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MODI CONVEYED INDIA READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE PROCESS: PMO

No one will oppose if India backs such a process: Lavrov on Ukraine mediation



PM Narendra Modi with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in New Delhi, Friday. ANI

Meets Jaishankar, says will intensify efforts to bypass dollar-based system

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

UNDERLINING THAT India has an "independent foreign policy" and is "not under the influence of US", visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov indicated that if India was to play the role of a mediator on the issue of Ukraine, then it can support such a process and no one will be against it.

Lavrov, who began his two-hour meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar by declaring "friendship is the key word" in India-Russia bilateral

WORLD

RUSSIA SAYS
UKRAINE STRIKE HIT
ITS FUEL DEPOT
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relations, later met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Praising India's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Lavrov said: "Western colleagues just made their real face known these days and I have not the slightest doubt that most

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GST collections hit all-time high of Rs 1.42 lakh crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

MARKING A new high since its rollout in July 2017, gross collections of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rose to Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March, for sales in February, according to data released by the Union Finance Ministry on Friday — a 14.7 per cent rise from March 2021 and a 45.6 per cent spike from March 2020.

The sharp surge has come on the back of anti-evasion measures, "especially action against fake billers", and a pick-up in economic activity. The average monthly gross GST collections for FY22 now stands at Rs 1.23 lakh crore, which is 30.5 per cent higher than the monthly average seen in the previous fiscal.

The impact of Covid was visible from the drop in GST revenue at a monthly average of Rs 94,733

EXPLAINED
E The road ahead

GST REVENUES are expected to rise further in the coming month due to financial year-end activity. While improving collections may help set the stage for rate rationalisation and a GST rate structure change, including hikes, inter-state variations may present a case for extension of compensation by some states beyond the mandated period ending in June this year.

crore in 2020-21, which was 9.5 per cent lower than the monthly average of Rs 1.04 lakh crore in

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



WORLD

POPE APOLOGISES TO INDIGENOUS FOR CANADA ABUSES P 12

Pandemic eases but NREGS demand still higher than pre-Covid

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

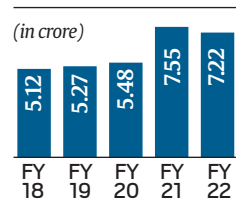
EVEN AS the Centre and states eased Covid restrictions, the demand for unskilled work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) remained high in 2021-22. According to data available as on March 31, over 7.2 crore households — 10.55 crore people — from across the country availed the scheme in 2021-22.

This is the second highest since the inception of the scheme in 2006. The highest was over 7.55 crore households — 11.19 crore people — in 2020-21, the first Covid year when strict restrictions were in place.

It is a huge jump from the pre-Covid years, when the total number of households touched 5.48 crore in 2019-20; 5.27 crore in 2018-19; 5.12 crore in 2017-18.

Under the MGNREGS, every

HOUSEHOLDS THAT
AVAILED OF NREGS



rural household is entitled to at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year. The scheme emerged as a safety net for migrants who returned to their villages in the wake of the pandemic.

According to the data, a total of 358.67 crore person-days were generated across the country during 2021-22, which is slightly lower than the 389.09 crore person-days in 2020-21, but much

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Health Minister says no to BJP MP's Bill on population control: Awareness, not force

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

OPPOSING A party MP's private member's Bill which sought to enforce a two-child rule with penal provisions for violations, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Rajya Sabha on Friday that instead of using "force (jabran)", the government had successfully used awareness and health campaigns to achieve population control.

BJP MP Rakesh Sinha had introduced his Population Regulation Bill in Rajya Sabha in July 2019. He withdrew the Bill on Friday, following Mandaviya's intervention.

Mandaviya listed the impact of family planning programmes across various indicators, including a reduction in Total Fertility



Mansukh Mandaviya; Rakesh Sinha

Rate (TFR) — the average number of children per woman — to 2.0 at the national level. He quoted statistics from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-V and Census data among others to establish that the rate of population growth has been consistently decreasing.

"When we talk about NFHS and look at the Census, we can see the success we have

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EXPRESS NETWORK



NEPAL PM VISITS BJP HEADQUARTERS ON NADDA INVITATION

LET CHILDREN CHASE DREAMS, PM TELLS PARENTS, TEACHERS

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In UP, bulldozers arrive at doorstep to force crime accused to surrender

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, APRIL 1

ON FEBRUARY 18, in the middle of the seven-phase elections in UP, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared during a campaign speech in Mainpuri: "I have sent the bulldozers for repair. Once they start working again after March 10, all those who are getting aggressive now will be silenced."

The elections won and BJP back in power under Adityanath, the bulldozers are back, too.

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At the home of rape accused in Saharanpur district. Express

CJI says need independent umbrella body for central probe agencies



Reclaim social legitimacy, public trust: CJI Ramana

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

STATING THAT "actions and inactions of the CBI have raised questions regarding its credibility in some cases", Chief Justice of India N V Ramana underlined Friday the need to set up a statutory, independent institution which could bring under one roof of the CBI and other agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). This, he said, would end multiplicity of proceedings and save them from being blamed as tools of political harassment.

Delivering the 19th D P Kohli Memorial Lecture on Democracy: Role and Responsibilities of Investigative Agencies — it is named after the founding Director of the CBI — at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, CJI Ramana said the "need of the hour is to reclaim social legitimacy and public trust" and "the first step to gain the same is to break the nexus with the political executive".

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THE IDEAS PAGE

BREAK NEXUS WITH THE EXECUTIVE

BY CJI N V RAMANA

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



AT HEART OF RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM, ITS GEOGRAPHICAL HANDICAP AND EURASIAN AMBITIONS

Russia's expansionism and imperialism take root in its own conflicting identity of being both European and Asian without ever being fully embraced by either one

LIFESTYLE



'ALL MEN ARE GUILTY OF NOT SHARING THE LOAD AT HOME'

Anuradha Menon changes name to 'Anil'

TECH



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How Pakistan PM Imran Khan could soon lose power

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Indian Express' Nirupama Subramaniam explains why Imran Khan finds himself in this position, and what he is doing to fight back

FROM PAGE ONE

GST collections

the pre-Covid period of 2019-20.

"Coupled with economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, have been contributing to the enhanced GST. The improvement in revenue has also been due to various rate rationalisation measures undertaken by the (GST) Council to correct inverted duty structure," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

It said the total number of e-way bills generated in February was 6.91 crore, higher than 6.88 crore seen a month ago, despite it being a shorter month, which indicates the "recovery of business activity at faster pace".

The previous highest collection of GST revenues was in January 2022 of Rs 1.40 lakh crore. The average monthly gross GST collection for the last quarter of FY22 has been Rs 1.38 lakh crore against the average monthly collection of Rs 1.10 lakh crore, Rs 1.15 lakh crore and Rs 1.30 lakh crore in the first, second and third quarters, respectively. The Centre's GST collection now has exceeded the revised budget target of Rs 5.70 lakh crore set for the previous fiscal ended March 31.

"Higher GST collections, in addition to customs duty (rebound in gold imports in Feb 2022 post third wave) as well as direct taxes are likely to have pushed up the gross tax revenues of the GoI well above the FY2022 RE. Based on the additional tax devolved to the states in Feb-March 2022 (excluding arrears pertaining to earlier years), we have assessed that the gross tax revenues of the GoI likely overshoot the RE of Rs 27.6 trillion by a considerable Rs 2.25 trillion," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said.

"Moreover, we estimate the net tax revenues (net of devolution to States) in FY2022 at Rs 18.6 trillion, a robust around Rs. 0.9 trillion higher than the RE (Rs 17.7 trillion)," she said.

With disinvestment receipts falling short of target, the higher tax revenues provide the Government with a cushion of Rs 500 billion, Nayar said.

"Additionally, we expect

capex may undershoot the FY22 RE by around Rs 600 billion. This suggests a total cushion of Rs 1.1 trillion for higher revex, which is equivalent to the size of the third supplementary demand for grants. Overall, we expect the fiscal deficit of the GoI for FY2022 to be broadly similar to the revised target of Rs 15.9 trillion," she said.

Experts, however, pointed to inter-state variations in GST collections as an area of concern.

"GST collections grew more than 15 per cent for Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in March 2022. For states such as West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, growth was less than 10 per cent. This suggests the last inter-state variation in consumption and investment growth and provides more support to states' demand for continuation of GST compensation beyond five years," Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist, India Ratings & Research, said.

"While state-wise variations exist in terms of the growth in GST collections, it would be interesting to see an analysis linking the state-wise GDP growth with the GST collections during the same period," M S Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, said.

Of the overall Rs 1.42 lakh crore in revenue, CGST is Rs 25,830 crore, SGST is Rs 32,378 crore, IGST is Rs 74,470 crore (including Rs 39,131 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 9,417 crore (including Rs 981 crore collected on import of goods).

The Government has settled Rs 29,816 crore to CGST and Rs 25,032 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the states in February after regular settlement is Rs 65,646 crore for CGST and Rs 67,410 crore for SGST.

UP bulldozers

After his first term was marked by a largescale police crackdown, including the use of bulldozers to allegedly target the houses of those named in records as gangsters, Adityanath was labelled "bull-

dozer baba" by Opposition parties in the run-up to voting this time.

It's barely been over a week since he took oath of office again, and already two instances have emerged of bulldozers reaching the houses of accused -- both in cases of rape -- but this time, to allegedly put pressure on them to surrender.

On Thursday afternoon, the police in Saharanpur district took a bulldozer to the house of two brothers -- Amir (19) and Asif (22) -- who have been accused of gangraping a minor girl on the pretext of marriage in a case lodged by the alleged victim's mother on March 25.

The brothers' father, Sharafat (56), has been booked for allegedly threatening and assaulting the complainant. At the house of the accused, who are part of the village pradhan's family, the police allegedly threatened to demolish the building if they did not surrender within 48 hours. Video footage shows a bulldozer demolishing three steps of a staircase outside the house that leads to the first floor, with policemen looking on. The police also warned the neighbours against helping the accused.

"We want to convey to the accused, who come from an influential family, that action will be taken if they remain absconding. The staircase of the house was broken. There is a huge impact of our action on the ground. Before leaving the spot, we announced in public that if anyone was found providing any kind of assistance to the accused, action would also be taken against them too," said the Station House Officer (SHO) of the local station.

"We also announced that if the accused do not surrender in 48 hours, further legal action will be taken," the SHO said.

The brothers' father, however, described the charge as "false". "We are under tremendous pressure. The case has been lodged on a false charge, and no one is ready to help us. The police are putting pressure and threatening to raze our house if we don't surrender," said the father.

Referring to the police move on Thursday, he said: "They

No one will oppose India if it supports process: Lavrov on Ukraine mediation

countries... understand what is going on."

In his public remarks, he repeatedly referred to Western countries as "unreliable", pushed for dealing with India through their national payments systems -- he even mentioned the RuPay platform -- and advocated the rupee-rouble payment mechanism.

To a question on whether a rouble-rupee payment system was discussed in his talks with Jaishankar, Lavrov said such an arrangement was started for trade with countries like India and China many years ago and efforts to bypass the Western payment systems will now be intensified.

"I would recall that many years ago, we started moving in our relations with India, China (and) many other countries from using dollars and euros to more and more use of national currencies. Under the current circumstances, this trend, I believe, will be intensified, which is natural and obvious," he said.

"We don't want to depend on a system which would be closed anytime and we don't want to depend on a system whose masters can steal your money overnight," he said.

Jaishankar, on his part, mentioned the "difficult international environment" and made it clear that Delhi has "always been in favour of resolving differences and dis-

putes through dialogue and diplomacy".

Lavrov is the only visiting Foreign Minister to meet Modi in recent days -- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was denied a meeting while British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss did not meet.

The Prime Minister's Office, in a statement, said: "Foreign Minister Lavrov briefed the Prime Minister on the situation in Ukraine, including the ongoing peace negotiations. Prime Minister reiterated his call for an early cessation of violence, and conveyed India's readiness to contribute in any way to the peace efforts."

This was similar to what Jaishankar told Lavrov, but he had added the reldines of "respect for international law, UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states" -- Delhi's position on Kremlin's actions, articulated several times at the UN as well as in phone calls with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Ministry of External Affairs said: "The two Ministers discussed developments pertaining to Ukraine. Minister Lavrov briefed the Indian side from Russia's perspective, including the ongoing talks. EAM emphasised the importance of cessation of violence and ending hostilities. Differences and disputes should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy and

by respect for international law, UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states."

Asked about India's role as a mediator between Russia and Ukraine, Lavrov said: "I have not heard about such talks, frankly speaking. And the position of India which is not under any influence of the US dictates... India is an important and serious country. If it sees that to play that role, which provides a solution to the problem... The present condition is to provide equality and security and follow the principle of justice and India as our common partner."

He spoke of the security guarantee being offered by Ukraine, and how the West has ignored responsibilities and forced Russia into this straight threat -- ideological and military.

"And if India takes the position of a just and a rational approach towards international problems, then it can support such a process and then no one is against it," Lavrov told reporters after the meeting with Jaishankar.

The only time India has talked about a possible role between Russia and Ukraine is during the February 26 phone call that Modi had with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy -- two days after Russia invaded Ukraine. Modi had "expressed India's willingness to con-

tribute in any way towards peace efforts," a PMO statement had said then.

At their meeting, Lavrov and Jaishankar assessed the overall state of cooperation and "considered the implications of recent developments on trade and economic relations," the MEA said.

Jaishankar, the Ministry said, "underlined that as a developing economy, global volatility in different domains is of particular concern to India. It is important for both countries that their economic, technological and people-to-people contacts remain stable and predictable".

They also discussed the situation in Afghanistan. "Minister Lavrov conveyed his assessment of the recent conference on Afghanistan in China. EAM noted that UNSCR 2593 expressed the concerns of the international community and spoke of humanitarian support for the Afghan people. Iran and the JCPoA issue were also featured in the talks. EAM welcomed the Russian briefing on the matter," the MEA said.

Lavrov said Russia is looking at a "multipolar world" and referred to Jaishankar's remarks Thursday along with Truss.

"I believe that India's foreign policy is characterised by independence and concentration on real national legitimate interests," he said.

best suited "for a pluralistic society like ours" and "our rich diversity cannot be sustained through dictatorial governance".

"When it comes to the CBI, it possessed immense trust of the public in its initial phase. In fact, the judiciary used to be flooded with requests for transfer of investigations to CBI as it was a symbol of impartiality and independence. Whenever the citizenry doubted the skill and impartiality of its own state police, they sought investigation by CBI as they wanted justice to be done," he said.

"But with the passage of time, like every other institution of repute, the CBI has also come under deep public scrutiny. Its actions and inactions have raised questions regarding its credibility in some cases... There is an immediate requirement for the creation of an independent umbrella institution, so as to bring various agencies like the CBI, SFO, ED, etc. under one roof. This body is required to be created under a statute, clearly defining its powers, functions and jurisdictions," he said, adding that "such a law will also lead to much needed legislative oversight".

Stating that the umbrella body should be headed by an "independent and impartial authority", the CJJ said the appointment must be made "by a committee akin to the one which appoints the Director of the CBI. The head of the organisation can be assisted by deputies who are specialists in different domains".

"This umbrella organisation will end multiplicity of proceedings. A single incident these days gets investigated by multiple agencies, often leading to dilution of evidence, contradiction in depositions, prolonged incarceration of innocents. It will also save the institution from being blamed as a tool of harassment. Once an incident is reported, the organisation should decide as to which specialised wing should take up investigation," he said.

"Police and public order being in the State list, the burden of investigation is primarily on the state police and there is no reason why state investigative agencies cannot enjoy the same level of credibility as that of the national agency," he said, adding that "the Central law for the umbrella investigative body... can be suitably replicated by the states".

Tracing the evolution of the Indian police system, he said "there is no doubt that the Imperial Police, created by the colonial masters, was modelled to subdue and control the Indian citizenry" and that "the misuse of police by political masters is not a new feature".

Post-independence reforms within the police forces, he said, have not been up to popular expectations and "people hesitate to approach the police in times of despair".

"The image of the institution of police is regrettably tarnished by allegations of corruption, police excesses, lack of impartiality and close nexus with the political class," he said, adding that police officers often approach courts with the complaint that they are being harassed after a regime change. "When you try to endear yourselves to the powers, you will have to face the consequences".

He said "it is essential that all institutions, including the police and the investigative bodies, uphold and strengthen democratic values" and "not allow any authoritarian tendencies to creep in". He also pointed to the need for more women representation in policing so that women victims feel confident to approach and report crimes.

made an announcement in the village and later broke three steps of the staircase, which leads to our drawing room. My family and neighbours are terrorised by the police action. We are trying to take the help of legal experts in the rape case."

Late on Friday, the two brothers were arrested.

When contacted, Additional Superintendent of Police (Saharanpur), Rajesh Kumar said: "The police are taking action against the accused who brutally assaulted the victim. We are making all efforts to arrest them, and raids are being conducted. The victim comes from a poor family and is a minor. The accused are trying to influence the victim and her family."

Asked about the use of a bulldozer, senior police officers denied that there was any specific instruction to use it in such cases.

When contacted, Additional Director General (Law and Order), Prashant Kumar, said: "Any misuse of such a thing (bulldozer) will be dealt with seriously and action will be taken."

Last week, the police in Pratapgarh district allegedly deployed a bulldozer to ensure the arrest of a 24-year-old man, who was booked for allegedly raping a woman inside the toilet of a railway station, following a case registered on March 19.

Unable to trace the accused, identified as Shubham Modanwal, the police reached his house near the railway station and allegedly parked a bulldozer nearby. Sources said that "within no time", the police got information about the accused and arrested him.

"We arrested the accused on March 22," said the SHO of the local station but denied that a bulldozer was used to threaten the accused's family.

dozers being deployed by the police continues the practice established by the state police after the BJP came to power in 2017. The police had subsequently registered cases against around 1,50,000 people under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act -- and claimed to have seized several properties and demolished houses that were "constructed illegally".

According to police sources, buildings are usually demolished in this manner after an inquiry is conducted by the district administration, and it is found that necessary clearances were not obtained for construction.

Those whose buildings were targeted include gangsters turned politicians, Mukhtar Ansari and Atiq Ahmed, former BSP MP Dawood Ahmed, absconding criminal Badan Singh Badoo, and Vikas Dubey who was killed in an encounter two years ago.

NREGS demand

higher than 265.35 crore persondays in 2019-20. Women accounted for 54.69 per cent of the total 358.67 crore persondays generated during 2021-22. The average days of employment provided per household in 2021-22 was 49.7 days -- it was 51.52 days in 2020-21; 48.4 days in 2019-20.

Among the 34 states and Union Territories for which data is available, Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number of households at 77.5 lakh -- it was 94.34 lakh in 2020-21.

While some states like Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Punjab and Haryana also saw a drop in the number of families availing the rural job guarantee scheme, others like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded an increase in

the number of households.

In Maharashtra, the number of such households increased from 16.84 lakh in 2020-21 to 20 lakh in 2021-22. In Karnataka, it increased from 30.15 lakh in 2020-21 to 33.91 lakh in 2021-22.

The 2021-22 data is provisional and is likely to be revised upward as muster rolls data for the last week of March gets updated.

Health Minister

achieved. In 1971, the average annual exponential growth was 2.20; 2.14 in 1991; 1.97 in 2001; and 1.64 in 2011. It shows population growth has declined, and has been declining. The rate of growth seen between the '60s and '80s has come down significantly. It is a good sign. The total fertility rate has dropped to 2.0 in NFHS-V," he said.

Mandaviya also highlighted the drop in teenage birth rate and teenage marriage to 6.8 per cent and 23.3 per cent respectively. "This indicates that government policies on population control without using force, or making it compulsory, and through awareness are working... I request him (Sinha), we are trying to work towards meeting your objectives so that all classes, communities get the best opportunities to develop. I request you to withdraw the Bill," he said.

Withdrawing his Bill, Sinha expressed confidence that "we will be able to control our population, rising above caste, religion, language and district", on account of serious efforts being undertaken by the government in this regard. "Our (government's) efforts are being undertaken in a constitutional manner. We do not want to repeat the Emergency," he said.

Sinha said while he didn't use the words Hindu or Muslim in his Bill, one should not hesi-

Government of Uttar Pradesh
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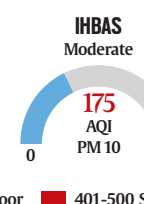
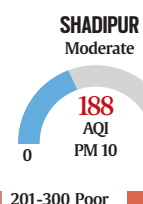
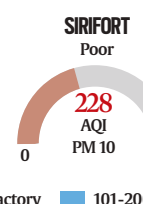
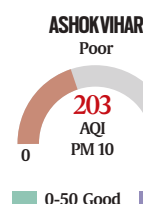
Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents Rs.
e-Tender for approval of rate of vaccines for the financial year 2022-23	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods uptoRs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs. 1000.00 as bid security.	Rs.25000.00 + GST
Schedule(A) H.S. Vaccine		
Schedule(B) Anti-rabies Vaccine		
Schedule(C) For remaining other vaccines (B.C., Theileriosis vaccine Swine Fever, Sheep Enterotoxaemia & Poultry Vaccines)		

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow. The scanned copy of the Cost of Tender Form and e-Bid Security/EMD must be submitted along with the e-Bid and the original should reach to Director, Disease Control & Farms, Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow preferably on or before end date of submission of e-Bid but in any case, not later than 5 days after end date of submission of e-bid. Online e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-Tender website http://etender.up.nic.in.

The Scheduled dates and time for the Tender are:-
1- Availability of Online Tender Forms: **Date 06.04.2022 from 05:00 PM**
2- Submission of Online Tender Forms start date: **Date 06.04.2022 from 06:00 PM**
3- Pre Bid Meeting: **Date 12.04.2022 at 03:00 PM**
4- Last Date for online submission of tender form: **Date 09.05.2022 upto12:00 PM**
5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids): **Date 09.05.2022 at 03:30 PM**

Director
Disease Control & Farms,
Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow.

UPID No. 174386 Dt. 30.03.2022
www.up.gov.nic.in



MAX: 38 MIN: 20
4.5°C Above normal 1.4°C Above normal

WELCOMED BY KEJRIWAL, SISODIA

Tamil Nadu CM visits mohalla clinic, model school during day out in Delhi

MALHAR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin visited a Delhi government school and a mohalla clinic in East Delhi on Friday as part of his three-day visit to the capital. At Rajkiya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in West Vinod Nagar — one of the Delhi government's model schools — Stalin was welcomed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and was greeted by teachers and students of the school with roses.

"Visited Model School and Mohalla Clinic initiatives of Delhi government along with Honourable Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia. We will also be establishing a world class Government Model School in Chennai soon and I have extended my invitation to Arvind Kejriwal in advance," stated Stalin on Twitter after the visit.

Inside the school, the ministers were taken to meet some of the best-performing teams of the Business Blasters pro-



At Rajkiya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in West Vinod Nagar, Stalin was welcomed by Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. Tashi Tobgyal

gramme, which is a part of the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum introduced in Delhi government schools. Under this programme, students are each given seed money of Rs 2,000,

and asked to team up to invest their money and create business models. Stalin and Kejriwal spoke to some of the teams and learned about their projects. A teacher from the school

presented Stalin with a portrait of his late father, MK Karunanidhi. "...I was very happy to see the advancement of 'Business Blasters' programme that helps the students show their entrepreneurial skills and talent... The Tamil students and teachers should also go beyond the textbooks to develop your knowledge and skills further. The world is outside the windows. Innovate it with your skills! Enrich it!" he tweeted later.

They also visited the school's Montessori Lab for nursery and kindergarten students. "They saw all the different aids that we now have to help students understand their classes and subjects better... They were amazed by the school and all the facilities that we have. They couldn't believe it was a government school," said head of the school Mary Jyostna Minj.

The ministers also visited a Happiness Curriculum class, a Deshbhakti Curriculum class, and the school's swimming pool. "In our country, we have been teaching moral science stories for ages, but the problem with moral science stories is that

they give you a lot of 'shoulds'... but the emotional science was n't being touched. In this happiness class, we actually touch the emotional science," said Sisodia as he explained the content of the happiness curriculum to Stalin.

The school visit, which lasted approximately an hour, was followed by a visit to the AAMC Retreat Apartments mohalla clinic in Patparganj.

"In Delhi earlier, there were just big hospitals... we have now set up mohalla clinics that act as primary health care," said Kejriwal as he explained the healthcare developments in Delhi.

"It was my honour and privilege to host Honourable Chief Minister MK Stalin and show him all the work that we are doing," said Kejriwal.

Asked about the political implications of this meeting for the two states and parties, he responded, "Don't derive any politics out of it. We are here only for the progress of our country. All states need to come together and only then the country will progress."

Khattar inaugurates underpass, flyover at Huda City Centre

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, APRIL 1

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the government will plan to develop a Global City project on around 1,000 acres of land at Sectors 36 and 37. An advisory council will be formed by the government to execute the project, which will have residential, commercial properties and offices among other projects.

After chairing a consultation meeting with leading real estate developers to discuss the project, the CM said, "Gurgaon has become a centre of attraction for investors across the world. More investors and entrepreneurs will come forward after the construction of the Global City."

He said another meeting would be held after a month with stakeholders to take the work forward and discuss plans.

The project will come up on land acquired by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIDC) in villages including Harsaru, Gadholi Khurd, Mohammadpur Jharsa and Khandas. Land for this



He also chaired a meeting with real estate developers

project was originally acquired for setting up an SEZ, but it was later taken over by the state government.

Earlier on Friday morning, the CM inaugurated two projects of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) — Huda City decongestion project and the water supply distribution network of Zone-8 from Sector 111 to Sector 115.

The Huda City Centre decongestion project, built at a cost of Rs 52.52 crore, comprising an underpass, a flyover and a foot overbridge and surface road, across a stretch of 1.93 km is expected to reduce traffic snarls at one of the city's busiest intersections, which sees heavy vehicle

flow and pedestrian movement.

"The new underpass and flyover will facilitate smooth traffic stream at this critical location and reduce traffic congestion," said Khattar. "Gurgaon has emerged as an iconic city and has shown immense potential for progress. It has emerged as the 'Setu' for connecting Haryana to the rest of the world," he added.

The 705-metre long unidirectional underpass at Huda City Centre will streamline traffic from Signature Tower towards Subash Chowk. Construction on the underpass started in July 2019, and was initially set to be completed in a year. The project was marred by delays due to successive lockdowns due to the pandemic and ban on construction on account of rising pollution levels.

Recently, the GMDA had opened a 269.5-metre flyover near the underpass connecting Hussain Marg and sector road towards Signature Towers as part of the project to decongest the Huda City Centre junction.

Praising the projects in the city, the CM said his commitment was towards making Gurgaon the 'smartest' city and a 'connecting link' with the world.

Ghaziabad meat shops ordered to shut during Navratri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, APRIL 1

GHAZIABAD NAGAR Nigam has banned the sale of raw meat during Navratri. As per the orders, the ban will be in effect from April 2 to April 10, with officials claiming the meat ban during the festival is a routine order.

"It has been directed by the mayor to maintain cleanliness in temples, and to close meat shops during the period. It has been directed that cleanliness be maintained in respective zones, in temples and to ensure meat shops remain closed," read the order. The order has been issued in five zones of the district.

Loni MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar had in the past issued several appeals to close meat shops during festivals. In the coming days, shops will remain shut in both urban and rural areas.

Loni MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar had in the past issued several appeals to close meat shops during festivals. In the coming days, shops will remain shut in both urban and rural areas.

"The order is issued every year and the ban only exists during Navratri. The sale of raw meat will remain prohibited in these five zones. The communication has been given to all Nagar Nigam departments concerned," said Asha Sharma, the Ghaziabad Mayor.

On Thursday, MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar wrote a letter to the district magistrate stating that several restaurants were selling meat in the open in his constituency. In the letter, he requested officials to ensure action against such establishments to prevent any possible spread of disease.

Heatwave forecast for next week

New Delhi: Heatwave conditions are forecast for Delhi from April 5 to 7, with the temperature set to reach 41 degrees Celsius on April 5.

There was some respite on Friday, when a maximum temperature of 36.5 degrees Celsius was recorded, at the Safdarjung weather observatory, three degrees above the normal, but a few notches below the 39.5 degrees Celsius recorded the previous day.

Parts of Delhi have been witnessing heatwave conditions over the past few days with some weather stations recording maximum temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius or more. Heatwave conditions were recorded in parts of Delhi and southern Haryana on Thursday. On Friday, the maximum temperature had fallen below 40 degrees Celsius at most stations in NCR, except Narela, which recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, and at the Lodhi Road weather observatory, the maximum temperature was 37.8 degrees Celsius, while it settled at 37.9 at the Ridge, and 38.2 at Aya Nagar.

The IMD said in an update on Friday evening that there is likely to be no significant change in maximum temperatures over north-west India over the next 24 hours, but it is likely to rise by two to three degrees Celsius thereafter. ENS

Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University
Rajouri (J&K) - 185234
Established by Govt. of J&K, Recognized by UGC under 2(F) & 12(B)

Extension Notice

Last date for submission of applications for the positions of "Registrar and Controller of Examinations" invited vide No.BGSBU/Estab/22/120 dated 25-02-2022, is hereby extended up to 30-04-2022.

No. BGSBU/Estab/22/278
Dated: 31.03.2022

Sd/
Registrar

उपरोक्त औद्योगिक सहकारी विपणन संघ (हॉफेड)
18-बी, अशोक मार्ग, लखनऊ-226001, Tel.: 0522-4029145
Web: http://hofedup.com, Email: hofedup@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक : 02 / विपणन-05 / 2022-23 दिनांक: 01 अप्रैल, 2022

ईओओआईओ निस्स्तीकरण सूचना

औद्योगिक फसलों की रोपण सामग्री के प्रबन्ध के लिए आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को सूचीबद्ध किये जाने हेतु पत्रांक-989/विपणन-05/2021-22 दिनांक 14 मार्च, 2022 द्वारा प्रकाशित अतिरिक्त का आमंत्रण (ईओओआईओ) सूचना को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

अंजनी कुमार श्रीवास्तव
प्रबन्ध निदेशक

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has invited following open tender on www.ireps.gov.in system. Name of the work : Repairs to Pile Cap bottoms of Kali bridge under SEN/MAO section. Tender No : KR/KW/OL/W/2021/42-RB. Cost of the work in lakhs : ₹ 50.62 Excluding GST. Closing date & time : 26.04.2022 at 15.00 Hrs. For further details, contact Office of Sr. Regional Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. Karwar. For more details visit www.ireps.gov.in.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Karakambadi Road, Tirupati - 517507

Admission to Ph.D Program, August 2022

ISER Tirupati (www.isertirupati.ac.in) invites online applications for admission to the Ph.D. programmes in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Earth & Climate Sciences for August 2022 Session. For details of educational qualifications, eligibility criteria, selection procedure, online application and last date of submission discipline wise please visit: <http://www.isertirupati.ac.in/admissions/phd/>

Advt.No.08/2022/ISER-T/Admissions/31-03-2022

Sd/
Director

Jamia Hamdard
(Deemed to be University)
Accredited by NAAC in 'A' Category
Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi-110062

Jamia Hamdard Residential Coaching Academy
(For Minorities, SCs, STs and Women)

Applications are invited from UPSC Civil Services (Mains), 2021 qualified candidates for admission in the Academy for the preparation of Personality Test and Personal Interviews to be conducted by UPSC shortly. Academy provides free accommodation until the interview, mock sessions with internet and library facility during this period. Last date for applying 10th April, 2022.

REGISTRAR

For details, contact at: 011-26059688 Extn. 5749, 5760, 9958454319

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
C-24, 'G' Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051

E-TENDER NOTICE

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) invites E-tenders from Bidders of repute and experience to set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) at BKC, HO, Mumbai to manage implementation of Data Warehouse, Extraction Transformation & Loading and Business Intelligence/AI Tools through System Implementer selected through RFP for DMABI Solution floated on 01 January 2022. For more information, kindly visit our website www.nabard.org, <https://eprocure.gov.in> and <https://nabard.eproc.in>. The last date for receipt of Tender is till 01.00 PM of 27 April 2022. Applicants should regularly visit our website to keep themselves updated.

गॉय बंदे >> तो देश बंदे www.nabard.org Taking Rural India >>> Forward

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KITTUR-591 115
Dist.: Belagavi, Karnataka State [India]
Ph No:08288-234601/234605, Call: 9483501100,
E-mail: sainikschoolkittur@gmail.com Website: www.kittursainikschool.in

No.KCS/Result/Adm/Noti/FFP/2022-23 Date: 01/04/2022

AIEE INTERVIEW LIST & ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

List of candidates who have qualified for physical for medical exam & interview of All India Entrance Examination for **Class VI MERIT/ MERIT CUM MEANS**, which was held on **06th March 2022**, has been displayed on the website www.kittursainikschool.in and intimation has been sent to successful candidates by ordinary post.

Those who want to avail admission (unsuccessful/fresh candidates) under VI & XI (Science Stream - CBSE Syllabus: Lateral entry) can visit the school website for detailed notification regarding method of applying.

They may also contact the school on telephone No: **08288-234608**, during working hours on all working days.

Sd/
Principal

TATA POWER-DDL

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
(A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture)
Regd. Office : NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi - 110 009.
Tel : 011-66112222, Fax : 27468042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-ddl.com
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-ddl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF TRUE-UP OF FY 2020-21 AND AGGREGATE REVENUE REQUIREMENT (ARR) FOR FY 2022-23

April 02, 2022

Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, Delhi Electricity Reform Act, 2000 to the extent applicable, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Business Plan) Regulations, 2019 and the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017 issued by Commission vide Order dated 31/01/2017, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'Tata Power -DDL') has filed Petitions before the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC or the Commission) for approval of True-up of ARR for FY 2020-21 and Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) for FY 2022-23 based on the prevailing Acts, Policies and applicable Regulations. The Commission has admitted the Petition vide Order dated 17/03/2022.

1. The salient features of the Petitions are:

S. No.	Particulars	UoM	FY 2020-21	FY 2022-23
A	Power Purchase	MU	8,950	9,482
B	Billed Sales	MU	8,310	8,752
C	Distribution Loss	%	7.15%	7.70%
D	Power Purchase Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	5.94	6.75
E	Power Purchase Cost (Net of Rebate)	Rs. Crore	5,315	6,399
F	O&M Including Additional O&M Expenses on account of statutory levies & Taxes	Rs. Crore	1,021	951
G	Depreciation	Rs. Crore	265	297
H	Loss on Retirement of Assets	Rs. Crore	2	-
I	Return on Capital Employed (ROCE) including Income Tax*	Rs. Crore	484	546
J	Non-Tariff Income	Rs. Crore	-87	-87
K	Aggregate Revenue Requirement excluding carrying cost (add E to J)*	Rs. Crore	7,001	8,105
L	Carrying Cost	Rs. Crore	330	680
M	Aggregate Revenue Requirement including carrying cost (add K+L)	Rs. Crore	7,331	8,785
N	Revenue realized at current tariffs without 8% Surcharge	Rs. Crore	6,426	6,126
O	Incentives	Rs. Crore	-134	-
P	Total Revenue Available (N+O)	Rs. Crore	6,292	6,126
Q	Revenue (Gap)/Surplus at current Tariff (P-K) excluding carrying cost & 8% Surcharge	Rs. Crore	-709	-1,980

*Calculated on provisionally true-up'd RRB, which is subject to change upon final True-up

2. Proposed Capex

Particulars	UoM	FY 2022-23
Proposed Capex including Deposit work but excluding IDC	Rs. Crore	380.00

3. Revenue Gap proposed to be recovered through Tariff Hike in FY 2022-23

Particulars	UoM	FY 2022-23
Revenue Requirement for the year (excluding Carrying Cost)**	Rs. Crore	8,105
Revenue available for the year without DRRS	Rs. Crore	6,126
Revenue (Gap)/Surplus for the year	Rs. Crore	-1,980
Provisionally sought Revenue (Gap)/Surplus up to FY 21-22, required to be liquidated in a time bound manner along with ARR for FY 2022-23**	Rs. Crore	-5,948

**Subject to final true-up of capitalization and corresponding impact on Revenue Gap

4. Key Tariff Rationalization / Other proposals

- Time bound Recovery of Regulatory Assets / Revenue Gap
- Rationalization of Tariff by matching recovery of fixed cost of DISCOMs from fixed part of Retail supply Tariff
- Progressive Tariff rationalization as per Electricity Act & National Tariff Policy
- Review of ToD tariff
- Green Power Tariff for Consumers with less than 1 MW sanctioned load and Non-Open Access consumers
- CERC defined APPC for compensation/payment for excess generation for prosumers
- Penalty (ADSM - Additional Deviation Settlement Mechanism) on account of transmission line tripping
- Behavioural Demand Response (BDR) Program
- Peer to Peer Trading

5. Performance of Tata Power-DDL

Particulars	Regulatory Target (%)	FY 20-21 Achieved (%)
Timely Restoration of Scheduled Outage (Maximum duration in single stretch)	95%	99.97%
Billing Complaints w.r.t. total bills issued	Shall not exceed 0.2%	0.03%

6. Augmentation / Maintenance details

Particulars	UoM	FY 2020-21
No. of Power Transformers (Net of Addition and Removal of PTR)	Nos.	212
EHV Capacity	MVA	4,916
No. of Distribution Transformers	Nos.	31,171

7. Unrestricted Peak Demand of 1,854 MW was met in FY 2020-21.

8. Reliability Indices

Year	SAIFI (Nos.)	SAIDI (Hrs.)	MAIFI (Nos.)
FY 2020-21	1.837	1.054	0.030

9. In accordance with the provisions of the DERC Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit the response on the above Petition. The response may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the following address latest by 25/04/2022 or date of Public Hearing, whichever is later. The response may be submitted personally or by post or email to the Commission at the details mentioned below:

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyama Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi- 110 017.
Email id: secy@derc.nic.in Telefax: 011-26673608

10. The Commission may hold a Public Hearing (virtually/ in person) with the stakeholders and the date of hearing may be notified separately.

11. The complete Petition can be downloaded from the website of the Commission (www.derc.gov.in) and the website of Tata Power-DDL (<http://www.tatapower-ddl.com>). A soft copy of the Petition may be obtained in CD on payment of Rs. 25/- per CD or a copy of the Petition may be purchased from the Head Office of Tata Power-DDL located at NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009 on working days till 25/04/2022 or date of Public Hearing, whichever is later between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on payment of Rs. 100/- either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of "Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited" payable at New Delhi.

For Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited
Sd/
Peyush Tandon
Chief-Regulatory, Legal and Power Management



VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
54,767



PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **58**
OXYGEN SUPPORT **9**
VENTILATOR SUPPORT **1**

DELHI: TOTAL
CASES
18,65,101

Mar 31
Apr 1
Total

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,755	9,697
ICU BEDS	2,203	2,190

*Total active cases in Delhi

	NOIDA	
	Mar 31	Apr 1
Cases	17	18
Deaths	0	0

	GURGAON	
	Mar 31	Apr 1
Cases	40	39
Deaths	0	0

HYBRID LEARNING DISCONTINUED

City schools resume in earnest — with excited students and mid-day meals

SUKRITABARUAH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

SCHOOLS MOVED closer towards normalcy on Friday, with the new academic session beginning completely offline and essential services like hot cooked midday meals resuming.

While schools opened on February 7 for class IX-XII and on February 14 for younger students, they had been operating in the hybrid mode — meaning that it has been optional for students to attend offline classes. However, from Friday, for the first time since the start of the pandemic, schools moved completely offline.

Awadhesh Jha, principal Sarvodaya Vidyalaya Rohini Sector-8, said the attendance on Friday was “overwhelming.”

“The students who were with us in the last academic year were expected to show up and they did. But we thought class VI might be difficult because many children are transferred to our school from the feeder MCD schools, but these new children also showed up in large numbers. We had around 70% attendance in class VI



and 85% in other grades. The students were particularly excited because our new uniform came into use from Friday,” he said.

Some schools expect a better turnout from Monday. At Veer Savarkar Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, for instance, out of 40 students each in both sections of class V, 18 students turned up from section A and 19 from section B, so both sections sat together. Their teacher Bhavna said

that though schools are supposed to have moved offline, she will still be sending the rest of the children work online to make sure they do not miss out, and expects most of the students to attend from Monday since she will be meeting most parents in the PTM scheduled for Saturday.

Though all of the children in her class had been coming to school in February and March, when their lunch break started

at 10.20 am, many were surprised to hear that they were going to get “school wala khana” again. Most of them had brought packed lunch boxes from home as they had been doing for the last month and a half. Cooked midday meals resumed for the first time since March 2020 and children had been receiving dry ration monthly as a substitute.

Ten-year-old Akshara was excited to hear this. “Will they



From Friday, for the first time since the start of the pandemic, schools moved completely offline; (top) mid-day meals have restarted as well. Tashi Tobgyal/Sukrita Baruah

make it every day?” she asked, as she lined up with her friends to collect the khichdi in her lunch box. Asked why she seemed to prefer it to her packed lunches, she said, “It’s like before, we all take our food together and eat it together.” After eating, she put her *littis* back in the empty box to take back home.

On Saturday, teachers in all government schools will conduct parent-teacher-meetings.

Class teachers of classes III to IX will brief parents about their children’s learning levels as per baseline assessments conducted by them and inform them about foundational learning efforts, which will take place at school. For senior students, teachers will speak to parents about their performance in exams and tests and about how parents can support them in their upcoming annual examinations.

‘Had he got help on time, he’d be here’: Kin of cyclist killed during morning ride

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

IT WAS a routine morning for Kunwar Arora (27) as he headed out on his cycle Thursday. A cycling enthusiast, he had a set routine of riding around 40 km daily in the early hours and making it back to his Preet Vihar home for breakfast. Except, on Thursday, he never came back.

Near Sardar Patel Marg, Kunwar came under an Army truck after he lost his balance and fell, and was run over. He was rushed to the nearest hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. According to police, the vehicle belongs to the Defence HQ Security troops and the driver, who absconded after the incident, was later arrested.

The youngest of three siblings, Arora ran a spare parts manufacturing business based in Indirapuram which focused on bicycle equipment. He found a way to blend his business with something that gave him joy, his family said.

Kunwar would usually cycle through different parts of Delhi on a set route, on most occasions with his friends. On Thursday, he happened to be alone.

“Initially, we did not know what had happened as none of us were present. Later we came to know an Army vehicle had hit him... If there was neglect on the part of a normal civilian, it would be different. But someone from the Army left him in such a state, we could not believe it. Had he got medical attention on time, perhaps he would be alive,” said Sahib Ahuja, a relative.

His father Vijay Arora, a builder, was in Goa on business when he heard the news and rushed back home on Thursday evening. “I am still unable to process what has happened. Only if he had gotten help at the time... things would be different,” he said.

Kunwar had taken up cycling four-five years ago and spent a long time researching gear before making a purchase, said his family. He soon became their go-to person for cycle repairs. “He gifted cycles to his young nephews and would tell them all about safety and other aspects.

For riders like Rajesh Maurya, the risks of solo cycling are immense: “In Noida, there are many cycling routes but hawkers often eat up space. The space for cyclists is continuously shrinking. Incidents like these have happened before. Building proper routes is much needed. For many people, cycling is also a means of transport and that must be kept in mind.”

Kunwar was identified as the driver of the Defence HQ Security troops, KC Marg, B Block, Defence Complex. “The driver has been identified as Sepoy Om Prakash (46), a resident of Haryana, and has been arrested. He is presently posted at Defence Hq. Troops,” she said.

Kunwar’s death has shocked the cycling community and has brought into focus the need for dedicated, safe routes.

Gurleen Kaur, who runs Lakshya Randonneurs cycling club, said: “None of us were present so we don’t know what happened. The entire community is in shock... There is no denying that highways are safer than urban routes. In many places, the cars cut onto wrong routes creating problems for riders. He had earlier taken part in a long ride and was known to people...”

“Kunwar had taken up cycling four-five years ago and spent a long time researching gear before making a purchase, said his family. He soon became their go-to person for cycle repairs. “He gifted cycles to his young nephews and would tell them all about safety and other aspects.

Common entrance test: DU decides on interview criteria for St Stephen’s

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

WITH DELHI University set to admit students based on the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) from the coming academic session, authorities said they received a request from St Stephen’s College to continue the practice of holding interviews for UG admissions to all seats.

Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh said DU’s decision in this regard was “in the process of being communicated” to the college.

DU’s Academic Council (AC) on March 22 had approved the undergraduate admissions for the academic session 2022-23 to be based solely on the CUET.

The minutes of the Standing Committee meeting dated March 17, which were approved, said, “It was decided that admissions to all minority colleges (including St Stephen’s College and Jesus and Mary College) affiliated with the Delhi University will be only done through CUET. During centralised counselling, separate merit lists will be generated for unreserved and minority candidates as per the reservation policy.”

While DU undergraduate admissions are based on cut-offs, St Stephen’s College conducts admissions differently. The college releases cut-offs separate from the overall DU cut-off which has 85% weightage, and the remaining 15% weightage is given to online interviews. Earlier, the 15% weightage was split between the written test and interviews. However, in 2020, the written test was done away with.

Being a minority college, it



DU authorities said they received a request from St Stephen’s College to continue the practice of holding interviews for UG admissions to all seats.

reserves 50% seats for Christians. “We had received a request from them that they want to conduct interviews on all seats. What we have approved is that the 50% seats which are not reserved for minorities should be filled through the CUET, and for the remaining seats, there can be a mix of CUET and interviews,” said Registrar Vikas Gupta.

V-C Singh said the weightage for the remaining 50% seats reserved for Christian candidates would be 85% to the CUET score and 15% to interview. “We are in the process of communicating this to the college. It will be done soon,” he said.

Principal John Varghese told PTI: “I have asked for clarity on the admission process through an email. We are fine with CUET because it’s either the board exam or the CUET scores. If the university has said it, we are okay with it.” He said it’s been a fortnight since he wrote to Singh and they are yet to hear from the varsity.

Attack on CM residence: HC asks police to explain ‘what kind of intimation you had’

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

TWO DAYS after nearly 200 protesters belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the BJP’s youth wing, broke through police barricades outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s residence and slammed the main gate, the Delhi High Court Friday asked police to file a status report within two weeks on the investigation carried out by it.

The division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla said it is evident that fear has been sought to be created. It added that Delhi Police would have to explain what inputs it had about the incident.

The court also said that it has seen the videos of the incident and it appears that there was “an unruly crowd” outside the entrance of the CM’s residence which destroyed public property and defaced the main entry door.

“Some people did try to climb over the gate. They did not succeed or it appears it was not their intent also. Some of them have taken law into their own hands. And there’s definitely an element of fear which has been sought to be created, that is very evident,” said the court.

The court also remarked that the police force was probably inadequate and though the personnel present did try to prevent the protesters, “probably they were outnumbered.” “You’ll have to explain what kind of intimation you had and what kind of threat perception was there about this kind of an incident taking place. You file that,” it added.

Observing that it wants to understand a few fundamental facts about the incident, the court said, “You file a status report. Let’s have a look. Tell us what the situation was. There should be something before us. We don’t want to get into niceties. We just want to be satisfied that either there was no

lapse or even if there was a lapse, you have taken corrective measures and you are taking the matter seriously.”

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, representing the Police and Centre, submitted that an FIR stands registered and Delhi Police has already taken action and intends to take other steps to address concerns of the petitioner. The court was told eight people have been arrested. Delhi Police will set up a meeting with the CM Secretariat to understand the CM’s threat perception, Jain told the court.

Jain also told the court that he will submit a status report in a sealed cover and that all the evidence including CCTV footage of the incident in question would be preserved. He also termed the petition a “publicity exercise.”

However, the court said that any citizen, “political or apolitical”, could have filed the petition. “After all it is a constitutional functionary whose

residence has been stormed.”

The court was hearing Aam Aadmi Party MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj’s petition seeking constitution of a Special Investigation Team for an independent probe into the attack. Bhardwaj said that a retired judge of the High Court should head the SIT.

Bhardwaj also sought a probe into the role of police officers who were responsible for maintaining the security cordon outside the CM’s residence. Besides seeking a direction for appropriate security outside Kejriwal’s residence, the petition also prays for compliance of an earlier court order for securing the road outside his residence.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Bhardwaj, earlier argued before the court that Delhi Police was “directly responsible for negligence and failure” in the case and sought preservation of CCTV footage. Singhvi also referred to the order passed by the Supreme

Court in respect of the alleged breach of security in the Prime Minister’s convoy in Punjab during campaigning for the recently held elections. “There cannot be multiple standards in the country. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, in a lighter vein,” submitted Singhvi.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing Bhardwaj, argued that tomorrow if something similar happens with the President or Prime Minister’s residence, heads will roll. “There was only a 20-minute blockade in Punjab and we all know what happened,” Mehra argued.

Mehra submitted that videos showing an MP’s presence in circulation but he has not been named in the FIR. “Is this seriousness?” he asked, adding that those arrested are scapegoats.

However, the court said the submission was premature at this stage and added that once it gets the status report, only then it will question the police.

Meet the women soon to be at the wheel of city buses

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE TRANSPORT department Friday kicked off its free one-month training programme for women to acquire a Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) licence at its drivers training Institute in Burari, paving the way for more women to be able to drive DTC buses.

Training for the first batch of 38 women was inaugurated by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot. Among them was Tushi, a HMV licence holder who has waged a long fight for changes in the eligibility criteria. She said, “I am glad the government has sponsored training for women. This will encourage many and will put an end to comments that women are bad drivers... I have a valid licence and sat for tests, but



Preeta (left) and Tushi are among the first batch of 38 trainees



could not apply for a driver’s job because of the height requirements. I, along with 10 other women, wrote several letters and requested the minister to relax the criteria. I am happy that our dreams to become drivers have materialised...,” said Tushi, who currently works as a taxi driver.

As per the revised criteria, no prior experience is required to apply for the driver’s job. The minimum height has also been reduced from 159 cm to 153 cm.

The only mandatory condition is minimum one-month training followed by a test.

Officials said the initiative, in collaboration with Ashok Leyland Limited, is to facilitate end-to-end training for 180 candidates and to promote women’s safety in public transport.

Said Pinki, a 24-year-old trainee, “I could not study after Class 12 due to financial constraints. So, I joined a cab service and learnt driving. I still work

there... I wanted to become a bus driver but the training fee at Burari was expensive... When I found out that the government is providing training for free, I applied.”

Officials said a month’s training to learn to drive a bus at the Burari centre usually costs around Rs 15,000-Rs 25,000.

Preeta, who drives a cab, said she wants to set an example for other women: “My parents were against my profession and said it wasn’t suitable for a woman... but I didn’t relent. I am the only woman cab driver in my colony... Now, my parents feel proud that their daughter is going to drive a bus... I will also complete my graduation this year. I don’t want people to say that bus drivers are uneducated...”

The training programme was also attended by Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra,

MDS of DTC and DIMTS and senior officials in the transport department and Ashok Leyland.

Gahlot said: “Delhi, in the past few years, has been making strides towards women’s participation in transport. Our new buses are low floor, automatic and very easy to drive, and we are excited to see more women drivers in the coming years.”

Transport commissioner Ashish Kundra added: “Women can fly planes, so why not drive buses! The Delhi government sponsors the first batch of 40 women bus drivers. Another 150 will quickly follow.”

Officials said training will be imparted to eligible candidates in five batches. Those applying should be residents of Delhi and have a valid LMV licence, which is a pre-qualification for upgradation to the HMV category.

ORDER ADVISES PEOPLE TO CONTINUE WEARING MASKS

In the absence of fines, many say goodbye to masks in city

GAYATHRI MANI
& ANNONA DUTT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

WHILE THE Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has decided to do away with fines for not wearing masks in public, the absence of an official order till Friday evening left district officials in a fix on whether to levy fines during the day.

In the order eventually issued Friday evening, SM Ali, special

secretary, Health and Family Welfare department, said, “DDMA has decided that it is advisory (sic) for all public to wear mask in public places, however, no penalty will be imposed for such offence from immediate effect till further orders.”

Earlier in the day, an official from the West district said: “We are not fining people today. It is a practical problem. Even when we used to levy fines, say, 15 days ago, people would start fighting. Now with the announcement



Experts say while fines should be withdrawn, people must be encouraged to wear masks in hospitals, markets. Archive

that there will be no fine, what do you think will happen?”

An official from the Central district said, “The number of people wearing masks has gone down today. Earlier, the only thing stopping people from not wearing them was the fine. Now, I encourage people to put it on, at least when they come to the office.”

Experts agree that while fines should be withdrawn, people must be encouraged to wear masks, especially in hospitals and crowded markets.

However, several people at Gandhi Nagar, Sarojini Nagar and Lajpat Nagar markets and other public places like Metros and bus stands were seen without a mask. “Yesterday we read that masks are not compulsory and a fine will not be imposed. I support the decision to remove fines since it is difficult for labourers who carry 50 kg of fabric from one area to another to wear a mask,” said Rakesh Kumar, a shopkeeper at Ashoka Bazaar, Gandhi Nagar.

5 IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

5 QUESTIONS



BSP MP KUNWAR DANISH ALI RAISED THE ISSUE OF MOB LYNCHING IN LOK SABHA DURING ZERO

HOUR AND DEMANDED THE GOVERNMENT ENACT A LAW ON IT. HE SPEAKS TO HARIKISHAN SHARMA

Why did you raise the issue in the House?

In 2018, the Supreme Court gave a judgment that Government of India should enact a law against mob lynching. Since 2018, many incidents of mob lynching have taken place but the government is silent. The government is enacting various laws... but an important issue like mob lynching they have been avoiding.

Have you written to the Prime Minister or the Home Minister too?

No. However, I had raised this issue in the House in 2019 too after the Tabrez Ansari lynching case in Jharkhand.

Law and order is a state subject. Have you demanded a similar legislation in your state, U.P.?

I wrote a letter to the UP Chief Minister two years ago. Some states are enacting it... like the Jharkhand Assembly did recently. But the Union government's representative, the Governor there, kept it in abeyance and now it has been returned. The Union government and all BJP-ruled states are enacting all sorts of laws... they can enact laws against love-jihad but not against mob lynching. It is tarnishing our international image also.

Will you bring a Private Member's Bill on this?

I hope the government brings the law, and pays heed to not only my concerns but also the Supreme Court's directives. I am definitely going to bring a Private Member's Bill on this issue.

What else do you plan going forward on this?

I am also going to demand a discussion under rule 193 in Lok Sabha as to why this law should not be enacted.



TIMEOUT

BJP MPs Anil Baluni and Syed Zafar Islam at Parliament House on Friday. PTI

LS passes Bill to include some tribal communities in ST list in 4 UP districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE LOK SABHA on Friday passed The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to amend the Constitution to include Gonds and associated tribes in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category in four districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said the government is committed to the progress and development of people from tribal communities and areas they live in, and that the Bill is a step in that direction.

Munda said the Bill was passed in 2002, but the districts concerned in UP had got divided by then. As a result, while Gonds were notified as tribes, that status was not available to them in the new districts.

The Bill seeks to include Gond, Dhuriya, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari and Rajgond communities in the ST list in Chandauli, Kushinagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Sant Ravidas Nagar districts.

"Some members said this Bill was brought due to the (Assembly) polls. Elections take place

in this country all year round..." Munda said.

On Congress leader of the House Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary's criticism that the government is doing little for the people from ST communities, Munda said, "In 2013-14 (under Congress-led UPA), there were 167 sanctioned Eklavya residential schools. Today, that number is 669. In your (UPA's) time, there were 119 functional schools, today there are 367 such schools. In your time, the per-student cost was Rs 42,000, today it is Rs 1.9 lakh. In your time, the budget allocation was Rs 976 crore, today it is Rs 2,546 crore. In the next five years, we are allocating Rs 28,000 crore."

Chaudhary said he is supporting the Bill but the government has failed tribal people. "We have the largest population of tribals in the world, but when you say tribal belt the image created is one of starvation, poverty, lack of education and poor healthcare. It shows although we talk about them, the facilities we need to provide are not there," he said.

Congress MP from Koraput, Saptgiri Ulaka, slammed the government over tribal land given to industry and 5 lakh tribal families being displaced. He also criticised BJP MPs who raised the issue of denying reservation rights to tribals who convert to other religions.

NCP's Supriya Sule brings Bill to legalise same-sex marriage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

NCP LEADER
Supriya Sule on Friday introduced a private member's Bill that seeks to give equal rights of marriage to the LGBT community. The Bill proposes that after Section 4 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954, an insertion be made that "notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, a marriage between any two persons of same sex may be solemnized under this Act".

The only condition the Bill puts is that if the partners are male, they should be at least 20 years old, and women partners at least 18 years of age. The Bill also seeks to replace all references in the Special Marriage Act to "husband and wife" with the word "spouse".

"In 2018, the Supreme Court struck down an archaic, draconian legislation of IPC — Section 377. Through this landmark judgment, Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India, homosexuality was effectively decriminalised. While this was a much-needed, progressive leap forward, LGBTQIA+ individuals still face discrimination and social stigma within society," Sule said in a series of tweets after introducing the Bill.

"Therefore, it is of utmost importance to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1954, to legalise same-sex marriage, and provide legal recognition to married LGBTQIA couples. Doing this will ensure that Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution are upheld, and ensure that #LGBTQIA+ couples are provided with the Equal rights they are entitled to," she added.

The statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill says, "While the determination of one's sexual orientation has been realised, LGBTQIA individuals are still unable to marry and create their own families. In addition, LGBTQIA couples have no access to rights that heterosexual couples are entitled to upon marriage, such as succession, maintenance and pensions, etc. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1954, to legalise same-sex marriage, and provide legal recognition to married LGBTQIA couples."



Supriya Sule

IN RAJYA SABHA

Cong MP tables Bill for rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits

MANOJ CGG
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

ARGUING THAT "little effort" has been made "over the years" to undo the injustice that Kashmiri Pandits have suffered, Congress member in Rajya Sabha Vivek Tankha Friday introduced a private member's bill in the House seeking to provide for social, political and economic rehabilitation of Pandits, protection of their property, restoration of their cultural heritage, ensuring their safety and security, and provision of rehabilitation and resettlement package to them.

The Bill, titled 'Kashmiri Pandits (Recourse, Restitution, Rehabilitation and Resettlement) Act, 2022', comes at a time when a controversy is raging over the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley over three decades ago in the wake of the release of the movie, *The Kashmir Files*, and its active promotion by the ruling BJP. Several BJP-ruled states have announced that the movie will be tax-free in their respective states.

The provisions of the Bill include grant of minority status to Kashmiri Pandits, declaring them as "victims of genocide", changing their official nomenclature to 'Internally Displaced Persons' with immediate effect, and release of a white paper documenting all events in the Valley "pertaining to the atrocities and plight of the Kashmiri Pandits" starting from 1988 to be prepared by a high level committee headed by a retired Chief Justice of India and comprising two retired judges of the Supreme Court, two MPs, two former MPs, four sitting or former Members of Legislature/Council of Jammu and Kashmir besides others.

The committee, the Bill says, "shall rely on depositions given by witnesses and lay special focus on the Reports and judgments of the Supreme Court and the High Courts of India, National Human Rights Commission, Reports of any Parliamentary Standing Committees and subcommittees set up for the purpose of examining the issue of Kashmiri Pandits."

The Bill also seeks setting up of an inquiry commission with prosecutorial power and the powers to appoint Judicial Tribunal to investigate into "genocide and mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits". The commission should be

Congress MP
Vivek Tankha

headed by a retired Chief Justice of India, it says. Tankha will retire as a Rajya Sabha MP in June. If the Congress does not renominate him to Rajya Sabha, the Bill will lapse.

The Bill also envisages setting up of an Advisory Committee - consisting of 21 representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community and two representatives of non-Kashmiri Pandit minorities of the Kashmir valley - with adequate powers to "effectively represent" the best interests of the Pandit community to assert their right for return, rehabilitation and restitution and advise the central government.

The Bill says the Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, should take measures as recommended by the Delimitation Commission, to ensure enhanced political representation for the community across panchayats, Union Territory Legislative Assembly and Parliament. A mechanism should be created for enrollment of all migrant Kashmiri Pandits as voters and provide reserved seats in proportion to their numerical strength in local and Union Territory legislative bodies, it says.

The Bill also seeks a host of steps to establish an environment of economic justice, prosperity and security, for Kashmiri Pandits and other religious minorities including setting up of a corpus fund for the purpose of grants to be given to five thousand small or cottage industries owned by Kashmiri Pandits, interest free loans for setting up micro, small and medium enterprises without collateral requirements on a fifty percent loan and fifty percent grants basis and waiver of direct and indirect taxes for the first five years of establishment of any business.

Last month, the Congress while accusing the BJP of trying to spread hatred in the society through the movie, *The Kashmir Files*, claimed that successive Congress governments had rehabilitated many Kashmiri Pandits and provided them with jobs and houses.

Industrial corridor projects: 40 yrs after treaty, Antarctic Bill introduced in LS states sluggish, says Goyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

ARGUING THAT many of the states have not yet transferred the "full land" for projects under the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Programme, the Centre on Friday told Rajya Sabha that it is not getting the kind of cooperation required from states in encouraging the initiative.

Replying to a question on "delays and cost over runs" in implementation of the projects in 11 corridors of National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Programme, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said, "I say with a lot of sadness that the kind of cooperation which could have been received and should have been received from the states in encouraging these projects in industrial corri-

dors has been, unfortunately, very slow."

He said the project was first approved in 2008. "But, after that, for several years, neither did the central government provide adequate funds nor did the whole project come into shape though it was approved by the Cabinet in 2011. And, a corpus of Rs 17,500 crores was committed with a maximum of about Rs 3,000 crores per node. Unfortunately, for several years after that also, until 2014, no significant action happened," he said. "Many states have not yet transferred the full land because of which many projects are getting delayed," he added.

Congress leader Anand Sharma countered Goyal saying "when major national initiatives are taken, it is not 'your time' or 'our time'."

On the controversy over paddy procurement, Goyal - who is also the Food Minister - said the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is "misleading" farmers of Telangana.

ESHA ROY & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

NEARLY 40 years after India first signed the Antarctic Treaty, the government has brought in a draft Indian Antarctic Bill-2022 to regulate and monitor activities at its research stations in the frozen continent.

Introducing the draft Bill in the Lok Sabha on Friday, Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said the primary aim of the Bill is to bring in penal provisions for breaking the law in Antarctica. It has a comprehensive list of permitted activities on the continent and prohibitions, he said.

The Opposition members opposed the Bill. "The Bill is applicable to Indian citizens as well as foreign citizens. How can an Indian law be applicable on foreign citizens? How can you punish a foreign citizen if he or she commits an offence under the law? This is my first question," said Congress MP Adhir



Union Minister Jitendra Singh speaks in Lok Sabha on Friday. PTI

Ranjan Chowdhury, demanding that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee or Joint Committee.

TMC member Saugata Roy said, "I do not know what authority our government has over Antarctica, which is still an uncharted territory. Now, the Minister wants to prohibit Indian expeditions to Antarctica without a permit."

"Actually, we have a treaty called Antarctic Treaty, signed in 1959. It now has

54 signatories. As per that treaty, it is mandatory and binding on all the member countries to have some kind of a provision to prevent or check unlawful activities at their research stations," said Jitendra Singh.

Once the Bill comes into force, it will apply to Indians, foreign citizens, corporations, firms and joint ventures functioning in India, and any vessel or aircraft that is either Indian or part of an Indian expedition.

"There are many countries, which are yet to bring domestic legislation on Antarctica, but slowly all countries are doing this as the activity in Antarctica is expected to increase in the coming years. We are also putting in domestic legislation in keeping with the treaty and various protocols to which we are signatory, as this needed to be done," said a senior ministry official.

The Bill has listed strict guidelines and a system of permits, which will be issued by a government-appointed committee, without which any expedition or individual will not

be allowed to enter Antarctica. The Bill further prohibits drilling, dredging, excavation or collection of mineral resources or even doing anything to identify where such mineral deposits occur - the only exception is for scientific research with a permit.

There will strict prohibition on damaging native plants; flying or landing helicopters or operating vessels that could disturb birds and seals; using firearms that could disturb the birds and animals; remove soil or any biological material native to Antarctica; engage in any activity that could adversely change the habitat of birds and animals, or harm them.

Introduction of animals, birds, plants or microscopic organisms that are not native to Antarctica are also prohibited. Violators can face imprisonment as well as penalties.

The Bill also provides for Indian tour operators to be able to operate in Antarctica after acquiring a permit. There are 40 permanent research stations in Antarctica of which two - Maitri and Bharati - are Indian.

'AFTER CROSSING THE WHOLE OCEAN, WHY FEAR DROWNING AT THE SHORE'

In Pariksha Pe Charcha address, PM Modi urges parents, teachers to let children follow dreams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

AT THE fifth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dealt with a myriad set of issues related to exams and education, including stress management, dealing with social media distractions and choosing between competitive and school exams. He also spoke of the National Education Policy (NEP) and the role of women in education.

The event was held at Talkatora Stadium and saw the presence of around 1,000 students from schools of Delhi-NCR, along with their teachers.

Asked by students how they should deal with exam stress, Modi said: "You are not taking exams for the first time. You have sat for many exams earlier... After crossing the whole ocean, the fear of drowning at the shore seems quite unfounded. First, you have to resolve that exams are part of life. By taking exams so many times, you are exam proof. Therefore, do not be stressed. Remember that you have successfully overcome such exams before."



PM Modi with students during the event in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

He said students should appear for exams in a "festive mood" and without any stress. On questions of how one could avoid distraction

of social media or online gaming during online education, he said technology was not a bane and it should be used effectively. He said students could use 'online' medium to gain knowledge and execute it offline.

"When you read, do you actually read or watch reels? In reality, the fault does not lie with online or offline... The very same things that happen offline happen online as well. This means the medium is not the problem, it is our mann (mind) which is the problem. If we are interested in what is being taught, then online or offline doesn't matter," he said.

Modi also spoke of the NEP and said consultation for it had been exhaustive covering a period of six-seven years.

"Earlier, sports were considered an extracurricular activity. Now, under the NEP, it has been made part of education. *Khelnā khilne ke liye bohut anivarya hota hai* (Sports is essential for blossoming)... It teaches our team spirit and courage, but this was outside our educational system... This will yield results in the future," he said.

On the need for NEP, he said: "Outdated ideas and policies from the 20th century can't guide our development trajectory in the 21st century. We have to change with the time."

Modi also said "unfulfilled dreams of parents and teachers couldn't be forced upon children". "You try to reject your expectations and ambitions in your children... Children have to go through these confused and contradictory expectations of parents and teachers which becomes a huge source of stress for them... When we don't try to understand students and their aptitude, expectations and wishes, and they fall under pressure, they falter... It is important for each child to follow his or her dreams," he said.

Modi addressed the dilemma of students who said they did not know whether to focus on competitive exams or their Board exams. He said they should study everything in a holistic manner. "Don't prepare for specific exams, prepare and work hard to be a capable, educated person," he said, adding the nature of exam would then not make any difference. He also said each student had own process of studying and they should observe themselves and find what's comfortable for them, since there was no one fixed way.

Modi also said "equal opportunities for girls should be institutionalised". "Girls are doing well in everything... and are on the top. They have become assets," he said.

President in Turkmenistan to strengthen bilateral ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ASHGABAT, APRIL 1

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour as he began his three-day state visit to Turkmenistan on Friday. Kovind will meet his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov and discuss ways to boost bilateral ties with the resource-rich Central Asian country.

This is the first-ever visit of the President of India to independent Turkmenistan and comes just after the inauguration of new Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov.

"President Kovind arrived in Ashgabat on the first part of his two-nation visit. As per the Turkmen tradition, the President was offered bread and salt by children at the airport," the Twitter account of the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

President Kovind was received by Turkmenistan's President Berdimuhamedov and accorded a ceremonial guard of honour on his arrival at Ashgabat airport, it said in another tweet.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs said India attached importance to its relations with Turkmenistan. "The state visit of the president will reaffirm the importance we attach to Turkmenistan, not only bilaterally but also in terms of our extended neighbourhood concept



President Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Savita Kovind depart from Delhi. PTI

and role in India-Central Asia partnership," Sanjay Verma, Secretary West in the MEA, told reporters in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Turkmenistan possesses very large reserves of natural gas. "Turkmenistan is also strategically placed in Central Asia and connectivity is something on which we feel partnership with Turkmenistan will pay dividends. We have offered a line of credit worth USD 1 billion to Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan," Verma said.

He also said Afghanistan will figure in the president's talks with the Turkmen leadership.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Punjab House passes resolution reiterating claim on Chandigarh

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1

THE PUNJAB Assembly Friday passed a resolution reiterating state's claim on Chandigarh, the capital it shares jointly with Haryana, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accusing the Centre of "trying to upset this balance" in the administration of the Union Territory and other common assets "through many of its recent actions". The resolution, moved by Mann, was passed by the House by a voice vote in the absence of the two BJP legislators, who had earlier staged a walkout.

The one-day special session of the Assembly was called days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that central service rules will apply to the employees of Chandigarh. On March 29, The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification stating that employees of Chandigarh UT administration will get same pay and other benefits as those working under the central government. Under the rules, retirement age of Chandigarh employees will increase from 58 to 60 years and women employees will get childcare leave of two years instead of the current one year.

Moving the resolution, Mann asked the Centre to honour the principles of federalism enshrined in the Constitution and not to take any steps which may disturb the balance of the administration of Chandigarh and that of other common assets.

"Punjab was reorganised through the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann speaks during the one-day special session of Vidhan Sabha on Friday. Kamleshwar Singh

wherein, the state of Punjab was reorganised into the state of Haryana, Union Territory of Chandigarh and some parts of Punjab were given to the then Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh. Since then, a balance was maintained in the administration of common assets like the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), by way of giving management positions in some proportion to the nominees of the state of Punjab and state of Haryana," Mann said.

The CM said that through many of its recent actions the Centre has been trying to upset this balance. "...recently central government has posted officers from outside to Chandigarh and has introduced central civil service rules for employees of Chandigarh administration, which goes completely against the understanding in the past," the resolution said.

Reiterating the state's claim on the Chandigarh, Mann said, "In all past precedents, when-

ever a state has been divided, the capital remains with the parent state. Punjab, therefore, has been laying its claim for complete transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. In the past, this House has passed a number of resolutions urging the Centre to transfer Chandigarh to Punjab."

While members of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, members of the Opposition, including Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and Bahujan Samaj Party, supported the resolution, BJP member Ashwini Sharma opposed it. Sharma said the resolution is aimed at misleading the "innocent people of the state to cover up for the non-performance of the successive governments".

Meanwhile, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala Friday dubbed the resolution passed by the Punjab Assembly for transfer of Chandigarh to it as a "mere piece of paper" having no meaning. WITH PTI INPUTS

Khattar hits back: Chandigarh is, will remain capital of Haryana, Punjab

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, APRIL 1

CALLING PUNJAB government's resolution seeking transfer of the Union Territory of Chandigarh to the state a "one-sided" move that is "meaningless", HarIM Ayana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said Chandigarh is the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab and will remain so.

Addressing the media in Gurgaon, Khattar said, "Chandigarh was made capital of both states. The ratio of 60:40 (Punjab Reorganisation Act) in employees, buildings, etc, is continuing for long."

He said, "...This is not the first time this has come up. These resolutions have been brought earlier as well. There is no point in recommending such a resolution...since this is not only a subject of Punjab but also of Haryana...". He said the Supreme Court had once held that Himachal Pradesh has right to 719 per cent of Chandigarh's land under Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. "It is a different matter that Himachal Pradesh has declared Shimla as its capital..." he said.

Emphasising that Chandigarh is capital of both Punjab and Haryana, "aur dono ki hi rahegi (will remain the capital of both states)", Khattar said, "... This one-sided resolution is bemaani (meaningless)."

POLICE NEED GUIDANCE, SAYS RAUT

Not unhappy with home dept, have full faith: Uddhav

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, APRIL 1

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray

MAHARASHTRA HOME Minister and NCP leader Dilip Walse-Patil on Friday met Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the backdrop of Shiv Sena's unhappiness with the NCP for allegedly going soft on the BJP. While Thackeray dismissed reports of him being unhappy with Walse-Patil, Sena MP Sanjay Raut said the state police need to be guided properly for smooth functioning.

Following the meeting between the CM and Walse-Patil, Raut said that the Maha Vikas Aghadi government would not take any action out of political vengeance, as it was being done by the central investigative agencies.

Earlier in the day, Raut told mediapersons, "The home department needs to be more efficient and strict. The actions by the central investigative agencies are an attack on the home department. Those who handle law and order and have the police machinery should pay serious attention. If anyone is taking a step slowly, they are making their own gallows."

He added that the home department would have to take drastic steps. "Else, it will dig a new pit for itself every day."

The Indian Express had reported on Thursday that Thackeray had taken up with NCP chief Sharad Pawar the issue of the NCP allegedly going soft on the BJP even as members of the ruling coalition were allegedly being targeted by central investigative agencies.

Hours after Raut's remarks, Walse-Patil met Thackeray on Friday. The meeting went on for an hour.

However, immediately after the meeting, Thackeray issued a statement dismissing reports that he was unhappy with the home minister. "Such news is false and distorting. I have full faith in my colleagues and they are doing a good job," said Thackeray.

Interestingly, Walse-Patil met Thackeray and Raut separately on Friday evening. Walse-Patil said there is no question of going soft on the BJP. "I don't understand what a soft or hard stand is. Ultimately, decisions are taken based on papers and facts... In case there is anything wrong, action will be taken," he said. He added that the CM has already clarified the issue through his office. "There is no question of anyone being upset..." said Walse-Patil. He further said that his department would rectify any shortcoming in any case. "Raut's feelings are right. If there are any shortcomings on our part, we will try to rectify them."

While there is speculation that Sena wants the home portfolio from NCP, Raut said that there would be no change in the existing portfolio allocation. When asked the same question, Walse-Patil said, "I don't think so."

OFF THE BLOCK

STICKING TO the party's line that it has no time to lose, and is always in election mode, BJP has already started preparations in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, where Assembly polls are due later this year, and Karnataka, which is slated to go to polls next year. On Friday, party chief J P Nadda convened a meeting in Himachal Pradesh, with participation of key leaders of the party's state core committee, along with general secretary (organisation) B L Santosh. In the coming months, all three states will see multiple programmes involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, it is learnt. Nadda will also have several programmes lined up in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. In fact, he has made it clear to party leaders that BJP's preparations for the next Assembly election began on Friday.

GARB BARB

THE HEARING of a matter pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram in the Supreme Court on Friday saw some exchanges over khadi. Senior advocate Indira Jaising, who appeared for petitioner Tushar Gandhi, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the Gujarat government, that she was wearing a khadi saree. "On a very, very lighter note, Solicitor General, for today's hearing I am wearing a khadi saree," she said. Mehta, however, did not seem amused and exclaimed, "Wearing a khadi saree...wearing khadi can't be a laughing matter to be stated on a lighter side."

FUEL FOR A DIG

When Union minister Arjun Munda started dishing out figures on government spending on people from tribal communities, compared to the UPA years, to prove that the Narendra Modi government had spent more money, Congress leader of Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary asked, "What was the price of petrol during our (UPA) time?" When Chaudhary jokingly repeated the query, it had even members of the treasury benches laughing.

Demand for 50% local quota: Bihar refuses land to KVs

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, APRIL 1

THE BIHAR government said that it cannot allot land to 14 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the state because the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has refused to give a written guarantee of admitting at least 50 per cent locals.

"We are not going to give five acre land for free to KVS on its condition. We have made it clear that KVS must give us a written guarantee of admitting at least 50 per cent local students in the school. Since they have refused it, we are not giving any land to KVS," Bihar education minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary told the Bihar Legislative Assembly, on Thursday.

There is a minimum requirement of five acre land to fulfill the criterion of a central school. With the state government opening a higher secondary school in each panchayat, the state government does not look keen on supporting central schools. The state has 52 Kendriya Vidyalayas but 14 of these 52 schools are functioning from buildings of other schools.

In June 2017, the then additional commissioner (administration), KVS, G K Srivastava wrote to the Education Secretary of Bihar saying, "While the KVS cannot give an undertaking of admitting minimum 50% and maximum 75% locals, it is worth mentioning that enrollment of Bihar students in existing Kendriya Vidyalayas is 62.07%."

Ambedkar became Buddhist not Muslim, Christian: BJP leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, APRIL 1

A SENIOR Goa BJP leader Friday said Dr BR Ambedkar had chosen to convert to Buddhism rather than Islam or Christianity, and that if five lakh of his Dalit followers had become Muslim, "there would be another Pakistan in this country".

State BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Satish Dhond was speaking at a programme in Panaji to mark the BJP's poll win; Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was also present. "He (Ambedkar) suffered a lot as a Dalit but despite that he

IIM-A logo to retain old features; to be released in June

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

AMID OPPOSITION by a section of its faculty, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) announced Friday that it will unveil its new logo in June.

IIM-A's new logo, according to a statement by the institute's communications team, will retain the Sanskrit shloka on its existing one, as well as the lattice-work of the city's Siddi Saiyyed Mosque.

"Evaluation, exploration, development of wordmark, development of brandmark were all kept in mind while coming up with the final design recommendations," the statement said. The IIM-A said the institute found the need to refresh its logo while revamping its website. Its statement, however, made no reference to the allegation of some faculty members that the decision to change the logo was taken without consulting them.

The new logo will be out when the annual vacation ends in June, emphasising while the logo carries the Sanskrit shloka - Vidya Viniyog Vikasa - as in the original, the colour rendition has been improved and the fonts modernised.

"The jaali-inspired brand mark has been made more amenable to communication in digital media and the brand name made more distinct," the statement said.

did not become a Christian, he did not become a Muslim. When he said that he wanted to change his religion, the Nizam of Hyderabad wrote to him and offered him a huge sum of money... But he did not become a Muslim. Christians tried very hard to convert him but he said no," said Dhond. He went on: "... All the things he wrote in the Constitution (equality, brotherhood) were all there in Buddhism... If he had become a Muslim, if five lakh Dalits (his followers) in this country would have become Muslims. What would have happened? There would be another Pakistan in this country."

Unity key to Cong prospects in Karnataka polls, says Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, APRIL 1

THE BIGGEST challenge before the Congress party in its bid to return to power in Karnataka in 2023 is the unity among the state leaders, party vice-president Rahul Gandhi said at a preparatory meeting in Bengaluru on Friday.

"All of you must fight as a unit. This is your biggest responsibility. You are doing it to some extent but you will have to do it with more intensity. All must work together to bag at least 150 seats," Rahul said amid concerns that differences between top leaders, especially state chief D K Shivakumar and former CM Siddaramaiah, could disrupt the party prospects in the polls due in early 2023.

Rahul said merit should be the only consideration for identifying leaders. "We must promote people on the basis of merit. When we come to power, we must suitably reward workers who have given blood and tears for the party," the former Congress president said.

The issue of gag orders against commenting on issues of minorities also came up at the meeting with veterans like Siddaramaiah and Mallikarjun Kharge pressing for the need to stand up for minorities to win their trust.

"The people who stand behind you and strengthen you, those who have supported you over the years - we must learn to speak up for them. When minorities and the downtrodden are in trouble, if we do not stand by them then others, too, will not



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party's Karnataka unit president DK Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

EXPLAINED Punjab worry, rivalry wary

WHILE CONGRESS is hoping to capitalise on the anti-incumbency factor against BJP to return to power in next year's Assembly polls in Karnataka, the biggest concern among Congress workers in the state is a rivalry between party's state unit chief D K Shivakumar and former CM Siddaramaiah. The two are known to be keen to promote their respective supporters. Congress is wary of the development of a Punjab-like situation, where internal differences brought the party down in recent polls.

come with us. We have to understand this," leader of the Congress party in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said.

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah argued that the Congress party has the responsibility of protecting minorities, backward classes, and Dalits.

"Minorities are anxious, they are of the view that there should be more people speaking up on their behalf. Many people from the minority communities have spoken to me on this issue. The Congress party must be aggressive on this," he said.

Earlier, state Congress president D K Shivakumar steered clear of controversial issues and spoke about the preparations of the party to win the 2023 polls. "We believe in collective leadership. I believe in party worship. We are all here because of the party," he said.

KARNATAKA

As state BJP unit raises pitch over hijab-halal, talks of early elections

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, APRIL 1

A SUDDEN spurt in political activities in Karnataka - including the ratcheting of right-wing propaganda in recent days - has given rise to speculation that the state may be headed for Assembly elections before the current BJP government's term ends in April 2023.

State Congress president D K Shivakumar, in fact, let it slip at a press conference this week that the Congress has information that the Karnataka elections will be announced on November 27 - in what is seen as a possible reference to holding the Karnataka polls in conjunction with Gujarat polls.

Since the BJP's win in four Assembly elections earlier this month, there has been speculation in political circles of the BJP high command being inclined to conduct early polls in Karnataka to capitalise on the momentum from the recent victories.

Besides, the BJP hopes an early election will help it overcome some of the pressures of anti-incumbency, close associates of senior ministers in the BJP government indicated, pointing to how the state-unit of the party has been racked by allegations of corruption at many levels. Apart from the Bitcoin scandal that saw the arrest of an international hacker, the opposition has been flagging allegations by the State

Construction Contractors' Association of demands being placed by government officials for a commission for awarding contracts.

While saying the party is yet to decide on going in for early elections, BJP sources said they were keen to ensure no new charges come up against the party that might damage its prospects in the run-up to the elections.

According to the sources, the party knows that while it can ride Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal and development agenda, it will have to navigate Karnataka's difficult caste terrain by using Hindutva.

Over the last few weeks, affiliates of the ruling BJP in the Sangh Parivar - the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Hindu Jagarana Vedike and right-wing groups like the Bajrang Dal and the Sri Rama Sena - have raised the communal pitch in Karnataka, especially targeting Muslims.

Besides the recent row over students wearing hijab as part of their uniforms, there have been calls by right-wing groups for preventing Muslim vendors from participating in temple festivals as well as calls to boycott halal meat after the Karnataka New Year festival of Ugadi on April 2. While the government has officially sought to distance itself from these campaigns, they have spun out of control, usually fanned by social media and stray comments by party leaders. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Shah: Modi govt implementing teachings of Lingayat seer

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B P
BENGALURU, APRIL 1

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Friday attended the 115th Shivakumar Swamiji Jayanti in Tumakuru, an event hosted by Siddaganga Mutt. He said the Narendra Modi government was treading on the path shown by the late Shivakumara Swamiji by im-



plementing Trividha Dasoha' (three-pronged commensality) offering free food, education and shelter.

"The BJP government has implemented the principles of Shivakumara

Swamiji on ground. We are giving five kg rice, given a new dimension to education through the new National Education Policy (NEP) where anyone can get technical and medical education in their own language and gave roof to three crore people in seven years. During the Covid-19 pandemic, 80 crore people were given free meals," Shah said.

Meanwhile, CM Basavaraj Bommai, announced to name the mid-day meal scheme after Shivakumar Swami. The request to name the scheme after the seer was made by former Karnataka CM BS Yeddyurappa and his son B V Vijayendra, BJP vice-president.

UP govt makes masks voluntary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, APRIL 1

AFTER DELHI and Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh government on Friday made wearing masks voluntary in the state amid a steady drop in the number of Covid-19 cases.

"Taking into consideration the present scenario, it has been decided not to extend UP Public Health and Epidemic Diseases Control Act. This means that wearing masks will not be a punishable offence any longer," Additional Chief Secretary (Medical and Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said.

Govt suspends NIT Andhra director amid graft probe

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE UNION Ministry of Education has suspended the Director of National Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, Prof CSP Rao, in the light of the ongoing CBI inquiries against him over corruption charges including appointing five unqualified people and accepting bribes for awarding PhD.

Sources said Ministry of Education Joint Secretary (NIT) Saumya Gupta issued the suspension order on March 29, asking Prof Rao to not leave the Tadepalligudem headquarters of the institute without permission

from the competent authority. Rao had taken charge as director on March 22, 2018.

The CBI has named Prof Rao as an accused in two FIRs, lodged on February 16. One FIR alleges that Prof Rao by "misusing and abusing his official position and by indulging in corrupt practices, recruited ineligible and unqualified candidates for various posts in National Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh".

The appointments under scanner include that of one Ram Prasad as a Public Relations-cum-Liaison Officer (PRO); Annapurna Chakkalapati and Gopala Krishna Kapaka as Superintendents; V V Suresh Babu as Junior Assistant;

and Veeresh Kumar as assistant professor.

The FIR alleges that as PRO, Ram Prasad drew a salary of Rs 50,000 per month, earning about Rs 5 lakh. The recruitment was done without following the Recruitment Rules of NIT and the post of PRO post is not sanctioned for NIT Andhra Pradesh, it adds. The other four appointments were made by disregarding the eligibility criteria and providing age relaxations of up to 13 years.

"The candidates who were given age relaxation and appointed in various posts by Sri CSP Rao, Director, are not eligible for age relaxation. Further C.S.P. Rao,

Director, NIT, AP has no powers to relax the age limit. CSP Rao, Director, National Institute of Technology, Tadepalligudem, Andhra Pradesh, by abusing his official position entered into a conspiracy with the ineligible candidates," the FIR, which also names those who were appointed allegedly unlawfully, states.

The second FIR relates to Prof Rao's alleged acceptance of bribery from various persons including a catering service provider in the NIT Andhra Pradesh campus and a student. "Information revealed that CSP Rao, Director, NIT AP was the Ph.D guide to one N. Vishnu Murthy, while he was doing Ph.D from NIT, Warangal.

He demanded and obtained an amount of Rs. 1.5 lakh and a treadmill as illegal gratification from N. Vishnu Murthy to award Ph.D Degree," according to the FIR.

It adds that Nerella Subrahmanyam of SS Caterers transferred a total Rs 2.04 lakh to Murthy to be paid as bribe to Prof Rao. It also charges Murthy with handing over bribe amounts to Prof Rao in lieu of making appointments.

"Vishnu Murthy received a total amount of Rs. 5.5 lakhs from Smt Dhana Lakshmi, Associate Professor at NIT, Nagaland for getting posting at NIT Puducherry in his account..." says the second FIR.

AICC gets govt notice to vacate Chanakyapuri bungalow

ANISHA DUTTA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE DIRECTORATE of Estates under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has sent a notice to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) for vacating an accommodation — C-II/109 — allotted to it in Chanakyapuri.

The eviction notice under Section 38 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act-1971, issued by Estate Officer states "I am of the opinion on the grounds specified below that you are in unauthorised occupation of the public premises mentioned in the schedule below and that you should be evicted from the said premises".

"You have been continuing to occupy public premises as specified in the schedule below even after its allotment stands cancelled w.e.f. 26-06-2013 vide letter No. 7/259/94-TS dated 22.01.2015 issued by the Directorate of Estates. Now, therefore, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 38 of the Public Premises Act-1971, I hereby call upon you to show cause within three working days at 02:30pm for personal hearing as to why an order of eviction should not be made," it added.

According to sources, the accommodation was allotted as an office space to the AICC but it was allegedly being used by parliamentarians, currently by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Gowda.

Over the past week, the Directorate of Estates has been on an eviction-spree with its teams evicting MP Chirag Paswan from a bungalow allotted to his father late Ram Vilas Paswan. It also got 7, Moti Lal Nehru Marg, vacated that was with BJP Lok Sabha member Ram Shankar Katheria; and 10, Pandit Pant Marg, occupied by Union minister and BJP MP P C Sarangi. On Monday, the ministry will send its team to evict former Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank from 27, Safdarjung Road, allotted to Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia last year.

Notices for eviction were also sent earlier to former Union ministers Prakash Javadekar and Harsh Vardhan, who both are no longer eligible for Type-VIII bungalows.

KARNATAKA HALAL MEAT BOYCOTT

Five Bajrang Dal men held for 'assault', bailed

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, APRIL 1

FIVE BAJRANG Dal workers were arrested in Bhadravathi in Karnataka's Shivamogga district on Thursday in connection with two incidents of assault over the sale of halal meat, the police said on Friday.

Shivamogga Superintendent of Police B M Laxmi Prasad said a group of 10-15 men, including the accused, went to a butcher's shop around 12.30 pm on Wednesday and asked for non-halal meat. When owner Syed Ansar's relative Tausif asked them to go away, the accused allegedly assaulted the two.

About an hour later, the accused went to a nearby hotel in the Old Bhadravathi area and confronted hotelier Osama Hunain over the sale of halal meat, said the police. The accused allegedly attacked both



Alleged Bajrang Dal workers at a Shivamogga meat shop. Express

Hunain and his friend Aditya, who had tried to intervene.

The police identified the accused as Vadivelu, Shrikantha, Savayi Singh, Krishna, and Ramu alias Gunda. Sources in the police said all five had been released on station bail.

On the same day as the Shivamogga arrests, two right-wing workers visited a market in Bengaluru's Chamarajpet area to urge people not to buy halal meat. As they were distributing pamphlets, local people confronted the two and sent them back.

This latest Hindu right-wing campaign comes in the wake of the hijab controversy and a growing ban on Muslim traders from setting up stalls on temple premises or at temple fairs. Like in Shivamogga and Bengaluru, there have been reports of right-wing groups going door to door in other parts of the state such as Dakshina Kannada, Udipi, Chikkamagaluru, and Mysuru, distributing leaflets and urging people to purchase groceries and meat only from "Hindu shops".

The campaign, which started online about a week ago, gained momentum earlier this week after organisations such as the Hindu Janajagruthi Samiti, Sri Rama Sene, and Bajrang Dal issued calls for the removal of halal certification from the signboards of meat shops.

Sri Rama Sene founder Pramod Muthalik has been alleging that the money earned from selling halal products was being

used to fund bail for jailed terrorists. On March 29, BJP national secretary and Chikmagalur MLA C T Ravi claimed that the sale of halal meat amounts to "economic jihad".

The halal boycott calls come ahead of the Kannada New Year festival of Ugadi on April 2. Meat traders say that the day after, on "Varshadodaku", when many Hindus eat meat, their sales go up and their turnover is usually around Rs 2 lakh.

A representative of an organisation representing the state's butchers said he was not worried about the campaign. "We are not bothered about this fake propaganda run by a few individuals. Any person at the end of the day wants to eat good and healthy meat. If someone provides them with this, then the customers will go to them," said All India Jamiathul Quresh's Karnataka president Khasim Shoair Rahman Qureshi.

UP paper leak: 3 journalists among 34 held

Journalists claim being framed, cops say arrested on the basis of their role

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, APRIL 1

THREE JOURNALISTS are among the 34 people arrested in connection with the leak of Class XII UP Board English question paper in Ballia. The journalists have been sent to judicial custody.

While police said the journalists were arrested on the "basis of their role" in the paper leak, at least two of the three journalists have alleged that they have been "framed for reporting on the paper leak". The three Ballia-based journalists are Ajit Ojha and Digvijay Singh of Amar Ujala newspaper, and Manoj Gupta of Rashtriya Sahara newspaper.

Ballia District Inspector Of Schools (DIOS) Brijesh Mishra is also among those arrested. Police had earlier said that several teachers, including government and private school teachers, have been arrested. Following his arrest, Digvijay Singh of Amar Ujala on Thursday told reporters that the district administration was trying to silence journalists for reporting on the paper leak.

"I am the zonal in-charge of Bharatiya Rashtriya Patrakar Sangh and a correspondent of Amar Ujala in the Nagra region of Ballia... Based on (information from) my sources, I got the solved (Class X) Sanskrit question paper... and sent it to my newspaper. It (the report) was published in the newspaper... The next day, Amar Ujala got the (Class XII) English paper, which also got reported," Digvijay Singh said.

"I have been harassed... If we published it (the leaked question paper) in the newspaper, then it should be probed how the paper got leaked. They are repeatedly asking me where I got the paper from. I have told them that I got it from a source," he said.

Police, however, have contradicted his claim, saying that the Class X Sanskrit paper was not leaked. "That is not true as per the information gathered by us,"

a senior police officer said. On Wednesday, when the Class XII English paper had got leaked, Ajit Ojha, who works for Amar Ujala and is also an assistant teacher, too had claimed that he was being framed.

"After the news (of the paper leak) was published, I received a phone call from DIOS (Brijesh Mishra). He asked if I have the question paper that has gone viral. I told him that the question paper was published in Amar Ujala... The questions were darkened, but you can see. He asked me for the question paper on WhatsApp. I ignored his request, but he called me again and asked for the same... Then the DM called me and asked for the same. I sent it to the DM too," Ojha told reporters on Wednesday.

When contacted by The Indian Express, Virendra Arya, the Varanasi resident editor of Amar Ujala, said, "We did an internal probe on the two journalists (Ajit Ojha and Digvijay Singh) and they were found to be innocent. We are with them."

The Indian Express reached out to Rashtriya Sahara Resident Editor (Lucknow) Vikas Shukla, but he declined to comment.

On the alleged role of the journalists, Ballia Superintendent of Police Raj Karan Nayyar said: "Since the investigation is going on, I can't say what is the role of the journalists. But the arrests have been made based on their role and action is being taken accordingly. The question paper was found with one person, who was an assistant teacher and invigilator... When the time comes, we will release all the details."

Despite repeated attempts and text messages, Ballia District Magistrate Indra Vikram Singh could not be reached for comment. On Friday, police arrested 10 more people in connection with the paper leak, taking the total number of arrests to 34.

"The fresh 10 arrests include parents and guardians who had acquired the (English) paper," the SP said.

In Chhattisgarh, cops lathicharge tribals opposing mining, 25 hurt

Raipur: Police lathicharged tribals when they became "unruly" during a protest against the Raoghat iron ore mining project in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Friday. The protesters claimed that 25 people were injured in the police action.

According to the police, over 600 tribals from various villages gathered at Binjali village and marched towards the Collector's office in nearby Narayanpur town to submit a 20-point memorandum, demanding that the Rowghat project be shelved. Tribals from Rowghat and nearby villages have been protesting against the mines in the region.

On Friday, the tribals reached the collectorate and sought an audience with the Collector for submitting a memorandum addressed to the Governor.

Police said the protesters broke through the barricades and reached outside the Collector's office where senior officials tried to pacify them. Subsequently, a delegation was allowed to meet Collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi. "However, they became unruly. That's when our personnel used force," said a police officer. ENS

SC junks Maharashtra's plea for SIT to probe graft case against Deshmukh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday rejected a plea by the Maharashtra government challenging an order of the Bombay High Court, which dismissed its petitions for forming an SIT to probe the corruption case against former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

"It is complete red herring... I thought the state will see some sense. But, these are different nature of battles. Sorry, dismissed," Justice S K Kaul, presiding over a two-judge Bench, said, rejecting the appeal against the December 15, 2021, HC order.

Appearing for the state, Senior Advocate C A Sundaram sought to raise the issue of conflict of interest and told the Bench, also comprising Justice M M Sundresh, that current CBI Director Subodh Jaiswal was the former DGP of Maharashtra and part of the Police Establishment Board that oversaw the transfer and postings and therefore cannot investigate the matter.

"The present director of the CBI at relevant time was the Chairman of the establishment



Anil Deshmukh

board responsible for transfers. He will either be possibly an accused or definitely a witness. I am not going into the likelihood of bias, a person who is relevant as a witness or an accused, he was directly involved," he said.

He urged the Bench to appoint an SIT to probe the matter given the situation and said: "It surely cannot be that a person who is responsible for actions complained about in FIR, be the person to conduct investigation regarding that."

The court, however, did not agree and went on to dismiss the plea. On March 24, the SC had junked Maharashtra's objection and transferred the investigation on five FIRs filed against former Mumbai police commissioner Parambir Singh to the CBI.

Bharat Biotech to reduce Covaxin production

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Foreseeing a decline in demand, Bharat Biotech has announced that it will slow down production of Covaxin after completing its obligations to procurement agencies. Covaxin is the second most commonly used Covid-19 vaccine in India and the only one being administered to those between ages 15 and 17 years under the government's programme.

The company will focus on facility maintenance and process optimisation. "As all existing facilities were repurposed for the manufacture of COVAXIN, with continuous production during the past year, to meet the public health emergency of COVID-19, these upgrades were due," the company stated.

Maternity should not be a career barrier: SC Judge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

STATING THAT motherhood must not result in a situation where women are passed over for promotions and hiring, Supreme Court judge, Justice B V Nagarathna Friday said while the entry of women in the labour force was increasing, the talent was not getting retained due to the absence of an alternative caregiver for their children.

"As far as India is concerned, it is rather disappointing... One of the reasons is the inability to find an alternate caregiver when they become parents and are away at work which is a contributory factor to such a trend," Justice Nagarathna said during the inauguration of a creche at the Delhi High Court.

She said providing access to

quality childcare within a parent's workplace is "a welcome and salutary initiative" that will facilitate retention of women within the labour force.

Stressing the need for reliable, affordable and good-quality childcare, Justice Nagarathna, who was the guest of honour at the event, said no country, community or economy can achieve its potential to meet the challenges of development without full and equal participation of women.

"I have believed that maternity should not be a barrier for the careers of women to plateau or dip. Motherhood must not result in a situation where women are passed over for promotions and hiring. Providing access to quality childcare at the workplace would play a significant role in ensuring that motherhood does not become a barrier to women's empowerment," the SC judge said.

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar is new NDA Commandant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, APRIL 1

VICE ADMIRAL Ajay Kochhar assumed the post of National Defence Academy Commandant on Friday, replacing Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor.

Vice Admiral Kochhar was commissioned in the Navy in July 1988. He is a graduate of the Defence Service Staff College, Wellington; Naval War College, Mumbai; and Royal College of Defence Studies at the UK. "In a career spanning 34 years, the Flag Officer has held various important appointments. He has been the Fleet Commander of the Western Fleet where he led the Fleet for critical operational missions, foreign bilateral exercises and HADR takings," a media release said.

J&K: At killed militant's home, questions over his path make way for acceptance

NAVEED IQBAL
BIJBEHARA (ANANTNAG), APRIL 1

THE LANE leading up to his house, even the compound of the house itself, is quiet. Two days after Rayees Ahmad Bhat was killed in a shootout in Srinagar, his family is in a state of resigned acceptance.

"I have no understanding of why he joined the militancy. Our village, Veer, has had no active militants since the early 90s," his elder brother Sartaj Ahmad told *The Indian Express* at his home in Bijbehara. They offer no explanation for his actions or dip into nostalgia to look for one.

On August 6 last year, the family says, he helped his mother in the fields, then said he

would visit his aunt. "After a while my mother tried calling him and his phone was off. I thought he may have gone to the gym and then to my aunt's. We discovered he had not stopped by either place," Sartaj said.

On Wednesday night, J&K police said that it received inputs of militant presence in the Rainawari area of Srinagar. In the ensuing encounter, two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed — Hilal Ahmad Rah and Bhat, both residents of Bijbehara.

A press card was purportedly recovered from the body of Bhat that identified him as the Editor-in-Chief of Valley News Service, a local news portal. On Thursday, his family said the portal had no formal arrangement. "The staff was not paid and it was mostly just run on aggregation of inputs from his

friends in the community." His family said there were "no FIRs against him, he was never questioned by the police" to their knowledge and that there were no known run-ins with the law either.

The 24-year-old worked at a gas agency in the town not far from his house and helped his parents out with some land they own. Police sources also said that there are no known antecedents before he went missing in 2021. The family had made appeals for him to return home. "Even the police told us that we should try to convince him to come back. But he never made contact and we had no way of reaching him," his father Abdul Hameed Bhat said.

However, the police's official statement after the encounter states that both militants were

"categorised terrorists and part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on police/security forces and civilian atrocities".

Bhat, or Rayees Veeri as he was locally called, had been running the web portal just from a laptop over the last four to five years. He had a BA from IGNOU and no formal training in journalism. "It was just something he was interested in," his brother said, "Enough to carry his identity card even to his death."

None of his colleagues were present at the house Thursday. "We could have never imagined him taking the path he did," his uncle Ghulam Hassan Ganai said. Sartaj added: "No family wants to see their children dying. Eventually an individual's decisions are his own."

He inspired *Jhund* but not sponsors, slum soccer pioneer now seeks assists

With the Homeless World Cup set to be held in September, Vijay Barse is in a hurry to organise state and national slum football tournaments

ALIFIYA KHAN
PUNE, APRIL 1

RETIRED SPORTS teacher Vijay Barse is the real-life inspiration behind Amitabh Bachchan's character in the movie *Jhund*. But even as the story of the 77-year-old from Nagpur emerged from obscurity and received widespread praise and attention following the film's release, his mission to use sports to help slum children is facing uncertainty because of a lack of funds.

The 77-year-old retired sports teacher from Nagpur's Hislop College is the founder of the Slum Soccer organisation

that promotes football among slum children. He organised the first-ever Jhopadpatti Football tournament in 2001 after watching a few such kids pretending to play football by kicking around an empty bucket. The competition was a major success and saw 128 teams participate.

Since then, Barse has organised 19 state inclusion tournaments and inspired several organisations to set up similar competitions across India. He also organises a national slum football event whose winners participate in the Homeless World Cup and coaches slum kids at his academy that adjoins his home.

On Wednesday, the four-day

State Inclusion Cup 2022 began at the premises of Barse's Krida Vikas Sanstha after a two-year enforced break because of the Covid-19 pandemic. But funds have dried up. This year, 12 men's teams and eight women's teams from across Maharashtra are participating, a sharp drop from 48 teams in 2019.

Barse's son Abhijeet, who is the co-founder and CEO of Slum Soccer, says sponsorships are hard to come by since a lot of companies have diverted their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to PM-CARES and charities for Covid relief work.

"A lot of our previous sponsors have diverted their CSR



Vijay Barse (top row seventh from left) with slum children participating in the State Inclusion Cup, 2022. Express

funds to the PM-CARES fund and charities for Covid relief work. Besides, some of their business got affected and their policies changed. Unfortunately, sports is

not a top priority. In 2019, we held state tournaments not just in Maharashtra but also in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana with the help of lo-

cal NGO partners. But, even their funds have dried up this year," he adds. Barse is in a hurry to organise the state and national tournaments as they will be used to pick teams for the Homeless World Cup that will be held in New York in September. But, critical acclaim for *Jhund* has not translated into sponsorships, he adds.

"We thought that with so much interest in the film and so many congratulatory messages coming in, the sponsors would come directly. People will come forward to make Slum Soccer bigger, but that did not happen. Initially, we were not sure if we could organise the national tournament as well but local authori-

ties in Pune invited us to hold it there and promised us support. So, the nationals are next month. Hence, we hurriedly organised the state tournament now. There is a lot of interest from slum children, we had to turn down teams because we need to arrange their stay, food, transport. These 20 teams will occupy rooms, the hall in our academy and if needed, some can sleep in our house too. But the tournament needs to happen," Barse tells *The Indian Express*.

Having travelled to various events following the film's release earlier this month, the 77-year-old says he has not been keeping well the past few days but is still looking forward to get-

ting back on the football ground. He now dreams of opening a full-fledged coaching academy for slum football teams.

Explaining his father's aspiration, Abhijeet says, "At present, we can only provide coaching for a few weeks to those whom we will take to the Homeless World Cup. But, if we want any real talent to come out of these slums, they need long-term coaching. We are hoping to start a free residential coaching academy where we can select the best talent from across India and coach them. Children from slums, orphans, homeless or street children, those with addictions, any of them can be taken in."



SALUTE THE SOLDIER
02ND APRIL
C/GB B. C. BARUAH
OH. DULIAJAN
02-04-1994
C/GB KULKARNI RAJ
OH. DULIAJAN
02-04-1994
C/GB ROKEN SINGH
OH. DULIAJAN
02-04-1994
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with militants. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.
A TRIBUTE TO BRAVE HEARTS

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Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 and Area 4 those containers arrived on or before 31.03.2021 through e-auction on 18-04-2022 & 30-04-2022 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on www.concorindia.co.in & www.mssteccommerce.com w.e.f. 05-04-2022 & 21-04-2022. All importers including Government Undertakings/ Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area 1 and Area 4 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionaires, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven Days) of this notice falling which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in & www.mssteccommerce.com
Executive Director, Area 1

कार्यालय आबकारी आयुक्त, छत्तीसगढ़, रायपुर

"विज्ञप्ति"

वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए भांग की थोक एवं भांग/भाग-घोटा की फुटकर दुकानों का आवेदन प्रणाली अंतर्गत व्यवस्थापन क्रमांक/आवे./ठेका/2022/1759 रायपुर, दिनांक 30.03.2022 राज्य शासन द्वारा लिए गये निर्णय अनुसार सर्व साधारण की जानकारी एवं भांग की थोक एवं भांग/भाग-घोटा की फुटकर ठेकेदारों की विशेष जानकारी के लिए राज्य शासन के आदेशानुसार यह सूचना प्रकाशित की जाती है की, छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में भांग की थोक एवं भांग/भाग-घोटा की फुटकर दुकानों के लिए लायसेंस, आवेदन प्रणाली अंतर्गत वर्ष 2022-23 अर्थात् दिनांक 01 मई, 2022 से 31 मार्च, 2023 तक की अवधि हेतु सारणी में वर्णित तिथि एवं स्थानों में दिनांक 31.03.2022 से 20.04.2022 तक अवकाश के दिनों को छोड़कर कार्यालयीन समय में निर्धारित प्रपत्र में समस्त औपचारिकाओं की पूर्ति परचाल आवेदन पत्र जमा किये जा सकेंगे। भांग की थोक एवं भांग/भाग-घोटा की फुटकर दुकानों की अनुज्ञापिका के लिए एक से अधिक आवेदन प्राप्त होने पर अनुज्ञापिका प्राधिकारी द्वारा दिनांक 21.04.2022 को दोपहर 03.00 बजे से 'मेयुअल लॉटरी' के माध्यम से अनुज्ञापिकाओं का चयन किया जाएगा। भांग की थोक एवं भांग/भाग-घोटा की फुटकर दुकानों के व्यवस्थापन के संबंध में अधिसूचित छत्तीसगढ़ भांग नियम, 2021 में प्रावधानित नियम, शर्तें, शुल्क, ड्यूटी दरें मादक पदार्थों की खपत आदि की जानकारी, थोक विक्रय लायसेंस के संबंध में आबकारी आयुक्त कार्यालय एवं फुटकर विक्रय लायसेंसों के संबंध में संबंधित जिले के उपयुक्त आबकारी/सहायक आयुक्त आबकारी/जिला आबकारी अधिकारी के कार्यालयों से अवकाश के दिनों को छोड़कर किसी भी दिन कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। किसी कारणवश निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय में अनुज्ञापिकाओं के चयन की कार्यवाही पूर्ण नहीं होने की परिस्थिति में थोक लायसेंस हेतु आबकारी आयुक्त एवं फुटकर लायसेंस हेतु कलेक्टर द्वारा घोषित तिथि एवं समय में की जा सकेंगी। उपरोक्त विषय से संबंधित विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश/विज्ञप्ति आबकारी विभाग के वेबसाइट <https://excise.cg.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ता/-
(निरंजन दास)

69117 आबकारी आयुक्त, छत्तीसगढ़



Notice for Public Objections / Suggestions on Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Parsakhara Bareilly by which Industrial Plot No. J-3, J-4 & J-5 has been amalgamated and created a new Plot No. J-3/5 (Measuring -2412.88 Sq.m.).

1 (a) The Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Parsakhara Bareilly Plot No. J-3/J-5 of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District Bareilly has been prepared.

(b) A copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager Office of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, Bareilly between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as Website: www.upsidc.com

2. Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft Layout/Amalgamation Plan.

3. Objections and suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager UPSIDA at Bareilly within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as "Regarding Public Objection / Suggestion on Draft Layout / Amalgamation Plan for Parsakhara Bareilly Plot No. J-3, J-4 & J-5. Any person making the Objections or Suggestions should also give his / her full name & address, Email id and contact number.

(Regional Manager)
U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, शिवनाथ मण्डल, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 95928/निविदा सूचना क्र. 34/बरेल्लि/2021-22 बेमेतरा, दिनांक 29.03.2022 निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक 19.04.2022 17:30 तक ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का नाम:- बेमेतरा जिले के विकासखण्ड साजा की लुक व्यपवर्तन योजना के शीर्ष कार्य का जीर्णोद्धार एवं वेस्टवियर का मरम्मत कार्य तथा नहरों का रिमाडलिंग एवं लाईनिंग कार्य, 03 नग व्ही.आर.बी. 03 नग फाल का निर्माण तथा 01 नग स्ट्रक्टर का मरम्मत कार्य।

अनुमानित लागत- रु. 117.78 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब साईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 05.04.2022 समय 17.31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

नोट:- निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकूटकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतरा (छ.ग.)

69106 कृते-अधीक्षण अभियंता शिवनाथ मण्डल दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. अतिअल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना निविदा सं. 01/2022-23- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अंतर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं. 02/2022-23- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय हाथरस के अंतर्गत उपखण्ड प्रथम/चतुर्थ सिकन्दारा/हसावन के क्षेत्रांतर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं. 03/2022-23- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय हाथरस के अंतर्गत उपखण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस/हाथरस जं. के क्षेत्रांतर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं. 04/2022-23- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड चतुर्थ सादाबाद के अंतर्गत निजी नलकूप संयोजनों पर मीटर स्थापित करने का कार्य। निविदा सं. 11.04.2022 अन्य सम्बन्धित जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हाथरस पत्र सं. 1358/वि.वि.म.हा.ए-1 दिनांक 1/04/22

Respond to Rana Ayyub's petition against lookout circular: HC to ED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE DELHI High Court on Friday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to respond to the petition filed by journalist Rana Ayyub, who was stopped from flying to London from the Mumbai International Airport Tuesday, against the lookout circular issued against her by the ED which is probing her in connection with a case of alleged money laundering. The court will hear the matter next on April 4. While Ayyub was represented by advocate Vrinda Grover, the ED was represented by Additional Solicitor General S V Raju. In the petition before the court, Ayyub has said

that almost two hours after she was detained at the airport, the ED emailed summons to her directing her to remain present before it on April 1. The information sought in the summons is a "verbatim copy" of the information already sought in the summons dated January 25 and is a "sham exercise" to justify the arbitrary action of denying her the right to travel, the petition argues. Ayyub has said that she was scheduled to speak at a journalism-related event in London and then fly to Italy regarding gender-based online violence faced by women journalists globally. She was scheduled to return to India on April 11, as per the plea. Challenging the issuance of a lookout circular, Ayyub has contended that she has responded

to each and every summons issued by the ED, joined investigation and provided the necessary documents. ED has already filed a PMLA complaint against Ayyub and provisionally attached a part of her bank account. "The petitioner being a journalist who speaks truth to power, is at times perceived to be a source of discomfort for the government but that is no ground to deny the petitioner her right to travel abroad and exercise her freedom of speech and expression, as well as to practice her profession as a journalist," Ayyub has argued in the petition. The ED had registered a case against Ayyub in connection with the funds collected by her through Ketto platform to help people through the pandemic.

J&K: LeT militant killed in encounter with police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 1

A LASHKAR-E-TOIBA militant was killed in a gunfight at Turkwangan area in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, police said. Police said Muneeb Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Shopian district, was a "categorised terrorist" who was part of groups involved in attacks on security forces and also in "civilian atrocities". "Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a Chinese pistol, one magazine and five rounds were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," a police statement said.

In Pulwama, three 'JeM associates' arrested

Meanwhile, in the nearby Pulwama district, a joint team of the J&K Police, the Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF arrested three alleged associates of the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group. The police identified the three as Owais Altaf, Aqib Manzoor and Waseem Ahmad Pandit, all residents of Pulwama. "Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested trio was involved in providing logistics and transportation to terrorists. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including an AK rifle, three magazines, 69 AK rounds and a grenade were recovered on their disclosure," the police said.

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Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Contract Period/Quantity	Consignee/Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/Download of e-tenders	Last Date & Time for Submission of e-tenders	Date & Time for opening of e-tenders	
1.	Operation, Repair and Maintenance of Pouch Filling Machines, Tray washer (Along with loading in Pockets)	01.06.2022 to 31.05.2023 Qty. 35200 Ltr to 60900 Approximate Ltr per day	Verka Bathinda Dairy Ph No. 0164-2240406	200/-	50,000/-	04.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM	26.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 27.04.2022 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 28.04.2022 at 12:00 PM	
2.	Design, Supply Installation & Commissioning of SCADA operated New Ammonia refrigeration plant equipped with modern and energy efficient machinery to cater the chilled water and cold storage demand inclusive cold store expansions work on turnkey basis at Verka Sangur Dairy		Verka Sangur Dairy Ph. 016722-505260	500/-	800,000/-	W.E.F. 07.04.2022 up to 4:00 AM	29.04.2022 up to 4:00 AM	Technical Bid 03.05.2022 at 12:00 PM Financial Bid 10.05.2022 at 12:00 PM	
3.	Hiring of Vehicle for lifting of milk in can route. Capacity 1 ton & above and less than 2 ton	02 No's One year from 01.05.2022 to 30.04.2023	Verka Amritsar Dairy Ph. 73555-48163, 73555-98892	200/-	15,000/-	04.04.2022 from 4:30 PM	25.04.2022 up to 3:00 PM	26.04.2022 at 11:00 AM	
4.	Hiring of Insulated road milk tankers for transportation of milk - From BMC/MCC to Verka Dairy Amritsar Cap. 10000 Ltr	05 No's One year from 01.05.2022 to 30.04.2023	-do-	500/-	100,000/-	04.04.2022 from 4:30 PM	25.04.2022 up to 3:00 PM	26.04.2022 at 12:00 PM	
5.	Hiring of Tata Indica, Indigo, Swift Ox, Swift & other similar vehicles for official use	01 No. One Year from 01.05.2022 to 30.04.2023	-do-	200/-	5,000/-	04.04.2022 from 5:00 PM	25.04.2022 up to 3:00 PM	26.04.2022 at 01:00 PM	
6.	e-Tender for backlit glow sign board, double sided glow sign board, flange glow sign board, non lit flex board, flex banner, wall painting/ shop painting, vehicle painting, umbrella, dangler, A-type standing flex board, vinyl stickers.	01 No	-do-	-do-	50,000/- each tender	04.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM	20.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 21.04.2022 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 21.04.2022 at 2:30 PM	
7.	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 85gm/180gm Kheer Cup Filling and Sealing Machine.	One job	Verka Jalandhar Dairy Ph. 73555-56749, 73555-01750.	500/-	40,000/-	13.04.2022 from 3:00 PM	05.05.2022 up to 2:00 PM	06.05.2022 at 11:00 AM	
8.	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Dehumidifier for Powder Packing Area.	One job	-do-	500/-	20,000/-	13.04.2022 from 3:00 PM	05.05.2022 up to 2:00 PM	06.05.2022 at 11:30 AM	
9.	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 500gm, 1kg, 5 kg and 15 kg Dahi Maska Filling & Sealing Machine	One job	-do-	500/-	60,000/-	13.04.2022 from 3:00 PM	05.05.2022 up to 2:00 PM	06.05.2022 at 12:00 PM	
10.	Annual Rate Contract for the transportation of FD, LDG and LSHS Premium from Panipat and Mathura Refinery to Milk Plant, Jalandhar	Annual Rate Contract	-do-	500/-	50,000/-	13.04.2022 from 3:00 PM	05.05.2022 up to 2:00 PM	06.05.2022 at 12:30 PM	
11.	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Transformer 2000KVA	One job	-do-	500/-	120,000/-	13.04.2022 from 3:00 PM	05.05.2022 up to 2:00 PM	06.05.2022 at 11:15 AM	
12.	Design, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electrical Sub Station along with its Allied equipment and other allied required works.	One job	-do-	500/-	200,000/-	13.04.2022 from 3:00 PM	05.05.2022 up to 2:00 PM	06.05.2022 at 12:45 PM	
13.	Hiring of insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC's to various Milk Plants in Punjab etc. on annual rate contract. Cap. 10000 Ltr. 15000 Ltr. (Double Chamber)	3 No's 1 No	Verka Faridkot Dairy Ph. 01639-513759	500/-	100,000/- per tanker	04.04.2022 from 02:00 PM	18.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 19.04.2022 at 12:00 PM Financial Bid 20.04.2022 at 10:50 AM	
14.	Hiring of Mahindra Pictus or equivalent at Verka Faridkot Dairy for distribution of Milk & Milk Products.	01 No	-do-	500/-	50,000/- per vehicle	04.04.2022 from 02:00 PM	18.04.2022 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 19.04.2022 at 12:00 PM Financial Bid 20.04.2022 at 10:50 AM	
15.	Annual Rate Contract for loading/unloading of packing material & other store materials etc.	Annual	Verka Ludhiana Dairy Ph No. 0161-5203300, 5203301, 5203328	500/-	30,000/-	06.04.2022	18.04.2022 up to 12:00 PM	Technical Bid 19.04.2022 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 22.04.2022 at 2:30 PM	
16.	Providing of Un-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled, Highly Skilled workers etc. and suitable/eligible personnel for different posts through outsourcing	Annual Labour Contract	-do-	500/-	100,000/-	02.04.2022 from 11:00 AM	18.04.2022 up to 12:00 PM	Technical Bid 19.04.2022 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 25.04.2022 at 11:00 AM	
17.	Food Grade Aluminium Foil Lids for Dahi Maska 450 gm, 500 gm, 5 kg & 15kg	Annual Rate Contract	-do-	500/-	5,000/-	05.04.2022 from 11:00 AM	19.04.2022 up to 2:00 PM	Technical Bid 20.04.2022 at 11:30 AM Financial Bid 20.04.2022 at 11:30 AM	
18.	Supply of 200 KVA Distribution Transformer (Maka Kirloskar)	One time Purchase	-do-	500/-	20,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 11:00 AM up to 12:00 PM	18.04.2022 up to 12:00 PM Technical Bid 19.04.2022 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 22.04.2022 at 11:30 AM
19.	Labour Job contract for different activities of Production	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Khanna (Ph. No. 01628-521450, 521451)	1000/-	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 1:00 PM	15.04.2022 up to 1:00 PM 15.04.2022 at 2:30 PM
20.	Labour Job contract for different activities for Store and Marketing Section.	-do-	-do-	1000/-	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 1:00 PM	15.04.2022 up to 1:00 PM 15.04.2022 at 2:30 PM
21.	Outsourcing of unskilled/ skilled/highly skilled & other manpower. Preferably agencies established in the state of Punjab.	-do-	-do-	1000/-	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 1:00 PM	15.04.2022 up to 1:00 PM 15.04.2022 at 2:30 PM
22.	Job Contract for Housekeeping/Sanitation and Horticulture work	-do-	-do-	1000/-	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 1:00 PM	15.04.2022 up to 1:00 PM 15.04.2022 at 2:30 PM
23.	Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetener, Cattle Feed Grade Free Flowing Powder Qty. CFP Khanna - 7 MT CFP GKB - 4 MT	-do-	-do-	200/-	50,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 11:00 AM	05.04.2022 up to 11:00 AM 21.04.2022 at 1:00 PM
24.	Sweetener, Cattle Feed Grade Free Flowing Powder Approx. 1100 times sweet than sugar Qty. CFP Khanna - 2 MT CFP GKB - 5 MT	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
25.	Annual Rate Contract for Transportation of finished Cattle Feed, Mineral Feed Mixture and UML to various station of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan	-01-04 Trucks of 10 MTs Capacity an average per day -05-07 Trucks of 20 MTs/25 MTs Capacity an average per day, which can be increased as per demand	-do-	200/-	100,000/-	-do-	-do-	05.04.2022 from 11:00 AM	15.04.2022 up to 12:30 PM 16.04.2022 at 1:00 PM
26.	Labour job contract for unloading, shifting, dumping of raw material & stacking, loading of finished products, dumping of base elements, filling, packing, shifting of Mineral Mixture, cleaning, Bundling of empty bags, cleaning of plants and godowns etc.	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Ghanaika-Banger (Batala) (Ph. No. 01871-266741)	100/-	100,000/-	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 up to 11:00 AM	11.04.2022 up to 11:00 AM 12.04.2022 at 11:00 AM
Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970204 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website eproc.punjab.gov.in . Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.									
Section - B									
Scaled Tenders are hereby invited on the prescribed Proforma for the purchase of following items:-									
Sr. No.	Name of work/item	Qty	Consignee/Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for sale of sealed tender	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for opening of tender	
1.	Milkbar Civil Hospital, City Sangur Handicapped with disability not less than 50% (Contract Period Three Year)	01	Verka Sangur Dairy Ph. 01672-505260	500/-	10,000/-	03.04.2022 up to 14.04.2022 up to 3:00 PM	15.04.2022 up to 12:00 PM	15.04.2022 at 3:00 PM	
2.	Milkbar Civil Hospital, City Malerkotla (Only for Widows/War Widow) (Contract Period Three Year)	01	-do-	500/-	10,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
3.	Milkbar Tube well, Near Delhi Gate, Malerkotla (Only for General Category) (Contract Period Three Year)	01	-do-	500/-	10,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
4.	Milkbar P.G.I. Ghabdan, Sangur (Only for General Category) (Contract Period Three Year)	01	-do-	500/-	10,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
5.	Milkbar Milk Chilling Center, Sandhour, (Milk Producers affiliated with Verka Societies / Dairies) (Contract Period Three Year)	01	-do-	500/-	10,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
6.	Leasing out 02 no's of Verka Milk booths situated at Rajindra Hospital, Patiala and Urban Estate Ph-2, Patiala	For 03 years	Verka Patiala Dairy (Ph. 94787-46414, 94170-29281, 94170-29018)	500/-	10,000/- per milkbar	-do-	-do-	04.04.2022 from 11:30 AM (Can be Collected from the Verka Patiala Dairy on any working day from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM)	Technical Bid 22.04.2022 at 12:00 PM Date of Draw 26.04.2022 at 12:30 PM
7.	Leasing out 01 no's of Verka Milk booths situated at AP Jain Hospital, Rajpura	For 03 years	-do-	500/-	10,000/- per milkbar	-do-	-do-	02.04.2022 from 11:00 AM (Can be Collected from the Verka Patiala Dairy on any working day from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM)	Technical Bid 13.04.2022 at 12:00 PM Date of Draw 18.04.2022 at 12:30 PM
8.	Hiring of Swift Dore or equivalent along with drivers (Qty-02 No's)	-do-	Verka Chandigarh Dairy, Industrial Area-1, Chandigarh (Ph. 0172-5041901, 5041902, 5041917, 5041924)	200/-	10,000/- (5,000/- each vehicle)	-do-	-do-	-do-	15.04.2022 up to 12:30 PM 15.04.2022 at 3:00 PM
Interested parties may obtain detailed Tender Documents from the office of Consignee where tender is to be opened on any working day from (8AM to 5 PM). If any clarification is required may contact on Phone Numbers given above. The Tender Notice may also be seen at Verka Website (www.verka.coop). TENDER (S) WITHOUT EARNEST MONEY ARE LIABLE TO BE REJECTED. The Consignee reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.									
Incharge (Purchase)									



@ieExplained

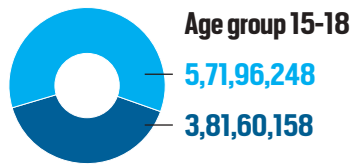
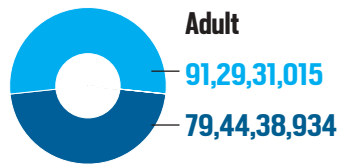
#ExpressExplained

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

DASHBOARD, AS ON MARCH 31

TOTAL DOSES 184,31,89,377

■ First dose ■ Second dose

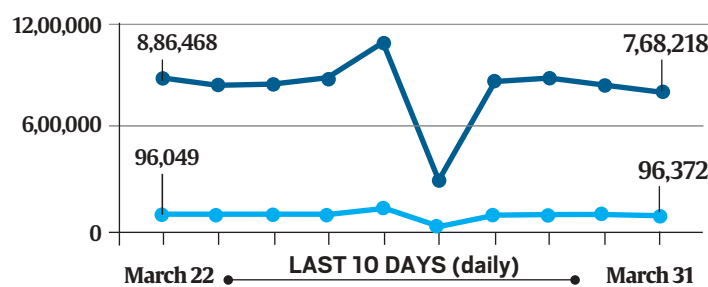


AGE GROUP 12-14 1st dose 1,72,91,282

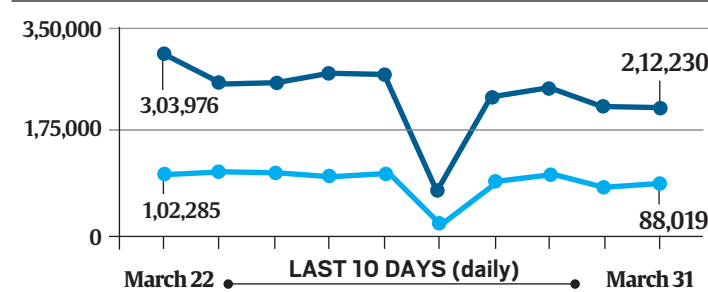
PRECAUTIONARY doses 2,31,71,740

Doses On March 31 25,34,372

ADULTS



AGE GROUP 15-18



EVERYDAY EXPLAINERS

LAW & CRIME

WHAT IS A LOOK OUT NOTICE, AND WHEN IS IT ISSUED?

DELHI HIGH Court on Friday sought the Enforcement Directorate's response on journalist Rana Ayyub's challenge to its action of restraining her from leaving the country. Ayyub was stopped in Mumbai on Tuesday based on a look out circular (LOC) issued by the ED, which is investigating her in a case of alleged money laundering.

What is it, and when is it issued?

An LOC is issued to make sure an individual who is absconding or wanted by law enforcement agencies is not able to leave the country. It is mostly used at immigration checkpoints at airports and seaports by the immigration branch. In certain cases, the police can approach a court asking for the restriction of a person's movement outside the country. The subject of an LOC can challenge the circular in a court.

Who can issue an LOC?

An LOC can be initiated by a number of authorised officers, including an officer not below the rank of deputy secretary, an officer not below the rank of joint secretary in the state government, a district magistrate

or SP, designated officers of various law-enforcement and security agencies, a designated officer of Interpol, an officer not below the rank of additional director in the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. In 2018, the government empowered the heads of public sector banks (not below the rank of chairman/managing director/chief executive) to request the authorities to issue an LOC against wilful defaulters to prevent them from leaving the country.

An LOC can be modified/deleted/withdrawn by the Bureau of Immigration only on the request of the authorised originator on whose request the LOC was issued.

Does an LOC lead to arrest?

Not necessarily. LOCs can be of several types. They can seek to stop a person from leaving the country, to prevent one from entering the country, or inform the concerned investigation agencies. The proforma of an LOC also contains a request to detain the individual at the local police/investigation agency, which generally leads to arrest.

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1

THE LONGSTANDING dispute between Punjab and Haryana over Chandigarh flared up this week after the Centre notified Central Service Rules for employees in the Union Territory instead of the Punjab Service Rules. The Centre had earlier tweaked rules for appointments to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) — recruitments can now be done from anywhere in India, instead of just Punjab and Haryana. On Friday, the Punjab Assembly in a special session passed a unanimous resolution reiterating the state's claim on Chandigarh.

When and how did Chandigarh become the capital of Punjab?

After Partition, Shimla was made the temporary capital of Indian Punjab. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wanted a modern city to replace Lahore as Punjab's capital, and the idea of Chandigarh was conceived. In March 1948, the Punjab government, in consultation with the Centre, chose the picturesque foothills of the Shivaliks as the site of the new capital. Twenty-two villages in Kharar were acquired for the city, and the government compensated their displaced residents.

The capital was officially moved from Shimla to Chandigarh on September 21, 1953. President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the new capital on October 7, 1953. Until Haryana was born, Chandigarh remained the capital of Punjab.

When was Punjab reorganised, and Chandigarh became a Union Territory?

The Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966 carved out the new state of Haryana from undivided Punjab, created the new Union Territory of Chandigarh under the direct control of the Centre, and transferred the hill territories of Punjab to Himachal Pradesh.

Chandigarh, identified as the capital of Punjab in The Capital of Punjab (Development and Regulation) Act, 1952, became the common capital of both Punjab and Haryana, and properties were divided between the states in the ratio 60:40. The States Reorganisation Act, 1966, did not make changes in the arrangement arrived at in 1952.

What about a separate capital for Haryana?

During the reorganisation of Punjab, then

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Punjab's claim on Chandigarh

The Punjab Assembly has passed a resolution reiterating its claim over Chandigarh. How did the UT come to be the capital of both Punjab and Haryana; what have governments in the states and the Centre said?



The front page of *The Indian Express* dated January 30, 1970, reporting the central government's decision to give Chandigarh to Punjab. The city was to remain a Union Territory for a period "not exceeding five years".

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had announced that Haryana would get its own capital. And on January 29, 1970, the Centre announced that "the capital project area of Chandigarh should, as a whole, go to Punjab".

Indira's government took this decision after Fateh Singh, leader of the Punjabi Suba movement, threatened self-immolation if Chandigarh was not transferred to Punjab. The Centre had considered dividing Chandigarh into two parts, but ultimately decided against it. Haryana was told to use the office and residential accommodation in Chandigarh for five years until it built its own capital. The Centre offered a Rs 10 crore grant to Haryana and a loan of equal amount to build the new capital.

"The government explained why it had decided against dividing the city (Chandigarh), of which a communique said its 'layout, architecture and beauty have evoked wide admiration and the city has acquired an international reputation,'" *The Indian Express* reported in its edition of January 30, 1970. "How long the city will remain a Union Territory will depend on how soon Haryana will be able to build a capital of its own," the paper said.

What claims on Chandigarh were made subsequently?

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had announced that Haryana would get its own capital. And on January 29, 1970, the Centre announced that "the capital project area of Chandigarh should, as a whole, go to Punjab".

In August 1982, the Akali Dal, having expressed dissatisfaction over the Punjab Reorganisation Act, launched the Dharam Yudh Morcha along with Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale with the object of realising the goals of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973. Among the issues in contention were the inclusion of Punjabi speaking areas in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, and the fact that Chandigarh had not been given to Punjab, and instead made a UT.

On July 24, 1985, the Rajiv-Longowal Accord was signed between then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Akali leader Harchand Singh Longowal. Among other things, the Centre agreed to give Chandigarh to Punjab, and January 26, 1986 was fixed as the date for the actual transfer. However, less than a month after the signing of the accord, Longowal was assassinated by militants.

What has been the mood in the Punjab Assembly over the years?

Friday's resolution in the Punjab Assembly staking claim to Chandigarh was the seventh of its kind.

The first resolution was brought on May 18, 1967 by Acharya Prithvi Singh Azad, and the second by Chaudhary Balbir Singh on January 19, 1970, both during Gurnam Singh's government.

Sukhdev Singh Dhillon brought a resolution on September 7, 1978 when Parkash Singh Badal was Chief Minister, and Baldev Singh Mann brought a similar resolution on October 31, 1985 during Surjit Singh Barnala's government. Another resolution, also during Barnala's government, was brought by Om Parkash Gupta on March 6, 1986.

On December 23, 2014, Gurdev Singh Jhoondan brought a resolution during Badal's government. The seventh resolution was brought by the government of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday.

What is the AAP government's argument on claiming Chandigarh as Punjab's capital?

AAP MLA Aman Arora has argued that whenever a new state has been carved out of a parent state in the country, the capital city has stayed with the parent state.

When Maharashtra was reorganised and Gujarat was born on January 1, 1960, Maharashtra retained Mumbai as its capital. When Uttarakhand was carved out of UP on November 9, 2000, Lucknow remained the capital of UP. When Chhattisgarh was created on November 1, 2000, Bhopal remained the capital of Madhya Pradesh. When Jharkhand was created on November 15, 2000, Patna remained the capital of Bihar.

In the case of Telangana, which was created in 2014, the reorganisation period is 10 years, until 2024. But in Punjab, the reorganisation period continues even after five decades, it is argued.

What has Haryana said on the question of Chandigarh?

In 2018, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar suggested that a special body should be set up for the development of Chandigarh. But the idea was rejected by then Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who said Chandigarh indisputably belonged to Punjab.

Haryana has been demanding a separate High Court, and has passed a resolution in the Assembly demanding 20 rooms in the Vidhan Sabha complex that have been in Punjab's possession.

On Friday, Khattar said in Gurgaon: "The Punjab government's one-sided resolution has no meaning. ... This is not only a subject of Punjab, it is a subject of Haryana and even...Himachal Pradesh... Chandigarh is the capital of Punjab and Haryana... *aur dono ki rahegi* (and it will remain the capital of both)."

Above 59,000: what's powering the Sensex?

SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, APRIL 1

EVEN AS the crisis in Ukraine continues, domestic CPI inflation remains above 6%, the US Federal Reserve has raised rates, and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out the most in a month in the last two years, Indian markets closed at a two-month high of 59,276 on Friday. The benchmark Sensex at BSE and Nifty at NSE rose 1.2%, and are trading above pre-Russia-Ukraine war levels. A day before the Russian invasion on February 24, the Sensex closed at 57,232 — and as the war intensified, it fell to close at 52,842 on March 7.

Reasons for the rise

The biggest reason for the recovery over the last few days has been the news of positive developments in the discussions between Russia and Ukraine. The war has not drawn in more nations, as some had feared initially.

With reports of a possible truce, oil prices

have corrected — from a level of over \$132 per barrel on March 8, they have cooled to levels of \$105. Brent crude was trading at \$103.5 per barrel on Friday. Brent's decline lifts sentiment in Indian equity markets as India imports around 85% of its oil requirements, and a softening of international markets gives a breather to the Indian economy.

On the domestic front, rating agencies Crisil and ICRA have reported continuing improvement in the performance of India Inc. and more rating upgrades amid recovery in demand, deleveraging, and the decline in Covid-19 cases.

Domestic investors

Behind the recovery of the markets are small retail investors and domestic institutional investors (DIIs), who have more than made up for the FPI outflows seen in the last two months.

In January FPIs pulled out a net of Rs 33,303 crore from Indian equities. The outflow rose to Rs 35,592 crore in February, and Rs 41,123 crore in March — the highest in any month since the outflow of Rs 61,973 crore

seen in March 2020, when India announced a lockdown.

However, over the last two years, retail equity penetration has deepened significantly and demat accounts have more than tripled — from 1.97 crore accounts in December 2019 to 6.07 crore accounts at the end of February 2022.

This rising retail participation in direct equity investment and through mutual funds has led to a broadening of participants in the market, and worked to counterbalance FPIs.

So, while FPIs pulled out a net of Rs 76,715 crore in February and March 2022, domestic institutions, including mutual funds and insurance companies, invested a net of Rs 81,761 crore in the same period, more than making up for what was pulled out by FPIs.

It is also important to note that the FPI outflow over the last two weeks has tempered after the Fed announced its rate hike and indicated six more hikes this year. While FPIs pulled out Rs 42,079 crore till March 17, there has been a net inflow of over Rs 950 crore over the last two weeks. Experts say that the FPI outflow that was expected in anticipation of

rate hike has already happened and the decline in FPI outflow has contributed to the sharp recovery. Since March 15, the Sensex has jumped 3,500 points or 6.2% on the back of DII inflows and dip in FPI outflows.

Tread carefully

The war is continuing, and investors must tread carefully. A sudden escalation and rise in crude prices could again dent the markets. Investors should follow the mantra of steady SIP mode of investment, with a horizon of at least three years.

Investors and analysts are keenly awaiting the Reserve Bank of India's first bi-monthly monetary policy in the 2022-23 fiscal next week. Most analysts don't expect the RBI to change the accommodative policy stance or hike policy rates.

Meanwhile, the volatility in the markets is expected to continue until commodity prices subside and supply constraints are resolved. Another potential concern is the rising number of Covid cases in some countries including China, and its impact on global markets.

The Assam-Meghalaya border dispute, and what's been settled now

TORA AGARWALA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

ON TUESDAY, the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya signed a pact in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to resolve part of their five-decade-old boundary dispute. The two states share an 884-km boundary, which has seen several flare-ups.

What is the root of the conflict?

During British rule, undivided Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Meghalaya was carved out in 1972, its border demarcated as per the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969, but has held a different interpretation of the border.

In 2011, the Meghalaya government had identified 12 areas of difference with Assam, spread over about 2,700 sq km. Some of these disputes stem from recommendations by a 1951 committee headed by then Assam chief minister Gopinath Bordoloi. A 2008 research

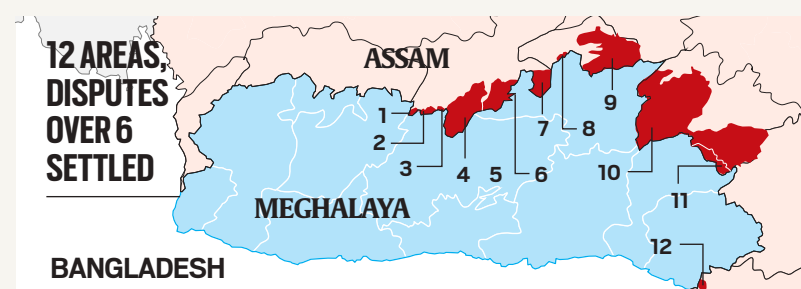
paper from the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses refers to the committee's recommendation on including certain areas in Assam. The 1969 Act is based on some of these recommendations, which Meghalaya rejects, claiming that these areas originally belong to the Khasi-Jaintia Hills. On the other hand, Assam says Meghalaya does not have the documents to prove these areas historically belonged to Meghalaya.

A number of attempts had been made in the past to resolve the dispute. In 1985, a committee was constituted under former Chief Justice of India YV Chandrachud, but a solution remained elusive.

What is in the current pact?

Since July last year, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma have been in talks to solve the long-standing dispute.

Both state governments identified six out of 12 disputed areas for resolution in the first phase: 3 areas contested between West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya and Kamrup in



DISPUTES SETTLED: 1. 4.69 sq km; 2. 13.53 sq km; 3. 3.51 sq km; 6. 1.57 sq km; 8. 2.29 sq km; 12. 11.20 sq km

DISPUTES PENDING: 4. 298.07 sq km; 5. 147.83 sq km; 7. 137.51 sq km; 9. 484.72 sq km; 10. 1547.42 sq km; 11. 76.80 sq km

Figures signify areas claimed by Meghalaya

Source: PPT presentation by Govt of Assam

Assam, 2 between Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya and Kamrup-Metro, and 1 between East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and Cachar in Assam.

After a series of meetings and visits by teams to the disputed areas, both sides submitted reports based on five mutually agreed principles: historical perspective, ethnicity of

local population, contiguity with boundary, peoples' will and administrative convenience.

A final set of recommendations was made jointly: out of 36.79 sq km of disputed area taken up for settlement in the first phase, Assam would get full control of 18.46 sq km and Meghalaya of 18.33 sq km. The

MoU signed on Tuesday was based on these recommendations.

So, who gets what?

From the 2011 claims made by Meghalaya government, an area of roughly 36.79 sq km was taken up for resolution in the first phase.

According to presentations by both states, the area has been roughly divided into equal parts, and a total of 30 sq km is being recommended to be within Meghalaya.

What are the next steps?

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

Officials said six areas taken for study did not have large differences and were easier to resolve, and were hence taken up in the first phase. "The remaining six areas are more complex and may take longer to resolve," said an Assam government official.

Is there any opposition?

Former Meghalaya CM Mukul Sangma, who is now part of the Trinamool Congress that is the principal opposition party in Meghalaya, criticised the government's approach. "This is a piecemeal resolution. They have taken up only 36 sq km for resolution. The larger, more complex areas (such as Langpih, Block I and II) are yet to be resolved and it will not be so easy," he said.

"The reality on ground zero is different — as far as I know, many people have not accepted the settlement and the agreement is almost like an imposition," he said.

In Assam, Opposition leaders criticised the state government for rushing it through without consulting stakeholders. In January, Leader of Opposition Debabrata Saikia (Congress) had alleged that CM Sarma had submitted a proposal to the Union Home Minister "without even a discussion in the State Assembly." "This is irresponsible and unconstitutional," said Saikia, asking that the recommendations be rescinded and demanding a special session in the Assembly.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

AFTER AFSPA

Centre does well to withdraw the Act from many districts in the Northeast. It must carry on working in this direction

THE PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Assam, Manipur and Nagaland soon after the formation of a new government in Imphal is very welcome. This law, which allows the Centre to suspend civil liberties and the armed forces to override the civil administration, has been a fraught issue in the Northeast for years. Calls for its suspension were heard in the campaign in the recent assembly polls in Manipur. Successive governments at the Centre, however, had held out against pleas for the removal of the Act, citing the security situation. Now, the Union home ministry has credited the "improved security situation", itself a result of "fast-tracked development" and agreements with insurgent groups, for its decision. Hopefully, this is only the beginning and more areas of the Northeast will be taken out of the AFSPA's ambit: The law continues to be in operation in nearly 75 per cent of Nagaland, all of the hill districts in Manipur and 40 per cent of Assam, mainly the districts bordering Manipur and Nagaland.

The Act in its present form was first imposed in Nagaland to battle the Naga nationalist movement that gained ground in the 1950s. As Naga nationalism acquired the character of an armed insurrection, the Act was introduced in Manipur's hill areas, which are home to Naga tribes. The insurgency has survived multiple splits in the Naga nationalist movement and various accords that the Centre signed with different insurgent groups in the 1970s. As Naga nationalism influenced the rise of similar nationalist movements in neighbouring states, including in Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam, from the 1960s onwards, the government moved in the army and central para-military forces to the region. The AFSPA provided operational cover for these forces, not trained or mandated to operate amid a civilian population or to report to the civil administration. The contradictions emerging from this situation, wherein the local political leadership and civil bureaucracy have a diminished role in governance, alienated local populations caught in the crossfire between insurgents and the armed forces. The AFSPA also facilitated a climate of impunity and promoted a vision of a punishing state that was also a perpetrator of violence. Civil society has been leading the demand for its withdrawal, particularly in Nagaland and Manipur — Manipur CM Biren Singh has announced his government will honour from Sharmila for her long struggle against the Act.

Violence has been a feature of ethnic nationalist movements in the Northeast. However, these nationalisms are not merely armed insurgencies, but also movements born of civic anxieties associated with state building. Since the 1970s, the Centre has recognised the importance of engaging with the aspirations present in the separatist movements and promised to accommodate them within the federal rubric. Its outreach has been successful in Mizoram, Tripura and Assam, and a tenuous peace with the NSCN-IM has held up for nearly three decades in Nagaland. The challenge for the Centre now is to build on the promise of Wednesday's announcement and slowly restore the primacy of the civilian administration in the areas still under AFSPA. It is a process that demands great patience, negotiation and accommodation.

NO SERMONS PLEASE

Attempts by US Deputy NSA, UK Foreign Secretary to corner Delhi on Ukraine come perilously close to a zero-sum approach

ALL MAJOR POWERS are aware of, and act in accordance with, an axiom that governs international relations: In striking a balance between adhering to abstract and disembodied principles and maximising national interest, nation-states often find themselves tilting towards the latter. In this context, the responses by US Deputy National Security Advisor Daleep Singh and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss to Delhi's position on the Ukraine crisis strike a jarring note. Singh's barely-veiled warning that there would be "consequences" for countries that do not adhere to the sanctions against Russia, and Truss's moral grandstanding about ending the UK's dependence on Russian energy supplies while "standing up for the people of Ukraine" appear to elevate the concerns of a particular group of nations to a universal moral position.

Delhi has been both careful and consistent in its position on the crisis in Eastern Europe: Dialogue, not military aggression, is the way forward in resolving territorial disputes. Singh and Truss, on the other hand, come dangerously close to a zero-sum, "with us or against us" approach. Singh, for instance, said that Russia would not come to India's aid if China breached the LAC, given that Moscow is a junior partner in the "no limits" friendship with Beijing. But why would Delhi expect it to? The understanding between mature actors on the global stage is that they build on mutual interests and values, while acknowledging that imperatives of foreign policy and developmental needs may mean that there are points of divergence. Moreover, as Foreign Minister S Jaishankar pointed out at a panel discussion with Truss, Russian oil imports form a minuscule part of India's energy basket, while the UK increased its already substantial purchase of Russian oil and gas between February and March — well after Moscow sent its forces into Ukraine.

India's strategic and economic relationship with the US in particular and the West as a whole has deepened in the last two decades. The shifting world order, the rise of a belligerent China on its borders and in vital sea lanes across the Indo-Pacific have played a part in this — as has shared support for democracy and dialogue. Other members of the Quad — Australia and Japan — too have taken a more strident stance on Russian aggression in Ukraine. But when their prime ministers held meetings with PM Modi last month, they did not insist that Delhi should strictly echo their position, focusing, instead, on strengthening the partnership. The US and UK could draw some lessons from that.

UNMASKING

Not that the aam aadmi or aurat was waiting for the official announcement

EVEN AMONG THE more conscientious in India, many will welcome the end of mandatory masking, as announced by states such as Maharashtra, Delhi and Telangana. Experts have cautioned that masks remain the first line of defence against Covid-19, which hasn't gone away. But it would be hard to deny that before March 2020, few cherished, as they do now, the caress of a breeze on the face, and not many realised just how difficult communication can be without facial cues to read. And while compulsive instagrammers, undefeated by the mask, popularised the #maskfie, could it ever compare to a duck-faced selfie?

No doubt some people would want to continue to mask up, not only because the danger posed by the virus still remains, but because masks give them a sense not of oppression, but liberation. If airing the face, unhindered by a piece of fabric, feels like freedom, the same could be said about being able to hide behind a convenient barrier. The mask afforded privacy in public places, a rare luxury in an overcrowded country — and one that is especially cherished by women. How much easier it is to scowl at bad or sexist jokes from behind a mask, than to force a laugh or smile without it. And how much lighter it must feel to shed the burden of makeup — lipstick sales had dipped by as much as half during the peak of the pandemic — even if temporarily.

But visual evidence available on the streets suggests that those who voluntarily mask up will be in the minority. After all, in an exercise of independent judgement that is better applied in other aspects of life, the average Indian had demoted the mask from the nose and mouth to the chin months ago. In that sense, the mask mandates in India ended sometime last year. The state is only catching up with the fait accompli now.

Joseph K in Karnataka

That Bommai government ignores pressing concerns to lavish attention on minority-bashing tells a larger story



G N DEVY

THE "K" IN Karnataka brings to my mind two other "K"s. One is Joseph "K", the protagonist of Franz Kafka's enigmatic novel *The Trial*, the other "K" is the psychologist Melanie Klein. Klein had shown that between the fourth and the sixth month of infancy, a child learns to prefer one of its mother's breasts and starts despising the other one. She proposed this widely-accepted "object relations" theory in 1921. A century later, Basavaraj Bommai, who replaced B S Yediyurappa as Karnataka chief minister in July 2021, classically fits into the "K" theory. During the last eight months, he has put his energy into things he likes with an infant-like attachment. What he likes to ignore is the fact that a month before his induction, the Karnataka State Contractors Association had written to the PMO, protesting the steep rise in government corruption. They claimed in writing that 40 per cent was the going rate for bribes that the people's representatives and bureaucrats had been demanding. This was a stated case; there were and are more such unstated cases marking corruption as the most urgent challenge. Bommai succeeded H D Kumaraswamy of the JDS and Yediyurappa of the BJP in a context where the BJP could form the government through engineering a large-scale defection in other parties. The results in recent bypolls and panchayat elections have not been too dazzling for the party and the industrial outlook of Karnataka has been unenviable. The river water disputes have not been settled. The drinking water problem, which was identified by social scientists as the most crucial factor in the previous election, has not been addressed. Bommai has turned a blind eye to these issues.

On the other hand, the CM has lavished all his attention and energy on minority-bashing. He has been in the news for passing an anti-conversion act, turning the hijab into an issue, reviving an absurd law banning Muslim shopkeepers around temple premises, inducing a boycott of halal meat, bringing minority institutions under a scanner and getting ready to introduce the Bhagavad Gita in schools. The Christian community made

attempts to tell the government that the anti-conversion act would not be consistent with the Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental right to profess and preach any faith. Did the government of Karnataka engage with it in a conversation? The rules related to school uniforms were framed at the beginning of the year, but the hijab issue was raked up later. Did the government consider how it would impact the right to education? The relationship between Hindu temples and Muslim vendors is centuries old. Did the government consider how the ban would disturb the social fabric? No, again. And, posing jhatka meat as "nationalist" and "halal meat" as not fully so is as absurd a binary. The lack of response from the government to the questions raised by Christians and Muslims has been reminiscent of Kafka's *The Trial*. Go around as much as you like, from bureaucracy to police, from politicians to courts, there is only a deferment of justice and dialogue. The Bommai government has enacted the Hindutva blueprint with the rapidity of a "drut khayal" in music, an art in which Karnataka excels.

In sync with the humiliation of religious minorities is the proposed introduction of the Bhagavad Gita in schools. Contrary to the assumption about its impact, the move is hardly likely to be appreciated by the "majority" in Karnataka. The "rationalised" census data of 2011 may show the population of Hindus in Karnataka at 84 per cent, against that of Muslims at 12 per cent, Christians at 1.87 per cent and Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs and others at 1.2 per cent. However, the "Hindu" category in Karnataka is no monolith. It is presented as being inclusive of the heterodox schools and anti-Brahmin groups such as the Scheduled Castes (19.5 per cent), Lingayats (14 per cent), Vokkaligas, (11 per cent) and Kurubas (7 per cent). How can they emotionally or spiritually relate to the Gita? The closing section of the Gita, the 18th adhyaya, justifies the varna hierarchy. Do we expect 21st century SC children to accept the justification? Lingayat children may prefer to

read the vachana poems of Allama Prabhu (12th century Lingayat saint) and the Kuruba children would want poems of Kanaka (6th century Kuruba poet). Besides, the rich philosophical tradition of Gita Bhashya in Karnataka over the last thousand years likes to depict the Gita as the "possibility of worshipping many god-heads", a theological federalism rather than a unitary vision of an avatar. That tradition has seeped deep into Kannada literature, culture and philosophy, best exemplified in recent times by the poet K V Puttappa (1904-1994), who is seen as a "national poet". Finally, if the Gita is introduced, the Devanagari script used is bound to be seen as an irritant by students and teachers.

Given these demographic, cultural and historical challenges in a state where Shiva, Mahavira and the Mother Goddess are far more popular than Krishna or Rama, why has CM Bommai taken the path of introducing the Gita in schools? On the face of it, it is a path of self-destruction for the BJP. Yet, the electoral math shows that he does not want to face the emergence of the AHINDA coalition in the assembly election next year. The term, first coined by Devaraj Urs, is a Kannada acronym for minorities, Dalits and backward castes. Siddaramaiah, a Kuruba leader, is actively promoting the idea. The disaffection of the Lingayats towards the BJP is growing. If a new coalition emerges with even a marginal support from the Lingayats, the BJP may once again be placed in its 2018 position or worse. Thus, the only foothold of the BJP in the South could be considerably weakened. Demonisation of religious minorities appears to be a desperate attempt to keep the BJP's own flock together and to hold back the Lingayats in its camp. On the other hand, the success of this variety of politics can leave the Constitution considerably dented. The Karnataka CM's path ahead is precarious, or as an Upanishad says, *kshurasya dhara nishta duratayaya*, like walking on a razor's edge.

Devy is an author and a cultural activist

A LEADER FOR THE TIME

Volodymyr Zelenskyy is defending democracy, its values, and its future



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

IF THE 20TH century is remembered as the century of civil struggles for the making of democracy, the 21st century will be recorded as the century of civil resistance for the preservation of democracy. Most totalitarian regimes, either fascist or communist, have been defeated in the past 80 years, either by military action or by nonviolent revolution of citizens. It goes without saying that the modern human condition has been inextricably bound up with the ability of individuals or groups to make a difference to their destinies by fighting for freedom and home rule. Undoubtedly, these could be considered as exemplary men and women who struggled to keep democracy safe while undergoing terrible personal sufferings.

In a world like ours where most democracies are endangered by the lack of passion and the conformist attitude of the citizens, to see the young students of Hong Kong and the Ukrainians fighting for their freedom and democracy is very promising. That being so, one can say that the democratic contract, as much as the process of democratisation of dictatorships, are both in need of heroes. As such, if Pericles was the democratic hero of the Athenians in 5th century BC and Nelson Mandela that of South Africa and its democratic dream, today Volodymyr Zelenskyy is the hero of the Ukrainian democracy and its uncertain future. A former comedian, Zelenskyy's journey in politics has been that of a courageous soul facing his destiny and reminding us of sacrifice for human dignity and democracy.

In his seminal work, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Joseph Campbell defines a hero as one who battles either personal or his-

torical limitations and who becomes a source through which his society is reborn. Campbell describes a hero as a powerful human being who embarks on a quest to win a war, gain a mystical object. That is why the hero should undergo a series of tests or trials. For Zelenskyy, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been a great test of courage and a learning process of democratic heroism. Even if Ukraine loses the war of democracy against Russian authoritarianism, Zelenskyy will always be remembered as a democratic hero who achieved a moral victory against Vladimir Putin.

The irony of history is that Zelenskyy never had the intention of becoming a leader, in the sense of someone who goes about the practical business of the masses. And yet, in his confrontation with the Russian Leviathan, democracy, for him, has become a matter of conviction. His pursuit of the democratic ideal has been very much like that of a Homeric hero who has no limits in achieving his goals. This moral and political effort makes him even a more inspiring leader for a democratic world that is desperately looking for democratic heroes. The truth is that without a democratic leadership, à la Mandela, democratic passion cannot be maintained for long. People often talk about strong and specific democratic leadership. What is forgotten, however, is that there are many leaders around the world who are democratically elected, yet who have neither political courage nor the moral integrity to fight the rise of authoritarianism.

The war in Ukraine is unbelievable and tragic and all the more gripping and inspiring for having at its centre a former comedian with a great humanistic appeal. Let us not forget

what Shakespeare said, "Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Today, Zelenskyy's greatness is in defending democracy, its values, and its future.

The tragedy of Ukraine is an important page of our political history, raising urgent questions about the fragility of our democracies, resistance to an abuse of power that carries itself as far as it will go (as Baron de Montesquieu used to say), and the moral power of the powerless Ukrainians. As history shows us, chaotic circumstances have always demanded heroes to challenge the evil forces at work. But there is another related matter that concerns the future of Ukraine and the democratic fate of a politician like Zelenskyy.

When Vaclav Havel and his fellow Czech intellectuals and artists signed the Charter 77 against the communist regime in Czechoslovakia, they dared to confront an ideological power with the only thing at their disposal — their search for truth and an idea of democracy as a form of associated living where political actors can recognise themselves in the challenges. Tragedies of democracy demonstrate that great human suffering can encourage individual claims to dignity and freedom. Today, more than ever, the spirit of democracy in Ukraine is confronted with a political tragedy in which the feelings of horror and sorrow are accompanied with heroic moments of civil resistance and democratic heroism. After all, the salvation of democracy lies nowhere else than in the human love for democracy.

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APRIL 2, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

REAGAN'S OVERTURE

US PRESIDENT RONALD Reagan has invited the Soviet Union to "join with us to substantially reduce nuclear weapons" and thus contribute to "lasting peace on Earth". Reagan, who was speaking at a press conference in Washington, said he expected the US to be ready for talks this summer, though the exact dates would depend on the international situation. He firmly rejected a freeze on nuclear missiles, holding that it would work to the Soviet's advantage and give them little reason to reduce nuclear arms. Reagan said, on balance, the Soviets had a definite "margin of superiority" over the US.

TIFF IN PRESS BODY

A REJOINER WAR is on at the Press Council showing serious differences amongst members on several vital issues. While there is no alternative for the commission's chairman KK Mathew, to include a note of dissent given by four members, K R Ganesh, who was a minister before and during the Emergency, attacking the dissenter's note. Mathew who is a former judge of the Supreme Court, and at present the chairman of the Law Commission, has chosen to add a note of his own joining issue with the dissenters on whether the report should contain references to the Emergency. The dissenters, Girilal Jain,

Rajendra Mathur, S K Mukherjee and H K Paranjape have given another rejoinder.

CEMENT PROBE

TURNING DOWN A near-unanimous demand in both houses of the Andhra legislature for a judicial or a house committee probe into the multi-million rupee cement scandal involving the Major Industries Minister Baga Reddy, the state Chief Minister has constituted a one-man inquiry committee. The commission comprising senior IPS officer Sravan Kumar will submit its report in a month.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Break nexus with executive

An independent umbrella body that brings investigative agencies like the CBI under one roof holds the key to restore their credibility



N V RAMANA

GIVEN OUR EXPERIENCE with democracy so far, it is proven beyond doubt that democracy is best suited for a pluralistic society like ours. Our rich diversity cannot be sustained through dictatorial governance. It is only through democracy that our rich culture, heritage, diversity, and pluralism can be sustained and strengthened.

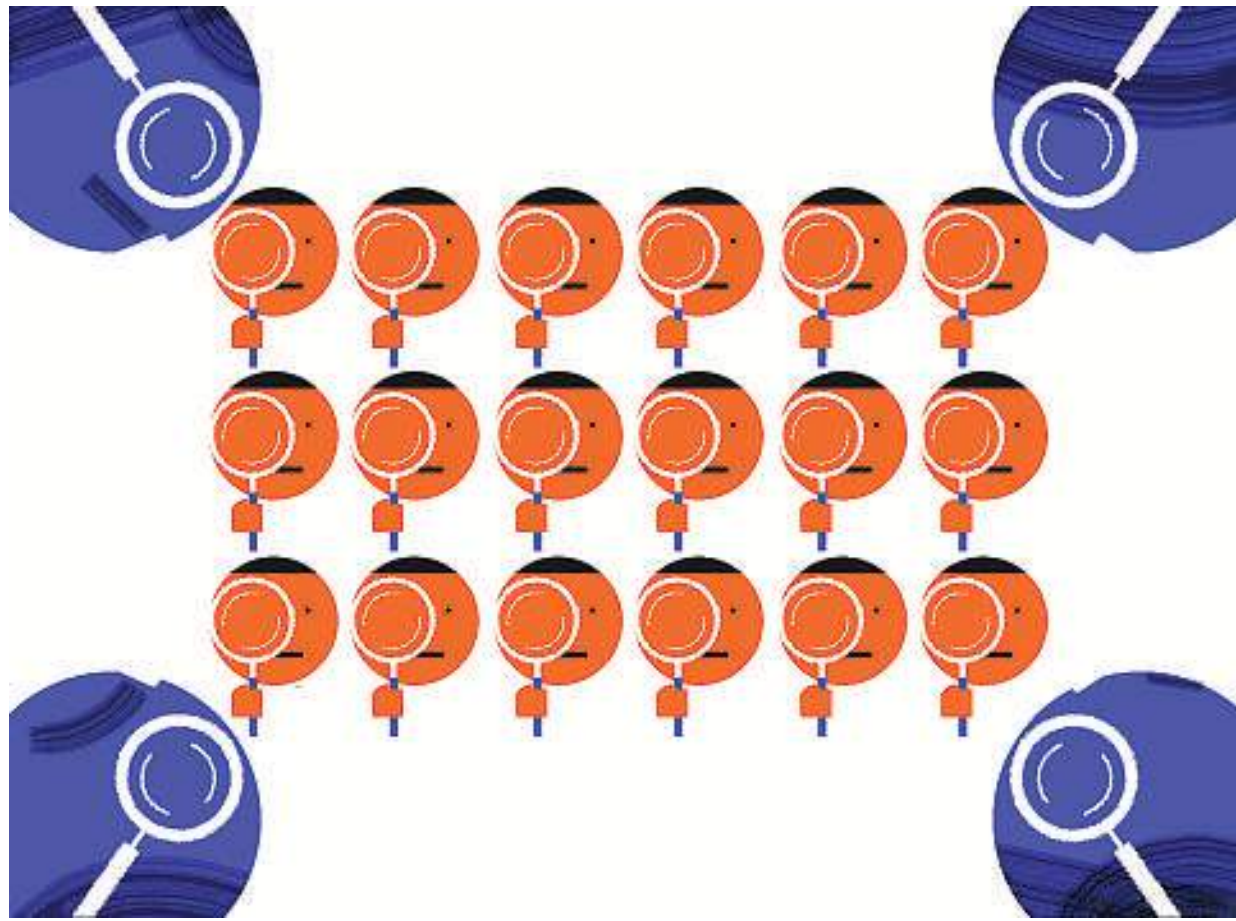
We Indians love our freedom. When any attempt has been made to snatch our freedom, our alert citizenry did not hesitate to seize the power back from autocrats. So, it is essential that all the institutions including the police and the investigative bodies uphold and strengthen democratic values. They should not allow authoritarian tendencies to creep in.

The police and investigative agencies may have de-facto legitimacy, but as institutions, they are yet to gain social legitimacy. Police should work impartially and focus on crime prevention. They should also work in cooperation with the public to ensure law and order. The CBI possessed immense trust of the public in its initial phase. But with the passage of time, like every other institution of repute, the CBI has also come under deep public scrutiny. Its actions and inactions have raised questions regarding its credibility, in some cases. People hesitate to approach the police in times of despair. The image of the institution of police is regrettably tarnished by allegations of corruption, police excesses, lack of impartiality and close nexus with the political class.

Often, police officers approach us with the complaint that they are being harassed after the change in the regime. The need of the hour is to reclaim social legitimacy and public trust. The first step to gain the same is to break the nexus with the political executive. The best of talents enter this system in expectation of recognition and accolades. But upright officers find it difficult to stand by their oath. The truth is, that no matter how deficient and non-cooperative the other institutions may be, if you all stand by your ethics and stand united with integrity, nothing can come in the way of your duty. This stands true for all institutions. This is where the role of leadership comes into play. The institution is as good, or as bad, as its leadership. A few upright officers can bring a revolution in the system.

I would like to point out a few issues affecting the system. These are: Lack of infrastructure, lack of sufficient manpower, inhuman conditions, especially at the lowest rung, lack of modern equipment, questionable methods of procuring evidence, officers failing to abide by the rule book and the lack of accountability of erring officers.

Then there are certain issues that lead to delays in trials. They are: Lack of public prosecutors and standing counsels, seeking adjournments, arraying hundreds of witnesses and filing voluminous documents in pending trials, undue imprisonment of undertrials, change in priorities with the change in the political executive, cherry-picking of the evidence, and repeated transfers of officers leading to a change in the direction of the investigation. These issues often lead to the acquittal of the guilty and incarceration of the innocent. This severely affects the public trust in the system. The courts



CR Sasikumar

cannot simply monitor every step.

Reform of the police system is long overdue in our country. The Ministry of Home Affairs has itself recognised the glaring need for the same in the "Status Note on Police Reforms in India". Unfortunately, our investigative agencies still do not have the benefit of being guided by a comprehensive law. The need of the hour is the creation of an independent and autonomous investigative agency. For instance, in spite of the various issues affecting the Indian judiciary, the public still reposes its faith in the institution. This faith is largely due to the inherent autonomy and commitment to the Constitution and laws by the judiciary.

There is an immediate requirement for the creation of an independent umbrella institution, so as to bring various agencies like the CBI, SFIO, and ED under one roof. This body is required to be created under a statute, clearly defining its powers, functions and jurisdictions. Such a law will also lead to much-needed legislative oversight.

It is imperative for the organisation to be headed by an independent and impartial authority to be appointed by a committee akin to the one which appoints the Director of the CBI. The head of the organisation can be assisted by deputies who are specialists in different domains. This umbrella organisation will end the multiplicity of proceedings. A single incident these days gets investigated by multiple agencies, often leading to dilution of evidence, contradiction in depositions, prolonged incarceration of innocents. It will also save the institution from being blamed as a tool of harassment. Once an incident is reported, the organisation should decide as to which specialised wing should take up investigation.

One additional safeguard that needs to be built into the scheme, is to have separate and autonomous wings for prosecution and investigation, in order to ensure total independence.

A provision in the proposed law for an

FOR THE RECORD

nual audit of the performance of the institution by the appointing committee will be a reasonable check and balance.

There is a need for regular upgradation of knowledge, deployment of state-of-the-art technology, and international exchange programmes to learn the best practices.

With the police and public order under the State List, and rightly so, the burden of investigation is primarily on the state police. There is no reason why state investigative agencies, which handle most of the investigations, cannot enjoy the same level of credibility as that of the national agency. The proposed Central law for the umbrella investigative body can be suitably replicated by the states.

An issue that needs addressing at this stage is the representation of women in the criminal justice system. Often, women feel deterred in reporting certain offences due to a lack of representation. Their presence in the policing system will further encourage hesitant victims to approach the criminal justice system and report crimes.

Relations between the community and police also need to be fixed. This is only possible if police training includes sensitisation workshops and interactions to inspire public confidence. It is imperative for the police and the public to work together to create a safe society. Ultimately you must remember that your allegiance must be to the Constitution and the rule of law and not to any person. When you stand upright, you shall be remembered for your courage, principles and valour. The political executive will change with time, you as an institution will be permanent. Be independent, pledge solidarity to your service. Your fraternity is your strength.

Edited excerpts of the 19th D P Kohli Memorial Lecture delivered by Chief Justice N V Ramana on April 1 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Relations between the community and police also need to be fixed. This is only possible if police training includes sensitisation workshops and interactions to inspire public confidence. It is imperative for the police and the public to work together to create a safe society.

Joining the dots on autism

Ramp up screening, develop responsive curriculum, popularise legal rights



RASHMI DAS

"APRIL IS THE cruellest month," wrote T S Eliot in *The Waste Land*. Families with autistic children are familiar with cruelty, and at this time of the year, a mirror should be held up to society. April is Autism Awareness Month and April 2 is Autism Awareness Day, both of which are mandated by the United Nations.

Autism diagnosis usually comes wrapped with the label of being "abnormal". Clinically, it is appended with a heavy negative list of what a child cannot do and predictions of hopelessness, devastating the parent.

Autism is not a "disease" that can be cured. It is a lifelong set of developmental impairments in the domains of communication and social responsiveness, accompanied by restrictive and repetitive behaviours. If you are autistic today, you will be autistic tomorrow, and the day after.

Official reporting of autism numbers in India is extremely weak. A Government of India statistical profile from 2021 about Persons with Disabilities (PwD) does not account for autism since it bases itself on the Census data of 2011. Autism was recognised as a disability in 2016 under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. We have a serious data deficit in this field.

The bulk of learning for autistic children in most schools, private and NGO-run, is implemented through an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) that consists of the following: Joining dots, tracing letters, putting objects from one container to the other, cutting, chop-

ping and peeling veggies, packing, threading paper bags, etc. There is no curriculum, no progression plan and no transition roadmaps for induction into teen years and adulthood. Families face a void. And they are desperate.

It is a crushing setback for a mother to know that her child will not learn like other children. It's like facing postpartum blues for years. Called mad and feral, the autistic child is avoided in social settings, not invited or befriended in the community. A mother of an autistic child knows what name-calling, discrimination and ostracism look and feel like.

Research suggests that sleep disturbances impact over 80 per cent of children with autism. This deficit is passed to the mother on a daily basis. Her life oscillates between vigils by night and therapy-hopping by day. The supervisory load is high. Autistic children tend to wander. Paediatric literature based on parent surveys puts this at roughly 50 per cent.

In the US, the Centre for Disease Control & Prevention keeps a tight lens on prevalence data, conducting multi-site studies across states. In the UK, the Department of Education (DoE) reports on autistic students in schools and also honestly puts out exclusion data. The autism strategy (2022-2026), their most ambitious plan, has committed big investments for awareness and training.

The first task before the government is to ramp up autism screening. Unlike Down's syndrome, which is screened prenatally through triple test and amniocentesis, there

are no biomarkers to detect the risk of autism. Scientific practices as they exist at present are standardised tests — the Childhood Autism Rating Scale — of behaviours and developmental milestones.

In India, routine paediatric health checks mostly focus on anthropometric parameters, cures for seasonal symptoms and the vaccination schedule, ignoring developmental scrutiny. In 2019, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, launched a free app — *PedNeuroAiimsDiagnostics* — on Google Play and the App Store. It makes assessment parameters available to all paediatricians. Despite being very robust, the app has not seen much traction. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare should drive its adoption as a government-to-citizen measure in the child healthcare systems of our country.

Second, the big tent approach of special education is not working. What works for dyslexia or Down's syndrome will not work with autism. Besides, there is no one autism. Lorna Wing, a towering figure in autism research, has called it a "spectrum of conditions", from the severely affected to the high functioning. After global diagnostic criteria changes brought through DSM-V (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders), Asperger's syndrome, a condition without learning disability but with similarities to autism was also included as a sub-group of autism. Therefore, a responsive curriculum

framework is the need of the hour.

Flexi-syllabus and the use of scribes are allowed by CBSE to fulfil the provisions of the RPwD Act. But, how many have availed of these facilities? There is no government data but based on parental narratives from different cities, it can be safely said that it is accessed only by a microscopic minority among autistic learners.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 states that "by 2025, at least 50 per cent of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to vocational education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines will be developed." This principle should be applied to autism education, given that autistics have special systemising abilities, focussed interests and an aptitude for vocational tasks. Learning materials and teaching the teachers are crucial steps.

Third, autism awareness campaigns need to popularise legal rights and government benefit schemes, which include free education and financial support for benchmarked disabilities. The Unique Disability ID card issuance facility has to be liberalised and decentralised. Presently, few government hospitals are authorised to do this work making the process cumbersome.

Autism is a major paediatric concern. Our systems have to be ready for it.

The writer is Editor, *TelecomLive & Infralive*

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"For Washington, the Ukraine crisis is more like an episode while the theme song is to contain China, its biggest 'imaginary enemy'." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Finding Meenakshi

Madurai teaches us that the true heart of Hinduism lies in the easy confidence of many ways of faith within it



OPENING ARGUMENT

BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

OVER THE RECENTLY concluded Holi holidays, the better half and I went on a much-awaited trip to the grand old city of Madurai in Tamil Nadu. We were celebrating a decade of our relationship. We prepared by reading up on Madurai and learnt that it is one of India's oldest continuously populated cities. There are historical records of Megasthenes, the ancient Greek historian and diplomat, visiting the city in the 3rd century BC.

Today, Madurai, which is bounded by three hills, is a bustling city of 1.7 million inhabitants and fueled by multiple industries. However, amid a modern Madurai lies an older world of heritage and enduring faith. To be in Madurai is to have all of one's senses engaged and transported. For your mind, it has a fine museum dedicated to Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (which also houses the clothes that he was wearing on the day he was assassinated) and a functioning library of the Theosophical Society.

For your palate, Madurai has what journalist Samar Halamkar calls "a vibrant 24-hour foodie culture" — that defines the city called "thoonganagaram" or the city that never sleeps. The guidebook *Lonely Planet* notes that over 30 per cent of the people of the city report trouble sleeping. For your heart, Madurai makes you appreciate the many ways of faith or a multiplicity of ways within Hinduism. Here is an old world of meat-eating that is intertwined with devotion to a fierce goddess, Meenakshi — 97.8 per cent of Tamil Nadu is reported to be meat-eating. Finally, to completely mesmerise and captivate your entire being, by its magnificent architecture and intricate sculptures that tell stories from mythology, the Meenakshi Amman temple.

Nothing really prepares you for the Meenakshi Amman temple, located on the banks of the Vaigai river. Meenakshi (which means fish-eyed) in her form as Parvati, consort of Shiva, is the principal deity in the temple. The temple had its early origins in 600 CE and was subsequently restored and enhanced from the 16th century onwards by the Nayaka rulers, especially Tirumala Nayaka.

The Meenakshi temple complex has 14 gopurams (gateway towers), four gates and multiple halls, with many resident deities including Shiva (Sundareswarar), Ganesha, Murugan, amongst others, all revolving around Meenakshi. The roof is painted with colourful art. Every evening Sundareswarar is carried to Meenakshi's silver chamber in a procession before being returned to his own chamber the next morning. Each gopuram is a tapestry of sculpture, telling elaborate stories — much like a beautifully engraved, colourful, three-dimensional graphic novel that communicates across eras.

However, it is the Hall of a Thousand

Pillars, which is also a museum within the temple complex, that is the finest showcase of sculpture and art. The wonder within the wonder. Each stone pillar or column in the hall has intricately-carved sculptures of either fierce warriors or the mythical Yali (part lion, part elephant, part horse). At the base of each pillar are further small sculptures of human forms. Pillar after pillar of stone magnificence, all intended to awe the observer. Nataraja is the deity in the Hall, and hence it's the first museum I have been to where prayers are offered.

One must deposit phones and shoes before entering the temple. So, we were entirely cut off from our humdrum contemporary life and could feel the cool stone flooring of the temple against our feet. We have no photos inside the temple. It resides as an enduring memory that one can revisit quietly, as one waits for cases in court or drinks tea after a long day's work, or when one wakes up in the morning. Meenakshi provides tranquility as she becomes a part of one's consciousness. Navtej Singh Johar, the Bharatanatyam dancer and yoga practitioner, said, "If you look closely, you will see that all the sculptures in the temple showcase movement, but Meenakshi herself is completely still".

Right through our trip, we had the benefit of the insights of Viswa Darini, an architect who lives in Madurai. She is an insider-connoisseur of her beloved city, and much to our great relief provided us with a detailed and heartfelt itinerary. Viswa explained that "Madurai's core city is planned around the temple in concentric streets". She had instructions for our activities within and outside the temple: "For Meenakshi Amman Kovil enter via the East Tower and exit via the West. She would add, 'eat at Laala Halwa Kadaai, a 100-year-old shop, serving hot halwa in lotus leaves'. Or 'make sure to have breakfast at Murugan idlis, where the softness of the idlis is like jasmine'.

Viswa sent us for lunch at Amsavali Bhavan, telling us to "start with kola urundai (mutton/chicken minced into balls and fried), muttai poriyal (South Indian scrambled eggs with green chillies and chopped onions) and vanjaram fry (a local fish, deep-fried, to be eaten with lime)." In Madurai, I tasted modifications of my grandmother's recipe for ginger chicken and found my grandfather's favorite mutton dishes. Chicken kari dosai, Madurai's most popular dish, reminded me of the meat curries served with dosai at my grandmother's table. Irrespective of what we ate for lunch, it was always followed by a "jigarhandam" — a dessert made from milk, agar agar, almond and ice cream. The perfect way to ward off the heat of the hot Madurai sun and round off a spicy meal.

As we caught the flight back to Delhi after a few days in Madurai, I thought back on what we had seen. Faith is multifaceted in India: Female or male deities, elaborate temples, or no fixed place of worship, vegetarian or non-vegetarian dietary practices. Madurai teaches us that in this easy confidence of many diverse faiths within a religion lies the true heart of Hinduism.

The writer is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COLLECTIVE ACTION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Crisis & sustainability' (IE, April 1). The unregulated urbanisation and GHG emissions in cities have resulted in the melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets. As such, what is challenging about achieving climate-resilient development is that it cannot be attained in isolation. A collective effort at the global level is required to reverse environmental decay. The IPCC report should be taken as a warning. Not only at the individual level but the government needs to step in, recognise the symbiotic relationship between nature and mankind and take immediate corrective action. One way of doing so would be to formulate policies that evaluate the climate responsiveness or resource efficiency of all the projects at every stage.

Aerika Singh, Chandigarh

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

TROUBLE NEXT DOOR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The army's government' (IE, April 1). Uncertain power equations in Pakistan are definitely not reassuring for India but Imran Khan has seldom made an effort to better Indo-Pak ties. The army's overarching influence on the civilian government can do Islamabad bad good in shaping its foreign policy. A Taliban-led Afghanistan and indecisive Pakistan put India in an unenviable spot. The no-confidence motion seems to have muddied the waters all the more.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

GOONS GALORE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'House

FAILED POLICY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Cheers, Mr CM' (IE, April 1). Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has come under severe opposition attack following several hooch tragedies that claimed 60 lives in the last few months of 2021, and his ban has remained only on paper. Nitish Kumar on Thursday called the people who drink alcohol as "sinners" while adding that it is considered a sin by Mahatma Gandhi, after passing Bihar Prohibition and Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Assembly that dilutes the complete ban of alcohol introduced in April 2016, breaking his promise to women of the state who complained about growing drunkenness.

SS Paul, Nadia

SERBIA

8 DEAD IN COAL MINE ACCIDENT

An accident on Friday in a coal mine in central Serbia killed eight miners and wounded 18 others, authorities said, adding that the workers apparently suffocated from too much methane gas. Officials said an investigation was underway to determine exactly what happened at the Soko coal mine, located 200 km southeast of Belgrade.

TOP OF THE WORLD



The LAPD has said they were aware of the incident. Reuters

USA

Oscars producer: Police offered to arrest Will Smith

OSCARS PRODUCER Will Packer said Los Angeles police were ready to arrest Will Smith after Smith slapped Chris Rock on the Academy Awards stage. "They were saying, you know, this is battery, was a word they used in that moment," Packer said in a clip released by ABC News Thursday night of an interview. "They said we will go get him. We are prepared. We're prepared to get him right now. You can press charges, we can arrest him. They were laying out the options." But Packer said Rock was "very dismissive" of the idea. "He was like, 'No, no, no, I'm fine,'" Packer said. Packer added that officers asked Rock if they should take any action, but he said no. AP

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Won't allow Chinese military base: govt

AMID A regional backlash, the Solomon Islands said it would not allow a Chinese military base in the Pacific islands nation despite its plans to sign a security pact with Beijing. A day after officials from the two countries initialled a draft agreement on security, the office of Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said on Friday the agreement does not invite China to establish a military base. "Government is conscious of the security ramifications of hosting a military base...", a statement said. REUTERS

MEXICO

President poised to win historic referendum

MEXICAN PRESIDENT Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is this month poised for victory in a referendum on his rule that could fortify his authority during the final stretch of his administration even as critics dismiss the vote as a sideshow. The recall referendum on April 10 has given the Lopez Obrador a focal point for his constant broadsides against the opposition, which is struggling to capitalise on the troubles he has had delivering on promises. Lopez Obrador argues the first-of-its-kind vote is vital to validate his democratic mandate. REUTERS

Moscow says Ukraine strike hit a fuel depot inside Russia as talks resume

Another bid to evacuate civilians from besieged Mariupol underway

NEBIQENA & YURAS KARMANAU KYIV, APRIL 1

TALKS TO stop the fighting in Ukraine resumed Friday, as another attempt to rescue civilians from the besieged port city of Mariupol broke down and Russia accused the Ukrainians of launching a cross-border helicopter attack on an oil depot.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said the alleged airstrike by a pair of helicopter gunships caused multiple fires and injured two people. A Kremlin spokesman said the incident territory could undermine the negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian representatives.

"Certainly, this is not something that can be perceived as creating comfortable conditions for the continuation of the talks," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov replied when asked if the strike could be viewed as an escalation of the war in Ukraine.

It was not immediately possible to verify the claim that Ukrainian helicopters targeted the oil depot or several nearby businesses in Belgorod also reported hit. Russia has reported shelling from Ukraine before, including an incident last week that killed a military chaplain, but not an incursion of its airspace.

Asked if Ukraine had fired on the depot, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in Warsaw that he could "neither confirm nor reject the claim that Ukraine was involved in this simply because I do not possess all the military information."



At the site of a fire at an oil depot in Belgorod region in Russia. The governor of Belgorod accused Ukraine of striking the oil depot Friday morning. AP

Gazprom exits German business

RUSSIAN ENERGY giant Gazprom said Friday it was exiting its business in Germany, amid a row between the two countries over Moscow's insistence on switching payments for Russian gas to roubles from euros.

It was not immediately clear

how the move would affect the supply of Russian gas, on which Germany depends for about 40 per cent of its needs. The company said it terminated participation in Gazprom Germania GmbH and all its assets, including Gazprom Marketing & Trading Ltd. REUTERS

The latest negotiations, taking place by video link, follow a meeting in Turkey on Tuesday where Ukraine reiterated its willingness to abandon a bid to join NATO and offered proposals to have its neutral military status guaranteed by a range of foreign countries.

The head of the Russian delegation, Vladimir Medinsky, wrote on social media that Moscow's positions on retaining control of the Crimean Peninsula and expanding the territory in eastern Ukraine held by Russia-backed separatists "are unchanged."

The International Committee for the Red Cross said complex logistics were still being worked out for the operation to get emergency aid into Mariupol and civilians out of the city, which has suf-

fered weeks of heavy fighting with dwindling water, food and medical supplies.

"We are running out of adjectives to describe the horrors that residents in Mariupol have suffered," ICRC spokesperson Ewan Watson said Friday during a UN briefing in Geneva. "The situation is horrendous and deteriorating, and it's now a humanitarian imperative that people be allowed to leave."

Separately, Ukraine's state power company, Energoatom, said Russian troops pulled out of the contaminated Chernobyl nuclear site in Ukraine early Friday after receiving "significant doses" of radiation from digging trenches in the exclusion zone around the closed plant. The International Atomic Energy Agency said it could not independently confirm the exposure claim. AP

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian earlier said his country "disapproves of solving problems through sanctions, and we are even more opposed to unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction that have no basis in international law." AP

Scientists publish the first complete human genome

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, APRIL 1

SCIENTISTS ON Thursday published the first complete human genome, filling in gaps remaining after previous efforts while offering new promise in the search for clues regarding disease-causing mutations and ge-

netic variation among the world's 7.9 billion people.

Researchers in 2003 unveiled what was then billed as the complete sequence of the human genome. But about 8% of it had not been fully deciphered, mainly because it consisted of highly repetitive chunks of DNA that were difficult to mesh with the rest.

A consortium of scientists resolved that in research published in the journal *Science*. The work was initially made public last year before its formal peer review process.

"Generating a truly complete human genome sequence represents an incredible scientific achievement, providing the first comprehensive view of our DNA

blueprint," Eric Green, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), part of the US National Institutes of Health, said in a statement.

"This foundational information will strengthen the many ongoing efforts to understand all the functional nuances of the human genome, which in turn will empower genetic studies of hu-

man disease," Green added.

The consortium's full version is composed of 3.055 billion base pairs, the units from which chromosomes and our genes are built, and 19,969 genes that encode proteins. Of these genes, the researchers identified about 2,000 new ones. Most of those are disabled, but 115 may still be active.

A FIRST FOR COMPANY

Amazon workers in New York vote to unionise

New York: Amazon workers in Staten Island, New York, voted to unionise on Friday, marking the first successful US organising effort in the retail giant's history and handing an unexpected win to a nascent group that fuelled the union drive.

Votes were still being tabulated but union supporters secured a wide enough margin to give the fledgling Amazon Labor Union enough support to pull off a victory. The votes that were either voided or contested by either Amazon or the ALU did not appear to be enough to sway the outcome.

The victory was an uphill battle for the independent group, made up of former and current workers who lacked official backing from an established union and were out-gunned by the deep-pocketed retail giant. AP

Sri Lanka economic crisis: Protests near President's residence an 'act of terrorism', says govt; 54 arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

COLOMBO, APRIL 1

THE SRI Lankan government on Friday termed the protests near President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's residence over the economic crisis in the country as "an act of terrorism", and blamed "extremist elements" linked to opposition parties for the incident.

A violent protest erupted outside the residence of Rajapaksa on Thursday as hundreds of demonstrators gathered there and demanded his resignation for what they called his failure in addressing the worst economic crisis in the island nation.

Several people were injured and vehicles were set on fire as the agitation turned violent. Police fired teargas and water cannons at the protesters after



At a protest in Colombo on Thursday. Reuters

they pulled down a steel barricade placed near the President's residence.

Following the incident, several people were arrested and a curfew briefly imposed in most

parts of Colombo city.

A foreign exchange crunch in Sri Lanka has led to a shortage of

AHEAD OF TRUST VOTE

Imran says powerful country supporting India is angry with Pak for Russia stance

My life is in danger: Pakistan PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 1

AHEAD OF Sunday's no-confidence motion against him, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said a "powerful country", which is supporting India, is angry with Islamabad because of his recent visit to Russia.

Addressing the Islamabad Security Dialogue, Khan emphasised that an independent foreign policy was crucial for the country, and said the reason why Pakistan could not touch its peak potential was its dependency syndrome on other powerful nations.

"A country without an independent foreign policy remains unable to secure the interests of its people," he said.

During his speech, Khan also praised India for its independent foreign policy that was centred around its people. "They protect their independent foreign policy," the *Dawn* newspaper quoted him as saying.

Khan said it was being said that Pakistan could not upset the US, but India due to its independent foreign policy was buying oil from Russia.

"The US says it cannot say anything to India due to its independent foreign policy," Imran said, adding that despite being a US ally, India was fostering ties with Russia.

He said as per the US, India



Pakistan PM Imran Khan

was a sovereign state, so "what are we then?" he asked.

Khan's comments came a day after Pakistan summoned the Acting US envoy in Islamabad to the Foreign Ministry over a "threatening" letter and an alleged "foreign-funded plot" against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by Khan.

In an interview with ARY News on Friday, Khan said there is credible information that his life is in danger.

"Let me inform my nation that my life is at risk, too, they have also planned for my character assassination. Not only myself but my wife too," he said.

'Three options'

Khan also said that the "establishment" gave him three options — no-confidence vote, early elections or resignation as Prime Minister.

"I said early election is the best option... I could never think of resigning... and for no-trust motion, I believe that I will fight till the last minute," he said.

UN: Yemen warring parties agree to two-month truce

Cairo: Yemen's warring sides have accepted a two-month truce, starting with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the UN envoy to Yemen said Friday.

The envoy, Hans Grundberg, announced the agreement from Amman, Jordan, after meeting separately with both sides in the country's brutal civil war in re-

cent days. He said that he hoped the truce would be renewed after two months.

The agreement comes after a significant escalation in recent weeks that saw several attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels across the country's borders to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. AP



Jamal Khashoggi was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018

Turkey to clear Khashoggi murder trial's move to S Arabia

SUZAN FRASER

ANKARA, APRIL 1

TURKEY'S JUSTICE minister said Friday that the government will recommend that an Istanbul court close a trial in absentia against 26 Saudi nationals charged in the slaying of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi and transfer the case to Saudi Arabia.

Bekir Bozdag spoke a day after a Turkish prosecutor requested the transfer, in line with a request from the kingdom.

The request, which came as Turkey and Saudi Arabia have been working to improve ties, raised fears of a possible coverup of the killing that triggered an international outcry and cast a cloud of suspicion over Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Amnesty International has urged Turkey to press ahead with the trial, arguing that the case would be placed under wraps if moved to Saudi Arabia.

Khashoggi, who wrote critically of Saudi Arabia's crown prince, disappeared on October 2, 2018, after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, seeking documents that would allow him to marry his Turkish fiancée. He never emerged. AP

VOWS TO VISIT CANADA AS PART OF HEALING PROCESS OVER CHURCH'S ROLE IN ABUSIVE SYSTEM OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

I feel shame: Pope apologises to Indigenous people of Canada

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO & IAN AUSTEN

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 1

POPE FRANCIS apologised Friday for the Catholic Church's involvement in a system of Canadian boarding schools that abused Indigenous children for 100 years, an announcement that comes after the discovery last year of signs of unmarked graves with the remains of hundreds of people, many of them children.

"I feel shame — sorrow and shame — for the role" that Catholics played "in the abuses you suffered and in the lack of respect shown for your identity,

your culture and even your spiritual values," Francis said.

Francis also promised he would travel to Canada, where he would be better able to "express to you my closeness" as part of a process of healing and reconciliation.

Francis spoke during an audience at the Apostolic Palace with 62 delegates from Canada's three largest Indigenous groups, who had traveled to the Vatican in the hope that he would apologize to survivors in Canada. This was the first apology to the Indigenous people of Canada from a pope and was a reversal of Francis' earlier position.

From the 1880s to the 1990s,



Pope Francis with an Indigenous delegation from Canada, at the Vatican on Friday. Reuters

the Canadian government ran a system of compulsory boarding schools that a National Truth and

Reconciliation Commission called a form of "cultural genocide." The Catholic Church operated about

70% of the schools in the system.

About 150,000 Indigenous children were separated from their families and sent to these residential schools, where abuse, both physical and sexual, was widespread, along with neglect and disease. Murray Sinclair, the former judge who headed the commission, estimates that at least 6,000 children went missing.

Whether the Vatican knew about the extent of abuses at the schools while they were open is unclear. The Catholic orders that operated them have been slow to open their records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, an archive and research body.

In private sessions earlier this week with Métis, Inuit and First Nations delegates, Francis heard story after painful story of the abuse suffered at the hands of Catholic educators at the schools. Delegates — including survivors, leaders, elders, youth and spiritual advisers from various nations — said the pope had listened attentively and had expressed his sorrow. The delegates said this week that they believed the pope's commitment to healing open wounds was sincere.

Immediately after Friday's meeting, delegates said they were overjoyed by the papal apology and that they looked forward to greeting the pope in Canada.

"The pope's words today were historic, to be sure. They were necessary, and I appreciate them deeply," said Cassidy Caron, president of the Métis National Council. "And I now look forward to the pope's visit to Canada, where he can offer those sincere words of apology directly to our survivors and their families whose acceptance and healing ultimately matters the most."

The delegates also asked Francis to repatriate artifacts in the collections of Vatican Museums and open the Vatican archives so researchers could comb through records and documents regarding the residential school system. NYT

SECTOR WATCH
AVIATION

As ATF price soars to new high, airfares to get dearer

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

IN THE seventh consecutive hike, state-owned oil retailers Friday revised the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by 2 per cent. The jet fuel will now cost Rs 1,12,924.83 per kilolitre in Delhi — an all-time high. On account of costlier fuel, airfares have already doubled in the past few weeks on some of the popular routes. Going ahead, travel industry professionals said, fares for late April and the entire month of May are likely to be priced up to 15% higher than current levels.

Jet fuel prices are revised on the 1st and 16th of every month, based on the average international price of benchmark fuel in the preceding fortnight. Last month, international crude oil prices had climbed to a 14-year high of \$140 a barrel and have since cooled off but stay elevated above \$100 a barrel.

Sector experts said that the increase in ATF prices could translate into higher airfares ahead of the summer vacation season, which is the peak travel period during a year. Notably, domestic airfares are still governed by government-mandated price ceilings and floors.

"With ATF becoming costlier, flight prices have doubled across some popular routes in the past few weeks. Travellers will need to book in advance for their upcoming trips if they want to get the best possible prices. Hopefully, the high demand for summer travel that the industry is witnessing will help offset fuel costs," Alok Bajpai, group CEO & co-founder of online travel portal ixigo said.

Aviation turbine fuel makes up for almost half of the

Uber hikes fares by 15% in Mumbai

Mumbai: Uber has said it is raising fares by 15 per cent for travel in Mumbai to offset the impact of rising fuel prices. PTI

cost for airlines, the increase in its prices is expected to be passed on to the consumers given the precarious financial condition of Indian carriers. The heightened demand during the summer travel season means that airlines would not shy away from raising airfares.

"With the upcoming peak summer travel season, fares are expected to increase. Our expectation is that departures for late April and the entire month of May are likely to be priced up to 15% higher than current levels," said Indiver Rastogi, president & group head—Global Business Travel, Thomas Cook & SOTC.

The ability to pass on the increase in fuel costs to consumers is expected to benefit the airlines. Jet fuel prices have been increased by state-owned oil marketing companies every fortnight since the beginning of 2022, and in seven hikes starting January 1, ATF prices have been increased by Rs 38,902.42 per kilolitre.

"The high price environment continues with oil now priced higher than what it was 15 days ago. But a strong travel season and removal of all restrictions are good news for the industry. The higher fares may be a deterrent for some but largely revenge tourism is driving travel," Aameya Joshi of aviation analysis portal NetworkThoughts said.

'WORTH ABOUT 3-4 DAYS OF SUPPLY'

National interest first, buying discounted Russian crude: FM

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday confirmed that India has procured discounted crude oil from Russia, worth 3-4 days of the country's oil requirements, despite criticism from the US that trade with Moscow would help fuel the Ukraine invasion.

"We have started buying (oil from Russia). We have received quite a number of barrels. I would think about 3-4 days of supply, and this will continue. India's overall interest is what is kept in mind," Sitharaman said on Friday, adding both she and Foreign Minister S Jaishankar had explained India's position clearly at multiple fora. "I would put my country's national interest first, and I would put my energy security first. If there is fuel available

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
Finance Minister PTI file

and available at a discount, why shouldn't I buy it? I need it for my people, so we have already started purchasing," she said at India Business Leader Awards, organised by CNBC-TV18.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo has said reports that India setting up a payments system to procure Russian crude oil were "deeply disappointing". The White House has, however, pre-

viously clarified that a move by India to procure discounted crude oil from Russia would not be a violation of US sanctions on Moscow.

India has been offered discounts as high as \$35 per barrel on crude oil prices before the start of the conflict by Russia, according to officials. Sitharaman's comments came amid a two-day visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Four days of India's crude oil imports would equate to about 2.1 million metric tonnes or about 16.1 million barrels of crude oil based on India's crude oil imports in FY2021. India imports about 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements but only about 3 per cent of crude oil imports are ordinarily sourced from Russia.

The US and Canada have banned all imports of Russian crude oil and the UK has announced that it will phase out

crude oil purchases from Russia by the end of the year. Russian cargoes of crude oil have been struggling to find buyers as many major firms are avoiding purchasing Russian crude over concerns of reputational damage.

The price of Brent crude has risen sharply this year, even hitting a 14-year peak of \$139 per barrel in early March over concerns of an import ban on Russian crude oil by EU countries.

The price of Brent crude on Friday was about \$105.3 per barrel, up about 35 per cent from \$77.8 per barrel at the beginning of the year, and about \$10 per barrel higher than the price of Brent crude prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Indian refiners had temporarily halted new purchases of Russian flagship Urals crude after Russia announced a "special military operation in Ukraine" but resumed purchases in March.

'Gross loan portfolio by MFIs at ₹2,56,058 cr as of Dec 2021'

Gross loan portfolio of microfinance institutions (MFIs) was at ₹2,56,058 crore as of December 2021, an MFIN report said

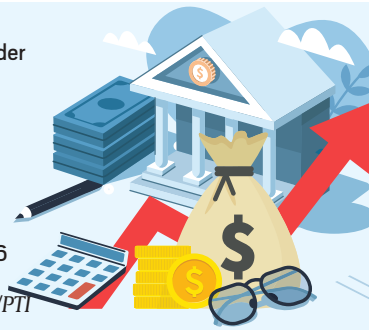
SMALL FINANCE BANKS have a loan outstanding of ₹42,847 crore, with a total share of 16.7% of the overall disbursal by the MFI industry

13 BANKS hold the largest share of microfinance portfolio with an outstanding at ₹1,03,569 crore, as per Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)

NBFC-MFIs are the second largest provider of microcredit, with:

- Loan amount outstanding of ₹87,444 crore or 34.2% of total industry portfolio
- Network of 16,226 branches

Source: MFIN/PTI



NCLT GIVES NOD

Delhi Gymkhana: Govt to take over management

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE NATIONAL Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed the Central government to take over the management of Delhi Gymkhana Club and nominate 15 persons as directors of the general committee of the club.

Holding that the club was being run in the nature of "parivarvaad", a two-member Bench, led by NCLT President Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar, said there

'MISMANAGEMENT'

A two-member Bench said there was sufficient evidence to for holding that "it is a case of mismanagement..."

was sufficient evidence to for holding that "it is a case of mismanagement for the affairs of the company and the general council members of each financial year have been propagating the same

violations year after year".

"The continued conduct of the governing body of the company whose acts are prejudicial to the public interest and against the interest of the company justify that the company of this kind should be wound up," the tribunal noted in its judgment. In April 2020, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) had moved a plea before the NCLT that a management committee appointed by the government should immediately take over Delhi Gymkhana Club as there was "fraudulent and ram-

nant mismanagement of affairs" prevalent at the century-old club.

In its plea, the MCA had also requested that the club should be barred from accepting new members and a new 15-member government-appointed committee should manage the club. The MCA had said that since Delhi Gymkhana Club was initially registered as Section 8 Company and had obtained land on lease from the government, the government should be allowed to supersede the club's board under Sections 241 and 242 of the Companies Act.

Aus interim trade deal to be inked today: 95% exports to be duty free

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

INDIA IS set to sign an interim trade agreement with Australia on Saturday, which will give exporters zero duty access to the Australian market for over 6,000 goods, including labour intensive products such as textiles, leather, apparel and footwear.

The zero duty access for Indian exports to Australia will cover over 95 per cent of shipments to Australia immediately and give 100 per cent of Indian exports zero duty access over five years.

Officials said that most goods that India exports to Australia currently attract a 5 per cent import duty, putting them at a disadvantage when compared to goods from nations with which Australia has free trade agreements (FTAs) or least developed countries which face zero duty. "So they (competitor countries) have that advantage of 5% (duty)... especially on labour intensive sectors: textiles, apparel, leather, footwear... India would be able to neutralise that disadvantage we have vis-à-vis our competitors," an official said.

India, in turn, is set to provide zero duty access to over 70 per cent of Australian imports with lower tariffs on certain other products including Australian wine. Officials said the deal was an "enhanced partnership" agreement with a comprehensive FTA likely to be concluded subsequently.

India signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the UAE in February and is currently negotiating FTAs with the UK, EU and Canada.

"We have tried to preserve the sensitivities of India", said an official, adding that India had ex-



Australia Trade Minister Dan Tehan said India's sensitive areas were understood. via Twitter/@DanTehanWannon

cluded dairy products from the agreement. Australia's Trade Minister Dan Tehan had previously noted that Canberra understood that beef, dairy and wheat were sensitive issues for India.

As per media reports in Australia, Australian products that will receive zero duty access under the pact include metallic ores, lamb, and wool. The deal will have safeguard provisions similar to those in the UAE FTA which allows for a return to higher duties if there is a sudden surge in imports of a particular product which negatively impacts domestic industry.

Merchandise trade between India and Australia stood at \$12.3 billion in FY21, with India exporting goods worth \$4 billion and importing goods worth \$8.3 billion. Key exports to Australia include petroleum products, apparel, textiles and engineering goods. Coal, metallic ores and other raw and intermediate products are among major imports from Australia.

Coal alone accounted for over three-fourths of imports from Australia. Coal imports currently fetch a duty of 2.5 per cent, which will be removed in the agreement.

FY22: MARUTI CLOCKS HIGHEST-EVER EXPORTS

March wholesales: Auto cos on road to recovery

New Delhi: Auto majors Maruti Suzuki (MSI) and Hyundai Motor posted a fall in dispatches to dealers last month, due to production being hit by shortage of electronic components. On the other hand, Tata Motors, Skoda and Kia India posted their highest ever monthly wholesales last month.

For March, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said its passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches were the highest in the last five years while Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) too posted a robust increase.

MSI said its domestic dispatches in March fell 7 per cent to 1,43,899 units from 1,55,417 units

in the year-ago period. For the full fiscal FY22, it posted a total sales of 16,52,653 units, a growth of 13 per cent over 2020-21.

MSI also posted overseas shipments of 26,496 units in March, its highest ever monthly number so far. It said its exports stood at 2,38,376 units in FY22, the company's highest in any fiscal.

Meanwhile, Tata Motors reported wholesales of 42,293 units in March, its highest ever in a month.

TKM posted total wholesales of 17,131 units in March, while M&M's PV dispatches rose 65 per cent to 27,603 units. ENSWITHPTI

BRIEFLY

ITR forms

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry notified new income tax return forms, ITR-1 to ITR-5, which will seek more information regarding overseas retirement benefits and interest accrual on provident fund deposits exceeding ₹2.5 lakh a year.

Trade policy

New Delhi: The Commerce Ministry notified extension of the existing Foreign Trade Policy till September 30.

CNG, PNG rates

New Delhi: CNG price was hiked by 80 paise to ₹60.81 a kg, and piped cooking gas (PNG) by ₹5 to ₹41.61 per cubic metre in Delhi on Friday.

Amfi on MFIs

New Delhi: Amfi (Association of Mutual Funds in India) prescribed new benchmarking system for mutual funds for their schemes.

Honda CEO

New Delhi: Honda Cars India said Takuya Tsumura took charge as its president-CEO. It also elevated Kunal Behl to vice president (marketing & sales) from operating head (sales & network development) previously. PTI

EU on crypto

London: European Union lawmakers were set to back tougher safeguards for transfers of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, in the latest sign that regulators are tightening up on the free-wheeling sector. REUTERS

Future Retail defaults

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 1

FUTURE RETAIL on Friday said it has failed to infuse Rs 3,900 by way of equity in the company before the due date of March 31, 2022.

Further, considering the infusion of capital, there was an obligation on the company to pay an aggregate amount of Rs 5,322.32 crore — as defined in the one-time restructuring (OTR) plan — to various consortium banks and lenders before March 31, the company said in an exchange filing.

According to Future Retail, due to ongoing litigations with Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC and other connected issues, the company was not able to complete the activities in relation to raising of funds by way of equity contribution and also payment of obligations on due date.

Future to SC: For ₹1.4K cr, Amazon has destroyed a ₹26K-cr company

New Delhi: Opposing Amazon's plea to restrain Future Retail (FRL) from further alienating its stores, the Kishore Biyani firm on Friday told the Supreme Court that the e-commerce company "wanted to destroy us, and it succeeded".

FRL told a Bench led by Chief Justice NV Ramana that "for Rs 1,400 crore (the Amazon-Future deal), Amazon has destroyed a Rs 26,000-crore company. Amazon has been successful in what it wanted to do... We are hanging by a thread. No one wants to do business with us now," senior counsel Harish Salve, appearing for FRL, said. FE

How SoftBank slowing funding could impact Indian startups

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

ONE OF the most active investors in India's consumer internet ecosystem SoftBank could take its foot off the funding gas pedal, as the company's founder Masayoshi Son has told his top executives to slow down investments, according to a report by Financial Times.

Why is SoftBank slowing down its investments?

As per the FT report, the world's largest tech investor is looking to raise cash in light of falling tech stocks and a regulatory crackdown in China — something that has resulted in the SoftBank Group's holdings getting severely hit. The estimated writedown at the

Japanese company for this quarter stood at \$30 billion, although a recent uptick in some shares meant it was now closer to around \$20 billion, the report said.

How important is SoftBank to India's startup ecosystem?

SoftBank, through its Vision Fund investment vehicle, is one of the biggest investors in India's startup and consumer internet ecosystem, alongside the likes of Sequoia Capital and Tiger Global. In December, Son, speaking at India's flagship global financial technology summit Infinity Forum, had said: "Just this year alone, we have invested \$3 billion into India. We are the biggest foreign investor

in India. We are providers of about 10 per cent of the funding of all the unicorns in India". He claimed that SoftBank-backed companies in India have created more than 1 million jobs.

Which firms are backed by SoftBank?

The Japanese conglomerate has backed some of the biggest names in Indian tech, including Paytm, Flipkart, Ola, Oyo, Swiggy, Delhivery, InMobi, Lenskart, etc. Lately, it has also invested in companies like Meesho, OFBusiness, Zeta, and turned them into unicorns — or privately held companies valued at \$1 billion or more.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

India Inc credit quality improving: Crisil, Ica

CREDIT RATIO

5.04 times

Mumbai: Crisil and Ica have reported continuing improvement in the performance of India Inc and more rating upgrades, amid recovery in demand, deleveraging and relief packages by the government to tackle the Covid pandemic.

Crisil Ratings' credit ratio (upgrades to downgrades) increased to 5.04 times in the second half (H2) of fiscal 2022, compared with 2.96 times in the first half (H1). In all, there were 569 upgrades and 113 downgrades in H2.

The upgrade rate rose to 15.4 per cent in H2 from 12.5 per cent in H1, while the downgrade rate fell to 3.1 per cent from 4.2 per cent in the same period. The downgrade rate is less than half the 6.5 per cent average seen in the past ten half-year periods, Crisil said. Ica Ratings said the credit quality of India Inc

experienced a rebound in FY22, on the heels of two consecutive years of pressures caused first by the slowdown in economic growth in FY20 and then by the pandemic scarring in FY21. As the economic repair-work progressed, incremental downside credit risks ebbed in FY22. ENS

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Sensex kicks off new fiscal with 1.2% rally

Mumbai: Stock markets on Friday kicked off FY23 on a positive note with key indices gaining around 1.2 per cent on all-round buying interest. The benchmark Sensex crossed the 59,000 level and closed with a gain of 708 points at 59,276.69 and the NSE Nifty index jumped 206 points to close at 17,670.45.

The rupee closed at 75.79 against the dollar on Friday. The rupee had depreciated by 264 paise, or 3.61 per cent against the dollar during the fiscal year 2021-22.

Healthy buying in energy, realty and banking stocks helped indices to gradually inch higher as the day progressed. The broader markets too saw buying interest as it ended 1.4-1.7 per cent up. ENS

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(A Central University established by the Central Universities Act, 2009, No.25 of 2009)
KONI, BILASPUR-495 009 (C.G.) INDIA
Tel. +91-7752-260342, Fax +91-7752-260154, 260148, website - www.ggu.ac.in

Ref. No. 631 /Admission /Academic/22
Guru Ghidasid Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur invites online applications for admission to the various programmes for the academic session 2022-23 through Common University Entrance Test CUET (UG) 2022 to be conducted by NTA.

ADMISSION NOTICE (2022-23) Bilaspur, Date- 31.03.2022

(a) Programmes available for admission:
-Honours Programmes : B. Com (Honours), BSW, BA (Honours)-Anthropology, English, Hindi, Journalism & Mass Communication, Economics, History, Political Science,
-B. Sc. (Honours)- Anthropology, Biotechnology, Botany, Forensic Science, Chemistry, Computer Science, Zoology, Mathematics, Physics, Electronics, Rural Technology, B. Pharm, B.Sc. in Forestry,
-5 years Integrated BA – LLB, B. Com-LLB
- Programmes under self-financing scheme- Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA), Bachelor of Hotel Management (BHM), B. Sc. – Organic Farming, B. Sc.- Dairy Technology, Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA)
-Diploma programme: Diploma in Pharmacy

(b) For admission procedure, eligibility, number of seats, reservation policy, Entrance Test provisions, fees and mapping of programme-subject for test, please refer to "Admission Notice 2022-23" available on university website www.ggu.ac.in and <https://cutt.samarth.ac.in>.

(c) As the entrance test will be conducted by NTA, therefore, the University will follow the admission procedure and syllabus for entrance test as notified by the NTA for CUET. Interested candidates have to visit the links provided above for all updates regularly.

(d) Important dates:
Start of Online Application Process : 02.04.2022
Closing date of Online submission of Application forms : 30.04.2022

(e) Admission notice for Post Graduate programmes will be notified separately. Admission in B. Tech. programmes will be done through JEE Mains, candidates interested in B. Tech. programmes need not apply against this advertisement.

639 Registrar (Acting)

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- 1212 दिनांक :- 30/03/2022
ई - विड सूचना संख्या :- जोन विद्युत-प्रथम/17/2021-22
 जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से विद्युत कार्यों हेतु संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रवृत्त में ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट प्रक्रिया से विद्युत कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाइन विड आमंत्रित की गई है। इन कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, विड बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, विड शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.jodhpurjoda.org, www.spprrai.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
 UBN No. : JOD2122WSOB00271
 NFB Code : JOD2122A0167
 राज.संवेद./सी./22/1 अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जोन विद्युत - 1)

Uttarakhand Transport Corporation, H.O. U.C.F. Sadan
 Deep Nagar Road, Vishnuvihar, Ajampurkalan, Dehradun
 Letter No.-413/M/TECH/E-Tender/2022 Date: 01.04.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE
 E tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Agencies for Implementation of Integrated Fleet Management and Surveillance System in Uttarakhand Transport Corporation.
 Tender No. Tender Cost (Rs.) Pre bid meeting date Last Date for Online submission of tender form Tender Opening date (Technical bid)
 127/2022 10000.00 11-04-2022 At 11.00 Hrs. 25-04-2022 Up to 14.00 Hrs. 25-04-2022 Up to 15.00
 The tender documents are available online on <http://uktenders.gov.in> the bidder can download the documents in the website, the tender can be submitted along with cost of tender & earnest money, in the form of DD in favour of Manager Director Uttarakhand Transport Corporation Dehradun.
 General Manager (Tech),
 E-mail: uetc-gmtech@gmail.com

TAMILNADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
E-TENDER NOTICE: TANGEDCO/SHORT/ PP-22/2022
 TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of power up to 500 MW RTC from intra state generators for the period from 11th April 2022 to 20th May 2022. Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power, vide resolution dated 30.03.2016 and as per amendments dated 21.02.2022 through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only and subsequent amendments there of are applicable to this tender specification. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consulting Ltd (www.pfcindia.com). Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTG DEEP E-Bidding portal.
 Chief Engineer/PPP/TANGEDCO

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा निरस्त सूचना
 इस कार्यालय के प्रॉक संख्या 853 दिनांक 28-03-2022 द्वारा इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस (अंग्रेजी दैनिक) नई दिल्ली एवं अमर उजाला (हिन्दी दैनिक) मुरादाबाद में दिनांक 29-03-2022 में प्रकाशित एवं आमंत्रित ई-निविदा संख्या-04/ई.टी.सी.एम./2022-23 जो कि दिनांक 26-04-2022 को खोलने वाली ई-निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मंडल-प्रथम मुरादाबाद। "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये" प्रॉक: 943 चि.पा.म.मु./निविदा/2022-23 दिनांक: 01/04/2022

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
 E-Tender Notice No.
 09/MYS/2022 Dated: 31.03.2022
 The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
SW1: JRU-RDG section: Ancillary work like retaining wall, drain, catch water drain and other allied work to RUB No.27B at Km.23/100-200 between AMC-CTA stations and RUB No.51A at Km.36/700-800 between CTA-BAHI stations in ADEN/CTA section. SW2: JRU-RDG Section: Improvements to drainage arrangements for RUB No. 200A at Km.128/400-500 between MOMU-RDG stations and RUB No.202A at Km.129/100-200 between MOMU-RDG in ADEN/CTA sub-division.	Rs.1,79,30,128/-

 Last Date of Submission of bids
 Up to 15:00 hrs. on 13.04.2022
 For details log on to : www.reps.gov.in
 Divisional Railway Manager (Works)
 Mysuru
 S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, JHARKHAND, RANCHI
Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008
Request for Empanelment-Notice

RFE Reference No.: Agri/24/2021-22 Dated:
 Request for Empanelment for Registration of Micro Irrigation System Manufacturing Companies for the Installation of Micro Irrigation System under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana-PDMC in Santhal Pargana Division (Deoghar, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakur, Jamtara and Dumka) for period of 5 years

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Request for Empanelment for Registration of Micro Irrigation System Manufacturing Companies for the Installation of Micro Irrigation System under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana-PDMC in Santhal Pargana Division (Deoghar, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakur, Jamtara and Dumka) for period of 5 years
1	Name of Work	Request for Empanelment for Registration of Micro Irrigation System Manufacturing Companies for the Installation of Micro Irrigation System under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana-PDMC in Santhal Pargana Division (Deoghar, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakur, Jamtara and Dumka) for period of 5 years
2	Time of completion	One Year
3	RFE Document Cost	INR 10000 (Rupees Ten thousand only). Only demand draft to be made in favour of Director Agriculture Jharkhand payable at Ranchi. Note: DD should only be made from any nationalized bank.
4	Date of publication of RFE on website	31.03.2022 at 06:00 pm.
5	RFE downloading start date	31.03.2022 at 06:00 pm.
6	Date & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	05.04.2022 at 03:00 pm at Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008.
7	Online RFE Submission Period	06.04.2022 from 12:00 pm to 30.04.2022 upto 05:00 pm.
8	Last date of submission of hard copy of RFE document cost	02.05.2022 upto 03:00 pm.
9	RFE opening date and place	02.05.2022 at 03:30 pm at Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008.
10	Name & address of the RFE Inviting Authority	Nisha Oraon, Director Agriculture, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
11	Contact no. of procurement officer	9835345613/9431159401
	Helpline no. of procurement cell	0651-2233549

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
 Sd/-
 Director Agriculture, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
 PR 267440 Agriculture(21-22)#D

OFFICE OF THE S.E. (P&W), SHREE SINGAJI THERMAL POWER PROJECT, MPPGCL, Dongalia Dist. Khandwa (MP) E-mail ID: sepnw.sstpp1@gmail.com, Phone 09425808837
 No. 515-1700/SSTPP/MPPGCL/P&W/14675 Date: 31.03.2022
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER [Website: www.mppgcl.mp.gov.in]

Tender Particulars / Tender Number	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD & Tender Cost Rs. (respectively)	Last date & time for closing of online submission
Work contract for engagement of 70 (seventy) nos. semi-skilled personnel for providing assistance in day-to-day Operation & Maintenance related work in various circles of SSTPP, MPPGCL, Dongalia, Distt. Khandwa for a period of 12 months (Tender No. 2022_MPPGCL_185310)	Rs. 1.59 Crore	2,00,000/- & 5000/-	25.04.2022
Work contract for engagement of 50 (fifty) nos. Data Entry Operator (Under semi-skilled worker category) through outsourcing for providing assistance in day-to-day office work in various circles of SSTPP, MPPGCL, Dongalia, Distt. Khandwa for a period of 12 months. (Tender No. 2022_MPPGCL_185313)	Rs. 93.93 Lakh	1,87,900.00 & 2000/-	25.04.2022
Deployment of 84 Nos. male guards + 02 Nos. lady guards per day along with one No. Patrolling Jeep for maximum run of 3000 km per month model 2019 onwards & not more than 1lakh running km for round the clock security of SSTPP, MPPGCL, Dongalia for a period of 12 months. (Tender No. 2022_MPPGCL_186370)	Rs. 1.87 Crore	2,00,000/- & 5000/-	02.05.2022
Housekeeping of Boiler area, VFD Room/Chimney, Switch yard/Transformer Yard and Compressor, CW Pump, DG Set building, ACW -1/2 Building, Fuel oil pump house and associated area of Unit No. 1&2, of SSTPP, Dongalia (Tender No. 2022_MPPGCL_187744)	Rs. 56.78 Lakh	1,13,600/- & 2000/-	04.05.2022
Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of NIFPS (Nitrogen Injection Fire Prevention and Extinguishing system) for power transformers of 2x600 MW, SSTPP, MPPGCL, Dongalia (Tender No. 2022_MPPGCL_185018)	Rs. 2.95 Crore	2,95,600/- & 5000/-	29.04.2022
Annual overhauling of L&T make ESP of 2X660 MW, SSTPP, MPPGCL, Dongalia (Tender No. 2022_MPPGCL_187742)	Rs. 76.52 Lakh	1,53,100/- & 2000/-	18.04.2022

For extension & other details, the bidders are requested to please visit e-portal of GoMP at www.mptenders.gov.in
 SAVE ELECTRICITY SE (P&W)

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि सूचि अनुसार निम्न गांवों के ब्लॉक सोहना के अर्न्तगत लाल डोरा के अंदर का ड्राइफ्ट नक्शा मालिकों के नाम सहित, सर्व ऑफ इंडिया से प्राप्त हो गया है। जोकि सूचि अनुसार सार्वजनिक स्थान पर आमजन के अवलोकन हेतु उपलब्ध है। जिस पर सूचि अनुसार निर्धारित समयावधि में हरियाणा पंचायती राज अधिनियम 1994 की धारा 26 के तहत ग्राम वासियों से गांव के लाल डोरे के अंदर की प्रॉपर्टी से संबंधित दावे व आपत्तियां ग्राम सचिव द्वारा प्राप्त की जाएगी। तत्पश्चात सूचि अनुसार प्राप्त दावे व आपत्तियों को निपटान हेतु ग्राम सभा का आयोजन किया जाएगा।

क्र.सं	गांव का नाम	ग्राम सभा आयोजन की तिथि	नक्शा अवलोकन व ग्राम सभा हेतु, स्थान व समय
1.	दमदा	13.04.2022	राठ प्राठ पाठशाला, दमदा में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
2.	खरीदा	12.04.2022	जनरल चौपाल, खरीदा में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
3.	बदशाहपुर टैंडर	15.04.2022	जनरल चौपाल, बादशाहपुर टैंडर में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
4.	लोहसिंहानी	13.04.2022	सरकारी स्कूल, लोहसिंहानी में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
5.	समथला	15.04.2022	सामुदायिक भवन, समथला में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
6.	चमनपुरा	13.04.2022	चौपाल, चमनपुरा में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
7.	सांचीली	18.04.2022	एसोसीओ चौपाल, सांचीली में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
8.	सिलानी	16.04.2022	जनरल चौपाल, सिलानी में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
9.	अभयपुर	15.04.2022	सरकारी स्कूल, अभयपुर में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
10.	चामडोज	15.04.2022	सामुदायिक भवन, चामडोज में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
11.	हरियादेडा	15.04.2022	राठ प्राठ पाठशाला, हरियादेडा में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
12.	सहजावास	13.04.2022	सरकारी स्कूल, सहजावास में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
13.	बैचोला	12.04.2022	ग्राम सचिवालय, बैचोला में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
14.	टैंडर	12.04.2022	चौपाल, टैंडर में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।
15.	हरचन्द्रपुर खोर	12.04.2022	चौपाल, हरचन्द्रपुर खोर में प्रातः 11:00 से दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक।

प्रशासन- ग्राम पंचायत खण्ड विकास एवं पंचायत अधिकारी, सोहना, जिला- गुरुग्राम।

MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING, MADHYA PRADESH

29- A Khanji Bhawan, Arera Hills Bhopal
 Phone and fax 0755-2551795 Email: geology.dgm@mp.gov.in
 No- 4126/Auction- 8 / Geology / F.No.- 8 / 2021-22 March 29, 2022

Notice Inviting Tender
 "Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Limestone, Bauxite, Iron Ore and Iron Ore & Manganese Ore and for grant of Composite Licence for Base Metal mineral, Limestone, Platinum Group Elements (PGE), Diamond, Graphite, Iron Ore and Rock-Phosphate mineral"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10A(2)(d), Section 10B and Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, as amended from time to time, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has identified:

- 11 mineral blocks (7 blocks of Limestone, 1 block of Bauxite, 2 blocks of Iron Ore and 1 block of Iron Ore & Manganese Ore) for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease.
- 16 mineral block (3 blocks of Base Metal mineral, 1 block of Limestone, 1 block of Platinum Group Elements (PGE), 3 blocks of Diamond, 4 blocks of Graphite, 3 blocks of Rock Phosphate and 1 block of Iron Ore) for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Composite Licence.

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

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

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above e-auction portal. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Interested and eligible bidders can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the Tender fee from the above e-auction portal. Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the tender document will be hosted on the above e-auction portal and on <https://www.ekhanji.mp.gov.in/> only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summaries are available free of cost on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited website (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/micli/index.jsp>) and Directorate of geology and Mining website (<https://www.ekhanji.mp.gov.in/>).

Sr. No.	Name of the Block	District	Mineral	Price of Tender Document (in Rs.)
Mining Lease (in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act)				
1.	Bajna Iron Ore Block*	Chhatarpur	Iron Ore	5,00,000
2.	Khudawal Iron Ore and Manganese Ore Block*	Jabalpur	Iron Ore	1,00,000
3.	Gudha Limestone Block*	Damoh	Limestone	1,00,000
4.	Barmani Iron Ore Block	Sidhi	Iron Ore	5,00,000
5.	Pahari Limestone Block	Satna	Limestone	5,00,000
Mining Lease				
6.	Karondi Sagodi Limestone Block*	Damoh	Limestone	5,00,000
7.	Nimarmunda Limestone Block*	Damoh	Limestone	2,00,000
8.	Ghuinsa Limestone Block*	Satna	Limestone	2,00,000
9.	Sukha Satpara Limestone Block	Damoh	Limestone	5,00,000
10.	Pachama Bauxite Block*	Balaghat	Bauxite	5,00,000
11.	Rewra Limestone Block #	Satna	Limestone	1,00,000
Composite Licence (in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act)				
12.	Sohagi Majhigawa Purwa Diamond Block	Rewa	Diamond	5,00,000
13.	Khatamba Rock Phosphate Block	Jhabua	Rock Phosphate	5,00,000
14.	Kachaldara Rock Phosphate Block	Jhabua	Rock Phosphate	2,00,000
15.	Rupakheda Piplouda Rock Phosphate Block	Jhabua	Rock Phosphate	5,00,000
16.	Panihar Iron Ore Block	Gwalior	Iron ore	1,00,000
Composite Licence				
17.	Bhuyari Basemetal Block*	Chhindwara	Basemetal	5,00,000
18.	Ghora Chitawara Limestone Block	Dhar	Limestone	5,00,000
19.	Mordongri (Jamtara) Platinum* Group Elements (PGE) Block	Chhindwara	PGE	5,00,000
20.	Bargaon_Tarora Basemetal Block	Chhindwara	Basemetal	5,00,000
21.	Belkheidi Basemetal Block	Chhindwara	Basemetal	5,00,000
22.	Harsa 1 Diamond Block	Panna & Chhatarpur	Diamond	5,00,000
23.	Harsa 2 Diamond Block	Panna & Chhatarpur	Diamond	5,00,000
24.	Juwari_Chhoti Gura_Bara_Graphite Block	Alirajpur	Graphite	5,00,000
25.	Ublar-Chagdi Graphite Block	Alirajpur	Graphite	5,00,000
26.	Betwasa Graphite Block	Alirajpur	Graphite	5,00,000
27.	Netara Graphite Block	Alirajpur	Graphite	5,00,000

*Note: "Auction of all these blocks are being considered as "Second Attempt" # Rewra Limestone Block is an expired Lease

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Tender Document for the blocs being auctioned in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act, the State Government makes no representation whatsoever, express, implicit or otherwise, regarding the accuracy and/ or completeness of the information provided in the said geological report and the Bidder confirms that it shall have no claim whatsoever against the State Government in this regard. The Bidder acknowledges and hereby accepts the risk of inadequacy, mistake or error in or relating to said geological report and hereby acknowledges and agrees that the State Government shall not be liable for the same in any manner whatsoever to the Bidder and their associates or any person claiming through or under any of them. The Bidders agree and acknowledge that any mistake or error in or relating to the said geological report shall not vitiate the tender process, Mining Lease and/ or MDPA, or render the same voidable.

The block specific Tender documents are available for purchase on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/micli/index.jsp>). Last date for purchase of Tender Document, on the e-auction platform is **Tuesday, May 10, 2022** and the last date for submission of the bid is **Tuesday, May 17, 2022** on or before 17:00 hours (IST).

Bidders may note that for composite licences the Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2022 have dispensed with the requirement of indicating the division of the land into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government and the requirement of demarcating the area using total station and differential global positioning system and has provided the flexibility of demarcating the concession area using global positioning system. However, the requisite demarcation in respect of certain blocks is nevertheless being provided [as and where available] as part of the information memorandum. Thus, the terms and conditions for auction of the said block remain unchanged.

Sd/- DIRECTOR Administration and Mining Madhya Pradesh
 कोरोना से बचने को तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपना ना हो गज दूरी

G-24514/21

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
 O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, TS.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
 Expression of Interest (EOI) for Engaging Third Party Consultant for Performance Evaluation of 20 STPs with connected I&Ds & FSTPs.
 EOI No. 01/HMWSSB/CGM(E)/STP Circle-I/ EOI/2022-23, Dt: 01-04-2022
 The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, desires to Engage Third Party consultant for performance Evaluation of STPs with connected I&Ds and FSTPs being maintained by HMWSSB for a period of Two years and Expression of Interest (EOI) is hereby invited from the reputed agencies/consultants having experience in similar nature of work of 3rd Party consultants for Performance Evaluation of (O&M) of STPs/ ETPs/ FSTPs/TPPs are required to apply with their credentials indicating that they are qualified to perform the said services with their technical expertise of personnel, projects etc capable to undertake such assignments performed for similar nature of work.
 The interested consultants to submit their applications to O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, HMWSSB, Ground Floor, Administrative Building, Front Block, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004 during the office timings from Date: 08-04-2022 to Date: 18-04-2022 duly paying the an amount of Rs. 10000/- in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favor of "HMWSSB".
 Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, TS.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons Namely (1) Pradeep S/o Late Bhag Singh and (2) Smt. Ramesh Kumari W/o Late Bhag Singh both R/o 1/76, Rattan Vihar, Kirari, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 496/2018 U/s 420/467/468/34 IPC registered at P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said (1) Pradeep and (2) Smt. Ramesh Kumari could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused (1) Pradeep and (2) Smt. Ramesh Kumari have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Pradeep and (2) Smt. Ramesh Kumari are required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.05.2022.
 By Order
 Ms. Mansi Malik,
 Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
 Room No. 107, 1st Floor,
 Rohini Courts, Delhi
 DP/1669/OD/2022
 (Court Notice)

Government of Jharkhand
 Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
 3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi -834002
DIRECTORATE OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND, RANCHI

Reverse Auction Procurement Notice
 Tender Ref No:Kha.up.Ni-0_Chi.Vi.Vo.-01/22- 568
 Dated - 01.04.2022

Empanelment of suppliers for supply of Sugar under Public Distribution System Scheme of Government of Jharkhand for the First Quarter (April'22-June'22)of Financial year 2022-23 under Reverse Auction Mode

Bid Details	
NIT/Bid Document No	Kha.up.Ni-0_Chi.Vi.Vo.-01/22- 568 Dated -01.04.2022
Bidding Document Cost	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable & non-Adjustable) as a Demand Draft in favour of "Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi" in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, Third Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi - 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents. Rs. 20,00,000/- (Twenty Lakh) as EMD (margin money) in the form of Demand Draft in the name of "Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi" in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, Third Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi - 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.
Document Sale Date & Timing i.e Last Date & time for downloading RFP from website http://jharkhand.gov.in/food & https://jhtenders.eproc.in	From 02-04-2022 (Saturday) to 25-04-2022 (Monday)
Online Bid Submission Period	From 2-04-2022 (Saturday) to 25-04-2022 (Monday)
Technical E-Bid Opening Date & Time	On 26/04/2022 2:00 IST
Pre-Bid Meeting	On 08-04-2022 at 16.00 IST through google meet (meet.google.com/vwx-nyki-svm)
Date of Auction	Will be published after technical evaluation
Name and concerned person for Correspondence	Mr. Abhishek Tiwari Mobile no. - 9795046772 email- jhsupport@cdindia.com

- All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organization should mandatorily register with C1 India Pvt Ltd for participation in Reverse Auction Registration Fee Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand).
- Any changes/modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food> & <https://jhtenders.eproc.in>

Sd/- Director (Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)
 PR 267486 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(22-23)D

NORTHERN RAILWAY
 Tender Notice

No. 74-W/23/WA/Publication Dated: 01.04.2022
 SR.DEN/IMB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders closing date 26/04/2022 1

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.
33 UBL 2021-22 Date 28.03.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division: Rs. 5,92,85,392.11 Through weld renewal in Sr.DEN/VW/UBL Jurisdiction (Alnawar- Londa- Vasco-da-Gama) for a length of 40.12km in Hubballi division.	
2	Hubballi Division: Rs. 2,47,12,366.45 Through Fitting Renewal from km12 - km 25(13km SL), km 50-km 82.75(32.75km SL), km92.5-km 108.0 (15.5km SL)- total for a length of 61.25km in Sr.DEN/West Jurisdiction in Londa- Vasco-da-Gama section.	
3	Hubballi Division: Rs. 1,01,44,883.10 Alnawar, Londa, Vasco-da-Gama TFR=65km, (Alnawar-Londa, 544 - 559=15km and Londa- Vasco-da-Gama 0-50km=50km)	

Last Date of Submission of bids Up to 11:00 hrs. on 27.04.2022
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer (Co-Ord) Hubballi
PUB/6600/AL/PR/SW/2021-22
S.W.Railways SWRRLL SWRRLL

DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-4
LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUR, DELHI - 110054

NIT. No. 99 (Item no.1 to 6) (2021-22) E.E.(T)/A.C.E(M)-4.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system outfall connection for Shadi Nagar, Azadpur in AC-04 under ACE(M)-04. (Re-invite). I.D 2022_DJB_219993_2	1,18,08,118/-	31.03.2022 6 P.M. onward	2,36,200/-	1000/-	Technical bid will be received 21.04.2022, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 08(2022-23)
Sd/- (S.K. SINGH)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-(M)-4
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)/O ACE(M)-7
H-BLOCK UDYOG NAGAR INDL. AREA PEERA GARHI
DELHI- 110041

NIT No. 127/EE(T)/ACE(M)/7(2021-22)
Short Press Notice Tender

S. N	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender (Rs.)	EMD	Tender Fee's	DL of release of tender procurement solution/D. No.	Last dt./time of receipt of tender E-Procurement solution
1	Providing/laying water carrying pipe line for tubewell installations and making platform & hoisting arrangements at Karala UGR and Filling point in Mundka AC-08 under AEE(M)-08. (Re-invite)	40,80,695/-	81,700/-	500/-	31.03.2022 2022_DJB_219960_1	11.04.2022 at 3.00 P.M.
2	Construction of room and toilet block and renovation of BPS at Funaji Basi Margi puri, leading to water OHT Suttan puri under AEE(M)-10/ACE(M)-7 (Re-invite)	35,09,065/-	70,200/-	500/-	31.03.2022 2022_DJB_219967_1	11.04.2022 at 3.00 P.M.

Further details in this regards can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 05(2022-23)
Sd/- (SATISH KUMAR GUPTA)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(T)
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Mineral Resources Department Government of Chhattisgarh
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY & MINING
Indrawati Bhavan, Block-4, Second Floor, Nawa Raipur Atal Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492002, India

31 March, 2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
INVITATION OF BIDS FOR GRANT OF MINING LEASE OF LIMESTONE CLUSTER BLOCKS

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended from time to time) notified thereunder, Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh has identified the following Mineral Block for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease (ML) through electronic auction and hereby invites bids in digital format only from eligible bidders:

Sl No	Name of the Block	Mineral	District	Area (sq)	Type of Concession	Tender Fees (INR)
1.	Bastar Cluster of Limestone Blocks	Limestone	Bastar	481.657**	Mining Lease	5,00,000

*Excluding Goods and Service Tax(GST). GST shall be payable at 18% of tender fee.
**Sum of area of individual blocks under cluster.

Terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document for the mineral blocks and mineral block summary are available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd. (<http://www.mstc.com/mstc/auction/home/mstc/index.jsp>) and websites of Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh (www.chhattisgarhmining.gov.in) for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of MSTC Ltd.

Those interested and eligible for bidding can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the non-refundable tender fee as mentioned above from the website of e-auction platform provider MSTC Ltd. Bidder shall be able to make payment of the Tender Document fee through RTGS/ net banking through the payment gateway of e-auction platform. After registration at MSTC website, interested & eligible bidders can purchase the Tender Document. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain Login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process.

Last date for online purchase of Tender Document is Thursday, May 19, 2022 and the last date for submission of the bid is 15:00 Hours IST on Friday, May 20, 2022. Any further communications, amendments etc. shall be available on the above website of MSTC and the websites of Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
Sd/-
Director
Geology & Mining Chhattisgarh
69161

FORM NO-15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA
A, B and F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-25
O.A. No.-394 of 2021

State Bank of India, SARB, Patna Applicant (S)
Versus
M/s Durga Trading and orsDefendant (s)
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULES 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

1. M/S Durga Trading through its proprietor Sri Ravindra Nath Pathak, situated at Ward no-10, Kochas-Sasaram Road, PO + PS-Kochas, Dist.-Rohtas, Pin-821112
2. Sri Ravindra Nath Pathak, Proprietor of M/S Durga Trading, Son of Sri Surya Deo Pathak, Resident at Ward no-10, Kochas-Sasaram Road, PO + PS - Kochas, Dist.-Rohtas, Pin-821112
3. Sri Janardan Pathak, Son of Sri Surya Deo Pathak, Resident at Ward no-10, Kochas-Sasaram Road, PO + PS - Kochas, Dist.-Rohtas, Pin-821112

WHERE AS the applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 (1) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of a sum of Rs. 27,42,514/- (Rupees twenty seven lakh forty two thousand five hundred and fourteen only) together with current and culture interest and other reliefs.

The abovementioned defendant/s is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/her their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 30th day of April 2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 15th day of March, 2022
REGISTRAR
DEBTSRECOVERYTRIBUNALPATNA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 - email: - kasflori@rediffmail.com

Gist of e- Tender Notice No. 64 of 2022
Dated: - 31/03/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for **Outsourcing of Hiring Out of Parking lot at Children Park Srinagar** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below: -

The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ: -

S. No	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit	Cost of tender document
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	9,00,786.00	90000.00	1000/- in the shape of e-challan

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

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	31.03.2022 from 02:00 PM to 20.04.2022 up to 02.00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	31.03.2022 from 03:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	20.04.2022 up to 02.00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	22.04.2022 at 02.00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidders. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.
Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
DIPK-6/22

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Dalip, S/o: Karambir, R/o: H.No. C-516, Near Karan Public School, Aman Vihar, Delhi has been reported missing since 28.02.2022 at about 04.00 PM from his house. In this regard DD No. 110 A dated 04.03.2022 has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Dalip, Age: 32 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Jeans & Brown Shirt and Chappal in Feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27581812, 8750870321
DP/1359/RD/2022

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 35 Years, Height: about 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Wearing : Sky Blue T-Shirt and Blue color lower found dead on 21.03.2022 from behind the Moti Nagar Police Station near kudaanan (dustbin) Delhi. In this regard DD No.16A, dated 21.03.2022 has been lodged at PS: Moti Nagar, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of DDU Hospital Hari Nagar, Delhi for 72 hours. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Moti Nagar, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-25101150, 8750871125
DP/802/WD/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely Gomati, W/o: Har Govind, R/o: H. No. RZ-4, Gali No. 2, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 14.02.2022 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 6 A dated 15.02.2022 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing/ kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Gomati, Age: 26 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Suit and Salwar.

If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped lady please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-25946710, 7065036129
DP/1626/OD/2022

NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



AWARD - NHPCC
NHPCC was honoured as 'Winner' in category of 'Best Implementation of Dam Rehabilitation Project' at the Water Digest Water Awards, 2021-22. The Award was received by AK Singh, CMD, NHPCC from GS Shekhawat, M/o of Jal Shakti.



SUPPORT - GAIL
GAIL has supported a children's book - 'Pollution Solutions: For a Cleaner, Greener Earth'. The book published by TERI has been authored by Ms Urmi A Goswami and dedicated to children.



AWARD - KRIBHCO
KRIBHCO's In House Journal "KRIBHCO News" Bags PRSI National Award-2021. KRIBHCO News has won the second prize at PRSI National awards in the category "In House Journal - English".



AWARD - POWERGRID
Power Grid has been conferred the "Best CSR Practices Award" by the World CSR Congress at the 11th edition of its World CSR Congress & Awards ceremony held in Mumbai.



EVENT - INDIANOIL
IndianOil is immensely proud to partner with the real champions, as they defy the odds at Bhubaneswar from 28th to 31st March 2022. This sporting extravaganza being organized by the Paralympic Committee of India & powered by IOC.



MOA- PFC
PFC has signed a MoA with Rogi Kalyan Samiti, Nubra Sub-Division, Leh to augment healthcare capacity and to deal with the health emergencies. As per the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs. 6.93 crore to RKS.



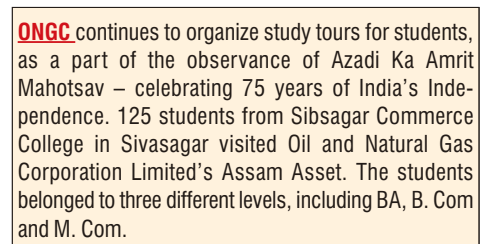
MoU - RITES
RITES signed a MoU with the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) on technical cooperation for transport and related infrastructure projects (from concept to commissioning).



ACHIEVEMENT - NTPC
NTPC congratulated the Recurve Men Team for winning the gold and setting a national record at the 41st NTPC Senior National Championship in Jammu. NTPC is the proud sponsor of the event organised by Archery Association of Jammu.



CURTAIN RAISER - NSIC
UP Singh (IAS), Secy Textiles, M/o Textiles, Gol unveiled the Curtain Raiser of 42nd Edition of India Carpet Expo (ICE 2022) at NSIC Ground Okhla recently in the gracious presence of Shantmanu, IAS, DC (Handicrafts), M/o Textiles.



ONGC continues to organize study tours for students, as a part of the observance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - celebrating 75 years of India's Independence. 125 students from Sibsagar Commerce College in Sivasagar visited Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited's Assam Asset. The students belonged to three different levels, including BA, B. Com and M. Com.



KABADDI TOURNAMENT-POWERGRID
POWERGRID Kabaddi Team led by Jai Singh lifted the 2nd Runners up Trophy in the 21st Inter CPSU Kabaddi Tournament organized by SJVNL at Jharkh, Rampur (Shimla) from 23rd to 25th March, 2022. Total 9 teams participated.



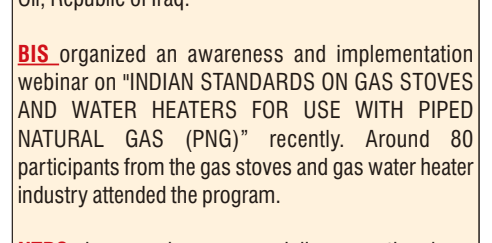
LAUNCH - INDIANOIL
In a momentous occasion, marking the grand finale of golden jubilee celebrations of IndianOil R&D; M/o P & NG & Housing & Urban Affairs, HS Puri, launched an innovative solar cooktop.



AGREEMENT - SBI
The agreement has been signed between ASPIRE and Consortium of seven public sector banks recently for the disbursement of Rs1500 crore loan for stalled Amrapali projects.



EVENT - EMBASSY OF MYANMAR
The Embassy recently celebrated the 77th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The reception was hosted by Ambassador H.E. U Moe Kyaw Aung & Daw Nilar Aung & Military Attaché (Army, Naval & Air) Brigadier General Ye Htut & Dr. Khaing Khaing Myint.



BIS organized an awareness and implementation webinar on "INDIAN STANDARDS ON GAS STOVES AND WATER HEATERS FOR USE WITH PIPED NATURAL GAS (PNG)" recently. Around 80 participants from the gas stoves and gas water heater industry attended the program.



MAGAZINE RELEASE - CRPF
Sonal Shah released 'Sanidhya'-The annual magazine of CRPF Family Welfare Association in a ceremony held at the Shaurya CRPF Officers Institute, New Delhi. CWA works toward the welfare of families of its Bravehearts.



EXHIBITION - GLOBAL REACH
Global Reach hosted the first Face to Face Australian Education Exhibition recently at The Royal Plaza and The Oberoi's Grand after the pandemic, and it was a grand success. D Sim, DCG, ACG, Kolkata was present in the event.



INAUGURATION - DISE
Delhi International School Edge, Dwarka inaugurated "VYOM", the well-equipped advanced and historic space lab, becoming the first school in Dwarka having an astronomy lab. Dr G Raza, eminent scientist inaugurated the lab.



NOMINATION
CWC Anuj Kumar, Director (Finance), Central Warehousing Corporation has been nominated as Vice President of All India Public Sector Sports Control Board. The AIPSSCB is to ensure that sports persons are nurtured to achieve higher levels of their performance in national and international events.



The DS Group (Dharampal Satyapal Group) is a Multi-Business Corporation and one of the leading FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) conglomerate with strong Indian and International presence. It has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, under the USGBC (US Green Building Council) existing building; O&M (Operation and Maintenance) programme version 4.0 for being a green building. LEED is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability excellence, signifying that a building is lowering carbon emissions, conserving resources and reducing operating costs, while prioritizing sustainable practices.



The Super Soldier and his power-packed punch

ATTACK
★★★

Director: Lakshya Raj Anand
Cast: John Abraham, Jacqueline Fernandez, Rakul Preet Singh, Elham Ehsas, Prakash Raj, Ratna Pathak Shah, Kiran Kumar

A CRACK contingent of the Indian Army swoops upon a hideout across the border, and scoops up a most-wanted terrorist. That adrenaline-filled sequence, which opens *Attack*, a film which hews close to its name, leads to a series of attacks on Indian soil. And then what happens? Counter-attacks, silly. If anyone dares attack us, we will give them *moonh-tod jawaab*, and stomp on their graves.

The story is credited to producer John Abraham, who plays the lead in this two-hour actioner: In and As Arjun, India's First Super Soldier. A highly-advanced chirpy microchip called Ira (you know, somewhat like Siri and Alexa) lays open the knowledge of the world in front of our Arjun, and hands him the kind of superpowers that would be the envy of all the caped crusaders collectively.

Just so Arjun gets a few breaks between the set-pieces in which he has to take on the evil Hamid (Elham Ehsas) and his gun-toting gang as they set about wrecking havoc in the hallowed house of Parliament, with the Prime Minister inside, no less, there is a gorgeous girl-friend (Jacqueline Fernandes), a caring mother (Ratna Pathak Shah), and a perky associate-in-arms (Rakul Preet Singh). The ladies do what they need to, but they know, and we know, that they are mere place fillers; the film, rolling in its comic-book chops, only kicks in when the Super Soldier is in full flow.

We know exactly how things will pan out, no strain on the brain. Everything is straight-forward

Also, just so we think that everything comes easily to India's best and bravest, the script makes Arjun work for the all-knowing Ira. A bomb blast, the death of a beloved, and a crippling bullet are part of the plot, but these roadblocks are quickly dispensed with, and everything is revved up to the point where it is Super Soldier 100, Evil Terrorists 0, which is essentially the entire post-interval portion. Yes, a few Indians are sacrificed, but sweet revenge is not far: helicopter blades and swords meet terrorist necks, and enemy blood is satisfactorily sprayed across the screen.

Watch out for some cutesy moments between John and Jacqueline, and Shah elevating the material whenever she comes on. Singh, as a super-smart creator of the super-chip programme, is strictly in service to the larger purpose of the film. As is Prakash Raj, as John A's boss, who gets to bark a few orders here and there. Nice to see old-timer Kiran Kumar pop up for a bit, as a bristling armyman, and Rajit Kapur as a shifty-eyed, crafty *neti* who has an eye on the big job.

But, like we said, these are sidebars. We know exactly how things will pan out, no strain on the brain. Everything is straight-forward, no complicated characters, no difficult morally ambiguous situations. That's what *desi* superheroes are for, aren't they? **SG**

When people are in a confined space, and the journey is long, it is a time out of time: many of us use it to do things which are hard or tedious, or intensely pleasurable. The car

DRIVE MY CAR
★★★★

Director: Ryusuke Hamaguchi
Cast: Hidetoshi Nishijima, Toko Miura, Masaki Okada, Reika Kirishima

ON: MUBI

AS ADVERTISED, *Drive My Car* is a road movie. Of course it is. That's what the title says, and the film takes us accordingly for long drives in a red Saab in the company of two mismatched people, where they, of course, learn the power of connection. The result is a strikingly unusual rumination on love and loss, and that has to do with the prolific Japanese auteur Ryusuke Hamaguchi's skill in opening up closed spaces through conversation.

When people are in a confined space, and the journey is long, it is a time out of time: many of us use it to do things which are hard or tedious, or intensely pleasurable. The car

SHARMAJI NAMKEEN ★★★
Director: Hitesh Bhatia, **Cast:** Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Juhi Chawla, Satish Kaushik, Suhail Nayyar, Isha Talwar, Sheeba Chaddha, Ayesh Raza Mishra, Taaruk Raina

Swan Song, Sweet and Salty



SHUBHRA GUPTA

THERE ARE countless men like Brij Gopal Sharma. Too young, at 58, to be given a golden handshake and turfed out of his workplace. Too active to chill in his modest home and watch unending soaps where nothing ever happens, or go to the park, where the elderly gang gets together for yoga classes and neighbourhood gossip.

The one distinctive thing about Sharma (Rishi Kapoor) is that he loves rustling up finger-lickin' food, and he is the one, as a single father, who has fed his sons, now grown, one with a job, another in college. How does someone like him pass the time, as the days hang heavier and heavier?

Sharmaji Namkeen draws a portrait of middle-class *mohalla* Delhi (Purani Dilli-West Delhi, for the most part), keeping its 'working-class hero' front and centre. At

two hours, it gets stretched. Half an hour into the film, it is still going on how Sharma is constantly being chivvied by his sons, and told how to live out the remainder of his life, before allowing him a nice respite, which involves a bunch of jolly, giggly, middle-aged 'kitty aunties', in the need for a break themselves.

It is a Delhi we have seen before, in Dibakar Banerjee's early films. It is also a Rishi Kapoor we have seen before: Habib Faisal's *Do Dooni Chaar*, 2010, was also set in middle-class Delhi, with its crowded DDA houses, nosy neighbours, and tuition uncles. But unlike Banerjee's edgier West Delhi, this one is more affectionate: old friends (Satish Kaushik, spot on) bicker, using delightfully salty Punjabi expletives, but also look out for each other; fathers and sons argue but the bond between them remains rock solid — *badaa ladka* Suhail Nayyar works in a shiny Gurgaon high-rise,

and is desperate to become upwardly mobile; younger son Taaruk Raina gets a 'compartment' in his exams, but is happy in his dance group.

The best parts of the film, which flattens occasionally, are the interactions between the shy Sharma shedding his reluctance and finding easy companionship with the ladies who kitty-party their dull afternoons away, playing naughty dumb charade games, or dancing to *Yeh duniya pittal di*: Sheeba Chaddha, Aysha Raza Mishra are hoots. These women — a nice mix of singles, sexually adventurous middle-aged women, secret tipplers, young housewives who do not want to be confined to home and hearth — are a sorority. They are not, and this is the film's strong point, made fun of: they are written with warmth, and are shown having each other's backs. And Juhi Chawla makes us smile, especially in those parts

where she and Kapoor share screen space, taking us back to the years when they were young and twinkly-toed, danced and romanced, and swept us off our feet.

You watch the film as a tribute to Kapoor. When he left us in an untimely fashion, he was doing all kinds of roles, from kohl-eyed baddies to cantankerous grandpas. This one, his last, has a message tucked in its telling: embrace change, go out of your comfort zone, where unexpected pleasures may await.

He had fallen gravely ill during the making of the film, and Paresh Rawal stepped in for him. The film's editor must have had quite a task, splicing scenes with the two actors, making them flow. Rawal's Sharma, toggled out in Kapoor's trademark checked sweater and muffler, is efficient. But Kapoor is truly *namkeen*, showing us how it is done, light on his feet, light in his eyes, a will to live. *Jeena isi ka naam hai*.

Of great power and greater responsibility

MORBIUS
★★★

Director: Daniel Espinosa
Cast: Jared Leto, Matt Smith, Jared Harris, Adria Arjona, Tyrese Gibson

SHALINI LANGER

MORBIUS IS one of those villains in the Spider-Man comics resurrected for the big screen only, one suspects, because of the riches to be made from an expanding Marvel universe. Courtesy how those spoils are carved up between Sony and Disney, he remains but a minor star in that galaxy. However, to Morbius the film's credit, it understands this well, going for an understated, consistent story where with great power comes great responsibility.

There are no big flourishes here, no big battles to fight or win except for the one Morbius fights with himself — to hold out a temptation that is much too alluring for him and for a lifelong friend, both suffering from a disorder that is killing them.

Never quite spelled out as more than a blood disorder, this ailment leaves them dependent on crutches for walking and with a deathly pale pallor (particularly in case of Leto,



playing Morbius). Then comes a chance to live life to the fullest, not ordained because of an accident of science or birth, but an actual, surprisingly coherent, experiment. Dr Michael Morbius, the genius scientist who refused a Nobel Prize, is trying out mixing vampire bat DNA with that of other species, in order to transfuse an anticoagulant quality that allows the bats to take in large quantities of blood. The drawback, when he finally takes it himself, is that along with super muscles and enhanced speed, hearing, agility, the transfusion leaves him capable of immense violence to procure blood.

Can two men who have suffered much ridicule, pity and long lonely hours — fantasising about living long enough to get old, or to find love — turn this gift down? Especially when they know the cost?

As Morbius chooses one path and his friend Milo (Smith) the other, Espinosa — the director behind that haunting horror-in-space film, *Life* — sets the stage well. There are interesting confrontations between the two on what is motivating the other, and the right choice under the circumstances.

While the film is focused on these human elements of its story, Morbius is a win-

ner. Leto mellows his showmanship enough to seize at this chance at playing a man who can simultaneously be an ailing, pale ghoul, a Dementor-like terror and a young man in supermodel good looks and flowy black overcoats and tresses. Smith is a good change as a villain who really is your staid boy-next-door, in boring, button-down suits, though with sneakers, and with a jealous streak that may or may not be what it seems. The only other person of any consequence is Arjona, and while she clearly exists largely to play Morbius's gorgeous love interest, she is difficult to dismiss as just that.

However, to make the leap from a man-bat to the superhero club with its Batman and Company, Morbius must fight not just with words but also action. So the film packs in fights where Morbius is a shadowy, whispery presence flitting from one target to another, courtesy his bat antenna. It's here that the film bogs down, adding nothing to a superhero genre that has left little to the imagination.

The film wants you to imagine instead Morbius as part of a 'team' (wink, wink) fighting the bad guys. You think of that frail, vulnerable scientist in a lab who began out trying to save the lives of his and his best friend, and you can't help feeling that the best of Morbius may be behind him.

STREAMING WATCH LIST



PADA
AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Directed by Kamal KM, this Malayalam film featuring Joju George and Dileesh Pothan, is based on a true incident and raises the seminal question of land and the displacement of adivasis.



THE BUBBLE
NETFLIX

Directed by Judd Apatow, in this the comedy, the cast and crew

of a blockbuster action franchise attempt to shoot a sequel while quarantining at a posh hotel.

TRUST NO ONE: THE HUNT FOR CRYPTO KING
NETFLIX

In this documentary directed by Luke Sewell, when the founder of a Canadian crypto exchange unexpectedly dies in India, customers suspect there may be more to the death than meets the eye.



COBALT BLUE
NETFLIX

In Sachin Kundalkar's much-talked screen adaption of his book by the same name, *Cobalt Blue*, featuring Prateik Babbar, Neelay Mehendale and Anjali Sivaraman, an aspiring author and his sister fall in love with their enigmatic paying guest.

MOON KNIGHT
DISNEY+HOTSTAR

Created by Jeremy Slater, in this series based on Marvel Comics character Moon Knight, Marc Spector (Oscar Isaac), a mercenary who has dissociative identity disorder, is drawn into a deadly mystery involving Egyptian gods with his multiple identities, such as Steven Grant.



Love, loss and a journey in light and shadows

can become a home away from home, where a change of clothes nestles in the back seat. When you have the luxury of being driven, it can be an office on wheels, where dense files can be flipped through, away from pleasurable distractions. It can be a place to trust for illicit lovers, away from prying eyes. It can be a sanctuary: taking deep breaths and centring can be surprisingly easy in a moving vehicle. It can also be a space for carving pockets of enormously fruitful conversations.

Celebrated Tokyo-based theatre director Yusuke (Hidetoshi Nishijima) is in Hiroshima by invitation of the local repertory to put together a multi-lingual production of Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. When he discovers that a young woman called Misaki (Toko Miura) will be his chauffeur, he makes his displeasure clear. It's not so much to do with her as it is about how he likes the time in the car to be on his own, where he goes over his lines, and thinks things through. Misaki stays impassive, backing expertly out of a tight-parking place, with nary a break or bump.



And then she begins to drive, smooth as butter, up and down the scenic coastal roads in Hiroshima, and he starts to loosen up. Both begin by inhabiting their respective spaces,

her behind the wheel, him in the passenger seat. Slowly they shift; he moves up ahead, next to her. By the end, they have learnt not only the bends and stretches of the road, but

each other's contours. They have shared pain, exchanged memories, and learnt ways of healing each other.

Hamaguchi's three-hour film, based on a Haruki Murakami's short story, is a masterful examination of what it is to be human. How do we understand one another? To know someone from the inside is impossible, even when the connection is deep; we can spend several lifetimes in the quest for that most elusive thing — a perfect partner.

Yusuke is middle-aged, and still grieving from the loss of his beautiful wife Oto (Reika Kirishima), a successful playwright herself. From what we see of them in the movie's lengthy prologue, it is clear that there is still intimacy left in their marriage, as they relax in bed, limbs wrapped around each other in post-coital bliss. But it is also evident that Oto's passions are spent among others, and that Yusuke is aware of it. It leaves him, and us, wondering what kind of a relationship it really was: were they truly still together, or were they just going through the motions?

The film doesn't bother giving us any answers. Life isn't about tying neat bows around intractable problems. But the experience of getting a bunch of diverse actors to come to an accommodation and an understanding of their material teaches Yusuke a thing or two about communication above and beyond the actual act of directing the play. This group, which includes a well-known celebrity who also happens to be his wife's one-time lover Koji (Masaki Okada), speaks in different tongues; one even uses Korean sign language. They begin by sitting across the table doing line readings in different languages, and come together on stage as a well-oiled unit. Art trumps difference, and creative ferment knows no language.

Committing three hours to a film can be a challenge. But not when it is a work of art which gives us a new way of seeing. *Drive My Car* had already corralled several awards before its Best International Feature triumph at the Oscars earlier this week. It has begun streaming, and I urge you not to miss it. **SG**



ADITYA BERLIA
CO-PROMOTER,
APEEJAY EDUCATION

What are the measures that countries can put in place, beyond the quotas, to create a strong pipeline of female candidates for corporate boards?

Just look at raw talent. Don't start off looking at women and say they're women, therefore they should not be good. Or don't assume that because it's a woman, she's going to leave you when her husband gets transferred. Men, too, can leave when their wives get transferred. And I've seen that happen. So if you judge every person for the talent that they are, I think you'll end up with a different mix of employees. I believe that there's a group of very talented hungry women who want to contribute to the paid economy and want to be economically independent. Give them a chance.

In the US, 70 per cent of high school valedictorians are women. Women are getting college degrees 10 points higher than men, they're getting all the top grades. Is that not a talent pool you want to draw from? I bet if you look at the statistics in India, it is improving over time and is reaching a point where you have to take women seriously as a phenomenal talent base.



SUBHASRI SRIRAM
ED & CFO, SHRIRAM CAPITAL

You went to the US at a time when opportunities in India weren't as many as they are today. If you were to suggest to Indian women today, would you suggest that they stay back in India and work? Or are opportunities and contributions to a larger space still available in the US and they should find a life there?

India has opened up in such profound ways. People are travelling back and forth from India to the US much more frequently than they could ever dream of. I came to the US way back in 1978. People vacation here, people vacation in every part of the world today because you have access to foreign exchange, you have more wealth in your hands and the opportunities are tremendous. Whether it's with a multinational company in India or all of the big companies in India, they pay pretty good wages these days. Clearly there are educational institutions in the US that are truly world-class and spectacular. But you have to think through after that education experience, what do you want to do? Do you want to go back and contribute to India? Or do you want to work in the US? Today, there's no difference between the two. I look at my own BCG (Boston Consulting Group) experience. Today, if I graduated from a US school, I could well go back to India and work for BCG in India. And BCG can send me to any part of the world.

The opportunities are seamless. So look at it in terms of your own family, your own hopes and dreams and aspirations, and your comfort level. It's a beautiful open world today, relatively speaking.



Indra Nooyi, former chairman and CEO, PepsiCo with Shyamal Majumdar, Editor, *Financial Express* and Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, *The Indian Express*



ANANTA SINGH RAGHUVANSHI
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT-ELECT,
NAREDCO Mahi
When you look back at life, what is it that you feel is most precious to you?

There's a professional life and a personal life. My children are my life. And professionally, I've been motivated by my job. I didn't care if I became CEO or not. The fact that I did jobs with more and more responsibility, also gave me enormous satisfaction. I don't know if I would have been a good parent if I hadn't had the career, because, the way my brain is wired, I had to keep doing something intellectually all the time. I still have to. I think what allowed me to be a decent mother, and a good executive was the fact that I had both interests, and somehow, I straddled them. You can never be perfect at everything. I did my best.

'As we think of future of work, start with family, then work outwards'

At the recent e-Adda, Indra Nooyi, former chairman and CEO of PepsiCo, spoke on the future of work, why the US is still the most open country and her memoir *My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future*

On steering clear of a larger-than-life image

Leadership is a tough assignment and as you ascend to the top, life is very difficult. If you try to craft an image that is not authentic, that veneer will slip very often and people will see through you. So one of the things that I decided was that I'm not going to create a new veneer. Trying to juggle the priorities of work, family and kids is just not easy. So I'm going to tell people how hard it is. I'm going to use a support system to help me manage all of this stuff. And things are going to fall through the cracks. But if I'm human and talk about it honestly, then I don't have to constantly think about what image I should create for myself.

On finding empathy

The empathy part was simple because all the people who worked for me and worked with me were first of all human beings, who had their own families, their own communities, their issues, which they couldn't just leave behind. It never affected their work but you could feel it in their body language. They were emotional about certain issues. And I felt that if I reached out to them and understood them as people, as opposed to tools of the trade, they would give me more in terms of contribution to the workplace. So I got to know them as people.

On taking strong political positions

One of the reasons why people want corporate leaders to take a position is that they feel helpless. So they think that corporations can actually convince governments to do something different. Now here's the problem. In a corporation, whatever position I took, one third of the employees agreed, one third disagreed, and one third were quiet. There was always this dilemma. What about the quiet group? If something violated the value statement or code of conduct, we always took a position. If it did not relate to it, we stayed out.

On her American story

The US is still the most open country in the world. In my book, I talked about being in the UK with the prime minister at a luncheon and he asked me why I didn't come to

the UK many years ago. And I told him, 'Had I come to the UK, I wouldn't be having lunch with you'. In most countries, an Indian immigrant, from an emerging market, a woman, would have a tough time ascending to the CEOship. There's no way to really work your way up the hierarchy in any country other than the US and get to the top and be accepted. If you look at the number of Indian American CEOs in the US, it's an unprecedented number.

On her 'performance with purpose' approach

ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) needs to move from being a lip service from the fringe to the core. When I did 'performance with purpose', I didn't just do it because I thought it was nice to do or as corporate social responsibility. I wanted to de-risk the company because at that time there were a lot of taxes on our 'fun for you' products. And I wanted to keep the company growing so I had to shift the portfolio to 'better for you'... Now fast forward to today. ESG metrics cannot be fringe from the company. I honestly believe a good subset of ESG metrics should drive shareholder value.

On mega global trends

I see five big mega trends, which lead to two big issues and three big changes that need to happen. One, over the next decade or two, you're going to see much bigger growth in population in Asia and Africa than the rest of the world. But if you look at the GDP, it's going to be mismatched. The second is that when you have so much growth in Asia and Africa, you're also going to have more consumption of protein, and therefore more animals that are reared. That could result in more epidemics and pandemics. So we need public health systems that prepare us for epidemics and pandemics. Third, climate change is going to impact us massively. The fourth is the ageing of the population. If you have an ageing population, and you don't create support structures for women to work, you won't be able to take care of the ageing population. And finally, the dizzying pace at which technology is moving and

changing. There are two big issues it raises. First, I think we're going to see a lot more geo-political upheavals because of where the population is growing and where the GDP is. People are going to want to retreat to nation states and national boundaries. And the second is, because so much of the growth is going to be in knowledge jobs, we're going to have to do a grand rescaling of talent. And then it raises worrisome issues. Do regulators worldwide know how to regulate technology? Second, in a world which could become more unequal, what's the role of capitalism? And finally, if technology is going to overtake so much of our life, how are we going to put the human back in humanity?

On the gender gap in India

You're seeing the rise of female talent and that has to be put to use for the country. How do you really take advantage of all of the talent, not just a portion of the talent? I think women are part of that. Where it gets a little confusing is that as we look at the laws in the books, India has the best laws and support for women but somehow in the implementation of the laws, there are problems. I'm glad that the Prime Minister is talking to women. But I think it's not just asking women to vote, it's also worrying about the issues that keep women unsafe. There's also the question of talking to the men about how women should be treated in society. It's not just about women talking to women, it's men in power, and all men coming to the table and saying what needs to change.

On the unevenness of the Indian education system

The top education institutions are fantastic. And after that, the fall off is pretty spectacular. So I think the focus has got to be on taking everything other than the top five per cent of institutions and figuring out how to improve the quality of the education that they impart to students... India has to really think about how to upgrade the entire education system and build it off what they've done with the top institutions.



To watch e-Adda, scan the QR code



ABHEEK SINGHI
SENIOR PARTNER AND MD,
BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP
Your book is one that has been read by three generations in my family — my mother, wife and daughter — apart from me. This question was posed by my daughter: what are the two or three skills that you would ask a 14-year-old Indian to learn?

Young girls and boys start debating right at the dining table. Help them build the ability to look at issues from different sides, and encourage them to perform — in front of the family or school. Get on stage, develop self-confidence. We don't do much to build the self-confidence of our young ones. We tell them, just listen to us. I would encourage parents to teach their kids to look at both sides of the issue and develop communication skills that will help them build their confidence. Because many of them are competent. But competence alone is not enough. If you don't have confidence and communication skills, you can't bring your competence to the fore.



SMITA MISHRA
FOUNDER & CEO, FANDORA TECHNOLOGIES
How do you find influencers at work as a businesswoman?

Clearly they can't be inside your company. But whether it's industry associations, or in society, or going to conferences and shows, and networking with people, that's the only way to find people that you can learn from and build on. When I was in PepsiCo, in the food and beverage space, I'd go to a lot of the trade shows, and go to meetings, where all of the leaders would attend. And then you build networks, exchange ideas, and you build off of each other. The idea is, what's the core group of people you need to interact with, both within your industry and completely different from your industry. But can you learn from them? And how do you find those people? It's only in these big forums and conventions. You're going to have to go out and network and get to know people there in order to build your own network and keep in touch with them and nurture them.

In the Room: Ajit Shriram, Joint Managing Director, DCM Shriram; Mahesh Thakkar, Director General, Finance Industry Development Council; Shantala Bhat, CEO, Gamatics India; Shashi Sharma, Founder, SSBC India; AG Ramakrishna, Chief Product Officer, Card91; Ashok Kela, Managing Director, Aetek Timbex; Bindu Venkatesh, Vice President-HR & Training, Oracle; Lt Gen Arun Sahni, Former Army Commander; CJ George, Managing Director, Geojit Financial Services; Preeti Passi, Founder, Fortune Capital; Chakitan Sawhney, Chairman & Managing Director, Keselec Smart Lighting Technologies; Vinod Kumar, Managing Director & CEO, The Manipal Group; Rajiv Kumar Sharma, Founder & Chairman, Empower Pragati Vocational & Staffing; Sanjiva Jha, Founder and CEO, Broad Arks Technology; Dr YK Alagh, Vice Chairman & Professor Emeritus, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic And Social Research; Devin Narang, Country Head India, Sindicatum Renewable Energy; Bharat Mehta, CEO, HR Synergy; Sunil Lulla, Founder & Chief Evangelist, The Linus Adventures LLP; Surojit Sen, Promoter, Crosslynx US LLC; U Shekhar, Managing Director, Galaxy Surfactants; Mridul Pathak, Co-Chairman, IAGCC; Pankaj Satija, Managing Director, Tata Steel Mining; Rajiv Luthra, Founder & Managing Partner, L&L Partners Law Offices; CV Subba Rao, Managing Director, Sanmar Shipping; Arvind Jolly, Chairman & Managing Director, Jollyboard; Ela Bhatt, Founder, SEWA; Dr OP Mishra, Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police; Priya Iyer, Founder and CEO, Kids Must Read

Associate Partners



Spain, Germany in Group of death

Champs France clubbed with Denmark and Tunisia, Qatar to play Ecuador in opening game on Nov 21

REUTERS
DOHA, APRIL 1

THE UNITED States will face England and Iran in Group B at the World Cup finals while Spain will take on Germany in a clash of former winners in Group E.

Holders France will meet Denmark and Tunisia in Group D while the tournament will kick off on November 21 with hosts Qatar playing Ecuador.

For the U.S., the draw pits them against their former colonial rulers England and the Iranians, a country they have had long-running political disputes with.

The U.S. faced Iran at the 1998 World Cup in France, losing 2-1 to the Gulf nation.

Group G was one of the toughest, pitting five-times World Cup winners Brazil against Serbia, Switzerland and Cameroon.

The draw came after a 45 minute musical and video show as FIFA president Gianni Infantino promised the event would "simply be the best tournament ever".

The decision in 2010 to hand the hosting rights to Qatar was heavily criticised and there has been intense scrutiny of the human rights situation in the country.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani welcomed the guests who included national team coaches, World Cup-winning players and football officials all waiting to discover the group stage match-ups during a ceremony presented by British actor Idris Elba and broadcaster Reshmin Chowdhury.

The tournament will run from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18 — the first time soccer's top prize has been competed for in the Middle East and there was a distinct Arabian feeling to the show.

Brazil coach worried

Brazil are the bookmakers' favourites to win the World Cup but their lack of friendlies against European opposition over the last four years perturbs coach Tite, who fears it could cost them in Qatar.

Brazil were drawn in Group G on Friday and will face Switzerland, Serbia and Cameroon in the finals.

They are unquestionably the best side in South America along with Argentina, having recorded a record 45 points in the qualifiers and going unbeaten in all 17 matches.

But without game time against teams such as France, Spain, England and Germany, Tite admitted there was a question mark over just how good the five-times world champions really are.

"We don't have these encounters so there's a doubt," he said last year.

In the four years between the last two World Cups, Brazil faced eight European teams including holders Germany, hosts Russia and eventual winners France.



Former Germany captain Lothar Matthäus at the World Cup draw ceremony.

AP

STORY OF THE DRAW

AN EVENLY poised World Cup draw has kept the group stage outcomes largely predictable but with the hope of some promising knockout games.

The group of death

Spain, Costa Rica/ New Zealand, Germany and Japan in Group E can be awarded the moniker of the group of death. While it seems to be a battle between Spain and Germany, both will be vying for the top spot so as to avoid Belgium. And it doesn't help that the second-placed team picks up 2018 World Cup finalists Croatia, or CONCACAF winners Canada.

The group of geopolitics

England, USA, Iran and one of Wales, Scotland or Ukraine will be in Group B. If Ukraine are able to field a team for their European playoff games and manage to qualify, it could be quite a political group. Also, this will be the first time England will be playing on the first day of the World Cup since 1966, the only time they've won the tournament.

The group to watch out for

Surely, Group H with its four almost evenly matched teams could well be the group to actually watch out for. At

first glance, it seems to be Portugal and Uruguay's for the taking. But South Korea knocked out holders Germany in the 2018 World Cup and Ghana have the potential to cause an upset or two.

Can Qatar survive their group?

From the looks of Group A, Netherlands' return to World Cup football seems to be arriving with a sure chance of making it out of the group stages. Which leaves Qatar, Senegal and Ecuador. Qatar will be facing Ecuador and if they can pull off a win, then they will face Senegal for a group stage date.

However, in the four years since Belgium knocked them out at the quarter-final stage in Russia, they have only once met a team from Europe, beating the Czech Republic 3-1 in a March 2019 friendly.

That is down partly to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has squeezed the football calendar since 2020, but it is also because of the

Nations League. The launch of the Nations League in 2018 was designed, according to UEFA, to "reduce the number of meaningless friendlies".

Brazil, though, see such friendlies not as meaningless but as a chance to test themselves against the best in the world and Tite has repeatedly asked the Brazilian Football

Confederation to arrange games against European sides.

"Any friendly against any European team, because it is important," he told reporters last year. "We want it. The side wants it."

The Europeans, meanwhile, appear less worried, if comments from Spanish coach Luis Enrique are anything to go by.

A veteran returns, jumps to see engrossing contest

The Federation Cup, the first major meet of this year's busy athletics season, begins today in Calicut. With the Asiad, CWG and World Championships lined up, athletes looking to put their best foot forward.

BATTLE OF THE 8M CLUB (MEN'S LONG JUMP)

With Jeswin Aldrin breaching the 8m-barrier recently at the Indian Grand Prix, India has now three active jumpers who can leap beyond this mark. National record holder Sreesankar Murali (PB 8.26m) is back in form after the Olympics debacle and is favourite to take home the gold. But he will be fiercely challenged by the other two members of the 8m club — Mohammed Anees (8.15m) and Jeswin (8.20m PB).



National long-jump record holder Sreesankar will be under spotlight

SPOTLIGHT ON AMLAN

Amlan Borgohain came into the limelight last year after winning the national title with the fifth-best time by an Indian (20.75s). The Cristiano Ronaldo superfan won the 200m gold with a 21.39s run at the first leg of the Indian Grand Prix. The Fed Cup has 24 entries in the event but Amlan is the favourite to take home the gold medal.

QUARTERMILE BATTLE

Amoj Jacob is one of the most improved quarter milers in the country. The 23-year-old, who ran the fastest leg of India's 4x400m Asian record-breaking run at the Tokyo Olympics, will be one athlete to watch out for. Mohammed Anas, the national record holder in 200 and 400m, will not be taking part in the event due to injury. Amoj will, however, be pushed by campmates like the seasoned Arokia Rajiv, and Noah Nirmal Tom.

JINSON BACK IN ACTION

An injury in 2019 and a bout with COVID last year, forced Jinson Johson to take a long break from competition. The setbacks also derailed the hopes of the 2018 Asian Games gold medalist's hopes of making the cut for Tokyo. This will be Jinson's first competition since

the 2019 World Military Games held in October 2019.

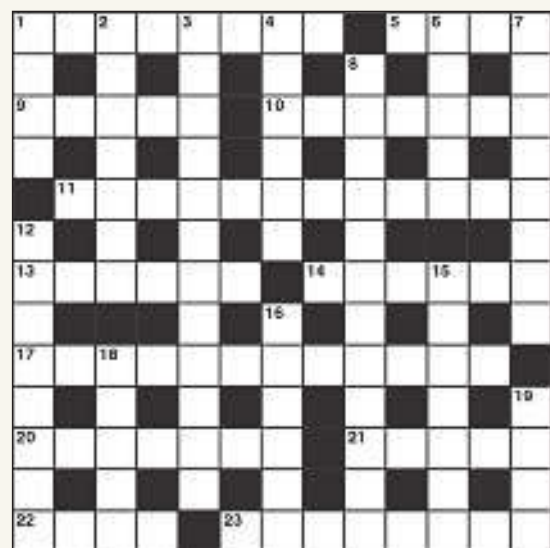
THE NEW CROP

Three triple Jumpers Eldhose Paul, Karthik Unnikrishnan and Abdulla Aboobacker had met AFI's qualification standards for the CWG (16.65m) and Asian Games (16.56m) at the jump nationals in March. But due to a goof-up by organisers, the wind measuring apparatus never reached the stadium, robbing athletes of precious points in the world ranking system. Jumpers Eldhose and Aboobacker have been performing consistently, ending on the podium in almost all the national meets in the last few years. Eldhose improved his 16.93m (without wind reading) to 16.95 at the Indian Grand Prix, the third-best jump by an Indian.

NO STOPPING PRIYA (200M)

Priya Mohan has been one of the best performing athletes this year. The Karnataka youngster recently pipped three-time Asian Games gold medalist MR Poovamma (400 metres and 4x400 metre relay) for the top spot at the Indian Grand Prix. She also recorded her personal best of 52.37s in the process. Interestingly, Priya won't be taking part in the 400m as per the entry list but will run against Hima Das for the 200m title. —ANDREW AMSAN

CROSSWORD 4704



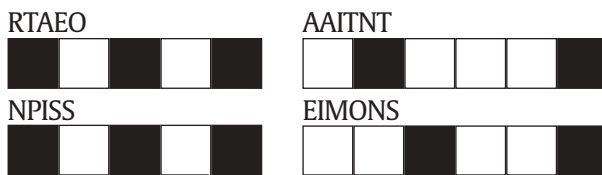
- ACROSS**
- The end of hangings? (8)
 - Sort of saw for pine (4)
 - House deposit? (5)
 - Three times surrounded a number show fear (7)
 - Change sides (5,2,5)
 - How one might be cast as Captain Bligh? (6)
 - Business concern (6)
 - Get up before ten (4,3,5)
 - I meant having a change to live things up (7)
 - Deserted place of refreshment? (5)
 - Can it turn the tide for the overweight? (4)
 - Just willing to be easy prey (4,4)
- DOWN**
- Company lieutenant's horse (4)
 - Communist grass raising animals (3,4)
 - Motive force - before railways? 1,4,2,5
 - Not one on view (6)
 - Sailor has damaged rib put out by Jewish doctor (5)
 - New rate certain for wealth (8)
 - The Bench? (4,2,6)
 - Wild pig in its own fat calls for old port (8)
 - You won't remember suffering from it (7)
 - The spirit of Switzerland (6)
 - Quick to catch five in a falsehood (5)
 - Land that lies around in the water? (4)

Solutions Crossword 4703: Across : 1 Quarterly, 8 Outre, 9 Junkets, 10 Object, 11 Cannon, 12 Customer, 15 Military, 18 Little, 20 Looftah, 21 Agility, 22 Orate, 23 Lost cause. Down: 2 Uvula, 3 Raking, 4 Estancia, 5 You bet, 6 Streams, 7 Reiterate, 11 Chameleon, 13 Skylight, 14 Also-ran, 16 Travel, 17 Stella, 19 Lotus.

JUMBLED WORDS

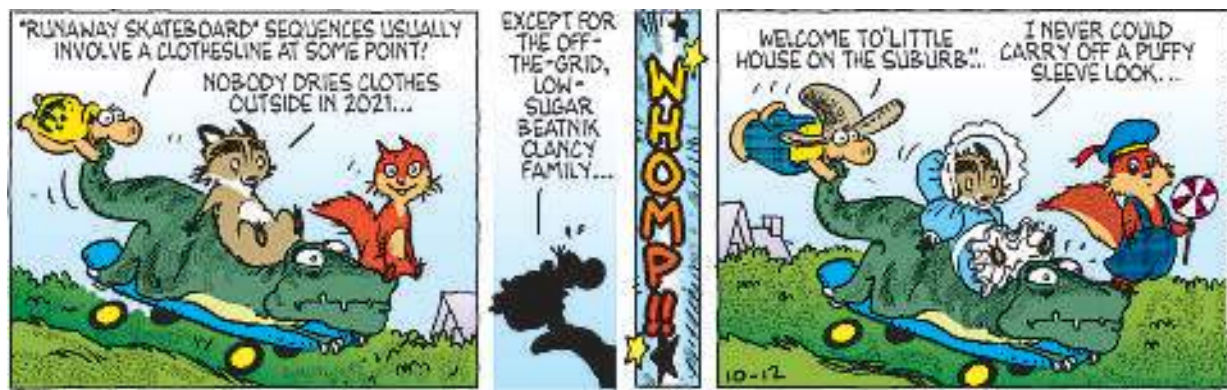
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Painting from nature is not copying the object; it is realizing one's ____ - Paul Cezanne (10)

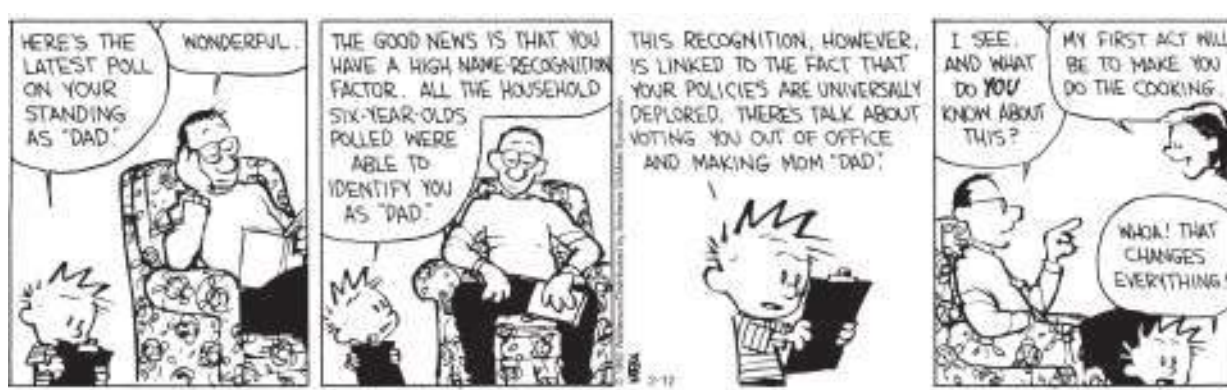


ANSWERS: PAINTING FROM NATURE IS NOT COPYING THE OBJECT; IT IS REALIZING ONE'S IMAGINATION

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

This is not a day for adventure, especially not for bold journeys to the edges of the known universe! Rather, it's a time to do what must be done, fulfilling all your many duties and obligations. Otherwise you'll be caught out when the reckoning arrives.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If you wish, you may coast along today, happy to put certain essential affairs on to auto-pilot. You should use this opportunity to relax, especially if you're about to launch a new professional venture. Don't wait while others make the running.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Work and the big world may be more enticing, but it will be essential to deal with necessary tasks at home. To this end, I would advise patience and restraint, although please do set aside whatever time is needed for a spot of romantic day-dreaming.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You are still inclined to imagine things which are not true. The fantasy-level in your solar chart has declined dramatically, but it's still not clear what is true and what is wish-fulfillment. That's the main reason why a little caution is advisable when you're making major commitments.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Today's delicate lunar alignments are truly splendid in many ways and, under normal circumstances, it would help you to bring personal goals to a point of no return. This time around you will have to move like greased lightning to save the day. Get on with it.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The burning question now is whether you should take the initiative or not. Probably, the only way for you to get what you want is to accept that just for now you must shoulder more of the burden. But then you're used to doing more than your fair share. Perhaps this time you'll get proper appreciation.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

By all means keep your feelings to yourself, and don't worry if other people complain. They may have a right to know what you are doing, but they have absolutely no right to peer into your deepest emotions. What you need to do now is decide what it's safe to tell partners, and what you have to keep to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You may have to swallow your pride and admit that someone else may be right after all. That doesn't mean that you should accept anything less than the best at work. Individuals applying for jobs should give a hundred and ten percent. Avoid complacency and over-confidence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Do consider certain ethical questions while you still have time. If you wish to force others to raise their standards of behaviour, you will have to do so by setting an example, so there's nothing to be gained by preaching. You need to listen to others first and make up your mind later.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You are now entering a month-long financial cycle that is really quite stunning. You may even be able to sort out your long-term security, once and for all. Already, you may be discovering clues that a partner is more ready to listen to reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Macho Mars has a role to play this morning, while gentle Venus steps in this afternoon. These movements won't signify changes today, but they do indicate that over the next twenty-four hours you will enter a phase that is assertive and hopefully successful.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are always happy to let other people wait on you, and today offers you an ideal chance to take time off while others do your dirty work. Please put your feet up while partners do the running around. Keep an eye on their progress though, and be ready to intervene if they're in danger of creating a real mess.

SUDOKU 4792

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4791



Knight takes King

Umesh Yadav bowls like a dream before Russell smashes unbeaten 70 off 31 as KKR outclass Punjab Kings



Umesh Yadav was the pick of the Kolkata Knight Riders bowlers with 4/23. *sportzpics/IPL*

SYNOPSIS: Allround KKR thrive on Russell's power-punch, Yadav's second wind and Narine's trickery.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
APRIL 1

ONCE PUNJAB Kings were bundled out for 137 in 18.2 overs, it was Kolkata Knight Riders' game to lose. Four quick wickets had put them in a spot of bother and at 51/4, Punjab sensed an opportunity. But Andre Russell exploded at Wankhede and Sam Billings gave him good company. An unbroken 90-run (47 balls) fifth wicket partnership between the two eventually made it a cakewalk for KKR. They won by six wickets with 33 balls to spare. From Indian cricket's point of view, Chahar's steady improvement as a bowler has been heartening. The leg-spinner has added variety to his bowling.

After chasing down a 200-plus total against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their first game, normal service resumed for Punjab. Their takeaways from this game were restricted to Bhanuka Rajapaksa's nine-ball 31 and Rahul Chahar's 2/13 from four overs. From Indian cricket's point of view, Chahar's steady improvement as a bowler has been heartening. The leg-spinner has added variety to his bowling.

Russell's power-punch
Punjab's ploy of Odean Smith coming

from around the wicket and bowling length on a leg stump line to Russell was as baffling as it was ineffective. Rising deliveries from back-of-a-length into the body have traditionally proven to be the big man's bugbear. Smith's bowling was meat and drink to Russell.

The first three balls of the 12th over went for a four and two sixes. And when Smith switched to over the wicket, he still bowled length. That 30-run over completely took the game away from Punjab. There was no stopping Russell after that.

Early days, but the knights are looking very good. Russell's x-factor aside, Shreyas Iyer's arrival has added quality to their batting line-up, although the KKR captain yet again lost his wicket to a leg-spinner. KKR's bowling attack has Umesh Yadav, who has been a revelation in this format.

Tim Southee has been complementing him well, while Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy are providing the spin-punch. On Friday, their fielding was excellent as well. Southee's catch to dismiss Kagiso Rabada off Russell was breathtaking.

Yadav's second wind

The veteran fast bowler went unsold at the first round of auction before KKR bought him as an afterthought, at his base price of Rs 2 crore. It now looks like a bargain. At 34 years of age, Yadav is enjoying a T20 second wind. He already has eight wickets in three games; five of those were taken inside the Powerplays. Today, he returned with

4/23 from four overs. An appreciation tweet from the KKR media team followed.

Yadav has developed a wobble-seam ball which is cutting back to the right-handers from a disconcerting length. It trapped Mayank Agarwal leg-before. The Punjab captain had shuffled across, but was beaten by the nip-backer.

One way to counter Yadav is to upset his length. Shikhar Dhawan tried that by charging down the track and hitting a six. But the senior quick is mixing brain with brawn to fantastic effect in this IPL. Also, he is moving the ball both ways at speed and altering his length. Iyer's captaincy has been pretty impressive so far, especially the way he is handling his bowlers. He

brought back Yadav in the ninth over and was rewarded with Liam Livingstone's scalp. Then, after Narine's spin choke - Varun, too, deserves a serious mention - and Southee's wickets had put Punjab on the mat, Yadav returned for his final spell and sucked the life out of the opponents' back-end recovery with two dismissals in three balls.

A length delivery that came in a fraction cleaned up Harpreet Brar. A short ball accounted for Chahar. It was smart thinking from Iyer to keep Nitish Rana at wide slip. As the ball reared off the deck, Chahar followed the fielder. If Yadav was the most successful, Narine was the trickiest. As usual, his bowling was very difficult to deal with.

Narine's trickery

To the purists, Narine's action is still a tad

jerky. But as long as his elbow-bend is within the permissible 15-degree limit, no harm done.

The lynchpin of KKR's spin attack thrives on his consistency, the impeccable line and length that barely allow the batsmen any space to manoeuvre. Batsmen know his tricks, they struggle to decipher them.

Raj Bawa is a boy in a man's world. The youngster's raw talent is unmistakable, but tonight he was in for a rude awakening. Bawa's extra-cover drive for four off Narine was classy.

But he wasn't prepared for the response from the spin doctor. The bowler went wide of the crease, bowled flatter and gave the ball a vicious tweak. Bawa, stuck at the crease, played for the angle. The ball spun past the outside edge to hit the off stump. More experienced batsmen than Bawa have fallen prey to Narine's tricks. The teenager will learn.

That was Narine's only wicket in the match, his figures reading 1/23 from four overs. But what the spinner does after game is to put on the choke in the middle-overs. Rival teams try to see him off. That way they play into his hands. It breaks the momentum, creates pressure and makes wicket-taking easier for his colleagues.

BRIEFSCORES: Punjab Kings: 137 all out in 18.2 overs (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 31, Kagiso Rabada 25; Umesh Yadav 4/23, Tim Southee 2/36) lost to KKR 141 for 4 in 14.3 overs (Andre Russell 70 no off 31 balls). KKR won by 6 wickets.

STADIUM CAPACITY MADE 50 PER CENT

IPL's ticketing partner BookMyShow on Friday said that audience capacity for the current season has been increased to 50 per cent from April 6. The Maharashtra government had initially allowed 25 per cent crowds at all the four venues - Wankhede stadium, Brabourne stadium in Mumbai, DY Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai and Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium in Gahunje in Pune. **PTI**

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

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

Narine plots end of Raj



After a phase of nerves, Raj Bawa, the gifted stroke-maker finally hammered his first boundary of the night, a meaty drive off Sunil Narine, who faltered on the fuller side. The ball was flat, it was Narine's quicker one that was fractionally over-pitched, but with powerful wrists, he bludgeoned the ball towards the fence. Narine was not amused. The follow-up was not a short ball, as many bowlers are prone to. The ball came at around the same speed (90kph or thereabouts), but it swerved inwardly,

and after pitching turned away a shade past his feeble defensive prod to clatter his stumps. These days, Narine revels in subtlety rather than magic or mystery. The drift was gentle, taking Bawa's eyes to the leg-side and coaxing him to play inside the line of the ball, the length was on the fuller side of the good-length band, driveable yet not driveable, and the turn was just enough to beat him and hit the stumps - a bit more turn and the ball would have left the stumps unharmed.

Southee's wobble special

Yet again, Tim Southee has done in a batsman with the three-quarter seam ball. It was Shikhar Dhawan this time, shaping to drive, but finding the ball wobbling away from him, taking a bit of edge along with it. Southee had developed it after a failure to produce the conventional in-swing and the fear of losing his stock outswinger. He picked the brains of his team-mate Kyle Mills who had developed the three-quarter seam ball. Southee explained it once on the ICC website. "I move the finger on the ball and put the weight on on-side of the ball. With the less upright position, hope it comes out wobbly." It's not the cross-seam ball but the fingers are almost on on-side of the leather and with the wrist firm (doesn't break away), he rolls his fingers on the side of the ball. And like Dhawan, and numerous others have found out before, the ball tends to tilt away.



Knight of false dawns

Ajinkya Rahane's recent travails have been typical. He would unfurl a few gorgeous strokes, so convincing that the beholder is left convinced that he has rediscovered his touch (the touch has not actually deserted him but the runs have). Then he would play a loose stroke that would leave you fuming at him. Against Punjab Kings, he looked in gorgeous nick, lacing three boundaries in the first 10 balls he faced. The last of the three was pure timing, when he just pushed a Kagiso Rabada through cover. He then judiciously left a couple of away-nibbling ones, late-cut one straight to back wide gully. Relaxed and composed, he seemed in no hurry in a supposedly easy chase of 138. Then, out of nothing, he drove feebly at a ball pitched on seventh stumps, from the crease and just throwing his hands at it. He duly edged and Odean Smith swallowed it. The Kolkata Knight Rider seems to be the knight of the false dawns, these days.



Russell's coup de grâce

"If you hit a four, you are two runs short," Andre Russell once said and he couldn't stop baring his television-ad-worthy teeth in the end after blasting 8 sixes.

Though the target wasn't huge, KKR had lost wickets in a clutch but Russell made light work of it.

His Jamaican team-mate Odean Smith helped him get going with some utter tripe - three sixes and a four flew in an over and



Russell also had the momentum to belt Punjab's best bowler Rahul Chahar for consecutive sixes to wrap up the game.

Another piece of Russell wisdom is the reason he stays still or even behind the crease. "Why go towards the ball? The ball is coming to you?" He just clears the front foot and smashes the white round thing.

Photos: sportzpics/IPL

World Cup final: Favourites Australia face champs England

NICK MULVENNEY
APRIL 1

AUSTRALIA WILL be strong favourites to win the Women's World Cup for a seventh time in Christchurch on Sunday but reigning champions England have hit their stride at the business end of the tournament and will not give up the trophy easily.

While the top ranked Australians have romped through the tournament with eight straight wins, four-times champions England have been in crisis management since losing their first three contests.

They qualified for the semi-finals with a thumping win over Bangladesh, however, and were at their very best when they crushed second-ranked South Africa by 137 runs on Thursday to reach the final for the sixth time. Danni Wyatt smashed 129 runs from 125 deliveries to help set the South Africans an imposing victory target and spinner Sophie Ecclestone finished the job with 6-36. The English know they will have to hit similar peaks when they return to Hagley Oval on Sunday to face Australia, who they have not beaten in their last seven meetings in one-dayers. "We've taken a few batterings over the last couple of months, but the fact we're here in a World Cup final is great," skipper Heather Knight told the BBC. "We'll go in as underdogs, which is certainly fair (but

While the top ranked Australians have romped through the tournament with eight straight wins, four-times champions England have been in crisis management since losing their first three contests.

what a story has been written for us if we go and beat them on Sunday. "We go in as equals. There's a blank slate. There's no pressure on us at all to do well."

The same cannot be said of Australia, who still frequently reference the stunning loss to India in the 2017 World Cup semi-finals in England.

The world's best all-rounder, Ellyse Perry, is an injury doubt for the Australians after she suffered back spasms in their penultimate round robin game against South Africa. With the likes of Beth Mooney, Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy leading the batting, and Jess Jonassen and Megan Schutt wielding the ball, however, Australia will be hard to beat. The prospect of playing their fiercest rivals, who they blanked in the multi-format Ashes series earlier this year, is sure to add an extra edge to the final. **REUTERS**
Live on Star Sports: 6:30 am (Sunday)

With polls around corner, Anand eyes FIDE role

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

VISWANATHAN ANAND, the five-time world champion, has thrown his weight behind the re-election bid of FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich, a former deputy prime minister of Russia. Though Anand and Dvorkovich didn't give details of Anand's role in FIDE if Dvorkovich and his team are reelected, the Indian Grandmaster's support for the Russian will be seen as significant with campaigning to start in the first week of May.

The FIDE Congress will be held in Chennai in the first week of August after the All India Chess Federation was awarded rights of the 44th Chess Olympiad. "I am committed to run for the next term for FIDE presidency. It is not the start of the campaign yet, the campaign will start only in May. I am happy now that our team will be strengthened by the participation of Viswanathan Anand. Anand will be a huge part of our team if we win," Dvorkovich said at an event where the official handover of the hosting rights was done.

When asked about the role he would play in FIDE Anand said a 'general agreement' had been reached but the details were still being worked out.

"For the moment we haven't decided yet what shape this will take but I know the great work president Dvorkovich and his team have accomplished and I was willing to work beside them. When we find a specific role we will let you know. But for the moment it



Anand has thrown his weight behind FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich

is just a general agreement. So basically Dvorkovich offered that we can work together as part of his team in FIDE and I would be happy to do so. I have seen the good work and I am happy to contribute. We didn't yet nail down what role and so on," Anand said.

Dvorkovich was elected as FIDE president in 2018 and is known to be close to the Kremlin. He was also the head of the local organising committee of the FIFA World Cup hosted by Russia four years ago.

The previous president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was also Russian but towards the end of his two-decade reign, he was hit by US sanctions for his alleged dealings with

the Bashar al-Assad government in Syria. Dvorkovich had got the better of Georgios Makropoulos of Greece, the then FIDE deputy president.

Recently Dvorkovich has been in a tricky situation when the FIDE council decided to withdraw Moscow's hosting rights of the Chess Olympiad after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russian and Belarusian teams have also been suspended from events, while players from these two countries can't play under their national flag.

FIDE also banned one of the biggest names in Russian chess Grandmaster Sergey Karjakin for his pro-war comments.

"For the moment we haven't decided yet what shape this will take but I know the great work president Dvorkovich and his team have accomplished and I was willing to work beside them. When we find a specific role we will let you know. But for the moment it is just a general agreement."

VISWANATHAN ANAND,
5-TIME WORLD CHAMP

Karjakin's suspension was followed by a statement from Dmitry Peskov, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Russian Chess Federation. Peskov, as reported by Chess24, told the Russian news agency TASS: "We regret this. We call on FIDE to reconsider this decision and still remain out of politics, thereby confirming the international prestige of this chess organization. Naturally, we disagree with this decision."

When asked about the recent decisions of FIDE, Dvorkovich said, "(Our aim) is to protect the interest of players, and unite players around the world and do whatever is needed to achieve this goal. We had to take some steps, difficult for me also personally but it was in the interest of the chess community and in the interest of FIDE and players. I will keep the stance like that, so I am looking forward to the Olympiad as it will be an opportunity to reunite the chess family."