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EXPRESS NETWORK

TN HOUSE PASSES RESOLUTION, ASKS CENTRE TO WITHDRAW CUET
ED QUESTIONS KHARGE IN NATIONAL HERALD CASE
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LEADERS HOLD VIRTUAL MEET AHEAD OF INDIA-US 2+2 TALKS

Let's talk how to manage destabilising effects of Russia's war: Biden to Modi



PM Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden meet virtually on Monday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, US Secy of State Antony Blinken and Secy of Defense Lloyd Austin are also seen. AP

PM calls Bucha killings 'very worrying', says he told Putin and Zelensky to hold direct talks between themselves

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

WELCOMING INDIA's humanitarian support for the people of Ukraine and calling the Russian invasion a "horrific assault", US President Joe Biden Monday said the US and India are going to continue "close consultation on how to manage the destabilizing effects of this Russian war".

In his virtual meeting with

Biden ahead of the 2+2 talks between their Defence and Foreign Ministers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who did not name Russia, called the "killings of innocent civilians" in Ukraine's Bucha city "very worrying", and said India immediately condemned the killings and called for an independent probe.

This is the first time the Prime Minister has spoken on the Bucha killings — External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and

T S Tirumurti, India's envoy at the UN, have condemned it unequivocally in recent days. Modi said he had held conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and suggested that they hold "direct talks" between themselves.

After their meeting, the White House said, "They emphasized their shared commitment, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



New Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with niece Maryam Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday. ANI

New Pak PM Shehbaz raises Kashmir, turns to Modi who hopes region is terror-free

Nawaz's younger brother tells Pak House he wants good ties with India

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

HOURS AFTER Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif asked him to come forward and address "the Kashmir issue" so that the two countries could concentrate on tackling poverty and unemployment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him on his election and said India desired peace and stability in a region free of terrorism.

"Congratulations to H. E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. India desires peace and stability in a region free of terror, so that we can focus on our development challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity of our people," Modi said in a Twitter post.

On Monday, the Pakistan parliament elected Shehbaz Sharif as the 23rd Prime Minister of the country.

A PTI report from Islamabad said Shehbaz, 70, was the only candidate left in the race after former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party would boycott the voting and staged a walkout.

Sharif was sworn-in by Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani after President Arif Alvi went on "sick leave".

"Sharif has secured 174 votes and has been declared as prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan," according to the formal CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 12



During rescue operations in Deoghar, Jharkhand, on Monday. PTI

2 dead as ropeway stalls, 15 still stranded

ABHISHEK ANGAD & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
DEOGHAR (JHARKHAND), NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE CHILLING sight of a man falling to his death from a helicopter on Monday during a rescue operation captured the trauma of a tense 30 hours in Jharkhand's Deoghar, where at least two people were killed in separate incidents triggered by

the malfunctioning of a ropeway the previous evening.

By Monday evening, 43 people had been rescued from 24 cable cars on the 770-m ropeway to the Trikut hills, which is a popular tourist spot. Eleven of them were rescued on Sunday evening, including a woman who succumbed later to injuries sustained inside a cable car that "swung wildly" during the mishap, officials and eyewitnesses said.

At least 15 people, including an IAF Garud commando, were still stuck on the ropeway with some without food and water inside cable cars that could not be accessed by rescuers. "We are hoping that the rescue operation will be over by tomorrow. We will be starting early in the morning," National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) D-G Atul Karwal said.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that a probe has also be-

gun on how the man fell from the rescue helicopter when he appeared to lose his grip after having been hauled up from a cable car. The two victims have not been officially identified yet, rescue officers said.

Jharkhand Tourism Department director Rahul Sinha said the ropeway's axle got dislodged between 4 pm and 4.30 pm on Sunday, resulting in the ropeway stopping midway. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

After communal clash, bulldozers raze homes and shops in MP town

Will turn houses from where stones came to rubble, says state home minister

IRAM SIDDIQUE
KHARGONE (MP), APRIL 11

A DAY after communal clashes erupted during a Ram Navami procession in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, the district administration on Monday carried out a demolition drive, razing 16 houses and 29 shops in five lo-



During the demolition drive in Khargone on Monday. Express

calities of the town.

In Bhopal, while Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said a claims tribunal would be formed and action taken against rioters, Home Minister Narottam

Mishra issued a warning, saying, "Jis ghar se pathar aaye hain, us" CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS P 9

End divisive politics: BSY to Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, APRIL 11

AMID THE recent flare-up in communal issues in Karnataka, former BJP chief minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday advised Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to "put an end to all this (divisive politics) and focus on the job at hand".

Stating that "all people are equal", Bommai, who is on a tour of the Udipi region, warned that his government would "not tolerate violence", Karnataka Law Minister J C Madhuswamy has also warned of action "if CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sri Lanka's former PM has a message for President: Quit or explain why you won't

EXPRESS IN SRI LANKA

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
COLOMBO, APRIL 11

AS SRI Lanka's political vacuum extended into its tenth day, and protesters demanding the resignation of the Rajapaksa family pitched tents near the presidential office on the main seafort, the country's former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe



Protesters on the streets of Colombo on Monday. PAGE 12

summed up the way forward in one line: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa must resign or explain to the people why he won't.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Wickremesinghe also said that to tide over the current food shortage, Sri Lanka must tap its friends in South Asia — India, Pakistan and Bangladesh — to "borrow" foodgrains that could be returned after two or three years.

He also suggested that a consortium of India, Japan, China, South Korea and the EU could help Sri Lanka until negotiations with the IMF are concluded and CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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A HISTORY OF SRI LANKAN REFUGEES IN INDIA

Sri Lanka's dire economic situation has sparked fears of a new wave of refugees migrating to Tamil Nadu. India already hosts over 100,000 Sri Lankan Tamils who are stuck in a state of limbo, existing neither as citizens nor refugees in the eyes of the law.



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ENTERTAINMENT

BEAST STAR VIJAY INTERVIEW

Talks about his views on religion, son's career plans

EXPRESS AUDIO

UN Climate Report 2022: 'It's now or never'

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Prof Navroz K Dubash one of the coordinating lead authors of the IPCC report discusses the panel's assessment and talks about the warnings, where we stand currently, and a lot more.

FROM PAGE ONE

SL's former PM

the implementation of a bailout begins. He flagged that Indian credit lines for fuel and food would run out by May, and Sri Lanka had to take steps right now to prevent the crisis from overtaking the country.

"He (Gotabaya) has been elected by the people. Even the Parliament can't force him to resign. So it's up to him to decide. And he has told me he's not resigning. In which case, I told him, you have to explain to the people what you're willing to do and why you are not resigning," Wickremesinghe, who was prime minister of Sri Lanka from 2015 to 2019, said.

"Either he has to step down or win back the confidence of the people," he said, describing the protests as Sri Lanka's "Arab Spring" moment, with the country's youth becoming the symbol of discontent among a cross-section of people from farmers in rural areas to the elite in Colombo.

Responding to the fact that the Arab Spring did not end well in many of the countries that were swept by it, he said: "I do not think the military will come out here against the people, because they are affected by the same issues as the people. But we have to avoid an Arab Spring ending."

At the moment, there is a political vacuum in Sri Lanka's government. President Gotabaya has been attempting to stabilise his government since last week, when all his ministers handed in their resignations to give him a free hand to form a new Cabinet. Gotabaya had hoped that this would placate the protesters. Three times last week, there were rumours that a new Cabinet would be sworn in. But it did not happen. It appears that few in the Rajapaksa camp want to be visible and tasked with resolving a difficult crisis. And the street seems to be in no mood to accept cosmetic changes. As one protest placard put it: "Resign, not resign."

Ali Sabri, who was appointed Finance Minister the day after he resigned as Justice Minister on April 4, put in his papers again, but the President did not accept the resignation. He remains the Finance Minister.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has a waiver that majority in Parliament, issued a desperate appeal for the protesters to return home in an address to the nation on Monday. But while there has been talk of a no-confidence motion, the many parties and a set of MPs who have broken away, have not taken any concrete steps towards finalising their next steps.

Wickremesinghe denied rumours that he had been offered the prime ministry by the Rajapaksas. Among Colombo's political elite, there is nostalgia for the promise held out by the 2015-2019 United National Front for Good Governance -- a coalition between Wickremesinghe and then President Maithripala Sirisena -- but that remained unfulfilled. "I've not been asked, and even if I were, I would stay out, because what can I do? I am a party of one (as the only member of his party UNP in Parliament). How can you run the administration? Parliament means you must have support, and numbers. Only the party with the largest numbers forms the government," he said, adding, however, that he had advised the government on how to mitigate the food crisis.

He said he made three proposals at a recent all-party conference in Parliament.

"We are running out of time, we are running out of fuel, we are running out of food. So while you wait for discussions to start with IMF, speak to the World Bank and ADB, and see what short-term assistance you can get. Secondly, until the IMF talks are over, and implementation is done, we won't

get our orders. So have a consortium, India, Japan, China, South Korea, EU, to see how they can help us. And thirdly, to address the food shortage, have arrangements with the South Asian countries -- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh -- to borrow food, and then repay them in two or three years," he said. Wickremesinghe said India had been generous with its assistance. "India has done more than enough. They've given us \$ 1.5 billion. They have never given that kind of assistance to any other country in the neighbourhood. So we have to be thankful for that. But that will be over, fuel (credit line) will be over by mid-May. The other goods, and rice, will all be over. Then what do we do?" he said.

New Pak PM

result announced by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. In the House of 342, the winning candidate should get the support of at least 172 lawmakers.

The younger brother of former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz told the House: "We want good ties with India but durable peace is not possible until the Kashmir dispute is resolved." He attacked Khan for not making "serious and diplomatic efforts" when India abrogated Article 370 in August 2019.

Modi's congratulatory tweet is similar to his first letter to Imran Khan in August 2018 when the latter became Prime Minister of Pakistan.

At that time as well, while congratulating Khan on his assumption of charge, Modi had expressed the hope that the smooth transition of government in Pakistan would strengthen and cement people's belief in democracy. He recalled their telephone conversation in which they spoke of their shared vision to bring peace, security and prosperity in the Indian subcontinent in order to make it "free of terror and violence", and to focus on development. They had spoken in July 2018, days after it became clear that Khan was poised to become the new PM.

With Shehbaz Sharif now becoming PM, New Delhi is watching the developments in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore with "cautious optimism" for any headway in bilateral ties. Top sources said the change in regime may offer a "diplomatic opening". Emerging from the shadow of his elder brother Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz is known to be close to the Pakistan Army -- he was chief minister of Pakistan's Punjab province.

The Sharif family has always been an advocate of better ties with India. There are some green shoots in the otherwise fractious India-Pakistan ties at present. First, the ceasefire, as agreed upon in February last year, has largely been adhered to. This builds confidence that the understanding at the higher political-military level as well as the ground level has been observed and they are broadly in sync. Second, the situation in Afghanistan, and India's humanitarian help -- transportation of wheat via Pakistan -- has shown that there is scope for co-operation for "limited purposes", sources said.

Credit growth

Reserve Bank data. In absolute numbers, credit offtake almost doubled by Rs 10.43 lakh crore as of March 2022 as against Rs 5.78 lakh crore last year. Total credit outstanding was Rs 118.90 lakh crore as on March 25, 2022, the RBI data shows.

The last fortnight of March 2022 witnessed credit offtake of Rs 1.78 lakh crore. Normally the last fortnight of the financial year shows substantial rise in growth as banks release the credit in the last few weeks of the fiscal, said a senior banker. Further, the RBI decision to keep the main policy rate -- repo, the interest rate at which it

'Let's talk how to manage effects of Russia's war'

as leaders of the world's largest democracies, to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. The two leaders also discussed the destabilizing impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine, with a particular focus on global food supply."

The video conference saw four ministers with Biden in the White House -- Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin. Also in the room were US NSA Jake Sullivan and Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's ambassador to the US.

Biden said he was looking forward to meeting Modi in Japan around May 24 for the Quad leaders' summit. The four leaders last met in March via video conference.

The meeting Monday was at the initiative of the US President who, speaking first, flagged "shared values": "At the root of our partnership is a deep connection between our peoples, ties of family, of friendship and of shared values. On that note, I want to welcome India's humanitarian support for the people of Ukraine who are suffering a horrific assault, including a tragic shelling on a train station last week that killed dozens of innocent children and women and civilians attempting to flee the violence."

"The United States and India are going to continue our close consultation on how to manage the destabilizing effects of this Russian war," Biden told Modi. The Prime Minister too spoke on the situation in Ukraine. "Our today's talks are taking place at a time when the

situation in Ukraine remains very worrisome. Till a few weeks back, more than 20,000 Indians were stranded in Ukraine. And most of them were young students. After putting in a lot of effort, we managed to get them out of there safely, although one student lost his life," he said.

"Throughout this development, I spoke to the Presidents of both Ukraine and Russia over the phone several times. I not only appealed for peace, but also suggested President Putin to have direct talks with the President of Ukraine," he said.

Stressing that India had extensive discussions on Ukraine in its Parliament as well, he said, "The news of the recent killings of innocent civilians in Bucha city was very worrying. We condemned it immediately and have also demanded an independent probe. We hope that the ongoing dialogue between Russia and Ukraine will pave the way for peace."

"We have also laid emphasis on the security of the civilians in Ukraine and the uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to them, which you mentioned at the outset. We have sent medicines and other relief materials to Ukraine and its neighbouring countries. And on the demand of Ukraine, soon we are sending another consignment of medicines," Modi said.

Biden said, "As two vibrant democracies, we have the same concerns about the global challenges we face from Covid-19, advancing health, security and tracking the climate crisis. And we share a strong and growing major defence partnership." "Our continued consulta-

tion and dialogue are key to ensuring the US-India relationship continues to grow deeper and stronger, delivering our people and our global good that we all are seeking to manage, particularly in your part of the world," he said.

Modi, who thanked the US President for the initiative on the virtual meeting before the 2+2 meeting, said, "Our meeting before that (the 2+2 meeting) is very important as it will provide direction for their discussions. When I was in Washington last year in September, and you, in fact, mentioned that you had said at the time that the India-America partnership can contribute to solving a lot of global problems. I totally agree with you. As two democracies that are the world's largest and oldest, we are natural partners. And the progress that has taken place in our relations in the last few years, the new momentum that has been created, would have been hard to even imagine a few decades ago."

Modi told Biden, "You gave a very important slogan at the very beginning of your term -- Democracies can Deliver. The success of the partnership between India and the US is the best way to realize this slogan."

"This year, India is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence. And we are also celebrating the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic ties. I am confident that friendship with the United States will remain an integral part of India's development journey over the next 25 years," he said.

After the meeting, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said the two

leaders had extensive exchange of views on several regional and global issues, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, global economic recovery, climate action, recent developments in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region, and the situation in Ukraine.

"They also took stock of the significant progress made in bilateral relations in recent years. Both leaders agreed that further strengthening of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership would be of tremendous benefit to the two countries, and would also contribute to global peace, prosperity and stability," the MEA said.

After the 2+2 meetings, the two sides are likely to sign pacts on cooperation in the education and space sectors.

While Jaishankar met Blinken, Singh met Austin separately in bilateral meetings. "Began the day with a breakfast meeting with @SecBlinken. Wide ranging exchange of views on the global situation, regional hotspots and bilateral co-operation. Took place with the comfort and openness of true strategic partners," Jaishankar tweeted.

Rajnath Singh, in a Twitter post, said: "Had a wonderful meeting with the US @SecDef, Mr Lloyd Austin at the Pentagon today. We reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral defence co-operation and the regional security situation."

Jaishankar is also likely to meet Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, while Singh will travel to Hawaii, headquarters of US Indo-Pacific Command, after his visit to Washington DC.

lends to commercial banks -- at four per cent is expected to boost lending activity. "Investment activity may gain traction with improving business confidence, pick up in bank credit, continuing support from government capex and congenial financial conditions," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while unveiling the monetary policy last week.

The central bank said credit to agriculture and allied activities continued to perform well, registering an accelerated growth of 10.4 per cent to Rs 14.48 lakh crore as of February 2022 as compared to 8.6 per cent growth in February 2021. Credit growth to industry accelerated to 6.5 per cent in February 2022 from 1 per cent in February 2021. Size-wise, credit to medium industries registered high growth of 71.4 per cent to Rs 2.35 lakh crore in February 2022 as compared to 30.6 per cent last year as the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was introduced as a part of the government's Covid-19 financial relief package.

Credit growth to micro and small industries accelerated to 19.9 per cent to Rs 4.84 lakh crore from 3.1 per cent and credit to large industries recorded a marginal growth of 0.5 per cent against a contraction of 0.6 per cent during the same period.

Credit card outstanding increased by 9.9 per cent to Rs 1.44 lakh crore from 6.8 per cent last year as consumer spending rose with the ebbing of the pandemic. Vehicle loans rose 10.3 per cent to Rs 3.29 lakh crore from 7.5 per cent growth last year.

However, gold loan growth came down to 26.2 per cent at Rs 71,408 crore from 75.9 per cent growth last year when households pledged gold jewellery to meet healthcare and other expenses.

"The loans linked to MCLR are likely to enjoy the ultra-low rates

for an extended period, making the environment conducive for reviving and fostering demand. Though there are expectations of upward pressure to emerge in the coming months with expectations of rate hike as early as Q1FY23," a Bank of Baroda official said. According to an ICICI Securities report, March quarter being seasonally strong in terms of disbursements and impact of third wave of pandemic being minimal, we believe after two years we would witness full-fledged business activity in the fourth quarter of FY22. Operational numbers should also show improvement with various parameters like asset quality, margins, etc, witnessing improvement.

Advances growth is expected to be driven by retail and MSME segments as they have been in the past few quarters. However, corporate loans, which used to be a negative drag on overall industry credit growth have started moving in the positive territory. Overall retail and MSME focused lenders (banks, NBFCs) should do well while the MFI segment should see better collections with a revival in economic activity.

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuité Ratings & Research, said, "ECLGS has not only pushed up credit growth in the medium enterprise category but has certainly helped in alleviating the financial stress in the MSME segment during the pandemic. In our ratings portfolio, we have noted that over 50% of the rated companies with a turnover of less than Rs 250 crore have availed the ECLGS facility. This has helped to ease the liquidity scenario for MSMEs apart from lowering the cost of borrowings to an extent."

Further extension of ECLGS till March 2023 with an aggregate coverage of Rs five lakh crore, with an increased guarantee cover Rs

50,000 crore for the hospitality sector announced in the Union Budget FY23, will help meet the working capital requirement of small to midsize businesses. On a sectoral basis, some big-ticket disbursements have started to be visible in industries such as textiles, petroleum, chemicals, electronics, and infrastructure, especially roads and airports.

Two dead

"Efforts were made to provide relief to those still stuck in the cable cars by running a parallel line and throwing food and water across 10-15 feet. But there were some cable cars with doors on the other side. Passengers stuck there couldn't receive any help," a senior official involved in the rescue operation said.

Officials identified the Garud commando as a member of a rescue team who stayed back in a cable car with one other occupant who could not be rescued before the light faded and rescue operations, which were conducted through two Mi-17 V-5 IAF helicopters, were called off for the day.

"The Garud commando got stuck as there was still one passenger in that cable car who had not been rescued. It was felt that it would be wise if the commando stayed there to ensure the passenger didn't panic through the night," another official said.

The NDRF has deployed two teams, with a DIG and a Commandant leading the operation, while the ITBP has sent separate teams from Ranchi for the rescue operation. Deoghar Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri said requests were also made to the Army and IAF for the "challenging" task.

"The terrain is very difficult as the cable cars are suspended at an angle and the Air Force personnel had to take care that the choppers did not touch them. The hamess-

ing and airlifting of people were done in a coordinated manner. Unfortunately, one person slipped during the rescue and fell down on a field, resulting in his death," Bhajantri said.

He added that food packets and water were supplied through maintenance cars to those still stranded.

Tourism director Sinha said the ropeway was being operated by Damodar Ropeways and Infra Ltd, which had the contract from 2014 to 2019. "Due to Covid, the contract was not renewed but they were operating it," he said. Officials of the Kolkata-based company were not available for comment.

"An inquiry will be initiated after which we will come to know the exact cause of the incident. The engineers of the company reached the spot but repair work would not be possible as long as people are still inside the cable cars," said Amitabh Kaushal, Principal Secretary, Jharkhand Disaster Management Department.

One of the local guides, Praful Singh, told The Indian Express that he was at the base when the ropeway stalled. "Within seconds, the cable cars were swinging wildly in the air. One of the staff, Panna Lal, climbed on the rope-way carrying ropes and rescued some people before the administration arrived. One of the women was injured and bleeding," he said.

"On Monday, I went up in the morning to give a signal to the Air Force people to show where they could start the rescue work. Later, help was taken from a local drone operator who accompanied the rescue team in the maintenance car to provide water and food to people who could not be reached on Sunday," Singh said.

"Those who were stuck were panicking and some were crying out loud. All of them were asking

for water. They were shouting, 'Hua kya hai, kya hum log kabhi nikal payenge (What has happened? Will we be able to escape)?"

Bulldozers raze

ghar ko hi patharon ka dher banaenge (We will turn the houses from where the stones were pelted to a heap of rubble.)"

At least 10 houses were set ablaze and more than two dozen people, including Khargone Superintendent of Police Siddharth Choudhary, were injured in Sunday's violence.

On Monday, the demolitions started in the morning from Chhote Mohan Talkies area, where four 'illegal' structures were demolished, after which demolitions were carried out in Aurangpura, Khaskhaswadi, Ganesh Mandir and Talab chowk areas. Talab chowk was from where the Ram Navami procession set off on Sunday, before violence began barely 500 metres away.

Of the 45 demolitions on Monday, the highest number was in Khaskhaswadi, where 12 homes and 10 shops were demolished. Bhawar mohalla, located behind Khaskhaswadi, was among the areas that reported heavy stone pelting on Sunday.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Sub Divisional Magistrate Milind Dhoke said, "All the shops and houses that have been demolished so far were illegal structures constructed on encroached land. There were reports of stone pelting from these areas after which action was taken."

Speaking to the media, Dr Pawan Kumar Sharma, Commissioner, Indore Range, said, "So far, 84 people have been arrested and their illegal properties and encroachments are being demolished... Fifty places have been identified so far and action will continue."

Khargone District Collector P Anugraha said the demolished buildings were illegal constructions and that the drive wasn't targeted at any particular community. "The buildings demolished were illegal structures set up on encroached land belonging to people from both communities," she told The Indian Express.

Of the 12 shops demolished in the Talab chowk area, eight were run by Muslims and the remaining four by Hindus. All the 12 shops were part of the Khargone Jama Masjid complex and owned by the masjid committee.

At Talab chowk, Rafeek Mohammad, 50, stood outside his demolished scrap shop in the fading evening light, trying to salvage whatever little he could. "I do not support the rioters and I want them to be arrested but why was my shop demolished today? How will I sustain my family of 17 now? Will the CM explain?"

Narendra Sureshchand Gupta, whose kirana shop in the area was among those razed, said, "I had taken the shop on rent from the masjid committee authority, and no notice was given to us. Had the committee got the notice, they would have told us. We learnt about the demolition an hour before they brought in the bulldozers. Since I live nearby, I rushed in and, with help from others, managed to take out whatever I could."

DIG Tilak Singh said 11 FIRs have been registered in the case of Sunday's violence and 84 people have been arrested.

Earlier in the day, calling the Khargone incident "unfortunate", Chief Minister Chouhan said in a tweet, "There is no place for rioters on the soil of Madhya Pradesh. These rioters have been identified, they will not be released. Strictest action will be taken against them."

Chouhan further said that a claims tribunal would be formed under the state's Prevention of Damage to Public and Private Property and Recovery of

Damages Act. "All rioters will be punished and all damages after assessment will be recovered from them," he added.

Speaking to reporters in Bhopal, Home Minister Mishra said, "Presently, there is peace in Khargone. There is sufficient police force but curfew is still in place. All rioters are being identified."

Sharma, the Indore Range Commissioner, said three contractual employees of the government have been removed for "spreading rumours" while another employee has been suspended.

SP Siddharth Choudhary, who was injured in Sunday's clash, continues to be in hospital. "The SP sustained pellet injuries on his leg... it might also be identified as bullet injuries," Minister Mishra told reporters.

Khargone Congress MLA Ravi Joshi, who visited the town Sunday night, blamed the clash on "gross negligence of police".

BSY to Bommai

pro-Hindu organisations cross their limits".

"Hindus and Muslims are brothers born to the same mother and they have a bond. If there are efforts to break this bond, the Chief Minister has said that action as per the law will be taken. He has also said that efforts must be made to prevent deterioration of law and order and to allow people to live in peace," Yediyurappa told reporters in Bengaluru.

"The Chief Minister has stated that law and order will be protected. I will advise him (Bommai) to put an end to all this (divisive politics) and focus on the job at hand. All communities should live in peace and dignity," he said. He said while Hindus and Muslims wanted to coexist in peace, some miscreants were trying to create divisions.

Stating that the Opposition must cooperate with the government to bring about development, Yediyurappa said Congress leaders like Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar must not create confusion over small issues.

A series of communal issues have rocked the state in the past few months -- from the hijab row, to calls to ban Muslim traders from Hindu religious fairs, and then a campaign to boycott halal meat and shut down loudspeakers at mosques.

As reported by The Indian Express, the central BJP leadership has told Bommai that while such issues could win some votes, his government must focus on development and governance.

On Monday, Bommai warned of action against those who disrupt the peace. "We are of the view that law and order should be protected, that all people are equal. There is no problem if people express their opinions, but when law is taken into their hands, or when there is violence, the government will not tolerate it, and we have made this message clear," he said.

"My action will speak for itself. Our actions should speak, not our words. We know what should be spoken and when, and we know what action should be taken," he said. "Ours is a peaceful and law-abiding state. It is a progressive state. We know how to protect the state, and we are doing it," he said.

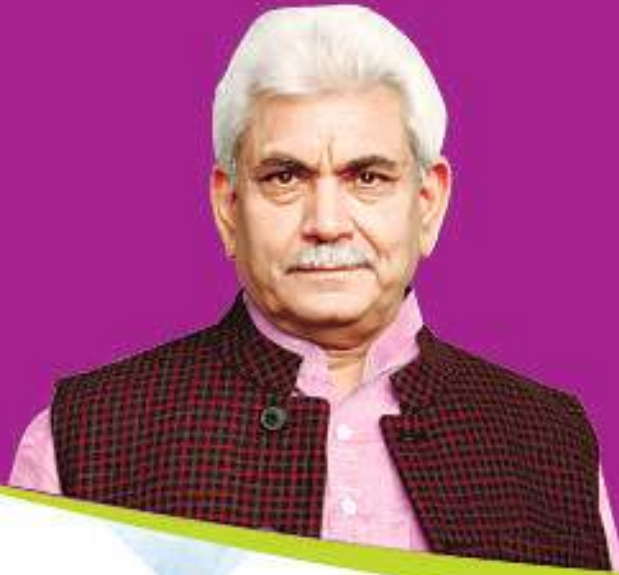
Madhuswamy conveyed a similar message in Belagavi on Sunday. "The government is not backing any of these activities. It will take action if pro-Hindu organisations cross their limits. There are no two ways about this. This country belongs to everybody. All those who remained in India after Partition are Indians. There is no point in creating a controversy over this. The government will not give this too much scope," he said.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

**Jubilant
Jammu
Kashmir**



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

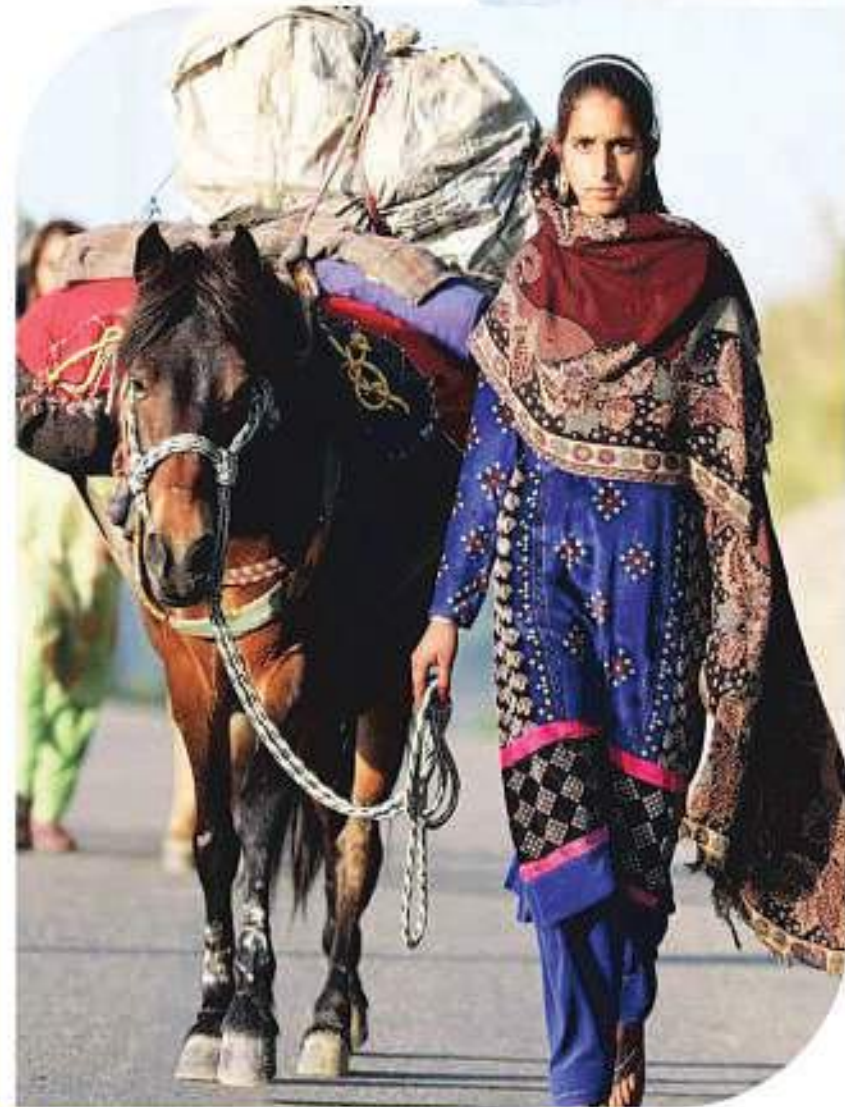


A New Era For Tribal Communities



Ensuring Respect, Rights & Opportunities

- Implementation of Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act
- **6 EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**
2 in Rajouri, 1 each in Poonch, Anantnag, Kulgam and Bandipora - To be operationalised by this year
- **First Survey** of Transhuman nomadic tribal population completed
- Annual outlay of **₹30 Cr** earmarked for scholarships
- **8 Tribal Transit** Accommodations on migratory routes : **₹28 Cr**
- **100 Smart Schools** in Tribal areas
- **₹73 Cr** for Cluster **Tribal Model Villages**
- **Tribal Youth Engagement Programme: 500 youth** selected for professional courses



- Infrastructure development: **60 villages**
- **Milk Villages: ₹15 Cr** for Dairy farms and allied infrastructure
- Modernisation and up gradation of **15 hostels**
- **2 Tribal Museums and Research Centres** -Poonch and Jammu
- **2 Tribal Bhawans** approved: Jammu/ Rajouri

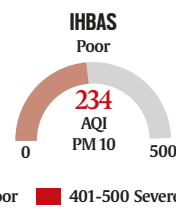
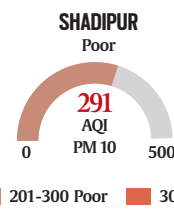
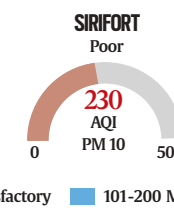
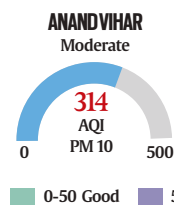
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**Forest Rights
Certificates
issued so far**

Peace, Progress, Prosperity, People First

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

[f @jkinformation](#) [y @dipr-jk](#) [t @diprjk](#)



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: April 12
Partly cloudy sky. Heat wave conditions at isolated places.

MAX: 40 | MIN: 23
3.9°C Above normal | 2.2°C Above normal

DAY AFTER VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

JNU admin breaks silence as ABVP, Left trade charges



Members of Left student organisations protested outside the Tughlak Road police station on Monday evening. Prem Nath Pandey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

A DAY after violence broke out between two groups of students on campus, the Jawaharlal Nehru University administration broke its silence Monday and said the "scuffle" had begun with some students objecting to the holding of 'havan' inside Kaveri hostel on the occasion of Ram Navami — an allegation first made by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Sunday.

Students from Left outfits and others, however, alleged that the ABVP had first indulged in violence as they did not want non-vegetarian food to be cooked and served in the hostel mess. On that, JNU Registrar Ravikesh said it had been clarified that there was "no bar" on serving non-vegetarian food.

"There was a scuffle on campus on April 10 between student groups. It was the occasion of Ram Navami and havan was organised by the students in the Kaveri Hostel, and there were students who were objecting to this. The wardens and the Dean of Students tried to pacify and the havan was concluded peacefully. Despite this, some groups of students were not happy with this and soon after, at the time of dinner, a ruckus was created over there and heated arguments were followed by altercation between both the groups in the Kaveri Hostel," he said in a statement.

On allegations of violence over non-vegetarian food being served, he said: "Mess is run by

the student committee and the administration has nothing to do with the menu. The wardens clarified on the spot and issued a notice when the ruckus was going among students that there is no bar on serving non-vegetarian food."

He said that after the incident, the JNU administration "immediately swung into action", with Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit visiting the hostel late at night. "We appeal to everyone to exercise restraint and let the academic environment flourish in JNU without any external disturbances," he said. The V-C did not respond to repeated calls and texts by *The Indian Express*.

Akhari Ansari from the AISA, who was injured on Sunday and received four stitches on her head, alleged, "They were raising slogans of *Jai Shri Ram* and abusing everyone. This was not a clash, it was a pre-planned attack like we are seeing across the country where they want to determine what should be eaten. I was hit on the head with a brick, and I didn't even get an ambulance. I had to take an auto. These are the same people who attacked on January 5, 2020. We want action to be taken against them."

The ABVP and the Left-led JNU Students' Union continued to trade charges against each other Monday, with the former claiming that non-vegetarian food was being used as a "diversionary tactic". Rohit Kumar, unit president, said, "Leftists wanted to disrupt Ram Navami puja. We have nothing against non-veg being served. In other hostels it

was served. But we do have a problem if Leftists force it. One week back it was decided by the Mess Committee after a GBM (general body meeting) that non-veg would not be served in Kaveri."

"Three days back there were also threats from Leftists that they would throw bones during the puja. The Left always has an agenda to derail... It was during this time of the year, when they would call Laal (music) band from Pakistan, who would abuse India. The Left has ties with Pakistan," he claimed, adding that several students were injured by the Left members.

The JNUSU denied the allegations and said students, including hostel residents with no political affiliations, were attacked by the ABVP. "They hit us with anything they could get their hands on — flowerpots, lathis, sweepers, bricks, stones. Two guards were also injured in the attack. Police were standing there but they didn't do anything. It is the same people who also indulged in violence on January 5, 2020, but no action was taken against them," alleged JNUSU councillor Apeksha Priyadarshini.

The last major incident of violence in JNU had taken place on January 5, 2020, when around 100 masked persons had gone on a rampage with sticks and rods inside the university for around four hours, leaving 36 students, teachers and staff — including JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh — injured. An FIR had been registered but no arrests were made.

Day before JNU violence, mess warden suggested skipping non-veg food on Sunday

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

A DAY before violence inside JNU's Kaveri hostel, the hostel's mess secretary received a message from one of the wardens asking that non-vegetarian food not be served in the mess on Sunday.

Mess warden Gopal Ram, when contacted, confirmed that he had messaged in this regard on Saturday, but added that it was a "suggestion" to avoid any "clashes" between students. The menu for the hostel is de-

cidied by the mess committee — an elected students' body, and the wardens don't have a role in deciding it.

However, mess secretary Raghib, a student at JNU, said he had received a message from the warden Gopal Ram, a teacher on campus. "I was told that there should be no non-veg food made, that there should only be veg. As per our mess menu, non-veg is made on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. I told him if he wants a change in this, he should give it to me in writing. He refused to. There are 170-180 students out of 300 students

who eat non-veg," he said.

He also denied the ABVP's claim that it was decided a week ago, at a general body meeting, that non-veg would not be served on Sunday, when some students observed Ram Navami. "If there was a GBM, there should be some poster of it, or some minutes of the GBM. There was no such meeting. We decide the menu for the whole month at the beginning of the month; it's not decided on a day-to-day basis," claimed Raghib.

When contacted, Ram said, "Students who wanted to perform Ram Navami puja re-

quested that it would be good if non-veg was not cooked on Sunday. Others wanted non-veg since it was scheduled on the menu. Since I'm the acting mess warden, I asked that if non-veg could be shifted to another day, that would be the best way to avoid clashes. That was a suggestion; not an instruction or a written order to pressure them."

Asked if there was any opposition to the havan being held, he said, "I think yes. There were some students."

Asked if there was permission for the ceremony, he said, "No permission was taken from

us, but neither was it taken for the iftar party. They should have taken permission, but neither did."

Navin Kumar, Kaveri hostel president from Congress's NSUI, said he had attended the Ram Navami puja. "It was held without a problem. Nobody objected to it. I also attended it and ate prasad afterwards. The problem started when they shooed away the vendor who came to deliver chicken," he alleged.

In a video, the vendor, Afzal, is purportedly seen being asked to leave by a group of students on Sunday afternoon.

Cross-FIRs filed, no arrest so far: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

POLICE HAVE registered cross-FIRs against several unidentified students from Jawaharlal Nehru University based on complaints lodged by Left student bodies and the ABVP, a day after violence on campus. No arrest has been made so far.

DCP (Southwest) Manoj C said a case has been registered against unknown activists from Left student bodies under charges of causing hurt, wrongful restraint, criminal intimidation, molestation. "We also received a complaint from a group of students who are members of JNUSU, SFI, DSF and AISA early Monday morning against unknown ABVP students. We have registered an FIR under similar sections. Further investigation is on to collect factual and scientific evidence to identify the culprits," he said.

While police said six students were injured, Left activists alleged the number was 50-60, while ABVP claimed it was 15-20, including 8-10 members of the outfit. Around 15 students were admitted to Safdarjung Hospital following the violence.

JNUSU and other students, in their complaint, alleged that ABVP students assaulted a meat vendor and then members of the mess committee at 3.45 pm. "Around 7.30 pm... these goons started assaulting students

again, first with their fists... and then with various objects including rocks, bricks, flowerpots, rods and tube lights... even the... security guards were assaulted... Several women students were given death threats and abused in front of your (police) personnel," the complaint alleged.

The FIR registered on the complaint of ABVP members states: "On April 10, students from Kaveri hostel organised a puja on the occasion of Ram Navami. This was opposed by Left organisations such as AISA, SFI, DSF, BASO, etc. They put up a fake notice to stop this under the name of the warden. The puja was supposed to start at 3 pm but because they opposed and created obstruction, it started at 5 pm. Members of AISA... started sloganeering during the puja saying 'Ram Navami puja won't be allowed' and also threatened students."

The FIR also claims that Left activists started sloganeering after the puja, and allegedly entered rooms of students involved in the puja and beat them.

"Similar to the January 5, 2020, cadres from Left organisations selectively thrashed ABVP students. Students with disabilities were beaten up, they misbehaved with female students and there was also an attempt to instil fear in minds of students... Since the January 5, 2020, violence... ABVP workers have been targeted in a continuously planned manner," it alleged.

FIRs filed in fresh JNU violence, but Jan 2020 case still unsolved

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

IN THE last two years, the Delhi Police has changed the investigation officer three times and also transferred the chief of the special investigation team formed to look into the incident, but arrests remain to be made in the January 5, 2020, violence at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

Around 100 masked persons had gone on a rampage inside the university for four hours on January 5, leaving 36 students, teachers and staff injured. An FIR was registered and the SIT was formed after three cases were transferred to the Crime Branch.

Two years and another incident of violence later, that case appears to have hardly moved forward. In the wake of Sunday's violence at JNU, members of Left student bodies alleged the lack of police action in the 2020 case emboldened ABVP activists to take the law into their hands again. During a protest march by the JNUSU on Sunday night, among the slogans raised was: "Baar baar ye nahi hone denge."

The ABVP, on the other hand, blames Left activists for instigating violence on both occasions. Last year, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Lok Sabha that the Delhi Police had reported that an SIT was constituted to investigate three cases registered at the



ABVP students address the media on Monday. Abhinav Saha

Vasant Kunj (North) police station with regard to the 2020 violence. "Investigation conducted includes examination of witnesses; collection and analysis of footages; and examination of identified suspects. As reported by the Delhi Police, no arrest has been made in these cases," he said, replying to a written question by DMK member Dayanidhi Maran.

Last year, the case file was transferred from the first investigation officer (IO) to a second one, and was handed over to a third recently. DCP Joy Tirkey, who was heading the SIT, was also transferred from the crime branch recently.

As part of the probe, the first IO had written to WhatsApp and Google asking for details of messages, photos and videos shared by the 33 students and members of two WhatsApp groups — 'Unity Against Left' and 'Friends

of RSS'. "While WhatsApp refused to share details, Google said the information requested relates to services offered by Google LLC, a company organised and operating in the US and governed by US laws," said a police source.

On January 9, 2020, days after the violence, Delhi Police had released the names of nine suspects — all students, of whom seven were identified as members of Left-student outfits. The other two were from the ABVP, though police did not name the outfit. After registering an FIR, 20 personnel of the police's SIT set up a camp office inside the JNU administration block. Police later questioned 100 persons, including Delhi University student Komal Sharma, who claimed that she was not present on campus during the violence.

24-yr-old dies after falling into open manhole in Faridabad, family alleges negligence

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, APRIL 11

A 24-YEAR-OLD man died after allegedly falling into an open manhole in Faridabad on Saturday night. Police said the man has been identified as Harish Verma alias Honey, a resident of Lakadpur. His family said he worked in the loan division of a private bank.

The incident took place around 9 pm when Verma and his two friends were returning in their car after dropping a friend and he stepped out to answer nature's call in Sector 56.

Counting the incident as told to him by Verma's friends, his father Dhyansingh told *The Indian Express*: "My son went to relieve himself near a green belt in Sector 56, and his friends waited in the car. When he did not return, they went looking for him. They used their phone torch and saw some bubbles in the manhole. Since it was dark, my son must not have noticed it and he fell into it... it was over 20 feet deep and had water up to 10 feet."

"His friends then raised alarm and gathered people to try and rescue him. A police team stationed nearby arrived but was



Harish Verma

unsuccessful in rescuing him. A fire brigade was called, and my son was pulled out using ropes and rushed to a hospital, but it was too late by then," said Singh.

"This is negligence on part of the authorities. If the manhole had been covered, my son would not have suffered this tragic fate," he said, adding that the family will file a police complaint or approach the court for action.

His father said they had been looking to get him married: "Discussions were going on for his wedding in the next two-three months. We were about to finalise a date. He had recently joined this job and was about to settle down. We are still coming to terms with the loss."

According to police, they received information of the inci-

dent at Sector 55 police post area around 9.30 pm and quickly reached the spot. Police said with the help of the fire brigade, the victim was pulled out of the gutter and rushed to a private hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Faridabad Police spokesperson Sube Singh said, "The victim's family has not filed any complaint as of now. We have conducted inquest proceedings under CrP Section 174 and handed over the body to the family after the autopsy."

Police said they are checking which authority is responsible for the particular area.

Campus violence: Sentiments must be respected, says Ramdas Athawale; NCP hits out at BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

A DAY after students clashed at JNU, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale said that some students' stand to not consume non-vegetarian food on Ram Navami was not wrong.

"I think everyone's sentiments should be respected. Our country belongs to all communities and sentiments of all communities should be respected. Ram Navami is a sacred festival of Hindus and in such a scenario, I think if some (students) had taken a stand to not consume non-veg on that day, their stand is not wrong," said Athawale.

Athawale, an ally of the BJP, also said there should not be any conflict over consumption of vegetarian and non-vegetarian food and people should respect each other's sentiments.

While students from the Left outfits alleged that ABVP had first indulged in violence as they did not want non-vegetarian food to be cooked and served in the hostel mess on Ram Navami, ABVP and the University registrar said that violence had begun when some students objected to a 'havan' inside Kaveri hostel on the festival. Left outfits have said that this was untrue.

Delhi Home Minister, Satyendar Jain, meanwhile, called the clash "unfortunate". When asked about the incident,



Outside the PHQ, Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

he said, "I am the home minister of Delhi. You should ask this question to the home minister under whom the Delhi Police is."

Maharashtra minister and Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray said he was pained by the incident: "There is a need to think about which direction we want to take the country in. It pains to see that such a clash can erupt over a row like this. Focus should be on education and students in schools and colleges."

Hitting out at BJP and ABVP Maharashtra NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said that ABVP was trying to enforce their ideologies. "The NCP strongly condemns the incident of violence at the JNU. BJP is communalising our secular educational institutions through ABVP. It has been observed time and again that ABVP volunteers have been trying to enforce their right-wing ideologies on students of various institutions," Tapase said.

Several detained during protest

Meanwhile, on Monday afternoon, around 15 AISA activists were detained within minutes of them beginning a protest over Sunday's violence near the police HQ and were taken to Tughlak Road police station.

Other members of Left organisations began gathering at Tughlak Road police station by around 4 pm, demanding the release of those detained. As other activists also made their way to different police stations, with most at the Tughlak Road station and Chanakyaपुरi station.

DCP (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said: "AISA members had gathered around Jai Singh Road... against the mandate of Section 144 CrP which is in force in the area. They were asked to leave but they violated the lawful direction. 48 men and 22 women are detained. No woman protester was handled by a male police official and no one was manhandled..."

On allegations that women students were not being released, she said they were released at 6 pm but refused to leave until everyone was allowed to go.

Around 9 pm, the DCP said all students have been released. "A case under IPC sections 188 and 323 has been registered against students for protesting outside the Police HQ."

Centre meets MCDs to address issue of dumpsites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE MINISTRY of Housing and Urban Affairs Monday urged the MCDs to step up efforts for waste segregation at the source and attract private sector participation. It was also decided that MCDs and DDA would jointly discuss and settle all land-related issues.

A high-level meeting was held by the ministry to discuss the progress made in the remediation of three legacy dumpsites in Delhi — Okhla, Ghazipur and Bhalswa.

The meeting, chaired by the ministry secretary, was also attended by officials from the environment ministry, urban devel-



This comes at a time when yet another fire broke out at the Ghazipur landfill Saturday — the second in nearly two weeks

opment secretary, DDA vice-chairman, MCD commissioners, representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board, National Thermal Power Corporation and

National Highways Authority of India.

The three MCDs reported that they collectively generate 11,000 tonnes of solid waste per

day, of which approximately 5,900 tonnes is scientifically processed at three waste-to-energy plants at Narela, Bawana, Okhla and Ghazipur sites.

At the three dumpsites, approximately 42 lakh metric tonnes have been remediated till date, but the rest of the untreated fresh waste that continues to be dumped at these sites offsets whatever remediation has happened till now.

"DDA was also requested to explore opportunities to use less than 6 mm fractions of inerts as soil enricher in their horticulture and biodiversity parks, to the extent feasible. In terms of funding issues pertaining to remediation, it was decided that the Government of Delhi would ex-

plore possibilities for considering the green cess funds for transportation of excavated legacy waste, since dumpsite remediation would contribute to reduction of air pollution in Delhi," the ministry said in a statement.

MCDs were requested to undertake detailed analysis for optimising process costs for dumpsite remediation, with comprehensive projections and strong project monitoring measures.

This also comes at a time when yet another fire broke out at the Ghazipur landfill on Saturday night — the second one in nearly two weeks. On March 28, a massive fire broke out at the site which was put out only after 48 hours. Saturday's fire raged for over three hours.

5 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS
2,856

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **47**

OXYGEN SUPPORT: **6**

VENTILATOR SUPPORT: **0**

DELHI: TOTAL CASES
18,66,380

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,745	9,696
ICU BEDS	2,202	2,186

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
April 10	141	113	1	10,939
April 11	137	144	0	5,079
Total	601*	18,39,622	26,157	3,74,94,131

*Total active cases in Delhi

	Apr 10	Apr 11
Cases	15	N/A
Deaths	0	N/A

	Cases	Deaths
GURGAON	77	46
Deaths	0	0

Bridge to connect Nizamuddin rly station to RRTS



A blueprint of the foot overbridge. NCRTC

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

TO PROVIDE seamless connectivity between the upcoming Sarai Kale Khan Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) station and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is planning to construct a 280-metre-long foot overbridge with travellers.

Presently, passengers have to exit the Sarai Kale Khan-Nizamuddin Metro station and walk for about 5-10 minutes to reach the railway station. The RRTS station will solve these issues, officials said.

The Sarai Kale Khan station, which will be 215-metres-long, 50-metres-wide and 15-metres-high, is located in the vicinity of the Metro, railway station and Vir Haqiqat Rai SBT. The station will have three levels — ground, concourse, and platform — and will be designed and developed under the Multi-Modal Integration (MMI) plan.

"It will provide seamless intermodal integration between these modes of transport. To further ease transit of passengers, NCRTC is going to provide a 280-metre-long FOB with a traveller installed on it between Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway

Station and RRTS station," said a senior NCRTC official.

The distance between Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station is about 300 metres. "We decided to install a traveller on the FOB so senior citizens and persons with disability can easily travel with heavy baggage," said the official.

Besides, the Sarai Kale Khan station will serve as the heart of Phase I RRTS system where all three priority corridors — Delhi-Panipat, Delhi-SNB-Alwar, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut — will converge. Interoperability will facilitate commuters to travel from one corridor to another without hassles.

Officials said for smooth and orderly vehicular movement in and around the station, a traffic integration plan is being designed to create additional drive-in space for all types of vehicles. Dedicated pick-up/drop-off zones, pedestrian-friendly paths, lifts/escalators, sitting areas, and other commuter-centric amenities are also on the cards.

Construction of the Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station is in full swing and piers have been erected. The 17-km priority section, between Sahibabad and Duhai, is estimated to be ready by 2023 and the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor will be completed by 2025.

No bail to Sharjeel in Delhi riots UAPA case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

A DELHI court Monday denied bail to JNU student Sharjeel Imam in a UAPA case lodged in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, saying there are reasonable grounds to believe the allegations against him are true.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat noted that the four protected witnesses' statements have to be taken at face value at this stage of deciding the bail application. The protected witnesses have claimed that Imam made provocative speeches asking for Shaheen Bagh to be created across the country, asked for the overthrow of the government and called for chakka jams across the country.

Imam's lawyer, Tanveer Ahmed Mir, had argued that the accused never advocated violence. "The allegations against the accused are false and imaginary... chats of groups MSJ shows that accused never discussed or mentioned any intention to cause violence."

"Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad argued that there is sufficient material on record to establish that the accusations against the accused is prima facie true. Mir had argued that it is the constitutional right of the accused to protest against the law of CAA/NRC. On this, the court said that "there is no gainsaying the sacrosanct fundamental right of speech and free expression subject to public order available to every citizen of this country including the accused... However, the chargesheet, as filed, presents the case of conspiracy under the guise of a protest".

Mir had argued that chakka jam has been used in this country for long, to which the court said Imam's speech delivered on December 13, 2019, "is envisaged as a plan of action".

COVID POSITIVITY RATE HIGHEST SINCE FEB Hospitalisation low, no reason to worry: Jain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

WITH JUST over 5,000 Covid tests conducted Sunday, Delhi's positivity rate climbed to 2.77% — the highest since February 5.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, however, said this was not a cause for concern as the rate of hospitalisation was down.

"We are closely monitoring the Covid situation in Delhi. There is no need to focus on the infection rate at the moment, as the number of hospital admissions is decreasing day by day and the total daily cases falling between 100 and 200... There is no need to panic. The only way to prevent the virus from spreading is to take precautions and follow all the protocols related to Covid at all times," he said.

On Monday, 137 cases were reported in the city. There are 47 people in hospital at present — 30 of them with suspected Covid. Out of the remaining 17, 5 are in ICU and 6 on oxygen support. No one is on ventilator support at present.



Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain

Speaking about the XE variant of the novel coronavirus, Jain said, "The XE variant is yet to be classified as a variant of concern. New variants of the virus are being discovered around the world almost every other day, and many more will emerge as time passes. We have to understand that unless a variant is deemed as a 'variant of concern' by the WHO, we need not be worried about it. However, we still need to keep our guard up and follow the rules pertaining to the pandemic."

The Delhi government lifted all Covid related restrictions earlier this month, also removing the penalty of Rs 500 for not wearing masks in public places. Jain said Monday that changes are made to policy based on the number of cases.

"Cases have gone down substantially and hospital admissions have followed suit as well. Only around 47 people were admitted into hospitals, which is a significant fall in numbers from around 150 people being admitted a month ago. We have to understand that Covid is here to stay and we have to learn to live with it and make changes to our policies accordingly," he said.

The Covid positivity rate in Delhi has seen a gradual but steady increase over the past week. According to doctors and government officials, this is because only those people who are coming to hospitals and testing centres with respiratory or flu-like symptoms are specifically seeking out RT PCR test. Random testing in public places has fallen significantly.

4 GB Pant nursing staff sent on leave after graft allegations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

FOLLOWING SEVERAL complaints and allegations of corruption against GB Pant hospital administration staff, the medical superintendent has relieved four nursing officers from duty and asked them to go on leave.

"In view of the allegations and ongoing enquiry, the following nursing officials of GB Pant are hereby relieved of their duties and ordered to proceed on leave immediately. Further, these officials shall make themselves available for enquiry as and when called," read the order issued by the medical superintendent.

The nurses' union, however, opposed the action taken against two nursing officers, saying they were the complainants in the case.

"... how can they relieve the complainants who raised the issue of corruption? Such action from the hospital administration shows that they want to shut down everyone who raises their voice against corruption and mismanagement. This is highly unacceptable, and all four unions

strongly condemn the order," said Liladhara Ramchandani, president of the hospital's nurses' association and secretary general of Delhi Nurses Federation.

Meanwhile, the nurses' association, technicians, para-medical union, and SC/ST association, which had decided to go on a two-hour strike from 9 am to 11 am starting Tuesday, said they will go ahead with the protest.

"No staff or worker will raise their voice in future because of such action from the hospital administration. We will go on an indefinite strike and shut all emergency services if action against the two nursing officers is not reversed," said Liladhara.

The nurses' union also alleged that the nursing superintendent had been pressuring and forcing nurses to pay money for internal postings and transfers and that the two nursing officers had filed complaints with the hospital's director. A purported audio clip of the nursing superintendent demanding a bribe had gone viral on social media.

The medical superintendent did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Summer action plan to curb pollution to kick off today

New Delhi: The 'summer action plan' to mitigate air pollution from April to September will begin Tuesday with an 'anti-open burning' campaign, according to Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

The campaign is from April 12-May 12, and 10 departments will participate with 500 teams that will monitor open burning. The plan is being rolled out in a

manner that is similar to the winter action plan that was in place last winter to deal with sources of air pollution. Controlling garbage burning had also been a part of the winter action plan. Rai said to mitigate instances of fires at landfill sites, a joint meeting will be held with experts from organisations like TERI, CSE, DPCC, DTU and IIT-Delhi. ENS

TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office:
Bombay House, 24, Hornby Road, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: 91 22 6666 8000 Fax: 91 22 6666 8801
CIN: L28200MH1999PLC000567
Email: info@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE

We wish to inform our dear consumers that the Consumer Rights Statement is available at our billing centers free of cost for a copy and the same is also available on the Tata Power Website: www.tatapower.com in downloadable format (Regulations >> License Area Mumbai >> Consumer Rights Statement). This notice is issued in compliance with the MERC's directive.

The Tata Power Company Limited

राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भुवनेश्वर
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BHUBANESWAR
(परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, भारत सरकार का एक स्वयंशासित संस्थान)
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE UNDER DAE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

ADMISSION TO MASTERS PROGRAM IN MEDICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL PHYSICS

The National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar, invites applications from interested candidates for the M. Sc. program in Medical and Radiological Physics at the Centre for Medical and Radiation Physics, NISER, Odisha, India.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Degree awarding institute	Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai and NISER
Duration of the course	2 years Master's program and 1-year mandatory internship.
Total No. of seats	10
Minimum qualification and selection	60% marks in B. Sc with physics as a main course and JAM 2022 / JEST 2022 scorecards. The shortlisting will be based on JAM 2022 / JEST 2022 marks, followed by interview for selection.
Fellowship	Rs. 16,000/- p.m. + HRA and Contingency as per DAE rules, during master's program.
Internship hospitals as per AERB guidelines	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Acharya Harihara Post Graduate Institute of Cancer, Cuttack and Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.

More details about the program are available at: <https://oldsite.niser.ac.in/CMRP/>

HOW TO APPLY
See announcements section of NISER website <https://www.niser.ac.in/> or Scan the QR code

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date of online application	15 th May 2022
Date of interview	1 st - 4 th July 2022
Announcement of final selection list	5 th July 2022

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE
"Centre for Medical and Radiation Physics, NISER, PO- Jatni, Dist- Khurda, Odisha, 752050"
Email: cmrp@niser.ac.in

EXPRESS Careers

Banks Board Bureau
An Autonomous Body of Government of India
Extends the last date of submission of application for the positions of
Deputy Managing Director (Lending and Project Finance), Deputy Managing Director (Chief Financial Officer) & Deputy Managing Director (Chief Risk Officer)
of
National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development

With reference to Bureau's earlier advertisement dated March 22, 2022, inviting applications for the aforementioned three positions of DMD in NaBFID, it is informed that the Bureau extends the last date of submission of applications up to 5:00 pm on 22-Apr-2022. Further, it is clarified that the Cost Accountants are also eligible to apply for the said positions. Other eligibility criteria, terms and conditions as per our earlier advertisements will remain the same.

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

Annexure-A
No. 12-13/2019-A&A
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR FILLING UP THE POST OF DIRECTOR IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (KOLKATA) UNDER MINISTRY OF CULTURE, NEW DELHI BY DEPUTATION OR ON CONTRACT BASIS.

In supersession of earlier advertisement on the subject, applications are invited for filling up the post of Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata (a Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Culture) in the revised pay scale in Level 14 as per 7th CPC Pay Band-4, Rs. 37400-67000/- and Grade Pay Rs. 10,000/- as per 6th CPC, General Central Service, (Group-'A' Gazetted, Ministerial) by deputation or on contract basis, the details of which may be seen on the Ministry's website at <http://www.indiaculture.nic.in> and Anthropological Survey of India's website <http://www.ansi.gov.in>

The last date for submission of the application is 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the "Employment News/Rozgar Samachar".

Advertisement No. 55/2022
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Personnel)
in
Central Warehousing Corporation
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on **14th June, 2022.**
For details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA NO 314/19 DATE: 07.02.2022
CANARA BANK APPLICANT
VERSUS
ANAND RAJ & ORS. RESPONDENT

To,
DEFENDANTS
1. ANAND RAJ S/O BISHU DEO SINGH
RED FM DIGITAL RADIO BROADCAST CASTING DELHI LTD.
D-45, SEC-2, NOIDA UP-201301.
ALSO AT: 146D, PKT.-E GTB ENCLAVE NAND NAGRI DELHI
ALSO AT: CS-5/8, PHASE-I GOLF GREEN KOLKATA WEST BENGAL-700095
ALSO AT: R/O 163 B, DDA FLATS SATYAM ENCLAVE NEAR VIVEK VIHAR POLICE STATION DELHI-95
2. ANUPAM RAJ W/O ANAND RAJ, R/O 163B DDA FLATS SATYAM ENCLAVE NEAR VIVEK VIHAR POLICE STATION DELHI-95
3. THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
MISAMRAPALI ZODIAC DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.
307, 3RD FLOOR NIPUN TOWER PLOT NO. 15, KARKARDOOMA COMMUNITY CENTRE DELHI-92
ALSO AT: C-56/40, SECT.-62, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR UP
ALSO AT: PLOT NO. GH-03, SECT.-120 NOIDA UP

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 49,71,971/- (RUPEE FORTY NINE LAKH SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 05.07.2022 AT 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software:
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/ Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in
(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 7th day of Feb., 2022.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DRT-II, DELHI.

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LIMITED

Registered Office: 9th Floor, Nirmal Building, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021. Tel: +91 22 6778 9595 Fax: +91 22 6778 9660
e-mail: investor.relations@tcs.com website: www.tcs.com CIN: L22210MH1995PLC084781

Extract of the audited consolidated financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022 (₹ crore)

	Three month period ended March 31, 2022	Year ended March 31, 2022	Three month period ended March 31, 2021
Revenue from operations	50,591	1,91,754	43,705
Profit before tax (before exceptional item)	13,364	51,687	12,527
Profit before tax (after exceptional item)	13,364	51,687	12,527
Profit after tax	9,959	38,449	9,282
Total comprehensive income for the period	10,085	38,354	8,670
Paid up equity share capital (Face value: ₹1 per share)	366	366	370
Total reserves (including non-controlling interests)*	89,480	89,480	86,738
Earnings per equity share:- Basic and diluted (₹)	26.85	103.62	24.97

*Balances for three month period ended March 31, 2022 represent balances as per the audited consolidated balance sheet for the year ended March 31, 2022 and balances for three month period ended March 31, 2021 represent balances as per the audited consolidated balance sheet for the year ended March 31, 2021 as required by Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Extract of the audited standalone financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022 (₹ crore)

	Three month period ended March 31, 2022	Year ended March 31, 2022	Three month period ended March 31, 2021
Revenue from operations	42,459	1,60,341	36,017
Profit before tax (before exceptional item)	12,626	49,723	10,917
Profit before tax (after exceptional item)	12,626	49,723	10,917
Profit after tax	9,795	38,187	8,174
Total comprehensive income for the period	9,611	37,937	7,902

Notes:

- The audited consolidated financial results and audited standalone financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on April 11, 2022. The statutory auditors have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results.
- The Board of Directors at its meeting held on April 11, 2022, has proposed a final dividend of ₹22.00 per equity share.
- The Board of Directors at its meeting held on January 12, 2022, approved a proposal to buy-back up to 4,00,00,000 equity shares of the Company for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹18,000 crore, being 1.08% of the total paid up equity share capital at ₹4,500 per equity share. The shareholders approved the same on February 12, 2022, by way of a special resolution through postal ballot. A Letter of Offer was made to all eligible shareholders. The Company bought back 4,00,00,000 equity shares out of the shares that were tendered by eligible shareholders and extinguished the equity shares on March 29, 2022. Capital redemption reserve was created to the extent of share capital extinguished (₹4 crore). The excess cost of buy-back of ₹18,049 crore (including ₹49 crore towards transaction cost of buy-back) over par value of shares and corresponding tax on buy-back of ₹4,192 crore were offset from retained earnings.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format for three month and year ended March 31, 2022, are available on the BSE Limited website (URL: www.bseindia.com), the National Stock Exchange of India Limited website (URL: www.nseindia.com) and on the Company's website (URL: www.tcs.com/investors).

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Rajesh Gopinathan
CEO and Managing Director

Mumbai
April 11, 2022

Advertisement No. 53/2022
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman and Managing Director
in
Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI)
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 1500 hours on **09th June, 2022**
For details login to web site <http://www.pesb.gov.in>

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427; Fax: 022-22820411

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers on Regular / Contractual Basis

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for the following posts.

Sr. No.	Post	Contractual / Regular Grade/ Scale	Vacancy	Advertisement No.
1	Senior Executive (Economist)	Contractual Equivalent MMGS-II	02	CRPD/SCO/2022-23/01
2	Advisor (Fraud Risk)	Contractual Equivalent TEGS-VII (General Manager)	04	CRPD/SCO/2022-23/02
3	Manager (Performance Planning & Review)	Regular MMGS-III	02	CRPD/SCO/2022-23/03

For eligibility criteria (age, experience, job profile etc.), requisite fees and other details, log on to Bank's website <https://bank.sbi/web/careers> with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 08.04.2022 TO 28.04.2022.

For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website
Place: Mumbai
Date: 08.04.2022
General Manager



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



GETTING POLL-READY

WITH ELECTION preparations beginning in Karnataka BJP, the party's central leadership seems to be cautious about equations and groups in the state unit while giving responsibilities. Three teams have been set up for public contact programmes at the organisational level. While Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai heads one, state BJP chief Nalin Kateel and national general secretary in charge of the state, Arun Singh, are leading the other two. People close to senior leaders have been included in all three teams. Each team, comprising MLAs, ministers and senior leaders, will crisscross the state until April 22 to review and re-energise organisational activities. Sources said these visits will also assess the acceptability and popularity of each party leader in their respective areas.

AIMING EAST

AFTER ITS emphatic victory in Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party has put its national expansion plans on fast track. However, despite having a state unit with a party in-charge, AAP has largely refrained from making any aggressive moves in West Bengal. There are indications now that the party might try to strengthen its organisational presence in the eastern state. It recently sent office-bearers of its national legal team to the state to hold meeting with local leaders and volunteers. Leaders of state AAP unit has also started criticising Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who shared fairly warm ties with her Delhi counterpart, Arvind Kejriwal, until their ambitions to go national started colliding.

BUSY NOW

WITH MORE than five months left for his retirement, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana's views on his post-retirement life has raised some speculation. Speaking at a webinar hosted by Georgetown University along with former US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, the CJ said retirement from the judiciary does not mean he will retire from public life. He was quick to add that he is currently too busy to think about retirement.

AAP, BJP spar over govt schools in Delhi, Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, RAJKOT, APRIL 11

AHEAD OF Gujarat Assembly elections in December this year, AAP and BJP on Monday drew political battle lines on social media when leaders of both parties visited schools in Gujarat and Delhi.

AAP leader and Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia visited government schools in Gujarat Education Minister Jitu Vaghani's constituency Bhavnagar on Monday, while BJP leaders made similar visits to government schools in Delhi.

Sisodia visited primary school number 62 run by the Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Sidar Primary School number 1 run by the district panchayat, both in Vaghani's constituency, as part

of his "inspection visit" and attacked the BJP government for their alleged failure to improve the state's education system. The BJP is in power at the BMC.

"I am saddened to see the government schools in such bad shape. How will India progress if each child doesn't get quality education (sic)," tweeted Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Soon after Sisodia's visit, two BJP Members of Parliament (MP) from Delhi, visited two government schools in Delhi and claimed they are "exposing" the "world class" education system of the Kejriwal government on social media. BJP MP Parvesh Singh Sahib, who represents West Delhi, visited Delhi government school in Pandwala Khurd, while BJP MP from South Delhi Ramesh Bidhuri visited another government school in his constituency.

SC says won't interfere in defamation probe against Vyapam whistleblower

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE SUPREME Court on Monday declined to interfere in the probe against Anand Rai, the whistleblower in the Vyapam scam, over an alleged defamatory Facebook post.

Rai had moved the apex court on April 8, a day after he was arrested in Delhi by the Madhya Pradesh (MP) Police and taken to MP.

Rai was arrested after a complaint by Laxman Singh Markam, the OSD to MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who accused him of dragging his

Tamil Nadu House resolution asks Centre to scrap CUET

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, APRIL 11

THE TAMIL Nadu Assembly on Monday passed a resolution asking the Centre to withdraw the proposal on conducting a Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to undergraduate programmes at central universities, saying it would "sideline the diverse school education systems across the country".

The Centre had announced earlier that admission to central universities funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) would be made only through CUET, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), from 2022-23 academic year. It said admissions would be based on the CUET scores instead of the Class 12 board results.

The state assembly feels that any entrance examination that is

based on the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) syllabus will not provide an equal opportunity to all students who have studied in varied state board syllabi across the country, said the resolution moved by Chief Minister MK Stalin.

"In most states, the state board syllabus constitutes more than 80 per cent of the total student population, and these students invariably hail from the marginalised sections. Hence an NCERT syllabus based entrance examination would place this deserving majority in a disadvantageous position in securing admission in central universities," it said.

Barring the BJP, the resolution was supported by all other parties. "The Assembly feels that in Tamil Nadu's context, this is likely to drastically reduce the number of students from our state in various central universities and affiliated colleges," said the resolution.

CUET, like NEET, will sideline the diverse school education systems across the country and grossly undermines the relevance of overall development-oriented long-form learning in schools, making students rely on coaching centres to improve their entrance examination scores, it said.

"The people of Tamil Nadu feel it will only favour further mushrooming of coaching centres. It is also felt that enforcing such an entrance examination along with regular schooling will lead to mental stress among the student community," said the resolution.

When contacted, UGC chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar reiterated that it is mandatory for all central universities to implement CUET. A senior official of the Ministry of Education said while the NCERT syllabus "will form the base", the NTA has separately prepared the syllabus for the 27 domain subjects.

EXPLAINED On blackboard: hurdles by State

AFTER ANTI-NEET protests and legislative Bills seeking exemption for Tamil Nadu, the resolution against CUET is one specific move against the Centre's emerging policies in the education sector. Questioning CUET, which makes Class XII state Board marks insignificant by putting students through an NCERT-based entrance test, is also a beginning of the strong resistance from Tamil Nadu, which has already constituted an expert panel to formulate a state policy to bypass the NEP.

NRC: SC notice to Centre, Assam on Aadhaar biometrics plea

TORA AGARWALA NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE SUPREME Court on Monday sought a response from both the Centre and the Assam government on a petition seeking Aadhaar cards for people whose biometrics remain locked despite their names being cleared for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

Hearing a plea filed by TMC leader Sushmita Dev, a three-judge bench of Justices U U Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat, and P S Narasimha also issued a notice to the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It has asked for the responses by May 17.

Dev's petition says around 21 lakh people in Assam have been deprived of Aadhaar-linked benefits ever since their biometrics were locked due to the NRC exercise. The lack of Aadhaar cards is affecting their ability to obtain basic needs, it added.

"Both the final list and the supplementary list (of NRC) have been released and are available in public domain. However, the same is yet to be notified by the Registrar General of India, due to which 21 lakh people... are left in the lurch as their biometrics have been frozen," the TMC leader's petition said. Her petition has also argued that Aadhaar was not proof of citizenship and "any person who has been a resident of the country for 182 days in the preceding 6 months is eligible for its enrollment..." The matter is now listed for May 17.

Cong disciplinary committee sends notice to Jakhar, Thomas

MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE DISCIPLINARY action committee of the Congress on Monday issued show-cause notices to former Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar and former Union minister K V Thomas for their comments and actions that were not in tune with the party line. Both have been asked to reply to the notices within a week.

The A K Antony-headed panel's move against Thomas comes after the party leadership in Kerala sought action against him after the former MP attended a seminar organised by the CPM on the sidelines of the party's national conclave in Kannur.

Thomas has been upset with the leadership for some time. While announcing his decision to attend the seminar, he had argued he had not got an appointment with party leader Rahul Gandhi since 2018. At the semi-



Sunil Jakhar and K V Thomas. File

nar, he addressed Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and CPI(M) state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan as "comrades". He also called Vijayan an able administrator.

In his letter to Sonia, Sudhakaran said Thomas's participation at the CPI(M) event had hurt the sentiments of the families of the 80 Congressmen who were killed by the Communists in Kannur over the years.

Jakhar has been accused of using "objectionable language" against Dalits. While he did not name anyone, his comments in a television interview were seen to be aimed at former Punjab CM

Charanjit Singh Channi. Referring to reports that some senior Congress leaders had, at a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, argued that the state leadership did not support Channi, "an asset Rahul Gandhi created for Punjab and India", he tweeted on March 14: "An asset - r u joking? Thank God he wasn't declared a 'National Treasure' at CWC by the 'Pbi' lady who proposed him as CM in first place. Maybe an asset for her but for the party he has been only a liability..."

The Punjabi lady he referred to is Ambika Soni, who is also a member of the disciplinary panel.

ED questions Kharge in fresh case against National Herald

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) is questioning Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge in connection with a fresh case of money laundering linked to the running of the National Herald newspaper, which is owned and run by the Congress.

Sources said Kharge has been called for questioning as he is an office-bearer of Young India, a Congress organisation that runs the newspaper through a company named Associated Journals Ltd (AJL).

Sources said the new case was registered six months ago based on a trial court order that allowed the Income Tax Department to probe the affairs of National Herald and even make a tax assessment of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and party leader Rahul Gandhi.

The ED case has been filed without any predicate offence (a



Mallikarjun Kharge at the ED office in New Delhi, Monday. PTI

criminal case) being registered by any other agency. Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, ED is not authorised to register a case of money laundering until another agency or state police have registered an FIR. The idea being that there cannot be any money laundering until a crime has been committed.

"In this case, the ED Enforcement Case Information

Report has been registered based on the court order following BJP leader Subramanian Swamy's complaint. ED is authorised to register a case if there is a court order specifying a crime has been committed," an ED official said.

The I-T probe against the Congress leaders arose from the investigation into a private criminal complaint filed by Swamy before a trial court in Delhi in 2013.

INDIA-USA 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE



Rajnath Singh with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin during an arrival ceremony at the Pentagon on Monday. AP

Rajnath reviews scope of defence ties with US

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

INDIA AND the US on Monday discussed Military-to-Military engagements, information sharing, enhanced logistics cooperation, and ability of the Armed forces to cooperate closely. The matters were discussed during the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the US.

Singh is on four-day visit to the US with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to participate in the 4th India-USA 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue beginning Monday.

According to Defence Ministry, Singh on Monday held a meeting with US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin. While Singh was accompanied by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and a high-level delegation, Austin was accompanied by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other officials in Pentagon.

"The two ministers reviewed a gamut of bilateral defence co-operation and regional security situation. Both acknowledged the salience of India-US defence partnership for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and broader Indian Ocean Region," a defence ministry statement said.

The statement added that both sides discussed ways to deepen Major Defence Partnership and to work together to advance quality and scope in bilateral defence cooperation.

"They reviewed Military-to-Military engagements, information sharing, enhanced logistics cooperation, and ability of the Armed forces to cooperate closely under compatible communication arrangements. In this context, closer cooperation of Special Operation Forces came up prominently," the statement said, adding that the two ministers discussed ways for closer collaboration between defence industries.



Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao with BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait at a sit-in in New Delhi, Monday. Praveen Khanna

KCR gives Centre 24 hrs to decide on paddy procurement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Monday brought to the national capital his fight against the BJP government over paddy procurement. He, along with his cabinet colleagues, sat on a symbolic dharna and launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government, saying "they are running a government of conspiracy".

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, too, joined Rao at the protest site, Telangana Bhawan in Lutyens' Delhi. The dharna ended with the KCR speech in Hindi and he returned to Hyderabad.

"With folded hands, I request PM Narendra Modi to buy paddy from Telangana like you are procuring from other states. I will wait for 24 hours... we will

take a decision if there is no direction from you. We know what to do," he said.

Rao said he will come again to Delhi and meet leaders of other parties to discuss the forthcoming presidential elections. Rao's signal was clear he is no more a fence sitter. He wants to align himself with the regional forces and fight against the BJP - which he now sees as a challenger to his party (TRS) in Telangana - and to some extent the Congress. Rao was scathing against Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal, whom he called "Piyush Golmaal", saying: "When our Agricultural Minister Niranjan Reddy... came to Delhi with the demands of the farmers... the behaviour of Goyal was insulting. We grow top quality rice in Telangana but he asked us to consume broken rice... I don't know what he thinks of himself... where do they get this kind of arrogance from," Rao said.

Power to privilege: Rahul ruminates, Cong broods

MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

HE SPOKE of his disinterest in power, and of lessons learnt from the setbacks he faced. He talked of the love the country had given him, and of the anger he would have held had he been one of the Dalit victims of the Unna violence, enough to "stab" his assaulter. He also claimed that BSP chief Mayawati "did not even respond" to the Congress's offer of an alliance during the Uttar Pradesh elections and to their proposal to her to "take the Chief Minister's post".

The Congress won two seats in the polls, and the BSP one. But that's not the only reason Rahul

Gandhi's recent speech at a book release function in Delhi has come across as typically muddled to his detractors. If Mayawati bristled in public, the Congress wondered in private over the message the senior leader was trying to send when he seems poised to return as party president any day now, by sheer default.

The most striking of Rahul's observations was on Unna, Gujarat. Since 2014, a recurring theme in his speeches has been "love" being the weapon to defeat "hatred", while accusing the BJP of dividing people. In 2018, he famously hugged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament to illustrate his point. He has also said many times that



Rahul with party's Punjab unit leaders on Monday. PTI

he has forgiven his father Rajiv Gandhi's killers, which he repeated at the book release event.

Trying hard to parse Rahul's surprising and uncharacteristically harsh reference to Unna, a leader said the remarks may have been well-calibrated, and that is why the BJP had not reacted to

them as expected. "Generally, they latch on to whatever he says. Perhaps Rahul's remarks were intended to trigger a response from the BJP. The flogging of Dalits happened in Gujarat, which goes to elections later this year. They would not want a conversation around that topic," the leader said.

However, as far as conversation starters go, Rahul did hand one to the BJP, on him being the ever reluctant leader of a party that is desperate for leadership. At the event, he said: "I have a problem. It is strange. I was born in the midst of power... I am not interested in it. I sleep at night... trying to understand my country... (1) love this country. Like a lover who wants to understand the person he loves... I try to understand."

Rahul's qualms regarding power are difficult to digest, when the Congress has failed to find a replacement for him at the top, even as the prospects of the party coming even close to power look fainter and fainter.

"His speech was not appreciated in the party. He is the most trenchant critic of the RSS and the BJP in the Opposition ranks. So, what is his fight for, if not power? What message will this send to our cadres and leaders?" one leader, who is interestingly considered close to Rahul, said.

The Mayawati remarks also caused much consternation as they left the Congress open to the BSP charge it could hardly be the one to cast stones. **FULL REPORT** www.indianexpress.com

Demand for parboiled rice low, can't waste money, says Centre

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

ON A day when Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, along with his entire cabinet, party MPs and MLAs, staged a symbolic dharna in support of an integrated national policy for paddy procurement, the Centre said it had told the state last year that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will not procure parboiled rice in future.

The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said, "It was decided in the meeting held on August 17, 2021, that no parboiled rice will be

accepted in the Central pool for kharif marketing season (KMS) 2021-22 from any state due to high stock level. However, states can procure parboiled rice for their own consumption."

The ministry said that as a "special case" in KMS 2020-21, Telangana was permitted to procure 44.75 LMT of parboiled rice, and the state government had submitted through a letter dated October 4, 2021, that "no parboiled rice to be delivered by the Telangana government to the FCI in future".

It was only after the letter that Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal reportedly wrote to Telangana chief minister, informing him that

no parboiled rice will be procured by the FCI in future.

The Centre also highlighted the demand for the parboiled rice was much lower than the supply.

Sharing the details of the parboiled rice stock with the FCI, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said "40 LMT is the current stock of (parboiled rice), which is sufficient for two years, and its shelf life is one-and-a-half years". "The annual consumption of parboiled rice is 20-lakh metric tonnes, what will we do by procuring more than that. Public money will be wasted," said Pandey, responding to a query at a press conference.

FULL REPORT www.indianexpress.com

CORRUPTION CASE

CBI custody of Deshmukh, Waze extended till April 16

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 11

A SPECIAL CBI court on Monday sent former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, dismissed cop Sachin Waze and Deshmukh's staffers Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde to further custody of the CBI till April 16 in connection with a corruption case.

"Considering the progress of the investigation so far and tak-

ing into consideration the nature of the allegations in the FIR, this court is satisfied that the grounds for further extension of CBI custody are satisfactory and hence, the accused persons are required to be remanded in CBI custody for further investigation as prayed," special judge D P Shingde said in his order passed at 8.30pm after reserving it for nearly four hours.

The CBI had arrested the four last week after which they were sent to the central agency's custody till April 11. The CBI arrested

Deshmukh on allegations that he had played a role in transfers and postings in the police force for illegal gratification and that bribes were collected from orchestra bars and restaurants on his instructions by Waze. On Monday, special public prosecutor Ratandeep Singh, representing CBI, sought further custody of the four men for five days. Singh submitted that their custody is required to confront them with each other "based on evidence that has come to the fore during probe".

Goa Congress leader Saglani arrested in extortion case

Panaji: The Goa Police Crime Branch on Monday arrested Congress leader Dharmesh Saglani in a case of extortion registered against him in December 2021. Saglani, who was detained

on Monday evening, was later placed under arrest and is expected to be produced before a magistrate on Tuesday.

Saglani was arrested in a case filed by one Ankit Jajodia of

Faridabad. According to the police, Jajodia was a poker player who played often in Goa's offshore casinos and has been living in Goa for a long time.

Crime Branch Police Inspector

Dattaguru Sawant said Saglani has been arrested and booked for offences under various sections of the IPC, including extortion, wrongful confinement, and assault and threatening the com-

plainant. Saglani and five others allegedly tried to extort Rs 50 lakh from the complainant. While Saglani has been placed under arrest, the police has been on the lookout for the others. **ENS**



HSIIDC Announces e-Auction of Industrial Plots at IE Kundli, IE Barwala, IMT Faridabad, IMT Bawal & IMT Sohna (Under General Category)

District	Industrial Estate	Tentative Plot Sizes (sqm)	Allotment Rate# (Rs. per sqm) (Tentative)
Sonepat	IE Kundli	450 to 4000	Rs. 36300/- psm
Panchkula	IE Barwala	250 to 20325	Rs. 15500/- psm
Faridabad	IMT Faridabad	450 to 44800	Rs. 21550/- psm
Meerut	IMT Bawal	450 to 147987	Rs. 11900/- psm
Nuh	IMT Sohna	450 to 75775.50	Rs. 11050/- psm

Tentative e-Auction Date w.e.f. 24.05.2022

10% rebate on lumpsum payment of plot cost within 45 days of issuance of Regular Letter of Allotment. Wherever the basic minimum infrastructure is yet to be developed, the allotment shall be without offer of possession. Reserve price and bid price on the e-Auction portal would be indicated on per square meter basis. The name of the bidder to be given at the time of registration shall be the same as in PAN Card. For further details, the intended bidders may refer the 'e-Auction Brochure' available on website of the Corporation at www.hsiidc.org.in / e-Auction portal <http://hsiidc.bids.in>

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Deve. Corp. Ltd. A State Government Undertaking
Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2390487-83. Fax: 2650474. Website: hsiidc.org.in
E-mail: contactus@hsiidc.org.in. CIN: U25139HR19013GC034546



Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Offers e-Auction of Residential and Commercial Plots in Rohtak & Panchkula Zones On 29th April, 2022

Residential Properties in Rohtak Zone			Commercial Properties in Rohtak Zone			Residential Properties in Panchkula Zone			Commercial Properties in Panchkula Zone		
Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	4, Rohtak	2	1	4-Ext., Rohtak	22	1	2, Panchkula	1	1	2, Panchkula	2
2	21-P, Rohtak	7	2	25, Panipat	8	2	11, Panchkula	1	2	5, Panchkula	5
3	25, Rohtak	10	3	6, Panipat	12	3	21 Panchkula	37	3	6, Panchkula	10
4	27-28-26 (P-I), Rohtak	4	4	25, Panipat	10	4	30, Pinjore	16	4	8, Panchkula	4
5	27-28-26 (P-II), Rohtak	1	5	13, Panipat	3	5	15, Jagadhari	12	5	9, Panchkula	6
6	27-28-26 (P-III), Rohtak	4	6	7, Sonipat	29	6	17, Jagadhari	3	6	15, Panchkula	14
7	9, Bahadurgarh	10	7	JH-6, Jhajjar	13	7	18, Jagadhari	9	7	20, Panchkula	21
8	9-A, Bahadurgarh	17	8	9 (Part-A), Jhajjar	4	8	8, Ambala	11	8	23, Panchkula	10
9	13, Bahadurgarh	5	9	2, Bahadurgarh	4	9	26, Ambala	8	9	25, Panchkula	12
10	8, Panipat	7	10	6, Bahadurgarh	1	10	4, Naraingarh	4	10	6-MDC, Panchkula	9
11	13, Panipat	9	11	9, Bahadurgarh	6	11	4, Karnal	5	11	IA-1, Panchkula	7
12	17, Panipat	12	12	9-A, Bahadurgarh	29	12	5, Karnal	5	12	1, Ambala	5
13	18, Panipat	3	13			13	6, Karnal	4	13	8, Ambala	13
14	24, Panipat	6	14			14	5, Kurukshetra	1	14	3, Naraingarh	2
15	40, Panipat	3	15			15	8, Kurukshetra	1	15	20, Kaithal	16
16	7, Sonipat	35	16			16	18, Kaithal	5	16	5, Karnal	12
17	12, Sonipat	2	17			17	21, Kaithal	1	17	6, Karnal	8
18	13, Sonipat	1	18			18			18	9, Karnal	8
19	23, Sonipat	42	19			19			19	12, Karnal	15
20	15-1, Sonipat	3	20			20			20	2, Kurukshetra	9
21	15-2, Sonipat	3	21			21			21	3, Kurukshetra	9
22	15-3, Sonipat	3	22			22			22	4, Kurukshetra	5
23	15-4, Sonipat	3	23			23			23	30, Kurukshetra	10
24	9 (Part-A), Jhajjar	4	24			24			24	18-MI, Jagadhari	6
25	JH-6, Jhajjar	6									

Registration will close one day before the scheduled date of e-Auction, at 5 pm.

For any queries email us at eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com

Helpline Number: 8360516607 (9 AM to 5 PM), 1800-180-3030 (8AM TO 8 PM)

EMD is calculated on base price, the first round of bidding will start from base price. Reserve Price are fixed by HSPV above base price and same will not be disclosed.

Chief Administrator
Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
C-3, HSPV Complex, Sector-6, Panchkula-134-109, Haryana
hsvp.org.in | 1800-180-3030 | hsvp.org.in

The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on <https://hsvp.org.in>.



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- Under Emergency Response Package paediatric care units in 631 districts
- Every district in India is becoming Atmanirbhar in Health facilities - Provision of Rs. 64180 crore under PM-ABHIM

India's vaccination campaign is the living example of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas'. It is the reflection of the potential of the country. This is the picture of that New India which strives hard for the fulfillment of its resolves.

- Narendra Modi

Consider Ukraine returnees for admission: AICTE

New Delhi: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has written to the heads of all technical institutions across the country to consider admitting students who had to discontinue their studies and re-

turn from war-torn Ukraine. In a circular to the V-Cs of all technical universities and directors of AICTE-approved institutions, the council has pointed out that the matter concerning the uncertainty around the academic future

of around 20,000 students was raised even in Parliament. "All these students are in deep desperation as their educational future is uncertain in the war-torn country," the AICTE circular, dated April 7, states. ENS

Muslim vote under SP belt, Akhilesh gets reality check from Azam camp

LALMANI VERMA LUCKNOW, APRIL 11



Azam Khan

ALTHOUGH HE emerged as the Opposition's face in Uttar Pradesh in the wake of the recent Assembly elections, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav recently drew criticism from a party section over his alleged silence on Muslim issues. Significantly, the dissenting voice has emerged from the camp of the SP's prominent Muslim leader Azam Khan, who has been in jail for over two years. Azam won the Rampur seat in the Assembly polls by 65,300 votes, while his son Abdullah clinched the neighbouring Suar constituency with a margin of 61,100 votes.

meeting in Rampur Sunday. Azam's media in-charge Fasahat Ali Khan alias Shanu said, while the party has won 111 seats in the polls, thanks to the Muslim vote, the party chief "keeps mum when under the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government FIRs are lodged against Muslims, their properties are attached and recoveries are carried out from them". Sharpening his attack on Akhilesh, Khan even told the meeting, sarcastically, that "Hamare kapdon se badbu aati hai hamare rashtriya adhyaksh ji ko (our party president feels our clothes stink)". He said Akhilesh and his father (Mulayam Singh Yadav) become

CMs with the help of the Muslim votes, but Azam was not considered for the post of the Leader of the Opposition in the current Assembly. Alleging that the SP did not get votes of Akhilesh's own caste (Yadav community), Khan said, "Aapne hamari dushmani kara di BJP se. Saja sirf humko milegi, maje sirf aap lenge. (You made us fall out with BJP. Only we will be punished, but you will always relish power)."

Sabha so that he can raise the voice of people in the UP Vidhan Sabha. But the party did not make him Leader of Opposition," Khan said.

Former minister Azam Khan has been lodged in the Sitapur district jail in connection with a number of cases. Khan's attack on Akhilesh came a day after the party's Sambhal MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq reportedly lashed out at the party for allegedly not "working for Muslims".

Hitting out at the party president, Azam's media in-charge also alleged: "He (Akhilesh) gave a speech in the Assembly but did not mention the name of Azam saheb even once... Akhilesh has met Azam in jail only once so far. Should we accept what chief minister Yogi Adityanath had alleged that Akhilesh Yadav himself does not want Azam Khan out (of jail)".

Brushing aside Khan's allegations, SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said, "Party does not agree with what he (Khan) has said. Party and our national president respect Azam Khan saheb and he (Akhilesh) is concerned about him. There are legal hurdles in his release." Chaudhary also said he was not aware who was Azam's "media in-charge", adding that "such claims do not damage SP".

Khan also said he would suggest to Azam to take a "decision". Elaborating on his point, he later told The Indian Express that he would advise Azam to quit the SP. "Azam saheb had resigned from Lok

its assessment of the election results, the BSP has found that the Muslim vote went to the SP along with their traditional Yadav vote, but it still remained far away from the majority mark.

War widow's 56-yr fight for pension ends, HC tells Centre to pay interest

JAGPREET SINGH SANDHU CHANDIGARH, APRIL 11

A legal battle for "extra ordinary family pension" that she was granted on the death of her husband 60 years ago and discontinued just four years later has finally come to an end for a war widow with Punjab and Haryana High Court ordering Centre to pay the amount due to her since 1966 with an interest of 6 per cent per annum.

A bench of Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi passed the order while hearing the petition of Dharmo Devi whose husband Pratap Singh of 9th Battalion, CRPF, died in the 1962 war.

Devi through her counsel, Advocate R A Sheoran, had contended that after the death of her husband, she was sanctioned extra ordinary family pension but the same was discontinued by the Centre and others authorities concerned with effect from August 3, 1966 and that too without any valid justification.

The extraordinary family pension is paid to a government servant or their family if their disablement or death is attributed to the government service.

During a previous hearing the high court had issued notices to the Centre and CRPF. The respondents later submitted that upon reconsideration they found that the extra ordinary pension granted to Dharmo Devi was wrongly discontinued. They submitted that the said benefit, starting August 3, 1966, is being granted to her through an order dated March 15, 2022. Also appears of the normal pension were computed and paid to Dharmo Devi in 2020, they submitted, adding that the arrears of extraordinary family pension were being computed and he would be paid to her.

The counsel for petitioner, meanwhile, argued that Dharmo Devi was denied her legitimate benefit for 56 years and is thus entitled to the interest on the arrears the extra ordinary family pension.

The CRPF and the Centre, however, opposed this saying that there was no mala fide in withdrawing Dharmo Devi's extra ordinary pension and that it had happened due to a communication gap.

Passing the order, Justice Sethi said, "It is clear that petitioner was not at fault at any given point of time. Rather a war widow has been treated unfairly by the respondents in grant of the family pension. It is not disputed that even on the day when extraordinary family pension was withdrawn, the entitlement of the petitioner subsisted for the grant of the same. She needs to be compensated."

Writer-actor who enacted a diverse range of roles dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, APRIL 11



Shiv Subramaniam was 62

WRITER-ACTOR Shiv Kumar Subramaniam, known for his superb portrayal of a diverse range of supporting characters in Hindi cinema for over three decades, passed away on Sunday night. Described as "a gentle soul" by many of his industry colleagues and acquaintances, Subramaniam is survived by his wife, actor Divya Jagdale. He was 62.

Subramaniam, whose last major screen appearance was as the grandfather of Sanya Malhotra in the Netflix family drama Meenakshi Sundareswar (2021), was cremated on Monday at Mokshdham Hindu Shamshanbhoomi in Andheri West. Many actors including Naseeruddin Shah, Nana Patekar, and Makarand Deshpande attended his funeral. In February this year, Subramaniam and Jagdale had lost their 15-year-old son Jahaan.

The news of his passing away shocked not only those who knew him personally but many who admired his work in the field of cinema, television, and theatre over the years. Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap called Subramaniam "the most generous, beautiful man" he had known. Recounting his meeting with him in 1994, Kashyap shared how the writer-actor allowed him to look at the script of

football-loving elderly Appa in Tru Hai Mera Sunday (2016), the strict father of Alia Bhatt in 2 States (2014), apart from appearing as a principal in Hichki (2018) and Dr Nandi in Nail Polish (2021). The actor, who was a student of St Xavier's College, Mumbai, was also a popular television and theatre actor. He was part of television shows such as Kismet (2011), Mukti Bandhan (2011), Pradhanmantri (2013-14) and 24 (2013). A versatile talent, Subramaniam was a co-writer of several movies such as 1942: A Love Story (1994), Hazaaroon Khwaishein Aisi (2005), and Teen Patti (2010). He was also the voice of Rafiki in the Hindi version of Jon Favreau-directed The Lion King (2019).

Describing his passing away as a "colossal loss to the theatre", Pondicherry-based Adishakti Theatre recalled that Subramaniam was part of their very first play, Oedipus. He also played Guildenstern in their next production, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, a play by Tom Stoppard. Calling him "a mentor, an older brother, a dear friend", actor-writer Vivaan Shah remembered him as "a great artist and a beautiful human being". Many from the entertainment industry including Hansal Mehta, Manoj Bajpayee, Anil Kapoor, and Amol Gupte expressed their shock over his sudden demise.

In recent years, Subramaniam was seen as a

Medicine shortage: Haffkine director shifted

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY MUMBAI, APRIL 11

THE MEDICAL Director of Haffkine Bio-Pharma Corporation - Dr Madhavi Khode Chaware, got transferred as Additional Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur on Monday. The Indian Express on Monday had reported on how Haffkine, Maharashtra's nodal official body for centralised purchase of medicines

failed to foresee the sudden surge in requirement of medicines and delayed the annual procurement of over 2,500 types of medicines. This resulted in 18 state government hospitals affiliated with the government medical colleges (GMCs) now running out of even basic, life-saving medicines.

Chaware on Monday was transferred as Additional Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur. Saurabh Vijay Secretary, Medical Education and Drugs Department confirming

the transfer stated that she has been transferred for 'personal reasons'.

Deans of various medical colleges had blamed Haffkine, saying it had failed to foresee the surge in requirement of medicines and delayed the procurement. Chaware blamed technical issues behind the delay. "In some cases, despite floating a tender, we couldn't place the order as the consigning list was with DMER. Without that list, I didn't know the requirements of the colleges to place the orders."

Collegium process to appoint judges most democratic: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 11



CJI NV Ramana

THE IMPRESSION that "judges appoint judges in India" is wrong and needs to be corrected, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said on Monday.

"I don't think a selection process can be more democratic than this," he added, referring to the collegium process of appointing judges.

The CJI was speaking at the 2nd Comparative Constitutional Law Conversation Series webinar on the topic "Comparative Approaches of Supreme Courts of World's Largest Democracies", along with former US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. The discussion was hosted by the Society for Democratic Rights, New Delhi, and the Georgetown University Law Centre, Washington.

On judicial appointments, CJI Ramana said that although the government is a key stakeholder, when the collegium reiterates its decision to appoint a candidate, the government has no choice but to comply with it.

On the American process of appointing judges, Justice Breyer said he had no problems with the political

process of appointments but added that "it is in the political interest of those involved to appoint a qualified person".

Justice Breyer, who retired in January from the US Supreme Court which does not have a mandatory retirement for judges, said that a longer tenure is preferred as it takes time for judges to get used to the institution.

Both Breyer and CJI Ramana called for greater inclusivity on the bench.

To a question on how different it is to interpret the lengthy Indian Constitution when compared to the rather concise American Constitution, CJI Ramana said, "Both the Constitutions say 'We the People', which is how it is interpreted."

Official notice from Bihar Government regarding the recruitment process for the Bihar State Technical Education Board (BSEB). The notice details the recruitment of 135 MTs (Mechanical Technicians) and 19000 Sqms (Squad) across various districts. It includes details about the exam pattern, application process, and contact information for the Bihar State Technical Education Board.

Notice from Uttar Pradesh Law University regarding the entrance exam for the LL.M. program. The notice specifies the exam date as April 11, 2022, and provides details about the exam pattern, including the number of questions and the marking scheme. It also mentions the application process and the location of the exam.

Notice from Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab regarding the entrance test for admission to the Ph.D. Programme in 2022. The notice provides details about the exam date, time, and location, as well as the application process and the contact information for the Registrar.

Tender notice from the Government of Haryana regarding the procurement of various services. The notice lists the details of the tender, including the name of the work, the estimated value, and the deadline for submission of bids. It also provides the contact information for the Registrar.

Tender notice from the Government of Haryana regarding the procurement of various services. The notice lists the details of the tender, including the name of the work, the estimated value, and the deadline for submission of bids. It also provides the contact information for the Registrar.

Tender notice from the Government of Maharashtra regarding the procurement of various services. The notice lists the details of the tender, including the name of the work, the estimated value, and the deadline for submission of bids. It also provides the contact information for the Registrar.

CHHATTISGARH Woman dies after being raped, brutalised; 1 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JANJGIR-CHAMPA, APRIL 11

A MAN was arrested in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district for allegedly raping a 56-year-old mentally unwell woman and inserting a rod into her private parts, leading to her death, a police official said on Monday.

The incident took place in the intervening night of April 5 and 6, when the victim was sleeping on a bench in front of a grocery shop under Dabhara police station limits, the official said.

"Accused Kishan Yadav (31) was arrested on Thursday. The post-mortem report confirmed that the woman was brutally assaulted and raped. On the night of April 5, Yadav dragged her into a nearby plot, raped her, hit her head with a stone and inserted an iron rod into her private parts," he said.

Yadav fled after abandoning the woman, who died, and he then threw his blood-stained clothes and the iron rod in the thicket near a culvert, the official said. The clothes and the iron rod have been recovered, he added.

BRIEFLY

GUJARAT

6 die in chemical factory blast

Surat: Six workers died, while two others escaped unhurt after a blast triggered a fire in a chemical factory in Dabehi, Bharuch district, early on Monday. According to police, the incident took place at Om Organics where eight employees were present when a reactor in the distillation unit exploded and a fire that followed soon spread, killing six workers. An accidental death case has been registered and the bodies sent for post-mortem. **ENS**

NEW DELHI

Former Defence Secy summoned

New Delhi: A Delhi court issued summons against former Defence Secretary and former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Shashi Kant Sharma and four IAF retired officials in the Agusta Westland VIP chopper scam. The court took cognisance of the chargesheet and directed all accused to appear before it on April 28. The CBI has got a prosecution sanction against Sharma. **ENS**

HARYANA

2 die in fire at Maruti unit

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said two persons working with a contract firm died in a fire incident at its research & development centre at Rohtak in Haryana. There was a fire incident on Monday afternoon in the company's Rohtak R&D centre in one of the buildings where a new lab expansion was being carried out by a third party project company, the company said in a regulatory filing. The fire was brought under control and the root cause was being examined, it added. **PTI**

JAMMU & KASHMIR

L-G launches job portal

Jammu: Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday launched a dedicated portal of Mission Youth in collaboration with Vision India, to connect the J&K youth with the industry. The initiative aims to provide 10,000 jobs in 2022. The portal — AVSAR — "Connect to Opportunities Initiative" — has been provisioned to facilitate the youth with real-time information about pre-placement activities and jobs. **ENS**

RAM NAVAMI VIOLENCE: POLICE PROBE DEATH OF MAN NOT PART OF PROCESSION

Day after clashes, uneasy calm in Gujarat towns

VAIBHAV JHA
KHAMBHAT, ANAND, APRIL 11

A DAY after clashes were reported from Khambhat town in Anand and Himmatnagar in Sabarkantha, Gujarat, leading to the death of one person and injuries to several others, an uneasy calm prevailed in the localities on Monday amid police vigilance.

In Khambhat, residents took out the funeral procession of Kanhaiyya Lal Rana, 57, a resident of Chatari Bazaar in the town, who was found dead amid a clash between communities in Shakarpur village. Rana was on his way home from Ramji temple in the village on Sunday afternoon when he was caught in a clash between communities.

Minutes later, police found him lying injured and unconscious — he was declared dead at hospital.

"My father had left on foot to attend the puja at Ramji temple, which is 3 km away from our home. He was returning home with prasad..." Bhavesh Rana, who works a daily wage labourer, said.

Both police and villagers of Shakarpur confirmed that Rana was not part of the Ram Navami procession.

According to police, a rally of around 4,000 people under police security left Ramji temple in Shakarpur for a "Shobha Yatra" on Sunday. Hardly 500 metres from the temple, a clash began between two communities near a police pocket.

Heavy stone-pelting followed, after which police re-

sorted to teargas shelling to disperse the mob.

On Monday, *The Indian Express* visited the spot — stones and bricks lay on the road leading to Shakarpur village, while heavy police presence ensured law and order situation was under control.

The Indian Express tried to reach out to families living in the area regarding Sunday's incidents but most of them refused to be identified.

Police have lodged two FIRs in the matter. In the first case, 61 people were named accused and 100 unknown persons from Shakarpur village were booked under IPC Sections 307 (attempt to murder), 332 (assaulting public servant), and sections of rioting and 338 for grievous hurt. The complainant is Dinesh Patel, sarpanch of Shakarpur village, who claimed that a mob of around 200 threw stones at the rally.

In a second FIR, police booked four named and 1,000 unknown persons who were part of the yatra. The complainant is Razzak Malek, a Shakarpur resident, and the accused have been booked under similar sections.

V Chandrashekhar, Inspector General (IG) Ahmedabad range, told the media in Khambhat on Monday evening: "Based on complaints, we have lodged two FIRs in the clash which took place on Sunday. In the first case, nine persons have been detained. The exact cause of death of Kanhaiyya Lal will be ascertained after forensic reports. Police are investigating all angles. Law and order situation is completely under control."



Policemen stationed at Shakarpur village in Khambhat, Gujarat, on Monday, a day after violence broke out during Ram Navami procession. *Nirmal Harindran*

Vehicles damaged after violence in Mumbai suburb; 7 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 11

NEARLY 25 vehicles were damaged following clashes between people from two communities in Mankhurd, an eastern Mumbai suburb, late Sunday night and an FIR was registered at Malwani, in western suburbs Malad, after a procession was carried out without police permission, police said on Monday.

Seven persons have been arrested in the Mankhurd case, po-

lice added.

In Mankhurd, an officer said, eight people on four motorbikes passed through the area around 10.30 pm after visiting a religious gathering in nearby Chembur. "As they were passing by a religious site, they started chanting religious slogans. A few people outside asked them not to raise slogans, as prayers were underway inside," Inspector R Surve said. This led to an argument between the two sides, leading to a fight, police said.

One Sonu Choudhary, who

was on the bike, was allegedly roughed up by the crowd, police said. The bike-borne men left, but returned soon with more men, carrying rods and sticks, police said. "Since they could not find the crowd with whom they had a fight, they started destroying bikes, cars and autorickshaws... The vehicles belonged to local residents, belonging to both communities," the officer said.

Mankhurd police registered two FIRs on complaints by Choudhary and a local resident named Abdullah Shaikh.

Mamata casts doubt over rape, murder of minor; Opp calls her remarks 'insensitive'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, APRIL 11

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday cast doubts on the details in the gang-rape-murder of a 14-year-old girl in Nadia district, seeking to know whether the teenager was raped or was she already pregnant. The 21-year-old main accused, who was sent to 14-day police custody by a local court on Monday, is the son of a TMC leader.

Mamata's statement attracted sharp reactions from the Opposition parties, including the Congress, CPM and the BJP, calling her remarks "unfortunate" and "insensitive".

Speaking in the presence of West Bengal Police chief Manoj



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and state Police chief Manoj Malaviya at an event in Kolkata on Monday. *Express*

Malaviya at an event in Kolkata, Mamata said "the girl was having an affair with the accused" and Opposition parties and media were giving a "political twist" to the incident.

"What happened is bad. I condemn it. But I have heard that the

accused and girl were having a love affair. People in their neighbourhood knew. Their families knew. Everyone knew..." she said.

"The incident is said to have taken place on April 5 and the FIR was registered on April 10. Why? From where will the police get ev-

idence now?" Banerjee said as she looked towards the DGP, saying, "Am I right or wrong?"

The girl's family alleged that the main accused had invited her to his birthday party on April 4, where she was allegedly gang-raped after being made to drink alcohol. She died the next morning due to excessive bleeding, the family said.

Lambasting Mamata for her statement, Leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "Does this victim not fall under TMC's Maa, Mati, Manush (mother, land, people) governance? Why is the CM playing the role of devil's advocate? Why is she defending those who committed the crime?"

Senior CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty said, "The way Mamata has described the incident is unfortunate. Is it a deliberate attempt to shield the culprits?"

Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, said, "Look at the language she is speaking? There is no rule of law. People should rethink whom they have voted to power," said Adhikari. He also met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and apprised him of the incident.

Meanwhile, BJYM workers held protests near Calcutta University and termed her statement "insensitive".

Mamata, meanwhile, rejected the Opposition's charge that her government was shielding the accused as his father is a TMC leader. "Here, police act according to the law. This is not Madhya Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh," Mamata said.

Mining in Karnataka: SC seeks Centre's response on pleas over export

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE SUPREME Court on Monday sought the stand of the Steel Ministry on requests to lift the 2011 ban on export of iron ore extracted from mines in Karnataka.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana also asked the parties to apprise it

about the likely impact if it allows all the unsold ore to flood the market. The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, was hearing a batch of applications seeking removal of the ban and doing away with the condition that the extracted ore should be sold only through e-auction.

The Union Ministry of Mines had filed an affidavit in the mat-

ter, supporting the demand for allowing export, saying there was no such restriction on the ore export from other states and that the "operation of mining laws in Karnataka may be aligned with the rest of the country".

Appearing for the mining companies, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi pointed out that the SC-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

had also backed the prayer to allow the export. The CEC report, he said, had recommended vacation of the SC order on e-auction, export ban, and capping the mining.

Rohatgi said the SC had imposed the ban as it found rampant illegal mining and also because the domestic market was not getting adequate ore, and added that the situation has changed now. Senior Advocate Dushyant

Dave, also appearing for a mining company, said it doesn't serve public or environmental interests to keep the extracted ore unsold. "It is the most unfair system which has been worked out... The buyer can import, but sellers can't sell without e-auction. Nobody's interest is served with these orders, neither public interest and certainly not environmental interest," he submitted.

CHHATTISGARH'S SURGUJA DISTRICT

Meet women giving fading traditional tattoo art a bold makeover

GOVERNANCE
AN EXPRESS SERIES
CHHATTISGARH

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, APRIL 11

WHEN RAMKELI Paole's granddaughters started creating a fuss about continuing with "Godana", the practice of tattooing that was prevalent in her community for generations, she knew she had to find another avenue for her skills. "We were told one couldn't journey into the afterlife without these ornaments. But kids these days see it as a black disfigurement," the 60-year-old Godana artiste said.

Matriarch for a group of 12-15 women, including her relatives, from Jangala village in Chhattisgarh's Surguja, Ramkeli

has been painting Godana motifs on cloth for over 20 years, working with thin brushes and acrylic colours mixed with "jadi-booti" (herbs) to ensure the ingredients stick.

And yet, it was not until a few years ago that she found a way to "earn a decent living" off her work. Today, Ramkeli says, with the state government's intervention, she is earning more than the family's annual income in just a few months.

Ramkeli and her group were discovered by local authorities, who connected her to schemes and officials of the state's Gramodyog department. "We have been working on orders since then. But since the past two years, we have been working regularly with the Handloom department," she said.

During the Covid lockdown, the group could not travel to the Raipur centre to get orders and



Ramkeli Paole, from Chhattisgarh's Surguja district, has been painting Godana motifs on cloth for over 20 years. *Express*

submit finished products. So the Handloom department shifted Ramkeli and her sisters-in-law, along with their daughters and daughters-in-law, to the government hostel for artists in Raipur.

"I like working here, it is a designated spot, no one comes to bother me," said Ramkeli with a

relieved smile. "At home, one is a mother, wife, grandmother first" and "since there is no end to those roles, the women can't find time to focus on Godana work".

The government's support has allowed the Godana artists to not just become entrepreneurs in their own right but also train a new cohort. "We train girls and

women from other districts, women who had never learnt Godana are now getting private orders," said Sunita Paole, Ramkeli's sister-in-law. In their village alone, Ramkeli and her group have taught Godana to more than 100 women.

"Each dot, each line has a significance. The patterns all hold meaning... like the karela channi, made entirely of dots, is meant to ward off the evil eye. Our ancestors used to call Godana the actual ornaments," she said.

According to Ramkeli, Godana is not just about cosmetics. "I had immense pain in my knee, but then my daughter's mother-in-law tattooed just under the knee with a mixture of some local leaves and the pain was gone," she said, doing sit-ups to underscore her point.

Officials say these artists work under Chhattisgarh's Hastshilp Vikas Board and the state hand-

loom federation of artisans. Initially, the women struggled because they did not have the money to buy good quality cloth to showcase the art. But for the past two years, the government has been providing silk clothing.

After being painted with Godana work, the cloth is stitched into stoles, sarees, blouses and ghagras. The finished products are sold through Shabri and Bilasa, the state-owned handloom stores, as well as on online portals and TRIFED shops under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The state handloom development federation not only markets these products but also pays wages from the sales.

According to officials, between April and December last year, these Godana artists earned Rs 10 lakh. The artists are free to accept independent orders, and earn from the training they provide. The department also pays

Govt designates Azhar's brother as terrorist under UAPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

DAYS AFTER designating LeT chief Hafiz Saeed's son Talha as a "terrorist" under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, the Central government on Monday designated Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar's brother, Ammar Alvi, who was among the key planners of the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, as a terrorist under the act.

Forty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) soldiers were killed in the terrorist attack that took place on February 14, 2019 in Pulwama's Lethpora.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in a gazette notification issued on Monday, said that Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir alias Ammar Alvi, 39, is a senior leader of JeM, which has already been proscribed under the UAPA. A resident of Bahawalpur in Pakistan, Alvi, the notification said "has been involved in Pulwama Central Reserve Police Force Convoy attack of 2019" and "in anti-India terror activities on behalf of Jaish-e-Mohammed". "Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir (alias Alvi) looks after JeM's fund collection by Pakistani nationals and routing the said fund to Kashmir in India... Alamgir has been involved in facilitating infiltration of Afghan cadres and coordinating terrorist attacks on Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir... the Central Government believes that Mohiuddin Aurangzeb Alamgir should be notified as a terrorist under the said Act," it said.

On April 8, the Centre had designated Talha Saeed as a terrorist under the UAPA.

Forest officials continue strike, elephants kill 6 in 2 days in Chhattisgarh

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, APRIL 11

SIX PERSONS, including a 10-year-old girl, were trampled to death by elephants in one block of Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district in the past two days.

The ground staff of the state forest department has been on strike for weeks even as the state recorded over 500 forest fires between February 15 and March 31.

Ten-year-old Simran Singh of Tumbhar village had gone to the forest early on Sunday morning with her father Shekhar Sahu to collect Mahua flowers when the duo came face to face with elephants. As they started to run, Simran fell and was immediately trampled by the elephant, her father later recounted.

On Sunday, a 38-year-old woman from Sambalpur village was also attacked by elephants. On Saturday, three deaths were reported from villages Paikbhath, Panwdwar and Birnasilli in the same block. On early Saturday morning, officials found the body of 22-year-old Sukhba, who was sleeping in a hutment on her parents' field and 46-year-old Budhram from Panwdwar village.

Bhumika Markam, 36, was trampled by tuskers after she fell

while eight of her friends managed to escape in Paikbhath village on Saturday afternoon. Later in the day, a 35-year-old woman in Amjhar village was reported dead after an elephant attack.

The six villages are located in and around the Udanti-Sitanadi tiger reserve, officials confirmed. "Accidents are happening as people are going into the forest despite awareness campaigns being run," a senior forest official said.

Under the banner of Chhattisgarh Forest Employee unions, thousands of employees are on strike since March. Their 12 demands include regularisation, filling up of vacant posts and raising the pay scale after issuance of the pay scale promised in 2003.

"We work at a meagre salary, with several employees getting no uniform despite working outdoors in adverse weather..." said a senior member of the union, requesting anonymity.

The forest department, however, is in no mood to listen to them. "Forest ground staff strike has made the task of fire fighting difficult but range officers, sub-divisional officers and divisional forest officers have been actively doing the firefighting work with the help of villagers and fire watchers," a statement from the state forest department read.

for them to attend fairs and exhibitions.

According to A Ayaz, general manager of the handloom development federation, the Godana women earn Rs 400-Rs 700 per item of clothing. "The clothes made by them are sold on a lot of e-portals, where they have a huge demand. Sometimes, we take the orders and these women make the goods. To commemorate their involvement in the state's culture, we also got these women to make the state Gamcha, which is also being sold widely," he said.

For Ramkeli, the trips she has undertaken to showcase her art remain cherished memories. "I keep going to Delhi and Kolkata. But once I went to Guwahati, it felt like a different land. When I got married and came to my village, I never thought I'd see more than a few towns nearby. Now, I have gone to so many places. It feels really nice," she said.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Addressing poverty

Estimates remain shots in the dark. This needs to change for more sensitive policies, programmes



HIMANSHU

THE THIRD SHOT

Extension of precautionary vaccination drive is welcome.

Government should follow science, tweak strategy when needed

FROM APRIL 10, all adults who received the second dose of the Covid vaccine nine months ago have become eligible for a "precautionary" third shot. This is a step in the right direction. Though the SARS-CoV-2 virus is at its lowest ebb in the country, a number of states have relaxed safety measures and economic activity in most sectors is back to pre-Covid levels, the urgency to shield people more securely against the pathogen is far from over. A substantial body of literature and evidence from several countries attest to the efficacy of the third dose in preventing serious infection among those with a compromised immunity. While the jury is out on whether a booster dose confers lifelong protection against emerging variants, there is little doubt that such doses constitute a significant public health response. The trajectory of the country's precautionary vaccination drive is, therefore, backed by sound science.

Both government hospitals and private healthcare facilities were involved when the government launched the precautionary vaccination drive in January, for frontline workers, healthcare professionals and people above 60. But those eligible for the shots after the government's latest announcement will have to pay to get the jabs from a private hospital. This is a reasonable approach given the current evidence on the need for the booster doses. However, the government needs to monitor the Covid situation carefully and recalibrate the policy on boosters when needed. Since the private sector has a limited presence in the healthcare system in large parts of rural India, the shots are likely to be out of reach for a substantial section of the population. If the virus shows signs of flaring up, therefore, the government should be prepared to roll out free shots in healthcare centres. Because of the nine-month gap between the second and third shots, the number of people eligible for the boosters is, currently, low. The primary vaccination programme had picked up pace last year around the second half of June. In the coming months, therefore, there is likely to be an appreciable increase in the number of people eligible for the third shot. The vaccination programme must be prepared to cater to the increase in demand.

At least five homegrown or indigenously manufactured vaccines for adults have received the country's drug regulator's approval. Second generation vaccines such as Corbevax and Covovax have shown promise in clinical trials. However, they have not become part of the vaccination project largely because the mix-and-match approach — favoured by experts in several parts of the world — has not received much traction amongst the country's policymakers. With the precautionary dose project still in its infancy, there should be more and wider conversations on the best way forward. The country's vaccine bouquet makes it well-placed to take the heterologous approach.

DIVERSITY IN UNITY

Union Home Minister's Hindi push is unwise and unnecessary. India is one nation, with many languages

UNION HOME MINISTER Amit Shah's suggestion, made at a meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee on Thursday, that people of different states should communicate with each other in Hindi, not English, threatens to stoke an old fault line. The debate over India's official language has an acrimonious history, it triggered violent protests in the 1960s. The language war was finally settled in favour of accommodation of different languages as against the dominance of Hindi. There is no good reason to disturb the settlement that was arrived at after a tortuous process, one that has proved to be successful in a country that speaks in many tongues.

Several states in the country's south are especially sensitive to the language debate because they were founded on the bedrock of linguistic subnationalism after intense and prolonged campaigns. Over the years, many have made significant strides towards making the local language the medium of official communication and governance. While some in these states understand Hindi — Bollywood has played a key role in popularising the language across the country — it is also true that it remains a not-so-familiar tongue, arguably even more than English, for large sections of the population. English is the preferred language of communication of these states with the Centre and with Hindi-speaking states, while the local administration conducts its business in the regional language. In his speech, Shah pointed to the seriousness with which the Centre may be pushing the case for Hindi: Nearly 70 per cent of the Cabinet agenda is now prepared in Hindi; 22,000 Hindi teachers have been recruited in the eight states of the Northeast, which have agreed to make Hindi compulsory up to Class X; nine tribal communities of the Northeast have adopted Devanagari script for their dialects.

Shah has been testing this ground for some time now. In 2019, he had spoken about "one nation, one language". This slogan and approach is part of a vision of India that favours the imposition of a single language over the country's diverse linguistic cultures. The Constitution envisages a Union of states working within a federal framework. Many of the states are home to subnationalisms imagined around a regional language, a fact the All India Congress Committee leading the freedom movement recognised at its Nagpur session in 1920. Most of these languages are older than Hindi and carry memories of protest. The Home Minister should let sleeping fault lines lie.

WRITING THE IMAGE

Shivkumar Subramaniam made an impact as actor. His greater contribution was as a writer of films

IT IS LIKELY that most viewers of Hindi-language entertainment will best remember Shivkumar Subramaniam, who died on Sunday, for the small but impactful roles he played on the big and small screen: As the stern father of the bride Shiv Swaminathan in *2 States* (2014); the crooked cop Lobo in *Kaminey* (2009), the dementia-afflicted old man in *Tu Hai Mera Sunday* (2016) and the egotistic tycoon I M Virani in the TV show, *Mukti Bandhan*. However, among industry colleagues and cinema devotees, Subramaniam was loved and respected as much — if not more — for his work as the writer of some of recent Hindi cinema's finest films.

The first of these was the 1989 sleeper hit *Parinda*, a gritty crime drama set in Mumbai's underworld. The film was meant to be director Vidhu Vinod Chopra's shot at mainstream success: It ended up also winning plaudits for the realism and emotional heft of the writing, becoming the template that subsequent classics of the genre, such as Ram Gopal Verma's *Satya*, followed, and winning Subramaniam a Filmfare Award for Best Screenplay. He revisited the textures and tones of the criminal underworld — once again to much critical acclaim — in the 1996 thriller *Is Raat Ki Subah Nah*, directed by Sudhir Mishra. Subramaniam's second Filmfare Award — this time for Best Story — came for the 2005 film *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi*, which was widely recognised as one of the best-crafted political dramas in recent Hindi cinema.

That these seminal works form part of a short list of writing credits — including for story, screenplay and dialogue — says much about the finesse with which he wielded his pen. Subramaniam was a gifted actor, deploying his deep voice and authoritative screen presence to great effect even in the briefest of roles. But his most indelible contributions are the cinematic gems that he helped write and bring to life.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, two different estimates of poverty and inequality were published by authors affiliated to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). They added to the existing pool of private estimates of poverty and inequality since 2011-12. Private, because the government, which used to conduct consumption expenditure surveys (CES) and update poverty lines, has abdicated its responsibility.

The last consumption survey of 2017-18 was junked for no reason. Based on the leaked estimates of consumption expenditure from that survey, S Subramanian reported an increase in poverty from 31 per cent in 2011-12 to 35 per cent in 2017-18 with the number of poor increasing by 52 million. Santosh Mehrotra and Jajati Parida reported an increase in headcount poverty from 22 per cent in 2011-12 to 26 per cent in 2019-20 using the consumption aggregates from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) with the number of poor increasing by 78 million. As against these estimates, which used different consumption aggregates from the NSO surveys, estimates from the IMF and WB have reported a significant decline in poverty after 2011-12 although they differ from each other on the level of poverty as well as the magnitude of poverty reduction since 2011-12.

The IMF working paper is authored by Surjit Bhalla, Arvind Virmani and Karan Bhasin. This paper is similar to Bhalla's earlier work on poverty in terms of methodology with not very different conclusions. Bhalla has argued for long that CES surveys do not capture the estimates of consumption expenditure correctly and are unfit for poverty measurement. He maintains that position here as well and in fact justifies the withholding of the 2017-18 CES survey by the government. He prefers using the Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) estimates from the national accounts. The difference between survey estimates of consumption expenditure and national accounts (NA) are not unique to India.

But the PFCE estimates do not give the distribution of consumption across households which is a prerequisite for estimating poverty. These are derived aggregates and are available for the country as a whole with no separate estimate for rural/urban or states. Bhalla or any-

The expansion of the PDS during the pandemic has certainly contributed to reducing the misery of the poor who suffered through a sharp slowdown of the economy and the subsequent disruption in economic activity during the pandemic. This calls for strengthening the social safety nets and expenditure on food and livelihood schemes given the challenge of economic recovery coupled with rising inflation.

one else is left with no choice but to use the same CES surveys they dismiss as faulty for getting consumption estimates. One implication of this is that while the consumption expenditure estimates obtained from the surveys are deemed faulty and biased, the ranking of households from the same consumption surveys is seen as free from error. While they find the 2011-12 survey to be right, they see the 2017-18 survey as faulty even though both have been done using the same sampling strategy and concepts and by the same institution.

There is nothing new in this method of updating the NSS survey estimates using estimates from the PFCE. But it has been rejected multiple times by official expert committees after careful examination of the differences between the two estimates. All committees concluded that these are essentially non-comparable because of differences in concepts, design and aggregation methodology. All committees have unanimously rejected the practice of adjusting survey estimates based on NAS estimates of PFCE. This is not the practice in India, or anywhere in the world.

Based on this flawed methodology, Bhalla concludes that India has eradicated extreme poverty even before the pandemic with the percentage of population below the \$1.9 poverty line of the World Bank at only 1.4 per cent. While the levels may vary, his conclusions on the trend in poverty reduction are not very different from a completely different exercise by the World Bank. Both conclude that poverty reduction has slowed down in the last seven years of the present NDA government compared to the 10-year period of 2004-2014 of the UPA. While Bhalla reports 26 million people moving out of poverty every year during the UPA regime, this number is one third at 8.6 million for the NDA government. In terms of percentage point per annum (ppa) reduction in poverty, it is 2.5 ppa for the UPA declining to one fourth at 0.7 ppa for the current NDA.

The World Bank estimates also come to a similar conclusion with the rate of poverty reduction between 2004-11 at 2.5 ppa which declines to almost half at 1.3 ppa for 2011-18. They arrive at their figures by using estimates from the Consumer Pyramid Survey of Households (CPSH), a privately conducted survey by the

Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). They do this by reweighting the household and population weights of the CPSH given the problems with the survey. While their methodology is also questionable, they try and adjust for the anomalies of the CPSH surveys to arrive at estimates as close as possible to the NSS surveys. Notably, they also dismiss the Bhalla methodology as one of the options.

While the broad conclusion of a sharp slowdown in poverty reduction during the present NDA government compared to the UPA period may be valid, there are differences in the level and extent of poverty reduction claimed, with some studies showing a rise in poverty. But the real issue is not just what happened to poverty and inequality but also what factors contributed to poverty reduction.

There appears to be a consensus that many of the initiatives during the UPA era, including the rural employment guarantee programme and the Food Security Act have contributed to improvement in the lives of the poor, pulling them out of poverty. Bhalla also agrees and documents the stellar role of the in-kind transfers through the subsidised food scheme under the Public Distribution System. The expansion of the PDS during the pandemic has certainly contributed to reducing the misery of the poor who suffered through a sharp slowdown of the economy and the subsequent disruption in economic activity during the pandemic. This calls for strengthening the social safety nets and expenditure on food and livelihood schemes given the challenge of economic recovery coupled with rising inflation.

But an important message is also to strengthen the statistical system and make it independent of state interference. Poverty, inequality and a deeper understanding of what works for poverty reduction is not just an academic exercise but is crucial for designing policies and programmes that work. The responsibility of anchoring policies and programmes to clearly defined goals of poverty reduction rests with the government. Given the controversy over poverty estimates, it is all the more important that the government conducts the CES at the earliest and decides the yardstick of measuring poverty which is the poverty line.

The writer teaches at JNU



MADHAV PAI, JAYA DHINDAW AND REJEET MATHEWS

CLIMATE IN THE CITY

Make cities climate-resilient for greater returns on infrastructure investment

THE IPCC'S LATEST report shows how smart urban planning can mitigate the effects of climate change. The Union budget 2022 had announced the formation of a high-level committee of planners, economists and institutions to make recommendations on urban sector policies. The finance minister said that by the time India turns 100, nearly half the population will be living in urban areas, making it imperative to not only nurture India's mega cities but also facilitate tier-2 and tier-3 cities to gear up for the future.

India is witnessing one of the largest urban growth spurts in history. However, three quarters of the infrastructure that will exist in cities by 2050 is yet to be built. This presents Indian cities with an unprecedented opportunity to look at urban planning and development through a long-term strategic lens to enable economic, environment and social impact.

Urban infrastructure development results in high economic value-add but often leads to unequal and inequitable growth. As a developing economy, negative externalities such as air and water pollution, climate change, flooding, and extreme heat events also impinge on the economic value of urban infrastructure. Research has shown if cities are developed as compact and climate-resilient centres, then infrastructure investments can produce more economic gain over time with minimal climate impact whilst ensuring equitable growth.

Town and country planning acts in India have largely remained unchanged over the

past 50 years, relying on techniques set up by the British. Cities still create land use and regulatory control-based master plans which, on their own, are ineffective in planning and managing cities. Despite the many changes brought about by modernisation, the focus of planning continues to be the strict division of the city into various homogeneous zones such as residential, commercial and industrial. This is done to prevent mixing of incompatible uses and to avoid economic and social integration — a relic of the industrial age when manufacturing and trade were the primary economic activities in cities.

India's hierarchical system of cities — from mega cities which are the drivers of innovation and economic growth to smaller towns which support local and regional economies and ensure linkages to the rural hinterlands — requires targeted economic development planning and positive climate action.

Master plans face prolonged delays in preparation, sanctioning and implementation. They lack the mandate for integration with other sectoral infrastructure plans which largely remain as wishlists. Inter-agency negotiations remain out of the scope of the master planning process. They tend to take a static, broad-brush approach to cities that have dynamic fine-grained structures and local specificities. In most cases, they end up having a low implementation rate. Globally, cities are moving to the practice of developing strategic plans and projects along with local area plans.

A set of strategic projects that have the potential to trigger growth in the region, to achieve the vision, are identified through a negotiated process. The projects are designed and developed in the context of land that can be made available and capital resources that can be raised. Indian cities should transition to using master plans for developing a shared vision and stating desired long-term outcomes as a regulatory control tool. Strategic plans should be developed every five years to increase a city's competitiveness and help it achieve its strategic goals with respect to sustainability and economic development by identifying key projects to be implemented.

Finally, local area plans should be developed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of citizens through public participation, contextualising local challenges, needs and ambitions, while supporting the overall objectives of the master plan. Cities should also aim to mainstream the use of spatialised social, economic and environmental data to create robust links across the urban-rural continuum.

Plans are about people and not just physical spaces. Building consensus around future growth and development, with a focus on climate action, economic and social integration, is crucial. Such a participatory process is what will help build a vibrant, inclusive and liveable urban India.

The writers are with World Resources Institute (WRI) India Ross Centre. Views are personal

APRIL 12, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

INSAT IN ORBIT

INDIAN SPACE SCIENTISTS overcame a major hurdle by successfully firing the first apogee motor in their second attempt to put India's multipurpose and unique domestic satellite Insat-1A into intermediate orbit. The major manoeuvre was considered very significant as it was done despite the persistent problem in the O band antenna, the failure of which resulted in the postponement of the firing of the apogee thruster two days ago. The motor was fired for about half an hour according to the master control facility at Hasan. The spacecraft will enhance the meteorological, communication and televi-

sion relay and radio broadcasting capabilities of the country. The satellite's health is now normal and all activities will be carried out as planned, ISRO has said.

ARGENTINA RELENTS

THE ARGENTINE NAVY has withdrawn all its warships and is avoiding confrontation with the British navy. The British had threatened to sink any Argentine ship within the 200-mile limit of the Falkland Islands. This is a threat experts believe that the British navy is fully capable of carrying out against the less sophisticated Argentine navy. However, Argentina will send soldiers to Falklands by

air. Meanwhile in Buenos Aires, the US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, said that "there is no agreement" between Argentina and Britain on resolving the Falkland Islands dispute".

JNANPITH AWARD

PUNJABI POET, AMRITA Pritam has been given the Jnanpith Award for 1981. She is the first Punjabi author and the second woman recipient of the award after Bengali writer Ashapoorna Devi. This year, the money for the highest literary award in the country has been raised from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1,50,000.

11 THE IDEAS PAGE

The larger battle for Pakistan

Political crisis unfolding in Islamabad is not just an internal power struggle. Pakistan's battles are tied to external geopolitical equations and rivalries



RAJA-MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

AS PAKISTAN GOES through a major political convulsion, India must resist the temptation to see the changes across our western frontiers through the narrow prism of bilateral relations. Delhi must focus instead on the potential shifts in Pakistan's strategic orientation triggered by the current crisis. An India that gets an accurate sense of Pakistan's changing geopolitics will be able to better deal with Islamabad.

The unfolding battle for Pakistan is not just another internal power struggle next door. Pakistan is an important regional piece in the power play between the US, China and Russia. Given its location at the crossroads of the Subcontinent, Middle East, Eurasia, and China, Pakistan has always been a vital piece of real estate that was actively sought by contending geopolitical blocs. The internal and external have always been tightly linked in Pakistan. Today, Pakistan's internal battles are tied to external geopolitical rivalry.

Engaging India is unlikely to be a high priority for the new government in Islamabad. Today, Pakistan has many other things to worry about — reviving its flagging economic fortunes, stabilising the Durand Line with Afghanistan, and rebalancing its ties with the major actors in the Middle East, including Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Every one of these tasks is a challenging one for Islamabad. Even more daunting is the need to reset Pakistan's relations with the US and China at a time when Washington and Beijing are at each other's throat. The sharpening geopolitical contest between the US and Europe on the one hand and China and Russia on the other will severely test the new rulers of Pakistan. India's difficulties in navigating between the US and Russia in the Ukraine crisis might look rather tame in comparison.

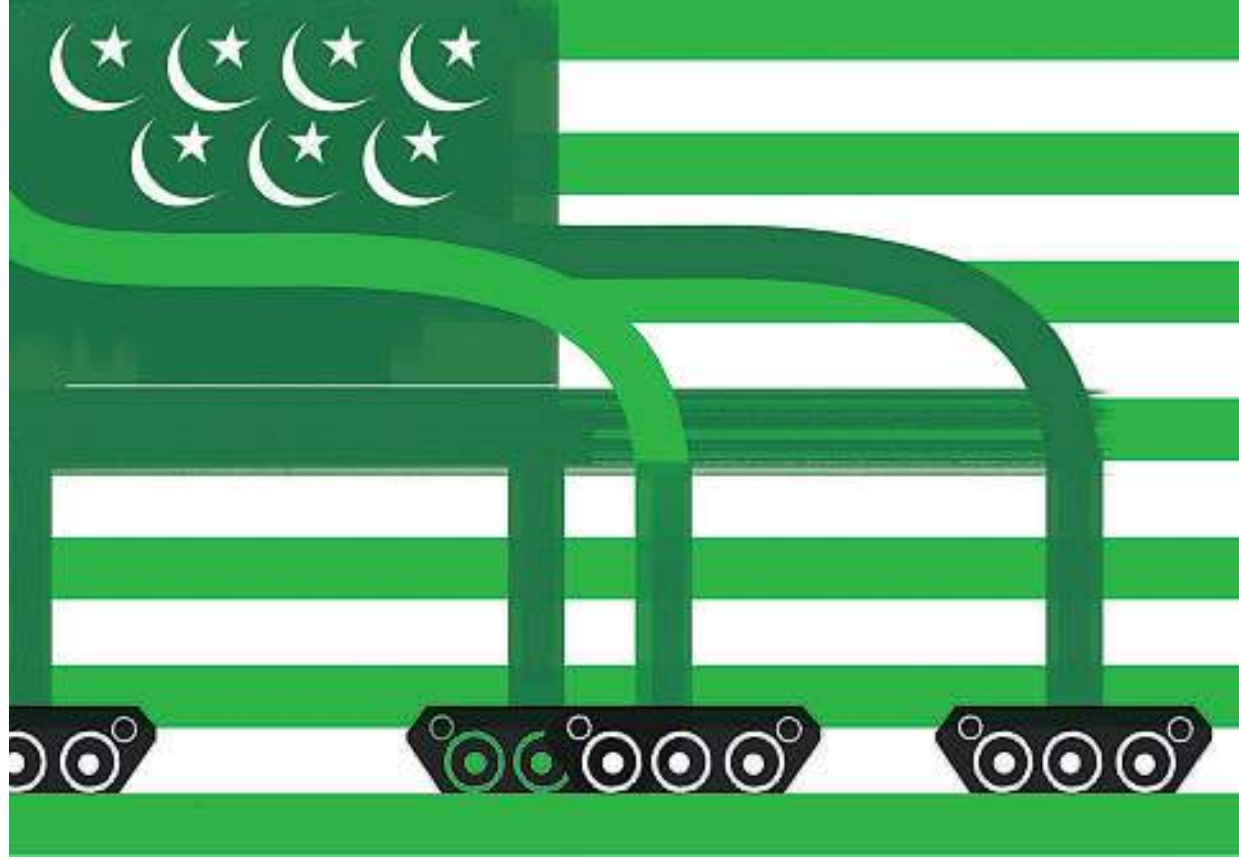
Any Indian strategy in dealing with the new government in Islamabad would depend on an assessment of Pakistan's post-Imran political trajectory. Two important factors stand out.

First is the changing nature of civil military relations in Pakistan. For many Indian observers of Pakistan, Imran's ouster is a repeat of the familiar story of the army stepping in to throw out a prime minister who had become a problem. The fall of Imran Khan, however, must be seen as something more. It is part of a serious intra-elite struggle that transcends the well-known military dominance over Pakistan's polity.

Imran Khan has certainly failed to build the "new Pakistan" that he had promised. The current episode suggests that it might not be easy to simply return to the "old Pakistan" where the army sets the ground rules and punishes those who choose to violate those rules.

One of the more interesting questions to come out of the current episode is whether the army's famed internal coherence and unity of command might endure the crisis. The trouble between Imran Khan and the army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa, came out in the open when the former refused to let go the ISI chief, Lt General Faiz Hameed, as part of the routine army transfers.

Although General Bajwa eventually prevailed, there was much speculation about the deepening relationship between Imran Khan



CR Sasikumar

and General Hameed and the apparent interest of the former in appointing the latter as the next army chief. Making any assessment more complicated are reports that Khan tried, unsuccessfully, to sack General Bajwa very late in the crisis.

That a large section of retired army officers were publicly backing Imran Khan through the crisis is not a secret. Equally true is the genuine empathy for him among the ranks of the Pakistan army. This mirrors the expansive following that Khan enjoys in the broader population. That was visible in Sunday's massive protests against his ouster.

It is not clear if Imran Khan has the political skill and the organisational capability to turn his cult-like following into a force that can continue to challenge the establishment. But there is no doubt that he has thrown down the gauntlet. It remains to be seen if the army can handle Imran Khan's challenge effectively and decisively in the coming days.

Second is the growing fragility of Pakistan's polity triggered by the deepening economic crisis and sharpening social contradictions. This is not easily overcome by a celebration of constitutionalism that has prevailed last week against Imran Khan's attempt to hold onto power. An important precondition for democratic stability in a developing society is the need for an elite consensus on the rules of political contestation and the distribution of economic benefits.

Imran Khan has broken that consensus within Pakistan's political class on deference to the Pakistan army and has demonised his political opponents. There is no sign that Khan is about to change his ways and behave like the leader of a responsible opposition. And as the new government backed by the army seeks to stabilise the economy by turning to the IMF, the society will have to endure much pain in the near term. That in turn would open continuous political opportunities for Khan to attack the next government.

There is no guarantee that the army's ties with new civilian rulers will be smooth nor can we assume that the civilian coalition against Imran Khan will survive the many challenges ahead as it confronts difficult policy challenges on multiple fronts.

While the army and the new government are eager to restore ties with the US, Imran Khan has made it hard for them, by calling the new rulers 'foreign imports'. By tapping into the deep reservoir of anti-American and anti-Western resentments in Pakistan, Khan has positioned himself as a true nationalist while painting the army as an American collaborator.

These internal challenges are feeding into Pakistan's geopolitics. The intra-elite confrontation in Pakistan is taking place amidst a global contest between the US and Europe on the one hand and Russia and China on the other. Pakistan, which traditionally enjoyed good relations with the West as well as China, is finding it hard to maintain a balance in its great power relations.

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Imran Khan's repeated praise for India's independent foreign policy was in essence a critique of the Pakistan army that has long steered Islamabad's international relations. Even in opposition, he might serve a useful purpose for China and Russia who want to prevent Pakistan from getting too close to the US.

In the past, China rarely objected to Pakistan's relations with the US. Compare Beijing's current anti-Quad rants with its deafening silence on Pakistan's status as a "major non-NATO ally". As it now locks horns with Washington, Beijing has high stakes in preventing renewed strategic warmth between the US and Pakistan. So does Russia. The potential geopolitical equations emerging out of the crisis in Pakistan are likely to be very different from the patterns so familiar to us.

The good news from Pakistan is that India is not part of the argument between the political classes or between Imran Khan and the "deep state" represented by the army. The bad news, however, is that India can't simply stand by as the major powers seek to define the future of Pakistan. Can Delhi influence that contestation in its own favour? This is a very different question than the usual one on "how to improve ties" with Pakistan.

The writer is a Senior Fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Russia's retreat from Kyiv marks a change in the dynamics and the military balance, but the conflict is far from over." — THE GUARDIAN

Shifting to neutral

RBI has decided to prioritise inflation. But trade-off between managing prices and government's borrowing programme presents a challenge



RADHIKA PANDEY

THE FIRST BI-MONTHLY meeting of the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for the current financial year reaffirmed its focus on inflation management. While the MPC voted to keep the policy rate unchanged at 4 per cent and retained its accommodative stance, the wording was changed to "remain accommodative while focusing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth." This statement sets the stage for a shift to a neutral stance in the next meeting and policy rate hikes in subsequent meetings. RBI has announced the withdrawal of some of the steps taken during the pandemic to support the economy. These will foster the normalisation of monetary policy.

The central bank has acknowledged that the disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine crisis have upended their growth and inflation outlook. It has steeply revised its inflation projection from 4.5 per cent earlier to 5.7 per cent now for the current financial year. The projection is based on an average global crude oil price of \$100 per barrel. While oil prices could swing either way, elevated non-fuel prices pose a substantial upside risk to inflation. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO's) Food Price Index, a gauge of global food prices, posted a record growth of 12.6 per cent from February. The surge in the index was broad-based, driven by a rise in prices of vegetable oils, cereals, meat, sugar and dairy products. Input cost pressures emerging from a broad-based surge in prices of industrial raw materials and supply chain disruptions are also likely to pose a sustained upward pressure on inflation.

During the last monetary policy announcement, there were concerns that the RBI was falling behind the curve in managing inflation at a time when globally many central banks including the US Federal Reserve, and the Bank of England have started raising rates and signalling aggressive rate hikes and are reducing their balance-sheet to normalise monetary policy and tame inflation.

While the RBI has been managing liquidity infused into the system during the pandemic through the Variable Rate Reverse Repo Auctions (VRRR) to withdraw liquidity and Variable Rate Repo auctions to inject liquidity, it has now formalised the Liquidity Adjustment Framework (LAF). The LAF is a framework to absorb and inject liquidity into the banking system.

The RBI has introduced the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) as the lower bound of the LAF corridor to absorb liquidity. The idea of the SDF was first mooted by the Urjit Patel Committee report on the monetary policy

framework. The RBI Act was amended through the Finance Act of 2018 to allow RBI to use this instrument.

The SDF will be a facility available to banks to park their funds. The SDF will serve as the standing liquidity absorption facility at the lower end of the LAF corridor. At the upper end of the corridor is the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) to inject liquidity. With the introduction of the SDF, the fixed rate reverse repo rate seems to be defunct. Through the SDF, the RBI can absorb liquidity without placing government securities as collateral, hence it will give greater flexibility to the central bank.

The LAF is now a symmetric corridor with a width of 50 basis points. The policy repo rate is at the centre of the corridor, with the MSF 25 basis points above the policy rate and the SDF 25 basis points below the policy rate.

The change also marks a shift away from reverse repo being the effective policy rate. During the pandemic, the reverse repo rate was reduced to incentivise banks to park lesser funds with the RBI and lend more. This led to the breakdown of the symmetric LAF corridor. With the introduction of the SDF, the RBI has reverted to a symmetric liquidity management corridor.

While on the face of it, there are no rate hikes, the shift from the reverse repo rate to the SDF signals a tightening of monetary policy. There is a 40 basis points increase in the floor rate. It may be argued that the RBI has been absorbing liquidity through variable reverse repo auctions where the cut-off rates are closer to 4 per cent. In the medium run, the call money rate would move towards the new LAF corridor, thus bringing orderly conditions in the money market.

During most of February and March, yields on government bonds were range-bound as a number of auctions were cancelled. But since the announcement of the half-yearly borrowing programme, yields have been inching up. The government is expected to borrow Rs 8.45 trillion in the first half of the current financial year. While there were no explicit announcements to cool the yields, through measures like G-SAP, Operation Twist and Open Market Operations (OMOs), the RBI raised the limit under the old-to maturity category for banks from 22 per cent to 23 per cent. This move will insulate banks to a certain extent from mark-to-market losses as yields inch up. It will likely ensure demand for government bonds by banks.

As RBI begins to normalise liquidity in a calibrated manner, its ability to manage bond yields will likely be limited. Yields on bonds are likely to inch up and remain above the 7 per cent mark. Going forward, the trade-off between managing inflation and the borrowing programme of the government will become challenging. For now the RBI has rightly decided to place top priority on inflation management. This will help in maintaining the credibility of the inflation targeting framework.

The writer is Senior Fellow, NIPFP. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BOND POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Bond identity' (IE, April 11). When then finance minister Arun Jaitley brought this election bond scheme, the intention was to bring transparency in our political funding arena. But if the ruling party can come to know the identity of a donor then it defies the whole purpose and leaves people who donated to the opposition to face a backlash from the ruling party. The Supreme court must look into this case to ask the government to make necessary changes in the whole process so that either identity is known to all parties or none. No one should have undue advantage.

Bal Govind, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Bond identity' (IE, April 11). The scheme has legal and transparent safeguards. The bonds can be bought only by cheque or a digital transfer. Ignoring this amounts to an attempt to malign the scheme.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

NEW LEADERSHIP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Change next door' (IE, April 11). While the inevitable has happened with Imran Khan being unseated from power, the situation in Pakistan is still quite muddled. Although Shehbaz Sharif, head of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, is slated to be the new PM, heading a coalition government with other ambitious faces like Bilawal Bhutto will not be a cakewalk. Moreover, the new regime's equation with the all-power-

ful Pakistan army will also have a bearing on the change of guard. On its part, India needs to keep a close watch on the political developments knowing well that mischief from across the border can never be ruled out.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Change next door' (IE, April 11). Considering an unpredictable Afghanistan, a debt-ridden Sri Lanka, and military-ruled Myanmar, efforts to bolster relations with the new regime in Islamabad should be made in full swing to ensure stability next door. An evolving Russia-China-Pakistan axis, especially when Moscow is war-exhausted, will not serve India well.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

UNCERTAIN TIMES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Without a coup' (IE, April 11). It was because of the alertness of its Supreme Court and the restraint exercised by its army that Pakistan was able to effect a change of government through the parliamentary process. The SC not only took suo moto notice of the unconstitutional way Imran Khan tried to postpone his ouster, but decided the matter speedily and kept working right up to the midnight till the parliament completed the process. While India will have a sigh of relief at the bloodless transfer of power, the new government's behaviour towards India and China's influence on it are in the realm of uncertainty.

YG Chouksey, Pune



M A KALAM

Truth about vegetarianism

Identity politics has obscured the fact that humans are historically meat-eaters

HISTORICALLY, THERE WAS no way Homo sapiens could have survived without meat. Not that they were aware of the need for proteins or the presence of these in meat, but apart from meat there was hardly anything available for sustenance. If at all they depended on any vegetation and/or fruits and berries that was available, then it was only as a supplement to the meat which dominated their diet.

Domestication of animals occurred very early in human history and nomadism, which was the norm then, was in no way a constraint in "carrying" animals wherever people went. Domestication of plants, which gradually led to cultivation and a "settled" form of life, happened relatively late. In cultivation, there was no guarantee that a particular crop will last till harvest time and yield the required food. There might be drought, floods, or pests that could render the entire task of cultivation a futile exercise (Even today there is no assured return from a crop in all places and in all contexts).

Given that early humans did not depend on any organic or chemical fertilisers, cultivation was a highly uncertain indulgence; and after 90 to 120 days or more, the returns could, at best, be meagre or nothing at all. On the other hand, animal food was available in plenty and the person-hours spent in hunting, unlike in

cultivation, were negligible considering how much meat could be obtained.

So, why would an individual or group of people spend long hours in cultivation and give up an easier way of life that provided plenty of food in the form of meat? Besides, with cultivation, humans became dependent on the whims of Mother Nature, which invariably made the vagaries of the weather descend on them. It is also significant that, universally, cave and rock paintings were made between 40,000 and 14,000 years ago, during the Upper Palaeolithic period. The domestication of plants happened only around 12,000 years ago. This suggests that before humans became cultivators, they had ample time on their hands to indulge in art, which is a leisure time activity, and remains so in the contemporary contexts too.

However, humans did go in for cultivation and settled life, and one of the necessary but not sufficient reasons could be the depletion of animal food. Yet, all through history, irrespective of the yield from cultivation, animal food has never been given up. When enough non-meat food was available, a few people either gave up meat or ate it sporadically, leading to the emergence of the term "vegetarian", although there remained a homogeneous section that ate what by then had

evolved as normalised food, that is, meat. For no apparent or logical reason, the vegetarians eventually bestowed the epithet "non-vegetarian", with all its negative connotations, on the majority which had simply continued to do what it had been doing throughout human history: Eat meat.

Take any part of the world and it is evident that the population of vegetarians has always been in a minority, if not minuscule in scale. In spite of the widespread belief that Indians are primarily vegetarian (and hence "non-violent", as is often argued by some sections), the truth is the reverse. A majority is, in fact, predominantly meat-eating: As per the 4th National Family Health Survey, 70 per cent of women and 78 per cent of men in India consume some form of meat. That, in plain terms, means that a majority of Hindus are not vegetarians.

Given the above, why have there been frequent squabbles and skirmishes revolving around and involving meat in India, particularly since 2014? Most recently, a section of students allegedly attempted to stop the serving of meat at the Jawaharal Nehru University's Kaveri hostel mess. As per reports, the police has registered an FIR against "several unidentified students affiliated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) a

day after multiple students were injured after violence broke out on the JNU campus".

Is it the meat per se which generates such anger? Not by any stretch, as much of the ire that is directed against meat-eating seems to be aimed mostly against Muslims, although Dalits, Christians, and almost all the tribal communities, along with a host of other communities consume meat in India. In the politics of meat, the Muslim identity is reduced to a singular facet, that of meat-eating.

These disturbing happenings (including lynchings) have consistently had a highly negative impact on the very fabric of multiculturalism and secularism in the country. They are obstacles on the path of pluralism which should be the goal of any democratic and progressive country.

Incidentally, almost nowhere else in the world do people ask you if you are a "non-vegetarian". The usual question is whether one is a vegetarian or — the fast-growing sobriquet — vegan. This is because everywhere those who have given up eating meat are called vegetarians, while the rest are just eating normal food.

The writer, a social anthropologist, is Visiting Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. Views are personal



NIGERIA VICE-PRESIDENT TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

Nigeria's vice-president Yemi Osinbajo said he will run for President in next year's election. Osinbajo, 65, formally declared his intention to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari, who will be stepping down after serving two terms. In a video broadcast, Osinbajo promised to "complete" what he and Buhari started when they both were elected in 2015, including "radically transforming" Nigeria's security and intelligence operations.

TOP OF THE WORLD



NSO is seeking to have the entire case dismissed. Reuters

ISRAEL WhatsApp suit: NSO turns to US SC for immunity

Jerusalem: The Israeli spyware maker NSO Group is turning to the US Supreme Court as it seeks to head off a lawsuit filed by WhatsApp. In a filing to the SC, NSO said it should be recognised as a foreign government agent and, therefore, be entitled to immunity under US law limiting lawsuits against foreign countries. The request appeals a pair of earlier federal court rulings that rejected similar arguments by the Israeli company. WhatsApp parent Facebook, now called Meta Platforms Inc., sued NSO in 2019 for allegedly targeting some 1,400 users of its encrypted messaging service with highly sophisticated spyware. Granting sovereign immunity to NSO would greatly hinder WhatsApp's case. AP

UNITED KINGDOM Tax row: Sunak says ready for review

London: UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak has written to Boris Johnson, to be referred to one of the British Prime Minister's independent advisers to review all his ministerial declarations of interest amid a row around his family's tax affairs. Sunak tweeted on Sunday that he is confident the review by House of Lords peer Christopher Geidt will provide "further clarity". PM Johnson formally accepted the request on Monday and has asked Lord Geidt to open an inquiry. PTI

CHINA Shanghai sees 25k new cases, eases lockdown

Shanghai: China's financial centre of Shanghai started easing its lockdown in some areas on Monday despite reporting a record of more than 25,000 new Covid-19 infections, as authorities sought to get the city moving again after more than two weeks. City officials announced on Monday that they were grouping residential units into three risk categories as a step towards allowing "appropriate activity" by those in neighbourhoods with no positive cases during a two-week stretch, adding that district authorities would publish further details. REUTERS

HEAVY SHELLING IN KHARKIV KILLS CHILD, SAYS MAYOR

Ahead of east push, Russia hits Ukraine's air defences

AP & REUTERS
KYIV, APRIL 11

RUSSIA SAID on Monday that it destroyed air defence systems in Ukraine over the weekend, in what appeared to be a renewed push to gain air superiority and take out weapons Kyiv has described as crucial ahead of a broad new offensive in the east.

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the military used cruise missiles to destroy four S-300 air defence missile launchers on the southern outskirts of the central city of Dnipro. He said about 25 Ukrainian troops were also hit by Sunday's strike. Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv came under heavy shelling on Monday, causing multiple casualties including one dead child, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said in a televised interview. When asked about the risk of a new Russian assault on the city, mayor said forces were focused and ready to defend the city. "There is no panic in the city," Terekhov said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is meanwhile pleading for more Western aid, saying his forces need heavier firepower to resist the coming onslaught and push Russian forces back. Speaking in a video address to South Korean lawmakers, Zelenskyy said his country needed more help, including weapons, if it is to survive the war. "You have something that can be indispensable for us... armoured vehicles, anti-aircraft, anti-tank, anti-ship weapons," he said.

The mayor of Mariupol said Monday that over 10,000 civilians have died in the Russian siege of his city, and that the toll could surpass 20,000, with corpses that were "carpeted through the streets."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the Kremlin would not halt its operation for any new round of peace talks. "A decision was made that during the next rounds of talks, there would be no pause (in military action) so long as a final agreement is not reached," Lavrov said.



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at a house after a Russian attack in Kharkiv, on Monday. AP

Austrian leader has 'open, tough' talks with Putin

Vienna: Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer held "very direct, open and tough" talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin near Moscow on Monday, in Putin's first meeting with a EU leader since the invasion.

"This is not a friendly visit," Nehammer was quoted as saying after the meeting at Putin's official Novo-Ogaryovo residence. A Nehammer spokesman said the meeting lasted 75 minutes. "The conversation with President Putin was direct, open and tough," Nehammer said, adding that he felt meeting him was his duty so as to "leave no stone unturned" in seeking an end to the conflict. REUTERS

Chechen chief Kadyrov says Russian forces will take Kyiv

REUTERS
APRIL 11

RAMZAN KADYROV, the powerful head of Russia's republic of Chechnya, said early on Monday that there will be an offensive by Russian forces not only on the besieged port of Mariupol, but also on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities.

"There will be an offensive... not only on Mariupol, but also on other places, cities and villages," Kadyrov said in a video posted on his Telegram channel. "Luhansk and Donetsk — we will fully liberate in the first place... and then take Kyiv and all other cities."

Kadyrov, who has often de-



Ramzan Kadyrov is the powerful head of Russia's republic of Chechnya. Reuters

scribed himself as Russian President Vladimir Putin's "foot soldier," said there should be no doubt about Kyiv.

Experts see little hope in Ukraine-Russia talks

KRISHN KAUSHIK
BERLIN, APRIL 11

IT HAS been more than 45 days since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While Russia has diverted its forces from around Kyiv, which is the capital, and other regions in the north towards east and south, focusing on the Donbas region, negotiations between the two countries have not resulted in anything concrete yet.

Whether Russia is negotiating in good faith; which countries will offer security guarantees to Ukraine against Russia as part of its deal; will it agree to a deal without Russian troops leaving its territories in Donbas; can Ukraine convince its own people for a deal without achieving "victory"; and how will any deal be approved with martial law in place in Ukraine — these are some of the main stumbling blocks that are likely to prevent a concrete deal



Road workers load a destroyed Russian tank onto a platform in the village of Andriyivka close to Kyiv on Monday. AP

being reached between the two nations at war, according to several German, Polish and American experts, officials and analysts. The Indian Express interacted with in Germany over the past week. Discussing the issue off-

record, these experts said that there are several problems with the ongoing negotiations from both Russian and Ukrainian sides. Ukraine has proposed to Russia that it will be willing to let go off its aspirations to join the

EXPLAINED A frozen conflict

OFFICIALS AND experts feel that the war will now become a frozen conflict, which can continue for years. Many also feel that Russia is likely to keep pushing as much as it can for another month, till early May. Putin, they feel, will need to show something for victory of his objectives by May 9, which is when Russia celebrates the "Victory Day."

NATO and opt for neutrality in lieu of security guarantees from other countries. But many experts believe that this is not going to work out. Russia, America and the UK

had signed the Budapest Memorandum in 1994, providing security assurances to Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, convincing them to bring them under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Ukraine had given up its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal for security assurances from the signatories. However, experts said that, while the assurances were not guarantees and may not have had been binding, but the ongoing war has demonstrated that no other country, including the US, is willing to send its troops to help Ukraine as they do not want to risk a direct war with Russia, leading to a potential nuclear conflict.

Second, officials and experts feel that even as Ukraine has impressed the world with its resolute defence, especially around Kyiv, Russia is unwilling to let go off its offensives in east and south, in Donbas region and Black Sea. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Shehbaz Sharif, considered a realist, able administrator

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE/ISLAMABAD, APRIL 11

SHEHBAZ SHARIF, who became Pakistan's new Prime Minister after the unceremonious ouster of Imran Khan, is a hard-core realist and over the years has earned the reputation of a matter-of-fact person and a good administrator.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz, the 70-year-old younger brother of former three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, has served as chief minister of the most populous and politically crucial Punjab province thrice.

Born in September 1951 in Punjabi-speaking Kashmiri family in Lahore, Shehbaz entered politics along with his elder brother Nawaz in mid 1980s. He first got elected as a member of Punjab Assembly in 1988 when Nawaz became chief minister of Punjab.

Shehbaz first became CM of Punjab in 1997 when his brother was PM at the Centre.

Following General Pervez Musharraf's coup in 1999 toppling the Nawaz Sharif government, Shehbaz along with the family spent eight years in exile in Saudi Arabia before returning to Pakistan in 2007.

He wore the hat of Punjab chief minister for the second term in 2008 and he grabbed the same slot for third time in 2013.

Shehbaz has claimed that Gen Musharraf had offered him prime ministership provided he abandons his elder brother Nawaz, which he said he had refused straight away.

After PM Nawaz Sharif was disqualified from holding office in 2017 in the Panama Papers case, the PML-N appointed Shehbaz as the party president. Subsequently,



Shehbaz Sharif at National Assembly, in Islamabad on Monday. Reuters

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pak after Eid: PML-N leader

Islamabad: Deposed Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to return from London next month after Eid, a senior PML-N leader said. Mian Javed Latif said a decision on PML-N supreme and the three-time PM Sharif's anticipated return will be discussed with the coalition partners. All decisions would be first brought up with constituent parties of the coalition. *The Express Tribune* quoted him as saying. PTI

after 2018 elections he became the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

Nawaz's daughter and PML-N vice-president Maryam Nawaz, who is Shehbaz's niece, has said that her uncle is a man who has served the nation selflessly and tirelessly. Although it is said that Nawaz Sharif wants his daughter Maryam to become PM, she is convicted in the Avenfield corruption case. So the elder Sharif had no choice but to nominate the younger Sharif for the top executive post from his party. PTI

SRI LANKA CRISIS

PM Rajapaksa: Will end economic crisis like we ended LTTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, APRIL 11



Sri Lanka PM Mahinda Rajapaksa

SRI LANKA'S Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Monday said that his government was confident of overcoming the unprecedented economic crisis in the same way it crushed the LTTE over a decade ago.

In a televised address to the nation, Mahinda, who is under growing pressure to quit due to the worst economic crisis, said that he understands the people's sufferings.

"We have to strengthen the economy. We will take the responsibility to resolve the economic issue in the same way we ended the 30-year war," the PM said, referring to his military victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

The LTTE, which led a separatist war for a separate Tamil homeland, was crushed by the Lankan military in 2009 with the death of its supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Mahinda, the elder brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa,

said the government is working round-the-clock to overcome the economic crisis.

In his first public appearance since countrywide protests began demanding the resignation President Gotabaya and the entire Rajapaksa family, he appealed to the protesters to end their agitation and said every minute spent on streets deprives the country of dollar inflow.

"The government is spending every second of the day to resolve this problem. My family is being slandered, we can tolerate it," Mahinda said.

In a bid to blame the Opposition Janatha Vikramthi Peramuna (JVP) party for the protests, Mahinda recalled the JVP rebellions in the 70s and 80s. He said that his government had built roads, ports and infrastructure not to keep the people on the streets protesting.

BY LATE MARCH THIS YEAR, PAK SAW 52 ATTACKS BY MILITANTS, COMPARED WITH 35 IN SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, FIND DATA

Taliban tout success, but Islamic State morphs, grows in Pak, Afghanistan

KATHY GANNON
ALALABAD, APRIL 11

BASHEER WAS a young Taliban fighter barely out of his teens when the Islamic State group took over his village in eastern Afghanistan, nearly eight years ago. The militants rounded up villagers identified as Taliban and killed them, often beheading them, forcing their families to watch. Basheer escaped and lived in hiding during the following years when IS controlled several districts in Nangarhar province. Over time, he rose in the Taliban ranks. Now known as Engineer

Basheer, he is the Taliban intelligence chief in eastern Afghanistan, with a leading role in the campaign to crush IS. He hasn't forgotten the atrocities he saw in his home district of Kot.

"I can't explain their cruelty in words, whatever comes into your mind, they have done more than that," he told AP in a recent interview at his headquarters in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar.

Since coming to power in Afghanistan eight months ago, the Taliban have touted their success in repressing the Islamic State group, but the militants have expanded into neighbouring Pakistan, stepping up attacks there. Analysts say IS has mor-

phed into a borderless terrorist group, one of the deadliest in a region that has spawned many violent, radical organizations.

In northwest Pakistan, the impact is brutally clear. The remains of an IS suicide bomber are still visible on the once ornate walls of a mosque, weeks after he blew himself up, killing more than 60 worshippers as they prayed. IS identified the bomber as an Afghan from Kabul.

The March 4 bombing at the Kusha Kisaldar Shiite mosque in the old city of Peshawar stunned Pakistanis, deepening their fear of the resurgence of terror attacks in their country, after a steady decline in the past decade.



Kusha Kisaldar Shiite Mosque, the site of March 4 suicide bombing in Peshawar. AP

The rise in attacks began last year and is accelerating, said Amir Rana, executive director of

the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies, an independent think tank that monitors militant ac-

tivity in Pakistan.

By late March this year, Pakistan had seen 52 attacks by militants, compared with 35 in the same period last year, according to the institute's data. The attacks have also gotten deadlier. So far this year in Pakistan, 155 people have been killed in such attacks, compared to 68 last year.

The worst have been claimed by a ruthless Islamic State affiliate, known Islamic State in Khorasan Province or IS-K. Meanwhile, IS attacks appear to have declined in Afghanistan. IS-K first emerged in 2014 in eastern Afghanistan. By 2019, it held significant territory in Nangarhar province and had

pushed into neighbouring Kunar province. The US military waged a massive air campaign against it, including targeting a suspected IS hideout with America's largest conventional bomb, known as the "mother of all bombs."

But IS survived, and it presented the greatest security challenge to the Taliban when they seized power in Afghanistan last August. IS-K is a longtime enemy of the Taliban. The Taliban espouse a harsh interpretation of Islamic law and often used suicide attacks in their nearly 20-year insurgency against the United States and its Afghan allies. But they often blend tribal traditions with religious edicts

and have reached out to Shiites. IS, meanwhile, opposes any group that does not accept its more radical, deeply anti-Shiite ideology and is notorious for atrocities meant to spread fear. IS, unlike the Taliban, see their battle as one to establish a unified Muslim world under a caliphate.

The Taliban responded with their characteristic heavy hand, sweeping through suspected IS strongholds. In October and November, residents reported bodies hanging from trees. They were told they were IS militants. Basheer says the Taliban have succeeded in reining in the group. "We got control of all those areas..." he said. AP



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SIMPLY PUT

Sri Lanka: fall in rice output and the economy

Production is down 14% in 2021-22, but the crisis Sri Lanka faces has more to do with the macro-economy than the organic-only policy, now revoked

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

SRI LANKA'S RICE production has fallen 13.9% in 2021-22 (April-March) and average yield per hectare by 14.4%, even as imports have soared to a five-year-high.

To what extent is this crisis an outcome of the Gotabaya Rajapaksa government's banning import of inorganic fertilisers and agrochemicals on May 6, 2021, before its revocation over six months later on November 24?

Table 1 shows that Sri Lanka's rice output dropped significantly to 2.92 million tonnes (mt) in 2021-22, from the previous year's 3.39 mt. The US Department of Agriculture further estimated the island nation's imports at 0.65 mt as a result of lower domestic production.

What's interesting, though, is that the estimated production for 2021-22 is still higher than the 2-2.5 levels of 2016-17 and 2017-18, which were drought years. Sri Lanka's rice imports in 2016-17, at 0.75 mt, were even higher than that estimated for the just ended year.

Manmade vs natural

So, have the effects of the recent "manmade disaster" — a forced overnight complete switching to organic farming and blanket ban on imports of chemical agricultural inputs —

been not all that serious? Or, at least not as much as the natural disasters of 2016-17 and 2017-18, which also led to a massive shrinkage of the area planted under rice?

But it isn't just rice, Sri Lanka's largest cultivated crop. A similar conclusion may be drawn in respect of its No. 1 agricultural export item: Tea production in 2021 (at 299.34 million kg) was actually higher than in 2020 (278.49 million kg). Exports, too, grew 7.7% (see table 2). Even in value terms, the country's tea exports in 2021, at \$1,324.37 million, were more than the previous year's \$1,240.9 million.

In short, it might seem that the Rajapaksa government's organic-only policy through executive fiat hasn't produced an agriculture disaster of the sort projected by commentators. Sri Lanka's crisis today has more to do with the macro-economy than the farm sector *per se*.

How the ban worked

R Ramakumar, professor of economics at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, does not agree with this analysis. Sri Lanka, he points out, has two rice crops in a year. The first one — the 'Yala', equivalent to India's kharif crop — is planted in May-June and harvested in November-December. The second — 'Maha' or rabi season paddy — is planted in November-December and harvested in March-April.

According to Ramakumar, the ban on im-

RICE AREA, YIELD, OUTPUT AND IMPORTS IN SRI LANKA				
	Area (mn hectares)	Yield (tonnes/hectare)	Production (mn tonnes)	Imports (thousand tonnes)
2014-15	0.93	4.32	2.74	286
2015-16	1.23	3.95	3.29	30
2016-17	0.69	4.36	2.03	748
2017-18	0.77	4.30	2.25	249
2018-19	0.97	4.73	3.13	24
2019-20	0.97	4.85	3.21	16
2020-21	1.09	4.57	3.39	147
2021-22	1.10	3.91	2.92	650

Source: US Department of Agriculture.

port of synthetic fertilisers and crop protection chemicals, including insecticides and herbicides, took effect when plantings of the 'Yala' paddy had just started. Much of the imports of these chemical inputs for the season would already have taken place by then.

"The May 6, 2021 directive wouldn't really have impacted the Yala paddy. The lack of chemical inputs has mainly hit the Maha season crop, whose yields have registered a 40-45% decline. The rescinding of the ban happened towards end-November, which was too

late for Maha plantings," he says. Roughly 60% of Sri Lanka's annual rice production comes from the 'Maha' crop.

The same goes for tea, where the almost 21 million kg increase in production compared to 2020 took place largely during the first five months of 2021. "The last three months (October-December 2021 over October-December 2020), in fact, recorded 12 million kg lower, due to which the country's couldn't achieve its target for 320 million kg for the year," adds Ramakumar. The trend of lower

TEA PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS		
	Production (tonnes)	Exports (tonnes)
2017	307,080	288,984
2018	303,843	282,363
2019	300,134	292,657
2020	278,489	265,569
2021	299,338	286,016
Jan-Feb 21	45,700	43,990
Jan-Feb 22	40,981	40,527

Source: Tea Exporters Association Sri Lanka.

production as well as exports has continued even in the first two months of the new calendar year.

The pre-ban setting

That being said, it is also a fact that Sri Lanka's current economic crisis predates the "manmade" agriculture disaster unleashed by the May 6, 2021 edit.

The country's foreign currency reserves (including gold and money held with the International Monetary Fund) touched a high

of \$8,864.98 million on June 30, 2019. Even as of February 28, 2020 — before Covid-19 struck — the reserves were at \$7,941.52 million.

But as earnings from tourism (from \$3,606.9 million in 2019 to \$506.9 million in 2021) and workers' remittances (\$6,717.2 million to \$5,491.5 million) plummeted, the reserves, too, started depleting. They fell to \$4,055.16 million in end-March 2021, \$2,704.19 million in end-September and \$1,588.37 million by end-November 2021. The latest end-February 2022 data from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's website shows the total official forex reserves at \$2,311.25 million, which suffices for just over 1.3 months of imports.

It's quite possible that the decision to ban imports of chemical agricultural inputs may have been as much a response to depleting reserves as the ruling regime's commitment to organic agriculture. Fertiliser imports alone were valued at \$258.94 million in 2020. Given the rising international prices, the import bill in the normal course would have gone up to \$300-400 million in 2021. Banning/restricting imports may have been viewed as a means for conserving scarce foreign exchange.

It is another thing that the same knee-jerk policy has ended up hurting Sri Lanka's tea exports and its having to import rice at a greater cost than fertilisers and crop protection chemicals.

TELLING NUMBERS

The languages India speaks

Hindi is the mother tongue of 44% of Indians in Census 2011; the rest speak 120 other languages

KABIR FIRAQUE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

LAST WEEK, Home Minister Amit Shah suggested that states should communicate with each other in Hindi rather than English, while stressing that Hindi should not be an alternative to local languages. "When citizens of states who speak other languages communicate with each other, it should be in the language of India," Shah was quoted by the Home Ministry as having said at the meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee.

Opposition parties have criticised this as "Hindi imposition". In the Northeast, organisations such as the Asam Sahitya Sabha and the North East Students' Organisation have protested against Shah's statement that the states of the region would make Hindi compulsory up to class 10 in schools.

How widely is Hindi spoken in India?

The 2011 linguistic census accounts for 121 mother tongues, including 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Hindi is the most widely spoken, with 52.8 crore individuals, or 43.6% of the population, declaring it as their mother tongue. The next highest is Bengali, mother tongue for 97 lakh (8%) — less than one-fifth of Hindi's count (Chart 1).

In terms of the number of people who know Hindi, the count crosses more than half the country. Nearly 13.9 crore (over 11%) reported Hindi as their second language, which makes it either the mother tongue or second language for nearly 55% of the population.

Has it always been this widespread?

Hindi has been India's predominant mother tongue over the decades, its share in the population rising in every succeeding census. In 1971, 37% Indians had reported Hindi as their mother tongue, a share that has grown over the next four censuses to 38.7%, 39.2%, 41% and 43.6% at last count (Chart 1).

This begs the question as to which mother tongues have declined as Hindi's share has risen. A number of mother tongues other than Hindi have faced a decline in terms of share, although the dip has been marginal in many cases. For example, Bengali's share in the population declined by just 0.14 percentage points from 1971 (8.17%) to 2011 (8.03%). In comparison, Malayalam (1.12 percentage points) and Urdu (1.03 points) had higher declines among

A giant among 121 languages

CHART 1

GROWTH OF HINDI AS MOTHER TONGUE (% OF POPULATION)

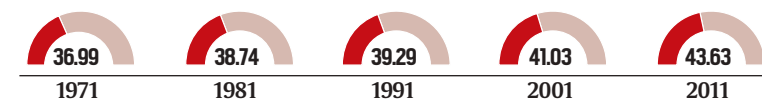
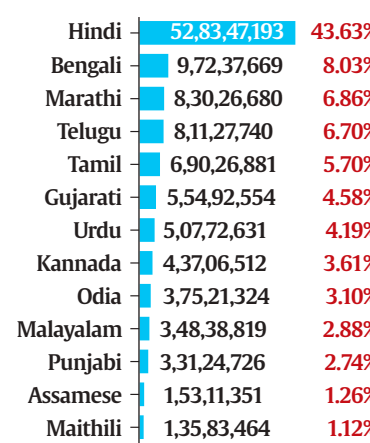


CHART 2

MOTHER TONGUES BY SPEAKERS, 2011

Minimum 1 cr

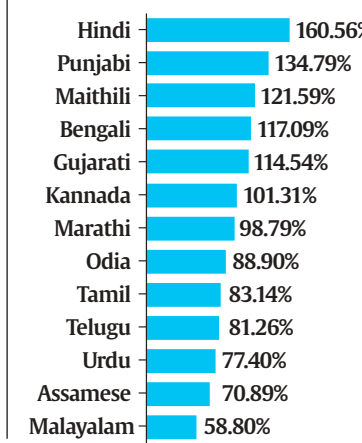


Source: Graphs based on Census of India data

CHART 3

GROWTH OF HINDI vs OTHER MOTHER TONGUES, 1971-2011

% growth in number of speakers



What explains Hindi's high numbers?

One obvious explanation is that Hindi is the predominant language in some of India's most populous states, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Another reason is that a number of languages are bracketed under Hindi by census enumerators, according to Dr Ganesh Devy, chairman of the People's Linguistic Survey of India, an ongoing project to map the languages of the country.

"In 2011, there were 1,383 mother tongues reported by people, and hundreds were then knocked out. These mother tongues were then grouped into languages. You will find that under Hindi, they have listed nearly 65 mother tongues. Among them is Bhojpuri, and 5 crore

people have reported Bhojpuri as their mother tongue, but the census has decided that Bhojpuri is Hindi," he said.

Citing other examples, he said, "If one were to knock out the other languages merged with Hindi, the total figure goes down to 38 crore."

And how widely is English spoken?

Although English, alongside Hindi, is one of the two official languages of the central government, it is not among the 22 languages in the 8th Schedule; it is one of the 99 non-scheduled languages. In terms of mother tongue, India had just 2.6 lakh English speakers in 2011 — a tiny fraction of the 121 crore people counted in that census.

That does not reflect the extent to which English is spoken. It was the second language of 8.3 crore respondents in 2011, second only to Hindi's 13.9 crore. If third language is added, then English was spoken — as mother tongue, second language or third language — by over 10% of the population in 2011, behind only Hindi's 57%. Bengali was third at about 9%.

Dr Devy felt the count should be higher. "Can you believe that in India, only 2.6 lakh speak English as their primary language? You take a very rapid census of Delhi or Kolkata or Chennai, for families who have moved in for white-collar jobs. You'll notice that English is their language for day-to-day affairs. Yet it is still seen in the eyes of the government as a foreign language. It is still not a scheduled language in India, when it should be," he said.

Where is English most prevalent?

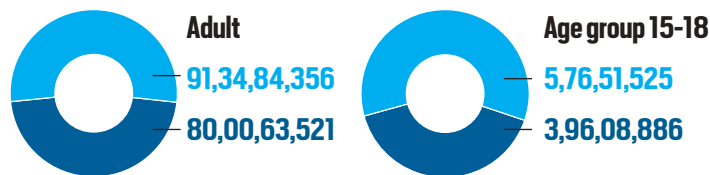
As mother tongue, Maharashtra accounted for over 1 lakh of the 2.6 lakh English speakers. As second language, English is preferred over Hindi in parts of the Northeast. Among the 17.6 lakh with Manipuri (an 8th Schedule language) as their mother tongue in 2011, 4.8 lakh declared their second language as English, compared to 1.8 lakh for Hindi.

Among the non-scheduled languages spoken in the Northeast, Khasi, predominant in Meghalaya, was the mother tongue of 14.3 lakh, of whom 2.4 lakh declared their second language as English, and 54,000 as Hindi. The trends were similar for Mizo, and for various languages spoken in Nagaland, including Ao, Angami and Rengma. Beyond the Northeastern languages, among 68 lakh with Kashmiri as their mother tongue, 2.8 lakh declared their second language as English, compared to 2.2 lakh who declared Hindi.

DASHBOARD, AS ON APRIL 10

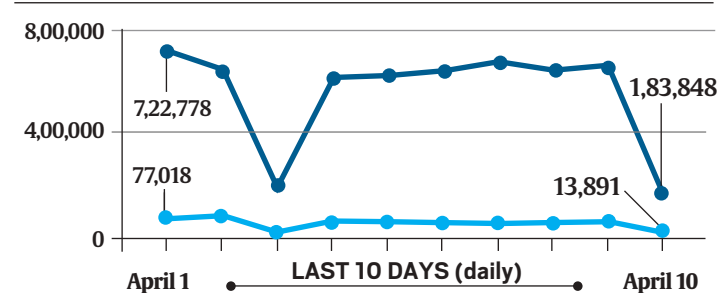
TOTAL DOSES 185,74,18,827

First dose Second dose

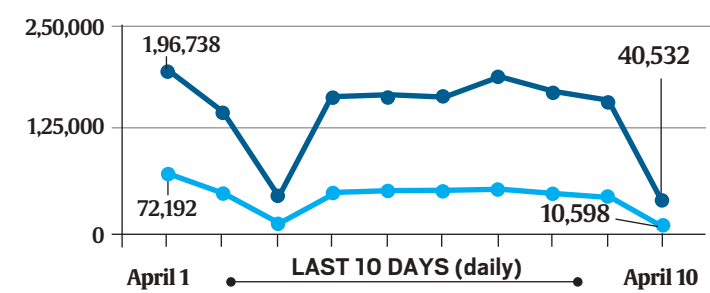


AGE GROUP 12-14 1st dose	2,22,67,519
PRECAUTIONARY 60+	2,43,33,346
PRECAUTIONARY 15-59	9,674
Doses On April 10	3,47,172

ADULTS



AGE GROUP 15-18



How ancient megalithic jars connect Assam with Laos and Indonesia

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, APRIL 11

THE DISCOVERY of a number of megalithic stone jars in Assam's Dima Hasao district has brought to focus possible links between India's Northeast and Southeast Asia, dating back to the second millennium BC. According to a study in *Asian Archaeology*, the jars are a "unique archaeological phenomenon". It calls for more research to understand the "likely cultural relationship" between Assam and Laos and Indonesia, the only two other sites where similar jars have been found.

The history

The jars of Assam were first sighted in

1929 by British civil servants James Philip Mills and John Henry Hutton, who recorded their presence in six sites in Dima Hasao: Derebore (now Hojai Dobongling), Kobak, Kartong, Molongpa (now Melangpeuram), Ndunglo and Bolasan (now Nuchubunglo).

These discoveries were followed up only in 2014, when a collaborative effort by researchers from the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and Nagaland University under the Archaeological Survey of India (Guwahati circle) was undertaken.

"Two sites were discovered in 2016. In 2020, we followed that up and discovered four more sites," said Dr Tilok Thakuria of the History and Archaeology Department at NEHU in Meghalaya.

The paper, 'An archaeological survey of



The jars have been found in six sites in Assam. Photo provided by the researchers

the Assam stone jar sites', has been authored by Thakuria, along with Uttam Bathari of Gauhati University and Nicholas Skopal of

the Australian National University. They documented three distinct jar shapes (bulbous top with conical end; biconical; cylindrical) on spurs, hill slopes and ridge lines. At one site, Nuchubunglo, as many as 546 jars were found. "This is arguably the largest such site in the world," said Thakuria, adding that most jars they found were in "poor condition" because of factors such as "weather condition, forest growth and burning owing to shifting cultivation and road cutting".

The significance

While the jars are yet to be scientifically dated, the researchers said links could be drawn with the stone jars found in Laos and Indonesia. "There are typological and morphological similarities between the jars found

at all three sites," said Bathari.

Added Thakuria: "There is no reported parallel anywhere else in India, apart from the northeast — this points to the fact that once upon a time a group of people having similar kind of cultural practice occupied the same geography between Laos and Northeast India."

Dating done at the Laos site suggests that jars were positioned at the sites as early as the late second millennium BC.

The other takeaway is the link to mortuary practices. The paper stated that in Laos, researchers had said there was a "strong association" between the stone jars and mortuary practices, with human skeletal remains found inside and buried around the jars. In Indonesia, the function of the jars remains

unconfirmed, although some scholars suggest a similar mortuary role.

Mills and Hutton, too, had suggested that the jars were associated with mortuary rituals. They referred to the "practices of ancestral bone repository of tribes like Mikir, Sakchips, Hangkals, Kukli, Khasi and Synteng and evidence of cremated bone fragments placed in one of the jars", stated the paper. In the 1930s, anthropologist Ursula Graham Bower described these as "funerary urns".

Thakuria said the next phase would involve systematic excavation of material remains as well as scientific dating. The researchers suggested additional surveys are required across Assam, as well as in Meghalaya and Manipur, "to understand the extent of this culture".

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SBI Contact Centre Operations Deptt. (Corporate Centre), Centre-1, World Trade Centre, 10th Floor, Cuffee Parade, Mumbai-400005 NOTICE INVITING TENDER RFP No. SBI/CCOD-08-01/2022-23 DATED: 12.04.2022

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Government of Karnataka Department of Fisheries Directorate of Fisheries, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560 001, Phone: 080-2286 4681/4604, Fax: 080-2286 4619 E-mail: dfkarnataka@rediffmail.com

SEARCH FOR MISSING General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Sahiba Bano, D/o Sh. Sharif, R/o: H.No. 60, Village Rajapur, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi, Age: About 15 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Medium, Mental Status: Normal, Hair: Black, Wearing: White Kurti, Black Plazo & Pink Shoes in feet has been missing since 20.03.2022 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 266/2022, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 21.03.2022, has been registered at P.S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi.

नौरडा नवीन औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-6, नौरडा-201301, उ०१० वेबसाइट: www.noidaauthorityonline.com प्रेस विज्ञप्ति नौरडा परिक्षेत्र में कार्यरत पथ विक्रेताओं को यह सूचित किया जाता है कि जिन पथ विक्रेताओं के द्वारा माननीय जिला न्यायालय गौतमबुद्धनगर, माननीय उच्च न्यायालय इलाहाबाद उ.प्र. एवं माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय में यदि पथ विक्रेता स्थल की मांग हेतु याचना की गई है तो वह पथ विक्रेता अपनी याचिका में उपलब्ध सभी पार्टी अर्थात जिस पृष्ठ पर सभी याचिकाकर्ताओं का विवरण उपलब्ध होता है की त्रि तथ माननीय न्यायालय द्वारा संबंधित याचिका में यदि कोई आदेश पारित किये है तो उक्त आदेश की प्रति एवं संबंधित पथ विक्रेता/याचिकाकर्ता का आवेदन पत्र संबंधित वर्क सॉफ्ट को 25.04.2022 तक उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें जिससे संबंधित वर्क सॉफ्ट उक्त याचिकाकर्ताओं की जांच कर अपनी सत्यापन आख्या संबंधित पथ विक्रेता प्रतिनिधि से सत्यापित कराते हुये सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग को उपलब्ध करा सकें।

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 12.04.2022

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/1013	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF STRAIGHT THRU & END TERMINATION JOINTS OF VARIOUS SIZES OF 33KV & 66KV CABLES	8.50 Cr.	8,50,000	02.05.2022 15:00 HRS	02.05.2022 15:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/RJ/1014	SUPPLY & ETC OF 11 KV, SINGLE PHASE BREAKER IN BRPL	1.70 Cr.	3,40,000	02.05.2022 15:15 HRS	02.05.2022 15:30 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/1015	SUPPLY OF 33KV XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR POWER CABLE OF SIZE 3CX400 SQ.MM	7.20 Cr.	7,20,000	02.05.2022 15:30 HRS	02.05.2022 15:45 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceeda.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No.: +91 11 4920 7235 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Chairman State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department J&K Kashmir
Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir
Lal-Mandi, Srinagar 190008
Tel. No: 09194-2310604. Fax No: 0194-2311063 Email id: kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com
(Supply Section)

e-NIT No: DSHK/Supply/NIT/2022-23/392-401 Dated: 09-04-2022
Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Fodder Seeds.

For & on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited from firms/companies dealing in fodder seeds in two bid system (Technical 1 & Financial 2) through Chairman State Level Purchase Committee for fixing the rate contract for **Supply of fodder seeds**. The detailed variety wise requirement to be supplied in reference to this e-NIT is:-

S.No	Name of Seed	Variety	Seed Class	Packing size
1	Perennial Rye	Rye grass	Truthfully labelled	1kg

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

S.No	Date of issue of Tender Notice	09.04.2022
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	09.04.2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.04.2022 to 29.04.2022
3	Bid submission start date	09.04.2022
4	Bid submission end date	29.04.2022
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	30.04.2022 (2.00PM)

- Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-
 - Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from Bidders Manual Kit on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.
 - The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- (Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)

Sd/
Chairman
State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department
Jammu & Kashmir

No: DSHK/SUPPLY/2022-23/392-401 Date: 09.04.2022
DIPK-381

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCI KASHMIR 190018
Web Site: www.pmpdpdjk.org, Tele/Fax: 0194-2493881, email: epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com
e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No's: SE/Proc/02/2022-23

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCI Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDCI Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers / Authorized Dealers for **Purchase Of Truck mounted hydraulically operated articulated 5MT capacity knuckle and Boom cranes** as depicted below for the requirement of KPDCI:

S. No	Material Description	FOR ECSD Srinagar (No's)	Reference to e-NIT
1	Purchase of Truck mounted hydraulically operated articulated 5MT capacity knuckle and Boom crane	12	SE/Proc/02/2022-23

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	09.04.2022; 09:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	04.05.2022; 14:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications	11.04.2022; 10:00 Hrs to 16.04.2022; 14:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	18.04.2022; 15:00Hrs to 04.05.2022; 15:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time in respect of Tender Fee and EMD only	05.05.2022 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina Srinagar 190018.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	06.05.2022; 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.4000.00 (Rupees four Thousand Only) Cost of Bidding Document shall be pledged to Accounts officer with Chief Engineer (P&P), KPDCI Srinagar. In case of cost of bidding document is furnished in the form of Demand Draft, the same shall be submitted in the office of tender inviting authority before techno-commercial bid-opening, besides online payment can also be made into the account of Accounts officer with Chief Engineer Planning & Procurement Circle, KPDCI, Srinagar Account No: 011001020000833 IFSC Code: JAKAOMOVING, J&K Bank Ltd Civil Secretariat, Srinagar through NEFT / RTGS and upload the acknowledgement receipt with the BID.
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	As per clause 7 of BDS.

Sd/
Superintending Engineer
Procurement (KPDCI)

DIPK-NS-172

Bharat Nirman Through Rural Roads
Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone), HPPWD, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla, H.P.-171002
BHARAT NIRMAN
UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice

The Government of India has received a loan/ credit number "Ln 7995-IN/Cr.4848-IN/Cr.4849-IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) Batch-II and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Table below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

Sr. No.	Name of Distt.	Package No.	Name of Work	Period of Construction in Days	Estimated Cost		Bid Security	Cost of Form
					Construction Part Rs.	Maintenance Part Rs.		
1	Kinnaur	HP-05-27	C/O Balance work of link road Chaura to Rupri (Majhgaon) Km 0/00 to 27/050 (S/O: C/O Missing bailey bridge over Rupri Nallah at RD 8/660 having span of 33.00 mtr. and RD 18/645 having span of 33.00 mtr.)	510	34950270	0.00	699000	5000

The Superintending Engineer 11th Circle HPPWD Rampur Distt Kinnaur on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Kinnaur1 number of package with estimated cost totaling to Rs.349.50 lacs including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD/ CPWD/P&T, Railways/ other State Govt./ Central Govt. agencies. On-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-Procurement: 16th April 2022.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submissions: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online www.pmgstyenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder would be to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The technical bid shall be opened in the office of Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle, HPPWD, Rampur Bushahr on 27.04.2022. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with Concerned Executive Engineer, HPPWD, on a date not later than two

working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the technical bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: Date 26th April 2022 upto 1700 Hours and will be opened on 27th April, 2022 at 1100 hours.

The Financial bids shall be opened in the office of Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPPWD Shimla (Date and Time will be intimated).

For further details please log on to <http://pmgstyenders.gov.in>.
The Government has enhanced the tendering limit of Class-B contractors from Rs. 2.00 crore (Two crore) to Rs. 5.00 crore (Five crore) only for PMGSY works.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reason.

Superintending Engineer
11th Circle HPPWD,
Rampur Bushahr
Distt. Shimla (HP)
Fax: 01782-233167, Tel: 01782-233044

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E - TENDER NOTICE No. ELS SRE T-26 dtd. 09.04.2022

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No. ELS_SRE_T-26

Name of work Routine overhauling of complete Hitachi Tractor Motor (Type HS 15250A) of conventional Electric Locomotives for a period of one year.

Date of Closing/ Opening 02.05.2022

Approx. Cost. Rs.45,73,638.00/-

Earnest Money Rs.91,500/-

Completion period 01 Year

Validity period 45 days

Cost of tender form 'Free of Cost'

- Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders.
- Tenderer(s) are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions.
- Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule.
- For details, please log on to IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

804/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
No. 146-Med/San/GeM Tender/PRYJ/22 Dated: 11.04.2022

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Chief Medical Superintendent, Central Hospital, North Central Railway, Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, was invited online GeM Bid (E-Tender) on web portal as detailed below. Now it is being cancelled due to some necessary reason.

GeM Bid No. & Date	Name of work	Approx. cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money EMD (in Rs.)	Date & Time of closing of Tender
GEM/2022/B/2096148 dated-07.04.2022	COMPLETE SANITATION WORK OF DSA LEADER ROAD MALGODAM NEW MALGODAM RAILWAY COLONY PRAYAGRAJ	5229854.59	104597.00	28.04.2022 At 19:30 hrs.

Tender cost (in Rs.) : 0.00
Completion Period : 24 months

Note:- For full details and submission of tender, please visit the website www.gem.gov.in. 409/22 (SP)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED NCR CIRCLE ALWAR
Manu Marg ALWAR (RAJ.)
E-Mail- sencr.alwar.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No- 95-108 Date- 05/04/2022

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 22-51/ 2022-23)

Bids for Work of Construction of Source, PLJ of Rising main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Reservoir for Various Villages under P.S. Tijara are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date 05.05.2022. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state and <https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in> departmental website.

UBN:

PHE2223WSOB001192,	PHE2223WSOB001193,	PHE2223WSOB001195,
PHE2223WSOB001196,	PHE2223WSOB001197,	PHE2223WSOB001198,
PHE2223WSOB001199,	PHE2223WSOB00200,	PHE2223WSOB00201,
PHE2223WSOB00203,	PHE2223WSOB00205,	PHE2223WSOB00206,
PHE2223WSOB00209,	PHE2223WSOB00211,	PHE2223WSOB00212,
PHE2223WSOB00214,	PHE2223WSOB00215,	PHE2223WSOB00217,
PHE2223WSOB00218,	PHE2223WSOB00219,	PHE2223WSOB00220,
PHE2223WSOB00221,	PHE2223WSOB00222,	PHE2223WSOB00223,
PHE2223WSOB00224,	PHE2223WSOB00225,	PHE2223WSOB00226,
PHE2223WSOB00227,	PHE2223WSOB00228,	PHE2223WSOB00229

Sd/
L. P. Bairwa
Superintending Engineer

DIPRC/4897/2022

कार्यालय निदेशक, पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर
(दुष्प्राप्त नं. 0141-2820360, email-dirac@raj.gov.in)

क्रमांक : पु.सं./स्तर./पारिष्क/2022/3734 दिनांक :- 5/4/2022

ई-बिड सूचना

मावदा दक्षिण ओमेर महल तथा नाहरगढ़ दुर्ग, के परिसर में पारिष्क स्थल के लिए दो वर्ष हेतु पारिष्क टेंका कार्य हेतु अनुभवी फर्मों से ऑनलाइन बिड दो अलग-अलग प्रस्तावों में (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय प्रस्ताव के रूप में) आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	पारिष्क स्थल	बिड प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि	बिड प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन अपलोड करने की अवधि	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी बिड खोलने की दिनांक	Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time
1.	नाहरगढ़ दुर्ग,	दिनांक 05.04.2022	दिनांक 05.04.2022	26.04.2022	18.04.2022
2.	मावदा दक्षिण, ओमेर महल	प्रातः 10 बजे से दिनांक 25.04.2022 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक	प्रातः 10 बजे से दिनांक 25.04.2022 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक	दोपहर 2.00 बजे	On 11.00 AM

Bid UBN NO. (1) AMD2223SLOB00003 (2) AMD2223SLOB00004
Detailed bid document can be viewed or/and download from websites <http://museumsrajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

Sd/
Director

DIPRC/4908/2022

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found in illness Condition in the area of Khatte Wali Gali, Mustafabad, Delhi dated 06.04.2022. He was admitted in GTB Hospital during the treatment he was declared brought dead by doctor Vide MLC No. A-277/17/22. In this regard a DD No. 19A, dated 06.04.2022 has been registered at P.S. Dayalpur, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: About 40 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Unknown. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Dayalpur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22800215 8750870725

DP/1524/NE/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: unknown, residence and family is unknown about 35 years of age was found dead at Platform No. 16, Parcel Gate near Base Kitchen, Ajmeri Gate side, New Delhi Railway Station on 07.04.2022. In this regard a DD No. 60A, dated 07.04.2022 has been registered at Police Station New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 35 years, Height: 5'8" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Built : Thin, ID Mark : A mole over chin, Wearing: Black Colour Shirt and Khaki Colour 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. New Delhi Rly. Stn., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23744073
Mob. No- 8750871305

DP/105/RLY/2022

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology, Director of Mines
Email: director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Ref.P.R No-266111 Date: 11.04.2022

CORRIGENDUM - II to Tender documents for grant of Mining Lease for Waina Stone Block issued by Government of Jharkhand (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)

S. No	Reference to the Tender Document	As appearing in Tender Documents (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)		To be Read as			
		S. No	Event Description	Date	S. No	Event Description	Date
1	NIT	1	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	11.04.2022	1	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	25.04.2022
		2	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	11.04.2022	2	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	25.04.2022
		3	Date of Opening of Tender	12.04.2022	3	Date of Opening of Tender	26.04.2022
2	Clause 11	3	Last date for sale of Tender Document.	11.04.2022	3	Last date for sale of Tender Document.	25.04.2022
		7	Bid Due Date (Technical + initial price offer) by 3 PM	11.04.2022	7	Bid Due Date (Technical + initial price offer) by 3 PM	25.04.2022
		8	Opening of the Technical Bids.	12.04.2022	8	Opening of the Technical Bids.	26.04.2022
		9	Start date for examination of the TechnicalBids	12.04.2022	9	Start date for examination of the TechnicalBids	26.04.2022
		2	Kindly note that all other dates will remain as per tender document.				
			Sd/- Director, Mines, Jharkhand				

PR 268222 Mines and Geology(22-23)_D

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology, Director of Mines
Email: director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Ref.P.R No- 266081 Date: 11.04.2022

CORRIGENDUM - II to Tender documents for grant of Mining Lease for Barmartola Itra Stone Block issued by Government of Jharkhand (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)

S. No	Reference to the Tender Document	As appearing in Tender Documents (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)		To be Read as			
		S. No	Event Description	Date	S. No	Event Description	Date
1	NIT	1	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	11.04.2022	1	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	25.04.2022
		2	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	11.04.2022	2	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	25.04.2022
		3	Date of Opening of Tender	12.04.2022	3	Date of Opening of Tender	26.04.2022
2	Clause 11	3	Last date for sale of Tender Document.	11.04.2022	3	Last date for sale of Tender Document.	25.04.2022
		7	Bid Due Date (Technical + initial price offer) by 3 PM	11.04.2022	7	Bid Due Date (Technical + initial price offer) by 3 PM	25.04.2022
		8	Opening of the Technical Bids.	12.04.2022	8	Opening of the Technical Bids.	26.04.2022
		9	Start date for examination of the TechnicalBids	12.04.2022	9	Start date for examination of the TechnicalBids	26.04.2022
		2	Kindly note that all other dates will remain as per tender document.				
			Sd/- Director, Mines, Jharkhand				

PR 268212 Mines and Geology(22-23)_D

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology, Director of Mines
Email: director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Date: 11.04.2022

CORRIGENDUM - II to Tender documents for grant of Mining Lease for Pahardih Stone Block Block issued by Government of Jharkhand (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)

Ref.P.R No-266104

S. No	Reference to the Tender Document	As appearing in Tender Documents (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)		To be Read as			
		S. No	Event Description	Date	S. No	Event Description	Date
1	NIT	1	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	11.04.2022	1	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	25.04.2022
		2	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	11.04.2022	2	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	25.04.2022
		3	Date of Opening of Tender	12.04.2022	3	Date of Opening of Tender	26.04.2022
2	Clause 11	3	Last date for sale of Tender Document.	11.04.2022	3	Last date for sale of Tender Document.	25.04.2022
		7	Bid Due Date (Technical + initial price offer) by 3 PM	11.04.2022	7	Bid Due Date (Technical + initial price offer) by 3 PM	25.04.2022
		8	Opening of the Technical Bids.	12.04.2022	8	Opening of the Technical Bids.	26.04.2022
		9	Start date for examination of the TechnicalBids	12.04.2022	9	Start date for examination of the TechnicalBids	26.04.2022
		2	Kindly note that all other dates will remain as per tender document.				
			Sd/- Director, Mines Jharkhand				

PR 268219 Mines and Geology (22-23)_D

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Mines & Geology, Director of Mines
Email: director-mines@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Ref.P.R No-266092 Date: 11.04.2022

CORRIGENDUM - II to Tender documents for grant of Mining Lease for Jhalajimira Stone Block-A issued by Government of Jharkhand (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)

S. No	Reference to the Tender Document	As appearing in Tender Documents (Notice Inviting Tender dated 12.03.2022)	
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17 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹52,302



RUPEE

₹75.94



OIL

\$98.68



SILVER

₹67,407

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of April 8

SENSEX: 58,964.57 ▲ 482.61 (0.81%) NIFTY: 17,674.95 ▼ 109.40 (0.62%) NIKKEI: 26,821.52 ▼ 164.28 HANG SENG: 21,208.30 ▼ 663.71 FTSE: 7,626.59 ▼ 42.97 DAX: 14,189.24 ▼ 94.43

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
POWER

Demand soaring: 'Tolling' on the table as imported coal prices heat up

KARUNJITSINGH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE CENTRE may soon ask states to use tolling to allow other thermal power plants to utilise their coal linkages and transmit power to reduce the need to transport coal, as per a senior government official.

In a repeat of the post-monsoon shortage seen last October, high global prices have led to greater demand of domestic coal for power supply from thermal stations. Rising demand for power due to the onset of the summer season as well as the post-Covid economic recovery is also putting pressure on thermal plants. This has led to supply concerns. States, including Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Bihar, have already faced blackouts as a result of the crunch. On Friday, 150 plants that utilise domestic coal had 22.7 million tonnes of coal, or 37 per cent of normative stock levels, with 72 plants classified as having critical levels of coal inventory.

On April 7, electricity shortage rose to 80.1 million units, with the country being short of 6,124 MW of generation capacity during peak demand.

Union Power Secretary Alok Kumar told *The Indian Express* that the Centre may soon advise states to opt for "tolling", under which states "can give coal to some other plant through competitive bidding" where power can be generated and transmitted to the state with the original coal

WHAT IS TOLLING?



Nabha Thermal Plant, in Patiala district. File

Under tolling, states can give coal to some other plant via competitive bidding where power can be generated and transmitted to the state with the original linkage.

linkage. Kumar added there was no shortage of domestic coal but that logistics for coal delivery were designed for "a certain amount of imported coal". He added the ministry was working with Railways to maximise coal dispatches.

NTPC and DVC have started importing coal to supplement domestic coal requirements through blending in line with a circular issued by the Centre.

Kumar said the Centre was also in talks with imported coal-based power plants and discoms relying on power from such plants to restart operations. He said about 10,000 MW of the 17,000 MW of imported coal-based power generation was operational. A key concern for such plants has been the ability to pass through the higher cost of imported coal to discoms under Power Purchase Agreements.

PROPOSES EASING SOME MINIMUM ROLL OUT OBLIGATIONS FOR NEW PLAYERS

Cut 5G spectrum base prices by 35-40%, suggests Trai

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Monday recommended slashing the base price between 35 and 40 per cent for auction of major 5G spectrum airwaves, while also suggesting that all available spectrum in the existing bands of 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz as well as the newer frequency bands of 600 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz, and 24.25-28.5 GHz also be put up for auction.

"For the long-term growth and sustainability of the telecom sector, infusing liquidity and encouraging investment, the telecom service providers should be allowed easy payment options including part payment with flexibility of moratorium," Trai said. In its recommendations for the

RESERVE PRICES



The reserve prices will be for 20 years. For 30 years, base price should be 1.5 times the price recommended for the 20 year period, Trai suggested

auction of 5G spectrum, the telecom regulatory body suggested that the base price for prime 5G band of 3300-3670 MHz be kept at Rs 317 crore per MHz, which is 35 per cent lower than the base price of Rs 492 crore per MHz announced in 2018. Similarly, for the 700 MHz, the price recommended by Trai comes out to Rs 3,297 crore,

which is almost 40 per cent lower than prices recommended by the regulatory in 2018.

The reserve prices, however, will be for a period of 20 years. In case the spectrum is allocated for a period of 30 years, the base price to be considered should be 1.5 times the price recommended for the 20 year period, Trai suggested.

In its reforms package announced for the telecommunications sector in September 2021, the Department of Telecommunications said in all future auctions, tenure for which spectrum can be held would be extended to 30 years from 20 years.

In its recommendations, Trai has also suggested easing some of the minimum roll out (MRO) obligations for deployment of 5G by the new entrants in the telecom sector. For example, in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, and 1800 MHz bands, Trai has suggested that the time period for

MRO should be extended to 2 years from 1 year currently.

Over these two years, the MRO obligation should be 40 per cent of the coverage for the first year, and 90 per cent for the second year.

In line with the policy change announced by the DoT in September 2021, the Trai has also suggested that telecom service providers should be allowed to surrender spectrum easily by paying a spectrum surrender fee of Rs 1 lakh per spectrum band per Licensed Service Area (LSA).

To boost ease of doing business, the DoT in September suggested this measure as a way of allowing telcos to return the spectrum they were no longer using. Enterprises that want to create a private network for their captive use may request telecom service providers "establish an independent isolated private network in enterprise's premises using the firm's spectrum", it recommended.

'Corporate profitability set to fall in Q4'

Companies are likely to see compression in Q4 profit margins, a Crisil Ratings report said

For fiscal FY22, EBITDA or operating profits are likely to shrink by up to 0.40% to 21-23%

Revenue jump of 22% is set to be reported by companies in FY22, which will slow down to 14% Q4FY22 will be only the second quarter in the last three years when profit margins have narrowed

Export-linked and industrial commodities sectors are likely to have seen margins erode by 4 percentage points (pps)



OPERATING PROFIT MARGINS FOR COMPANIES IN Q4 FY22 ARE SET TO FALL BY AS MUCH AS:

3 pp compared with the year ago period

0.6% as compared to preceding Dec quarter

against the year-ago period

Profit margins in FY23 will be a further 1 pp shrinkage

Source: Crisil Ratings/PTI

DoT invites ministries, industry tie-up to build 5G use-case ecosystems

New Delhi: The DoT has invited expression of interest (Eoi) from various stakeholders for partnerships to build 5G use-case ecosystems focused on users and industry needs.

An inter-ministerial committee—chaired by Member (Technology), Digital Communications Commission and with representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and IT, Department of Science and Technology, and other ministries—has also been formed. The panel will function under the guidance of the Telecom Secretary, a release from the

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said.

The new partnership programme will be called "5G Vertical Engagement and Partnership Program (VEPP)", it added. To expedite the development of use cases for the industry, the DoT said it would, in partnership with other ministries, state governments and startup hubs, "facilitate necessary approvals, regulatory clearances to enable use case prototyping, pilots, demos, trials at the user or vertical industry premises". ENS Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY
Oil below \$100

New York: Oil fell about 4% Monday on plans to release record volumes of crude from strategic stocks and on China Covid curbs. Brent fell 3.7% to \$98.96. US WTI fell 3.6% to \$94.76 by 1544 GMT. Meanwhile, fuel demand in India hit a 3-year high in March as total petroleum consumption rose to 19.41 million tonnes. AGENCIES

iPhone 13 output

New Delhi/Brussels: Apple Inc is making iPhone 13 in India, produced by Foxconn at its Sripurumbudru plant. Meanwhile, in the EU, Apple faces an additional antitrust charge in a probe triggered by a Spotify complaint.

Musk, Twitter

Bengaluru: Elon Musk rejected Twitter's offer to join its board, a week after he became its biggest shareholder, as Twitter warned of "distractions ahead". REUTERS

pinBox funding

New Delhi: Digital micro-pension platform pinBox, that provides customised savings and insurance solutions to informal sector workers, raised an undisclosed sum in seed funding from ADB Ventures, Venture Catalysts and 9 Unicorns. ENS

NBFC principles

New Delhi: The RBI introduced certain principles, standards & procedures for mid & large non-banking financial companies, i.e. entities in NBFC-UL & NBFC-ML

Deal activity

New Delhi: India Inc's deal activity rose to \$13.3 billion on-year in Q3FY22 from 608 deals, a Grant Thornton report said. Mergers & acquisitions rose to a 4-year high of \$30.3 billion in the same period, according to a Refinitiv report. PTI

Nashik firm's 20 electric scooters catch fire: 'Biggest such incident' yet

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

IN WHAT is potentially the country's biggest incident of electric scooters catching fire so far, a batch of 20 electric two-wheelers made by Jitendra EV erupted in flames while being transported from the company's factory in Nashik.

The company confirmed the incident and said that it was investigating the cause behind it.

"An unfortunate incident took place on 9th April near our factory

gate in a scooter. The situation was immediately brought under control by timely intervention from our team. Safety being of prime importance, we are investigating the root cause and we will soon come out with findings," a spokesperson for Jitendra EV said.

The Road Transport Ministry, it is learnt, has taken cognisance of the incident and is in the process of summoning representatives of the company to present a report on its findings about the incident.

According to data published by Federation of Automobile Dealers

Associations (FADA), Jitendra EV sold 3,788 two-wheeler units in 2021-22 (April-March), compared with 619 units sold in the year ago period. A total of 2.31 lakh electric two-wheelers were sold during 2021-22. This is at least the fifth such incident of electric scooters erupting into flames in the last few weeks. Last month, an Ola S1 pro electric scooter caught fire in Pune while parked on the roadside of a busy commercial area. In a more tragic event, an EV made by Okinawa erupted into flames claiming the lives of a man

and his 13-year-old daughter.

Prompted by these, the Road Transport Ministry had ordered a probe into the incidents and roped in the Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety, a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, to constitute and independent team and carry out an investigation into the incidents. While conclusive reasons behind these incidents are yet to be clear, experts have said rising temperatures and manufacturing defects could be possible causes behind the fires.

Godrej floats finserv arm

Mumbai: Godrej Industries on Monday announced the launch of its financial services subsidiary Godrej Capital, which will be the holding company for mortgage lender Godrej Housing Finance and non-banking financial company (NBFC) Godrej Finance. Godrej Capital intends to grow its balance sheet to Rs 30,000 crore in 2026 from Rs 1,800 crore at present.

Godrej Group is the newest conglomerate to enter the financial services space. While Godrej Housing Finance was launched in November 2020, the group is only now going for an NBFC launch using a licence, held since 1998. FE

INCLUDES FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AND THIRD-PARTY POSITIONS HIRED ON SIX-MONTH CONTRACTS

Meesho lays off 150 staff amid superstore arm restructuring

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

SOCIAL COMMERCE firm Meesho has laid off 150 employees and third-party hires from its grocery arm 'Meesho Superstore', days after integrat-

ing that part of its business into its core platform, saying that the downsizing was "aimed at bringing in efficiencies".

In a statement to *The Indian Express*, a Meesho spokesperson said, "About 150 full time employees will be impacted by the restructuring of Meesho

Superstore which is aimed at bringing in efficiencies. The company is offering severance packages and outplacement assistance to help those impacted secure new opportunities outside the company".

In a blog post, the company—backed by Softbank and

Facebook—said the people impacted in the retrenchment exercise included full time employees and third-party positions on six-month contracts at Meesho Superstore. These people's roles "were reassessed to remove redundancies with the core business", it added.

The development comes days after *The Indian Express* reported that Meesho has fixed an internal target of achieving profitability by the end of this year and was looking at ways to reduce its cash burn, ahead of its public listing in the first half of 2023.

What drove 3-fold rise in retail EV sales in FY22?

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

RETAIL ELECTRIC vehicle (EV) sales rose more than three times in FY22 to 4.29 lakh against 1.34 lakh a year ago, showed data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

Which kind of EVs are selling the most?

As per FADA data, electric two-wheelers are being sold the most. In FY22, 2.31 lakh electric two-wheelers were sold, against 41,046 last year. It does not include figures from Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Telangana.

Are people buying electric four-wheelers too?

Tata Motors eyes EV output boost

New Delhi: Tata Motors is looking to ramp up the production of EVs, said Shailesh Chandra, MD—passenger vehicle & electric vehicles. PTI

EXPLAINED

Yes. Electric passenger vehicle (PV) sales rose from 4,984 a year before to 17,802 units.

Why have EV sales picked up?

A concerted push by the government and expanding footprint EV charging infrastructure led to the growth in EV sales in the year that saw a sustained rise in petrol and diesel prices. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

RECORD INCREMENTAL REVENUE IN FY22
TCS Q4 net up 7.35%

Mumbai: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday posted a 7.35 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 9.926 crore for the quarter ended March 2022, against Rs 9,246 crore in the year-ago period.

Revenue for the fourth quarter increased by 16.8 per cent to Rs 50,591 crore from Rs 43,705 crore last year. While operating margin was 25 per cent, net margin was at 19.6 per cent.

TCS has recommended a final dividend of Rs 22 per share. According to India's largest software company, growth among markets was led by North America which grew (18.7 per cent), UK grew (13 per cent), Continental Europe grew (10.1 per cent). Among emerging markets, Latin America grew (20.6 per cent), Middle East & Africa grew (7.3 per cent), India grew (7 per cent), and Asia Pacific grew (5.5 per cent). Rajesh Gopinathan, MD &



TCS MD-CEO Rajesh Gopinathan at the Q4 results announcement, Mumbai. PTI

CEO, TCS, said, "We are closing FY22 on a strong note, with mid-teen growth and adding the maximum incremental revenue ever. Increasing participation in our customers' growth and transformation journeys, and an all-time high order book provide a strong and sustainable foundation for continued growth ahead." ENS Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Supervisory action against Paytm Payments Bank 'not yet complete': RBI

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

THE SUPERVISORY action by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) against Paytm Payments Bank, which led to the banking regulator suspending the payments bank from onboarding any new customers, is "not yet complete", the RBI said in response to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by *The Indian Express*.

The banking sector regulator, in an order dated March 11, had directed the Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led payments bank to stop adding new customers with immediate effect while also asking it to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of the IT system of the payments bank.

At the time, the central bank had said that onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank will be subject to "specific permission to be granted by RBI after reviewing a report of the IT auditors". On April 4, the Finance Ministry told the Parliament that it was informed by the RBI that Paytm Payments Bank had not appointed an audit firm for the audit of its IT systems.

"It is informed that the supervisory process/action in the (Paytm Payments Bank) matter is not yet complete," the central bank said in the RTI response to a question on the reasons behind RBI's order. Following the RBI's order on March 11, news reports claimed

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

that the suspension was on account of Paytm Payments Bank sharing information with Chinese entities that indirectly own a stake in the payments bank. The payments bank is a joint-venture between Paytm and its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma. Paytm, parent company of which One 97 Communications Ltd is a listed entity, has shareholding by China's Alibaba Group and its affiliates.

Paytm Payments Bank had denied these reports and said that it was "fully compliant with RBI's directions on data localisation". "All of the Bank's data resides within India," it added.

Separately, on RBI suspending onboarding of new users on the payments bank, it had said that it was "taking immediate steps to comply with RBI directions, including appointment of a reputed external auditor to conduct a comprehensive system audit of IT systems". "Any new users coming to the Paytm app can create Paytm UPI handles, and link them to their existing PPBL account or to other bank accounts. However, new users cannot, until further notice, sign up for new PPBL wallets or PPBL savings or current account," it had said.

Yields at 3-year high

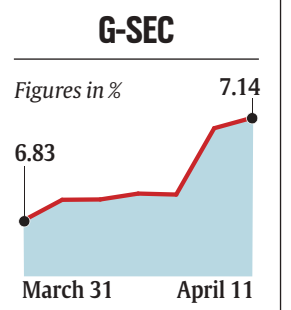
ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 11

THE YIELD on 10-year benchmark government securities hit the 3-year high of 7.192 per cent in intraday trade in the money market, reflecting inflationary concerns and expectations of faster hikes by the RBI in the months ahead. The yield closed two basis points higher at 7.14 per cent—a 3-year peak.

On Friday, the yield had risen by 21 bps to 7.12 per cent after the RBI announced its plan to focus on inflation and sock out liquidity from the market.

"Going ahead, heavy supply burden, absence of explicit RBI support and an early reversal in policy stance is expected to keep the bond markets jittery. We expect the new range of the benchmark 10-year yield (6.54 per cent securities 2032) to now shift to 7-7.30 per cent range in the near term," Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a report.

"The hawkish FOMC followed



GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LTD.,
2nd Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya Bhavan,
Racecourse, Vadodra-390007
Phone: 0265-2334751 Fax: 0265-2344543
Website: www.guvnl.com

GUVNL, a Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of 500 MW RTC power for the period from 1.05.2022 to 31.07.2022 at GETCO Periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India Guidelines dated 30.03.2016 read with amendment to the guideline notified on 21.02.2022. RFP is available at www.mstcecommerce.com from 11.04.2022. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.
Date: 12th April, 2022 **General Manager (Commerce)**

OSBI
Digital & Transaction Banking Department
Corporate Centre, 2nd floor, Mafatlal Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021
E-mail - dgmprojects.dtb@sbi.co.in
Website: <https://bank.sbi/>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
RFP No. SBI/EV/RFP/2022-23/001 DATED: 12.04.2022
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from eligible bidders for Engagement of Consultant to Explore the Business Potential for Bank in Electric Vehicle Charging Space. For details, please visit procurement news at <https://bank.sbi/>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>, <https://etender.sbi/>
Commencement of download of RFP: From 12.04.2022 at 15:00 hrs
Last date and time for submission of bids: 10.05.2022 up to 15:00 hrs
Place: Mumbai **Deputy General Manager (Projects)**
Date: 12.04.2022 **Digital & Transaction Banking Department**

Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise)
6, Ganesh Chunder Avenue,
Kolkata-700 113
Phone No.: 033 2237 1525/22363148

BCPL invites Expression of Interest (Eoi) from the reputed Manufacturers for empannelment of Loan Lending Manufacturers for Pharmaceutical Products vide Eoi No. BCPL/LL/01/2022-23 Dated 12/04/2022. Details available on BCPL official website www.bengalchemicals.co.in Please refer to the above website only for further amendment(s), if any.

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) NW
KESHOPUR STP, NEW DELHI 110018

PRESS N.I.T. No. 01 EE(SDW)/VIII/ (2022-23)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/ Money in Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	SITC of Online Monitoring System at various locations (11 nos) of Najafgarh drain and supplementary drain with comprehensive maintenance for a period of 5 years	36619876/-	734000/-	1500/-	Tender ID- 2022_DJB_220395_1 Date. 09.04.2022	10.05.2022 03:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 24 (2022-23)
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Sd/- (J.C. Garg)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII

Elgar sounds warning to teammates who chose IPL over Test cricket

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, APRIL 11

"I don't know if those guys are going to be selected again; that's out of my hands," Dean Elgar, South Africa's captain, has sounded a warning to the players who chose IPL over the Test series against Bangladesh.

South Africa won both the Tests convincingly in the absence of these players to win the series 2-0. South Africa lost the ODI series to Bangladesh and won the Test and ODI series against India prior to that.

"If you're playing good cricket and the results are going your way, it's always going to ease the burden of captaincy. The last year has been extremely testing off the field, but I have an amazing core of players around me who understand me as a character and respect me as a player and a person. They understand the kind of cricket I want to play. Most of the senior guys have bought into it. We're in a very special place, which makes me feel a lot happier about what I'm doing," Elgar said.

Several South African players like Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Rassie van der Dussen, and Aiden Markram chose IPL over the Test series, and clearly the South African management isn't happy. The coach Mark Boucher too agreed with his captain. "They did go to the IPL and vacate their spots."

South Africa tour England for a Test series in August. "Hopefully I've nailed down a style of play that we can all follow going forward," Elgar said. "I like challenges, which is why I'm still playing Test cricket at nearly 35. I feel I've got a lot of good years left, maybe even my best years. I'm really enjoying it. I think if I was younger I may not have enjoyed it as much."

Spinners strike for SA

Reuters adds: South Africa spinners Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer took all 10 wickets between them as the hosts crushed dismal Bangladesh by 332 runs in second Test at St George's Park to claim the series 2-0. Bangladesh resumed on the fourth morning at 27 for three chasing a venue record 413 but seemed to already have their minds on the flight home as poor shot selections allowed South Africa to skittle them out for 80 in their second innings.



South Africa captain Dean Elgar. AP

Maharaj took 7-40 and Harmer 3-34 on a wicket that provided prodigious turn but were not unfamiliar conditions for sub-continent side Bangladesh, who will be desperately disappointed with their application.

South Africa won the first Test in Durban by 220 runs, where they bowled Bangladesh out for 53 in their second innings. South Africa started the day with two substitutes in their side after opening batsman Sarel Erwee and all-rounder Wiaan Mulder tested positive for COVID-19 overnight.

Several South African players like Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Rassie van der Dussen, and Aiden Markram chose IPL over the Test series, and clearly the South African management isn't happy.

The International Cricket Council allows for players to be replaced in the lineup under such conditions and Khaya Zondo was therefore handed his test debut, which lasted all of an hour, while seamer Glenton Stuurman came in for Mulder. Both teams agreed the tour would not be played in a bio-secure environment to allow players more freedom away from the pitch. The pair were required as fielders only as South Africa made light work of dismissing the tourists, though Bangladesh were their own worst enemies as they tried to hit themselves out of trouble with disastrous results.

Only Litton Das (27) provided any sort of resistance, though he was stumped by wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne as he advanced down the wicket against Maharaj.

Brief Scores: South Africa 453 & 176/6 decl. beat Bangladesh 217 & 80 (Keshav Maharaj 7 for 40, Simon Harmer 3 for 34) by 332 runs.

Status quo after classic

Who will win the Premier League title is anyone's guess but leaders Manchester City's one-point advantage over Liverpool could play a crucial role

RORY SMITH
MANCHESTER, APRIL 11

MIDWAY THROUGH the second half, as the game on which a season hung started to build in a nerve-shredding, pulse-straining crescendo, Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold found himself waiting to take a throw-in within a couple of feet of Pep Guardiola, the Manchester City manager.

Ordinarily, in these circumstances, the conventions of rivalry dictate that the two adversaries must studiously ignore each other's presence. The manager offers instruction to someone standing in the opposite direction. The player averts his gaze, lest acknowledgment be mistaken for treachery.

Guardiola, though, has little truck with convention. With Sunday's game paused for an injury, he sidled over to Alexander-Arnold, draped his arm over his shoulder and initiated what can only be described as a chat. He was, as he always is, somewhere between animated and agitated, but there was a broad grin on his face, genuine affection in his gestures. It was unmistakable. In the game with everything on the line, Guardiola was enjoying himself.

That should not, really, be surprising. The meeting of indisputably the best and second-best teams in England — order yet to be determined — and most likely the best and second-best teams on the planet, had produced an abundance of things to enjoy. The goals, of course: four of them evenly shared in a 2-2 tie, each of them brilliantly conceived and surgically executed. And the chances, too, the majority of them falling to City, all spun out of golden thread.

All of that, though, was simply the product. The greater satisfaction, perhaps, was in the process, the compelling ebb and flow of two finely balanced forces, a high-speed, high-caliber call and response. City pressed Liverpool, breaking its rhythm, triggering errors. Liverpool withstood the onslaught, drawing the sting and striking back. City twice took the lead, through Kevin De Bruyne and Gabriel Jesus; Liverpool twice picked its way back, through Diogo Jota and Sadio Mané.

That is not, though, the sort of thing that is supposed to appeal to a coach, particularly with quite so much on the line. This game had been pinpointed, months ago, as the one that would decide the Premier League title. As the season rolled on and rivals fell away, its significance had only grown.

Manchester City is chasing a domestic and European treble. Liverpool can still, in theory, complete a clean sweep, winning all four of the trophies available to Jürgen Klopp and his team. This game had the air, from the outside, of the moment on which all of that would stand or fall. It was only after this that



Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp (L) and Pep Guardiola, manager of Manchester City. AP

PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Man City	31	23	5	3	74
Liverpool	31	22	7	2	73
Chelsea	30	18	8	4	62
Spurs	31	18	3	10	57
Arsenal	30	17	3	10	54

and everything remained as it was. Both teams stood where they had before. Manchester City, which now has seven games to play in the Premier League, has one point more than Liverpool, just as it had at the start of the day.

It might have been better, of course: After 30 games and 94 minutes of the Premier League season, City's Riyad Mahrez had found himself on the edge of the Liverpool penalty area, the ball at his feet and Alisson, the visiting goalkeeper, stranded. Mahrez seemed almost spoiled for choice. He attempted a deft lob, conjuring an artful parabola, but his calculations were off, just barely. The ball looped down, over the bar rather than under it, and the chance to win here, to stretch clear of Liverpool in the table, was gone.

Who knows? In time, City may come to regret that miss. This is a Premier League season of the finest margins, and whichever of these teams wins the title, there will be precious little between them.

But, for now, stasis was enough. Stasis, from Manchester City's point of view, was acceptable. A sense of vindication, if not quite triumph, swept around the Etihad Stadium as the players stood on the turf, heaving breath back into their lungs. John Stones, the City defender, pumped a fist in the air.

There was a feeling of one down, at least one more to go. These teams will meet again next weekend, in the semifinals of the F.A. Cup, and could yet find each other in Paris at the end of next month, with the Champions League trophy at stake. Guardiola, it is fair to say, probably would not enjoy that one quite so much.

—NYT

Scheffler gets Masters green jacket to go with No. 1 ranking

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUGUSTA, APRIL 11

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER looked like a Masters champion even before he slipped into his green jacket, the model of calm as he methodically worked his way around the most stressful course in major championship golf.

Sunday morning was different. That turned out to be the toughest test he had all day. "I cried like a baby this morning. I was so stressed out. I didn't know what to do," Scheffler said after winning his first major. "I was sitting there telling (wife) Meredith, 'I don't think I'm ready for this ... and I just felt overwhelmed.'" And then he capped off his torrid two-month stretch with his grandest feat of all, leading the entire weekend and strolling to a 1-under 71 — with one lapse in concentration at the end when it didn't matter — for a three-shot victory over Rory McIlroy.

For a guy who had won three of his previous five tournaments, who reached No. 1 in the world, why suddenly be overcome with doubt? "I think because it's the Masters. I dreamed of having a chance to play in this golf tournament. I teared up the first time I got my invitation in the mail," Scheffler said.

"If you're going to choose a golf tournament to win, this would be the tournament," he said. "You don't know how many chances you're going to get. And so having a chance — I had a five-shot lead on Friday and then a three-shot lead going into today — I don't know if you get better opportunities than that. You don't want to waste them."

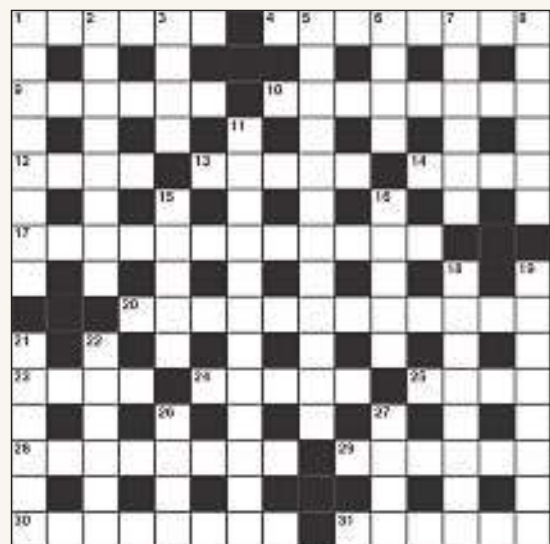
He felt peace between the ropes and never allowed himself to enjoy the moment until he took that famous walk up the 18th green, his ball 40 feet away and a five-shot lead. "And you saw the results of that," he said with a laugh at his four-putt double bogey that only affected the margin of victory.

McIlroy holed out from the bunker on the final hole for a record-tying final round of 64. That pulled him within three shots, and his only hope for the final piece of the career Grand Slam was for the Sunday pressure at Augusta National to get to Scheffler.

No chance. Not on Sunday. Not the last four days. Not the last two months.

"You got on those hot streaks, and you just got to ride them out because they, unfortunately, don't last forever," Justin Thomas said. "But he is doing it in the biggest tournaments. ... It's really, really impressive to see someone that young handle a moment this big so easily." And to think that 56 days ago, Scheffler was still trying to win his first PGA Tour title.

CROSSWORD 4712



- ACROSS**
- Fit to tell? (6)
 - Visionary details I put out (8)
 - Line of fat right in the meat (6)
 - In a way it repays harshness (8)
 - Beast of burden goes on foot (4)
 - Point to a sign for the Ladies (5)
 - Blueprint for a tailless aircraft (4)
 - If clean I don't disturb something private (12)
 - One would offer a seat to such a friend (4-8)
 - State welcome to king (4)
 - Article written about the professional stage (5)
 - Card game said to be of royal Egyptian lineage (4)
 - Colourful display of arms (8)
 - Hilda is unsettled by a bloomer (6)
 - He doesn't play alone (8)
 - A bird cry returns with it (6)
- DOWN**
- So not out very often (8)
 - Country of growing importance (8)
 - Breed that may be rare (4)
 - An editor sits out a formal discourse (12)
 - Pins of revolvers? (4)
 - Hard water? That depends (6)
 - Intentionally exasperating? (6)
 - Swiss cantons for example? (7,5)
 - He flies - and can also navigate (5)
 - Principal eastern state of US (5)
 - I'd turn a sickly colour and refuse permission (8)
 - Blissfully unaware (8)
 - Bound to be cruelly treated (6)
 - Recede in order (6)
 - Uninteresting piece of scenery (4)
 - Mind you take this! (4)

Solutions Crossword 4711: Across: 1 Wrist, 4 Buffalo, 8 Ewe, 9 Portrayed, 10 Lateral, 11 Umlaut, 13 Facile, 15 Rebate, 18 Sally, 19 Devoted, 21 Repulsive, 23 Ann, 24 Analyst, 25 Sands. Down: 1 Wheel of fortune, 2 Identical, 3 Tapir, 4 Bungle, 6 Any, 7 Order, 12 Boat train, 14 Loyalty, 16 Endings, 17 Adrift, 18 Syria, 20 Veers, 22 Pea.

JUMBLER WORDS

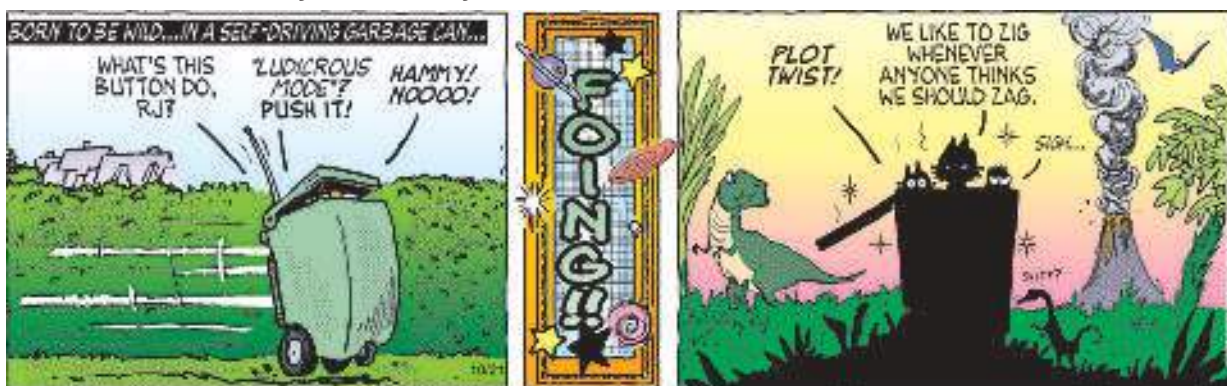
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The _____, the faster and more powerful you will be - Bruce Lee (4,6)

FVEER EGIWLT
 ROSSG ILTUFF

Answer: the less effort, the faster and more powerful you will be - Bruce Lee
 SOLUTION: FEVER, CROSS, WILLET, FITTLE

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

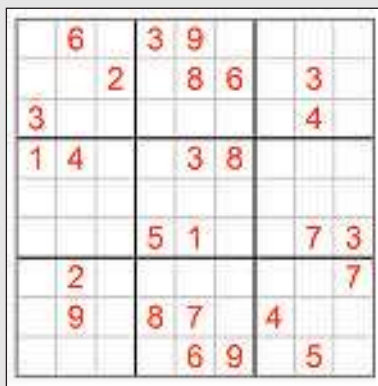


SUDOKU 4802

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
 To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SUDOKU 4801

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4801



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 With Venus, Mars, Mercury and Pluto all now involved in a significant series of planetary pictures, you must think ahead and see that your finances are in perfect condition. You should seek all the safeguards, guarantees and warranties that you need.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 It's a day to take hard decisions, especially in as much as your health, work, or legal situation are concerned. This is a time for self-discipline, consistency and a determination to achieve the best. The more you believe that the best is possible, the more likely it is to come about.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 You have the benevolent planet Jupiter to thank for the fact that, if you do what is expected of you, the professional and financial benefits could be quite extraordinary. Keep partners informed, though, for they have a right to know exactly what is happening.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 The long-term prospects are profoundly romantic and therefore ideally suited to your astrological character. Today you must lay down a firm programme for putting your domestic dreams into practice. Make lists of what you have to do next. And then stick to your plans like glue.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
 You may be expected to dig deep into your resources, yet you will not begrudge money spent on friends, or even strangers, who are worse off than you. This is no time to carp or criticise. In fact, it's an ideal moment for offering unqualified support.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
 Mercury, a planet with a mischievous reputation, is stirring up a fair bit of trouble in the heavens, although there is no need to worry that broken plans or delayed meetings will prove too costly. Yet you can rely on partners' ability to reveal the truth over the next few days.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
 You often balance the books by a bit of fancy creative accounting, robbing Peter to pay Paul, a strategy which has worked well in the past but may soon come unstuck. You must deal with long-term structural defects in your financial situation.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
 For too long now you have stifled your feelings, putting on a brave face. However, you will begin to find it increasingly possible to let off steam, perhaps surprising other people with your forthright emotions. You will also be able to put a partner straight over an unresolved misunderstanding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
 Whereas partners are bound to be concerned with their personal interests, you are turning your attention to more public ambitions. You have a wish, which must be satisfied, to have your achievements recognised by your peers. But how can you ensure that they notice you? That's the question you'll be answering over the next month.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
 Current planetary activity, specifically the uncertain relationship between Mercury and Saturn, is now forcing you to take things at a slower pace and come to terms with unexpected developments that have taken place over the past year.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
 You're not always your own best friend, and so often in days gone by you have cut off your nose to spite your face. The approaching danger at work is that you will repeat the mistakes of the past, risking a confrontation that will harm your interests.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 Give yourself the opportunity to travel or take a break. There must be some way you can abandon one or two routine commitments, even for a few days, as long as partners are prepared to step into the breach. There will always be someone who is ready to help out.

With nerves of steel, barber's son Kuldeep gives a Royal performance

PRATYUSH RAJ,
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

ON MONDAY morning, a long queue greeted Ram Pal Sen outside his small barber shop in Sirmour Chouraha, in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Overnight his fast bowler son Kuldeep's quiff hairstyle had become a rage. Kuldeep, 25, making his IPL debut for Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede Stadium defended 15 runs in the final over against Lucknow Super Giants. He also announced his arrival as a fast bowler with a scorching delivery clocked at 146.3 kmph to Lucknow opener Quinton de Kock on Sunday night.

His son's breakthrough game meant Ram Pal had an unusually hectic start to the week. "I have not got time to eat today. There are a lot of customers today," Ram Pal said between giving haircuts.

"I have been doing this for the past 30 years. I am happy for my son. He has made me proud. I had never supported his passion for the game. I have scolded and even beaten him for playing cricket when he was in school. But he never gave up on his dreams," Ram Pal, who makes Rs 8,000 a month, said.

Rajasthan Royals's head coach Kumar

Sangakkara was all praise for Kuldeep.

"I just want to say how impressed everyone, especially I am with how Kuldeep Sen handled his first game; how he bowled, how he thinks... He bowled the hardest over under pressure and did an excellent job for us," Sangakkara said in post-game comments.

Despite his son's overnight success, the father's routine saw no change. Like he does every day, Ram Pal cycled six kilometres from Hariharpur village to Rewa to reach the barber shop. On Sunday night Kuldeep conceded just a single in the first ball of the final over. He held his nerve to bowl three dot balls to Marcus Stoinis, the big-hitting Australian. Stoinis hit a four and a six off the last two balls but it was in vain as Rajasthan Royals won by three runs. Kuldeep owes his career to Arian Anthony, a former Madhya Pradesh Under-19 fast bowler, Ram Pal said.

No money for kit

The meager family income meant Kuldeep, one of five children, could not afford a basic cricket kit. "All credit goes to coach Anthony. He took care of everything, from Kuldeep's training gear, spikes and diet," Ram Pal said.



Kuldeep Sen hit high 140s on his IPL debut. (R) Father Ram Pal at work.



Sportspics for IPL

Anthony follows what Australia great Dennis Lillee told him during his stint as a budding pacer at the MRF Pace Foundation in Chennai. "Lillee once said, 'a talent should not be wasted because of non-cricketing reasons.' I waived off Kuldeep's fees," Anthony said.

The coach also did a smart thing to ensure Kuldeep's career wasn't derailed early. "He loved to bowl the bouncer but in the process he would chuck once or twice in an over. I never allowed him to go to the trials, even at the district level. One accusation and his career would have been over.

I just want to say how impressed everyone, especially I am with how Kuldeep Sen handled his first game; how he bowled, how he thinks... He bowled the hardest over under pressure and did an excellent job for us."

KUMAR SANGAKKARA
RAJASTHAN ROYALS' HEAD COACH

It took me four years to correct the action," Anthony said.

With a remodeled action Kuldeep made his Ranji Trophy debut in the 2018-19 season and bagged 25 wickets in eight matches. Raw pace remains his strength. Kuldeep's Instagram handle is '150kuldeep'. A few days ago, Rajasthan Royals bowling coach Stefan Jones uploaded an Instagram story of Kuldeep with the caption 'Fastest on the speed gun!!' and a fire emoji.

Raw talent

"He is quick but still very raw. He will have to do a lot of hard work. Doing well in IPL is fine, but he should perform consistently in red-ball cricket too. These three

months in the IPL is good exposure for him. Playing with the top Indian and foreign cricketers is a big deal itself," Anthony said.

Anthony will also be looking for clues to see whether Kuldeep is going back to bad fast bowling habits during the IPL. "When he returned after his debut first-class season, I saw his head was falling, his front leg was landing awkwardly. I immediately asked him why he had changed his action. He replied, 'sir bounce jyada milta hai.' (I get more bounce). I told him one injury and his career would be over. Go back to your previous action."

Anthony also advised Kuldeep to do something similar to what he used to when he trained under Lillee in the early 90s. He wants Kuldeep's mind to soak up advice like a sponge when Rajasthan Royals' fast bowling coach Lasith Malinga is talking.

"Those three years at the MRF Pace academy were the best of my life. I used to write everything down after our training sessions. From wrist position, run-up, head position, front leg, yorkers... I learnt everything from Lillee. Learning from Lasith Malinga is a huge thing. I have instructed him to write down everything that Malinga says during the sessions. This is my homework for him. It will help him in the future."

BRIEFLY

Durham to speak to head coach Franklin over Chahal allegations

New Delhi: County side Durham has said they will speak to head coach James Franklin "privately" over the physical harassment allegations made by Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal against the former New Zealand pacer. Earlier this year, in a podcast published by Royal Challengers Bangalore, Chahal had recalled an incident from 2011 when his then Mumbai Indians teammates Franklin and Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds had allegedly tied him up while celebrating their win in the Champions League final that year. "We are aware of recent news reports surrounding an incident in 2011 which name a member of our staff," Durham said in a statement to ESPNcricinfo. "As with any matters involving employees, the club will speak privately with all parties involved to determine the facts." PTI

Sania-Hradecka falter in title clash

Charleston: Veteran Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka's splendid run at the Charleston Open ended after they lost the title clash to Andreja Klepac and Magda Linette. The unseeded Mirza and Hradecka went down 2-6 6-4 7-10 in one hour 24 minutes to the fourth seed Polish-Slovenian duo on Sunday. Mirza and Hradecka had a stunning run at the WTA 500 event, reaching the women's doubles final after pulling off a major upset by stunning top seeds Zhang Shuai and Caroline Dolehide in the semis. PTI

Atletico pay price for fan's Nazi salute

Madrid: After UEFA investigated a fan's Nazi salute, Atlético Madrid has been ordered to close a 5,000-seat section of its stadium when it hosts Manchester City on Wednesday. The fan was filmed making a Nazi-style gesture during Atlético's 1-0 loss at City in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal last Tuesday. UEFA said last Friday it charged the Spanish club with "discriminatory behavior." On Monday, the next working day, the closure was announced by its appeals body. The club must close a section of at least 5,000 seats at Metropolitan Stadium for the second leg and display a UEFA banner there saying "#NoToRacism." AP

Italy seizes Russian racer's properties

Rome: Italy has seized properties worth some 105 million euros (\$114.45 million) owned by Russian former Formula One driver Nikita Dmitriyevich Mazepin and his oligarch father, two police sources told Reuters on Monday. The operation targeted a villa - known as Rocky Ram - located in the north of the island of Sardinia. It is part of broader efforts aimed at penalising wealthy Russians linked to President Vladimir Putin. 24 invasion of Ukraine by Moscow. Mazepin - who was fired in March by U.S.-owned F1 team Haas - has been included in an EU sanctions list along with his father, Dmitry, who the European Union's official journal described as a member of president Putin's closest circle. REUTERS

Kane able to tame Titans

After bowlers restrict Gujarat to chaseable score, Williamson leads by example



Kane Williamson scored 57 off 46 balls in Sunrisers Hyderabad's eight-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans.

Sportspics for IPL

SYNOPSIS: Gujarat Titans never got going against the Sunrisers Hyderabad bowlers, and the openers set up a comfortable chase for an eight-wicket win.

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, APRIL 11

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD handed Gujarat Titans their first defeat in four IPL games with an eight-wicket hammering at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Despite a liberal helping of 20 wides, GT managed only 162 against a varied attack. An opening stand of 64, followed by the usual calculated pursuit from Kane Williamson, made it a straightforward finish for Nicholas Pooran.

Sunrisers' telling variety

For an attack that began with a nightmare opening over that leaked 17 runs - including 11 in wides alone - Sunrisers showed why their bowling can still sting, even without erstwhile talisman Rashid Khan, who turned out for their opponents on Monday. Some attacks are said to be predictable due to a sense of sameness in their bowlers. There is no chance of anyone detecting any hint of sameness in this bowling bunch. Bhuvneshwar Kumar's swing is allied with Marco Jansen's steep bounce. T Natarajan's yorkers are complemented by Umran Malik's extreme pace. Then there is Washington Sundar's accuracy. For instance, Sai Sudharsan found a Jansen bouncer too hot to handle, and then succumbed as he played early to a Natarajan ball that stuck in the pitch. And before his bat could even come down, Matthew Wade had been rapped plumb in front by a 149.3 kph ripper from Malik. The GT innings was in desperate need of some sort of a holding act amid all the flailing support roles, and it came from skipper Hardik Pandya.

Hardik buckles down

At 42 deliveries, it was Hardik's slowest fifty in the IPL. Apart from the over when he responded to a blow on the helmet from Malik with cover-driven and pulled fours, the



Gujarat skipper Hardik Pandya's unbeaten half century went in vain.

GT captain put his head down and batted through the innings. However, he'd surely have liked to have scored a boundary or three after the 13th over, which was when he hit his last one on the night. But try as he might, Pandya just wasn't able to get under the full deliveries of the Sunrisers seamers and time the attempted hits. He was forced to mostly push straight, an indication of how Sunrisers squeezed him. The added responsibility on the new skipper's shoulders is evident; he's got 141 runs in four games this IPL, but at a strike rate of 122.60, with only two sixes from the 115 balls he has faced so far.

Had Abhinav Manohar not played one of the most fortunate innings one'll see, GT may have struggled to even reach 160. Not only was he put down as many as three times towards the end of the innings, three of his edges also went to the boundary. In between, he clubbed a few meaty blows during a 21-ball 35.

Abhishek's Powerplay revival

The first four overs of the Sunrisers chase brought a grand total of 11 runs. It was as if

Kane Williamson and Abhishek Sharma were trying to get through the new ball unscathed. And the new ball was indeed causing some issues, for it was in the hands of Mohammed Shami. His fourth ball began to straighten on Williamson in the air before cutting back after pitching and hitting the pad. There was no way anyone could have got bat to that delivery in any format. But GT did not review and ball-tracking showed three reds later.

Shami tied down Abhishek Sharma with a conventional point and a short backward point. The left-hander appears to prefer the dab and the steer to the cut, and that short fielder was perfect for blocking the guided attempts.

With two overs of restrictions left, Williamson finally pulled and hooked Shami for boundaries, before Abhishek took four fours off Lockie Ferguson's first over. The dabs and steers now found the gaps with Ferguson's extra pace.

KW's turn to anchor

Like his opposite number had done, but in a much more familiar role, Williamson set his stall out. Whenever the asking rate threatened to climb into double figures, he'd launch into a six. Else he was more than happy to tap it around for one, or push the boundary riders on the big square outfield for twos. Now and then, a ball would hit one of the cracks and cut into him. He'd brush that off as an exception and refocus. Suddenly, he'd walk across against a steaming Ferguson and paddle him over short fine for six. In short, a typical Sunrisers chase anchored by their captain.

Williamson fell for 57 off 46 when he tried to slog Hardik straight instead of slicing over extra cover as he usually does. That left Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram with 34 to get off 23. And on a pitch where off-pace had been hard to time all night, Ferguson's pace was all Pooran needed to propel Sunrisers home with five balls remaining.

Brief scores: Gujarat Titans 162 for 7 (Pandya 50*, Manohar 35, Natarajan 2-34, Bhuvneshwar 2-37) lose by eight wickets to Sunrisers Hyderabad 168 for 2 (Williamson 57, Abhishek 42, Pooran 34*, Pandya 1-27)

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

Wade-ing into Umran-Hardik battle

Mathew Wade would have felt like a byproduct caught in a street fight or a pedestrian straying onto a race track. The fastest hands in Indian cricket - 100 metres six-hitter Hardik Pandya and 150 kph bowler Umran Malik - were involved in a grisly violent battle and it was the stodgy Australian batsman that ended as collateral damage. Malik vs Pandya is a duel straight out of the Fast and Furious franchise. First ball, Malik runs in hard, bends his back, bowls short. Pandya gets hit on the helmet grill. Him and his ego aren't hurt. Next ball he doesn't swing his bat to an-



swer with a six but plays a Test-match class drive through covers. How do 150 kph react to such a snub? Short ball. Malik is no different. Pandya pulls it for a four. Now Malik cranks up the pace, next two balls are flying from his hands. Dot, followed by a single.

This brings poor Wade to the crease, expecting a mean short-ball. The young man from J&K isn't that predictable. Before the bat comes down, the ball rockets to his pads. Malik appeals, Wade is plumb lbw. Gavaskar always said the best way to play these pacers was from the non-striker's end.

Rahul pulls off blinder

Rahul Tripathi plucked it out of thin air, and there was disbelief writ large on Bhuvneshwar Kumar's face. Shubman Gill's shot had four written all over it. Tripathi flew to his left at cover, stuck the arm out and pulled off a stunner. The fielder's celebration imitated a pahlawan and Kumar's facial expression captured disbelief. It offered a throwback to Paul Collingwood's catch of Matthew Hayden in the third ODI between England and Australia at Bristol in 2005. The Australian opener played an uppish square drive and thought he had cleared the backward point fielder. But Collingwood defied gravity and took it one-handed. Coming back to the Gujarat Titans versus Sunrisers Hyderabad IPL game, after a wayward 17-run first over, including 10 in wides, Tripathi's catch gave Kumar a reason to smile.



Bhuvni's wide side

Over the years, if anyone has been able to control the sometimes wildly-swinging new ball - in fact have it on a string - it is Bhuvneshwar Kumar. And he demonstrated that off the very first ball of the game, starting one outside Matthew Wade's leg stump and curling it past the left-hander. But the outside edge eluded a diving second slip. Bhuvneshwar pitched at least three more deliveries in the over around the same spot as the first. To his horror, all three went the other way for wides. Two of them swung the wrong way so much they zipped past the wicketkeeper too and travelled all the way to the boundary. So despite having conceded just a single off the middle of the bat in the over, Bhuvneshwar had just sent down the most expensive opening over ever for Sunrisers that had cost 17 runs, with 11 in wides alone.



Bonds built over 3 am Sehris

Transfers and auctions can disrupt teams, send old dressing room pals going their separate ways but can't break bonds between cricketers. A feature of this year's tournament, after the mega IPL reset of



a big hug to the wily Rashid. There were laughs for old time's sake. Last Ramzan the two were teammates. The Kiwi star saw Rashid fast even on match days. This triggered something in him. On one non-match day, Williamson joined Rashid for Sehra at 3 am to kick off the fast. Their other team mate David Warner too joined. The leggie was touched, "That's a team, that's a family. As a team member, as a family member, we all need to understand each other's feelings. Then you know what is the right thing to do," he would say. No on-field battle is so intense that it can see Rashid forget the early morning Sehra with his friends-for-life Williamson and Warner.

Pics: Sportspics for IPL

