHO
P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25472410, 25472166
DP/1681/OD/2022 Mob. No: 8130538285, 7065036134



JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph.No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id:- pds.juidco@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/MWSS/JUWSP/2022/460 Date: 29/03/2022
Tender ID: 2021_JUADB_56491_1
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Sd/-
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DP/1681/OD/2022 Mob. No: 8130538285, 7065036134

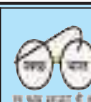


ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्लॉट नं. 1, नौलेख पार्क 4, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी 201308 जिला-गौतमबुद्ध नगर
ईमेल: authority@gnida.in वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in
पत्रांक: स्वा.वि. / 2022 / 311 दिनांक: 28.03.2022

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
उप महाप्रबन्धक (स्वास्थ्य), ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा को ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-स्वा.वि. / 2022 / 310, दिनांक 28.03.2022 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या-01 पर अंकित कार्य की ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।
क्र.सं. कार्य का नाम/वर्क सर्किल अनुमानित लागत
1. Request for Proposal for Selection of Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Gaushala in Greater Noida. To Be Quoted by Bidder
जिन्हें दिनांक 30.03.2022 से 12.04.2022 को 17:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है।
उक्त कार्य की दिनांक 05.04.2022 को दोपहर 03:00 बजे Zoom App (Meeting ID: 84058928792, Passcode: 123456) पर उपरोक्त निविदा प्राप्त करने से पूर्व निविदादाताओं की एक बैठक (Pre-Bid Meeting) की जाएगी। प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 13.04.2022 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी। उप महाप्रबन्धक (स्वास्थ्य)
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DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-10
ENGINEERS BHAWAN, 2ND FLOOR, ANDREWS GANJ,
NEAR MOOLCHAND CROSSING, NEW DELHI 110049




NIT No. 39/ACE(M-10)EE(T)/2021-22

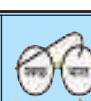
S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, EMD, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-procurement Solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of under size damaged old water line in H 8 I-Block Nanak Pura in R.K. Puram constituency AC-44.	Rs. 39,88,774/- Rs. 500/-	29.03.2022 Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_219839_1	11.04.2022 at 2:00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

Sd/- (V.K. GUPTA)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)M-10
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1326(2021-22)
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) NW
KESHOPUR S.T, NEW DELHI 110018



PRESS N.T. T. EE(SDW)VIII(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost in Rs.	EMoney in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	NIT No.	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution
1	Supply, installation, testing, commissioning of OUMS at Najafgarh Dmha and comprehensive maintenance of 05 years period (Pis-invited)	4899702/-	98000/-	500/-	33	Tender ID:- 2022_DJB_219860_1 Date: 29.03.2022	07.04.2022 at 03:00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

Sd/- (J.C. Garg)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1325(2021-22)
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. I, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date for downloading bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of bid
1	Construction of Fly over at Chakker Bye pass Shimla (SH:- Civil work)(Under Shimla Smart City).	52003520	11-04-2022	104050	22-04-2022
2	Construction of Fly over at M.L.A. Crossing Shimla (SH:- C/O Civil work)(Under Work)(Under Shimla smart city).	52824754	11-04-2022	1056500	22-04-2022
3	Construction of Fly over Bridge near vidhan Sabha Shimla (SH:- C/O Civil work)(Under Shimla Smart city).	110701760	11-04-2022	2214100	22-04-2022

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptender.gov.in
The executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.
8045HP

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
जलपथ प्रमण्डल, रॉवी (डैम साईड, धुवाँ)

पत्रांक— शुद्धि पत्र रॉवी, दिनांक—

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित e Tender Inviting Notice No-WRD/WWD/RANCH-11/2021-22 एवं PR No-265802 Water Resource (21-22)D द्वारा प्रकाशित e Tender Notice में NIT एवं INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है—
1.SBD.INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
11. QUANTITY involve in the works which a mentioned below considered for evaluation of Bid.
क्रो सं० विवरण Involve Quantity Minimum quantity
3 Sand Filter पूर्व की मात्रा 41938.14 Cu.m पूर्व की मात्रा 18639.17 Cu.m संशोधित मात्रा 45938.14 Cu.m संशोधित मात्रा 20416.95 Cu.m
नोट :-इससे संबंधित A. General का Clause 4.5 (C)(3) एवं Appendix ITB Section-1 के Clause 5(3) भी इस हद तक संशोधित समझे जायेंगे।
2. NIT
क्रो सं० विवरण पूर्व की तिथि संशोधित तिथि
7. Bid Submission Period From 14-03-2022 to 04-04-2022 upto 5:00 PM From 14-03-2022 to 11-04-2022 upto 5:00 PM
9. Last Date and Time of Submission of Hard copy of Bid cost and EMD Date- 06-04-2022 Time- up to 05:00 PM. Date- 12-04-2022 Time- up to 05:00 PM.
10. Date of opening (Technical Bid) Date- 07-04.2022 Time 11:00 AM. Date- 13-04.2022 Time 11:00 AM.
शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
PR 267204 Water Resource(21-22).D कार्यपालक अभियंता, जलपथ प्रमण्डल, रॉवी

Directorate of Mines
Department of Mines & Geology
Government of Jharkhand
Nepal House (Yojna Bhavan), Doranda, Ranchi - 834002,
Email: director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in , Phone no: 0651-2490235
Notice Inviting Tender
“Invitation of Bid for grant of Mining Lease”
In exercise of the power conferred by Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004 (Subsequent Amendments) and the Jharkhand Minor Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2017 (Subsequent Amendments) notified thereunder, Government of Jharkhand has identified a Stone block for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease in [East Singhbhum] District, Jharkhand, through electronic auction and hereby invites bids in digital format only, from eligible bidders.
Terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document for the Mineral Block and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from website of MSTC (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auction/home/mmbh/jharkhand/index.jsp>) for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notification, updates and other details of the e-auction process are available on the website of MSTC and the website of Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Jharkhand (<http://www.jharkhand.gov.in/mines-geology>).
The details of the mineral block are summarized below

Block	Concession Area Ha.	Resource (Cubic Meter)	Tender Document No./Fwd auction no	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	Date of Opening of Tender
CHOTA HARIYAN STONE BLOCK-A	2.35 Acre (0.95 Ha.)	96105.77		19.04.2022	19.04.2022	20.04.2022

Those interested and eligible for bidding can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the tender fee of INR 25000.00 (Indian Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) plus GST as applicable (non-refundable), from the website of e-auction platform provider. After purchase of the Tender Document, eligible bidders can register themselves on the above-mentioned Website. On successful registration, eligible bidder will obtain Login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process.
Sd/-
Director Mines
Department of Mines & Geology
Govt. of Jharkhand
PR 267239 Mines and Geology(21-22).D

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय
102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, रॉवी
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-निविदा संख्या:- 168/2021-22/RWD/DEOGHAR दिनांक :- 29.03.2022
मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, रॉवी द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आईडेंटि फिकेशन संख्या/बैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
			अंक में	अक्षर में	
1.	RWD/ DEOGHAR/ 11/2021-22	दुमदुमी-अलकावा पीठब्लूडूथी पथ के सोनातर बगद पेड़ से चित्तरा-दुल्लुई पीठब्लूडूथी पथ के नावाडीह (गाजा मोड़) तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लंब- 6.780 कि०मी०)	4,56,57,100.00	चार करोड़ छपन लाख सनतान हजार एक सौ रू० मात्र	18 माह
2.	RWD/ DEOGHAR/ 12/2021-22	सातर पालाजोरी पीठब्लूडूथी पथ से बोडवा रंगाटाई तेलरिया तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंब- 7.400 कि०मी०)	2,91,93,600.00	दो करोड़ एकानवे लाख तेरानवे हजार छः सौ रू० मात्र	15 माह
3.	RWD/ DEOGHAR/ 13/2021-22	पीठब्लूडूथी पथ हिमरा मोड़ से रंगागलिया जगुआ कुडोरी पुल तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंब- 3.400 कि०मी०)	1,05,83,900.00	एक करोड़ तीन लाख तेरसौ हजार नौ सौ रू० मात्र	09 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 08.04.2022
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 20.04.2022 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. (क) मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी, रॉवी अथवा (ख) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, रॉवी अथवा (ग) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, देवघर में से किसी भी कार्यालय में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रपंथ की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- 21.04.2022 पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 22.04.2022 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे से।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, रॉवी, झारखण्ड, पिन- 834001
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष नं०:- 0651-2207818
8. निविदा शुल्क झारखण्ड राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक / अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम / अकाउंट से ही निविदा बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, देवघर के पक्ष में एवं देवघर में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
निर्जित जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
नोडल पदाधिकारी ई-प्रोक्युमेंट सेल
PR 267220 (Rural Work Department)21-22'D


PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ashutosh Gupta** Prop. of **Varushi Saree Centre, 2nd 60 Foota Road, Sabzi Mandi, Molarband Extension, Badarpur Border, New Delhi also at Roopali Confection, Kanjari Sarai, near Animal Hospital, Court Road, Ward No.28, Moradabad** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC. No. 537625/2016, u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ashutosh Gupta** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ashutosh Gupta** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ashutosh Gupta** of CC. No. 537625/2016, u/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.05.2022.
By Order,
Ms. Arushi Parwal
Metropolitan Magistrate, Central Room No.203
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/2095/N/2022

"IMPORTANT"
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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division,
Fort, Mumbai-400 001
E-mail : integratedmumbai.ee@mahapwd.com
Tel.No. 022-22016974 Fax : 022016976
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 97 of 2021-2022
ONLINE E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following work are invited by Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, 2nd Floor, Bandhkam Bhavan, 25th Marzhan Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001, Telephone No. 22016974/ 22016976 from contractors registered in class of the public works department of Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.
1	Providing and fixing fire rated doors of various wards and Operation Theatre of Ellappa Balam Building, David Sassoon Building, C.J. Ophthalmology Building and Eye Bank at Sir J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla, Mumbai.	78,65,496/-

(Total 01 Works included in this Notice)
Tender Available Date : Date 30.03.2022 at 1030 hrs. to Date 23.04.2022 at 1400 hrs.
Opening Date (If possible) : Date 26.04.2022 at 1505 hrs.
All detail information is available on following web sites.
Visit Web site for details : 1. <http://mahapwd.com> 2. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
No. EE/IU/TC/1401/1802 Sd/-
Office of the Executive Engineer, Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, Fort, Mumbai-400 001.
Date : 25.03.2022
DGIPR/2021-22/5497

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on 
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
e-Tender Notice No: S&T/03/2022 Dt: 28.03.2022
For and on behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Maintenance) South Central Railway Guntakal invites e-tenders (Open) for the following work up to 12.00 hrs of 22.04.2022.
Name of work : 01-SNT-03-2022 Guntakal division - 1. Signalling arrangements in connection with proposed interlocking of 6 Level Crossing gates & provision of sliding booms for 20 interlocked LC gates. 2. Replacement of MOLBs with EOLBs for 5 interlocked Level Crossing gates over Guntakal division. **Advised Tender Value of the work (Rs.)** 20412631.90 **Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)** 252100 Completion Period 12 Months
Name of work : 02-SNT-03-2022 Signalling arrangements in connection with - 1. Proposed siding take off from Road-3 for JSW Cements Pvt. Ltd., at 'Panyam' station and Tower Wagon siding at 'Hagari' station. 2. Telecom arrangements in connection with - installation of IP based CCTV cameras at FOBs of 'DHONE' and 'MALKAPURAM' stations over Guntakal division. **Advised Tender Value of the work (Rs.)** 2706254.54 **Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)** 54100 Completion Period 6 Months
Name of work : 03-SNT-03-2022 Signalling arrangements for - 1. Proving potential free contacts to monitor failure of track feed battery chargers through Data logger system at 57 stations in WD-GTL - RU-GDR, DMM-PAK, GY-DHNE, YA-NDL sections over GTL division. 2. Provision of Earth Leakage Detectors & Smoke-cum-heat sensors at 37 stations over GTL division. **Advised Tender Value of the work (Rs.)** 18057269.32 **Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)** 240300 Completion Period 12 Months
Name of work : 04-SNT-03-2022 Guntakal Division - Telecom arrangements in connection with rectification of low insulation for improving reliability of LC gate communication over 'Guntakal' division & Provision of minimum essential Telecom equipment in connection with 3 No. of RU stations. **Advised Tender Value of the work (Rs.)** 5353739.84 **Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)** 107100 Completion Period 12 Months
Name of work : 05-SNT-03-2022 Guntakal division - Signalling works in connection with (i). TTR(Rails) in GDR- RU, GTL-WD & DMM-GY sections (ii). TTR(Rails) in DHNE-GTL, GDR- RU, GTL-WD, DMM-PAK, GY-DHNE, YA-NDL sections (iii). Renewal of Switch Expansion Joints - 11 Nos. (60Kg - 2Nos, 52Kg - 9 Nos.) & Renewal of Glued Joints - 353 Nos. (60Kg - 322No, 52Kg - 31 No.) in GDR- RU, RU-GTL & GTL-WD sections (iv). CTR(P) in Nandyal-Dhone Jn(SL) - 1.787Km (291.200 to 291.464, 291.987 to 293.296, 293.871 to 294.085) & Renigunta Jn - Guntakal Jn - 1.900Km (133.23 to 134.7 of DN line and 221.25 of 223 of UP line) & Gudur Jn-Renigunta Jn- 0.934Km (82.36 to 82.894, 82.894 to 83.2 of DN line & 21.876 to 21.97 of UP line) (v). Through Formation Treatment (TFTF) (Moorum blanketing) for a length of 24.29Km in GTL-WD, RU-GTL & NDL-DHNE sections. **Advised Tender Value of the work (Rs.)** 578703. **Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)** 227900 Completion Period 12 Months
Name of work : 06-SNT-03-2022 Signal & Telecom works in connection with the construction of RU/Bs in lieu of 3 No. of L.C.Gates. (L.C.Gate Nos. 128, 130 & 132) in RU-GTL section, Proposed replacement of steel girders with PSC slabs (Post tensioned) (GNR Nos. 635-UP & DN, 330-DN and 59-UP (4 Nos)) and provision of 2 Nos. of lifts at RU (PF-2 & 3)

Woods to play practice round at Augusta to assess fitness

REUTERS
MARCH 29

FIVE-TIMES champion Tiger Woods will play a practice round at Augusta National Golf Club on Tuesday to determine whether he is fit enough to compete at next week's Masters, according to a *Sports Illustrated* report.



Tiger Woods

The report, which cited a source who did not want to be identified, said Woods arrived at the course along with his 13-year-old son Charlie to evaluate his fitness on the hilly layout that will host the April 7-10 Masters.

The report came after online flight tracking websites said a plane belonging to Woods, who has been recovering from career-threatening leg injuries suffered in a February 2021 car crash, arrived at Augusta Regional Airport on Tuesday.

Woods said last month that he had a "long way to go" in his recovery but recent reports have stated he was planning to visit Augusta National this week ahead of the year's first major.

While the 46-year-old Woods has not played a PGA Tour event since the Masters in November 2020, his playing status continues to dominate the build-up to the Masters.

As per tournament protocol, Woods' name will remain on the list of competitors that appear on the Masters website unless the 15-times major champion notifies Augusta National that he will not compete.

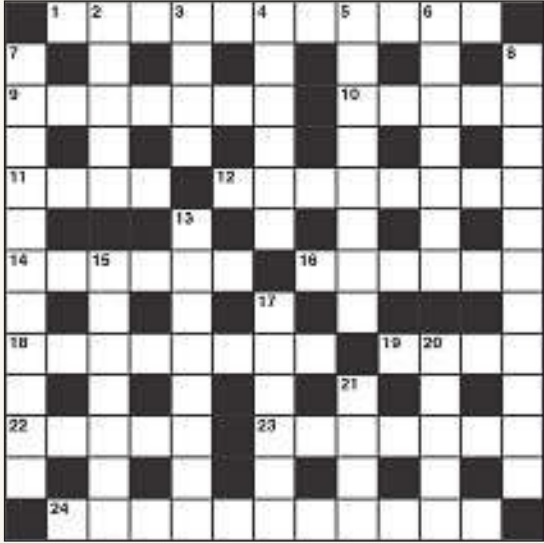
Woods' only event since the single-car accident came last December when he finished runner-up alongside his son in a 36-hole exhibition played on a flat course with no rough.

Playing at Augusta National, however, represents one of the more taxing walks on the PGA Tour given its undulating terrain that all but guarantees that golfers will hit from any number of uneven lies during the week. The Masters is the only one of golf's four majors played annually on the same course and so familiarity with the famed layout has always been considered an advantage.

Woods has made 23 Masters appearances and proven that even when his game is not at its sharpest, or if he is coming off a long layoff, he can contend at Augusta National.

In 2019, Woods capped one of the most remarkable comebacks in professional sport when, at the age of 43, he won the Masters after years of surgery and personal problems.

CROSSWORD 4701



ACROSS

- 1 Inauguration of a company? (11)
- 9 Brief biography of a professional record holder (7)
- 10 Habit Tommy got into (5)
- 11 Frenchman in a fancy vest (4)
- 12 It's not fair for me to use this (8)
- 14 Nothing further on Rome strangely enough (2,4)
- 16 Stays to give personal support (6)
- 18 He has a growing interest in his job (8)
- 19 Practise boxing in the yard (4)
- 22 The toast of former operators (5)
- 23 New part ordered in Belgium (7)
- 24 How things may be bought for cash (2,1,8)

DOWN

- 2 One so confused may be caught by it (5)
- 3 Journey in the fall (4)
- 4 She comes from the hamlet (6)
- 5 Become established down under? (4,4)
- 6 Carole's making announcements (7)
- 7 No sport for the amateur (1,6,4)
- 8 Martin hopes to mix the very thing he hates (11)
- 13 Let the workman go without guidance (4,4)
- 15 Swift to provide a market permit (7)
- 17 Honours damsel in distress (6)
- 20 Tidy up? No, down (5)
- 21 A man to turn to (4)

Solutions Crossword 4700: Across: 1 Putter, 4 Assisted, 9 Tagged, 10 Chestnut, 12 Pets, 13 Epsom, 14 Song, 17 One-track mind, 20 Clear-sighted, 23 Load, 24 Wives, 25 Mete, 28 Restrain, 29 Plague, 30 Disperse, 31 Upshot. Down: 1 Put-up job, 2 Together, 3 Ewer, 5 Schoolmaster, 6 Inst, 7 Tin-pot, 8 Dotage, 11 Specialties, 15 Brill, 16 Snags, 18 Strength, 19 Adherent, 21 Florid, 22 Masses, 26 Free, 27 Clip

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Unless we remember we cannot _____. - E. M. Forster (10)

EIAER



CCHNRU



TOONS



EINRDD



SOLUTION: JUMBLED WORDS - Unless we remember we cannot understand. - E. M. Forster

Jayaram goes from B-court to B-school

Former top-15 shuttler scores 710 in GMAT; to study at Hyderabad's Indian School of Business

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, MARCH 29

THERE WAS always the geometric incision to Ajay Jayaram's strokes when he played on the court, and a bunch of cerebral hoodwinks calculated to wrong-foot opponents. But even he was surprised with how much he loved Math. Winding down his career over the European swing of badminton events last autumn, Ajay carried books with his kit-bag, and in a matter of few months of prep, was giving his GMAT.

A staggering score of 710 would've put him in striking distance of a few Ivy League and plenty of other elite business schools abroad. But the 34-year-old chose a campus he had crossed hundreds of times in his life, at Hyderabad, picking one of India's finest B-schools, Indian School of Business to transition out of a much-loved sport.

"Yes, going abroad was an option. But since my eventual plan was to be in India, it made sense to study here. Also, given my age, I was looking at diverse profiles, so this made more sense," he says. And he also got a scholarship. The lockdown had led to an interesting vista.

"I was always academically inclined in school and college, so studying was more fun than pressure," says the Mumbai shuttler.

Initially determined to stay motivated when the virus closures hit, tournaments had still not taken off a year after March 2020 the way he liked. He made the Spain semis in one of his last tournaments. "But the tournaments were not enough for a lower ranked player to rise, so motivation weaned off," says the former Top 15 shuttler.

Having completed his B.Com after Ruia College, he'd lost touch with classrooms, but had pleasantly discovered a flair for Math (and logical reasoning trick questions). He chuckled at how it was similar to badminton. "I was naturally a fairly deceptive player with good game sense who could create openings. Training under Tom John, I learnt the ability to change speed and play aggressive," he reckons.

He had sought out the other sporty ISB alumni from Mumbai, Viren Rasquinha, who swapped a hockey stick for powerpoint presentations and networking, donning formal. "He'd gone down a similar path, and said it was a good idea to transition," Ajay says.

The Verbal's half of GMAT had been a tad challenging. "Maths was absolutely fun though it's tricky and twisted, but my concepts were strong. But I had to brush up on English basics. I don't read excessively, and the colloquial English we speak doesn't quite wash," he chuckles. "It'll be great to come back to sport, but I'm keeping my options open," he says, having only to decide on electives after the 4th term.



The just-retired Ajay Jayaram is also an artist but will focus his attention on graduating from the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad. Express

Ajay can be credited with kickstarting India's men's singles dream season of 2017 - with his Korea Open finals, after which Sai Praneeth, Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy took off in the far east swing. In Korea, Ajay had beaten Viktor Axelsen on the way to making the final.

"Against Chou Tien Chen who was the most consistent player of that time, I played a near flawless and patient game," Ajay recalls. A Top 15 entry would follow.

He would also pick back to back Dutch Open titles, yet rue missing out on the hat-trick in the finals the third year. Yet the miss that'll famously rankle is of the 2012 Olympics qualification, where Parupalli Kashyap pipped him on the last day. "There's been too many close losses, but that's the biggest miss," he states.

None of the last minute heartbreak of a decade ago, dented Ajay's deep friendship with Parupalli Kashyap. "I think I'll miss travelling with friends the most about badminton. Kashyap, Anand Pawar, Aditi Mutatkar remain thick friends. Men's singles has been so competitive all these years, we all travelled together and knew how tough it was to get the breakthroughs. There was maturity about how difficult it is, so that healthy competition helped Kashyap and me stay very close friends and the competition didn't get in the way of our friendship," he says.

Injury setbacks

Injuries though sent Ajay down some dark alleys, especially the ones that quickly followed a high - like the purple patch of 2016 where he made a bunch of quarters and

Yes, going abroad was an option. But since my eventual plan was to be in India, it made sense to study here. Also, given my age, I was looking at diverse profiles, so this made more sense. I was always academically inclined in school and college, so studying was more fun than pressure."

AJAY JAYARAM

semis, followed by a shoulder surgery. And his 2017 peach of a phase after which the hamstring viciously acted up. "I was in the best shape of my life and then the hamstring was the biggest setback. It wasn't a black & white injury. It kept recurring," Ajay recalls.

Yet sport taught him to move on with clean breaks. "It teaches you to move to the next thing quickly. Accepting that losses are not the end of the world. And even if you win, you'll be forgotten in a week and fight the same time next week at another tournament," he says wisely.

Ajay would find for himself quite a reputation as a talented artist post 2016, the first of his successful diversions. "I used to draw as a kid.

But in 2016 I decided to spend my free time productively. Sketching was a good de-stress." In the lockdown, he took to painting with passion. He sings too. "It's just humming," he says in a conservative estimate, though a guitar hangs on the wall like a prized possession.

For his parents and sister, the emptiness of his wound down and now retired career will be as big a challenge. "Even if I was playing in the US, they'd be up watching at 3 a.m! They lived my career," he says.

Ajay also ties the knot with Soumya Ravi next week. Slated to start as a product manager with a Bangalore startup, Soumya will help him ease into this transition, he says. "It'll be impossible when I start college and work to train 5-6 hours a day. But I intend to give it at least a couple of hours a day. I'd love to try out squash and tennis now," he says.

Badminton that Ajay reckons continues to dawdle in its amateurish bubble could do with a revamp along tennis lines. "I know it'll take a long long time and it's probably hard to change the system. But I'd love to take on that challenge," he says of a future dipping of toes into sport from the other end.

As of June, he'll take the right along the Hyderabad highway, rather than the usual left to the national academy, where he must've competed as a player a dozen times. The shuttle court will have fewer of the geometric strides, the angular backhand whips at the net and the suave half-smile of a cerebral takedown on court.

BRIEFLY

India's hockey ties vs England postponed

New Delhi: The upcoming FIH Pro League double-header between the women's hockey teams of India and England was postponed on Tuesday due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the British camp. The matches were scheduled to be played on April 2 and 3 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. While the women's matches were deferred, the men's fixtures between India and England will be played as per schedule this weekend.

Manika-Archana enter medal rounds

Doha: India's Manika Batra and Archana Kamath entered the medal round of the women's doubles in the WTT Star Contender event after beating Soo Wai Yam Minnie and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong 3-1 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. The Indian pair, which won 13-11 8-11 11-5 13-11, will take on Taipei's Li Yu-Jhun and Cheng I-Ching in the semifinals.

Erigaisi wins Delhi Open chess title

New Delhi: Grandmaster and national champion Arjun Erigaisi crashed through the defences of Karthik Venkataraman to win the 19th Delhi International open chess tournament. Starting the day in a five-way lead and having the best tie-break, Arjun left nothing to chance as he went for an offensive right from the word go in a Sicilian Najdorf game as white. The young national champion romped home easily with some finely crafted manoeuvres. Arjun looks like a sure-shot selection for the forthcoming Chess Olympiad at Chennai as he scaled past 2675 in live Elo ratings.

Sudeva Delhi hold Real Kashmir FC 2-2

Naihati: Sudeva Delhi FC produced an inspired second-half display to overcome a two-goal deficit and eke out a fighting 2-2 draw against fancied Real Kashmir FC in their I-League match here on Tuesday. A first-half brace from Tiago Adan gave Real Kashmir a two-goal lead at the break, but a fine second-half comeback saw Sudeva Delhi take away a point from the contest, thanks to goals from Sreyas V G and Seithenlang Lotjem.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4789

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4789



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Mercury's new planetary alignments are bound to bring cheering news, perhaps on the leisure front, possibly to do with some cultural pursuit. Your horizons will soon be broadened and some of your assumptions turned upside down. Contacts with children are also likely to grow easier.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

One problem over recent weeks has been suppressed or misdirected anger, unjustified or misplaced enthusiasm. Such difficulties are now happily in the past. Sometimes it does no good to blame other people, but that doesn't mean that they do not bear any responsibility.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

One thing saving you at the moment is your charm. You'll be more concerned than usual about other people's needs and interests, and your solicitous approach will be amply rewarded in the weeks to come. And, when that happens, the last pieces of a jigsaw will fall into place.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The Sun is passing through a sympathetic region of your chart indicating that while you still have some freedom of action, fate will also lend a helping hand. It could be an older person who provides the greatest assistance. They could even finally resolve a long-running problem.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

With so much confusion and turmoil surrounding emotional involvements, I am happy to report that Mercury is now sweeping through your chart, engaging in a number of rather surprising encounters. It may even enable you to clarify your ideas at last.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It is true that life is far from plain-sailing but when there is a many reassuring planetary aspects, you can be certain that even apparent obstacles are helping you stick to the proper path. It's just that it's not always easy to see what is the right road to follow, while you're actually on it.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You have often been unable to raise adequate funds in the past yet, now that Mars is playing such an important role in your horoscope, you'll redouble your efforts to put your finances on a secure footing. The planets' advice is to get all possible matters in order this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

There is a way out of current situations, but you will need to be more determined. There is also no point in being defensive. You may have confidence in all ideas and plans with a professional slant, mainly because your public image looks set to gain more than your feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Certain boundaries seem to have been blurred, what with all the coming and going that's been taking place. If you capitalise on the fact that a number of ties have been weakened, you will be able to let go of them and open more possibilities for the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is no knowing what the next few days hold in store for you in detail, although in outline the picture is quite clear. You are turning a corner from which there will be no going back. In fact, I'd say that there are no such things as simple, firm facts any more.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Skeletons may be rattling in a few cupboards, but there doesn't seem to be anything to worry about. This is also a prime time for strange, surreal and possibly unsettling dreams. It's all very meaningful. But what the exact meaning is, or isn't, will only become clear next week.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Although you'll have more time for work and chores towards the end of the week, you will probably still be more concerned with culture, the arts, leisure and pleasurable pursuits. Shed a few obligations if necessary, and only stick with commitments which will bring genuine benefits

Royals show pedigree

All-round team effort results in convincing win over lacklustre Sunrisers Hyderabad

SYNOPSIS: Royals flex their muscles. Sunrisers pay for their bowling indiscipline before Samson's sparkling fifty.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
MARCH 29

BY THE 15th over, Sunrisers Hyderabad's asking rate had climbed to 23-plus. They were gasping for breath at 72/5, back-to-back sixes from Romario Shepherd notwithstanding. The game was long done and dusted, when Sunrisers slipped to 14/3 inside the Powerplay, against Rajasthan Royals' 210/6. In the end, Sunrisers lost by 61 runs. They were never in the game.

Royals flex muscles

By the look of it, Royals want to set the record straight this term. One of the perennial also-rans of the Indian Premier League, barring the first season when they won the tournament under Shane Warne's captaincy, Royals basically played to make up the numbers. A change could be on the cards. It reflected in the franchise's aggressive auction strategy and in the 15th edition of the IPL, they have a team that can flex its muscles. Batting, pace and spin - Royals have covered all the bases.

Their tournament opener in Pune on Tuesday was a case in point. Jos Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal stitched a quickfire 58-run opening partnership. Sanju Samson scored a gorgeous half-century, coming in at No. 3. Devdutt Padikkal gave his skipper good company, making 41 off 29 balls and adding 73 runs for the third wicket. Shimron Hetmyer put the finishing touches with a 13-ball 32. The Royals batting thrived on its depth.

Their fast bowling was spearheaded by Trent Boult's quality, Prasidh Krishna's swing and Nathan Coulter-Nile's hit-the-deck stuff. The Aussie didn't have a good game, but Boult and Krishna used the new ball superbly. Krishna took out Kane Williamson and Rahul Tripathi, while Boult accounted for Nicholas Pooran. New-ball bowling was the key on a greenish Pune pitch. Royals sized, Sunrisers fizzled.



Shimron Hetmyer scored a 13-ball 32 towards the end of RR innings. sportzpics/IPL

Then, Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin bowled in tandem, the leg-spinner returning with 3/22 from four overs. Early days, but Royals provided ample proof of moving towards the collective from their earlier over-reliance on individual brilliance.

Sunrisers' bowling indiscipline

Sunrisers duly paid for their bowling indiscipline. Four no-balls in the first five overs is unpardonable at this level and the team's post-mortem of this defeat would certainly address the issue. Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the offender twice, his first no-ball costing

him Buttler's scalp.

The pitch called for Test-match lengths from new-ball bowlers and Kumar straightaway hit his straps. His fifth delivery swung away and took the outside edge, as Buttler threw his hands at the ball. Abdul Samad took a smart catch at first slip, but the bowler had overstepped by a couple of inches.

Buttler should have been out for a duck. He went on to score a 28-ball 35. Royals put on 58 for no loss in six overs and that was where Sunrisers surrendered the initiative.

Buttler was lucky again, edging an Umran Malik thunderbolt - 150kph - but the ball slipped through the hands of Samad at first

slip. It wouldn't have mattered anyway, for Malik had overstepped.

When Washington Sundar, an off-spinner, bowled a no-ball, Williamson's patience snapped. The Sunrisers captain, usually uber-cool, channelled all his anger into a hard glare. Washington apologised.

Malik atoned for his mistake, and a 21-run first over, when he came back for his second spell. He found the right line and length, and dismissed Buttler with a superfast delivery. Later, he also beat Padikkal for pace. But the damage was done. The surface had eased out, the ball was coming nicely on to the bat and Samson was in his element to build on a solid foundation.

The new ball was Sunrisers' best chance to grab the game by the lapels after winning the toss. They shot themselves in the foot. Their batting raised the white flag after early wickets.

From their perspective, and also Indian cricket's point of view, however, Kumar's bowling was a positive. Not only was he economical amid the carnage, but the veteran seamer also swung the ball beautifully. He had lost the bend last year, but has worked on his wrist position and the ball is moving again.

Samson's sparkling fifty

When on song, Samson's batting is a connoisseurs' delight. A rapid start by Buttler and Jaiswal gave the Royals skipper the licence to entertain, and he waltzed to a 27-ball 55, including three fours and five sixes.

Left-arm spinner Abhishek Sharma had extended a bit of favour to Samson to start with, bowling a couple of short deliveries and conceding a four and a six, but some shots from the batsman were gorgeous. The way he pivoted to pull a Shepherd delivery for a six or his flat-batted maximum against Sundar deserved applause. The offie had a forgettable outing, but Samson didn't mind. His flick off Malik was exquisite. His knock revelled in picking the length unerringly. It took the game away from Sunrisers.

BRIEF SCORES: Rajasthan Royals 210/6 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 55, Devdutt Padikkal 41; Umran Malik 2/39) bt Sunrisers Hyderabad 149/7 in 20 overs (Aiden Markram 57 not out, Washington Sundar 40; Yuzvendra Chahal 3/22, Prasidh Krishna 2/16) by 61 runs

PLAYING TONIGHT

Indian Premier League

RCB vs KKR, 730pm

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EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

Jos do it!

His fireworks in the first IPL match of the season may suggest that Jos Buttler was wasting his time trying to be someone he was not - a Test cricketer in an England shirt. Over the last Australian summer, the wicketkeeper-batsman tried different methods in search of Ashes success, but to no avail. It got to a point when he would have been secretly relieved to be dropped. But back with the Rajasthan Royals, Buttler could again focus on the one thing he is arguably the best in the world in the shortest format - how to send the white ball to and over the ropes on a frequent basis. It helps when he doesn't have to put as high a price tag on his wicket as he is expected to in the five-



day game. Whatever nerves he had would have, had been settled after surviving a torrid first over from Bhuvneshwar Kumar, especially a dismissal of a no-ball. But as soon as he found the middle of his bat and the boundary on the inside in the second over, the Englishman was in the groove. The slashes and ramps were back as pace and spin were treated with equal disdain. He threatened to take the game away from Sunrisers Hyderabad but it was ironic, or maybe fitting, that when Buttler got out, it was a standard Test match-like dismissal. A pacy delivery in the channel nicked behind. If ever there was a moment that captured his career.

Expensive but exciting

We saw the good and

the not so good of fast bowler Umran Malik. Malik has a relatively smooth action, is lightning fast but has a tendency to be erratic. A little like when Varun Aaron first came on the scene. The 22-year-old from J&K, is one of the most exciting talents and keeps everyone on the edge of their seat because a wayward delivery can be followed up by a 150kmph-beauty. But the experienced Jos Buttler used the youngster's raw pace to find the boundary a few times. Devdutt Padikkal got the better of Malik during their early exchanges. But Malik was too quick for Padikkal who failed to get his bat down in time as the ball moved in from a full length and crashed into the stumps. Two quality wickets, some leaked runs and plenty of pace made for great viewing. Expensive but exciting and worth every penny spent.



Hair raising!

The colour of Shimron

Hetmyer's hair seems to be where his heart is. Last year, when he represented Delhi Capitals, he had bleached his hair blue. Here-dyed it to maroon when he turned out for the West Indies. And now, when he moved to Rajasthan Royals, he has coloured his hair pink, in sync with Royals' pink jerseys. While he has proved to be the spiritual tresses successor of the Australian spinner Colin Miller, his inspiration is his wife. "My wife is the colour genius behind the whole thing. Last year, when I was in Delhi, she was there as well and she was like why don't you colour your hair blue just to see what it looks like? And I was like okay sure no problem," he told Rajasthan Royals' Twitter handle. This year, invariably, it had to be pink. If he keeps this habit—a colour for every team—he could easily end up outstripping Miller as the king of bleach in cricket.



Badoni, the Delhi boy who lets his bat do the talking and tonking

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, MARCH 29

WHEN AYUSH Badoni, 22, shuffled across and lapped Hardik Pandya to fine-leg boundary, his childhood coach Balraj Kumar laughed at his home in Punjab. He had just told his disbelieving daughter to watch out for such a shot. "He used to play that shot when he was 9 years old!" laughs Ballu sir, minutes after Ayush's impressive IPL debut where he stunned Gujarat with an assured game-turning fifty.

Three shots stood out in the knock of the former U-19 world cup player, three shots that Ayush is likely to tap the Hotstar app in the night to re-watch. That Pandya lap, an imperious swipe over midwicket off a Rashid Khan googly, and a stunning blast over cow corner against the pace of Lockie Ferguson. A high-quality spinner, a pacer, and a medium pacer who was trying to strangle, were swatted away by the debutant.

The coach's mind snaps into a series of images from the past and present. The emotional snapshot is of a night at Ayush's home, when he was around 14. Despite three hundreds at the U-14 stage, the coach says, the boy wasn't picked next year for the U-16 and was absolutely shattered. "Ab kya karoon sir main?" (What should I do now?) The boy would yelp from the floor where he was lying. For a few hours before that in late evening training, Ayush had taken out his anger and frustration by belting the ball real hard. Balraj hadn't spoken a word then, and just kept throwing the ball. Now, near midnight, Ayush went, "Three 100s sir are nothing?" Balraj, the coach, raised his voice, "So, just hundreds is your life? You will just give up? From tomorrow, we shall practice for double hundreds."

Ayush, the coach recalls, sprang up at the bed to splutter out, "double hundreds? Okay sir." As things would pan out, an injury to another player would get Ayush his chance at a game. "He got that in Rohtak against Haryana. Not a batting pitch, What did he do? Hit a double hundred! Now who could stop him?!"

He now snaps to the here and now to the moment Ayush got out. "His father called almost immediately and said, do you think he should have stayed not out?" I told him, "No no... your son doesn't play such cricket. Always team. What's the use of not out? A four or six would be better!"

"Do you know he hit four sixes in an over for India U-19 in Asia cup in Dhaka in Bangladesh?" the coach queries. An interview from the past had Ayush talking about how in



Lucknow Super Giants' Ayush Badoni celebrates his half century against Gujarat Titans. (R) With his coach Balraj Kumar during his early days. Sportzpics/IPL



It might seem as if I am talking him up too much now but he has the capability to do it in the IPL and beyond. He can get 20-25 runs in an over also. Just wait and watch!"

BALRAJ KUMAR
BADONI'S CHILDHOOD COACH

his mind he wanted to go for six sixes at one stage but one rolled away across the boundary as a four. "It might seem as if I am talking him up too much now but he has the capability to do it in the IPL and beyond. He can get 20-25 runs in an over also. Just wait and watch!"

Indian cricket is filled with characters like Ballu sir, those near-anonymous coaches who do all the hard work silently. Hardik Pandya has one in Baroda, Mayank Agarwal has one in Bangalore and they still turn to them for training and mentoring advice. "Our relationship I remember turned one day when his father called me home. Ayush's middle-class home was just opposite the school and I had been already telling his father that his son has the spark to make it big in cricket. He would keep saying we are just a middle class family. His mother, a teacher, wanted Ayush to focus on studies. They weren't sure how their young kid was going to break into the cricketing system. Even dreams have to be sensible, you see for many of us Indians!"

Mind of his own

But Balraj says he was sure about his hunch. "Usually kids that young tend to

copy a Sachin or Dravid or some big player. But Ayush right from the start was an original. And had great timing." When his father was still not convinced and also wondered how such a short practice time at school is going to translate to anything, Balraj built a pitch at the terrace.

"Cement track only, I put up nets around the walls and every day after school, we would be at it for hours. Often I would sleep at their home, only. And I told the father to keep throwing the ball when I returned to Punjab."

As Ayush got bigger and more serious, he would alternate his cricket coaching at the Sonnet cricket academy with the famed coach Tarak Sinha and still be in touch with Balraj.

"Ayush doesn't speak or smile much! Even Tarik Sinha sir once told me, 'Ballu, yeh apni marzi ka raja hai (he does what he wishes!)'. Even his aunts have asked me, 'why doesn't he speak to us more!' Which is true and which is what I believe will take him a long way. He has that attitude. You can call it what you like; I see it as a special player's focus and mindset. Not everyone has it; he does. He has worked closely with many big names from Rahul Dravid to Sinha sir, and he will take from them what he sees as suiting his game, but he isn't a pleaser, if you know what I mean. Apni marzi ka maalik hai; he is sure of what he wants and will do that with a stubborn focus. Now that he has finally got the chance, he will definitely grab it. He will make it to the top."

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