# **The Indian EXPRESS**

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

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# PERFECTION NEW BATCHES **FOR BPSC**

**STARTING** 

ENGLISH MEDIUM Time: 04:00 PM- 7:00 PM

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2022

HINDI MEDIUM

### **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

**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 to-

wards 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

# Meanwhile, war business as usual

FROM THE **FRONTLINE** 

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

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

### **DEEPTIMAN TIWARY** NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

Govt in LS

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

"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 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

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 Rzeszów-Iasionka Airport, it is loaded onto **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

UPSC INTERVIEW

SCORE IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP

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VINOD ZUTSHI

of Tourism. Govt of India

ANIL SWARUP

IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary School Ed.

Topic: Different UPSC Services and

# 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 fivedecade-old inter-state border **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10** 



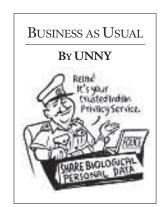
**Key turn but twists** ahead

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. REPORT, PAGE 8



# at arms stopover town in Poland



KRISHN KAUSHIK RZESZOW (POLAND),

# **EXPRESS NETWORK**



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



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### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

### Russia peace talk even as civilians are trapped in be-

Thousands of people have

been killed or injured, nearly four million have fled Ukraine, and Russia's economy has been pummelled by sanctions.

"In order to increase mutual trust and create the necessary conditions for further negotiations and achieving the ultimate goal of agreeing and signing (an) agreement, a decision was made to radically, by a large margin, reduce military activity in the Kyiv and Chernihiv directions," Russian Deputy Defence Minister

He made no mention of other areas that have seen heavy fighting, including around Mariupol in

lassifieds

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the southeast, Sumy and Kharkiv in the east and Kherson and Mykolaiv in the south. Some analysts noted that Russia's promise to reduce fighting mostly covered areas where it has been losing Alexander Fomin told reporters. Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich was at the venue of the negotiations. The Kremlin said

**FROM PAGE ONE** 

he was there as a go-between but not part of Russia's delegation. Russia, the US and Ukraine have all played down media reports that he may have been poisoned while on an earlier peace mission. Ukrainian negotiators said

that under their proposals, Kyiv would agree not to join alliances or host bases of foreign troops, but would have security guaranteed in terms similar to "Article 5", the collective defence clause of the transatlantic NATO military alliance. They named Israel and NATO members Canada, Poland and Turkey as countries that may give such guarantees. Russia, the US, Britain, Germany and Italy could also be involved.

The proposals, which would require à referendum in Ukraine, mentioned a 15-year consultation period on the status of Russianannexed Crimea. The fate of the southeastern Donbas region, which Russia demands Ukraine cede to separatists, would be discussed by the Ukrainian and Russian leaders.

Kyiv's proposals also included one that Moscow would not oppose Ukraine joining the European Union, Russia's lead negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said. Russia has previously opposed Ukrainian membership of the EU and especially of NATO. Medinsky said Russia's delegation would study and present the proposals to President Vladimir Putin.

To prepare a peace agreement, Medinsky later told the TASS news agency, "we still have a long way to go".

The Ukrainian negotiators called for a meeting between Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Medinsky said that could take place when foreign ministers were ready to initial an agreement.

"If we manage to consolidate these key provisions... then Ukraine will be in a position to actually fix its current status as a non-bloc and non-nuclear state

in the form of permanent neutrality," Ukrainian negotiator Oleksander Chaly said.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and the Czech Republic — all EU member states announced expulsions of Russian diplomats on Tuesday. Russia expelled diplomats from the three Baltic states in a tit-for-REUTERS tat move.

also facing the situation of a fullblown war in Ukraine which is not some war in some corner of the world but it seems to be having an impact on all countries like the way the pandemic had but this impact is disruption to very many supplies," Sitharaman said.

Sitharaman, specifically, flagged how the war's adverse impact is being felt by many countries, including India. "The value chains are all broken; newer markets are emerging. At the same time, old markets are all caught up in a situation where nothing is normal. So, you are actually in a situation where we came up with a Budget during the pandemic, and then came the second wave. This time we came up with a Budget so that continuity in recovery will be aimed at and then came Omicron. Now we also have a war whose impact is being felt by all of us, "she said.

Underlining that the government will not take taxation as a route for mobilising resources, she said. "If we just go back to the realities -- it holds good for the Budget of last year and the Budget of this year -- the reflection in the Finance Bill is that we have not taken taxation as a route for mobilising resources."

On oil prices, Sitharaman said supply disruption has been for a couple of weeks now and the government is responding to it. "(The Opposition is saying) the war has been raging for a long time. You have not raised it (oil prices) at that time; now you are raising it. It is absolutely untrue. Disruption, a resultant increase in the global price of oil, and also disruption to supplies are all happening since a couple of weeks ago and we are responding to them. Various steps have been taken by the Government," Sitharaman said.

"...But let me remind this House that taxpayers of today are

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# Jaishankar's trip, Centre's plans for Delhi, service startups expand

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The significance of S Jaishankar's trip to Maldives and Sri Lanka, the plans to merge Delhi's 3 municipal corporations, and how startup companies are planning to expand

paying for the subsidy which was dished out to consumers more than a decade ago in the name of oil bonds and they will continue to pay for the next five years as the redemption of bonds continues till 2026," she added. "So that burden is also on us now for the benefits given apparently through the oil bonds raised ten years ago. So, I would like to put that on record.'

in ICC Test Batting Rankings

#The Indian DEPRESS

Replying to a question raised by former Finance Minister P Chidambaram on capex, Sitharaman said the Budget "transparently discloses" revised estimates, specifically, the capital infusion made into Air India.

On the question how Rs 51,917 crore to Air Îndia became a capital expenditure, Sitharaman said such loans to Central public sector enterprises, as per accounting principles, are treated as a capital expenditure. "...This is an accounting principle and not my thought; I am sure that he (Chidambaram) would know it or probably it just slipped his mind. So, loans and equities to CPSEs as capital expenditures are not uncommon," Sitharaman said.

Sitharaman highlighted a similar equity infusion made during the UPA rule to Air India of Rs 1,200 crore in the revised estimates of 2012-13, and, equity support of Rs 6,000 crore and Rs 5,000 crore in the budget estimates of 2013-14."....I am sorry to say that when you gave it in 2011-12 to this very same Air India, it

was capital expenditure and I also say that. And I am saying that even now what I have given, Rs 51,917 crore, is capital expenditure. At least, I have said it openly,"

The Rajya Sabha returned the two Bills without any changes. other than those proposed by the government, completing the Parliamentary approval of the Union Budget.

### Poland

trucks and other local vehicles. and taken to Ukraine through E40, the longest east-west highway in Europe.

Swierczynski says this is also the reason why there is always the threat of a Russian attack on Rzeszow or the convoys from there. "The operation from Rzeszow is potentially dangerous even though there has not been any attack yet," Swierczynski, who writes for "Polityka Insight",

Barely ten days ago, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had warned: "We clearly said that any cargo moving into Ukrainian territory, which we would believe is carrying weapons, would be fair

Rzeszow is also where US President Joe Biden landed on his visit to Poland last week and met with American troops from the 82nd Airborne Division, which is part of NATO's eastern flank.

According to a military analyst

in Lviv, around 90 per cent of Ukraine's weapons are still of Soviet or Russian origin, "Artillery is about 100 per cent Russian or Soviet, as are 90 per cent of tanks. When it comes to other military vehicles, because Ukraine has started building its own, 70 per cent are Russian. When it comes to anti-tank guns, it's split half between Ukrainian and Westernmade. But all sniper guns with Ukraine are of Western origin,"

Most of what Western nations are sending to Ukraine, the analyst said, are anti-tank and antiaircraft weapons, like Manportable air-defence systems. Because of the Soviet past, most sophisticated weapons within Ukraine are unable to "talk" to Western weaponry. Hence, the West can only send "independent" weapons that don't need to be integrated with other systems.

the analyst said.

But since Poland was part of the Eastern Bloc, its historic links with the Soviet Union are of immense help to Ukraine at the moment. "Only countries like Poland, which used to have Soviet calibre weapons, can help send munitions to Ukraine," Swierczynski, the analyst in Poland, said.

He said the exact number of weapons sent by each country is not known, but the US has sent the largest share, in "double-digit thousands", having spent more than US\$ 1 billion already. The UK, too, has sent anti-tank systems in

"double-digit thousands", he said. Poland has Piorun MANPADS and ammunition to offer.

Swierczynski emphasised that none of the weapons are sent by NATO as an organisation, but by some of its member states.

Michael Bociurkiw, a global affairs analyst and Senior Fellow at Atlantic Council who has been in Lviv for the past few weeks, told The Indian Express: "The Western allies are providing NATO weaponry. Flak jackets, helmets, surface-to-air missiles. What Ukraine is asking for is more of it. But also more advanced weapons to shoot down high-flying and fast Russian missiles and aircraft."

He said "switchblade drones, also called Kamikaze drones", are also being sent by the US now.

Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Bociurkiw said, is asking for a "lot more, and that they are running out of some weapons". He said the "rate at which they are shooting lethal weaponry, you have to re-supply on a very robust basis". Even the Territorial Defence forces, made up entirely of volunteers, "are desperately in need of simple things like flak jackets and helmets".

"A lot of money is being raised in the West, but the bottleneck is getting it to the frontline," he said.

According to experts, the EU and NATO have placed military and non-military personnel in Poland to share logistical experience for an operation of this scale.



Delhi Government awards scholarship worth Rs. 12.35 crores to children of construction workers



New Delhi

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# 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 electricity, 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.

BIP 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

### Another GitHub app Halt station for Green and Pink Metro lines accused granted bail

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

A DELHI court granted bail to 20year-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 commu-

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 inves-

tigating 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

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

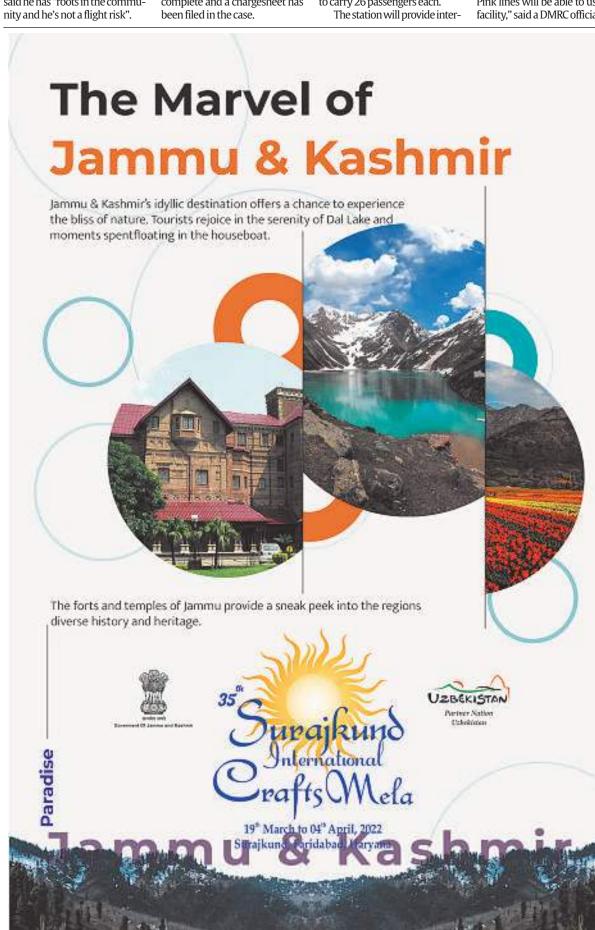
THE DELHI Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Tuesday inaugurated the city's first 'halt station' at Punjabi Bagh West Metro station to provide an interchange facility between the Green and Pink lines. The station was inaugurated by DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh.

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.

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 Pinkline 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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i	Mar 29	95	96	0	21,331	
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	Cases	29	35			
)	Deaths	0	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

12 wanted

gangsters

New Delhi: The Delhi

Police's Special Cell ar-

rested 12 wanted gang-

sters, 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

Heat wave in

parts of city

New Delhi: Parts of Delhi-

NCR recorded a heat

wave Tuesday, and simi-

lar 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-con-

struction commercial

site near Sikanderpur

Badha village at Sector

84 in Gurgaon on

Tuesday morning. Police

and fire department offi-

cials said six labourers

were working in a base-

ment, dug at least 30-feet

deep, when the incident

took place. ENS

arrested

### **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

The three linemen were identified as Bacchu Singh, Pintu and Suraj Sahni, and the autorickshaw 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

"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,

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

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

A fire official working at the spot said teams have been trying to douse the fire by using water hoses on garbage mountains but small fires from under the mountains break out. Garg said his team cannot climb the mountains because the land is unstable and there is a risk of

Manoj Sharma, Additional

"There is no road or ground to reach the fire spot. Also, there is a risk that our men can suffocate or fall. We have been struggling because of all the methane and other toxic fumes. The only way to douse the fire is to remove piles of garbage using JCBs and water these parts first. At all times, four tenders are working in the area to control the fire and gas expulsion."

# '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 unidivision of resources is very old. South has

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 re-

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 vou have lost Puniab elections. Modi ii is scared of Kejriwal ii 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

# How much do you think this

investigation and survey, we see make a lot of excuses on the day the public perception.

"Any party, if it starts believing at a point that it does not

need anyone else, is headed for a downfall."

they are supposed to get an injec-

tion. They say they are not feeling

well, etc. But ultimately, they do

get the injection. BIP ko bhi injec-

tion 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

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

AAP has seen successes in

education and health, but in

terms of infrastructure, the

Deputy CM has himself said

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 sensi-

tivity... 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.

Rajasthan or other states, you will

find cows and buffaloes roaming

in government schools, there are

no children, no education is im-

parted, the entire system has col-

lapsed. So, when it comes to

schools and hospitals, we have

done plenty of work, and on other

Of late, many councillors from

Congress and BIP have joined

workers or policies or is your

enough yet that you can field

Any party, if it starts believing

at a point that it does not need

anyone else, is headed for a

the party, we conduct a thorough

AAP. Do you not trust your

organisation not strong

strong candidates?

issues too, we are working.

You can see in UP, Goa,

there is a need to expedite

core of a democracy.

EXPRESS

to developed

nations, and this

is the condition

inside the capi-

tal... As per our

internal survey,

we will proba-

bly win 240-260 seats as per

the current situ-

ation. There is a

We recently made 10 lakh new members. You can say that you have added new members because you do not trust the old Look at the BJP. It is such a big party with 1,400 MLAs, 300-plus MPs and over 100 Rajya Sabha members, yet people continue to join their party.

### For almost two months, anganwadi workers in Delhi were on strike. Though it has been called off, union workers are going to localities and actively campaigning against AAP for the MCD elections. Do you think that this is an issue?

Delhi government is probably the only one to provide phones to all anganwadi workers, the salary is probably the highest. Their demand now is to make them permanent workers. But when the concept of anganwadi workers came, the job profile was for 2 to 3 hours a day. Our ministers are going through their demand of making them permanent employees and let's see how we can reply. Many of our ministers have tried talking, they are not ready to even talk.

When it comes to payscale, it is the highest in Delhi. When it comes to infrastructure, Delhi is the best. Their demand to make them permanent employees is not under our jurisdiction. We can only request the Centre.

### as well. What are challenges and opportunities there? There are a lot of challenges in

preparing a team at each level and then living up to the expectations of the people. Opportunity is that people see that this is a government that does what it says. People believe we have improved schools, health. Across the country, people think that such governance should be in their area also. Every day you see videos of pregnant women being taken on charpais to hospitals. We talk of becoming a vishwa guru (world leader) and we have not been able to fix basic health. People now think enough is enough and they are in the mood to experiment.

# build inroads in?

Since the Punjab results, the kind of phone calls we get, I believe people are more prepared than us. There is opportunity for good governance and running a good government. At some places it will take time, some places it will be faster. But I believe we have chances everywhere... It is not a fight of one or two years but a long haul.

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

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

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

egistered 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

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

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

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-

bustible material, methane

initially sent six fire tenders to

Division Officer, DFS, said he has been working on the spot for six to eight hours.

The firefighters have been advised to wear face masks but the intense smoke and heat make it difficult to take precautions, Sharma added.

# 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 com-

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-iudice 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,

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 sta-

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

### (Bill) can benefit the BJP? BJP just wants to postpone its

loss for some time. Small children

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

### What about your strategy and the states you think you can

# PURCHASE OF ALL VEHICLE TYPES TO CONTINUE

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

GAYATHRIMANI 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 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



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 ap-

proval of Deputy CM's office. The committee has however

New Delhi

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,

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

you will have to manage sec-

ondary expenses like mainte-

nance, charging infrastructure,

etc... So, it is not as if depart-

ments cannot buy e-cars. The

transport department, the DPCC, GAD have purchased EVs,

mandatory in future."

Jubilant Jammu Kashmir







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

Applications to be Disposal within

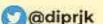
Jammu and Kashmir Land Pass Book Rules 2022

- 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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir







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# GOVT & POLITICS





# 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 CII also felicitated Padma Shri winners actress Sowcar Janaki, who has acted alongside three former chief ministers - NT Rama Rao, MG Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa – and folk artist Sakini Ramachandraiah.

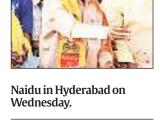
# TDP foundation day: Naidu talks of threat to 'Telugu motherland', attacks Jagan

**SREENIVAS 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 41 st foundation day, Naidu criticised the YSRCP government led by Chief Minister Jagan Reddy ing away industries with "its anti-

"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."



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." PSPL 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."



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

security, and even stability can no

"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 fastpaced cooperation. We need to

intensify and build on what we

have achieved in the last 25

years," he said.

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

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 per-

sonality", 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 achieve-

ment in our effort to develop the institutional architecture for BIM-STEC. But we must not rest on this achievement and instead move on to 'next steps' that can be taken to further strengthen BIMSTEC. 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 nim 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 BIP 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

# Violent intimidation against democracy **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

PM in Bengal address:

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 Tuesdav 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 in-

fluential 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 Awaas Yojana-Gramin, in Madhya Pradesh. PTI

# Two crore families in rural India given pucca houses: PM

**IRAM SIDDIQUE** 

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 Yoina (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 fami- $\hat{l}$ ies 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 Bharia, he "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 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.

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 ben-

# TN minister accused of harassing Dalit officer stripped of portfolio

**ARUN JANARDHANAN** Israeli PM Naftali Bennett

# Israel PM Naftali furcation in 2014, the TDP Bennett's India visit postponed

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** JERUSALEM, MARCH 29

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Naftali Bennett, who contracted Covid-19. has postponed his maiden trip to India planned for next week, his office said on Tuesday.

Bennett, 50, was scheduled to visit India from April 3 to 5 to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"Prime Minister Bennett's trip to India has been postponed and will be rescheduled," his office said in a brief statement. It was not immediately clear when the trip would take place.

Bennett tested positive for Covid Sunday. His office said the Prime Minister is "feeling well and will continue to work from home."

The premier's postponement came a day after Defence Minister Benny Gantz also put off his visit to India due to the volatile security situation in Israel, after two deadly terror attacks claimed the lives of six Israelis within days, The Times of Israel newspaper reported.



CHENNAI, MARCH 29

TAMIL NADU Transport Minister RS Rajakannappan was stripped of his portfolio on Tuesday, two a Dalit officer in his constituency Rajakannappan's Transport

portfolio has been allocated to S 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



"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 summoned 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

"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

Caste) BDO"

"He said he would not let me continue anymore in the position, that I will be transferred soon to a northern district. right to sit in the seat and kept on

munity," Rajendran said.

retaining me in the position only

because I belong to the SC com-

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 mus-

cle power, Rajakannappan had faced many corruption allegations and changed several parties over the years. A former minister of the first Javalalithaa 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 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 sanc-

"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

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

**MOHAMED THAVER** 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

Three days later, the ED attached properties worth Rs 11.35 crore of Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik 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 includ-

ing 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 civic 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 ngencies controlled by either side. On February 21, the BMC had

inspected the eight-storey Juhu bungalow of the BIP'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 Fadnavis 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 exhome 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 Fadnavis 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-toeye, 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 BIP 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.'

# 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

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 een 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 BIP MPs were asked to ensure that the target of vaccinating 7 crore teenagers as part of the Covid vaccination drive is

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,

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

six held: govt

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.

# **CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS BILL**

# **Opp: Amendment an** attempt to tinker with ICAI autonomy

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

The Bill had been first intro-

DMK leader A Raja ques-

duced in December last year but

was sent to a standing commit-

tioned the intention of the gov-

ernment 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 lawver. 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 institu-

tions, domain knowledge is im-

portant," he said, asking for the

Bill to be sent to a Select

tee for further deliberations.

and the lip.

**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 Indian 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-

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 en-

# 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 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

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 sui-

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

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 in-

crease 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** 

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

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 vulnera-

ble 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 Siva said the majority of the

"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.

# NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

POCSO Act.

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

# **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



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 Rs1,317.95 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 redeveloped 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.



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# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

# 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 gangrape of a woman from West Bengal in Bengaluru on March 24, police said on Tuesday.

The arrested four have been identified as Rajat, Shivaran, 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 pools Sadashivanagar 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

Sriram Ambarla was arrested from Hyderabad Wala biryani restaurant in East Ham for stabbing Sona Biiu, 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

# 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 tigress 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

# **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 'gulal (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. I (Ashish Mishra) is out on hail and the ruling parts 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 'gulal' 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 'gulal' 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 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 mowed down four farmers and a journalist during protest against the Centre's now repealed three agriculture laws.

Lakhhimpur 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 was 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 po-

family was forced to escape from

the village in November, leaving

help was required, we would not

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 tĥe 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 Pandev.

# 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 ni tion. 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

cancelled fearing Dalits would en-

ter the temple," he said.

# **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 Indian 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

Rethink on previous

> its decision to revise the entry norms in engineering courses last year by describing it as a step toencouraging wards 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.

> THE AICTE had defended

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 any-

thing from among Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronics, Information Technology, Biology, Informatics Biotechnology, Technical Vocational subject, Agriculture, Engineering Graphics, Business Studies, Entrepreneurship. As many as 15 courses re-

quire a student to have studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in high school. However, a student who may not have studied Maths, but had

Physics and Chemistry in school, can still pursue Agriculture Engineering, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical Engineering and Printing Engineering under the revised norms.

Only UG courses in architecture, packaging technology, and fashion technology courses have no compulsory subject combination requirements.

The overall scores of the students in three subjects will still need to be at least 45 per cent (general) and 40 per cent (reserved categories) to be eligible for admissions

Till the 2019-20 academic session, engineering aspirants should have cleared school with Physics and Mathematics as compulsory subjects. The third subject could have been one from among Chemistry, Biotechnology, Biology and

Technical Vocational subject. Last year, the AICTE attributed its move to do away with the mandatory subject combinations. It was also described as a push for interdisciplinary education that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages. NEP provision on multiple entry and exit in four-year B Tech or BE degrees has also been defined by the AICTE under the revised norms.

Among other highlights of the handbook is introduction of a supernumerary quota in polytechnic institutions for Covid-orphans covered under the PM-CARES scheme. Accordingly, two seats per institute will be reserved for applicants falling un-

# 'Can we eat money?': Despair in Lanka amid economic crisis

**ARUN JANARDHANAN** CHENNAI, MARCH 29

VANI SUSAI, a 31-year-old school teacher working in Batticaloa in Sri Lanka's eastern province, renomic crisis in the last week of January. "That Sunday morning, I ran out of gas. I called the agency to check for a cylinder and was told they could not deliver it for several days. I went in search for one, going shop to shop. I finally found a cylinder after three hours.

Two months later, the cooking gas supply is down to once a week. "Everybody goes to this one place on Sunday and stands in a queue that starts forming at 4 am. They give 300 tokens at one time, while the queue has over 1,000 people," says Susai, adding that as a working woman and mother, she can't spare the time to stand in a queue. Her husband works in the Gulf. "If I get a chance, I will leave.'

Last week, Tamil Nadu received more than a dozen people who had fled Lanka under similar economic duress. The country is facing one of its worst economic crises, battered by the Easter Sunday blasts of April 2019, two Covid waves and now



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 chal-

lenge. Hospitals are affected as

there is no diesel for generators. The official adds that 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 restruc-

# Karnataka names anti-untouchability scheme after Dalit boy

**KIRAN PARASHAR** BENGALURU, MARCH 29

THE KARNATAKA government has announced Samarasya Yojana, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram

Panchavats 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 Shrinivasa Poojary told the state Assembly Monday that Chief Minister Basavarai Bommai will launch Vinaya Samarasya Yojana on April 14 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, and that they were also checking the avail-



Koppal temple, which three-year-old Vinay entered. Vinay's family of three remains displaced. Express

ability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for its virtual inauguration.

Poojary told the House that Vinaya Samarasya Yojana has been named after the Dalit boy Vinay. The scheme was included in the recently announced Karnataka Budget for 2022-23 with an objective to eradicate untouchability in the state.

The plight of the Vinay family

seems to have turned more abysmal, though. As reports about the imposition of fine on them

made headlines, the village leadtown," Chandrashekar said. ers, belonging to the locally dom-"If law was properly impleinant Ganiga community, stepped mented, the situation would have up "social boycott" of the victim been different. The annual festi-Dalit family. Reeling under it, the vals in the village have also been

behind their house and agricul-Chandrashekar was fined Rs tural land. 25,000 after Vinay strayed into the Miyapur has a population of village temple, located behind his 1,500 people, mostly Ganigas, house, while it was raining. with only about 91 villagers be-After the incident came under

longing to the Dalit community. spotlight, the social welfare de-"Naming a government propartment of Koppal district registered a complaint. Local police gramme after my son will not change anything but this evil practhen intervened, filed an FIR, and tice (untouchability) must be arrested several accused who, eradicated," said Vinay's father however, were out on bail soon. Chandrashekar Shivappadasara And then the villagers' alleged while speaking to The Indian wrath against the Chandrashekar family of three intensified, forcing "... Even if some emergency them to leave their home and land

in Miyapur.

get it. I then made the decision to He got Rs one lakh subsidy shift to Yelburga (in Koppal disfrom the state government and is trict), which is my wife's homeplanning to set up a car washing

centre in Yelburga. "I pooled around Rs 5 lakh and need some more money to set up the car washing centre, which I will do, I made several rounds to government offices, hoping to protect my Miyapur land or to get an alternative land in my wife's place. But there was little help. I will not go and beg again before government officials as I am tired of it now."

Naveen Shintre, deputy director of the social welfare department of Koppal district, told The Indian Express that he was not aware of annual temple festivals being cancelled in Miyapur

"We have provided Rs 75,000 compensation and Rs one lakh subsidy from Dr BR Ambedkar Development Corporation to the Chandrashekar family. There have been efforts to provide them land and help them in house construction (in Yelburga)," he said.

# **SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE**

# Court: No stigma attached to former TERI chief Pachauri

turing plan."

**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 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

the complaint have caused stigma

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

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

Panel on Climate Change when it

had in 2018 ordered framing of charges against Pachauri.

# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

# 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

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 NEREGS 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 Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the hike

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



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 CT 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

### **WAGES PER DAY IN RUPEES**



	2021- 2022	2022-	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

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

# 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 Panchavati Rai 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 confrontationist 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 dis-

trict 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

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

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 others, 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, 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 administra-

tion 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-

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 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

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



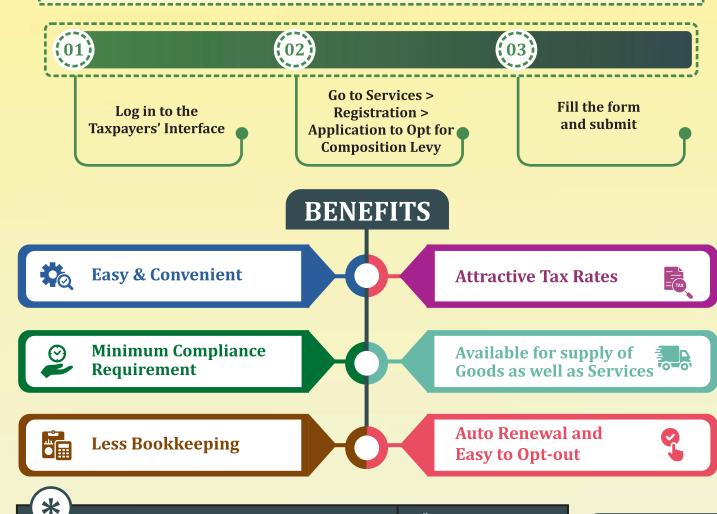
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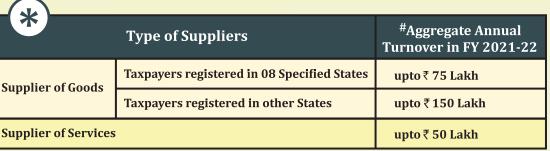
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**GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers** 



Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs





# FROM PAGE ONE

# Meghalaya, Assam take first step to resolve border row

'Today is a historic day for a dispute-free Northeast," Shah

"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 dis-

Since July last year, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma have been in talks to solve the longstanding dispute along the 884km 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 extensively 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, ministeriallevel 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 bound-ary, 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 Hiteshwar 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 YV 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 chewable 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

SHOOTS OFF LETTER

# Mamata urges Opp parties to put up united fight against BJP

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 opposi-

> tion 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 Baneriee offers flowers at the statue of Bhanu Bhakta, in Darjeeling, Tuesday. Express

All parties must resist the BIP'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.

BIP 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."

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MPCA invites 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) for 'pre qualification' of agency for (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.mpcaonline.com between 30.3.2022 to 5.4.2022 Hon. Secretary - MPCA



Office of Executive Engineer (M) Ramganga Power Station, UJVN Limited, Kalagarh, Distt. Pauri Garhwal invites online tender from nterested 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

he 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

### 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. RWSSCTC11/2021-22

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

Nature of work: Rural Piped W/S Schemes.

No. of tenders: 8 Nos.

Tender Paper Cost : ₹ 10,000/-

Value of Work: ₹ 203.54 Lakh to 392.59 Lakhs Class of Contractor: "Special" & "A" Class & "B" Class

Date and time of availability of bid document in portal : 11 hour of 08.04.2022 to 22.04.2022 up to 17 hours

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 Time of completion: 365 days

10. The bidders have to participate in online biding only. Further details can be seen from the website <a href="https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>. Sd/- Superintending Engineer **RWSS Division, Cuttack** OIPR-25022/11/0019/2122

# CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD lan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009 E-TENDER NOTICE

Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of Built-up Dwelling/ Commercial Units on Free Hold Basis in U.T. Chandigarh t 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.

 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.

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.

 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 In order to submit e-bids, every prospective bidder is required to get himself/herself registered at https://etenders.chd.nic.in.

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:-No. of Days for inspertions

No.	(0)		Units	(10.00A.M. to 5.00 P.M.)	
1	Residential Units on Free-Hold Ba		06	Saturday & Sunday	
H	Commercial Units on Free-Hold Ba	asis	10	Seturday & Suriday	
	Total	16			
6.	Schedules of dates for e-Tender	of t	he Units	C+ :	
1.	Starting date and time for bid submission	From 30th March, 2022 (10:00A.M.)			
2	Closing date and time for bid submission	Till 19th April, 2022 (upto 10:00A.M.)			
3. Opening of e-bids 19th April, 2022 (10:15A.M. onward					
10	Chandigarh	Но		ef Accounts Officer Board, Chandigarh	
W	EAR MASK, WASH YOUR HA	ND:	, WAT	CH YOUR DISTANCE.	

# Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001

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 canners & UPS installed at GGSSTP Office.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer tps://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 28.03.2022 from 05.00 P.M. onwards. NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at



TENDER INVITING COMPETITIVE BIDDING of ENABLING WORK FOR WET LIMESTONE BASED FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION SYSTEM (WLFGD)

CESC Limited is setting 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@orrisaminerals.gov.in

Date: March 29, 2022 **Notice Inviting Tender** "Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for 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:

and Manganese & Iron Ore"

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 vebsite of MSTC Limited:

(https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/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 eauction 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

	List of Mineral Blocks for Auction				
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	Virgin Block		

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

COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AT COURT-V NEW DELHI BENCH C.P. (CAA)-24/ND/2022 Connected with CA (CAA)-77/230/232/ND/2020 IN THE MATTER OF: Aaradhya Builders Private Limited

Lifewood Vintrade Private Limited

R V Buildwell Private Limited

AND Limited

(Transferor Company/Applicant No. 4)

WITH Apricity Infratech Private Limited

AND

Company under the provisions of the Companies Act. 2013 and having their

Petition being Company Petition C.P (CAA)-24/ND/2022 under sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, for sanction of Composite Scheme of Amalgamation was jointly presented by Aaradhya Builders Private Limited Lifewood Vintrade Private Limited, R V Buildwell Private Limited, Shubhi Property Consultancy Private Limited, Topflow Commotrade Private Limited with and into Apricity Infratech Private Limited and their respective

That Notice was issued in the said Company Petition on 11.03.2022 and the said Petition is fixed for hearing before the National Company Law Tribunal, Delhi on 11.05.2022. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should send to the Petitioners/ Applicants' counsel, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's advocate not later than 2 (Two) days before the date fixed for hearing of the Petition. Where the person concerned seeks to oppose the said petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the

Sd/-Sachin Arora / Arun Kumar Gupta (Applicants' Counsels) M-7, Magnum House-1, Karampura, New - 110015

Email: sachinarora.legal@gmail.com Cell: +91-9899275325 Date: 30/03/2022 Place: New Delhi

S. No.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL

(Transferor Company/Applicant No. 1) (Transferor Company/Applicant No. 2)

(Transferor Company/Applicant No. 3)

Shubhi Property Consultancy Private

Topflow Commotrade Private Limited (Transferor Company/Applicant No. 5)

(Transferee Company/Applicant No. 6)

Their Respective Shareholders All Transferor Companies are ncorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and Transferee registered office in New Delhi)

shareholders on 02.02.2022.

# 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 saving 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-



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

of his supporters demanding their release. "We received information that several BKU

Quantity

1,50,000 cattle units

Rakesh Tikait sat on a protest with hundreds

members caused violence in a restaurant on Monday evening. There were clashes in the local hospital as well. Two FIRs were filed and 10 persons were arrested," said Superintendent of Police (Muzaffarnagar City) Arpit Vijayvargiya. The FIRs have been filed for rioting, assault, criminal intimidation among others. According to police, the BKU members

were in an inebriated state when an argument took place with the restaurant owner over food. The argument soon escalated and the BKU members allegedly beat up the hotel staff. Those injured were taken to a hospital where BKU members allegedly threatened the hospital staff, the FIR read.

Following the arrest, a call for support was given by BKU that led to local members of the outfit camping at toll plazas and police stations demanding release of the arrested members. Rakesh Tikait sat on an indefinite fast. The BKU leader alleged that the outfit members were innocent and were being framed.

The protests soon spread in different parts of west UP. In Noida, a group of farmers camped at the DND border for a brief period. During the day, security was beefed up in Muzaffarnagar and an additional PAC company was deployed. The administration and police held talks with BKU members, and by Tuesday evening, the protest was called off.

"The protests by BKU workers were called off after we assured them of further

TAMIL NADU LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, 7

4<sup>a</sup> 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: thlda2016@gmail.com

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

Individual tender documents with full details can be downloaded free of cost from

Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above website

Details

Livestock Insurance - Rates of Premium

www.tenders.tn.gov.in upto 17.04.2022, 5.00 PM

Last date for submission of tenders: 18.04.2022, 11.00 AM

Pre-Bid meeting on 05.04.2022 - 11.00 AM

Orthopaedic Surgical Equipment Sets (Basic)

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்தீரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரி New Delhi

28 Nos.

**Chief Executive Officer** 

investigation," the SP added.

Dated: 23.03.2022

Level 1 (18000-56900)

# 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 lookout 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 @ICFI (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 lookout 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.

Avvub told The Indian Express. "I got the first summon 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

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 sequently 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 Indirapuram 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.



### **Short Employment Notice**

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

# 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.indianrallways.gov.in blw. ITI/NONITI or www.blwactapprentice.in for full details of the said notification

General Manager/P

f 🌌 /banaraslocowork "Website: https://blw.indianrailways.gov.in" राष्ट्रीय औषधीय शिक्षा एवं अनुसंग्रान संस्थान गुवाहाटी NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH GUWAHATI

Advt. No. MPERG/Project/2022/March/3 Date: 29/03/202. WALK-IN-INTERVIEW (ONLINE) FOR PROJECT POSITIONS WALK-IN-INTERVIEW JUNIONE) FOR PRIODED FROSTIONS

NIPER-Granhati invites promising candidates to fill the position of Junior Research

Fellow (JRF) for Core Research Grant (CRG) – SERB sponsored project through Walk-

Deciphering the redox chemistry of physical plasma-treate clinically relevant liquids as novel therapy against overien cancer Date and Time of Interview 11/04/2022, From 10:00 AM onwards

For detailed qualifications and other requirements please visit website www.niperguwahati.ac.in Sd/- Registrar i/c Online applications are invited for the following Permanent Non-Teaching posts in the Pay Level as per 7th CPC mentioned below with usua llowances permissible under the University of Delhi/UGC rules Total UR OBC Max. No. Post CPC Level 10 (57700-182400) 01 Senior Personal Level 7 (44900-142400) 01 01 35 Assistant Tabla 01 45 Level 4 (25500-81100) Accompanist Library Attendant

30

SRI AUROBINDO COLLEGE (Evening)

(UNIVERSITY OF CELH) MALVIYA MAGAR, MEW CELHI - 110017

Advt. No. SAC(E)/NT/2021-22

JR-Unreserved, OBC-Other Backward Classes. Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria may fill the Online Application Form available on college website <a href="https://www.aurobindoe.du.ac.in">https://www.aurobindoe.du.ac.in</a>. The PwBD candidate can fill form offline also which is also available on the college website. For complete details, Instructions, General Conditions, Eligibility Criteria, Scheme of Exam, and application form, please visit college website <a href="https://www.aurobindoe.du.ac.in">https://www.aurobindoe.du.ac.in</a> or Delhi University website <a href="https://www.aurobindoe.du.ac.in">www.du.ac.in</a>. The Last date of submission of Online application is 13.04.2022 or two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the

02 01 01

Employment News, whichever is later. The college reserves the right to fill or not to fill the above mentioned post(s) The number of posts unreserved/reserved may increase or decrease as per DU/UGC rules. Eligibility Criteria and qualification are as per the University of Delhi/UGC norms. The fee is non-refundable. Any addendum/ corrigendum shall be posted on the College website only. It shall be the esponsibility of the candidates to check the same.

(Prof. Kusum Lata)

# Man lynched over cattle theft suspicion in Tripura, 2 arrested

**DEBRAJ DEB** 

AGARTALA, MARCH 29

A 26-YFAR-OID 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

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

**Senior Bihar** 

outside home

PATNA, MARCH 29

Tuesday.

brought dead.

yet, police said.

**IDU** leader shot

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

**JDU STATE** secretary and vice

chairman of Danapur Nagar

Parishad was shot dead by

unidentified assailants on

Monday night, police said on

(47) was shot at by some uniden-

tified 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

Kumar said: "We have collected

CCTV video footage and are in-

vestigating both political and

contested the 2020 Assembly

election from Danapur seat on

the RLSP. The party merged with

JDU in 2021. With upcoming mu-

nicipal council polls due in June-

July this year, Mehta, a rising poiti-

cian from OBC Kushwaha

community, could have been tar-

geted by his political rivals, said

Patna City SP (West) Rajesh

Police said that Dipak Mehta

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 semiporous 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

# विकास प्रबंधन संस्थान **Development Management Institute**

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हथकरघा एवं वस्त्रोद्योग निदेशालय, उ.प्र. कानपुर उ.प्र. राज्य हथकरघा निगम लि.



अमिरुचि की अमिव्यक्ति सम्बन्धी विज्ञप्ति (Expression of Interest) ाज्य सरकार के उपक्रम उ.प्र. राज्य हथकरघा निगम लि. कबीर भवन, जी.टी.रोड, कानपुर अपने आगरा परिक्षेत्र के निम्नलिखित बिक्री केन्द्रों / सम्पत्तियों / परियोजनाओं की भूमि / भवन को निगम की सहभागिताँ योजना / किराये पर देने हेतु च्छुक है। निगम की निम्नलिखित बिक्री केन्द्रों / सम्पत्तियों को सहभागिता योजना / किराये पर लेने हेतु इच्छुक संस्थायें ; इकाईया / समितिया जो हथकरघा / हस्तशिल्प क्षेत्र में कार्य कर रही हैं एवं इस क्षेत्र में उनका कम से कम 3 वर्ष का अनभव है। नेम्नलिखित बिक्री केन्द्रों / सम्पत्तियों का मौका मुआइना कर जहां जिस रिथति में है से सम्बन्धित अपना प्रस्ताव दिनांक अप्रैल 2022 को 4 बजे तक प्रभारी विपणन परिक्षेत्र आगरा को प्रस्तुत कर सकती हैं। प्रत्येक प्रस्ताव के साथ रु. 5100/— क

िडमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट ''**उ.प्र. राज्य इयकरघा निगम लि. कानपुर'**' के नाम से देय संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। यह धनराशि किसी भी दशा में वापस नहीं होगी। बिक्री केन्द्र का 70 प्रतिशत क्षेत्रफल ही सहभागिता योजना / किराये पर दिया जायेगा। पृथक—पृथक सम्पत्तियों के प्रस्ताव निर्धारित प्रारूप पर पृथक—पृथक प्रस्तुत करना होगा। स्थानीय स्तर पर प्रारूप प्राप्त करने सम्पत्तियों का विवरण एवं पता कमीशन/किराया दर

1. उत्पादन केन्द्र, एन.एच.–2, एत्मादपुर आगरा। 25,000/-विपणन परिक्षेत्र-आगरा 3. बिक्री केन्द्र संजय प्लेस, एम.जी. रोड, आगरा। 2,80,000/-य्.पी. हैण्डलूम्स, उत्पादन केन्द्र , अवैरनी , मथुरा । उत्पादन केन्द्र, राया, मथुरा । 15,000/-मो. न. 9759129471 बिक्री केन्द्र सेवाश्रम, उदयपुर (राजस्थान) 15,000/

नोट:– क्रमांक ०३ पर अंकित बिक्री केन्द्र , संजय प्लेस , एम.जी.रोड आगरा का जी.एस.टी. सहित रु. 1,69,920.00 प्रतिमाह का प्रस्ताव प्राप्त है। इससे बेहतर प्रस्ताव ही मान्य किया जायेगा

. रु. 5100/– का डिमाण्ड डाफ्ट सलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। . गत तीन वित्तीय वर्ष की बैलेंस सीट जो वस्त्र /हस्तिशल्प व्यवसाय से सम्बन्धित हो, तथा आई.टी.आर. अनिवार्य रूप

से प्रस्ताव के साथ संलग्न की जायेंगी। . संस्था का जी.एस.टी. नं., पैन न. व प्रोप्राइटर का आधार नं. संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।

।, उपरोक्तानुसार धनराशि का डिमाण्ड डाफ्ट एवं वाछित कागजात संलग्न न होने पर प्रस्ताव मान्य नहीं होगा।

. नियमानुसार अनुबन्ध–पत्र हस्ताक्षरित कराया जायेगा।

. प्रस्ताव किसी भी स्तर पर निरस्त करने का अधिकार प्रबन्ध निदेशक का होगा।

. किसी प्रकार के विवाद की रिथित में न्याय क्षेत्र कानपर नगर होगा।

पबन्ध निदेशक

# FORM A

POKAR AGRO PRIVATE LIMITED

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT** (Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF

Name of Corporate Person Pokar Agro Private Limited Date of Incorporation of Corporate August 23, 1990 Person Registrar of Companies, Jaipur Authority under which Corporate person is in corporated/ registered 4. Corporate Identity Number/ Limited Liability Identity Number of Corporate Address of the registered office and Char 24 GB Sri Bijay Nagar, principal office (if any) of Corporate Sriganganagar-335704 Rajastha Liquidation Commencement date of Monday, March 28, 2022

Corporate Person Name, Address, Email Address, Name: Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jain Address: 24 Ka 1, Near Vidhan Sabha Telephone Number and the Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005, Rajasthan

Registration Number of the Tel No.: +91-9828050920 Registration Number of the Liquidator IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00174/201718-10446

Notice is hereby given that the Pokar Agro Private Limited has commenced Voluntary Liquidation on Monday, March 28, 2022 The stakeholders of Pokar Agro Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit a

8. Last Date for Submission of Claims | Wednesday, April 27, 2022

proof of their claims, on or before Wednesday, April 27, 2022, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7. The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only.

All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Dated: 29.03.2022 Sandeep Kumar Jain

### **GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA MEGHALAYA STATE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT** SOCIETY

No. MSSDS/342/2020/210 Dated: Shillong, the 29th March, 2022 NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Meghalaya State Skills Development Society Shillong Meghalaya, invites Expression of Interests (EOIs) from agencies

("Bidders") for the provision of the creative and media services to Meghalaya State Skills Development Society (MSSDS). The Detailed REOI can be downloaded online at

https: mssds.nic.in & www.meghalaya.gov.in The EOI shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer,

Meghalaya State Skills Development Society, Meghalaya, Shillong on or before April 21, 2022 at 3:00 PM

MIPR NO. 2127 **Executive Director** Dt. 29.03.2022 Meghalaya State Skills Development Society

### personal enmity angles. Mehta had land dispute with a local resident". No FIR has been lodged Mehta had unsuccessfully

(Dr. Suhas Diwase, IAS)

Metropolitan Commissioner

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority

No.: KSTIDCL/ADM/Advt/2021-22

पुणे महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरण, पुणे

नवीन प्रशासकीय इमारत, आकुर्डी रेल्वे स्टेशन जवळ, आकुर्डी, पुणे-४११०४४

Ph.No. 020-27652934 Email: pune-metroline3@pmrda.gov.in

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Requirement of experienced personnel for Pune Metro Line 3 (PPP

Project) and other projects from Metro/Rail related infrastructure

industries on Contract/ Deputation Basis various posts in Engineering

1) Refer PMRDA's website - pmrda.gov.in -> Careers for educational

Name of Post

Project Manager-Electrical (EHV/Non EHV lines)

qualification, experience, age limit, how to apply etc.

Metro Planning Manager / Architect

Project Manager - Systems (S & T)

Traffic Manager and Coordinator

2) Closing Date of Submission - April 16, 2022

discretion of the Department on mutually agreeable terms.

General Manager – Finance

DIPR/DDU/3962

Department 2 of PMRDA.

SHE Manager

DGM - PRO

PPP Contract Expert

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** 

Sd/-

Managing Director KSTIDCL, Bangalore

# 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.

# KARNATAKA STATE TEXTILE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) "Trade Center", Old No. 29/4, New No. 116/2, 1st Floor, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560001. Tel.: 080 - 22266540 / 541. E-Mail: kstidcl.bgl@gmail.com

Date: 28.03.2022

Karnataka State Textile Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (KSTIDCL) invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of a Senior Advisor who shall be deputed to work with the Department of Handlooms and Textiles (DH&T), Govt. of Karnataka on acontract basis for a period of one year which will be renewed annually up to three years, subject to the

SI. No.	Title	Description	
1	Total Position	01	
2	Designation	Senior Advisor	
3	Role	Investment Promotion and Facilitation	
4	Age	Below 45 Years	
5	Qualification	Essential: Full Time Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (or) Master's Degree in Management (Specializations in Human Resources) Desirable: Additional Qualification in Law LL.B	
6	Minimum Experience	Necessary Work Experience of 12-15 Years in Apparel and Textiles Sector 2. Possess Work Experience with Apparel and Textile Industry Associations.     Nossess Work Experience in establishing Apparel / Textile parks in India (or) Abroad.     Nossess Work Experience in Handling Manpower and Skill Development 5. Hands on work experience in drafting Detailed Project Reports and its financials.     Nossess Work Experience in Initiating and finalizing Mou's and Agreement 7. Work experience with any Govt. Department.	
7	Monthly Remuneration	n INR 1,75,000 per month (Consolidated)	
8	Other Criteria	<ul> <li>(a) Interested Candidates must submit their detailed Resume along with scanned copies of all their educational qualifications.</li> <li>(b) Eligible Candidates shall be called for an interview to assess both Technical and General Management skills.</li> <li>© Candidate's confirmation is subject to the successful background checks and verification of all their credentials.</li> <li>(d) The Application is liable to be cancelled for any misrepresentation of facts and for providing wrong information.</li> </ul>	
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	

# State Bank of India STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001

Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

**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 ndia, 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). Othe detials of the e-auction are as under:

		40.00.0040	
S/o Sri Suresh Rai, Trustee & Sm	Gupta, Sri Mintu Kumar Gupta, Sri Pintu Kumar Gupta, Smt. Baby Devi, Sri Chandrashekha Singh, Sri Raj Nath Singh, Sri Ram Awadh		₹4,00,00,000/- ₹40,00,000/- ₹25,000/-

e-Auction Terms and Condition

Date of e-auction: 05.05.2022 (Thursday), Time: 120 Minutes from 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each

2. Website/portal for e-auction-https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.

3. The General Terms & Conditions are available on- https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others. 4. 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 o any representation of the bank. The property is being sold will all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unkwon to the bank The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditior shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to

rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002. This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

**AUTHORISED OFFICER** Date : 28.03.2022 STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

WORDLY WISE
DISSENT IS THE HIGHEST FORM
OF PATRIOTISM.

— HOWARD ZINN

# The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽

Ramnath Goenka

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Atmanirbhar internet



Parallels between Russia's and India's attempts to shake free of US Big Tech's 'hegemony' are worrying

# LIGHT IN THE CRACKS

Dissenting voices in Karnataka BJP, Kerala Sangh Parivar could help open up spaces for difficult conversations

WO BJP LEGISLATORS in Karnataka have asked the state government to act against the "wrong" and "undemocratic" restrictions imposed on Muslim traders participating in temple festivals. In neighbouring Kerala, Sangh Parivar affiliates have termed the decision of the Koodalmanikyam temple administration to deny permission to a Bharatnatyam dancer for performing in the temple premises because she is a non-Hindu as against Hindu culture and tradition — ironically, the temple is administered by the CPM-led government's nominees. These two responses, which contradict the dominant or conservative party line or view, frame an important message — political parties are no monoliths and, in a diverse democracy, cracks are good. They can open up spaces for difficult conversations, and let in more light.

The dissenting voices in the Karnataka BJP are still a minuscule minority, of course. A H Vishwanath, a recent entrant in the BJP, was a Congress minister in the 1990s and later headed the Janata Dal (Secular) in the state. A senior OBC leader, he is now a marginal player in the BJP. The other leader who spoke out, Anil Benake, represents Belagavi North, a Muslim-dominated constituency in North Karnataka. However, the angry reaction of Vishwanath, who is close to former chief minister and senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa — he called the ban on Muslim traders "madness" — could resonate with leaders who have been less strident in their style of politics and more accommodative of religious minorities in government. The marginalisation of Yediyurappa in the state BJP and the appointment of Basavaraj Bommai as CM can be said to have empowered the more conservative sections within Karnataka's ruling party. Vishwanath and Benake may have flagged the disquiet in a section of the Karnataka BJP, therefore, over the rise of radical elements and agendas. A hint of a similar backlash against a more restrictive approach to Hindu customs and traditions is visible in the Kerala temple episode. In a bid to facilitate the Sanskritisation and codification of diverse Hindu faith traditions, a section of the Sangh Parivar leadership in Kerala has been speaking out against rituals and customs that they deem as regressive and violative of egalitarian values. This section had argued for removing gender discrimination at the Sabarimala Ayyappa shrine and, initially, supported the Supreme Court ruling, before falling in line with the populist, conservative view that favoured the continuation of the temple custom. The support for Mansiya VP, the dancer who was born in a Muslim household but now identifies as an atheist, has to be viewed in this context.

Irrespective of how it plays out, the tendency to challenge the conservative consensus must be welcomed. It facilitates debate, opens up possibilities of a middle ground. Politics, at its best, is a negotiation that allows multiple viewpoints to express themselves and to flourish, and forges consensus through dialogue. Dissent and difference may slow down the work of governance and politics, but they enrich the outcomes immeasurably.

# Too loose, too vague

In absence of a data protection framework, proposed criminal procedure law raises questions on privacy, risks of profiling

HE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (Identification) Bill, 2022, a crucial legislation that provides a legal framework for investigative agencies to use modern techniques and technology to solve crimes, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha. It will facilitate collection of sensitive personal and biological data of individuals by the police and creation of a database that could retain the information for upto 75 years. In effect, it entrusts the police — starting from the rank of a head constable who will collect and process this data — with navigating the fine line between the inviolable personal space of an individual and the state's legitimate interests. For a law that collides with the right against self-incrimination and right to privacy, several terms in the Bill are too broad or too vague.

Replacing the 1920 Identification of Prisoners Act, the proposed law considerably expands its scope and reach. First, it expands the nature of data points it can collect from an individual — from finger impressions, foot-print impressions and photographs in the 1920 law to now include finger-impressions, palm-print impressions, foot-print impressions, photographs, iris and retina scans, physical, biological samples and their analysis, behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting or any other examination prescribed in the Code of Criminal Procedure. While the phrase biological samples is not described further, it could involve bodily invasions such as drawing of blood and hair, collection of DNA samples. These are acts that currently require the written sanction of a magistrate. Second, the Bill casts a wide net in terms of those whose data can be collected. The proviso (exception to the law) in Section 3 of the Bill essentially says while the police can collect data from any person, only a select category — such as convicts, those under preventive detention, those required to submit a surety bond — can be compelled by the police. While juvenile offenders are outside the remit of a police station, the Bill leaves some ambiguity on collection of data for minors between 16 to 18 years, who cannot consent to collection of personal data but can be tried for serious offences.

In the absence of a data protection framework that is long pending, the proposed law raises questions on protecting rights of the data principal and on the risks of profiling. Any encroachment on personal space must pass the test of constitutionality as laid down by the Supreme Court. It is important for the state to iron out the looseness and ambiguity in law without delay.

# SHOTS FIRED

Kim Jong-un goes one-up on the competition, is the star of North Korea's Hollywood-style missile launch

HE PERKS OF being a strongman-dictator are hardly small. You can run an entire country on your whim, and not have to face questions if you end up wrecking lives or economies. Even your most bizarrely irrational firmans are masterstrokes. There is the unlimited supply of unquestioned obedience, not to mention the surround sound of eulogy that follows you everywhere. It's almost as if you were the star of your own movie. Trust North Korean leader Kim Jong-un — the scourge of reactionary Western culture and darling of third edit writers around the world — to go one up on the competition. The Great Leader has cast himself in a video of the launch of the country's massive inter-continental ballistic missile, Hwasong-17.

In true 1980s Hollywood movie style, Kim swaggers in, in dark aviators and black leather jackets, flanked by two military-men who are there to strictly play the role of the sidekicks. Even the monster missile that slowly emerges from a hangar and meekly follows the lead is a prop in this one-man show. Haters will hate, of course. People with time to waste on the internet — now that's something that would never happen behind North Korea's great firewall — have overlaid the video with Gangnam Style and other frivolities. American security experts are sceptical if the massive missile in the video is the one that was actually launched on March 24 — or just the old trick of regurgitating old footage.

But why blame Kim Jong-un alone? Till he lasted, Donald Trump gave Kim a good run for his money in the Narcissism Olympics. The self-love of populists has made a bracing comeback in recent years, whether in the free world or outside. The persona is the propaganda. The bigger, the angrier, the better. And a missile or two in the backdrop harmed no one

### BHASKAR CHAKRAVORTI

FLABBERGASTED. THERE IS no other word for how I felt reading a recent interview with the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar. The honourable minister objected to the silencing of Russian state media by Big Tech, bemoaning the "weaponisation" of digital platforms. Apparently, he has no objections to the weaponisation taking place in the form of thermobaric rockets raining down on innocent Ukrainians, while the Russian state media rains down lies upon its people. It is bad enough that India must equivocate and look away from Vladimir Putin's murderous assault on Ukraine; we have all heard the reasons - arms supplies, hydrocarbons and Raj Kapoor — that bind Russia and India. Surely, this isn't the most appropriate of times to point to the economic and digital sanctions on Russia and use this global crisis to tout a pet project of "atmanirbhar" or sovereign internet for India, as Chandrashekhar is doing.

The minister may want to do his homework on the content peddled on Russia's version of the sovereign internet to appreciate the farce that it can rapidly become. Putin has used his propaganda engine to create a fantasy about what is going on next door. The Kremlin-controlled media have orchestrated a narrative about genocide against the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine and reports of Russian soldiers being welcomed as liberators by grateful Ukrainians. No images of the ruins of Mariupol or of millions of refugees are shared with Russian viewers. Terms such as "war" or "invasion," are criminalised. Independent media have been taken off the air along with Facebook, Instagram and

How far does the minister propose India ought to go to stand up for its sovereign internet? Will it be just about establishing regulations governing data localisation, building cyber security defences along with data protection and governance or does he have plans to orchestrate a parallel internet along the lines of China, North Korea and, now, Russia and other digital outcasts? He is reported to have also expressed great confidence in India's ability to carry on if it were ever cut off from other key networks — such as the SWIFT service used to execute international banking transactions — if, as he says,

How far does the minister propose India ought to go to stand up for its sovereign internet? Will it be just about establishing regulations governing data localisation, building cyber security defences along with data protection and governance or does he have plans to orchestrate a parallel internet along the lines of China, North Korea and, now, Russia and other digital

outcasts?

India ever found itself in a position similar to Russia. There seems to be something profoundly wrong in making contingency plans in case today's India becomes tomorrow's Russia.

Already, there are too many worrying parallels between Russia's and India's attempts to shake free of the US Big Tech's hegemony. This is ironic given that the granddaddy of hegemons, Google, was co-founded by a Moscow-born and is presently led by a Madurai-born. In February of this year, as the invasion of Ukraine commenced, Russian authorities issued warnings to Google and other major platforms to comply with a so-called "landing law" requiring each to set up legal entities in Russia with employees in-country. These employees would be subject to fines and arrest if they did not comply with the government's orders to take down any content the government deemed unworthy of public consumption.

Now, where might we have seen this landing law playbook used before? India, of course, where a similar mandate had been put in place in February 2021, requiring the major platforms to have several officials in India to address the government's complaints: A chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer, along with an office with an Indian address. Platforms were given three months to comply and the chief compliance officer would be criminally liable for content on the platform.

Besides the shared fondness for enforcing local office addresses, Russia and India also seem to have in common a predilection for singling out one of the major platforms for special treatment: Twitter. Even before it—along with several other platforms—was banned altogether this month, the Russian government had started slowing access to Twitter about a year before. The excuse? The Russian regulator, Roskomnadzor, had accused Twitter of failing to remove content relating to illegal drug use, child pornography

and encouraging teen suicide.
Likewise, in India, Twitter felt the heat of
the state's attention last year. In May 2021, its
offices in New Delhi were raided by a police
squad normally focused on investigating terrorism and organised crime. No doubt, posts
about the farmers' protests had something to

do with the visit by the police. The government had demanded the blocking of 500 accounts, including those of journalists, activists, opposition leaders and of JazzyB, a rapper. Twitter did so, and then eventually reversed course only to be slapped with a non-compliance notice.

My guess is that Twitter makes for an ideal target in both countries. It is not that widely used, so blocking it or slowing it down does not necessarily provoke public outrage. It is used by the elite, precisely the kind of annoying people the government would prefer to silence. It is a prominent platform, so any action taken on Twitter sends a signal to the other digital platforms to fall in line or else.

It is time for India's path to diverge from that of Russia's. As things stand, India must walk a tightrope: Not condemning Russia while not condoning its atrocities; acknowledging the agony of Ukraine, while averting its eyes from the unfolding disaster; remaining a bystander to history or risking being trapped — as White House spokesperson Jen Psaki put it — on the wrong side of history. It is inspiring to see — if one's version of the internet permits it — ordinary Ukrainians picking up arms for the first time in their lives to defend their cities, to protect what is left of their lives and livelihoods and to keep an open internet running in their country.

This is one chance that Chandrashekhar and other senior government officials in India have to be unequivocal about three principles:

First, democracies must stand by the idea that media that spreads disinformation in order to keep an unjustified war going must be curbed.

Second, "Atmanirbhar Internet" is an oxymoron; the internet, by definition, is a globally connected digital common. Knowledge relies on the freedom of expression and the freedom to draw upon others.

Third, if India must really push for self-reliance, it might be better off making plans to break free of its disproportionate reliance on Russian weapons and hydrocarbons. It might also help India freely express what it feels for Ukraine and its people, and equivocate less about how it feels about Russia.

The writer is Dean of Global Business at The Fletcher School at Tufts University

# FOR WHOM CRISIS WAS REPRIEVE

We thought pandemic was harder on kids with disabilities. It may not have been

# Vibha Krishnamurthy

"WHAT HAS THE year been like for you?" That was my opening question for most of the families and young children I met online during the pandemic in my work as a paediatrician. I was prepared for stories of loss. Many of my patients' families had lost jobs and near and dear ones. Peace of mind, the blissful, invincible feeling only a teenager can have — they lost that too. But I started to notice something else. Some of the children looked happier. They smiled more and shared more with me. I asked my Class VIII patient, "How come you look so much more relaxed than before?" She told me what a relief it was that in online classes, there were no classmates to notice she hadn't completed her assignments or that she needed extra help from the teacher. I wasn't prepared for Arjun, one of my patients on the autism spectrum, to say: "This was the best year of my life!'

One "not-so-verbal" young man started a blog to share his stories — ranging from miscommunication and not being understood to bullying and exclusion. I talked to my patient-turned-friend Aditya, a 20-year-old autistic engineering student. Paradoxically, he got better at social skills once he stopped going to college in person. "I finally had time to rest and grow as a person, without the stress of having to 'practice' social skills," he explained. Aditya loved his classes and wanted to learn but couldn't until college went online. "I could finally learn without

We not only need to help them recover from learning loss but also sustain the gain of freedom from fear. If not going to school has given them their first taste of learning in a safe place, then the adults in their lives – parents and education professionals – have to commit to making schools safe and happy now that they are heading back.

the anxiety of having to talk to and talk like other people," he said.

What must it be like for children who wake up dreading another day in school, knowing that yet again they won't complete their classwork or be picked for the football team? They watch the class bully tormenting some kid and hold their breath, praying that the bell will ring before it's their turn. Courage is just another name for having no

But the pandemic was a reprieve. No kids, no teachers, no deadlines, no noise. Days of bliss when the whole family is at home. Endless possibilities unfold — a blog to share your writing, a 3-D printer to make the coolest spinning tops, birdwatching with your sister. None of this was "in the syllabus".

My own school experience was different. I literally couldn't wait to get there each day—I knew I was good at it. But even then, I knew it wasn't the same for everyone. My sister was shy and didn't excel academically. She dreaded report card day and the disappointment on my father's face when he saw her results. But once she left school, freed from an environment that stifled her growth, she discovered her strengths and came into her own.

The pandemic gave some of my patients a "get out of jail free" card. We did some research on its impact on children — we thought we would find evidence that the

pandemic was harder on kids with disabilities than on those without. It's not clear from the results that it was.

But what is evident is that for children with disabilities, the opportunities to participate in life — play, be outdoors, have fun with friends — were fewer to begin with. Unsurprisingly, even before the pandemic, kids with disabilities, most of whom then attended school, were more likely to be anxious and sad. School is where the anxiety monster lives. No wonder, then, that for some kids, the pandemic made life better by keeping them out of school.

The real question our research raises is this: What is the point of trying to understand pandemic-imposed isolation if we just go back to where we were when schools reopen? There has been much written about the need to help children recover the "learning loss" they experienced.

For children with disabilities, we need not only to help them recover from the loss but also sustain the gain of freedom from fear. If not going to school has given them their first taste of learning in a safe and happy place, then the adults in their lives — parents and education professionals — have to commit to making schools safe and happy now that they are heading back.

The writer, a developmental paediatrician in Mumbai, is founder of the NGO Ummeed

# INDIAN EXPRESS Compilings 35 of the second of the second

# MARCH 30, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

# RS POLL RESULTS

DESPITE CROSS-VOTING IN two states in the final round, the Congress (I) emerged with a marginal gain in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections by capturing a total of 47 seats from 14 states against the retirement of 46 party members. With this tally, the party's strength goes to 120 in the Upper House with an effective strength of 234. Four members are to be nominated to the House by the president, but six other seats will still be vacant. The third and final leg of polling involved 45 seats from nine states. The Congress (I) took 36 seats against equal number of retiring members. Of these, nine were

from UP, five each from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, three from Rajasthan, two from Punjab and one each from Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

# PRESS REPORT DELAYED

THE SIGNING OF the long-awaited report of the Press Commission is being put off by a few days following the failure of the last minute efforts by its chairman K K Mathews to get the references to the government's attitude towards the press during the emergency deleted from a dissenting note given by several members.

New Delhi

# OVERLOADED FLIGHTS

MEMBERS OF THE Lok Sabha expressed anxiety about reports of overloading in Indian Airlines flights and wondered whether the airlines was flouting all safety norms and heading the DTC way. While conceding that the Ranchi-Patna flight on February 11 had carried seven excess passengers, the Minister of State for Tourism and Aviation, Khurshid Alam Khan, assured agitated members that everything possible was being done to ensure the safety of passengers. The services of the pilot of the aircraft and the traffic assistant, who overbooked the flight at Ranchi, had been suspended.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

# THE IDEAS PAGE

### 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

# 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.

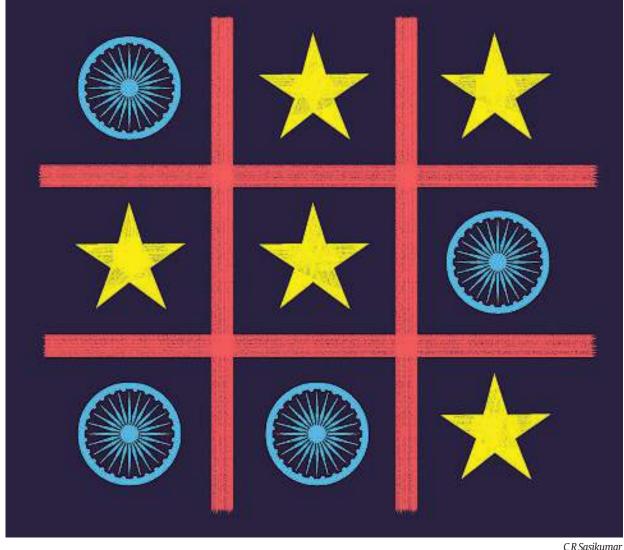
That the Chinese side should have proposed a visit by Wang to India as part of his tour of South Asia is unsurprising, given that it is standard practice for visits by Chinese leaders to cover several countries. Wang Yi's participation as "guest" at the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (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 boil-



C R Sasikumar

erplate 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.

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

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

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 dificult 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

# 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 ninsula 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 manportable 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



# The clue in the picture

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

# Akhilesh Mishra

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 BIP has decisively won record pro-incumbency votes in four of these five states. These four proincumbency 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 secondtime 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 democ-

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 BIP 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 imbibed 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 flashpoints 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** 

www.indianexpress.com

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 cutoffs, 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 Bandopadhaya, Vadodara



REMOVAL OF BANNED CONTENT

RUSSIA DRAWS UP 2 CASES AGAINST GOOGLE

Russia's communications regulator on Tuesday said it had drawn up two administrative cases against Alphabet Inc's Google for failing to remove banned information from its YouTube video-sharing platform, accusing it of blatantly promoting false content." Roskomnadzor said Google could be fined up to 8 million roubles (\$91,533), or as much as 20% of the company's annual revenue in Russia for repeat offences



Oueen 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-synchro-

# **NEPAL**

nous orbit.

### 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

# 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 Khmelnitsky 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 vet 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.



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

# Russian oligarch Abramovich seen at Turkey peace talks

of Berdyansk.

**REUTERS** 

ISTANBUL, MARCH 29

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 wearing a blue suit, a Turkish presidential video showed.

For Abramovich, signals have emerged since the war began that he RUSSIAN BILLIONAIRE Roman has sought to encourage negotia-Abramovich, who is sanctioned tions. His presence initially baffled at least one Ukrainian diplomat, while Moscow said he was not formally negotiating but rather there as a go-between and had approval from the Ukrainian side

spokesman Abramovich did not respond to a request for comment. Abramovich showed no signs of a reported suspected poisoning early this month.

# **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-



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 decidewhether Moscow would be allowed backinto 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.

# 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 apporting 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.



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-

Whatis 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.

# 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 tion 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)

## UK police fine 20 people over 'partygate' scandal that Johnson should resign if he London: British police are fining

20 people over parties held by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his staff during coronavirus lockdowns, and say that more people could face penalties.

The Metropolitan Police force said Tuesday it wouldn't identify the recipients of the fixed penalty notices, though Johnson's office said it would reveal if he gets one.

Opponents, and some members of the governing Conservative Party, have said

is issued a fine for breaking rules he imposed on the rest of the country during the pandemic.

Police sent questionnaires to more than 100 people, including the prime minister, and interviewed witnesses as part of the investigation. Confirming that it had authorised 20 fines, the police force said officers were working through a "significant amount of investigative material" and more people could face penalties later.

# 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

porting stronger ties between our European and Indo-Pacific allies," Biden said on Monday.

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

global health initiatives, while sup-

Meanwhile, Biden on Tuesday

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

New Delhi

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 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.

Police Department said Sunday it

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 **Deaths** 

Weekly

positivity

2.88%

10.95%

0.39%

0.40%

0.30%

=== BENGALURU ===

78,79,32,913

**OVERALL POSITIVITY** 

183,53,90,499

8,72,345

1,00,495

March 28

2,32,995

March 28

90,556

March 28 total: 27,54,826

**5.46%** 

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

DASHBOARD, AS ON MARCH 28

New cases 1.259

CASES IN THE STATES

248

110

90

48

Cases in the cities, last 7 days

1,000

**State** 

Kerala

Delhi

Mizoram

Karnataka

TOTAL TESTS

TESTS ON MARCH 28

INDIA TOTAL DOSES

First dose Second dose

7,07,637

AGE GROUP 15-18

1.40.444

March 19

(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;

5,77,559

**ADULTS** 

12,00,000

6,00,000

4,00,000

2,00,000

Maharashtra

**Active cases** 

15,378

NEW CASES, DAILY

**LAST 10 DAYS** 

**ON MARCH 28** 

**Active cases** 

1,162

444

1,761

**WEEKLY POSITIVITY** 

LAST 10 DAYS (daily)

LAST 10 DAYS (daily)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

FREE INTERVIEW MODULE

0.25%

Age group 12-14 1st dose: 1,36,84,215; Precautionary: 2,27,30,034)

Weekly CFR: 18.29% | Overall CFR: 1.21% | Total deaths: 5,21,070

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

# SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Recognising minorities

The Government of India's affidavit on Hindus as a minority in some states and Union Territories is consistent with the Constitution and Supreme Court judgments. Here is how.



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 subcommittee 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 headnotes of Articles 29 and 30, and clauses (1) and (2) of Article 30. The Constitution does not define

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-domination. 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 despondency 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

**MANAMANSINGH 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).

**REOUIRED:** 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

YUBARAJGHIMIRE 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 K P 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 re-

placing 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 enthusiasm from Nepal), fulfilment of promises made by President Xi Jiping 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-

New Delhi

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 longterm, and it seems determined to confront competitors, primarily the US and India.

# Classifieds

### **PERSONAL**

I, VARUN VERMANI S/O DHARAMVEER VIRMANI R/O F-239, ANTRIKSH APARTMENT. SECTOR-14 EXTN.ROHINI, DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VARUN VIRMANI.

0040608191-5

I,Sushil Kumar,S/o Jai Kishan, R/o Flat.No.B-506, Airport-Apartment.Sector-47.Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Sushil Kumar Jain, for all purposes. 0040608214-3

I.Supriva Mishra.W/O Brii Bhushan Mishra,R/O Flat.no.002,D-2 Tower Uniworld Garden-II.Sector-47.Gurgaon-122018, have changed my name,from Supriya Mishra to Supriva Shikhare.VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-29/03/2022, BEFORE NCT-DELHI.

0040608214-11

I,Naseema W/o,Mohd Suhail Faridi R/o-Y-40/A, Block-Y, New Ranjit-Nagar, New Delhi-08, that my-name is wronglymentioned in-my SBI-Account-No.30172809318 as Naseema Basheer. but my-correct nameis Naseema. 0040608238-6

**I,Vipul** Narain Mathur,S/o Om Narain Mathur, R/o Flat. No. 202, Mahesh Apartment Sector-21C,Part-3,Faridabad, (Haryana)-121001,have changed my name Vipul 0040608214-4

I,VAVITA VARSHNEY,WIFE OF, SHRI ARUN GUPTA **EMPLOYED AS ASST.TEACHER** IN THE BASIK SIKSHA ADHIKARI G. BAD (UP), RESIDING AT, B-5/1, JITAR-NAGAR NEAR-PARWANA ROAD, DELHI-110051, HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR SON RISHABH AGED-13 AND HE SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS DAKSH GUPTA. 0040608238-3

I,VANSHIKA,S/o RAJESH KUMR, H.NO.201, WARD. NO.03,

PUNHANA, MEWAT NUH, HARYANA-122107, Changed my name to VANSHIKA KHURANA. 0040608191-9

**I,Subhash** Chander Gupta,S/o N

R Gupta, R/o.D-1/23, Vasant Vihar, South West-Delhi-110057, have changed my name.from Subhash Chander to Subhash Chander Gupta, for all, Future Purposes. 0040608214-5

I.Satish Kumar S/o-Thakur Dass R/o-H.No-365/21,Gali No-6,

Madan Puri, Gurgaon 122001, Harvana, have changed my name to Satish Kumar Lalit. 0040608214-9 I,SUMIT SHANKAR,R/o S-906, STELLAR JEEVAN, SECTOR-1, GREATER-NOIDA WEST, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR.U.P. 201306, changed my Minor

PANDEY, permanently.

I,Priti Devi W/o Rajeev Singh,R/o WZ-15A/3A, Plot No.24, Navyug Block, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-18, have changed my name to Preet Kaur.

daughter name MOLLY

SHANKAR to SAURABHI

0040608238-5

I.SHARDA VERMANI W/O DHARAMVEER VIRMANI R/O F-239, ANTRIKSH APARTMENT. SECTOR-14 EXTN.ROHINI. DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHARDA VIRMANI. 0040608191-3

I.SAHAJPREET SINGH ARORA, S/O GURVINDER SINGH ARORAR/O.B-1/20,SECOND-FLOOR VASANT VIHAR-1 NEW DELHI-110057.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAHAJ PREET SINGH. 0040608191-6

I.SADAF BENAZIR.W/O ASLAM PARVEZ,R/O-6562/11, 1ST-FLOOR, CHAMELIAN ROAD, AHATA KIDARA, DELHI-110006 have changed my minor child name, from MEERAB to MEERAB 0040608238-8

I,SADAF BENAZIR,W/O ASLAM PARVEZ R/O-6562/11, 1ST-FLOOR, CHAMELIAN ROAD, AHATA KIDARA.DELHI-110006 have changed my minor ward  ${\tt name, from\ INAYA\ SAHAR\ to}$ INAYA 0040608238-9

I,Rajni W/o-Sukhdev Singh, H.No-22 Kh.no-33/18, Gurunanak Vihar Chandei Vihar Nilothi-Extn Nangloi Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur.

0040608259-1 I Himanshu Sabharwal S/o Sh. Lalit Kumar Sabharwal R/o 47, Outer Ring Road, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Simar alias Simar

Sabharwal to Simar Sabharwal for all purposes. 40608173-12 I Army No-2697930M Rank-Havildar Dharmendra Singh Rathore S/o Satyapal Singh R/o Village Lalupur, PO-Sidhi Itara, PS-Bidhanu, Distt-Kanpur Nagar, U.P. declare that in my  $army\,service\,record\,name\,of$ my son wrongly mentioned as Digvijay Singh Rathore instead of his correct name Digvijay

Singh. 0070778896-1 I, Rita Kumari W/o Sanjay Mishra R/o-723, Sector-19 Faridabad, have changed my

name to Rita Mishra.

**I,Jyoti** Garg W/O.Manoj Kumar Garg,R/O.BE-388,gali.no.7,Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, informs that Jyoti Garg and

Jyoti are one and same person. 0040608191-7 I Gautam Anand alias Gautam Raj Anand S/o Sh. Sharat Anand R/o A-1/25, Panchsheel Enclave, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Gautam Raj Anand for all purposes.

0040608173-13

I,Rahul Rajput,S/o-Sukhbir Pal Singh,R/o-E-2101.Charms Castle.Rai Nagar Extension. Ghaziabad, U.P.-201017, have changed my name from Rahul to Rahul Rajput for all 0040608245-1 purposes.

I,Manoj Kumar,S/o Hira Lal Batra, R/o H.No.1072, Sector-23A.Ward.No.5, Faridabad-121005, Haryana have changed my name to Manoi Batra.

0040608214-7

I.Manoi Kumar Gard S/O Kundan Lal R/O.BE-388, gali.no.7,Hari-Nagar,New Delhi-110064, informs that Manoj Kumar Garg and Manoj Garg are one and same person.

0040608191-8

I,MUKESH,S/O HEERA MANI,R/O E-138A, S-283 SHASTRI MARKET JHUGGI SOUTH MOTI-BAGH, NEW DELHI-110021.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH KUMAR.

0040608191-10

**I,MOHD** NASIR KHAN,S/O ABDUL WAHID R/O.B-374/5, GALI.NO. 13/1, SUBHASH VIHAR, NORTH GHONDA, DELHI-53, Have changed my name to NASIR 0040608214-1

I,M K TONDON,S/O R N TANDON, R/o-H.NO-3A 283,GF-1,RACHNA SECTOR-3A VAISHALL GHAZIABAD-201010, changed my name to MOHENDER 0040608214-6 TANDON.

I.Litesh S/o-Satish Kumar Lalit R/o-H.No-365/21,Gali No-6, Madan Puri, Gurgaon 122001, Haryana,have changed my name to Litesh Kumar Lalit. 0040608214-8

I,KUMAR SHARMA,S/O-LAXMI NARAYAN ,R/o-8/140 RAGHUVEER PURI.ALIGARH. 202001 UTTAR PRADESH. changed my name to GIRISH

KUMAR, permanently.

0040608245-6

I.KRANTI DEVI PRAJAPATI.W/O VIJAY KUMAR PRAJAPATI,H.NO-11.BADOH. PATHARI VIDISHA, MADHYA PRADESH-464337, Inform that KRANTI DEVI PRAJAPATI and KIRAN both are the same and one person.

0040608191-1

I,Rajendra Singh,S/o Shyam Singh Parihar, R/o N-82 Upper Ground Floor Street.No.15, Jain-Road Bhagwati-Garden Uttam-Nagar New-Delhi-110059, declare that name of mine And my father has been wronglywritten as Rajendra Singh and Shyam Singh in my 10th-class certificate-marksheet but actual-name of mine and my father are Raiendra Singh Parihar and Shyam Singh 0040608238-2

I,KAUSAR ZEHRA,W/O ABUL FAZAL ZAIDI.R/O 365/L108. GALI.NO.13, GAFFAR MANZIL JAMIA-NAGAR, OKHLA, DELHI-110025, have changed my name, from KAUSAR ZEHRA to KAUSAR ZAIDI, for all purposes. 0040608238-1

I.DHARAMVEER VERMANIS/O NAND LAL R/O F-239, ANTRIKSH EXTN.ROHINI.DELHI-110085. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHARAMVEER VIRMANI.

0040608191-4

I,Abdul Gaphphar,Father Of Nurul Hassan SMO. A-6 WAC-QTR SUBROTO-PARK NEW-DELHI-110010, Have changed my name, from Abdul Gaphphar to Abdul Gaffar, Vide-Affidavit, dated-28/03/2022, BEFORE NCT-DELHI.

0040608214-10

I, Aakar Kumar s/o Jatinder Kumar, R/o 51, DDA SFS Flats, Punjabi Bagh Apartments, Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110063, inform that my father's name is wrongly written as Jatinder Bhushan Kumar in my Passport No.K7955548, instead of his correct name Jatinder Kumar. 0040608213-1

I, Viaan Dedha S/o Rahul Kumar, R/o H.No.86, Gali No.1, Biharipur Village, Delhi-110094. Hereby I declare that my name is Viaan Dedha instead of Viaan Dadha. I should be known Viaan Dedha for all 0040608171-1 purpose.

I, Vaibhav Sharma, R/o E-703, Mapsko Mountville, Sector-79, Gurugram, Haryana-122101, have changed my minor daughter's name from Anahita Sharma to Anahitha Sharrma, for all future purposes.

I, Rajender Singh S/o Late Prabhu Singh R/o H.N.: 250, Village & PO-Tughlakabad, Delhi declare for all purpose and to all concern person that the name of Raiender Singh and Rajender Bidhuri is the name of one and same persor and Shivali Bidhuri is my daughter. 0070778898-1

I, Pradeep Kumar Sharma S/o Late Hari Sharma R/o B-5/56, Sec-7, Rohini Delhi-85 have changed my name to Pradeep Sharma for all purposes.

0040608179-1 I Jatin Bhadoriya S/o Sh.

Rajender Singh R/o D-463 Shiv Durga Vihar, Lakkarpur, Faridabad, Hariyana do hereby solemnly declare that my name name mentioned in LIC Policy No. 117918865 as Jatin Singh but my correct name is Jatin Bhadoriya. I affirm that Jatin Bhadoriya and Jatin Singh is one person. 0040608241-1

I, Shane Aalam Son of Abdul Aziz R/o G-7/317, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my minor Son's name Ishan Alam to Ishan Aalam for all purposes. 0040608176-1

I, Sudhir Chaudhary s/o Vinod Kumar Choudhary r/o House no-888, Sector-16, Faridabad Haryana-121002 have changed my name SUDHIR KUMAR CHOUDHARY permanently.

0040608189-1

I, Shahreen W/o Shani Prakash Sharma R/o House No. Q-61, Q Block, Vikas Vihar, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059. I have changed my name from Shahreen to Suhani Sharma for All future purposes.

0040608178-1 I, Roop Chandra Gill, S/o Telu

Ram Gill, R/o Sun2 1701, Migsun Ultimo, Omicron 3, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P-201310, have changed my name to Roop Chander Gill.

0070778816-1

I. Ram Prakash Upadhay S/o Ram Sukh R/o Plot NO.72, First Floor, Sec-19, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Ram Parkash Upadhyay.

0040608177-1

I. Rai Kumar S/o Ganesh Chandra R/o D-2/344, Pandara Road, New Delhi-110003, Have changed my name to Raj Chandra for all Purposes

0070778892-1

I, Pulkit Rajesh Kumar Jhawar, S/o Rajesh Jhawar, R/o-215, Sukhdev Vihar, Delhi, 110025. have changed my name to Pulkit Jhawar for all future purposes. 0040608181-1

I. Mantasha W/o Haii Mahe Alam R/o-H.No.Q-24, Abdul Samad-Road, Batla-House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, N.Delhi-25 have changed my name to Mantasha Alam.

0040608238-7

I, Manjit Singh Jabbal alias Manjeet Singh S/O Sudagar Singh R/o Pandori, Kapurthala, Punjab-144401, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manjeet Singh.

0070778916-1

I, Kshitiz Arora, S/o Mr. V.K. Arora, R/o A-349, Ground Floor, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed my name from Kshitiz Arora to Shitiz Arora. 0070778862-1

I, Harish Kumar Arora, S/o Sh. M. L. Arora, R/o B-5/44, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Harish 0070778817-1

I, Ashish Kumar, S/o Vijay, R/o Rz-215, Roshan Vihar, Block-B, Gali No-07, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Aashish Kumar.

0070778859-1

I, Devender Parkash, S/o Hari Singh, R/o New Adarsh Nagar, Bharawas Road, Rewari, Harvana-123401, that name of mine has been wrongly written as Devender Prakash in my Bachelor of Physical Education Degree & Marksheet, National Eligibility Test for Lectureship Certificate and Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Education Certificate. The actual name of mine is Devender Parkash.

I, Amit Wadhera S/o Late.Sh. Raj Kumar Wadhera R/o H.No.-5100, Paharganj, Delhi-110055, have changed my son's name from Mukuand Wadhera to Mukund Wadhera.

I, Alka Rajesh Kumar Jhawar, D/o Ganesh Lal Moondra, R/o-215, Sukhdev Vihar, New Delhi,110025 have changed my name to Alka Jhawar for all future purposes. 40608182-1

I, Ajay Kumar, S/O-Dina Nath Bindlesh R/O-E-414,Road.No 7, Greater Kailash, Part-II Delhi-110048, Have Changed My, Name To Ajay Kumar Bindlish S/o-Dina Nath Bindlish For All, Future Purposes.

0040608238-4

I, Aarif Ansari alias Arif, S/o Mohammad Mustakeem, R/o 197, Gorakhi, Near Radhika Garden, Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-203205, have changed my name to Syed Mohammad Ibrahim.

I Neha Sood alias Neha Kherwal D/o Sh. Satish Kumar Sood W/o Sh. Sumit Kumar R/o C-224, New Ranjit Nagar, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Neha Kherwal for all purposes.

0040608173-10

I Narender Kumar S/o Late Sh. Jagdish Chander R/o H.No.I-16/357, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi-110005 have changed my name  $to\,Narender\,Zharotia\,for\,all$ purposes. 0040608173-11

I Km Sanya Parween W/O Yasir Rivaz R/o 783C, 4th Floor. Nasheman, Street No. 21, Zakir Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Saniya Parveen for all purposes

I Jasbeer Kaur, Jasbeer Kaur Sandhu W/o Sarabieet Singh Sandhu R/o B-177, Mansarover Garden, New Delhi-110015 have

> changed my name to Jasbir 0040608229-1 Kaur Sandhu I,Dalvir S/O Shadi R/O-House.No-553,Vill Amka Teh-Ferozepur, Jhirka Distt-Mewat Nuh, Haryana-122108, Have Changed My Name To Dalli For All, Future Purposes.

0040608245-2

0040608231-1

I, Vibhor Agrawal, R/o A -56, Ground Floor, South City 2, Gurgaon, Haryana (122018), have changed my Son's name from Bhavya Agrawal to

Shivansh Agrawal for all future purposes. 0070778904-1 I,Abdul Alim S/O-Sultan Khan R/O-Near-Amka Road, Ranika VPO Ranika, Distt-Mewat Nuh.Harvana-122108, Have Changed My Name To Abdul

Aleem For All Future Purposes. 0040608245-3

**I,Pramod** Kumar S/o Diwan Chand R/o M-386-FF, Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, have  $changed\,my\,name\,to\,Parmod$ 0040608191-2 Garg.

I,Jasmeet Singh,S/o Jaswant Singh,R/o M-80,Ground-Floor Guru-Harkishan Nagar Paschim-Vihar Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Jasmeet Singh Bhamra. 0040608259-2

Krishan Mehta R/o-C-402, Unique Appts.Plot No.38, Sector-6, Dwarka, Delhi-110075 changed my minor Son name Rajveer to Rajveer Mehta.

I,Himanshu Mehta S/o Kamal

0040608245-7

**I,Gaurav** Vaid,S/o Sh.Achal Kumar Vaid R/o A-2/2361st-Floor, JanakPuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my minor daughter's name from Kaira Vaid to Hanvikka Vaid.for all purposes.

0040608245-4

I,DEEPAK BHARDWAJ S/O VIJAY KUMAR R/O HNO.44.NEAR CHAUPAL SAHIPUR VILLAGE, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088 CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPAK KUMAR. 0040608242-1

I,Chander Mohan Kaul,S/o Janki Nath Kaul R/o. H.No.5012, DLF Phase-4. Galleria-Gurgaon (Harvana).have changed my name to Chandra Mohan Kaul.

0040608214-2 I,Aditi D/o Jaipal Singh Lakra R/o-Flat No.6, Vindhyanchal, Apartment Inder Enclave, Paschim, Vihar Delhi-110087 changed my name to Aditi 0040608245-8

### **LOST & FOUND**

I Anisha Gupta W/o Sh. Ankur Gupta Director of Splash Vyapaar Pvt, Ltd, have lost my Original Sale Deed Regd.as Document No.1920, in Book No.I, Vol.No.8141 on Pages 171 to 181 dated 07.02.2019, Sub Registrar -VI (A), Delhi of Freehold Unit No.1107, 11th Floor, Plot No.A-1, D-Mall, Wazirpur District Centre, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi. Finders may contact at above address. 0040608173-14

# **SERVICES**

# **ASTROLOGY**

Contact P.D.Kumar Astrologer for expert future guidelines and most accurate solution for health, marriage, career etc. Mail at

astrologer\_kumar@yahoo.co m for complete details. Satisfaction assured.

0050194439-

PUBLIC NOTICE SHOPPING CENTRE. WIKAS PURI, NEW DELH-I110018, has applied for conversion of the aforesaid shop from lease hold to free hold in DDA. And original Demand Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for electric. Possession Span of Deck. An Electric Recession S

PUBLIC NOTICE Re: DDA built-up Flat bearing No. D-307 on Third Floor, area measuring 141.60 Ground Floor, Under HIG Category, in Block-D, Type-D, Sector-29 situated in the

BIOCK-U. Type-U. Sector-2:strategin mire layout plan of Rohini Residential scheme, Rohini, Delhi, hereinafter referred to as the said property".

Notice is hereby given to the General Public including Banis, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our dients Mr. Shailendra Kumar S/o Shri Nand Kishore Shamma R/o Elat No 5.7 on Elon Povel: Sharma R/o Flat No 57 2nd Floor Pocket 7 Sector 23 Rohini Delhi 110085 and Mrs. Mala Sharma W/o Sh. Shallendra Ruman R/o Flat No 57 2nd Floor Pocket 7 Sector 23 Rohini Delhi 110085 are purchasing the said property from Mr. Vikanshu Bansal. Mr. Vikanshu Bansal acquired the said property of the death of his father Lt. Mr. oroperty after the death of his father Lt. Mr Vijay Bansal vide Relinquishment Deed dated 22.02.2022 executed by Mrs Shashi Bansal W/o Late Vijav Bansal and Shashi bansal Wio Late Vijay Bansal and Mr. Shashank Bansal Slo Late Vijay Bansal vide registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar of Assurances as Documen No. 939 in Book No. I, Volume No. 4835 pages 120-123, registered on 23.02.2022. Mr. Vijay Bansal acquired the said property from Mr. Mobil Sarbi vide Salo Poerd date. om Mr. Mohit Sethi vide Sale Deed date 29.11.2012 and registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar of Assurances as Document No.5834 in Book No.1, Volume No. 2950, pages 131-137, registered or 29.11.2012. Mr. Mohit Sethi acquired the said property from POI through DDA vide Conveyance Deed dated 22.11.2012. Our clients now intend to mortgage the said property with IDFC Bank, for availing loan facility. If any person, society, bank, financia

institution or other institutions or any other institution or other institutions or any other party having any valid claim, right objection, title, demand and interest by virtue of any sale, gift, inheritance possession, lis-pendens, stay order or otherwise or any other right of whatsoever software great the absolute ourseable of posture capitals. nature against the absolute ownership o our clients on the said property an subsequently rightful mortgage of the saic property in favour of IDFC Bank by our clients are required/called upon to convey the supporting documents relating to such claim, failing which after expiry of Ten days from the publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that there is/are no claim(s and such claim/s if any, shall be conside and such claims rany, snall be considered to be walved and abandoned and will not be acceptable in respect of the mortgage and ownership of the said property.

Vikas Sharma, Advocate
M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74,
LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24

# **COURT NOTICE**

In the Court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal: Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC (Central) Delhi-110054. C. No. 32/2022 N.D.O.H. 04.06.202: Shadma Khan Vs. The State & Anr.

Shadma Khan D/o Late Abdu Quddus Khan, R/o 495/1 Gali Tikay Wali Choo Walan, Jama Masjid, Delhi- 110006

. Petition FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT. 1925

All Concerned Whereas in the above note petition the applicant/petitione has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Cour Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respec of the debt and securitie amount of Rs xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Abdul Quddus Khar Whereas the 04.06.2022 at 10's

clock in the forenoon has beer fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned. Given to this concerned. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 16.03.2022. Sd/- Shirish Aggarwa

Administrative Civil Judge cum-ARC (Centra Delhi- 110054

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

This is for the information of general publi that my clients (1) Ravinder Kaur D/o Gurde Singh Kapozo nat (2) Amandeep Singh Sooft Singh Kapozo nat (2) Amandeep Singh Sooft Soo Smt. Ravinder Kaur both R/o B-30 Second Floor, Manak Vihar, Tialk Naga West Delhi-1 10018, have severed all the West Delhi-1 10018, have severed all the Singh Sooft Sooft Son Soniar Singh Sooft Soniar Singh Sooft Son Soniar Singh Sooft Soniar Singh Soniar Soniar Singh

Advocate ENR. NO. D-1267/07 Off. S.R.-II Distt. Control

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Pramod Gupta Sio Sh. Shambhau Nath and Mrs. Prabha Gupta Wio Sh. Pramod Gupta, both Rol 10-125, Mahraani Bagh, New Delhi, New Friends Colony, South Delhi, New Friends Colony, South Delhi, Delhi -110025 have severed all their relations with their son Kanal Gupta and his wife Shunall Gupta Wio Kanal Gupta & Dio Sanjiv Gupta, 80th Riv- A-16, Ground Floor, Friends Cholny East, New Delhi 110055 due to personal reasons. Both of my above named clients have also discovened and debarred their only son and his wife from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Kanal Gupta and for his wife, will do so, at their hillsher own risk and responsible for any actifoed/dealings done by with Kanal Gupta and for his wife.

Bhavna Aron Advocate BCD No. D/669/9! Address: C-53, 3rd Floor Ganesh Naga Pandav Nagar Complex, Delhi-9:

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

is for the general publ formation that my client Sudha Devi W/o Late Mangli Parsad R/o E-214, Nehru Vihar, Delhi, have debarred disowned and broker down all the relationship from her son namely Shalender and his wife rom her all moveable and mmoveable properties either self over India due to their misconduct attitude. My client will not be

hich was done by them.

PUBLIC NOTICE o be owner and in possession of in roperty bearing in 0, 4, area measuring 6, q, yds., out of Khasra no. 771, situated 6, olony known as Sidh Baba, in the area cirillage Kheda Dharmpura Majar chapraula, pargana 6, Tehsil Dadri, outautam Budh Nagar, by virtue of Sal abutam Budh Nagar, by virtue of Sal beed dated 22,12,2020, now Mr. Vigin sama is selfiton said monerty to Mrs narma is selling said property to adha Devi and now Mrs. Radha Dev r. Rahul Chauhan has approached u nall Finance Bank Ltd. for finar Small inlance Bank Ltd. for Inlands assistance and therefore shall b mortgaged with the said Bank. We giv his public notice that if any person havin any claim/objection regarding ownershal and or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property lavour of Jana Small Finance Banktur (Sigrae hereby requested to notify the sam avour or Jahla Small minance Banks' skare hereby requested to notify the sam n writing to undersigned with supportin focumentary evidence at the addres mention below within 7 days from the dat of publication of this notice, failing whic any claim, if any, of such persons will b sonsider to have been waived and/o bandoned and our client shall procee with the disbursement of loan agains be said proneyt and subsequent creation said property and subs of Mortgage in réspect thereof. For Juris NextGen Law Offices E-56,LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRABHU DAYAL BHATIA R/O FLA LATS, SHALIMAR BAGH, NEV ELHI- 110088 HAS SEVERED AL DELHI- IIU089 MAS SEVENED ME HER RELATIONS WITH HER REAL BROTHERS AND SISTER NAMELY SEN JAWAHAR BHATIA PRESENTLY RESIDING AT TDI CITY, KUNDLI, SONIPAT & SH RANJEET BHATIA PRESENTLY RESIDING IN USA AND MISS KANTA BHATIA ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR DISSESPECTELI EHAVIOUR & CONDUCT WITH M SEHAVIOUR & CONDUCT WITH MY

LICENTESS. THE SAID BROTHERS

NND SISTER ARE CITIZEN OF

INITED STATES OF AMERICA AND

IRE FINANCIALLY WELL-PLACED

NND THEREFORE MY CLIENTESS

DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE ANY OF

HER ASSETS TO THEM.

MY CLIENTESS BEING A SPINSTER MY CLIENTESS BEING A SPINSTER HAS ALREADY EXECUTED A REGISTERED WILL IN THE YEAR 2018 IN RESPECT OF HER IMMOVABLE & MOVABLE ASSETS OWNED AND POSSESSED BY HER WISHES. THE PRESENT NOTICE IS HEREBY ISSUED TO FORE-WARN THE AFORESAID PERSONS NOT TO BASISE AND CLIENT OF THE RAISE ANY CLAIM OVER THI ASSETS OF MY CLIENTESS AFTER ASSETS OF MY CLIENTESS AFTER
HER DEMISE. ANY CLAIM LODGE
BY THEM IN RESPECT OF
IMMOVABLE AND MOVABLE
ASSETS OF MY CLIENTESS SHALL
BE TREATED AS NULL AND VOID
AND THEY SHALL NOT BE
ENTITLED TO RAISE ANY
OR JECTION TO THE NUE BJECTIONS TO THE DUE XECUTION OF THE WILL ALREADY

EXECUTED BY MY CLIENTESS. Sd/- Samyak Jain (Advocate Chamber No. D-721, KKD Courts

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

SAKET, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI- 110017 declare that my wife SMT. SUNTA SINGH-texpired on 27.68.2018 and the death expired that the second of the second SANJEEV KUMAR SINGH

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that my client(s) skare interested to but Prechold Property Bearing DDA Flat No.2D, Street-B, under MIG, First Floor, G-B, area Rajouri Garden now known as Vatilia Apartments, Mayapuri, New Delhi-110064, presently owned & possessed by Sh. Madan La Gupta 5/0 Sh. Udday Ram by virtue of Corneyance Deed vide Regol. no-7576 dated 210.51996, SR-New Delhi/Delhi & as per owner version the said property/Flat is/are free from all sorts of enumbrances. Link documents are missing & duly informed vide LR No. 2638/1/20.2, dated 29.03.02.2, with SHO, Cintik documents are missing & duly informed vide LR No. 2638/1/20.2, dated 29.03.02.2, with SHO, Cintik documents in the said of the company, Bank, HUF/ Member of HUF, filmaccial institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents & Sqr objection to thereof, Mey Jank Huff Member of HUF, filmaccial institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents & Sqr objection to thereof, Mey Jank Huff Member of HUF, filmaccial institution having any claim, opticing claim yolicity or out judgement within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further future claim / objection/s) shall be rejected & my clienty prospective buyer(s) as a bons-file gunthaser conduct the title/ Sale Deed proposed to be ceased an imagetable without any defect, encumbrances, flaw & impediation and the state of the same and the same state of the same stat

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF right, interest objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director LAB (Housing) or

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is hereby informed hat my client Smt. Gurbachan Kau Wlo Late Sh. Sudesh Kumar R/O H. No 51, Ekta Vihar, Near New Anaj Mandi Vajafgarh, New Delhi- 110043, Bisowned her son namely Pawan Bal rom all of her movable and immovable properties hear in Delhi including properties hear in Delhi including trom all of her movable and immovable properties here in Delhi including residential house bearing No. H. No. 51, Ekta Vihar, Near New Anaj Mandi, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, and has severed all of her relations with Sh. Pawan Bali because of his objectionable activities in the society and with the properties of the objectionable activities in the societ
and with my client, which is ruinin
name of my clients in society. If anybod
deal with Sh. Pawan Bali that would b
at his/her own risk and my client sha
not be responsible for any act c
promise made or any other activity b Mr. Pawan Bali with such person.
Sd/- Amit Kumar, Advocat
D-2003/0

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

It is notified for the information of General Public that my Client Sh. Ram Swaroop Singh son of Sh. Gopal Singh Resident of R2-Fa37, Raj Nagar-II, Guru Nanak Marg, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077 has severed all his relations and connections with his son Yogender Singh because he is out of control of my client & has debared him from his all movable & immovable properties, any body deals with him at his/her/their own risk, cost and expenses. My client shall neither liable & responsible r his acts, deeds and things

PUBLIC NOTICE

UMED SINGH (Advocate) Reg. No. : D/605-R/1996 Ch.No. : 319, Dwarka Court, N. D.-75

informed that I have lost my original documents Passessian letter, NCC for electric & water connection of R/o Flat No. 191, Nand Nagri Lianta), Delhi-ff0093, issued by DDA in favor of Suresh Singhal Sio Prabhu Dayal in

DDA authority. PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that tire Ground Floor without roof rights of conclude the title/ Sale Deed prop

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Nirmal Kumar (Advocate)

h.No. 561, Saket Courts, N. Delhi (M) 858789819
Email: nir2verma@gmail.com

Jain, W/o Shri Neeraj Jain, Both R/ House no - G-17/30, Sector-15 Rohini, Delhi, had severed cted all their connections Ms Nishtha Jain @ Bully, on acco titude and acts and also disov

with their above named daughte (Ms Nishtha Jain@ Bully) under the impression and belief of being the daughter of my clients or successo of the properties of my clients, sha do the same at its own risk and m clients shall not be held responsible or the same in any manner and m lients would not be liable for th

Mob: 7011020428

**PUBLIC NOTICE** INJUSTIC PRIOR TO THE ROOM TO

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I IQBAL SINGH S/O LATE SHR MOHINDER SINGH R/O C-92-A

PUBLIC NOTICE

this connection.

It is for general information that RAJBIR SINGH S/O LATE SHE SANTOKH SINGH R/O C-109-D, Tilak Vihar, Tilak lagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as SANTOSH SINGH in my 10th class Certificate . The actual name of my father is SANTOKH SINGH, which may be amended

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

AMIT KUMAR SHARM

### "IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

Whereas joint application has been received from MEMAN ABDUL MAJID S/W/D/O MRANBHAI Resident of 2-12-T IMKANBHAI HESIGERT OF 2-12-1
NAVOVAS, FATEH DARVAJA
ANDR, NAVOVAS, VISNAGAR,
VISNAGAR, MEHSANA
GJ384315(TRANSFEROR) And
SHAHBAZ AHMAD WANI
SAWIDIO KHILIBENEED S/W/D/O KHURSHEED AHMAD WANI Resident of DRAKLAM ABHAMA PULWA-MA PULWAMA (Transfereree) or transfer/Re-registration of

Now therefore it is notified for registration of the said vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office f The Assistant Regiona Transport Officer, Pulwama within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of the notice in the laily newspaper Indian Express 8

Asstt. Regional Transport Officer Pulwama. No. ARTO/PUL/2370

# **SALUTE THE SOLDIER**



HC/GD

30th March, 2002 Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers the valiant act of the bravehearts HC/GD Sureshwar Rai and CT/GD Tagam Taki, who made supreme sacrifice of their lives in the line of duty for Nation on this day in the year 2002. They were deployed for performing security duties at Ragunath Mandir located at Hari Market in Jammu (J&K). On this day at 1010 Hrs, militants attacked the temple premises and opened indiscriminate fire on the sentry post. Both HC/GD Sureshwar Rai and CT/GD Tagam Taki retaliat-

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

पत्रांक = 179/23/ उ.कु. प्रसा./CJ-JD (PRE) EXAM-21/अधिगोपन-2/21-22

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक: 13 मार्च, 2022 को आयोगिए जत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक रोवा शिविल जज (जूवन्टिव), प्रारम्भिक गरीक्षा 2021 हे वस्तुनिध्य प्रकार के प्रश्नपत्र: सामान्य झान एवं विधि की पारों सीरीज (A. B. C & D) की उत्तरकुंजियों को उत्तराखण्ड लोक रोदा आयोग की वेबसाइट http://www.ukpsc.gov.in पर अध्यर्थिकों के सूचनार्थ प्रसारित कर दिया गव है। यदि किसी अन्यर्थी को चारों सीरीज के किसी प्रश्न एवं उत्तर विकल्प पर कोई आपित है तो वह आयोग की वेबसाईट पर Online Answer Key Objection हेतु दिये गये लिंक पर जाकर अपनी आपतियों को आयोग द्वारा जारी दिशा निर्देशे के अनुसार दिनांक: 30 मार्ब, 2022 से 05 अप्रैल, 2022 (समय राति वं

सापेक्ष निर्धारित शुल्क २० ५०.०० का मुगतान करना होना। आयोग की वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध लिक Online Answer Key Objection व अतिरिक्त ग्रे–मेल, ठाक अथवा अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रेषित आपत्तियों एवं अन्तिर तिथि के उपरान्त प्रेपित आपत्तिकों तथा प्रति–प्रश्न आपत्ति के सापेक्ष निर्धारित शुल २० ५०.०० का भुगतान नहीं किये जाने की दशा में अन्पर्धी हास प्रस्तुत आपरितयं पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। उत्तर कुंजी के सापेक्ष आपस्ति दर्ज किये जाने से पूर्व आयोग की वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध दिशा-निर्देश सम्मन्धी विस्तृत विद्वापि। संस्थाः 180/23/च.कु.प्रसा./CJ-JD (PRE) EXAM21/अतिगोपन-2/21-22.



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER** SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No.-24/21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

ii Estimated Cost iii Period of Completion

bid document in the portal v Last date/time for receipt of 19.04.2022 up to 5.00 PM bid in the portal

vi Name & Address of the O.I.T. Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O

Sd/-

Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi , Mayurbhanuj cebmbsbb2019@gmail.com OIPR-32074/11/0024/2122

It is for general information that SHOBHATOLIA D/o K.S. RANA Ex Wi. PRABHU N. S. TOLIA residing at 1D, S 505, Near Manokamna Mandir, Schoc Block-II Shakarpur, Baramad, Eas Delhi, Delhi- 110992 declare that I go divorce from my husband vide Court Decree HMA No 753/16, date-007.2916 Eurther I remarried with New Delhi 110017, henceforth name o mine may be known as SHOBHA SINGH and I have changed the name o my minor daughter Anushka alias Suhani aged 13 year may be known as Suhani Singh and also the name o father of my minor daughter may be known as Sanjeev Kumar Singh ir further for all purpose.

CHALLANS AND ALL OTHER DDA RELATE!

DOCUMENTS of the above said polt has bee lost. An F.I.R./NGRUR NO.25433/2022 date COUNCEQUE of the effect has been longed in F. Clima Branch, Dahi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, havin any objection or found in possession of one possession and possession and possession of possession and possession and

Tilak Vihar, Tilak Nagar, Wes Delhi, Delhi-110018 declare tha name of my father has beer vrongly written as MAHINDEF SINGH in my 10th Class Certificate and my passport no N8109132. The actual name of m father is MOHINDER SINGH, which may be amended accordingly.

t is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in

accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.



dated 18.03.1983. If anyone found, please contact U.S Sharma Sio Ram Balak Sharma on above said property / address or return to

the Freehold Property bearing No. 23, Block-P the Freehold Property bearing No. 23, Block-P, Green Park Ext., New Delhi, owned and possessed by Shri Anurag Sachdev and as per present owner version the said property Is/are free from all sorts of encumbrances. It is hereby notified that any person, Attorney & Jor executor of POA, or entity, firm/ company, Bank, HUF/ member of HUF, finnacial institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of document informed as lost and/or objection to thereof, her shey they may and/or objection to thereof, he/ she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgement within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further/ future claim objection(s) shall be rejected and my client/ prospective buyer(s) as a bona-fide purchaser executed in favor of my client or in the name of his/her/their nominees shall be deemed to be clear & marketable without any defect encumbrances, flaw and impediment

disinherits her from all their (Neer Jain's & Smt Anita Jain's) propertie novable or immovable, whether presently owned or even may ow Take note that any person deali

NITIN SEHGAI E.No. D/218/94

PUBLIC NOTICE That the said Notice is nereby given it public at large on behalf of my clier Sh. Vinay Kumar and Smt. Prabh. Sehgal and in continuation of the earlie notice dated 30.09.2020 published in Jan Satta and Indian Expres Newspaper.

Jan Satta and Indian Express
Newspaper.
That I hereby inform the general Public
that the earlier notice dated above may
kindly be treated as cancelled one in
respect of Lakshay Sehgal only and
further, he will be legally eligible to
succeed our movable and immovable
property whatsoever in future alongwith
other Legal Heirs as per law.
Sd/- Saurabh Goel, Advocate
D/3158/2026
Mach. 2011/000403

copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore

### OFFICE OF THE **ASSISTANT REGIONAL** TRANSPORT OFFICER **PULWAMA NOTICE**

Vehicle No GJ16BK6151.

PURCHASER SELLER



विज्ञप्ति

23.69.59 वर्ज तक) तक दर्ज करा सकते हैं। अभ्यर्थी द्वारा प्रति-प्रश्न आपरित के

AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ

Rs. 616.12 Lakh For 12 (Twelve) Claendar Months

Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmipos Mayurbhani

ed with vigour and attained martyrdom while fighting with mili-

tants. Their gallant act will continue to inspire us all. We salute the valor and supreme sacrifice our brave soldiers

दिनांकः 29 मार्च, 2022

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL

दिनांकः 29 मार्च, 2022 का अध्ययन अवस्य कर तें। (कर्षेन्द्र सिंह) सचिव

Construction of Tarapur Minor from RD 00M to RD 4590M with balance world off-taking from Raibania Distributary at RD 7440M, Kamarsol Sub-Minor and Jhatiara Sub-Minor off-taking from Tarapur Minor at RD 415M & RD 4395M respectively including

iv Date & Time of availability of 05.04.2022 at 10.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurment Portal

Structures with Cement concrete lining

the CE&BM, Subarnarekha

New Delhi

https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager

**⊙** ₹67,515 **S** \$112.41

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

# **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

SHARES DIVE 7.08% ON BSE

### 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.

Hero MotoCorp denies reports of

'TIK cr bogus expenses found by I-T'

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp shares ment that have been served on us transactions for multiple years

Therefore, we categorically deny

search operations on about 40

premises of Hero MotoCorp for a

few days beginning March 23. I-T

officials had said that the opera-

tions were part of a tax evasion in-

vestigation against the company.

pertain to the company's financial

"The assessment proceedings

Income tax officers conducted

the speculative press reports."

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

# IL&FS resolves ₹55,000-cr debt; 1.5% in ONGC to raise ₹3K cr 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, representing 62 per cent of overall — fund-based and non-fund based — debt of over Rs 99,000 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-



term ends on April 2, and CS Rajan, the to-be Chairman and MD, at IL&FS office in BKC, Mumbai. Amit Chakravarty

resolution value. mated 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

The overall resolution estimate of 62 per cent is double the average recovery of 31 per cent under IBC1. This has been largely possible due to the continued commitment of the new board led by Kotak and the management to preserve value in assets of national importance and maintaining going concern status.

Of the 347 entities under IL&FS Group as of October 2018, a total of 246 entities stand resolved, leaving 101 entities to be resolved in the next financial year. An application has been filed with NCLAT for undertaking interim distribution of Rs 16,000 crore of cash and InvIT units available across the group. Over 75 per cent of this would be distributed to creditors of three large holding companies — IL&FS, IFIN and ITNL—which have a large base of public fund creditors.

In addition, the IL&FS group continues to service debt of Rs 1,000 crore across companies. ITNL completed transfer of two road assets (Sikar Bikaner Highway Limited and Moradabad Bareilly Expressway Ltd) to Roadstar Infra Investment Trust at

Adani Group

achieves Navi

Mumbai airport

financial closure

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** 

a cumulative enterprise valuation of Rs 4,200 crore. Transfer of remaining SPVs to the InvIT is being undertaken in multiple phases, Rajan said.

The new board of IL&FS continues to encounter several challenges in completing the resolution, which in turn, have impacted timelines, it said.

### We need to move much faster: Kotak

On the debt resolution process in the country, Uday Kotak said, 'We need to get cracking on getting our judicial process to move much faster. It is a very serious challenge for development of business in our country.'

"Sovereign governments, particularly state governments, needs to respect contracts. Cannot happen that you sign a contract and if it doesn't suit vou - vou don't pay up and have the counter party running around to collect legitimate dues," Kotak said. On the core area of group resolution, Kotak said, "I don't think we have good legal answers to it and we are still evolving. We need to get

# Govt to sell

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** 

THE CENTRE will sell a 1.5 per cent stake in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Wednesday-Thursday via an offer for sale (OFS). The stake is worth nearly Rs 3,000 crore at a floor price of Rs 159/share.

The floor price is set at a discount of 7 per cent on the oil explorer's closing price of Rs 171.05 on the BSE on Tuesday, which was down 3.03 per cent from the previous close. Since the OFS will conclude only on March 31, the government will likely account for the inflows only in FY23.

"Offer for Sale' for 1.5 per cent equity stake sale in ONGC, including 0.75 per cent greenshoe option opens tomorrow. Retail investors can bid on Thursday," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

# '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

₹2,300 per square feet was the average cost of construction of residential properties in March 2022, up from ₹2,060 per square feet a year ago



**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** 

AIRLINES MUST ensure that 50

per cent of cockpit and cabin crew

members are subjected to pre-

flight alcohol test daily, the DGCA

"In case of flying training insti-

tutes, 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

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

said on Tuesday.

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

Rising cost will impact developers in the affordable and mid-market segments relatively operating on lower margins

The notice has been

issued in view of an

increase in volume

Directorate General of Civil

Aviation (DGCA). The notice has

been issued "in view of reducing

trend of COVID-19 cases and in-

crease in volume of air traffic as a

result of resumption of normal

operation", it noted, WITH PTI

of air traffic

50% crew to get pre-flight

alcohol test daily: DGCA

Source: Colliers India/PTI

# THE ADANI Group on Tuesday

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

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).

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

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

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 re-

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. centions to risk not cies, 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 ac-

concerns THE RBI observed failure or delay in detection and reporting of non-compliances, 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 tions were some of the major con-

cerns 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

# **BRIEFLY** —

on the BSE on Tuesday after me-

dia 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

two-wheeler maker said: "The al-

legations made in the press report

are not borne out of any docu-

In a notification to the BSE, the

Delhi worth over Rs 100 crore.

# Petroltops₹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 Aviat-

ion appointed Gaurav Negi the CFO of airline IndiGo.

Tata Coffee rejiq

New Delhi: Tata Consumer

Products announced mer-

ger 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 financer GIC Housing Finance Ltd(GICHFL)inauguratedits first 'Pink branch' at Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi. ENS

# Subramaniam named FedEx CEO

had said. FE

devices seized during the search

operations," an official had said,

adding the company had booked

bogus purchases and had unac-

counted financial transactions

would be issued to the company

after the assessment proceedings

are completed, another official

A tax demand on unac-

counted cash expenditures.

**REUTERS** 

**REUTERS** 

neared inversion.

NEW YORK, MARCH 29

 $USSTOCKS \, rose \, on \, Tuesday, lifted \,$ 

by signs of progress in peace talks

between Russia and Ukraine,

while a widely tracked part of the

Treasury yield curve flashed warn-

ing signs for the economy as it

tically cut military activity around

Kyiv and northern Ukraine, while

Ukraine proposed adopting a neu-

tral status but with international

guarantees that it would be pro-

tected from attack, Risk-on senti-

ment returned with European

stocks rallying and gold prices slip-

ping, while Brent crude prices

The pan-European STOXX 600

dropped to \$108 a barrel.

Moscow has decided to dras-

LOS ANGELES, MARCH 29

FFDFX 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

**Exchange in Frankfurt.** Reuters

index climbed 1.6 per cent to its

highest in nearly a month, and ex-

tended gains to a third straight ses-

sion. 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 Nasdag

Composite was up 172.74 points,

or 1.20 per cent, at 14,527.64.

Russia-Ukraine talks:

Global markets rise

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.

RDN/003 Dt: 26.03.2022 RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. invites E (Online)-Tenders from eligible bidders for lequest for Proposal (RFP) to Build-Operate Maintain Railway Display Network as per specifications and schedule of requirements of tender document. Tender Notice is available on www.railtelindia.com,https://railtel.enivida.

com, https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app. Any addendum/corrigendum will be published i ne above websites only

# JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

**E- TENDER NOTICE** 

nline bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-co rcial bid and Price bid) from eligible bildders 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 ttp://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.infrom 28.03.2022 (11:00 AM) onwards. Last Date/Time fo

pt of online bids through e-procurement portal is 18.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM. For furthe details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit website http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in 8 http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ivvnl UBN:VVN2122SLOBB00822 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, Gol

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

dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on www.mstcecommerce.com.

mobile no. 9718804966. Head (Power Purchase)

### 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 .I. T. No. 26 (2021-22)/EE (SDW)-IV 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) (R. K. Kaushik) Advt. No. J.S.V. 1318 (2021-22) **Executive Engineer (SDW)-IV** STOP CORONA - "Wash Your Hand, Wear Mask & Maintain Social Distance"

DELHI JAL BOARD; GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

### Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 405/2021-22

टोल कलेक्शन टेकेदारों से पथकर वसूली हेतु ई-टेन्डिरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसे हं वांछित रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रमाण पत्र वेबसाईटः http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc एवं निविदा के स

Collection of Toll Tax for a Period of 01 Year on following Road:-				
On Alwar-Behror- Namaul Road. UBN: (1)RRC2122SLOB00782	1641.96 Lakh			
On Merta-Ras Road. UBN: (2)RRC2122SLOB00783	1396.65 Lakh			
On Suket-Julmi-Pipliya-Bhawanimandi-Dug Road. UBN: (3)RRC2122SLOB00784	1053.00 Lakh			
On Udaipur-Salumber Road. UBN: (4)RRC2122SLOB00785	1017.51 Lakh			
On Banswara-Ratlam Road. UBN: (5)RRC2122SLOB00786	486.05 Lakh			
On Bali-Pindwara Road. UBN: (6)RRC2122SLOB00787	160.00 Lakh			
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अविधि दिनांक 25.03.2022 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 04.04.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक				
निवदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं				

# **AURANGABAD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ASCDCL)**

ASCDCL invites firms possessing relevant capabilities to respond to this RFP for following

Buses for ASCDCL (2nd Call

2022 ASCDC 766086 2

Sd/-**Chief Executive Officer** 

ONGC informed the BSE that

the base offer size of the OFS will be 94.35 million shares with a face value of Rs 5 each constituting 0.75 per cent of the equity of the company. The government will also exercise the option to additionally sell 94.35 million shares equivalent to a 0.75 per cent stake in the company by retaining over-

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MARCH 29

cent years. RBI Deputy Governor MK Jain

countability, inadequate review of

राज संवाद/सी/21/13590

www.indianexpress.com

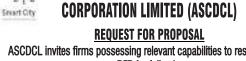
जयपुर सिटी द्रांसपोर्ट सर्विसेज लिमिटेड, जयपुर <u>कार्यालय आदेश</u>

4—2021—22 (UBN No. JCT2122SLOB00006) में बोली प्रस्तुत करने की अन्तिग देनांक 21 / 03 / 2022 तक कोई बोली प्राप्त नहीं होने के कारण उक्त बिड में बोर्ल ास्तुत करने की अन्तिम दिनांक 04 / 04 / 2022 (2.00 PM) तक बढ़ाई जाती है I

No. NIT/2021-22/24852-71 Date: 28.03.2022 निम्न लिखित परियोजनाओं पर राजस्थान राज्य सड़क विकास एवं निर्माण निगम लि. (RSRDC Ltd.) में पंजीकृ

जेसीटीएसएल के बस-क्यू शैल्टर्स पर विज्ञापन व रखरखाव हेतु जारी बिड न

Merta-Ras Road. UBN: (2)RRC2122SLOB00783	1396.65 Lakh			
Suket-Julmi-Pipliya-Bhawanimandi-Dug Road. UBN: (3)RRC2122SLOB00784	1053.00 Lakh			
Udaipur-Salumber Road. UBN: (4)RRC2122SLOB00785	1017.51 Lakh			
Banswara-Ratlam Road. UBN: (5)RRC2122SLOB00786	486.05 Lakh			
Bali-Pindwara Road. UBN: (6)RRC2122SLOB00787	160.00 Lakh			
नलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 25.03.2022 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 04.04.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक				
ादा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं				
गोधन वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj	asthan.nic.in तथा			
tp://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संव	वेदकों को अपने डिजिटल			
ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.raiasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड क	रवाना आवश्यक है।			



1. Supplying Services for Driving and Conducting in Smart City

**Bid Due Date** Sr.No Tender ID No. 12/04/2022 by 5.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded from https://www.mahatenders.gov.in

**ASCDCL** 

"IMPORTANT"

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copy, it is not possible to verify

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held responsible for such

contents, nor for any loss or

damage incurred as a result of

transactions with companies,

associations or individuals

advertising in its newspapers

or Publications. We therefore

recommend that readers

make necessary inquiries



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SILCHAR

Corrigendum

The tender published vides NIT No. NIT-E/Estate/2021-22/19 dt. 23.03.2022 or the work of "Preparation of conceptual plan, drawings & design, estimation DPR/Bid Documents/tendering/Finalization of bid documents and Execution o DPR/Bid Documents/tenderingr-mailzatuori or bid documents and Execution of the construction of 150 capacities Girls Hostel No. 4 (A) at NIT Silchar' has been ancelled due to Administrative reason.

Sd/- Registrar



### **HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**

Ist & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013 Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320 Website: www.hpsedc.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.hpsedc.in and https://hptenders.gov.in.

**General Manager (Technical)** 

दिनांकः 28.03.2022



### ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ईमेल : authority@gnida.in वेबसाइट : www.greaternoidaaut

Ref: GNIDA/Asset/2021-22/503

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना वरि. प्रबन्धक (एसेट) ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नीएडा की 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 हैं। समस्त नियम एवं शर्ते ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट **www.greaternoidaauthority.in** पर ई–निविदा लिंक एवं ई–पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त

ı	, K. 11.	11 1: 1017 1111190 1011 101	
ı	क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य का
l			अनुमानित लागत
	1.	Supply of Vehicle on hiring basis in Greater Noida	रु. 150 लाख
П			

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 (एसेट)

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### 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., PS. 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., PS. 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

HARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertage) JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand. Ph No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id-; <u>pdt.juidco@gmail.com</u> CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/MWSS/JUWSIP/2022/460 Date:29/03/2022

Tender ID.: 2021\_JUADB\_56491\_1 PR No.: 264878

# Corrigendum- 1

All bidders are hereby announced that Corrigendum-1 is released for tender having NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/MWSS/ ender ID.: 202 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)

PR 267248 Urban Development

and Housing(21-22)#D

**Project Director (Technical)** JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by 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 Mob. No: 8130538285, 7065036134

DP/1681/OD/2022

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण नं. 1, नॉलेज पार्क 4, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी 201308 जिला–गौतमबुद्ध नगर



		, 03				
पत्रांकः स्वा.वि.	/2022/3	11			दिनांकः :	28.03.202
		ई—निविदा	आमंत्रण सूच	<u>ना</u>		
		ग्रेटर नौएडा और		प्राधिकरण	द्वारा मुख्य	कार्यपालव
		1 1 1 00				

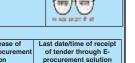
अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा की ओर से ई—निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या—स्वा.वि. / 2022 / 310, दिनांक 28.03.2022 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या—01 पर अंकित कार्य की ई—निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। ई–निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्ते ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई–निविदा लिंक एवं ई–पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइटें 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 जायेगी। प्राप्त ई—निविदाओं की प्री—क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 13.04.2022 को 11:00 बजे खोली जाएगी |

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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



	INI	1 NO. 39/ACE(NI-10)EE(1)/202	1-22	
S. No.	Description	Amout 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
	Replacement of under size damaged old water line in H 8 I-Block Nanak Pura in R.K. Puram constituency AC-44.		29.03.2022 Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_219839_1	11.04.2022 at 2:00 P.M.

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Further details in this regard can be seen at (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 1326(2021-22)

Sd/- (V.K. GUPTA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)M-10

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF DELHI** OFFICE OF CHIEF E **KESHOPUR STP, N** 

OF CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) NW	
PRESS N.I. T. EE(SDW)VIII/(2021-22)	

Supply, installation, testing, commissioning OLMS at Najafgarh Drain and comprehensi maintenance of 05 years period (Re-Invited)

Further details in this regard can be seen at (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

SSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 1325(2021-22) (J.C. Garg EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VII

"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.

No.	Name of Work	Cost	for downloading bid	Money	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 assign ing any reason

# कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, जलपथ प्रमण्डल, राँची (डैम साईड, धुर्वा)

पत्रांक-

शुद्धि पत्र

राँची, 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.						
क्र0 सं0	विवरण	Involve	nimum quantity			
2	Sand Filter	पूर्व की मात्रा	41938.14 Cu.m	पूर्व की मात्रा	18639.17 Cu.m	
3	Sand Piner	संशेधित मात्रा	45938.14 Cu.m	संशोधित मात्रा	20416.95 Cu.m	
					,	

<u>नोट</u> :- 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 जायेगें

2. NIT	
क्र0 सं0	

क्र0 सं0 विवरण		पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
7.	Bid Submission Period	From 14-03-2022 to 04-04-2022 upto 5:00 PM	From <b>14-03-2022</b> to <b>11-04-</b> <b>2022</b> 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- <b>12-04-2022</b> Time- up to 05:00 PM.
10.	Date of opening (Technical Bid)	Date- 07.04.2022 Time 11:00 AM.	Date- <b>13.04.2022</b> Time 11:00 AM.

शेष नियम एवं शर्त्ते यथावत रहेंगी।

PR 267204 Water Resource(21-22).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता. जलपथ प्रमण्डल, राँची

### **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**

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.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/ [harkhand/index.jsp] for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notification, updates and other details of the e-auction e 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.

> **Director Mines** Govt. of Jharkhand

PR 267239 Mines and Geology(21-22).D

Department of Mines & Geology

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

# ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या:- 168/2021-22/RWD/DEOGHAR दिनांक :- 29.03.2022 मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

П		आईडेन्टी फिकेशन		प्राक्कलित र	ाशि (रूपये में)	कार्य
П	क्र0	संख्या / पैकेज	कार्य का नाम	अंक में		समाप्ति की
	सं0	संख्या		अफ म	अक्षर में	तिथि
		RWD/	दुमदुमी—अलकवारा पी०डब्लू०डी० पथ के		चार करोड़ छप्पन	
	1.	DEOGHAR/	सोनातर बरगद पेड़ से चितरा–दुलदुलई	4,56,57,100.00	लाख सनतावन हजार	18 माह
			पी०डब्लू०डी० पथ के नावाडीह (गांजा मोड़)	4,30,37,100.00	एक सौ रू० मात्र	।० गर
		11/2021-22	तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं– 6.780 कि०मी०)			
		RWD/	सारठ पालाजोरी पी०डब्लू०डी० पथ से		दो करोड़ एकानवे	
	2.	DEOGHAR/	बोड़वा रांगाटाँड़ तेतरिया तक पथ का	2,91,93,600.00	लाख तेरानवे हजार	15 माह
		12/2021-22	सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं– 7.400 कि0मी0)	_,-,-,-,,	छः सौ रू० मात्र	
		RWD/	पी०डब्लू०डी० पथ सिमरा मोड़ से		एक करोड़ पाँच लाख	
	3.	DEOGHAR/	रांगामटिया जमुआ कुडरो पुल तक पथ का	1,05,83,900.00	तेरासी हजार नौ सौ	09 माह
		13/2021-22	सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (लं– 3.400 कि0मी0)	, , ,	रू० मात्र	
1.		( ): 0 0	0.00			

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 08.04.2022 3. ई—निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः**— 20.04.2022** अपराहन 5.00 बजे तक **।** 

4. (क) मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, अभियंत्रण भवेन, कचहरी, राँची अथवा (ख) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, राँची ु अथवा **(ग)** जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, **देवघर** में से किसी भी कार्यालय में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करॅने की तिथि:– 21.04.2022 पूर्वाह्न 10. 00 बजे से अपराहन 3.30 बजे तक ।

5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:— 22.04.2022 पूर्वाहन 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, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन— 834001 7. ई—निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0— 0651—2207818 8. निविदा शूल्क झारखण्ड राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक / अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम / अकाउंट से ही निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, देवघर के पक्ष में एवं देवघर मे

भुगतेय होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। नोडल पदाधिकारी PR 267220 (Rural Work Department)21-22\*D ई-प्रोक्यूर्मन्ट सेल

### 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, Kanjar Sarai, near Animal Hospital, Court Road, Ward No.28 Moradabad and C/o Dinesh Gupta R/o Dogati Ganj, Court Road. 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

DP/2095/N/2022

Ms. Arushi Parwa

Metropolitan Magistrate, Central Room No.203 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

before sending any monies or

entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

# **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

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 Marzhban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001, Telephone No. 22016974/ 22016976 from contractors registered in class of the public works department of Maharashtra.

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 97 of 2021-2022** 

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.
1	Providing and fixing fire rated doors of various wards and	78,65,496/-
	Operation Theatre of Ellappa Balaram Building, David	
	Sassoon Building, C.J. Opthalmology Building and Eye Bank	
	at Sir J.J. Hospital Compound, Byculla, Mumbai.	

(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 Office of the Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division,

Sd/-**Executive Engineer,** Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, Fort, Mumbai-400 001.

DGIPR/2021-22/5497



Fort, Mumbai-400 001.

Date: 25.03.2022

For and on behalf of the President o 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 nterlocked LC gates. 2. Replacement of MOLBs with EOLBs for 5 interlocked Level Crossing gates over Guntakal division. Advertised Tender Value of the work (Rs.) 20412631.90 Earnest Money Deposit (Rs) 252100 Completion Period 12 Months

work : 02-SNT-03-2022 Signaling 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 nstallation of IP based CCTV cameras at FOBs of 'DHONE' and 'MALKAPURAM' stations over Guntakal divisior Advertised Tender Value of the work (Rs 706254.54 Earnest Money Deposit (Rs 54100 Completion Period 6 Months

Name of work: 03-SNT-03-2022 Signaling arrangements for - 1. Provin cotential free contacts to monitor failure of rack feed battery chargers through Data ogger system at '57' stations in WD-GTL RU, RU-GDR, DMM-PAK, GY-DHNE, YA-NDL sections over GTL division . 2. Provision of Earth Leakage Detectors & Smoke-cum-heat sensors at 37 station over GTL division. Advertised Tende 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 iability of LC gate communication ov Guntakal' division & Provision of inimum essential Telecom equipment i ARTs at GTL, GY, DMM & RU stations Advertised Tender Value of the work (Rs.) 5353379.84 Earnest Money Deposit (Rs) 107100 Completion Period 12 Months

Name of work: 05-SNT-03-2022

Name of work : 00-2...
Guntakal division - Signalling works in TTR(Rails) in GDR connection with (i). TTR(Rails) in GDF RU, GTL-WD & DMM-GY sections (ii TTR(Rails) in DHNE-GTL, GDR-RU, BAY-GTL, GTL-WD, KPD-TPTY & RU-GTL 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 – 1.900Ki |34.3 to 134.7 of DN line and 221.5 t 223 of UP line) & Gudur Jn-Renigunta Jr 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 Treatmen (TFTR) (Moorum blanketing) for a length of 24.29Km in GTL-WD, RU-GTL & NDL DHNE sections. Advertised Tender Value of the work (Rs.) 15578031 Earnest Money Deposit (Rs) 227900 Completion Period 12

Name of work: 06-SNT-03-2022 Signa (L.C.Gate Nos. 128, 130 & in RU-GTL section, Proposed replacement of steel girders with PSC slabs (Post tensioned) (Br.Nos. 635-UP & DN, 330-DN and 59-UP (4 Nos)) and ovision of 2 Nos. of lifts at RU (PF-2 & 3) ATP (PF-2 & 3) stations over GT division. Advertised Tender Value of the work (Rs.) 6679970.97 Earnest Money Deposit (Rs) 133600 Completion Perio

Validity of the offer should be 45 days from the date of opening. Corrigendum will be ssued for the above tender notice ecessary through online only. For furthe ender conditions /details and for downloading of tender document, please

Engineer, (M), Guntakal

# Dt:28.03.2022

Senior Divisional Engineer/ Coordination/ Guntakal acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works Closing date & Time: 22.04.2022 at 15:00 hrs

Name of work : Engg-GTL-Central-

1152 Guntakal Division: RU-GY, NDL-GTL, NDL-YA, GY-PDL, GY-DMM & KLU-GTL section - Supply of water to gang staf and LC Gates in DEN/Central/GTI jurisdiction through private agenc (Cans/Tankers/Tractors) for a period of Two (02) years. Advertised Value in Rs 40,43,032.00 Earnest money Deposit in Rs.80,900.00 Name of work: Engg-GTL-Central-1153 Guntakal Division: Providing house keeping and Maintenance services for Track Machine Rest Houses, Officers

Rest Houses, Subordinate Rest Houses

ORH etc., available at various station under Sr.DEN/Central Jurisdiction in

Guntakal Division for a period of 24 months. Advertised Value in Rs. 48,03,199.37ps **Earnest money Depos** in **Rs.**96,100.00 Name of work: Engg-GTL-Central-1154 Guntakal Divn: NDL-GTL, GY-PDL & NDL-YA Sec.: Maintenance, Repairs/replacement in respect of petty vorks in station buildings, service uildings and staff Quarters in SSE (Works)/Dhone section for a period of

One Year. Advertised Value in Rs 40,29,457.42ps Earnest money **Deposit in Rs.** 80,600.00 Name of work : Engg-GTL-Central-1155 Guntakal Divn : RU-GTL Sec. : Maintenance. Repairs/replace espect of petty works in station buildings ervice buildings and staff Quarters in SSE (Works)/Gooty section for a period or One Year. Advertised Value in Rs

Earnest money

Name of work : Engg-GTL-Central 1156 Guntakal Divn: DMM-GY & KLU GTL Sec.: Maintenance, Repairs/replacement in respect of petty works in station buildings, service buildings and staff Quarters in SSE (Works)/Dharmavaram section for a period of One Year. Advertised Value in Rs. 34,75,787.58ps Earnest money Deposit in Rs.69,500.00

42 67 838 50ne

Deposit in Rs. 85,400.00

Name of work : Engg-GTL-North-1157 GOOTY-WADI Section: Proposed repairs to bridges in ADEN/RC Sub-Division

Advertised Value in Re Earnest money Deposit in Rs. 2,04,000.00

Name of work : Engg-GTL-North-1158

Yadgir-Development/Improvements of facilities like Merchant and Hamali room with toilets, approach road, High mast lights etc., Advertised Value in Rs. 1,49,10,777.45ps Earnest money Deposit in Rs. 2,24,600.00 Name of work : Engg-GTL-North-1159 Guntakal Divn : Guntakal - Wadi Sec. Maintenance, Repairs/replacement is respect of petty works in station buildings, service buildings and staff Quarters in SSE (Works)/Raichur under ADEN/RC

Jurisdiction for a period of One Year

Advertised Value in Rs. 20.57.521.93

Earnest money Deposit in Rs 41,200.00 Name of work : Engg-GTL-North-1160 Guntakal Divn : Guntakal - Wadi Sec. Maintenance. Repairs/replacement i respect of petty works in station buildings service buildings and staff Quarters in (Works)/MG/GTL unde ADEN/North/GTL Jurisdiction for a period of One Year. Advertised Value in Rs 33,85,650.55 Earnest money Deposi

For Bid document and other details login to http://ireps.gov.in Any corrigenda will

in Rs. 67,700.00

Divisional Railway Manager Works, Guntakal

details and for downloading the tender documents Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

# ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: 23/W-2/APDJ Date: 24-03-2022, E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following orks: Tender No. 09-AP-III-2022 Name of work: Alipurduar Division Renewal of Glued joints-400 Nos. Tender Value: ₹1,38,10,512/-. Earnest Money: (2,10,100/-, Date & Time of closing of tender: 13,00 hrs. & opening at 15,00 hrs. of 21-04-2022 at Divisional Railway Manager (W), Alipurdum Jn's office For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

DRM (W), Alipurduar Jn. MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY



**NOTICE FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS** 

MEETING (ABM) - 2022 The ABM-2022 of the New Delhi YMC will be held on Saturday, 30th April 2022 at 17:15 hrs in the Heinz Auditorium, New Delhi YMCA Tourist Hostel-cum-Programme Centre, Jai Singh Road ow Delhi – 110001 to elect five Membe to the Board of Directors of the Association. Election will be conducted through E-voting only.

30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 General Secretary & CEO

### **NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY** TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India Principal Chief Engineer, Head Quarter Office. North Western Railway nea Jawahar Circle, Jagatpura, Jaipur-302017 (Rajasthan), invites e-tender of www.ireps.gov.in website for following 1. Tender No.: STMNWR2122-16R1 Description of stores: Supply of OFF TRACK TAMPING MACHINE (ENGINE MOUNTED VERSION) TO RDSO SPEC NO. TM/SM/OTT/321 DT. 28.01.2009 First revision of 2021. Tender Value Rs. 51,71,544.00 Earnest money Rs 1 03 440 00 2. Tender No. STMNWR2122-23 Description of stores: Supply of Electronic Toe Load Measuring Device (ETLMD) as pe RDSO specification No. TM/SM/ETLMD /218 (Third Revision-2020) Tender Value Rs. 7.88.961.60 Earnest money Rs. NIL. Date & time of Tender Closing: 18.04.2022 (15.30 hrs.) Note: The details of tender & conditions may be seen on Railway website "www.ireps.gov.in".

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

Follow us on : F NWRailways NWRailways

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, East Central Railway, Gomoh on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" E-tender from the eligible and experienced agencies or contractors for E-Tender No ELS\_401\_MRB-CKT\_21-22\_04 Particulars are as under:

1. Name of the work with its location

Conversion of single phase circuit of machine room blower (MRB) into 3-phase circuit fed by auxiliary converter = 332 locos Location: Loco Shed, Gomoh 2. Approx Cost of the work: Rs. 69,97,785.58 (Rupees sixty nine Lakh ninety seven Thousand seven Hundred eighty five and Paise fifty eight only). 3. Earnest Money Rs. 1,40,000.00 (Rupees one Lakh forty Thousand only) 4. Date & Time for submission of tender & closing of tender From 29.03.2022 up to closing of tender at 11.00 hrs. on 12.04.2022 5. Website particulars where Tender document is available: IREPS website www.ireps. gov.in Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids online through this website only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

details of tender can be seen: Notice board of Electric Loco Shed, Gomoh Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS East Central Railway, Gomoh

Notice board location where complete

PR/01908/DHN/ETRS/T/21-22/40

New Delhi

visit website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecon

# 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.

The report, which cited a source who did not want to be identified, said Woods arrived at the course along with his 13-year-

Tiger Woods

old son Charlie to evaluate his fitness on the hilly layout that will host the April 7-10

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 36hole exhibition played on a flat course with

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

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.

# 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. Aiav carried books with his kitbag, 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 Bschools, 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. Fraining 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 formals. "He'd gone down a similar path, and said it was a good idea to transition," Ajay says.

The Verbals 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 hattrick 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

But in 2016 I decided to spend my free time productively. Sketching was a good destress." 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. Soumva 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.

# 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

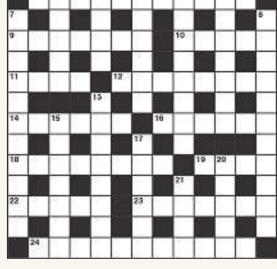
New Delhi: Grandmaster and national champion Arjun Erigaisi crashed through the defences of Karthik Venkataraman to win the 19th Delhi International open chess tournament. Starting the day in a five-way lead and having the best tie-break, Arjun left nothing to chance as he went for an offensive right 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 sureshot 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.

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** 

# CROSSWORD 4701



- Inauguration of a company?
- Brief biography of a professional record holder
- 10 Habit Tommy got into (5) 11 Frenchman in a fancy vest (4)
- 12 It's not fair for me to use this 14 Nothing further on Rome
- strangely enough 16 Stays to give personal support
- 18 He has a growing interest in
- his job (8)
  19 Practise boxing in the yard
- 22 The toast of former operagoers (5)
- 24 How things may be bought for cash(2,1,8)

# 23 New part ordered in Belgium

- One so confused may be caught by it (5) Journey in the fall
- She comes from the hamlet
- Become established down under? (4,4)
- Carole's making announcements
- No sport for the amateur
- (1,6,4) Martin hopes to mix the very thing he hates (11)
- 13 Let the workman go without guidance
- 15 Swift to provide a market permit (7)
- 17 Honours damsel in distress
- 20 Tidy up? No, down (5)

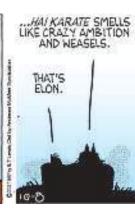
 $\textbf{Solutions Crossword 4700: Across:} \ 1 \ \text{Putter}, 4 \ \text{Assisted}, 9 \ \text{Tagged}, 10 \ \text{Chestnut}, 12 \ \text{Pets}, 13 \ \text{Epsom}, 14 \ \text{Song}, 17 \ \text{One-track mind}, 20 \ \text{Clear-sighted}, 23 \ \text{Load}, 24 \ \text{Wives},$ 25 Mete, 28 Restrain, 29 Plague, 30 Disperse, 31 Upshot. Down: 1 Put-up job, 2 Together, 3 Ewer, 5 Schoolmaster, 6 Inst, 7 Tin-pot, 8 Dotage, 11 Specialities, 15 Brill, 16 Snags, 18 Strength, 19 Adherent, 21 Florid, 22 Masses, 26 Free, 27 Clip

# **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis









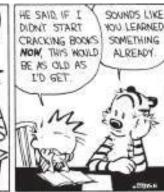
# **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson





HE SAID, WHEN I'M OLDER, I'LL





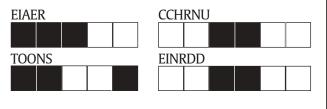
# MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





# JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to  $\,$ the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.



Answer: Unless we remember we cannot **understand**. - E. M. Forster SOLUTION: AERIE, SNOOT, CRUNCH, RIDDEN

### Difficulty Level 5s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9

SUDOKU

must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

				-	1		-
					6	4	1
	1		2			Ы	
7			1	6	8		3
					3	1	
2	4		7				
		1		2			
3	5					8	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4788 6 4 3 8 2 7 9 5 1 9 1 8 4 6 5 3 2 7 3 4 5 8 6 2 7 9 5 6 9 7 3 2 1 8 4 8 7 2 9 1 4 5 3 6 4 5 1 2 7 9 8 6 3 2 8 6 1 4 3 7 9 5 3 9 7 6 5 8 4 1 2

5 3 9 1 6 4 8

# **DAY TODAY**

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. Youi

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 longrunning 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

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It is true that life is far from plain-sailing



New Delhi

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

# BY PETER VIDAL

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

# SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)



this week.

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



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

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

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 siz-



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 indi-

### 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 ubercool, 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

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

# **EMOTIONAL**



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 ar-

guably the best in the world in the shortest format – how to send the or maybe fitting, that when Buttler got 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 onside 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.

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 er-



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. He re-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 Balrai Kumar laughed a 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

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

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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, veh 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.'

WHO'S WHO IN THE **CORRIDORS OF IE 100 2022** The definitive list of India's 100 most powerful people PRESENTED BY **FUJ!FILM** Out with tomorrow's issue of The Indian Express



