



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



TN passes Bills to allow state to appoint V-Cs in 13 universities

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 25

IN WHAT'S likely to open a new front amid escalating tensions between Governor R N Ravi and the DMK-led state government, the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday passed two Bills empowering the government to appoint Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to 13 state universities. While the Opposition AIADMK and the BJP opposed the Bills, BJP MLAs walked out of the House.

The Tamil Nadu Universities
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

E Opens up a new front

SEEN AS a bid to curtail the Governor's role in V-C appointments, the move is set to escalate tensions with Raj Bhavan. Earlier, the state boycotted events organised by the Governor to protest delay in clearing some Bills.

Elon Musk reaches agreement to acquire Twitter for \$44 bn

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 25

BILLIONAIRE ELON Musk has reached an agreement to acquire Twitter for approximately \$44 billion, the company said.

The outspoken Tesla CEO, the world's wealthiest person, has said he wants to buy Twitter because he thinks it's not living up to its potential as a platform for "free speech." He says it needs to be transformed as a private company in order to build trust with users and do better at serving what he calls the "societal imperative" of free speech.

Twitter said it will become a privately held company after the sale is closed.

"Twitter has a purpose and relevance that impacts the entire



Musk calls himself a 'free-speech absolutist'

world," its CEO Parag Agrawal said in a tweet. "Deeply proud of our teams and inspired by the work that has never been more important."

Musk describes himself as a "free-speech absolutist," although he hasn't been exactly clear what he means by that. In a recent TED interview, the billionaire said he'd like to see Twitter err on the side of allowing speech instead of moderating it. He said he'd be "very reluctant" to delete tweets and would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Given bail, Mevani held again for 'assaulting' woman police officer

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, APRIL 25

EVEN AS a court in Kokrajhar granted him bail in the case related to a purported tweet against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani was re-arrested on Monday in a fresh case filed in Barpeta district on the basis of a complaint by a woman police officer who accused him of "assaulting" her and "outraging her modesty".

Confirming the arrest, Barpeta Superintendent of Police (SP) Amitava Sinha said a case

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

CUT AND PASTE
BJP PAGE 8

(81/2022) was registered on the basis of a complaint filed at the Barpeta Road police station by a woman police inspector from Kokrajhar on April 21 — the morning after Mevani was arrested from Gujarat's Banaskantha district. "He is currently in police custody in Barpeta Road and will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ADDRESSES RAISINA DIALOGUE GATHERING Ukraine war will impact Indo-Pacific: EU chief

PM Modi listening, President von der Leyen urges global community to 'support our efforts for lasting peace'

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

WITH PRIME Minister Narendra Modi listening, visiting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday described the killings in Bucha as "severe violations of international law" and said what is happening in Ukraine will impact the Indo-Pacific region.

She said the outcome of the war will not only determine the future of Europe, but also "deeply affect the Indo-Pacific region and the rest of the world".

"For the Indo-Pacific region, it is as important as for Europe, that borders are respected, and



PM Narendra Modi with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

that spheres of influence are rejected," she said, while addressing the Raisina Dialogue. The core principles that underpin

peace and security across the world, she said, are at stake in Asia as well as in Europe.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LS Speaker seeks details of MP Navneet Rana's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, APRIL 25

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla has sought details from the Maharashtra government within 24 hours on the arrest of independent MP Navneet Rana in Mumbai, after receiving a letter from the Amravati lawmaker that she had been subjected to "inhuman treatment" by the police following her "illegal" arrest two days ago.

According to sources, the de-



Navneet Rana, Ravi Rana

tails of the incident were sought by the Speaker through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

No farmers, dealers at Mamata govt's flagship mandis, dept rents out space

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA, ATRI MITRA & JOY PRAKASH DAS
PURBA BARDHAMAN, HOWRAH, HOOGHLY, APRIL 25

IT WAS a flagship scheme of the Mamata Banerjee government, a year after it came to power in West Bengal in 2011 on the strength of its anti-land acquisition agitation. The Krishak Bazar or farm mandis announced across the state were meant to burnish the Trinamool



At the Krishak Bazar in Howrah district. Partha Paul

Congress government's pro-farmer credentials.

Ten years later, the spaces

largest steelmakers in the world, respectively, and cumulatively account for around 10 per cent of the global steel trade.

Speaking about the scenario in India, Narendran said: "Obviously for the industry, greater alignment between Centre and states and policy stability are very important. Particularly when you look at foreign investors, they struggle even more to understand these complexities. At a very broad

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

T V NARENDRAN
CII PRESIDENT

P13

THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW

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FROM PAGE ONE

Ukraine war

“Our efforts have resulted in 86.45% decline in malaria cases and 79.16% reduction in malaria-related deaths in 2021, as compared to 2015. This is a major step towards our goal of eliminating malaria but still more needs be done to fulfil the dream,” Mandaviya said in his address to mark the World Malaria Day.

Calling for intensified efforts at the national and the sub-national level, Mandaviya said there is a need for frontline health workers such as ASHA and ANM to raise awareness about diagnosis and treatment of the disease, and preventive measures.

The railways also said it was planning to boost the number of rakes used to transport coal from current levels. "To ensure swift supply of coal across power plants, additional trains and rakes by Indian Railways have been initiated to augment transportation of coal through its network," the Ministry of Railways said in a press release last Monday confirming it was increasing rakes to boost supply of coal to power houses as mentioned in the report.

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

Disturbing state of affairs: HC raps police on attack at CM house

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE DELHI High Court Monday rapped the Delhi Police for its “failure” to prevent vandalism outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s residence during the protest held by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha last month and said that the force needs to seriously look at its efficiency and functioning.

The security arrangements made by the police were inadequate, said the court while terming the lapse serious and asking the Commissioner of Police to ascertain the reasons behind it. “This kind of an incident happening at the residence of any constitutional functionary, whether it is the Chief Minister, it could be a judge of the High Court or Supreme Court, it could be any other union minister or anyone. This is a very disturbing state of affairs that this kind of a thing could in the first place occur or such miscreants should succeed in their endeavour,” said the division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla. It added, “Some responsibility has to be fixed so that there is remedial action taken. It has happened today, it could happen tomorrow. Because this is a very important facet of democracy. Irrespective of our ideologies... Just like we say that the Prime Minister is the Prime Minister of the country, nobody can say he is not my Prime Minister. It is the constitutional office we are concerned about. It is not the question of A individual or B individual.” The court made the observations after perusing a sealed-cover status report filed by the police in response to Aam Aadmi Party MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj’s petition seeking constitution of a Special Investigation Team for an independent probe into the attack.




On March 30, members of BJP’s youth wing staged a protest outside CM Kejriwal’s residence. Archive

On March 30, the members of BJP’s youth wing broke through police barricades outside Kejriwal’s residence and slammed the main gate. After reading the report, the court noted that police had prior information about the protest and denied permission for it. It further said police had made security arrangements and put up barricades at three places. “The first barricade is breached, the second is breached and the third is breached. So what kind of bandobast did you have in place? If people could breach three barricades, then you need to seriously look at your efficiency, your functioning?” said the court. The court said it was clear “there has been a failure” on part of the force to prevent the incident, and asked the Commissioner of Police to look into the lapse and submit a report. It also asked if any additional force was sought when the barricades were breached. “We definitely are not satisfied with your report with regard to the bandobast. You have only admitted your failures that there was a breach at point A, point B and point C. How can police be heard to say this,” said the bench. “Once there is a failure, it is something that has to come with consequences,” added the bench. Listing the case for further

hearing on May 17, the court asked police for a fresh status report in two weeks. It also directed the police to inform the court about the review of security arrangements made for the CM’s residence and steps taken by the police to ensure such incidents do not recur. Bhardwaj has sought a probe into the role of police officers who were responsible for maintaining the security cordon outside the CM’s residence. Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, representing the police, Monday told the court that the investigation is going on and most of the people have been identified through video footage. Seeking closure of the matter pending before the court, Jain said the police have been told to not make any compromises in the investigation. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Bhardwaj, submitted that the accused were felicitated (by the BJP) when out on bail. “It is not that the police is not competent. It is not that the police does not know how to stop. It is the question of will,” said Singhvi, while seeking an independent investigation in the case. Accusing the Delhi Police of completely abdicating its duty, Bhardwaj alleged that it appears the police “was hand in glove with goons as the goons are members of ruling party in central government” which controls the force.

Police file chargesheet in Shahdara gangrape case

New Delhi: Nearly three months after a young woman was allegedly abducted, gangraped, and paraded on the streets by her neighbours in Shahdara, police filed a chargesheet against 21 persons, including five juveniles. The 762-page chargesheet was filed at Karkardooma court Monday. Police had earlier said the accused allegedly abducted the woman from her husband’s place in an auto on January 26. They then allegedly sexually assaulted and raped her in their home and shaved her head. The accused women later blackened her face and paraded her in the locality. Videos of the incident showed the accused thrashing the woman. A case was filed under sections of attempted murder, gangrape, assault, rioting, criminal intimidation, and abduction. The accused had blamed the woman for death of a teenager in their family, who allegedly committed suicide last November because she rejected his advances, said police. R Sathiyasundaram, DCP (Shahdara) said, “We recovered 26 videos — 12 from social media and 14 from phones of the accused... We found that the accused targeted the woman to take revenge for the teenager’s death.” ENS



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davp10601/11/0002/2223

Tejasvi Surya asked to join probe in attack on CM house


MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

DAYS AFTER eight members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) were arrested for allegedly barging through police barricades and banging on the main gate of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s residence, the Delhi Police has issued a notice to Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya to join the investi-

gation, it is learnt. An officer from the Delhi Police Headquarters said the investigation officer, after discussing the matter with senior officials, sent the notice under CrPC Section 41A to Surya on WhatsApp. “The IO informed him about the case... (and) asked him to join the investigation on April 28 at Civil Lines police station,” a senior police officer said. The Indian Express has learnt that on receiving the notice, Surya, who is also the BJYM national president, responded that he will join the probe. As per CrPC Section 41A, a police officer may not arrest a person accused of an offence punishable up to seven years till he continues to join the probe. However, he can arrest the person if he fails to appear for investigation or for reasons to be recorded that in the opinion of the police officer he ought to be arrested. “Police, during investigation, found video footage which

shows Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya, along with BJYM workers, protesting outside the Chief Minister’s residence. He was seen with protesters who later indulged in vandalism,” an officer had said. Earlier this month, the North district police had ‘bound down’ former North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash, who represents the Sadar Bazar ward, and Delhi BJYM president Vasu Rukhar under CrPC Section 41A. “They were called to Civil

Lines from where they were released after documentation,” a senior police officer said. DCP (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi had identified the eight arrested men as Chandrakant (27), Pradeep Tiwari (27), Raju Singh (28), Jitender Bisht (40), Naveen Kumar (38), Bablu Kumar (35), Neeraj Dixit (25) and Sunny (21). They were identified based on CCTV footage and technical evidence recovered from the spot. They were later released on bail.



Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)
Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018.

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sub-Section (2) of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 as amended by The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amdt.) Act, 2016 (44 of 2016) and further Amended by The Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2018.
We, **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited**, (hereinafter referred to as “The Company” for sake of brevity and formerly known as **M/s. Thirumeni Finance Pvt. Ltd.**) is a Non-Banking Finance Company, Incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India, having its registered office at Bangalore and one of its Branches at **Gurugram** as mentioned in the above address (hereinafter referred as “Branch”) hereby issue the following notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to You being the Applicants/Co-Aplicants and the Mortgagors for the Recovery of the Outstanding dues. **Demand Notice Issued on 26-02-2022**, the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec.13(2) of the Act/R/w Rule.3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Applicants/Co-Aplicants/Mortgagors No. 1 to 5 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. You had approached our **Gurugram branch** for Credit Facility for School and accordingly made an application. The Company had considered your request and sanctioned the same, details of which are as hereunder:
Loan Account No's : S18GUR-GUR-003079, S19GUR-GUR-006218, U20GUR-GUR-015139 and U21GUR-GUR-016636, Sanctioned Loan Amount: Rs.12,10,464/-, Rs. 506342/-, Rs. 170000/- and Rs. 202367/- Total Liability as on 19-02-2022 : Rs. 23,74,474/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest), Name & Addresses of Applicant, Co-Aplicants & Mortgagors : 1). M/s. Al Afia Public School, Represented By Its Authorised Signatory, 2). M/s. Al-Afia Educational Society, Represented By Its Authorised Signatory, No. 1 and 2 are having office at Buraka Village, Hathin Tehsil, Palwal District- 121103, Haryana., 3). Sarfraz, S/o. Aas Mohammad, 4). Safina W/o. Sarfraz, 5). Aas Mohammad, S/o. Chahat Khan, No. 3, 4 and 5 are residing at Makan No.07, Ward No.03, Buraka Hudhina, Hathin(251), Tashil, District Palwal – 121103, Haryana.
You No. 1 to 5 are Applicants/Co-Aplicants/Mortgagors have executed the necessary security documents in favour of the Company to secure the repayment of dues and payable under the said Loan agreement. The Manager/Collection Manager and other officers of the Company have repeatedly requested to all of you, to pay the outstanding amount and to ensure that the account does not become a Non-performing Asset, but you wilfully and unjustifiably failed to pay and not heeded to the innumerable requests made to you from time to time and as a result, the above-mentioned loan account has been Classified as **Non Performing Asset on 07-09-2021**. By virtue of the documents duly executed by the Mortgagors, the charge has been created in favour of the Company on the below mentioned Securities. The Company hereby informs all of you that, under Sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) you shall, after receipt of this notice refrain from either transfer by way of Sale, Lease or otherwise create third party interest in any of the below mentioned secured assets, without prior written consent of the Company. The Applicants/Co-Aplicants and Mortgagors attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets. In view of the above, the Company hereby issues this notice under Sub-Sec (2) of the Section 13 of the Act and calls upon you all to pay, a sum of **Rs. 23,74,474/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Four Only) as on 19-02-2022** with interest from 20-02-2022 with contractual rate of interest, until the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which the Company shall be constrained to attach, sell and/or take all actions as envisaged in Sub-Sec (4) of Sec. 13 of the Act and/or adopt any other legal proceedings against all of you before the competent Court/Authority. If you have any representations to be made in response to this Notice, please mark the same to The Authorised Officer, M/s. Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd, No.5BC-110, ‘Varasiddhi’, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road Service Road, HRBR Layout 3rd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043, to enable us to respond in time. Please note we shall not be responsible for not responding to any representations made in response to this notice if the same is addressed to any other person or place.
Details of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khewat No.38, Khata No.58, Mustali No.9, Kila No.132, Mustali No.11, Kila No.14, 25/2, Khata No.59, Mustali No.11, Kila No.16, 17, Mustali No.10, Kila No.11, Kharsa No.129, Khata No.60, Mustali No.12, Kila No. 5/1, Khata No.61, Mustali No.9, Kila No.2, Khata No.62, Kharsa No.130, Khata No.64, Mustali No.11, Kila No.6, 24, 25/1 Kharsa No.128, Khata No.65, Mustali No.12, Kila No.4, Khata No.66, Mustali No.10, Kila Ni.10, Mustali No.11, Kila No.15, Khewat No.39, Khata No.67, Mustali No.10, Kila No.20.21 Mustali No.18, Kila No.8, Situated at Buraka, Hathin Tehsil, Faridabad District, Measuring 5 Kanal 14 marla pertaining to the and bounded on, East By : Others Land, West By : Others Land, North By : Road, South By : Others Land. Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deed by way of Mortgage Deed Executed by Aas Mohammad, Doc No. 1225/2018-19, dated 01.08.2018, before Sub Registrar Office Hathin.

Date : 26.04.2022 Place : Gurugram**Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited**

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Gujarat Enterprise) Khanij Bhavan, 132 Feet Ring Road, Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad – 380 052						
AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS For the Quarter/Year ended on 31 st March, 2022 (See Regulation 47(1) (b) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015)						
Sr No	Particulars	STANDALONE				
		3 months ended on 31/03/2022 (Audited)	3 months ended on 31/12/2021 (Unaudited)	3 months ended on 31/03/2021 (Audited)	12 months ended on 31/03/2022 (Audited)*	12 months ended on 31/03/2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	1,05,728.00	72,458.02	56,580.74	2,73,207.94	1,34,262.91
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	42,286.13	21,962.96	4,729.59	73,602.44	5,212.73
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	42,286.13	21,962.96	(34,929.90)	73,602.44	(34,446.76)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	17,578.52	14,985.46	(18,524.44)	40,428.36	(3,689.24)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax & Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	32,249.58	13,768.44	(21,915.74)	70,491.02	483.08
6	Equity Share Capital	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet)				4,66,753.53	3,96,898.51
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualised) -					
	1. Basic (₹)	5.53	4.71	(5.83)	12.71	(1.16)
	2. Diluted (₹)	5.53	4.71	(5.83)	12.71	(1.16)
Sr No	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED				
		3 months ended on 31/03/2022 (Audited)*	3 months ended on 31/12/2021 (Unaudited)	3 months ended on 31/03/2021 (Audited)	12 months ended on 31/03/2022 (Audited)*	12 months ended on 31/03/2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	1,05,728.00	72,458.02	56,580.74	2,73,207.94	1,34,262.91
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	42,321.08	21,924.96	4,622.89	73,523.32	5,060.58
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	42,321.08	21,924.96	(35,036.60)	73,523.32	(34,598.91)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	17,699.18	14,981.54	(18,463.92)	40,497.44	(3,576.75)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax & Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	32,439.50	13,764.52	(21,853.60)	70,629.36	597.19
6	Equity Share Capital	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet)				4,70,314.52	4,00,321.16
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualised) -					
	1. Basic (₹)	5.57	4.71	(5.81)	12.74	(1.12)
	2. Diluted (₹)	5.57	4.71	(5.81)	12.74	(1.12)
*Subject to Audit u/s 143(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 by C&A of India						
Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the quarter/year ended on 31 st March, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI Circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016, dated 5 th July, 2016. The full format of the Financial Results for the quarter/year ended on 31 st March, 2022 along with Explanatory Notes is available on the Stock Exchange websites: (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com).						
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors						
Place: Ahmedabad Date: 25 th April, 2022				Roopwant Singh, IAS Managing Director		




॥ सर्वशक्तिमते परमात्मने नमो नमः ॥

In loving memory of

OUR BELOVED PARENTS
BRIG. ATMA SINGH & SMT. SARLA ATMA

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

In reverence and remembrance
Kiran Choudhry
Anamsha Choudhry & Aditya Rishi
Ashik Choudhry & Sumangla
Family & Friends

**PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH**
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
The 69th Annual Convocation of the University will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. (Sharp) in the University Gymnasium Hall, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The Ph.D. Degrees notified since 01.05.2019 onwards till 01.05.2022 will be conferred. Identification Cards to eligible candidates have been issued on their designated addresses with detailed instructions (<https://registrar.puechd.ac.in/show-noticeboard.php?nid=1>). Attendance at Rehearsal to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. (Sharp) is mandatory. Guests will be allowed only with valid invitation cards, which is not transferable. CA Vikram Nayyar, Registrar

SAINIK SCHOOL KAPURTHALA (PUNJAB)
CBSE AFFILIATION NO 1680001
Phone No- 01822-230184
Recruitment Notice

1. The Recruitment of the following posts as per details given below:-

Particulars	01 x PEM/PTI cum Matron (Contractual for 01 year)	01 x Driver (Regular)
Reservation	01 x OBC (For Female only)	01 x OBC
Last date for submission of application form	May 2022	
Pay	Rs 58,819/ (Consolidated)	Pay 19900-63200 Level 2, cell 19900
Essential Qualification	Essential Qualification. Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed -four Years Degree Course). OR Three Years Graduation + One Year B.P.Ed Diploma OR B Sc Physical Education, Health Education and Sports + one year B.P.Ed Diploma. Desirable Qualifications. (i) Experience of working in a residential public school in same post and knowledge of computers. (ii) Participated in International / National/ State Sports Competitions (iii) English Communication Skills.	1. Essential Qualification (i) Matriculation (ii) Driving Licence (Heavy). 2. Desirable Qualifications Ability to converse in English will be considered an additional qualification.
Age	21-35 years	18-50 years
Fees along with application form	General / OBC - Rs 500/- SC/ST- Rs 250/- for all the posts	

3. PEM/PTI will have to perform additional duties of Matron for girls hostel too. For detailed advertisement and application form, please visit school website: www.sskaparthala.com

4. The school administration reserves the right to cancel all or any of the vacancies due to non-availability of suitable candidates or administrative/ policy reasons

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iv.	Senior Special Executive- Command Centre Manager	3
v.	Senior Special Executive- Dialler Operations (Outbound)	1

Eligibility criteria (age, educational qualification, experience etc.), requisite fees and other details are available under Advertisement No. CRPD/SCO/2022-23/05 on Bank's website <https://bank.sbi/web/careers> along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

• DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEE: 13.04.2022 TO 04.05.2022

For any query, please write to us through link “CONTACT US” → “Post Your Query” which is available on Bank's website.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 13.04.2022

General Manager (RP & PM)



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	8,979
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	121
OXYGEN SUPPORT	26
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	4

DELHI TOTAL CASES	18,75,887		Total	9,379	Vacant	9,256
			HOSPITAL BEDS	2,158		2,120
April 24	1,083	812	Deaths	1	Tests	24,177
April 25	1,011	817		1		15,742
Total	4,168*	18,45,551		26,168		3,77,05,789

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA			Apr 24	Apr 25
Cases	98	N/A		
Deaths	0	N/A		
GURGAON				
Cases	331	397		
Deaths	0	0		

BRIEFLY

Will clear encroachments in Shaheen Bagh, Okhla: SDMC Mayor

New Delhi: South MCD Mayor Mukesh Suryan said the civic body has identified several areas including Shaheen Bagh, Okhla, Vishnu Garden and Madanpur Khadar where government land has been encroached and will clear these soon. "We've prepared an action plan. Soon, we will clear that land of encroachments. The message of the department has been given to officials and departments concerned, including police. Under the MCD Act, a notice is not given to remove encroachment but where people have constructed illegal buildings, we have already issued notices," Suryan said. When asked if the drive would start from Tuesday, he said it would be initiated once the timings are finalised.

35 shanties gutted in fire

New Delhi: Over 35 shanties were gutted in a fire at a slum in Jamia Nagar Monday. No casualties were reported in the incident, fire department officials said. DFS chief Atul Garg said, "Five cattle died in the incident. Around 35-40 huts had caught fire; the blaze was doused by 4.40 pm," Garg said the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Couple run over in Noida

Noida: A couple died after being run over by a pick-up truck in Noida's Sector 62 Monday afternoon. Police said the victims have been identified as Lucky and Nikki from Moradabad. The driver of the vehicle fled after the incident, said police. Eyewitnesses told police that the couple got down from a bus near Sector 62 roundabout and were crossing the road when the incident took place. **ENS**

AT SATYA NIKETAN

Building under renovation collapses, 2 dead

Six workers were trapped after the terrace collapsed

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

TWO LABOURERS died while four others sustained injuries after a three-storey house under renovation collapsed on them in South Delhi's Satya Niketan Monday. The men were stuck for hours as multiple teams of the Delhi Fire Services, Delhi Police and National Disaster Response Force worked to remove the debris and rescue them.

Police said the incident took place around 1.15 pm when the terrace collapsed, trapping the six workers. Within half an hour, the narrow lane at Satya Niketan colony was filled with police vans, ambulances and an excavator.

Most houses in the area are multi-storey buildings that have been converted to paying guest accommodations and hostels for students as the area is near DU's South Campus. Fire officials said they couldn't get fire tenders inside the lane due to space issues.

DFS Chief Atul Garg said, "A total of eight fire tenders and 50 men were sent to the spot. The slab (terrace) was tilted and it was difficult to reach the victims. We then sent senior officers and 30 other firemen to the spot to help. It was very difficult to remove the concrete. Around 4 pm, one person was rescued. Before 5 pm, we rescued all the men."

DFS officials said they could hear the men screaming for help. The firefighters drilled small holes in the slab to provide water and "calm" them. They then made a plan to cut the concrete and pull out the men. Some of the fire personnel also used the rappelling technique to locate the men and rescue them.

"Had we used an excavator to lift the concrete, the slab could have fallen, risking lives. We had to cut the concrete but had to be careful. We didn't want chunks of the debris falling inside the house. The teams were first drilling holes, giving water to the men and then making bigger holes to rescue them," said Garg.

At the spot, the firemen could be heard telling the men: "Hum nikal lenge, chinta mat karo (We will pull you out, don't worry)."

Suman, a neighbour, told *The Indian Express*, "I was at home



THE UPPER HALF FALLS ON SIX LABOURERS, TRAPPING THEM UNDERNEATH FOR HOURS

8 FIRE TENDERS, 80 RESCUERS INVOLVED

4-hour rescue op

■ At 1.15 pm on Monday, a three-storey house in Satya Niketan collapses. MCD officials say the house was 25 years old and undergoing renovation

■ Teams of the NDRF, DFS, Police and CISF reach the spot within half an hour. Rescuers use cranes, ropes and a drilling machine to lift debris, reach the victims

■ Narrow lanes prove to be a major challenge for the teams, rescuers say. An excavator, ambulance and a PCR van are stationed at the spot

■ A second challenge was to remove a part of the terrace that fell. Rescuers use ropes to climb the building and give water to the victims

■ As the men scream for help, removing debris proves to be a challenge as they are stuck underneath.



Excavators can't be used as there is a risk of the entire building collapsing. Rescuers drill through parts of the building to pull out the men

■ By 4 pm, the first two men are pulled out and shifted to ambulances. Over the next 50 minutes, the others are rescued and shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital

■ Two of the workers, Bilal (40) and Naseem (35), succumb to their injuries at AIIMS. Both hailed from Araria in Bihar

when I heard the collapse. It felt like a bomb blast. I went out but couldn't see anything because of

the dust. Moments later, I realised that a house collapsed and heard screams. The house is very old and



The firefighters drilled small holes in the slab to provide water and 'calm' the men. They were pulled out close to 5 pm. *Abhinav Saha*

Bilal's younger brother, Intekaam, said, "I could hear them screaming but couldn't do anything. Policemen and firefighters were trying to remove the debris... I called my parents and told them everything. Around 4.30 pm, *bhaiya's* body was removed. Our *bhabhi* and the kids don't know about the deaths. I don't know what to tell them. He started working at the house just around two weeks ago."

nobody lives here. We heard that the owner was trying to make rooms for a PG accommodation."

Imran, who knew one of the men trapped inside, said: "We work as labourers in the area and

have been living at Sanjay Camp for 10-15 years. The men told us they were asked to repair the house. They were paid around Rs 300-Rs 350 a day. These places are unsafe but one can't do anything; we need the money and can't ask for safety equipment."

Ten minutes to 5 pm, the men — Aslam (17), Bilal (40), Sarfaraz (25), Naseem (35), Mushahid (19) and Firdaus, whose age could not be verified — were pulled out and taken to hospitals.

At AIIMS, Naseem and Bilal succumbed to their injuries. Bilal's younger brother Intekaam said, "When I reached the building, I could hear them screaming but couldn't do anything. Around 4.30 pm, he was pulled out. *Bhabhi* and the kids don't know about this yet."

Naseem's uncle Ashfaq said he is survived by four daughters and a son. "He started working at the house last week. We demand accountability."

DCP (Southwest) Manoj C said an FIR has been registered against the contractor and owner under IPC sections 304 (culpable homicide) and 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

After the men were rescued, two dogs from the canine squad — Rambo and Bush — were deployed to check for other victims.

SDMC served notice recently

In an official statement, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) said the owner of the building was carrying out additions or alterations when, all of a sudden, the property collapsed. An enquiry revealed that the house was built 25 years ago. The SDMC said authorities had sent a notice to the owner under the DMC Act, 1957, on March 31 regarding "additions". And on April 11, Delhi Police had requested the owner to stop the work, it said.

In another notice, dated April 11, the SDMC said they initiated action against the said property. "... action may be taken under provisions of Section 344(2) of the DMC Act and aforesaid unauthorised construction activities may be stopped by the police immediately and workmen present in the premises be removed and construction material including tools, machinery, etc be also seized," the notice read.

It said police had been asked to instruct patrolling staff to disallow further construction.

GTB Hospital adds more beds — strength now 1,500

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

GURU TEG Bahadur Hospital, the Delhi government's biggest health facility in the trans-Yamuna region, now has nearly 1,500 beds, with wards being opened in the under-utilised mother and child block and department of endocrinology and metabolism (DEM).

Even at the height of the second Covid wave, the hospital was able to admit around 750 patients for the lack of beds and paraphernalia associated with it. The Delhi government app tracking the availability of beds at hospitals showed that

there were 1,500 beds at GTB hospital, which was reduced to 700 only when hospitals started running full and there was a crisis for oxygen in the city.

Dr Subhash Giri, medical director, GTB hospital, said: "The paediatrics emergency ward, and intensive care units have been moved to the mother and child block, with the department being allocated an additional 250 beds. Another 120 beds that are currently earmarked for Covid-19 care will be allocated to the gynaecology department. Now, we have 1,470 fully functional fixed beds and around another 120 floating beds."

Floating beds are the ones

available in areas such as the emergency, outside operation theatres on which patients are kept for a couple of hours but aren't admitted. The medical director explained that if there is a surge in Covid-19 cases and the entire hospital is again converted for the care of the infection, the number of beds available to patients will still stand at over 1,100.

"The number of beds goes down a little when it comes to Covid-19 care because we have to create a donning and doffing area (for staff to change into and out of the PPE kits) as well as a medical store in each ward. This results in five-six beds being reduced in each ward. Even then,

we will be able to admit 1,100 patients now on oxygen support," said Dr Giri.

Other than increasing the number of beds, the hospital has now created a help desk and coordination team to help patients out. The help desk has been set up beside the main gate of the hospital and it will provide information to patients about which department and where on the campus they need to go to see their doctor, get their tests, or get their medicines. The coordination team that has been set up near the hospital's emergency area will provide information on the whereabouts of patients and their condition.

Cops 'manhandled' outside court by lawyers protesting 'assault' on their colleague

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

TWO POLICEMEN were allegedly pushed and manhandled by lawyers outside the Karkardooma court complex on Monday morning. Police said a group of advocates were protesting at the court complex and later targeted the personnel.

Members of the bar association denied the allegations, saying the lawyers were sloganeering in protest against the alleged assault on a colleague by a sub-inspector on Sunday. No FIR has been registered yet.

R Sathiyasundaram, DCP (Shahdara), said, "We received information around 10.30 am about the protest. The advocates manhandled police per-

"What we saw during Covid-19 is that the relatives were most distressed because they did not know where the patient was and how they were doing. For ailments other than Covid-19, usually family members are present with the patient, but the problem happens when patients admitted to the emergency ward are moved to respective departments under whom they will be treated. The coordination team will be able to help patients with this information along with simple details like whether they are stable or critical," said Dr Giri.

He said the team will also help in addressing any grievance of patients and their relatives.

Punjab CM to take leaf out of Delhi schools, mohalla clinics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Bhagwant Mann visited two Delhi government schools, a mohalla clinic and a government hospital on Monday.

After visiting the School of Specialised Excellence (SoSE) at Kalkaji, Mann told the media, "This is the next level of education. What big schools cannot think about, government schools have started implementing. Learning is happening digitally, and there is a collaboration with big companies. I have seen such schools in the US and Canada, but not in India. I spoke to several students and asked them where they were studying before. Many have come from private schools."

Mann was accompanied by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and officials from the Punjab and Delhi governments on his visit, along with Punjab Education Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer and Health Minister Vijay Singla. The team visited two government schools — School of Specialised Excellence at Kalkaji and Kautilya Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya at Chirag Enclave.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, MP from Punjab Raghav Chadha and AAP MLA Atishi were also present. Delhi education department officials made a presentation about the SoSE, explaining the curriculum, and method of assessment. Learning for competitive exams and boards has been "clubbed" at such schools, Sisodia explained to Mann and the officials from Punjab. Kejriwal also explained to



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal visit a government school in the capital, Monday. *Abhinav Saha*

Mann that groups of students were asked to develop "business ideas" as part of the Business Blasters programme, in which each student was given Rs 2,000. Students who were part of it told the team about their ideas.

At Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Sisodia told Mann that SoSE is a "new model", while the Bal Vidyalaya represents "re-modelling of an old school". The team also visited the swimming pool and science labs at the school, and sat through "Happiness" and "Deshbhakti" classes.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain accompanied Mann and his team to the mohalla clinic at Greater Kailash, where officials explained that the aim was to provide primary healthcare. The team interacted with patients and also visited Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital.

According to a communication from the Delhi CMO, Mann said: "Mirroring the Delhi government's efforts, we will train teachers and principals in Punjab. We will borrow suggestions from them to reform our government schools. We will create an envi-

Demolition drive begins at Banjara market in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, APRIL 25

HARYANA SHAHARI Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) Monday demolished makeshift shops and hutments across 14 acres to reclaim encroached land at Banjara market in Sectors 52A and 53. In the past few years, the market, inhabited by the Gadiya Lohar nomadic community who originally hail from Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, had gained popularity among shoppers in Delhi-NCR for affordable home decor and furniture.

On Monday, the enforcement team of HSVP conducted a demolition drive amid heavy police deployment. Jitender Kumar, estate officer 2, HSPV, said, "In a two-day drive, the entire encroached land will be cleared. A notice was served to shopkeepers last week to shift their wares and vacate the government land."

The HSVP land in the area has been earmarked for construction of a group housing society, a bus stand and a college. A similar demolition drive was conducted in 2021 when over 250 shanties were demolished and on another occasion several years ago. However, shopkeepers rebuilt them and returned.

On April 21, after chairing a meeting of district public relations and grievance redressal committee in Gurgaon, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar had directed officials to ensure immediate removal of all illegal encroachments in their respective jurisdictions.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers whose houses and shanties were demolished in Banjara market face an uncertain future.

Anil Gadiya Lohar said officials had served a notice on Friday to vacate the market in two days: "For the past few months, the threat of eviction had been looming. I tried to clear the stock of household items including lamps, vases, tables, plants in a distress sale. But, since I do not have a warehouse, I suffered a substantial loss. We requested authorities several times to allot an alternate space, but they did not listen."

Deepu Gadiya Lohar, said, "... In this heat, we have been rendered homeless. Our earnings have already been hit due to Covid."

5 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Will He, Will He Not?

Will the Congress suspend or expel senior Punjab leader Sunil Jakhar from the party? And what action will it take against K V Thomas, the party veteran from Kerala? The disciplinary action committee of Congress is meeting tomorrow to take a call on violations of party line by these two leaders. While Thomas had replied to a showcause notice issued by the panel, defending his decision to attend a seminar organised by CPI(M) in Kerala, Jakhar has not bothered to reply so far.

ON THEIR MARK

While the pandemic and the lockdown had cast a shadow over the Narendra Modi government's anniversary celebrations for the last two years, BJP is still contemplating on how it should celebrate the eighth anniversary coming up next month. Senior BJP leaders met at the party headquarters on Monday to decide on that. While the meeting, also attended by Union ministers Anurag Thakur and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, did not take any major decision, it was the first one to discuss the celebrations. The party is learnt to be keen to have "unique" programmes to mark the occasion. The meeting was also attended by senior BJP leaders Arun Singh, Vinay Sahasrabudhe and Anil Baluni, among others. Last year, the party had confined the celebrations to Covid-19 relief campaign and village outreach programmes.

QUIT TWEET

RJD chief Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Monday created a flutter by announcing that he will soon submit his "resignation" after meeting his father. "I followed in my father's footsteps and gave respect to all party workers. I will submit my resignation soon after meeting my father," the former Bihar education minister tweeted.

16 YouTube channels blocked for spreading 'hate, fake news'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE MINISTRY of Information and Broadcasting on Monday blocked 16 YouTube news channels for allegedly spreading misinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order.

It blocked 10 Indian and six Pakistan-based YouTube channels using emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2021.

"The blocked social media accounts include six Pakistan-based and 10 India-based YouTube news channels, having a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore. It was observed that these channels were used to spread fake news over social media on matters related to national security, India's foreign relations, communal harmony in the country, and public order. None of the digital news publishers had furnished information to the Ministry as required under

Rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021," the Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

It said the content published by some of the India-based YouTube channels referred to a community as terrorists, and "incited hatred among the members of various religious communities". "Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony, and disturb public order," it said.

It cited examples, including false claims related to announcement of a pan-India lockdown due to Covid-19, thereby threatening the migrant workers and fabricated claims alleging threats to certain religious communities, etc.

"Such content was observed to be detrimental to public order in the country. YouTube channels based in Pakistan were found to have been used in a co-ordinated manner to post fake news about India on various subjects such as the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir, and India's foreign relations in the light of situation in Ukraine, etc," it said.

Maharashtra urges Centre for law on loudspeakers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 25

ASSERTING THAT it cannot remove loudspeakers installed at religious places, the Maharashtra government on Monday asked the Centre to come up with rules regarding the use of loudspeakers across the country.

The government stance was conveyed by Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil after an all-party meeting over the issue. BJP leader Devendra Fadnis and MNS chief gave a skip to the meeting which was attended by deputy CM Ajit Pawar, and Aaditya Thackeray. Addressing the media after the meeting, Walse Patil said, "We request the Centre to come up with a law that will be applicable across the country. It will ensure that situations like these do not arise anywhere in the country."

Thackeray said, "It was also decided at the meeting that a delegation from the state will meet the Centre and hold discussions on

the issue."

Walse said loudspeakers have been operating in the state on the basis of the Supreme Court's circulars," he said.

Walse Patil added that if they decided to restrict the use of loudspeakers at mosques, they would also have to look at their use during bhajans, kirtans, Ganapati processions, and Navratri. "There cannot be separate rules for people belonging to different communities," he said.

He added, "Maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the state. If anyone tries to disrupt the law and order, we will have to take necessary action. Based on our discussion in the meeting, it was agreed that the priority was to maintain peace and harmony in society."

Fadnis told the media: "The MVA government's political arrogance has left no room for communication. As a result, the BJP has to take the route of struggle to combat the high-handedness of the arrogant government."

Kishor roadmap report in hand, Sonia sets up action group for Cong revival

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

WITH THE report by an internal panel on the roadmap presented by election strategist Prashant Kishor and various other suggestions from party leaders in hand, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday moved to set up an empowered action group for overseeing the rollout of organisational decisions for the party's revival in the run-up to the 2024 general elections.

The party also announced that it will hold a brainstorming session — Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir — on May 13-15 at Udaipur in Rajasthan, with about 400 leaders expected to attend.

The decision to set up an empowered group is being seen as a classic Sonia Gandhi move, sending many signals.

According to party sources, all the "actionable points" that will flow from Kishor's presentation and the report of the eight-member panel will be flagged for implementation by the empowered group. The composition of the group has not been announced but sources said if Kishor joins the party, he could be one of the members.

Party leaders say the decision to set up such a group indicates Kishor will not have a free hand. It



Sonia Gandhi

also means that all the suggestions made by Kishor may have not been accepted. The eight-member panel has also given its own set of recommendations, and the empowered group will now find a middle path.

The setting up of the group also seeks to address the main demand of the G 23 leaders who have been arguing that key party decisions were being made in a unilateral manner, in an indirect reference to the Rahul Gandhi-Priyanka Gandhi Vadra duo.

Soon after the Assembly election rout in March, a section of the G 23 had told the leadership that the "only way forward" is to adopt a model of "collective and inclusive" command and decision making at all levels. It is to be seen how many members of the G 23 will make it to empowered group.

On Monday, before announcing the setting up of the "empowered action group-2024," Sonia Gandhi met members of the com-



Prashant Kishor

mittee that studied Kishor's presentation, including P Chidambaram, Ambika Soni, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Digvijaya Singh, Jairam Ramesh, Mukul Wasnik, K C Venugopal and Randeep Surjewala.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Congress communications chief Surjewala said based on discussions between Sonia Gandhi and the committee's members, she "has decided to constitute an empowered action group 2024 in order to address the political challenges ahead".

The meeting took place a day after the Indian Political Action Committee or I-PAC, which was founded by Kishor, signed a contract with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) for the 2023 Assembly elections. Sources said senior Congress leaders are upset over I-PAC entering into a contract with a political opponent at a time when Kishor was in talks with their own party. Kishor has main-

tained that he currently has no links with I-PAC.

Speaking about the brainstorming session in Rajasthan, Surjewala said the focus will be on the political and economic situation, and the challenges they pose to society. "Issues relating to the welfare and well-being of farmers and farm labourers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, religious and linguistic minorities and women, social justice and empowerment and youth will also be discussed in detail. In addition, matters relating to organisational restructuring and strengthening will be examined. The Chintan Shivir will also deliberate on the broad strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Significantly, Sonia Gandhi has given representation to several G 23 leaders in six other groups that the party has set up for drafting resolutions that will be discussed and passed at the brainstorming session. Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Mukul Wasnik will be convenors of two committees, while leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari and Akhilesh Prasad Singh are members of different groups. The committee to draft the political resolution will be headed by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



SEEKING FAIR PROBE

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya outside the Home Ministry on Monday. He was part of a BJP delegation from Maharashtra that met MoS (Home) Nityanand Rai, urging him to form an SIT to probe the alleged assault on him in Maharashtra. Praveen Khanna

No infringement on CUET, Centre tells TN

New Delhi: Days after the Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a resolution against the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to undergraduate courses taught in central universities, the Centre has tried to allay the state's concerns saying there is "no case for infringing upon the rights of the states and Union Territories" through the test.

The resolution moved by Tamil Nadu CMMK Stalin said the state Assembly felt that any entrance exam based on the NCERT syllabus would not provide an equal opportunity to all students who had studied in varied state board syllabus across the country.

The Centre's stand was conveyed by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan through a letter to his Tamil Nadu counterpart K Ponnudurai on Sunday.

ENS

Questions on Cong in Class XII exam: Centre writes to Rajasthan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, APRIL 25

AMID THE political row over six questions on the Congress in the Class XII Political Science exam of the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education (RBSE) held last week, the Union Ministry of Education on Monday sought a response from the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in the state.

The Centre's Department of School Education and Literacy has written to the Rajasthan Additional Chief Secretary (School Education), attaching a news clipping on the issue. In its communication, the ministry referred to media reports on the question paper, "which is self-explanatory". "Request that the comments/inputs of the state government on the news item

may please be sent to this department," it said.

Pawan Kumar Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary in the Rajasthan government's School Education Department, did not respond to calls or text messages.

An officer in the Union Education Ministry described the intervention as "routine", adding that the Centre has only sought information and "it should not be perceived to be anything more than that". However, such interventions on state board exams, which come under the purview of the state governments, are rare.

After the exam on April 21, the BJP had accused the Congress government of "politicising education". The questions on the Congress included: "Discuss in brief the Congress as a social and ideological alliance"; "Which party dominated the first three

general elections in India?"; "How many seats did the Congress win in the 1984 Lok Sabha election?"; "Who gave the slogan 'garibi hatao'?"; "The general election of 1971 proved to be an election for restoration of Congress. Explain the statement."; "Under what circumstances did the Congress contest the 1967 General Election and what mandate did it get? Explain".

RBSE Public Relations Officer Rajendra Gupta had said question paper was made as per the NCERT syllabus and a panel of experts had prepared it. The NCERT Class XII Political Science textbook — Politics in India since Independence — has two chapters dealing with the Congress: "Era of one-party dominance" and "Challenges to and restoration of the Congress system".



Akash Anand

term. Whenever he visits any district for a party meeting, he is accompanied by at least two coordinators from the respective state who brief him about the local political scenario and introduce him to the local cadre."

Other insiders said Akash was active in the party's decision-making on issues related to the youth and social media. He was given the responsibility of the BSP

campaign in Punjab and Uttarakhand during the Assembly elections and addressed several rallies. "Under the guidance of Behen ji, Akash is now focusing on Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Recently, he visited Rajasthan thrice and MP once. He is regularly having closed-door meetings and online meetings with youth from across India," said a BSP functionary.

Akash is the son of Mayawati's younger brother and BSP number two Anand Kumar. He completed his schooling in Delhi and his MBA degree in London. He returned to India in 2017 and in May that year accompanied

BJP readies for 2024 polls with booth-level plan

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

ROLLING OUT a blueprint of the party's strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, a team of senior BJP leaders has identified around 74,000 booths across the country for strengthening hold in some, and to gain ground in others it has not been able to win so far.

The majority of these booths are in the southern and eastern states, sources said.

The four-member team headed by BJP vice-president Bajjayant Panda has already worked on a strategy to cover all the booths spread across 2,300 Assembly constituencies where the party has an MP or an MLA while identifying more booths in 100 Lok Sabha constituencies that the BJP candidates could not win so far, sources said.

"We have identified 73,600-plus booths where the plan will be rolled out. Basically the aim is to strengthen the booths in the constituencies where the party has already won to retain them and to make more strongholds, we will be working on 100 more Lok Sabha seats where the party has not won. The mission is to maximise the party's reach and electoral wins," said a member of the team.

The team, also consisting of BJP general secretaries C T Ravi and Dilip Ghosh and party's Scheduled Castes (SC) cell head Lal Singh Arya, is expected to tour across the country to roll out their strategies in the coming three months. The committee met on Monday at the party headquarters. Once the blueprint is ready, BJP national president J P Nadda is expected to launch the mission officially,



BJP chief J P Nadda is expected to unveil the document next week. File

which is likely to be next week.

"The committee will be working with the party MPs and MLAs — 2,300 of them — across the country, state presidents and district presidents in the coming three months. "We have to ensure that the BJP does not lose any of the seats it has already won. There will be training sessions and frequent meetings for those in these booths," said the leader.

Known for its elaborate election preparation much in advance, the BJP had identified around 115 constituencies as "new catchment area" in 2016 that the party had never been able to win ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The party had worked in those constituencies in six states — Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala — and the Northeast. Although the party could not make considerable gains in the southern states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the party had improved its position in Odisha and West Bengal in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. In Odisha, the party won eight seats, and bagged 18 from West Bengal. The party had only one of the 21 seats from Odisha and two of the 42 from West Bengal in the 16th Lok Sabha. In Telangana, it increased its tally from one to four in the last elections.

Jharkhand: ex-CM Das alleges Soren got land allotted in wife's name

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, APRIL 25

FORMER JHARKHAND Chief Minister (CM) Raghubar Das on Monday alleged that CM Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren got 11 acres of land in Ranchi's Bijupara industrial area, even as the CM himself holds the Industries portfolio.

In a press conference, Das said: "Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren has been given 11 acres of land in an industrial area in Ranchi. This is at a time when Soren is currently the Industries Minister and he has used his position to get his wife the land. He is supposed to give answers."

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said: "We will respond on Tuesday."

Das said that CM's political representative Pankaj Mishra and press advisor Abhishek Prasad used their position to get mining leases, when Soren holds the Mining Department portfolio.

"Abhishek Prasad got the lease in the name of one Shiv Shakti enterprise in Sahebganj district of 11.70 acre land on April 8, 2021. According to the govt papers, Rs 90 lakh investment has also been made in this mining area. Pankaj Mishra had been given lease in the name of Mahakal stone in

Sahebganj area. The government has done it in a haphazard manner," Das alleged.

Calls made to Abhishek Prasad did not elicit any response. Pankaj Mishra could not be contacted.

Das also said that the state government has removed the religion column from the caste certificates—for Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe castes—which is proving harmful for the tribals who follow "Sarna religion". Sama is not an official code in Jharkhand and Soren had written to Home Minister Amit Shah to include Sama as a religion code in census.

"The BJP government had added a religion column in caste certificates so that Sarna tribals may benefit from it in jobs... Under pressure from Missionaries they seem to have been removed..." he said referring to the previous state government.

Earlier this year, Das had released documents which stated that the CM had obtained a mining lease in Ranchi area and a Letter of Intent had been issued in June last year. It also stated that in September, the CM had obtained environmental clearance for the same.

In February, a petition was filed in the Jharkhand High Court in the matter. On April 8, during the hearing, Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan said the state had committed "a mistake" and the lease has since been "surrendered".

Mayawati's likely heir hits ground for Rajasthan poll prep

Mayawati to Saharanpur where a Thakur-Dalit clash had occurred. Four months later, Anand and Akash were officially introduced to BSP workers. It came a few months after the BJP won the state elections and the BSP ended third with 19 seats. A BSP leader recalled that the party president introduced Akash to him and his colleagues, saying, "This is Akash, he has completed his MBA from London and now will look after the party's activities."

In the run-up to the 2019 general elections, Akash received media attention after Mayawati announced that her nephew would join the BSP movement to learn

the ropes of politics. He became more active as the BSP inked an alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) for the polls and was seen attending the alliance's political rallies. At the time, Akash was also credited with getting his aunt to Twitter. When the Election Commission banned Mayawati from campaigning for 48 hours, he addressed his first rally in Agra. Akash was joined by SP president Akhilesh Yadav and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Ajit Singh, both BSP allies at the time. He was appointed BSP national coordinator in June 2019, officially marking his rise in the party hierarchy.

Woman offered ride, raped, killed in Dausa: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, APRIL 25

A 35-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly gangraped and murdered by men who gave her a ride in their car while she was on way to her mother's home in Dausa district, police said on Monday.

The crime took place on Saturday, and prima facie it appears the accused tried to burn her with acid and petrol after the crime, police said.

According to police, the woman was on way from her in-laws' home in Jaipur to her mother's home in Dausa, when, about 6km before her destination, the accused offered her a ride. They subsequently raped and killed her, and dumped the body in a dry well, police said.

"Prima facie it seems that the accused tried to burn the woman with acid and petrol in an attempt to erase evidence," Dausa Superintendent of Police Raj Kumar Gupta said.

After a missing information report was filed on Sunday evening, police traced the woman's disfigured body by late Sunday night, said the SP.

The main accused, identified as Kaluram, a resident of Sisodia village in Dausa, has been arrested, said the SP.

Man beaten to death over theft suspicion; 9 held

Mumbai: The Aurangabad city police have arrested nine persons, including two sons of a former Shiv Sena Corporator, for allegedly beating a man to death over suspicion of stealing decorative lights last week.

According to the police, the incident took place on April 21 in CIDCO area of Aurangabad.

The police said, the victim, 30-year-old Manoj Awhad, worked as a caretaker at the Meghwal Hall, which was being run by Sagar Kharat. Kharat, his brother, a decorator, and six others assaulted Awhad over the suspicion of stealing a halogen light. The accused also recorded the assault which got leaked on social media. An FIR was then registered by the victim's mother. Inspector Sambhaji Pawar, said, "The accused have been booked... There is no communal or casteist angle as claimed..." **ENS**

Covid-19: Masks back in Chhattisgarh, Karnataka; Tamil Nadu, Kerala alert

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

WITH AN uptick in daily Covid-19 cases, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh on Monday issued fresh guidelines, making masks mandatory again at public places.

The states also revoked rules for home quarantine and social distancing, besides prohibiting spitting in public.

Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai held a meeting with Revenue Minister R Ashok, Health Minister K Sudhakar, Health Commissioner D Randeep and Technical Advisory Committee members to discuss the preparedness for a possible fourth Covid wave.

Sudhakar said though masks were compulsory, there would be no fine on violating the rule. "On April 27, PM Narendra Modi



Now Showing

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, newly elected TMC MP Shatrughan Sinha, party MLA Babul Supriyo along with actors Prosenjit Chatterjee, Dev Adhikari and others at the 27th Kolkata International Film Festival inauguration programme on Monday. *Partha Paul*

Governor seeks reports from 2 Kerala varsities over exam goof-ups

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 25

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammad Khan on Monday sought reports from Kerala and Kannur universities on the recent goof-ups in examinations.

At University of Kerala, answer key was distributed instead of the question paper during the BSc Electronics supplementary exam in February this year. At University of Kannur, three exams scheduled last week had to be cancelled after the question papers were found to be a repeat of previous year's. Also, another exam on Monday (April 25) had to be postponed for the same reason.

Raj Bhavan officials said the Governor has sought a report from the V-Cs of the two universities on the goof-ups. "Action will be taken on the basis of the reports. This is a routine intervention of the Raj Bhavan in the university matters," an official said.

Referring to the slips at the University of Kannur, Khan had told the media in Delhi on Sunday: "This is a clear sign of incompetence. Somebody should

take the responsibility. The higher education sector in Kerala is in doldrums, even though the school education is the best in the country. Someone should take moral responsibility for the mistakes."

Last week, the University of Kannur conducted two exams of psychology (graduate programme) and the question papers turned out to be a repeat of the previous year. Adding to the embarrassment, the same mistake resurfaced in Botany exam on Saturday. Subsequently, the university also postponed the April 25 degree exam of philosophy. Kannur university V-C Prof Gopinath Ravindran said a sub-committee has been tasked to probe the matter. "They will give the report on Tuesday. The report will be discussed by the Syndicate, which will take action against those responsible for the goof-ups.

Earlier, University Controller of Exams Dr P J Vincent had taken moral responsibility for the bungling, saying "the teachers involved in the process will be blacklisted".

Kerala University Controller of Exams Dr N Gopakumar said a probe has been ordered.

Two BJD men killed in Odisha's Ganjam district

Bhubaneswar: Two local leaders of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) were allegedly murdered in Digapahandi area of Odisha's Ganjam district on Sunday night, police said, the latest in a series of killings of BJD members in the last three months.

Sudarshan Suara and Sudhir Patra, both residents of of Chasanimakhandi village, were attacked by unknown men at Bhismagiri village and died of severe head and chest injuries, police said. No arrests have been made so far.

Police are also questioning BJD workers as Suara and Patra were killed right after attending an intense meeting of party workers and dissidents, who had locked horns over the results of the rural polls held in February. "We are checking CCTV footage in the area to identify the accused...", a senior police official said.

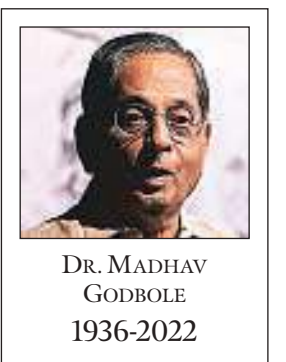
Berhampur SP Pinak Mishra said special teams have been formed to nab the attackers. **ENS**

he had told The Indian Express after a special CBI court acquitted all 32 surviving accused in the demolition case.

"My recommendation to dismiss the then Kalyan Singh-led UP government was not accepted (by then PM Narsimha Rao)..."

The acquittals had taken Godbole aback. He had told *The Indian Express*: "This, despite the fact that we had placed all facts before the Supreme Court... had said there was a conspiracy to demolish Babri Masjid. Yet, the Special court says there was no conspiracy... This is surprising."

He had recalled how even the Liberhan Commission, set up in 1992 to probe the mosque demolition, had pointed to a conspiracy. "[The Commission] had submitted its report after a strenuous exercise ... in 2009. It described how the conspiracy was hatched and named the parties and leaders involved in it. The speeches and TV footage were also made available by the commission. But



In a series of tweets in Marathi, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief Sharad Pawar said Godbole had left an indelible mark on key administrative positions in Maharashtra and the Centre. "We have lost a scholar, an exemplary bureaucrat with extensive experience and a prolific writer. His work was centered around the principle that the secular state is

Proposal for wedding turned down, man kills girl, her parents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, APRIL 25

A MAN allegedly hacked a 17-year-old girl and her parents to death in Gorakhpur district on Monday night after his marriage proposal was turned down by the family, police said.

The accused was arrested hours after the killings, said additional director general of police (ADGP), Gorakhpur Zone, Akhil Kumar.

The incident took place when the girl along with her parents was returning from her uncle's house after attending a marriage ceremony at Raiganj Bajrihwa Tola village around 9pm. When on their way, Alok Paswan, 22, of Khalilabad area in adjacent Sant Kabir Nagar district attacked the three with a sharp-edged weapon and hacked them to death, the ADGP said.

The assailant escaped after the killings, but the police caught him within two hours of the incident on a tip-off, Kumar further said. "During interrogation, the accused confessed to having committed the crime," the police official said.

Senior police officials, including SSP Vipin Tada and ADG, Gorakhpur zone, Akhil Kumar, reached the spot. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, PTI reported.

The victim's brother escaped as he had opted for another route to reach the function.

PSI recruitment scam: Karnataka CID summons Cong MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, APRIL 25

THE CRIMINAL Investigation Department (CID) probing the irregularities in the recruitment of police sub-inspectors (PSIs) has summoned Congress MLA Priyank Kharge to appear before it with evidence, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Monday.

However, the state unit of the Congress has directed Kharge against appearing for the examination.

On Saturday, Kharge released an audio clip in which two persons were reportedly discussing getting a PSI job by paying money. A day after the incident, Kharge received a notice from the CID to appear before the investigating team and share the details he had.

"...I appeal to the MLA to display his responsibility and assist the CID, which is probing the case, by sharing evidence with them," Jnanendra said.

However, Kharge in a tweet said: "It is hilarious that CID has asked me to furnish 'information' on the #PSI545scam. Shows the Department's incompetence in comprehending the evidence available in public domain. These intimidating tactics won't work. Govt needs to answer 57000 youths who have taken the PSI exam."

"He alleged that the CID had served him a notice to divert attention as the investigation was heading nowhere.

On Monday, Congress state chief DK Shivakumar slammed the government. "The party has directed Kharge not to respond to the notice and not appear before the investigating team," he said.

WITHPTIINPUTS

HC rejects Rana couple's plea to quash FIR, says devoid of merit

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, APRIL 25

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday dismissed as "devoid of merit" a writ plea by Independent legislator couple Navneet and Ravi Rana, arrested in connection with the Hanuman Chalisa controversy.

The court observed that "declaration of reciting some religious verses in residence of another person (including Chief Minister) or at public place is breach of personal liberty of another person."

"Secondly, If the declaration is made that a particular religious verse would be recited on public street, the state is justified in carrying apprehension that such act

Three Kashmiri students walk out of Agra jail in sedition case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THREE KASHMIRI students, who were languishing in a Agra prison for want of guarantors even after being granted bail by the Allahabad High Court in a sedition case about a month ago, finally walked out of the jail on Monday evening.

The students — Arsheed Yusuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai — were arrested on October 26 last year allegedly for raising pro-Pakistan slogans after Indian team's T20 cricket match.

Nasir Khuehami, spokesper-

son of the J&K Students' Association that has been assisting the students in their legal battle, said: "They have suffered a great deal, from being roughed up at the Agra Sessions Court to facing recurrent delays in hearings. Finally, the students were released on Monday. There was delay in release for want of guarantors."

Noting that it was entertaining the bail application directly, which was an "exceptional circumstance", Judge Ajay Bhanot, in his order had said: "The unity of India is not made of bamboo reeds, which will bend to the passing winds of empty slogans. Constitutional values create an indissoluble Union of India.

Every citizen is the custodian, and the State is the sentinel of the unity of India and the constitutional values of the nation."

The fact that people were travelling long distances within the country for education was something to celebrate, the court had said. "Students travelling to different parts of the country in quest of knowledge is the true celebration of India's diversity and a vivid manifestation of its unity. It is the duty of the people of the hoisting state to create enabling conditions for visiting scholars to learn and live the constitutional values of our nation. It is also the obligation of young scholars to imbibe and adhere to such values."

During his career in the IAS, Godbole had served as Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Secretary, Urban Development, Government of India, and Chairman, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, and Principal Finance Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. He had also worked in the Asian Development Bank, Manila, for five years.

Following his retirement, Godbole had been active in the sphere of public policy and governance and penned several newspaper essays and articles, including in *The Indian Express*. He also wrote over 20 books. He held an MA and PhD in economics from Bombay University and an MA in development economics from Williams College, Massachusetts.

BALLIA PAPER LEAK CASE

Not enough evidence, journalists granted bail

Local journalists to carry on protest unless all charges dropped

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, APRIL 25

THE THREE journalists arrested in Ballia in connection with the leak of Class XII English examination paper have been granted bail after police failed to find adequate evidence of their alleged involvement in the crime.

Police have also withdrawn IPC Section 420 (cheating) that the trio had been booked under due to lack of evidence.

While Ajit Ojha was granted bail by district court on Monday in the last of the three cases he had been booked, a lower court had granted bail to Digvijay Singh and Manoj Gupta on Friday in two cases against them.

Ojha and Singh are employed with *Amar Ujala*, and Gupta with *Rashtriya Sahara* newspaper. Ballia District Inspector Of Schools (DIOS) Brijesh Mishra is among 52 arrested in the case.

The three had told the media that they were arrested for reporting on the paper leak.

Advocate Akhilesh Kumar, who represented the journalists, told *The Indian Express*, "Police had to withdraw the section related to cheating (IPC 420) against Ojha since they didn't have evidence to prove he was involved in the paper leak (case). Police had invoked that section in a wrongful manner... and to save themselves."

Government counsel (criminal), Ballia district, Sanjiv Singh confirmed that all three journalists have been granted bail.



Ajit Ojha (left) and Digvijay Singh



"Ojha was granted bail on Monday in the case lodged at Kotwali, while he was already granted bail by a lower court on Friday (in the other cases). The other two were granted bail by a lower court on Friday," he told *The Indian Express*.

Three cases were lodged at Kotwali, Nagra and Ubhaon police stations. While Ojha was booked in all three, the other two were booked in cases lodged at Nagra and Ubhaon police stations.

Superintendent of Police, Ballia, Raj Karan Nayyar said the section for cheating was dropped since there was no evidence to back it.

Nayyar said: "We dropped the section for cheating against Ojha on Monday, as we could not link the school where he was an invigilator to the paper leak. Initially, DIOS (Brijesh Mishra) had indicated that the school where Ojha was an invigilator was involved in the leak, and so was Ojha. We had the school under scanner, but so far we have not got evidence to link the school to the paper leak."

He said police are still waiting

titioners who claimed to be active in public and political life are expected to act more sensibly... With great power comes great responsibility..." the bench said.

The court clarified that if state government is desirous of initiating any action pursuant to the impugned FIR, its officers shall give 72-hour notice to petitioners before taking such an action.

The couple sought setting aside a second FIR registered on April 24 lodged against them under IPC Section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). The couple was sent to judicial custody by magistrate court, in connection with the first FIR through which the Police invoked sedition charges against them.

India thanks Oman on release of seven Indian sailors in Yemen

New Delhi: India on Monday thanked Oman and other concerned parties for the release of seven Indian sailors who were in detention of the Houthis in Yemen since January 2.

The Indians were among 14 foreigners released from the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital of Sanaa on Sunday.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the Indians reached Muscat on Sunday and are expected to return to India shortly. "The Centre is happy that the sailors who were on the ship, Rwabee, and in detention of the Houthis in Yemen since January 2 have been released," it said. **ENS**

Outages cripple normal life as severe power crisis grips Valley

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, APRIL 25

KASHMIR IS reeling under one of the worst summer power crises in decades reportedly owing to lower-than-capacity generation by the local hydel plants and "no availability" of electricity to buy from the market. Against a demand of 1,700 MW, the Valley is receiving only about 900 MW (from all sources), leaving people so perturbed with the frequent and prolonged unscheduled power cuts that they are out on the street protesting.

Over the past fortnight, most parts of the Valley have received electricity supply only for about four hours daily that too in intervals ranging between 15 minutes

and half an hour. Sources say that the depleted generation capacity of coal-based power plants across the country worsened the situation in the Valley. Union Coal Secretary A K Jain attributed the low coal stocks at power plants to several factors such as heightened power demand due to the boom in the economy post Covid-19, early arrival of summer, rise in the price of gas and imported coal and sharp fall in electricity generation by coastal thermal power plants.

"I don't remember having seen such power shortage in my lifetime especially in summers," says 55-year-old Irshad Rasool Bhat, a resident of Soura Srinagar. "On the one hand, government is talking about development... and on the other, we don't get electricity for more than four hours... The

for forensic data on the mobile phone of the other accused people, and will proceed once the details are in. "We had earlier withdrawn the section for cheating against the other two journalists."

On March 30, the Class XII English paper of UP Board examination was cancelled in 24 districts after news of the paper leak emerged in Ballia. The three journalists were arrested on March 31.

While journalists in Ballia began protests against the arrests on April 4 and formed Sanyukt Patrakar Sangharsh Morcha (united journalists' front) to lead the protest against the administration and police, a journalist, who is part of the Morcha, on Monday said their agitation will continue until cases against the three are dropped and the DM and SP are removed.

On April 15, local journalists started a relay hunger strike outside the DM office, which entered the 11th day on Monday.

"Our struggle and hunger strike will continue. The way are colleagues were humiliated and arrested shows badly on the whole fraternity," the journalist said. "We will only end the protest once the three are cleared of all charges."

The Morcha seeks removal of District Magistrate Indra Vikram Singh and SP Raj Karan Nayyar for "framing the journalists in the paper leak case". After his arrest, Ojha had alleged that he was "framed" after the DM and DIOS had requested him to send the leaked question paper; he was arrested subsequently.

ILLEGAL MINING HC seeks affidavits from Goa Chief Secy, DGP by May 2

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PORVORIM, APRIL 25

TAKING NOTE of illegal sand mining continuing unabated in Goa's Pernem area, the High Court of Bombay in Goa on Monday asked government officials, including the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP), to file affidavits in the matter.

In a contempt petition filed by Goa Rivers and Sand Protectors Network (GRSPN), the court observed: "Prima facie, we think that this is a serious matter because instances are on the rise to defy not only court orders, but to unauthorisedly extract sand. From the rise in such instances, we get an impression that the authorities are not seriously interested in controlling this activity of unauthorised sand extraction. There is virtually a game of hide-and-seek going on and the impression that we get is that the authorities are not doing enough to prevent it."

The counsel for the petitioners, Norma Alvares, told the court that on April 10 and 18, illegal sand mining was carried out at night and there were 50-60 canoes engaged in the activity in Tiraol River in Ugem village of Pernem on the night of April 10. On April 18, 22 canoes were used.

Directing the Chief Secretary, DGP, the in-charge at the Pernem police station, and the mamlatdar to file affidavits by May 2, the court asked them to explain "why despite all the mechanisms they claim they have put in place, such incidents continue unabated".



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CUT AND PASTE BJP

Sedition FIR to police visits, Opposition parties in government are using BJP toolkit to target critics. That's a big self-goal

REWIND, FORA moment, to this: A few days ago, in a spectacular show of over-reach, Assam Police flew to another state to arrest a legislator over a tweet. The arrest of Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani — he has been rearrested since, after a Kokrajhar court gave him bail on Monday — for a tweet critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under severe sections of the IPC and the IT Act is theatre of the absurd at its best, or worst. It raises, yet again, serious questions of police excess, and its abject servility to political bosses. It reiterates that BJP governments, at the Centre and in the states, are not above weaponising the harsh law against dissenters and political opponents. It underlines that at risk are constitutionally protected fundamental freedoms, and that playing fast and loose with due process to target some potentially affects everyone. The continuing drama over Mevani is chilling for another reason as well — it shows how supine the Opposition has become.

It may be necessary to cast a wider look to see why the non-BJP parties are looking so effete in the face of transgressions of citizens' rights and freedoms by the state. When these parties are in power, they are complicit in the very acts they accuse the BJP of. Or, they simply lack the conviction to take a principled stand. The response of the AAP, after the bulldozers rolled into Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, affected by communal violence only days ago, is illustrative. Senior leaders sought to lay the blame on two groups — Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya — that the BJP had also sought to target. They were being settled across India by the BJP to stage riots, they said, mouthing bizarre nonsense with a straight face. It is not just in Delhi, however, that the AAP plays by the BJP's book. Last heard, its newly elected government in Punjab had sent the Punjab Police to the doorsteps of at least three critics of AAP convenor and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal — former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas, Congress leader (also formerly AAP) Alka Lamba, and Delhi BJP's Naveen Jindal.

It's not just the AAP. In Maharashtra, ruled by the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Mumbai Police has arrested and slapped a sedition charge on Ravi and Navneet Rana, MLA and MP respectively, for apparently nothing more than raising the ante against CM Uddhav Thackeray on the Hanuman Chalisa-Azaan row. And in Chhattisgarh, the Supreme Court had to step in last year to reprimand the Congress government for its alleged misuse of the sedition law — it pointed to the “disturbing trend” of sedition cases against officials seen to be loyal to preceding regimes after a change of government. The non-BJP parties may or may not pay an electoral price for this politics. But their many concessions and abdications are taking a wider toll — they are shrinking the space for an alternative politics, they are constricting its possibilities. Framing a counter to intolerance or communalism that also touches a popular nerve needs imagination and courage. By cutting and pasting from the BJP's toolkit, Opposition parties undermine themselves — and are co-accused in lowering the bar on individual freedoms.

PARIS REPRIEVE

Macron's victory has held off the xenophobic, insular right-wing in France. Going ahead, he has large challenges to address

ACROSSEUROPEANCAPITALS, there is understandable jubilation at Emmanuel Macron's victory in the French presidential election. Internationally, he has cultivated the image of being a pro-market, pro-Europe centrist under whose leadership the French economy and Paris's role in geopolitical affairs have become more salient. He has played a prominent role in the Ukraine crisis, and managed the economic fallout of the pandemic — growth returned to France quickly and unemployment is at its lowest in the last few years. The spectre of a Marine Le Pen presidency — with her anti-EU, anti-globalisation, xenophobic politics — no doubt helped Macron consolidate the centre as well as gain votes from the left. Yet, at best, Macron's victory may be temporary. By all accounts, disillusionment with the government and market economy, and cleavages within the country, have only deepened in this election.

The far-right has made its largest-ever showing and Macron's voteshare has declined considerably since 2017. In the first round before the run-off between the president and Le Pen, Jean-Luc Melenchon, the primary left candidate, won an impressive 22 per cent of the vote. Between them, Le Pen and Melenchon have captured the disenchanted French vote — framed by the “gilet jaunes” protests that rocked the country in 2018 and 2019. Macron's retooling of France's labour laws, the increasing divide between the countryside, working classes and the rest of the population and the steady rise in cost-of-living have taken the sheen off the liberal project he represents, as well as the form of globalisation he has championed.

However, the French president's victory has, in a time of great flux in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, provided a measure of temporary stability. The Ukraine crisis and China's rise will require a concerted response from liberal democracies in the region. For Delhi, too, Paris's outward orientation has been beneficial — France has been a supporter of its position regarding a rules-based order in Asia and strategic and economic ties between the two countries have deepened. The French far-right has risen on a squarely anti-globalisation platform, funneling the anxieties of the disenfranchised outward as well as against the migrants within. And Le Pen and others have expressed admiration and support for authoritarian rulers. For much of his first term, Macron ignored the issues raised by those who have felt victimised by globalisation and pro-market economic policies. For a liberal France and a stable Europe, he must build bridges with those people in his second term.

THE STORYTELLER

John Paul was an important voice of middle-of-the-road Malayalam cinema in the 1980s

THE 1980S AND 90s were a fertile period for the Malayalam film industry. A new crop of directors and scriptwriters who were willing to experiment with new narrative styles and a middle-class audience had emerged, John Paul, 72, who passed away last week in Kochi, was an important voice of this school of cinema.

Paul wrote close to a hundred screenplays in a four-decade long career, which were directed by a new generation of directors who made their mark in the 1980s and thereafter — Bharathan, Mohan, IV Sasi, Balu Mahendra, Satyan Anthikad, Sibi Malayil, Kamal. A majority of these — among them Chamaram, Marmaram, Ormmakkayi, Palangal, Athiratham, Revathikkoru Pavakkutty, Yatra, Oru Minnaminunginte Nurunguvettam, Ummikale Oru Kathaparayam and Chamayam — were both critical successes and box-office hits. Along with MT Vasudevan Nair and Padmarajan, script writer-directors, Paul wrote some of the best remembered roles in Malayalam cinema in the 1980s — Gopi in Revathikkoru Pavakkutty and Sandhya Mayangum Neram, Nedumudi Venu in Oru Minnaminunginte Nurunguvettam and Vidaparayam Munpe, Murali in Chamayam, Mammooty in Yatra, Zarina Wahab in Chamaram, Mohan Lal in Ummikale Oru Kathaparayam.

Paul had become a scriptwriter in 1980 by accident. Most of his scripts had a tender love story as their core. They resonated with the moral world of middle-class Malayalis, who embraced these films. In the last few years, Paul had few films and he had turned to writing and TV talks. The world of 1980s Malayalam cinema comes alive in the dozen or so books he wrote. Like most of the heroes he created, Paul was a much loved person in the industry who walked into the sunset with few complaints.



C RAJA MOHAN

THE RE-ELECTION OF Emmanuel Macron as the president of France on Sunday has sent a sigh of relief across Europe and North America. Delhi too is pleased with the return of Macron, who laid a strong foundation for India's strategic partnership with France.

Victory for Marine Le Pen, Macron's opponent, would have dramatically complicated the geopolitics of Europe. If the Russian aggression against Ukraine challenges the existing European regional order, Le Pen's challenge to Macron underlined Moscow's expansive influence in the internal politics of European nations. Le Pen, like so many other right-wing leaders in Europe, has close ties to Vladimir Putin. Many of them are deeply hostile to the European Union. Le Pen's victory would have not only altered France's international trajectory, but also shaken the EU to its political core.

Unlike the Soviet Union, which sought to shape European politics through left-wing parties, Russia today influences European politics through right-wing parties. That Le Pen got nearly 42 per cent of the popular vote reflects the growing challenge to mainstream politics. European establishments now have no choice but to double down on confronting Putin.

Russia's threat to the regional and domestic order in Europe is among multiple factors shaping Delhi's intensifying engagement with Brussels. Although India and the EU have talked of a strategic partnership for two decades, they have struggled to realise it. Three major external factors are facilitating the transformation of India's ties with Europe.

The first is the Russian question. As the war in Ukraine dominates Delhi's conversations with visiting European leaders this week, India's reluctance to condemn Putin's aggression might suggest nothing has really changed — that Delhi is tied inseparably to Moscow and is at best “neutral” in Russia's conflicts with the West. During the last few weeks, Delhi has insisted that its silence is not an endorsement of Russian aggression. India's position has continued to evolve. Delhi's repeated emphasis on respecting the territorial integrity of states is a repudiation of Russia's unacceptable aggression.

There is no question that the Ukraine invasion has put Delhi in acute strategic discomfort amidst the escalating conflict with China. For India, a normal relationship between Russia and the West would have been ideal.



AYOADE ALAKIJA

THIS WEEK, I will be joining several leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, at the Raisina Dialogue in India to discuss the challenges of our time and how inequity is an exacerbating force. From the ongoing pandemic to the climate catastrophe to the rising conflict that is transforming geopolitics, humanity is locked in a downward spiral, reversing which requires a sense of purpose from leaders. If we don't tackle inequity and the dangers of greedy nationalism, we'll be failing to draw lessons from what happened in the last few years.

The greatest wrong of the pandemic is the inequity in the rollout of health tools. In many lower-income countries, a combination of blatant greed, a runaway pandemic and disinformation that undermined a number of excellent vaccines led to more than a million preventable deaths. Waves of the virus have taken a huge toll on our health workers and led to backsliding on virtually every other health challenge.

With more than 80 per cent of adults in India vaccinated, the country is close to meeting WHO's target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the entire population by summer. Future waves of the virus cannot be ruled out. At the Raisina Dialogue, I will argue that this is the moment to double down on sharing health tools fairly.

In lower-income countries, where the vast

After Ukraine, India is recalibrating its great power relations. Europe is ending its long geopolitical holiday

But Russia's confrontation with the West comes during India's rapidly expanding economic and political ties to Europe and America. Delhi might be sentimental about India's historic Russian connection but it is not going to sacrifice its growing ties to the West on that altar. Russia's declining economic weight and growing international isolation begins to simplify India's choices.

Meanwhile, geographic proximity and economic complementarity have tied Europe even more deeply to Russia. The EU's annual trade with Russia at around \$260 billion is massive in comparison to India's \$10 billion. Unlike India, Europe's societal connections with Russia are deep-rooted. A range of leaders in Europe, including Macron, have been advocating a historic reconciliation with Russia and Moscow's integration into the regional security order.

Putin's reckless invasion of Ukraine has compelled Europe to embark on a costly effort to disconnect from Russia. This is particularly true for Germany, which has cultivated strong commercial ties with Russia. With Putin locked in a long and unwinnable war in Ukraine, Russia is condemned to pay a heavy price for his folly and is bound to emerge as a terribly weakened power.

The war in Ukraine has certainly presented a major near-term problem that needs to be managed by Delhi and Brussels. Yet, they also find themselves in the same policy boat — of trying to reduce reliance on Russia. And over the longer term, a diminished Russia is bound to become less of a complicating factor in India's engagement with Europe.

For nearly a century, India's Russian connection had complicated Delhi's ties to Europe. If the Russian revolution of 1917 inspired large sections of the Indian national movement, the partnership with Moscow dominated India's international relations during the Cold War. That phase is drawing to a close.

Second is the China question that adds a new imperative to India's partnership with Europe. Contrary to the mythology in Delhi that Russia has been pushed into China's arms, Moscow has been deepening ties with Beijing for more than two decades triggering many anxieties in Delhi. In June 2021, Joe Biden had met Putin in Geneva with an offer to explore a productive relationship with Russia. Putin,

however, made a conscious choice to turn to China instead. In February, Putin traveled to Beijing to announce a partnership “without limits”. Whether Russia was pushed or jumped into Chinese arms makes no difference to India. India has no option but to manage the consequences of the Russian decision. In the last two decades, China has emerged as a great power and now presents a generational challenge for Indian policymakers. That challenge has been made harder by Putin's alliance with Xi Jinping.

As Delhi strives to retain a reasonable relationship with Moscow, Europe emerges as an important partner in letting India cope with the China challenge. This is reinforced by Europe's own rethinking on China.

For more than two decades, Europe pursued relentless economic engagement with China, without a reference to Beijing's long-term political ambitions. Thanks to the growing problems of doing business with Xi's China, Beijing's geopolitical alliance with Moscow, and the rapid deterioration of Sino-US relations, Brussels is ready to invest serious political capital in building purposeful strategic ties with India. Delhi is ready to reciprocate.

Finally, there is the American question. Until recently it appeared that Europe's calls for “strategic autonomy” from the US were in sync with India's own worldview. But the Ukraine crisis has underlined the US's centrality in securing Europe against Russia. In Asia, Chinese assertiveness has brought back the US as a critical factor in shaping peace and security. The US, however, is not looking for weak allies in Europe and Asia. Washington wants a strong Europe taking greater responsibility for its own security; it would like Delhi to play a larger role in Asia and become a credible provider of regional security. Above all, America wants India and Europe to build stronger ties with each other.

The Ukraine war has persuaded Delhi to recalibrate its great power relations and has compelled Europe to end its long geopolitical holiday. For the first time since independence, India's interests are now aligning with those of Europe. Together, Delhi and Brussels can help reshape Eurasia as well as the Indo-Pacific.

The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

MINDING THE GAP IN PANDEMIC

Inequity in access to vaccines and treatment can compromise fight against Covid

majority of people are still unvaccinated, there's a real risk of a surge that could knock out health systems and push back efforts to tackle malaria, measles and polio. The push on Covid should now be on vaccinating the vulnerable and wider population to build the wall of immunity that has allowed rich countries to open up their economies and societies. Using India as a model to strengthen manufacturing in lower-income countries is also key to ensuring a more even distribution of health resources and mitigating the risk of rich countries hoarding supplies.

The most effective time to increase vaccine-based immunity is before an outbreak. Therefore, huge effort should go into raising the immunity of the general population starting with vaccination — and boosting — of the most vulnerable. It's unfair that breakthrough treatments — including antivirals like Paxlovid that was endorsed last week by WHO — are still only available in a handful of countries.

Treatment equity is as important as vaccine equity. It's also critical that people are allowed access to tests so that their treatment begins early. Some will say it's not possible to overcome the barriers to access in low-income countries in Africa. But I can assert that it is being done and it's the only way to protect health systems in the medium- to long-term.

We must also look at the root causes of the challenges we faced in the first place. Manufacturing vaccines and treatments in re-

gional hubs would make a big difference and help get these game-changing health tools to all countries quickly. It's positive to see WHO's mRNA hub in South Africa producing its own mRNA vaccine prototype for Covid, but we can't settle for this.

With pharmaceutical groups unwilling to share technology, it's clear that new rules are needed to ensure that profit is not prioritised. It is critical that the World Trade Organisation's discussions on waiving intellectual property rules progress quickly and the outcome actually improves access to Covid-19 tools.

The crisis in sharing health tools that led to millions of preventable deaths is an important background for any new pandemic accord. We need to set in place systems to ensure that life-saving health tools are shared fairly and effectively. If a fourth dose is good enough for people in rich countries, then there shouldn't even be a debate about vaccinating people in low-income countries with their primary doses. The pandemic is not over and our future response must be based on the principle that a life in New Delhi has equal worth to a life in New York.

The world faces its greatest challenge since the founding of the UN after the Second World War. Historic challenges need historic leadership and time is not on our side.

The writer is co-chair of Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT)-Accelerator

APRIL 26, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ISRAEL-EGYPT PARLEYS

ISRAEL HAS WITHDRAWN from the Sinai peninsula, which it captured after the 1967 war, after 15 years of occupation. The Israeli flag was lowered at Sharm-al-Sheikh after a brief ceremony. A multinational peacekeeping force has begun monitoring the border area. A detailed agreement on the demarcation of the border in the Taba area in the Gulf of Aqaba in the south has been reached, according to Israeli sources, but its details have not yet been disclosed. Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, said his country would make no more concessions to Egypt and it would increase the number of its settlements

in the occupied territories. Meanwhile Palestinians in several parts of the occupied West Bank staged demonstrations in protest against the continued negotiations between Israel and Egypt on Palestinian autonomy.

PUNJAB TALKS

THE TALKS BETWEEN the Centre and the Akali Dal (Longowal) are likely to be resumed following the latter's decision to defer its agitation against the digging of the Satluj-Yamuna link canal and the Ravi-Beas water accord. Sources indicate that the talks are likely to begin in the third week of May. Intermediaries who were actively associated with bringing the Akalis to the negotiating

table are reported to be optimistic about the response from the leadership.

UK IN SOUTH GEORGIA

BRITISH MARINES LANDED in South Georgia and recaptured the Falkland dependency from Argentina who ran up the white flag of surrender. Defence Secretary John Nott announced. Flanked by a beaming prime minister Margaret Thatcher outside her 10 Downing Residence, Nott said British forces “have successfully taken control Grytviken” the island's main port on its northeast coast. He said no British casualty had been reported. “At present, we have no information on Argentine casualties,” he said.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

Justice for the silenced

Supreme Court order cancelling bail of prime accused in Lakhimpur Kheri deaths upholds right of victim to be heard



REKHA SHARMA

THE SUPREME COURT order cancelling the bail of Ashish Mishra and his consequent surrender before a local court have not only served the cause of justice but also given confidence to the victims that their voices will not be silenced as was done by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. During the hearing of the bail application, the counsel for the victims got disconnected from the online proceedings, and he moved an application for a rehearing which was not considered. Holding that a victim has an unbridled participatory right, from the stage of investigation till the culmination of the proceedings, and that such a right is substantive, enforceable and another facet of human rights, the apex court expressed its disquiet over the manner in which the high court failed to acknowledge the right of the victims to be heard.

It may be recalled that Ashish Mishra is the son of Ajay Mishra Teni, a minister of state for home affairs in the Union cabinet. He allegedly, along with his aides, drove an SUV, with two others vehicles in tow, into a group of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri district in UP, as they were walking back after protesting against the three farm laws, and allegedly also opened gunfire from inside his vehicle. This resulted in the death of four farmers and one journalist, with the driver of the SUV and two more killed in the clash that followed and several others injured.

It also needs to be recalled that notwithstanding the ruthless manner in which the farmers were mowed down, and despite the fact that the incident caused widespread outrage and clamour for the arrest of Ashish Mishra, who was named in the FIR as the prime accused, the UP police made no effort to arrest him. The police treated him with kid gloves, and during the so-called investigation summoned him not as an accused, but as a witness. He was arrested only after the matter reached the Supreme Court on a letter written by two advocates, and after the court had made scathing observations about the manner in which the investigation was conducted, compelling it to appoint an SIT headed by a retired judge from another high court to carry out further investigation.

None of these facts was found grave enough to merit consideration by the learned high court judge. He instead laid undue emphasis on only one fact, namely, that no fire injury was found on any of the deceased. Castigating the high court, the Supreme Court in its order said that “instead of looking into aspects such as the nature and gravity of the offence; severity of punishment in the event of conviction; circumstances which are peculiar to the accused or victims; likelihood of the accused fleeing; likelihood of tampering with the evidence and witnesses, and the impact that his release may have on the trial and society at large, the High Court had adopted a myopic view of the evidence and proceeded to decide the case on merits.” The Supreme Court has remitted the case to the high court for considering the bail application afresh, but



C R Sasikumaran

it has fallen short of giving a further direction that it will not be heard by the same judge. Given that the judge virtually ignored all the principles that a court needs to keep in mind in the matter of bail, it would have been just and fair if the Supreme Court had also given a specific direction that the matter would not be heard by the same judge. In view of this ambiguity, let us hope and trust that the chief justice of the concerned high court would entrust the case to a different judge.

The Supreme Court while cancelling the bail gave one week's time to the accused to surrender. This long period of freedom to a person with powerful links, and the backing of the State machinery, is disconcerting.

The order also throws light on another disturbing fact. It observed that the high court demonstrated tearing hurry in entertaining or granting bail to the accused. The reasons are obvious, and need not be stated explicitly. But then, this has not happened for the first time. Often, the cases of the high and mighty are taken up for hearing out of turn, sometimes in a matter of a day, while others with little or no means languish in jails for years. Is it not time that the Supreme Court issued directions to the high courts, and also to its own registry, to collate, and furnish information about how

Often, the cases of the high and mighty are taken up for hearing out of turn, sometimes in a matter of a day, while others with little or no means languish in jails for years, waiting for their turn to be heard. Is it not time that the Supreme Court issued directions to the high courts, and also to its own registry, to collate, and furnish information about how many bail applications or habeas corpus petitions concerning civil liberties and constitutional rights of the people to life and liberty are pending and since when?

many bail applications or habeas corpus petitions concerning the civil liberties and constitutional rights of the people to life and liberty are pending and since when? The information must also explain why some cases received precedence over others. We are living at a time when the state and its instruments, and those enjoying their patronage, are trampling with impunity over the fundamental rights of the people to life and liberty. In these trying times, the beleaguered citizens turn to the courts for relief. Let no one feel that they are the children of a lesser god.

The Chief Justice of India recently visited Jallianwala Bagh and wrote in the visitor's book, "Jallianwala Bagh manifests the strength and resilience of the people of this country. This serene garden is symbolic of the great sacrifice made in the face of tyranny. It serves as a reminder of the heavy price paid for freedom, which we must always cherish and protect." These are poignant words. The Chief Justice is the first citizen of the judicial fraternity, and people look towards him and his worthy colleagues when their freedom is in danger at the hands of the state. Hopefully, the courts will not disappoint.

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court



VAMSEE JULURI

IT IS IRONIC that Pratap Bhanu Mehta's recent article is titled 'With eyes wide open' (IE, April 22). The real nature of the abyss may be obvious to everyone else, but what he presents is the view of a small class of people who have made it their sole virtue to keep their eyes firmly shut.

This descent into the abyss did not begin with Ram Navami or Hanuman Jayanti. Nor with some attack on the idea of India a few years ago.

The fall that Mehta tries to pin on Hanuman and Ram is an old, colossal and, worst of all, unnatural one.

The Hindu revivalist writer Ram Swarup's phrase — one god, two humanities or many gods, one humanity — describes the dilemma succinctly. Two thousand years of monotheistic cultural imperialism have left only India and a few other nations with their old gods still standing. That is the big picture. Not "democratic backsliding". Or even "clash of civilisations".

One might say it's in the past. But is it? When I search for "Ram Navami" or "Hanuman Jayanti", I see a spate of images that seem to have escaped Mehta's sight altogether. I see a 16-year-old boy named Shivam Shukla with his head smashed in by a rock, struggling to breathe through a tube in a hospital bed. I see a woman crying for her home which has been set on fire. I see news of Hindu processions being attacked in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and New Delhi.

Leave it to Hanuman

The problem isn't communalism, but refusal to see another reality

I see unnecessary pain and suffering. And lies.

I do not see a "new Hinduism" as Mehta says. Instead, I see a world where the divergence between reality and truth is so deep that no one cares to reach across the epistemic or digital divide any more.

For someone who has decided that the problem is Hinduism, no number of Hindu boys in hospitals, temples destroyed or prayer songs silenced will change their understanding.

For someone who has decided the problem is Islam, no amount of condemnation of Hinduism or charges of communalism will change their assumption either.

We have two parallel reality industries now — an older one which works in the denial of Hindu pain, and a newer one which prospers in the selective stoking of it for political gains. If we pretend only one matters — or worse, that the other doesn't exist — we are no better than those we critique.

I do not see the need for Hindu youth to celebrate outside mosques with flags and swords. Yet, I cannot say they are the only ones doing it when video clips appear of Muslim youth apparently having done the same.

Tit-for-tat turf battles? A warped form of the American "Take Back the Night" sort of civic campaign? What is this public negotiation really about? And what happened to the spirit of Ishwar-Allah (or Ram-Rahim, as we used to sing in Prasanthi Nilayam)?

But I see a different trajectory than Mehta does, perhaps. For him, that spirit is gone, shredded by "communalism", which is synonymous for him not with "Hindu Nationalism" or "Hindutva", but just "Hinduism". That fig leaf of a distinction is now gone.

This unintentionally honest admission reveals much about how "communalism" is understood in India. As Sufiya Pathan, a researcher with Ahmedabad-based Centre for Indic Studies, has written, the term began to be used about India only in the 1920s. It presented itself not as a European idea, but as an innate condition of India — of religion in India, to be precise. And not just any religion, but the religion that happens to be that of the "majority", naturally, which has the burden of demonstrating "tolerance" at all costs.

And how exactly is Hinduism to do that? "The West," writes Pathan, "did not see religious reform or the eradication of religion as a solution to its own inter-religious strife," but saw reform as a return to a purer form of the church, always. But in India, "reform" meant the opposite, and it still does.

It means Hindu eradication. Destroy the "idols". Raze the temples. Silence the festivals. Reduce Rama and Krishna to guilt-professing memes. An elephant is abused somewhere? Just make a weeping Ganesha meme refusing puja from his worshippers, as if they were the ones who abused it. A woman is assaulted? Blame the inadequacy of goddess-worship in preventing it, as if lands that de-

stroyed their own age-old goddess images have somehow smashed patriarchy.

And where the misappropriation of images of the gods doesn't suffice, simply make up new stories about them that no devout Hindu has before, and then demand, on the basis of these new legends, a ban on this or that "Aryan invader" festival.

Mehta and others see only the 75-year-long history of a secular republic being broken down. Others see the 2,000-year-long history of survival against the odds.

For Hindus who keep their eyes open, every day now is like *The Darkening Age*, Catherine Nixey's study of the destruction of the indigenous traditions, temples and libraries of the old "pagan" world by Christianity. The only change is that in the old days it was in the name of one god, and now it's in the name of progress or development.

And yet, for Hindus who follow Hanuman and Rama there remains a sense of hope. Politicians and ideologues may make spectacles or targets of Hanuman. But in the end, Hanuman is still what every Hindu wants to be in relation to the feet of Sita and Rama, not to some passing political episode.

Just say, "Jai Hanuman", Mr Mehta, and leave it to him. You can't surely believe in his beautiful and elegant spirit from the Sundara Kanda, and also believe he's just a hateful trope now, can you?

The writer is professor of media studies at the University of San Francisco

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Even while accounting for rhetorical flourishes that are part and parcel of politics, former prime minister Imran Khan has often shown a muddled understanding of militancy in Pakistan."
— DAWN, PAKISTAN

A continuing exclusion

Reservations accorded to Dalits from Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist communities should be extended to their counterparts from Muslim, Christian groups



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT AND PHILLIP VARGHESE

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE has recently taken place to reassess the possibility of setting up a national panel to look into the merit of the demand to extend Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Muslim and Christian Dalits. After Independence, the Constitutional Order of 1950 listed SCs and STs using the list mentioned in the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1936. The order specified that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism could be deemed as a member of a Scheduled Caste community. The idea was that religions other than Hinduism did not have a caste system.

This argument can no longer be defended for two reasons.

First, the order was amended in 1956 to include Sikh Dalits and again in 1990 to include Buddhist Dalits, notwithstanding the fact that these religions were supposed to not observe caste discrimination.

Second, Muslim and Christian Dalits are as affected by caste discrimination as Hindu Dalits. They are primarily Dalits and their Muslim and Christian identity is secondary, as evident in several cases of atrocities against Dalits. The majority of the victims in the Kandhamal, Karamchedu, and Tsundur massacres and in the recent incidents of violence reported from Tumakuru, Belagavi, Mandya, and Bagalkot in Karnataka were Dalit Christians. These victims were attacked not because they were Christians but because they were "untouchables" who had converted to Christianity. Despite converting to Christianity, their socioeconomic status had not improved. In fact, it had worsened because, in the process, they lost access to positive discrimination.

This is also evident from the few available surveys.

In 2008, a study commissioned by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) and co-authored by Satish Deshpande and Geetika Bapna — "Dalits in the Muslim and Christian Communities — A Status Report on Current Social Scientific Knowledge" — showed that Dalit Muslims, who represent 8 per cent of their community and Dalit Christians, who constitute 23.5 per cent of their community, were over-represented among the poor of India. In rural India, 39.6 per cent of the Dalit Muslims live below the poverty line and 46.8 per cent of the Dalit Muslims in urban parts of the country are below the poverty line. The corresponding figures for Dalit Christians are 30.1 and 32.3 per cent. By contrast, 29.2 per cent of Muslims in rural India and 41.4 per cent of Muslims in urban parts of the country are BPL. Rural and Urban Dalit Christians below the poverty line were 16.2 and 12.5 per cent respectively.

Dalit Muslims and Christians have sometimes been forced to bury their dead in separate cemeteries. Churches have segregated against Dalit Christians in the past. The Sachar Commission Report ob-

served in 2006 that the social and economic situation of Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians did not improve after conversion. In 2007, the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission Report recommended that the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, should be revised to delink SC status with religion, and religion-neutral status should be given to all Dalits and Scheduled Tribes. It also suggested a sub-quota of 8.4 per cent for minorities within the OBC quota of 27 per cent, as well as a reservation for Dalit minorities within the Scheduled Caste quota of 15 per cent.

The Mishra Commission report and the National Commission for Minorities report were tabled in Parliament in December 2009. Both were in favour of extending constitutional protection and safeguards to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims that are available to their counterparts who profess Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism. Governments have, however, not acted on these recommendations.

They have argued against these reports — despite the empirical evidence they have collected — citing the paucity of disaggregated data on Dalit Muslims and Christians and contesting the validity of conversion records across generations. This contradicts the fact that 20 states have extended benefits to Dalit Muslims and Christians under the OBC category, following the Mandal Commission's recommendations. The continued exclusion of Muslim and Christian Dalits from the benefits of reservation, solely on the basis of religion, violates the equality provisions of Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution. Reservation, according to the Constitution, relies on criteria such as social status, standing in the community, marginalisation, discrimination, violence and social exclusion.

How can one explain the government's obstinacy? It's something that dates back to 1950. Among the few things that keep Hindu Dalits from converting is that they retain the benefits of reservation. If reservation becomes universal, they would be less hesitant to accept the materialistic offers given by missionaries for converting. This could lead to a fall in the numbers of the country's Hindu population — something that worries a lot of Hindu organisations.

While the Constitutional Order of 1950 could be amended regarding Indian religions like Sikhism and Buddhism, the same relaxation of the rule cannot apply to "foreign religions" — this is a clear indication that communalism is now influencing this important issue. Besides, giving Dalit Christians and Muslims access to reservation would make the competition tougher for Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist Dalits. Therefore, these groups do not lobby in favour of their brothers from Dalit Christian and Dalit Muslim communities.

In January 2020, the Supreme Court accepted a petition filed by the National Council of Dalit Christians on the matter. But the judiciary has not yet given its ruling on the contentious issue of reservation for Dalit Christians and Muslims.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

END DIVISIONS

THE GROWING POLARISATION that has been witnessed between our two main communities recently is deeply disturbing. We saw what havoc this polarisation created decades ago, resulting in the division of India. Under no circumstances can we afford for polarisation to grow again, as that can only bring death and destruction in its wake. Any outstanding problems such as hijab, azaan and loud-speakers must be sorted out peacefully between the two communities. Provocative speeches, mostly from fringe elements on both sides only add to the atmosphere of confrontation and should be avoided. As chairman of the Temple of Understanding India Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting inter-religious harmony, and on my own behalf, I appeal to all concerned to step back for a moment and reorient their activities in a non-confrontational manner.

Karan Singh, Delhi

RULE BOUND

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Reskilling society' (IE, April 25). The writers have meticulously laid out a pragmatic solution to the unemployment crisis. The introduction of degree apprenticeship will

undoubtedly boost a university's efficacy. Quite a noteworthy common denominator serving as an impediment to the successful implementation of similar proposals for bringing reforms in diverse domains is the government's web of anachronistic regulations and policies. These are incongruous to the demands and the atmosphere of the 21st century. India is indeed a bird whose freshness of life lay in its freedom to fly and not in the constraints of a cage.

Abhinandan Bhatia, Amritsar

STILL IN TROUBLE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Poverty and politics of freebies' (IE, April 25). It is somewhat premature to speak about reducing food security based on the poverty reduction estimates of the World Bank and IMF, which are based on pre-Covid data and have been contested by several experts. It is again too early to talk of a bounce-back of the economy in the current environment of rising inflation and global insecurity. Food subsidies must be persisted with till there is real improvement in poverty levels. In the absence of any other social security, this is the least that should be done for the poor.

Hemant Contractor, Pune





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

SIMPLY PUT **QUESTION & ANSWER**

States vs Centre on VC selection: rules, friction

Tamil Nadu has passed two Bills proposing to take away the Governor's powers to appoint VCs of state universities. Which other states have done this, and why?

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE TAMIL Nadu Assembly passed two Bills on Monday that seek to transfer the Governor's power in appointing Vice-Chancellors of 13 state universities to the state government, currently led by the DMK Chief Minister MK Stalin said the Bills were required as the Governor was disregarding the state government's opinion on the appointments of VCs, an argument also made by states such as Maharashtra and West Bengal in the past.

A look at the rules guiding the appointments of VCs across states reveal wide variations, leaving the field open for dispute, particularly in cases where there are sharp political differences between the state and the Centre, which appoints the Governors.

What are the highlights of the two Bills?

The Bills passed in Tamil Nadu stress that "every appointment of the Vice-Chancellor

shall be made by the Government from out of a panel of three names" recommended by a search-cum-selection committee. Currently, the Governor, in his capacity as the Chancellor of state universities, has the power to pick a VC from the shortlisted names. The Bills also seek to empower the state government to have the final word on the removal of VCs, if needed. Removal will be carried out based on inquiries by a retired High Court judge or a bureaucrat who has served at least as a Chief Secretary, according to one of the Bills.

Are other states trying to curtail the Governor's role in appointing VCs?

Yes. In December, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a Bill amending the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016. Under the original Act, the Maharashtra government had no say in appointment of VCs. If the changes take effect, the Governor will be given two names to choose from by the state government, currently ruled by the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress, following a panel's suggestions.

In 2019, the West Bengal government, led by the Trinamool Congress, took away the Governor's authority in appointing VCs to state universities. It has also hinted at removing the Governor as the Chancellor of the universities.

In Left-ruled Kerala, the Governor alleged that the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Kannur University was done against his wishes. The BJP government in Odisha has also tried to bring appointments to state universities under its control. But it has been challenged by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

What is at the root of the differences?

In West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the elected governments have repeatedly accused the Governors of acting at the behest of the Centre on various subjects, including education. The regulations, which differ from state to state, are often open to interpretation and disputes are routine.

In fact, the Tamil Nadu Bills make a case for giving the state government the upper hand in the VC appointment process by citing the

examples of Gujarat and Telangana. "It is considered that in line with the aforesaid (Gujarat, Telangana) State University Laws, the Government of Tamil Nadu should be empowered to appoint the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities," both Bills state.

In Karnataka, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, state laws underline the need for concurrence between the state and the Governor. The terms "concurrence" or "consultation" are absent from state legislation in most cases.

What is the UGC's role in this?

Education comes under the Concurrent List, but entry 66 of the Union List — "coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions" — gives the Centre substantial authority over higher education. The UGC plays that standard-setting role, even in the case of appointments in universities and colleges. According to the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in

Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018, the "Visitor/Chancellor" — mostly the Governor in states — shall appoint the VC out of the panel of names recommended by search-cum-selection committees. Higher educational institutions, particularly those that get UGC funds, are mandated to follow its regulations. These are usually followed without friction in the case of central universities, but are sometimes resisted by the states in the case of state universities.

What are the rules in Gujarat and Telangana?

The Gujarat University Act, 1949 states that "the Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the State Government from amongst three persons recommended by a (search-cum-selection) committee". The Telangana Universities Act, 1991 states that the search committee shall "submit a panel of three persons to the Government in alphabetical order and the Government shall appoint the Vice-Chancellor

from out of the said panel".

Last month, setting aside the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat's SP University by the state government, the Supreme Court made some key observations.

What were these observations?

A Bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said "any appointment as a Vice Chancellor contrary to the provisions of the UGC Regulations can be said to be in violation of the statutory provisions, warranting a writ of quo warranto". It said every subordinate legislation of the UGC, in this case the one on minimum standards on appointments, flows from the parent UGC Act, 1956. "Therefore, being a subordinate legislation, UGC Regulations become part of the Act. In case of any conflict between state legislation and central legislation, central legislation shall prevail by applying the rule/principle of repugnancy as enunciated in Article 254 of the Constitution as the subject 'education' is in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution," it ruled.

How self-replicating mRNA Covid-19 vaccines work, and what trial results show

A SELF-AMPLIFYING mRNA vaccine — one in which the delivered RNA multiplies inside the body — has shown promising results against Covid-19 in ongoing phase 1/2/3 trials. The vaccine, ARCT-154, has been developed by Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings, based in San Diego, California, and its trials are in progress in Vietnam. It offered 95% protection against severe Covid-19 and death, and 55% against Covid infection, Arcturus said in a press release.

WHAT IT MEANS: An mRNA vaccine, such as those from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, use messenger RNA that encodes the spike protein of the coronavirus. In other words, the mRNA directs the cell to produce copies of the spike protein, so that the immune system will recognise the spike if and when actual infection takes place, and mount a response. A self-amplifying mRNA vaccine is an improvement on the traditional RNA platform. It encodes four extra proteins in addition to the vaccine antigen, and these enable amplification of the original strand of RNA once inside the cell. The basic advantage is that it requires a smaller dose.

THE TRIAL: It enrolled over 19,000 adult subjects in Vietnam, including individuals at higher risk of severe complications of Covid-19 disease. The Phase 3 placebo-controlled vaccine efficacy portion of this study enrolled over 16,000 participants. An analysis between 7 days and 56 days after completion of a two-dose vaccination series demonstrated 55% vaccine efficacy for protection against Covid-19, the release said. These cases were detected during an outbreak in Vietnam when the Delta and Omicron variants were dominant.

The analysis of severe Covid-19 disease (including deaths) included 43 severe cases. Forty-one cases occurred in the placebo group and two in the vaccinated group, demonstrating vaccine efficacy of 95%, the release said. Nine deaths were reported in the placebo group, and one in the vaccinated group, whom the company described as an older age group participant who was also at increased risk of severe Covid-19.

ADVERSE EVENTS: The incidence of unsolicited adverse events in the two groups are comparable, the release said. No cases of myocarditis or pericarditis were reported; however, the company conceded that the study is not large enough to reliably observe these events given their extremely rare frequency of occurrence.

Adverse events collected in diaries of study participants (solicited adverse events) for seven days following each vaccination demonstrate that the majority of these events were mild or moderate in severity, it said. The majority of solicited adverse events resolved within the 7-day window of observation.

IMPLICATIONS: The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines against Covid-19 are the only two mRNA vaccines available so far. "The new vaccine may come with significant advantages: easier storage, along with lower cost because its 'self-amplifying' design allows for smaller doses", *Science* magazine said.

However, the magazine noted, much of the world has already been vaccinated, and the Arcturus vaccine may be making its debut too late, at least for primary vaccination.

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IMF's reduced growth forecast

The International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook has rolled back growth prospects for the world and for India. What are the reasons, and how does the outlook differ for advanced and other economies?

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

LAST WEEK, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. The IMF has rolled back the economic growth prospects for the global economy as well as for India.

What is the WEO? Why is it significant?

The IMF was established in 1944 in the wake of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Today its membership covers 190 countries. As an organisation, it provides loans — around \$ 1 trillion is available for lending — to its member countries apart from providing expert guidance and surveillance to ensure economic and financial stability in the world economy. Twice each year — in April and October — the IMF releases the WEO in which it details the state of the global economy and its forecast for the near future; it also provides "updates" to these two WEOs in July and January. The WEO reports are a good way to assess the current state of the global economy as well as to help countries prepare for the threats and opportunities before them. It is for this reason that they are keenly studied across the world.

What does the latest WEO say about global growth?

The IMF projects a sharp fall in the global economic growth rate.

"Global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 per cent in 2021 to 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 2023. This is 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points lower for 2022 and 2023 than in the January World Economic Outlook Update," it states. Beyond 2023, global growth is forecast to decelerate even more, to about 3.3 per cent.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the key reason for this gloomy outlook.

Apart from the fact that growth is decelerating, the IMF has yet again underscored that this "drag on output is expected to be more salient in emerging market and developing economies".

For instance, the US is expected to reach its pre-pandemic trend output path by 2022. In other advanced economies, the shortfall relative to the pre-pandemic trend will narrow.

To be sure, in the October WEO too, the IMF had pointed to the "dangerous divergence in economic prospects" between advanced economies such as the US and

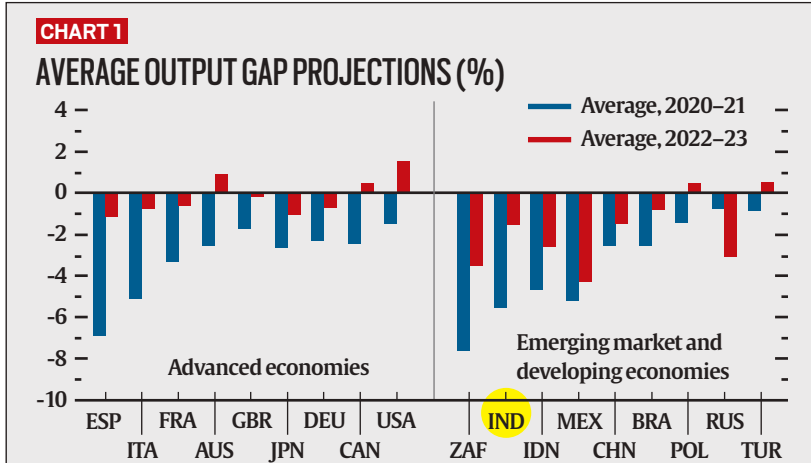
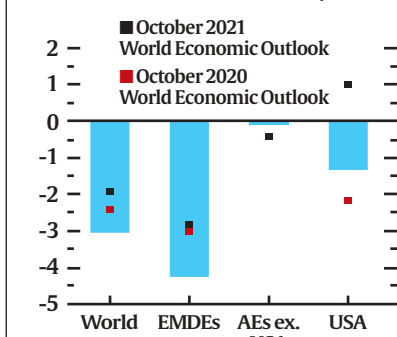


CHART 2

EMPLOYMENT LOSSES RELATIVE TO PRE-PANDEMIC TREND, 2024



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook

TABLE 1

SHARES IN AGGREGATE GDP & POPULATION

	GDP	POPULATION
Advanced economies	42.1%	14.0%
United States	15.7%	4.3%
Germany	3.3%	1.1%
United Kingdom	2.3%	0.9%
China	18.6%	18.4%
India	7.0%	18.1%
Russia	3.1%	1.9%
Nigeria	0.8%	2.7%

emerging economies such as India. In particular, it had highlighted that employment growth was likely to lag the output recovery.

The April WEO states that thanks to the Ukraine conflict and its wide-ranging ramifications, this divergence could be reinforced.

Charts 1 and 2 (above) from the latest WEO bring this out. Chart 1 shows the output gap — that is the difference between the actual and potential GDP. As can be seen, on average this gap is higher for emerging economies such as India and especially for 2022-23. The same holds true for employment losses (*Chart 2*) as of 2024 when compared to the pre-pandemic "trend". These, too, underscore how emerging economies are more badly affected. It is important to

note that the comparison here is with the pre-pandemic "trend" and not the pre-pandemic "level" of the total GDP of a country.

What about inflation?

Because of the disruptive impact of the war in Ukraine, prices of several commodities have skyrocketed, creating a massive surge in inflation across the world.

"Inflation is expected to remain elevated for longer than in the previous forecast, driven by war-induced commodity price increases and broadening price pressures," states the WEO.

Here too, the emerging economies are worse off. "For 2022, inflation is projected at 5.7 per cent in advanced economies and 8.7

per cent in emerging market and developing economies — 1.8 and 2.8 percentage points higher than projected in January".

The IMF has been less than sanguine about the risks. The report states that "risks are large and to the downside". These include a worsening of the war, a worsening of geopolitical tensions, a resurgence of the pandemic, increased social tensions, a worsening slowdown in China, higher inflation expectations, higher interest rates etc.

What does the IMF say about India's growth prospects?

When compared to its January update, the IMF has dialled down India's GDP growth by 0.8 percentage points. This is the second sharpest revision in Asia, and one of the sharpest anywhere in the world. However, despite this revision, IMF expects India to grow at 8.2% in 2022-23, making it the fastest growth rate across all the major economies in the world. It is more than twice the average growth rate of both the advanced economies (3.3%) and the emerging economies (3.8%).

Does that mean there's nothing to worry about for India on the growth front?

When it comes to economic growth, each country faces — to borrow a term from cricket — a different "required run rate". The pace at which a country must grow depends largely on how well-off an average citizen of that country is. As such, while it appears that different countries are competing with one another, more often than not, each country is competing with its past self.

Table 1 brings out this point more clearly. The columns detail a country's share of the global GDP and its share of the global population.

Countries that have a much higher share in the global GDP than their share in the global population — for example, all the advanced economies — are the prosperous ones.

Countries whose share of the global population far outstrips their share in global GDP — such as India and Nigeria — are the ones that face the highest required rate of GDP growth.

While India has over 18% of the global population, its share of the global GDP is just 7%. In the real world, this reflects as low levels of per capita income and consumption as well as high levels of unemployment and social unrest. In other words, India not only has to grow at a much faster clip than the rest of the world but also has to do it sustainably for decades.

Against 91st Amendment: PIL targets Cabinet status for Goa's Rane

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, APRIL 25

THE HIGH Court of Bombay at Goa on Monday said "arguable issues have been raised" in a PIL challenging the "lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet minister" — accorded to Pratapsingh Rane, a six-time Chief Minister of Goa and a legislator for 50 years.

The unprecedented status was conferred on the octogenarian Congress leader this January by the state's earlier BJP government. Days after the announcement, Rane backed out of the Legislative Assembly election, even though he had already been declared the Congress candidate from his base of Poriem. His daughter-in-law Deviya Rane debuted from the seat on a BJP ticket and won by the highest margin in the state.

According to lawyer Aires Rodrigues, who has filed the PIL, this is the first time that any state government has taken such a step. The PIL was admitted on Monday,

and a division bench of Justices M S Sonak and R N Laddha will hear the case on May 2.

What is the "lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet minister" granted to Rane?

On January 6, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that the Cabinet had decided to accord this special status to Rane. "Mr Pratapsingh Raoji Rane, former Chief Minister and former Speaker (of the Goa Legislative Assembly) has completed 50 years as a legislator. The Cabinet has decided that in future also, those who complete 50 years and hold posts like CM and Speaker, like Pratapsingh Rane, will be given the Cabinet status even after their retirement," Sawant said.

The decision was taken a little more than a month before the February 14 Assembly elections. Earlier, a congratulatory motion had been passed in the Assembly for Rane, who first won the Sattari seat in 1972 and never lost an election thereafter.

What is the basis of the legal challenge?

Rodrigues has asked the High Court to quash the January 7 notification regarding "lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet minister" to Rane. He has contended that Goa has a 12-member Cabinet, and the Cabinet status on Rane raises the number of Cabinet ranks to 13, which is more than the ceiling mandated by the Constitution.

Stating that the very purpose of the 91st Amendment was to prevent jumbo Cabinets and the resultant drain of public money, Rodrigues has contended that the lifetime status granted to Rane was a "back door entry in wilful disobedience of the mandate of law".

The Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003 inserted clause 1A in Article 164, which says "the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State... provided that the number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State shall not be less than twelve". There



CM Pramod Sawant felicitates Pratapsingh Rane on completing 50 years as MLA in the Goa House in March 2021. *Twitter/@DrPramodPawant*

are 40 seats in the Goa Assembly.

Rodrigues told the court on Monday that as a Cabinet minister for life, Rane would be entitled to a staff of 12 (including OSDs, support staff, peons, and driver) which would

cost the exchequer Rs 90 lakh a year. The Cabinet rank would also entitle him to government accommodation, vehicle and unlimited free travel for him and his spouse, Rodrigues told *The Indian Express*.

The PIL stated: "Before granting the lifetime Cabinet status, the Cabinet did not obtain financial sanction from the Finance Ministry as required... The resolution was also tailor made to benefit only the Respondent no. 3 (Rane) for obvious reasons."

So why did the BJP take this decision?

In December 2021, the Congress had declared Rane as its candidate from the Poriem seat. Soon afterward, Rane's son and then state Health Minister Vishwajit Rane (who retains the portfolio in the current government), said that he would contest against his father on the BJP ticket. Vishwajit, an undefeated five-time lawmaker from the neighbouring Valpoi seat, had left the Congress in 2017 to join the BJP.

At a public rally that same month, the

BJP's Goa election incharge Devendra Fadnavis said that his party would soon receive "blessings" from the senior Rane. Fadnavis had earlier met Rane and sought the "blessing" that he should leave the Poriem seat for Vishwajit and the BJP.

The Ranes, who are among the politically most influential families in Goa, hold sway in the Sattari *taluka*, of which both the seats of Valpoi and Poriem are part.

There was some speculation initially about a possible father-son poll duel in Poriem. Eventually, Rane's decision to back out was seen as Vishwajit having prevailed over his father. While Vishwajit himself remained in Valpoi, his wife Deviya made a sensational debut in Poriem, bringing the seat to the BJP for the first time.

The PIL states that Rane, a Congress candidate at the time, was granted lifetime Cabinet status because he "was capable of toppling the ruling party's apple cart in Poriem, a *mala fide* strategy was adopted... to offer him a carrot not to contest elections"

THE WORLD

TOPOF THE WORLD



Vice-foreign minister Kentaro Uesugi (centre)

JAPAN

Amid China pact worry, envoy to visit Solomons

Tokyo: Japan is sending a vice-foreign minister to the Solomon Islands on Monday amid worry over a recent security agreement that South Pacific nation struck with China that could increase Beijing's military influence in the region. Vice-foreign minister Kentaro Uesugi's three-day trip to Solomon Islands comes on the heels of a visit by a senior US delegation, who warned that Washington would take unspecified action against the South Pacific nation should the security deal with China pose a threat to US or allied interests. The security pact, which China and the Solomons confirmed last week, has also alarmed neighbouring countries and Western allies that fear a military buildup in the region. **AP**

MALI

Group linked to Al-Qaida says captured Russians

Bamako: Islamic extremist rebels in Mali linked to al-Qaida said they have captured mercenary fighters from Russia's Wagner Group in fighting earlier this month. It's the first time that Mali's extremist rebels known as JNIM have claimed to capture Russian fighters. The Wagner Group fighters were seized in the first week of April in the mountainous Segou region of central Mali, said the JNIM statement, which called the fighters "criminals." **AP**

NEPAL

Four Indian tourists killed in car crash

Kathmandu: Four Indian tourists were among five people who were killed after their car collided head-on with a bus in Nepal's Dhading district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on Sunday night along Prithvi Highway in Thakre area, police said. The four were returning to Kathmandu after visiting Pokhara, a scenic city 200km from Kathmandu. The deceased have been identified as Bimalchandra Agrawal, 40, Sadhana Agrawal, 35, Sandhya Agrawal, 40, Rakesh Agrawal, 55, from UP. They died while undergoing treatment in a local hospital. **PTI**

EXPLOSIONS HIT MOLDOVA'S BREAKAWAY TRANSNISTRIA REGION

Russia hits rail, fuel facilities; US says Moscow failing in war aims

AGENCIES

KYIV, APRIL 25

RUSSIA UNLEASHED a string of attacks against Ukrainian rail and fuel facilities Monday, striking crucial infrastructure far from the front line of its eastern offensive, which Britain said has yet to achieve a significant breakthrough. Meanwhile, two fires were reported at oil facilities in western Russia. It was not clear what caused the blazes.

In meetings with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Sunday, the American secretaries of state and defence, Antony Blinken and Lloyd Austin said Washington had approved a \$165 million sale of ammunition for Ukraine's war effort.

"The strategy that we've put in place — massive support for Ukraine, massive pressure against Russia, solidarity with more than 30 countries engaged in these efforts — is having real results," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters in Poland the day after the meeting. "When it comes to Russia's war aims, Russia is failing. Ukraine is succeeding," he added.

In a video address Monday, Zelenskyy described his meeting with Blinken and Austin as "encouraging and effective."

Speaking Monday to top officials at the Prosecutor General's office, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the US and its allies have tried and failed to "split Russian society and to destroy Russia from within."

On Monday, Russia focused its firepower elsewhere, with missiles and war planes striking far behind the front lines, in an apparent bid to slow the movement of Ukrainian supplies toward the east and disrupt the flow of fuel needed by the coun-



(From left) US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during their meeting in Kyiv on Sunday. **AP**

try's forces. Oleksandr Kamyshin, the head of the state-run Ukrainian Railways, said five railway facilities in central and western Ukraine were hit. That included a missile attack near the western city of Lviv.

Ukrainian authorities said that at least five people were killed by Russian strikes in the central Vynnytsia region.

In Transnistria, a breakaway region of Moldova, several explosions believed to be caused by rocket-propelled grenades hit the Ministry of State Security. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and no injuries were immediately reported.

Meanwhile, a major fire erupted early Monday at an oil depot in a Russian city about 100 km from the Ukrainian border, Russia's Emergencies Ministry said.

EXPLAINED Why Russia has eyes on Transnistria

WHILE THE fighting in Ukraine is concentrated in the east, Transnistria, which hosts hundreds of Russian troops and has a large ethnic Russian population, occupies a strategically important spot on Ukraine's western flank, reaching within about 25 miles of Ukraine's chief port city, Odesa. Moldovan and Ukrainian militaries have been concerned whether Transnistria would enter the fighting as a base for attack from the west.



Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala. **Reuters**

Turkish philanthropist Kavala gets lifer

Istanbul: Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala was jailed for life without parole on Monday after he was convicted of trying to overthrow the government by financing protests.

Kavala, 64, has been in jail for 4-1/2 years without a conviction and denies the charges he faced over the Gezi protests, which began as small demonstrations in an Istanbul park in 2013 and snowballed into nationwide anti-government unrest.

The court also sentenced seven others to 18 years in jail each for aiding an attempt to overthrow the government and ordered their arrests. The court said it decided to acquit Kavala of espionage charges due to lack of evidence. **REUTERS**

Report: Sweden, Finland to apply to NATO

Stockholm: Two newspapers - one Swedish, the other one Finnish - are reporting that the governments of Sweden and Finland have agreed to submit NATO applications at the same time and that it will happen in the middle of next month.

The Finnish newspaper Iltalehti said the Swedish government has expressed a wish to Finland that they apply together in the week starting May 22 and Swedish government sources confirmed the information to Sweden's Expressen tabloid. Russia's invasion has led to growing support in Sweden and Finland for joining NATO. **AP**

Judge finds Donald Trump in contempt in NY legal fight

New York: A New York judge found former President Donald Trump in contempt of court and set in motion \$10,000 daily fines Monday for failing to adequately respond to a subpoena issued by the state's attorney general as part of a civil investigation into his business dealings.

Judge Arthur Engoron said a contempt finding was appropriate because Trump and his lawyers hadn't shown they had conducted a proper search for

JAPAN

WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON DIES AT 119

A Japanese woman believed to have been the world's oldest person has died aged 119, public broadcaster NHK said on Monday, reporting the death of Kane Tanaka. Born on Jan. 2, 1903 - the year of the Wright Brothers' first controlled flight of their motor-driven airplane - Tanaka was confirmed by Guinness World Records in 2019 as the oldest living person. She died of old age at a hospital in Fukuoka city, western Japan, on April 19, NHK said.



GOTABAYA READY FOR INTERIM GOVT: MONK

Sri Lanka Opposition says has numbers in Parliament, no-trust vote on cards

Lanka's debt restructuring to have impact on future loans: China



Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, APRIL 25

A SRI LANKAN dissident lawmaker, fired by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa from the Cabinet for his critical views, claimed on Monday that the Opposition has crossed the 113-mark required to win a no-trust motion against the government in the 225-member Parliament.

President Gotabaya had said he would hand over the government to any group that could muster 113 seats but would not step down from the presidency.

Udaya Gammanpila, who held the energy ministry portfolio before being sacked by Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is advocating an all-party interim government with the resignation of PM Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Gammanpila said with enough numbers of MPs breaking away from the government and with support from the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya, Marxist Janatha Vikramuthi Peramuna and the Tamil National Alliance, they are

assured of winning the no-trust vote. "We told the SJB to wait till we could get 113, now we have 120," he claimed.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the powerful Buddhist clergy, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said, while he respects the advice of the clergy, the changes, if any, in the system of governance must be made in line with the specified constitutional provisions. Rajapaksa expressed his intention to form the interim government in a letter to the powerful Buddhist clergy on Sunday.

China said it has "done its best" to help Sri Lanka not to default on its foreign debt. Chinese ambassador in Colombo Qi Zhenhong said on Monday. "China has done its best to help Sri Lanka not to default but sadly they went to the IMF and decided to default," Qi said. "The debt restructuring definitely will have an impact on future bilateral loans" he said, adding that China was still considering the Sri Lankan request for a \$1.5 billion buyer's credit and another \$1-billion loan.

SHANGHAI SEES 19,000 NEW CASES



Since Friday, Beijing has reported 70 locally transmitted cases in eight of its 16 districts. **Reuters**

Panic buying in Beijing as district starts mass testing

REUTERS & AP BEIJING, APRIL 25

BEIJING WILL conduct mass testing of most of its 21 million people, authorities announced Monday, as a new Covid-19 outbreak sparked stockpiling of food by residents worried about the possibility of a Shanghai-style lockdown.

Authorities in Chaoyang, home to 3.45 million people, late on Sunday ordered residents and those who work there to be tested three times this week as Beijing warned the virus had "stealthily" spread in the city for about a week before being detected.

"I'm preparing for the worst," said a graduate student in the nearby Haidian district surnamed Zhang, who placed online orders for dozens of snacks and 10 pounds of apples.

Shoppers in the city crowded stores and online platforms to stock up on leafy vegetables,

fresh meat, instant noodles and rolls of toilet paper.

In Shanghai, where most of its 25 million residents have been locked down for weeks, the main food supply bottleneck has been the lack of enough couriers to make deliveries to homes, fuelling anger among residents.

Since Friday, Beijing has reported 70 locally transmitted cases in eight of its 16 districts, with Chaoyang accounting for 46 of the total, said a local health official on Monday.

Shanghai, which has been locked down for more than two weeks, reported more than 19,000 new infections and 51 deaths in the latest 24-hour period, pushing its announced death toll from the ongoing outbreak to 138. On Monday morning, people queued at makeshift testing sites manned by medical workers in protective suits. Under mass testing campaigns in China, multiple samples are tested together. **NYT**

AKIHIKO KONDO IS IN A DEVOTED FICTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, SERVED BY VAST INDUSTRY AIMED AT SATISFYING DESIRES OF FAN CULTURE

This man married a fictional character and will like you to hear him out

BEN DOOLEY & HISAKO UENO TOKYO, APRIL 25

IN ALMOST every way, Akihiro Kondo is an ordinary Japanese man. He's pleasant and easy to talk to. He has friends and a steady job and wears a suit and tie to work. There's just one exception: Kondo is married to a fictional character.

His beloved, Hatsune Miku, is a turquoise-haired, computer-synthesised pop singer who has toured with Lady Gaga and starred in video games. After a decade-long relationship, one that Kondo says pulled him out of a

deep depression, he held a small, unofficial wedding ceremony in Tokyo in 2018. Miku, in the form of a plush doll, wore white, and he was in a matching tuxedo.

In Miku, Kondo has found love, inspiration and solace, he says. He and his assortment of Miku dolls eat, sleep and watch movies together.

Kondo, 38, knows that people think it's strange, even harmful. He knows that some — possibly those reading this article — hope he'll grow out of it. And, yes, he knows that Miku isn't real. But his feelings for her are, he says.

Kondo is one of thousands of people in Japan who have entered into unofficial marriages with fic-

tional characters in recent decades, served by a vast industry aimed at satisfying the every whim of a fervent fan culture. Tens of thousands more around the globe have joined online groups in which they discuss their commitment to characters from anime, manga and video games.

Kondo sees himself as part of a growing movement of people who identify as "fictosexuals." That's partly what has motivated him to publicise his wedding and to sit for awkward interviews with news media around the globe.

He wants the world to know that people like him are out there and, with advances in artificial intelligence and robotics allowing



Akihiro Kondo's wedding photo, taken in 2018 when he married a doll of Hatsune Miku in March 17, 2022. **NYT**

for more profound interactions with the inanimate, that their numbers are likely to increase.

It's not a political movement, he said, but a plea to be seen: "It's about respecting other people's

lifestyles." It's not unusual for a work of art to provoke real emotions — anger, sorrow, joy — and the phenomenon of desiring the fictional is not unique to Japan.

But the idea that fictional characters can inspire real affection or even love may well have reached its highest expression in modern Japan, where the sentiment has given rise to a highly visible subculture and become the basis for a thriving industry.

In Tokyo, two districts have become meccas for fulfilling character-based dreams: Akihabara (for men) and Ikebukuro (for women). Specialty shops in the neighbourhoods are packed with mer-

chandise for characters from popular games and anime.

The products for women are especially extensive. Fans can buy love letters from their crushes, reproductions of their clothes and even scents meant to evoke their presence. Hotels offer special packages, featuring spa treatments and elaborate meals, for people celebrating their favourite character's birthday. And on social media, people post photos, art and mash notes promoting their "oshi" — a term widely used by Japanese fans to describe the objects of their affection.

For some, the relationships represent a rejection of the entrenched "breadwinner-house-

wife" model of marriage in Japan, said Agnès Giard, a researcher at the University of Paris Nanterre who has studied such marriages.

"To the general public, it seems indeed foolish to spend money, time and energy on someone who is not even alive," Giard said. "But for character lovers, this practice is seen as essential. It makes them feel alive, happy, useful and part of a movement with higher goals in life."

In her experience, women see the fictional marriages as empowering, "a way to challenge gender, matrimonial norms." In some respects, Kondo's commitment, too, is an example of commercial and social forces at work. **NYT**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Gurbhaksh Singh S/o Rattan Singh R/o N-91, Main Khwala Road, Sham Nagar New Delhi 110018 have changed my name to Gurbaksh Singh

0040611297-1

I, Bimla Bhardwaj W/O, L.R. Sharma R/o 1/55 Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt. Delhi-110010 have changed my name to Bimla Sharma for all purposes.

0040611278-1

I, vikarant phogaat, S/o Bijender Singh phogaat, R/o-87/1, krishna-nagar, lane no.3&4, safdarjung-enclave, new delhi-110029, Have changed my name to Vikrant phogaat

0040611317-8

I, SABA NAZ, W/O, SAJID AHMED, ADD-B-422, GALI NO.-11, SUBHASH MOHALLA-NORTH GHONDA, NORTH EAST DELHI-110053, changed my name to SABA NAAZ, permanently.

0040611309-3

I, Ramesh Chandra, S/o ram ratan Bhatt, R/o c-1/308, third-floor, sector-17 rohini, delhi-110089, have changed my name to Ramesh Chandra bhatt.

0040611317-7

I, NAMRATA KUMARI VERMA, W/O, MUKESH BHARIA, ADD-88, INDRA VIHAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110009, changed my name to NAMRATA KUMARI, permanently.

0040611317-6

I, HARENDER SINGH RAWAT, S/O, H.NO.185, GALI NO.-6, UTTARANCHAL-ENCLAVE KAMALPUR BURARI, DELHI-110084, changed my name to HARINDER SINGH RAWAT, permanently.

0040611309-4

I, Karamjit Singh S/o Ajit Singh R/o H-no 505, Tower-B, Adhunik Appt, Saraswati Kunj-2, Wazirabad, Sec-52, Gurgaon HR-122003 have changed my name to Karamjit Singh Aneja.

0040611320-9

I, VASUNDHRA/VASUNDHRA GOMTE W/O NARENDRA GOMTE, R/O FLATNO.9111, TOWER-7, D2, GH.7, CROSSING REPUBLIC, GHAZIABAD, U.P.-201016, CHANGED MY NAME TO VASUNDHRA GOMTE.

0040611335-2

I, Umesh Chander, Umesh Kumar, Umesh Gupta, S/O Ram Chand Gupta, R/O-2994/4 3rd-floor, Shiv-Chowk, Rajee-Nagar Near-South Patel-Nagar, New Delhi-110008, have changed my Name UMESH CHAND GUPTA, For all, future Purposes.

0040611309-9

I, Subham Bhowmick S/o Asto Kumar Bhowmick R/o T-95 Gali No.2, Tukhmipur, Krawal Nagar, North East Delhi-110094, Have changed My Name To Apurva Bhowmick For All Purposes.

0040611324-6

I, Samya Mirza Baig W/o Ajmal Mirza R/o Flat No.424, Tower-Crema Mahagun Moderne, Sector-78, Noida G.B.Nagar (U.P.) have changed my name to Samia Mirza for all purposes.

0040611274-1

I, SHIVANSH THAPLIYAL, S/O BIMAL KISHORE THAPLIYAL, R/O E-322-A, MIG, SEC-11, PRATAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD UP.201009, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME ANSH THAPLIYAL TO SHIVANSH THAPLIYAL, FOR ALL PURPOSE.

0040611317-3

I, Rishab Jain, S/O Manoj Jain, R/O 21/7, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Rishab Jain.

0040611317-5

I, Rajeev Chopra S/o Sat Ketu Chopra R/o A-76, First Floor, Narang Colony, Janakpuri, Delhi-58, have changed my name to Rajiv Chopra.

0040611309-10

I, Raj Kumar S/o Mahender Kumar R/o-66 3rd-Floor Block-H, Pocket-5, Near Mandir Sector-11, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Raj Kumar Gupta for all, purposes.

0040611320-6

I, Rahul S/o Sh. Harish Kumar Juneja, R/O B-47, 1st-Floor, Street No.5, Mandawali Unchepar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Rahul Juneja, for all Purposes.

0040611317-2

I, RUPAL SHARAN, W/O PIYUSHSRIVASTAVA, R/O T-302, AMRAPALI SILICON CITY, SECTOR 76, NOIDA, GAUTAMBU DH NAGAR, U.P.-201301, changed My name to RUPAL SRIVASTAVA.

0040611335-3

I, Pradeep Bhuvana Chandran Sicily, S/o Bhuvana Chandran Nair, R/o B-140, G-1, Ext-II, Shalimar-Garden, Ghaziabad, UP, have changed my daughter's name, from Abigail Pradeep to Abigail, for all purposes.

0040611320-1

I, Palwinder Kaur W/o Inderjeet Singh, R/o WZ-38A, Mukharji Park, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Palvinder Kaur.

0040611309-8

I, Pal Kirankumari, W/o-Sh. Anil Kumar Bhagat, R/o-H.No.82, D-Block, Sector-1, Palam Village, South West, Delhi-110045, have changed my name Kiran Pal to Pal Kirankumari for all purposes. Kiran Pal and Pal Kirankumari both are same and one person.

0040611324-7

I, Neeru Kumar W/o Deepak Kumar R/o B-407, 4th-Floor, Umiya-Sadan Apartment, Plot-No.4, Sector-4, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Neeru Chugh.

0040611320-2

I, Neeraj Kumar S/o Mahender Kumar Jain, R/O 21/7, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Neeraj Kumar Jain.

0040611317-4

I, Nazia Khatoun, W/o-Mohd Imran Khan R/o-R-180/2, Gali No.9, Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Nazia Khanam.

0040611320-5

I, Megha D/o Subhash Chandra R/o W-16, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Megha Saxena.

0040611324-2

I, Meena, W/o-Mahesh Kumar, R/o 1/6, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College Of Nursing, Lajpat-Nagar, New Delhi-110024, changed my name to Geeta.

0040611309-2

I, MD SADIQ QURESHI, S/O ASHQIN QURESHI R/O-6518 MAIN ROAD, BARA HINDU RAO BARATOOTI, DELHI-110006, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SADIQ QURESHI FOR ALL PURPOSES

0040611324-3

I, Leena Heera W/o-Sanjeev Gupta, R/o B-6, Gali No.-23, Old Govind-Pura Fountain Park, Parvana Road, Jagatpuri, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Leena Gupta.

0040611309-5

I, Krishan Rani Singhal D/o Nihal Chand W/o Ashok Singhal R/o F-61, Preet Vihar, East Delhi-110092, Have Changed My Name To Krishna Singhal For All Purposes.

0040611324-5

I, Kiran Batra W/o Vasin Ahmad R/o G-1/270, Dail Mill Road, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, changed name to Kariman Salmani.

0040611335-1

I, Keswari Devi W/o, No.4048562 RFN, Lt Bhagwan Singh R/o, RZH-15/A, Gali, no.-11, Mahavir Enclave-I, ND-45, have changed my name to Kishori Davi Rawat vide affidavit.Dt.25.4.22.

0040611317-10

I, Kajal W/O-Shri Ajay Kumar, R/O R-154, Gali No-4, Mangol Puri, Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Raj Kumari for all purposes.

0040611324-4

I, HEMRAJ Bidaliya, HEM RAJ Bidalia Same parson, S/o RAM KRISHAN Bidalia, R/O-RZ-26B, DURG-VIHAR PHASE-I, Gali, No-18, NAJFARGARH, NEW west-Delhi-110043, IN From that has changed my Name, From HEMRAJ Bidaliya or HEM RAJ Bidalia to HEM RAJ, For all, Future Purposes.

0040611317-9

I, MOHANJEET SINGH, S/O JOGINDER SINGH, R/O MIG-Flat, No-40-C, Block-F, Navyug Adarsh Apartment CGHS-LTD, vikaspuri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to MOHANJIT SINGH.

0040611309-6

I, Deepak Rai, son of, Sant Kumar Rai House No.264, Niti-Khand-3, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, UP-201014, have changed my name, from Deepak Rai to Deepak Kumar Rai, for all future purposes

0040611324-1

I, Deepak Kumar, S/o Shyam Lal, R/o H.No-E-100, Gali, No.17B, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Deepak Kumar Kohli, for all purposes.

0040611328-7

I, Bharat Laroia, S/o Sh. Brahm Dutt Laroia, R/o-Block.No.11, House.No.15, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, inform that Bharat Laroia, Bharat Bhushan and Bharat Bhushan Laroia are one & the same person.

0040611317-1

I, Balwant Rai Kumar S/o Shree Kanshi Ram R/o B-407, 4th-Floor, Umiya-Sadan Apartment, Plot-No.4, Sector-4, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Balwant Rai.

0040611320-3

I, BALA RAM ROUT, S/o SANKAR SAN ROUT, H.NO.-118/1, BLOCK-J, SAURABH VIHAR, JAIPUR, NEW DELHI 110044, Changed my name to BALRAM ROUT.

0040611309-1

I, KM JYOTI, D/o JAI PRAKASH SINGH, R/O C/93, First Floor, Sector-22, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, PIN:201301, Uttar Pradesh, India, has changed my name to JYOTI SINGH for all future purposes.

0070782382-1

I, Anita Chaudhary, W/o Jagat Chaudhary R/o C-48, South Extension-1, New Delhi-110049, declare that Vimlesh & Anita Chaudhary is one and same person.

0040611309-7

I, Yash Sanjay Yadav S/O Sanjay Yadav, R/o J-502, Ajmera Infimty, Near, Wipro Gate -16, Electronics City Phase-1, Bangalore South, Electronics City, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Yash Yadav.

0070782403-1

I, Vijay Jindal, S/o Sat Prakash Jindal, R/o-542, Sector-19, Faridabad-121002, have changed my minor son name Deepak Jindal to Divish Jindal.

0070782374-1

I, Tamanna W/o Karan Saluja R/o C-312, 3rd Floor, New Panchwati, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Ishani Saluja for all purposes.

0040611299-1

I, Sumer Kumar Singh, S/o Late Ram Sundar Singh, R/o Chotpur, Baholpur, Sector-63 Noida, District, Gautam Buddh Nagar, UP-201307, have changed name of my daughter from Anu Kumari to Anu Singh for all future purposes.

0070782381-1

I, Shailendra Kumar R/o E-204, Sector- Gama -1, Greater Noida have changed the name of my Minor child aged 16yrs from SURYANSH VARSHNEY TO SURYAANSH VARSHNEY.

0070782351-1

I, Sarla, W/o Late Mahendra Pal Singh, R/o 11 D, Mohan Pura, Idgah, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001, have changed my name to Sarla Singh.

0070782368-1

I, Rashee Santosh Navlani, W/o Santosh Nirmaldas Navlani, R/o F-56, Richmond Park, Near Supermart-1, DLF City-4, Sector-43, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jyoti Santosh Navlani.

0070782396-1

I, Ram Swaroop Grover alias Ram Swaroop Grover, S/o Kishan Chand, R/o A-37, Mission Compound, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ram Swaroop.

0070782391-1

I, Dinesh Kumar S/o Satish Chandra R/o H.No.4, Gupta Park, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Dinesh Kumar Saxena.

0040611320-4

I, Parvinder Kumar, S/o Rajpal Saini, R/o-286, Ward-No-11, Saini Colony, Panipat-132103, Haryana, have changed my name to Parvinder Saini.

0070782369-1

I, Nitika Arora w/o Ajay Kumar Bhatjea r/o B-9, First Floor, Vishal Enclave, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027 have changed my name to NITIKA BHATEJA

0040611263-3

I, Munmun Khan W/O, Atanu Khan R/o 65 Ram Lochan Shire Street, PO- Belur Matha, Dist-Howrah PIN- 711202, State- WB have changed my name from Munmun Khan to Munmun Khan Barua vide Affidavit dated 20 Feb 2014 before Court of Id. Judicial Magistrate , 1st Class, Howrah.

0040611320-8

I, Madhu, W/O Chandni Prasad Sati, R/o RZ 24, Mahendra Park, Pankha Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mandodhari Devi Sati.

0070782366-1

I, Madhu Rani Lamba W/o G.K. Lamba R/o B-5/86, 2nd Floor, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi have changed my name to MADHU LAMBA for all future purposes

0070782357-1

I, Kavya Gaur, S/o Ajay Gaur, R/O D-402, Vrindavan Hight, Vrindavan Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Rudra Bhardwaj.

0070782386-1

I, Kanwar Sain S/o Om Prakash R/o E16/1388, Bapa Nagar, Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh, N.Delhi have changed my name to Kamal Kumar, for all purposes.

0040611265-1

I, Jyoti Ravi Vaswani, W/o Lokesh Chhabra, R/o-274 Sector-a and c vasant kunj, New Delhi-110070, hereby confirm that I, have now changed my name from Jyoti Ravi Vaswani to Jyoti as my given name and Surname as Chhabra from here on for all purposes.

0040611276-1

I, JASKARAN SINGH S/o Malkheet Singh r/o H.No.-265, GF, Pocket-18, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to KARAN.

0040611263-2

I, Har Dayal Singh Nage S/O Laxman Singh R/O RZ -B -280, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, New Delhi -110041 have changed my name to Hardayal Singh.

0070782350-1

I, Anil Kumar, S/o Bishambar Singh, R/o Hasanpur Bangar, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-202398, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sunil Kumar.

0070782387-1

I, Ajay Bhatjea S/o Lajpat Rai Bhatjea r/o B-9, First Floor, Vishal Enclave, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027 have changed my name to AJAY KUMAR BHATEJA.

0040611263-1

I, Anita Bala Bhola W/o-Sh.Naresh Kumar R/o C-2/86, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-34 have changed my Name To Anita Bala For All Purposes. That Anita Bala Bhola & Anita Bala is the one and same person.

0040611315-1

I, Adil Warsi S/O Mohammed Atique Warsi, R/o Flat-5, bldg-p1, Kamath Enclave, Coast Guard Residential Complex, Block-f, Sector 52, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammed Adil Warsi.

0070782385-1

I, Jyoti Jindal W/o Vijay Jindal R/o-542, Sector-19, Faridabad-121002 have changed my name to Babita Jindal Permanently

0070782375-1

I, Abhinav Mohan Jha, S/o Saroj Kumar Jha, R/o D-268 A, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009, that name of my father has been wrongly written as S K Jha in my Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is Saroj Kumar Jha.

0070782364-1

I, Rajvender Kaur W/O Manohar Singh Nagi R/O RZ -B -280, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, New Delhi -110041 have changed my name to Rajvinder Kaur.

0070782348-1

I, Vikash Jain son of Kailash Chand Jain, residing at B 203 Parsvanath Prestige, Sector 93A, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, PIN:201301, Uttar Pradesh, India, have changed my name to Vikash Kumar Jain for future all purpose.

0040611277-2

I, Rajendra Kumar s/o Shri Chhote Lal R/O 6/5 Village Jharera post gopi nath bazar delhi cantonment, 110010 have changed my name from Rajendra Kumar to Rajender Kumar Vide Affidavit dated 21-4-2022 No.II- DL22083444692968U

0040611273-1

I, Pardeep Singh W/o Gurbaksh Singh R/o N-91, Main Khwala Road, Sham Nagar, New Delhi 110018 have changed my name to Pardeep Kaur

0040611298-1

I, Joginder Singh R/o CRPF Quarter No.1694 Jyoti Kunj, Sector 16B, Dwarka 110078 My son name is Mayank in School Record, But My Child Correct Name is Mayank Singh as per aadhar card, In future he will be known as Mayank Singh for all Purpose.

0040611271-1

I, NIKITA D/O SH. RAJ KUMAR SHARMA, R/O H.No. A-1/12, Kirti Nagar, Jharsa Road, Gurgaon-122001, have changed my to NIKITA SHARMA, for all future purpose.

0040611028-3

LOST & FOUND

L,KA Senthamma, D/o Sh.Govindhan Kesava Panicker, R/o-44D, Pocket-1, Mayur-Vihar Ph-1, Delhi-91, have lost my original-Flat Possession-Letter of 44D, Pocket-1, Mayur-Vihar Ph-1, Delhi-91. Finder

0040611320-10

LOST my original Allotment, Possession Letter, Conveyance Deed, Letter for water & electricity, Perpetual Lease Deed, Payment challans, Copy of SPA in respect of Flat No. 254, Pkt 6, Site-3, Nasirpur (Now Sector 14 Dwaraka), New Delhi vide File No.F/177(1322)/1995/DW

0040611303-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clientess Smt. Priyanka Wahi, W/o Sh. Hershil Wahi, R/o M-109, 1st Floor, Guru Harisharan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi is the owner of property bearing Flat No.31, Pocket-13, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi. The original documents of the above said property have been snatched by Suresh Kumar Kankra and Romin Kankra on 04-04-2022 from my client. If above named persons deal with anybody with the same may be treated as null and void.

Sd/- (MANOJ KHATRI)

En. No. D/1781/199 Advocate

Ch. No. K-90, K.L. Sharma Block, Rohini Court Complex, Delhi-110085

GENERAL PUBLIC is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Harsheeta Homez through her Prop. Sh. Ajay Kaur has entered into collaboration agreement with Smt. Chander Kanta who is the owner of PROPERTY NO. VIB43, MEASURING 115 SQ. YDS. OUT OF TOTAL 200 SQ. YDS. OF KHASRA NO. 776, VIENDRE NAGAR, MOZZA TIHAR, NEW DELHI. NEW DELHI for construction & re-development of the said property. If any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property, he/she may intimate within 7 days to Niti Gang, Advocate. Thereafter any claim of claim will not be accepted.

Sd/- Nitin Gang

Advocate

Knowlax Law Associates

B-595, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110058

Mob.: 9958986393

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER That the undersigned THROUGH THEIR LEGAL ATTORNEY HEREBY DISAVOW, REPUDIATE AND FOREVER DISCHARGES and WAIVES any and all Claims against Sh. Rakesh Shukla or his successors or his family, New Delhi-110058, for construction & re-development of the said property. If any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property, he/she may intimate within 7 days to Niti Gang, Advocate. Thereafter any claim of claim will not be accepted.

Sd/- Vinod Kumar Bhargava

Advocate

Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

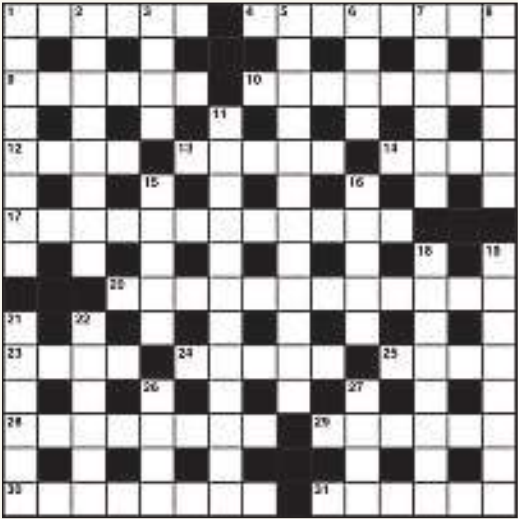
Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

Envt. No. D682/2022

CROSSWORD 4724



- ACROSS
1 Three of them make a quarter (6)
4 Ten heart operations could signal danger (8)
9 Faultless beginner? (6)
10 A place of grazing (8)
12 Medicine ball? (4)
13 Writer from the US (5)
14 It becomes inflamed by the lash (4)
17 Unable to say why you can't solve a crossword? (4,3,5)
20 Last thing an American can bet with? (6,6)
23 Just open a grating (4)
24 In time some fellows improve (5)
25 The French way to get fat (4)
28 To each in turn it appears unfinished (8)
29 Economic growth? (6)
30 Left in error (3,5)
31 Seem to be a soft fruit (6)
- DOWN
1 No other organisation can compete with it (8)
2 Love isn't unusual as the theme for her writings (8)
3 Kick from a horse (4)
5 Are tailors so addictive? (5-7)
6 Use a different name for Jacob's brother (4)
7 A number of European wars (6)
8 Ann set out for French city (6)
11 It's played for someone's benefit (7,5)
15 A measure in operation (5)
16 Being stupid I omit to include a phrase (5)
18 Feel a bit upset by a trifling annoyance (8)
19 One who hopes to get as good as he gives (8)
21 Share it with Nora perhaps (6)
22 Charm a number at a fashionable meeting (6)
26 Upwards of 101 meeting points (4)
27 Cut down on meat (4)

Solutions Crossword 4723: Across: 1 Right, 4 Arbler, 8 For, 9 Wineglass, 10 Thrifty, 11 Needy, 13 Dealer, 15 Danube, 18 Sheaf, 19 Towpath, 21 Franchise, 23 Ion, 24 Riposte, 25 Tense, 26 Refuted, 2 Germinate, 3 Towns, 4 Annoys, 5 Begonia, 6 Tea, 7 Rusty, 12 Education, 14 Effects, 16 Enhance, 17 Stripe, 18 Safer, 20 West, 22 Asp.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

When you are _____ about what you do, you feel this positive energy. It's very simple. - Paulo Coelho (12)

GMAEI
AEXNIT

HUISS
NPYCHU

Answer: When you are enthusiastic about what you do, you feel this positive energy. It's very simple. - Paulo Coelho

SUDOKU 4816

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4815

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. AMI/2022-23/NRCH/02 Date: 25.04.2022
Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system
Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, Central Hospital, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82220238	Ointment Containing Nimbusulide 10mg, Methyl Salicylate 100mg, Menthol 50mg, Capsaicin 0.25mg	88800 Nos	18.05.2022
2.	82221031	Infusion Human Serum Albumin 20%/100 ml	1370 Nos	25.05.2022

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
No. CEN/84/PRYJ/2023-01 Dated : 22.04.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. CE/Const.-II/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E- Tenders on prescribed form for the following works upto 15.00 hrs. on 16.05.2022. The details of the tenders are as under:-

S No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost of work (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion Period
1	CEN/2023-01	Miscellaneous Civil Works (Provision of Heavy Duty Height - Gauge Crash - barrier, GCCM Drain etc) in connection with new 3rd DN line between NYN (Naini) & PCOI (Cheoki) at PCOI Station Yard.	76,16,259.68	1,52,300	6 months

Date of Opening of tender : 16.05.2022
Eligibility criteria for similar work : Any Civil Engng. Work
Type of tendering : Single packet system

Note:-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 on the due date of tender opening i.e. 16.05.2022. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000 3. Payment of Earnest money deposit (EMD) and tender document cost (TDC) in respect of E-tendering should be accepted through Net-Banking or payment gateway only. 4. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 5. Joint Venture (JV)/ Consortiums/MOUs shall be considered for the tender having cost more than 10 Cr. 6. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document in standard format for all items without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 8. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date on each page). Only those documents which are declared explicitly by the tenderer as "documents supporting the claim qualifying the land down eligibility criteria", will be considered for evaluation his/their tender. In case of any wrong information submitted by the tenderer, the contract will be terminated, earnest money (EMD), Performance Guarantee (PG and Security Deposit (SD) of contract will be forfeited and agency will be banned for doing business on entire Indian Railways for five (5) years. 9. GST Act & rules issued from time to time by the Government authorities shall be applicable. 10. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 11. Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on 16.05.2022 and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. on same day.

474/22 (SP)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

PROCUREMENT OF TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TAMPING TOOLS
Tender Notice No. SSE/TM42/21-22; dated: 18-04-2022. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: SSE/TM42-21-22. Name of Work: Procurement of Tungsten Carbide Tamping Tools for 3 nos MFI machine. Each set of TCTT for MFI consisting of TCTT as per RD50 specification no. TM/HMS/320 rev-03 of July 2018 (i) (P) (P) (P) Part No. CU-30-10840-FR-1 (RD50 drawing no. RD50/TM154/16) (Qty-8 nos.) (ii) (P) (P) (P) Part No. CU-30-6540-FR-1 (RD50 drawing no. RD50/TM154/16) (Qty-4 nos.) (iii) (P) (P) (P) Part No. CU-30-2743-FR-1 (RD50 drawing no. RD50/TM101B/16) (Qty-4 nos.) Estimated Cost: ₹13,38,738/-. E-tender will be closed upto 15:00 hrs. and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. on 18-05-2022. The complete information with tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 14:30 hrs at 18-05-2022 in website www.ireps.gov.in On 16/05/2022

WESTERN RAILWAY
SUPPLY OF 10 MM THICK CGRSP FOR WIDER SLEEPER
Tender Notice No.WTR/17/2022/03 dated 25.04.2022 for tender on a procurement mode only are invited by Chief Engineer (Track Supply), Head Quarter Office, Old Building, 2nd floor, Churchgate, Mumbai: 400002 for supply of the following items:- Tender No.: 226004. Short Description : 10mm thick CGRSP for wider sleeper conforming to drg. no.T-8747 Alt-1. Tender Quantity : 16309155 Nos. Date of closing tender : 31.05.2022. Time of closing of E-tender Box: 11.30 hrs on the date of closing of tender. For detailed tender conditions/Corrigendum please visit www.ireps.gov.in 0061
Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, (Patiala) CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number: 96461-08405)
Tender Enquiry No. 35/CE/Thermal (D)/2022-23 Dt: 21.04.2022
Dy. CE/Projects under THERMAL DESIGNS ORGANISATION PSPCL, Patiala Shed No. T-2, Thermal (D) Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites tender notice for Utilization of Dry Fly Ash at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 27.04.2022. (11.00 AM onwards).
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C-145/22 13711/PB

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of **O.A. No. 846/2021**
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK Vs M/S DIVYANSHU ENTERPRISES AND ORS
Applicant Defendants
D-1 M/S DIVYANSHU ENTERPRISES (THROUGH ITS PARTNER)
REGD OFFICE AT: PLOT NO. 680, PACE CITY-II, SECTOR-37, GURUGRAM-122001 ALSO AT: 1384, SECTOR-10A, NEAR COMMUNITY CENTRE, GURUGRAM-122001 ALSO AT: NEAR POST OFFICE, HARSOLI, ALWAR-301403, RAJASTHAN
D-2 MR. PANKAJ SHARMA S/O SH. KRISHAN KUMAR, PARTNER M/S DIVYANSHU ENTERPRISES, PLOT NO. 680, PACE CITY-II, SECTOR-37, GURUGRAM-122001 ALSO AT: 86 B, LIG FLATS, PHASE-I, KATWARIA SARAI, OUTAN ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110016 ALSO AT: 1384, SECTOR-10A, NEAR COMMUNITY CENTRE, GURUGRAM-122001 ALSO AT: F-295, NEW RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060 ALSO AT: NEAR POST OFFICE, HARSOLI, ALWAR-301403, RAJASTHAN
D-3 MS MONIKA SHARMA W/O SH. PANKAJ SHARMA, PARTNER M/S DIVYANSHU ENTERPRISES, PLOT NO. 680, PACE CITY-II, SECTOR-37, GURUGRAM-122001 ALSO AT: 86 B, LIG FLATS, PHASE-I, KATWARIA SARAI, OUTAN ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110016 ALSO AT: 1384, SECTOR-10A, NEAR COMMUNITY CENTRE, GURUGRAM-122001 ALSO AT: F-295, NEW RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060 ALSO AT: NEAR POST OFFICE, HARSOLI, ALWAR-301403, RAJASTHAN
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 30.05.2022 at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the **Cisco Webex** application/Software;
(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No 23748469.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 22nd day of April, 2022.
By Order of the Tribunal

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
No. 1118 /WE, Dt:- 20.04.2022
e-procurement Notice
1. Name of the Work :- "Building Works."
2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 352.05 Lakh and 433.92 Lakh (Approximate)
3. Time for completion :- 15 (Nine) Calendar Months including rainy season
4. No of Work :- 2 (Two) Nos
5. Summary for key dates :-
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender on-line for bidding Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification Date & Time of opening of Tender

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	N.C.B. No.- 327	30.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	17.05.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.	13.05.2022 Up to 5.00 P.M.	18.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Any other changes/corrigendums may be seen only in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/- Er. S.K. Mishra
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore
OIPR-25105/11/0005/2223

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. 0620222023 Dated 18.04.2022
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to 13:30 hrs. on 18.05.2022. The details of the Tender are as under:-

S Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
1, 33	Annual Civil Maintenance work from ALJN To Khurja (excl) and up to Harduaganj Branch Line for period ending 30.06.2023 under ADEN/ALJN.	95,00,000.00	1,50,000.00
2, 34	Annual Civil Maintenance work from Khurja Jn. To Chhapana Buzurg for period ending 30.06.2023 under ADEN/ALJN.	95,70,000.00	1,91,400.00
3, 35	Annual Civil Maintenance work from PORJA to ALJN (excl.) and including HRS-HRF Branch Line for period ending 30.06.2023 under ADEN/TITDL.	73,00,000.00	1,46,000.00
4, 36	Annual Civil Maintenance work from TDL (excl.) to Poraj (excl.) including ETH-BRN Branch Line for period ending 30.06.2023 under ADEN/TITDL.	78,00,000.00	1,56,000.00

Completion Period: For Sl. No. 1 to 4: 30.06.2023. Date of Opening of tender: For Sl. No. 1 to 4: 18.05.2022, Eligibility Criteria for similar Work: For Sl. No. 1 to 4: Any Civil Engineering Work.
NOTE: (1) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (2) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 18.05.2022. (3) Bids other than in the form of E-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (4) The tenderers shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (5) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (6) The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC July 2020 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as incomplete offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 457/22(R)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Yours is not the only sign that is subject to epic astrological configurations as the planets form and re-form their patterns across your chart. Now you have more to learn about personal relationships than almost anyone else, and most to benefit.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
It's strange how a state of uncertainty internationally is reflected in changing arrangements in your life. The key is the stars' tendency to act on many different levels both in your private affairs and in your environment, and in your community.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
There is no real lack of co-operation or consideration on the part of partners, yet it may still be difficult to finalise any long-term plans, largely because the planetary picture is changing so rapidly this week. You're on a long-range cycle of uncertainty, so don't expect instant results.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
It now seems without question that your planets are pulling you in two directions. Mars is insisting that you get out and about, mixing widely and making new friends, while Venus is urging you to hide yourself away with a chosen loved one, forgetting the cares of the world.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's necessary to say a few more words about your financial situation. In particular, you can expect to gain from new partnerships, especially with members of the female sex, or from investments in the arts. Your most dynamic partnership, though, may still be a secret.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Take extra care when travelling over the next few days, and allow for last-minute changes of plan, probably prompted by close partners. Delays due to mechanical failure seem to be less likely, but there is some other obstacle in the way, no more than your lack of confidence.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
This period favours domestic repairs and decorations around the home. The emphasis seems to be on luxury and colour rather than on what is necessary for your security or survival. There is so much to gain from a generous gesture, so don't hold back.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
We are now entering another major challenging phase, during which events that took place months ago may be repeated, though not in exactly the same form. The immediate task now is to put new relationships on a firm footing and fulfil your long-term promises.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
The reason why someone feels that you alone can get them off the hook is that they sense the presence of the wise planet, Jupiter, in a part of your chart that is dedicated to selfless deeds, a truly noble combination. There still seems to be no way to restrict the explosion in your expenses, but a solution will appear soon.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
According to one of the greatest astrologers of the last century, the transits you are now experiencing may operate in one of two ways. One is 'vain and idle', the other is 'reckless and revolutionary'. You clearly have great scope for stirring up your friends and your environment. Use it wisely.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
In your solar chart, the signs of Capricorn and Cancer reveal much about your creative desires in the broadest sense - the wish to express your individuality on the highest level. These celestial signs' importance points you to the deeper significance of your current ambitions.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Home, family and property matters do not seem to be causing particular concern at the moment, at least not as much as earlier in the year. You may therefore bring your attention to bear on more wide-ranging ambitions, particularly if an emotional tie is under scrutiny.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number: 96461-18774)
Tender Enquiry No.: MQP-198/2022-23/PR Dated: 25.04.2022
CE/Meeting, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for procurement of 400 no. -5 Amp, 11KV/110V, DLMS Compliant AC, 3 Phase, 4 wire C/T/PT operated fully Static and AMR compatible HT Tri vector Feeder Energy meters (CATEGORY A) of accuracy class 0.2S and Empanelment of technically eligible firms for private sale of above material. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 25.04.2022. (02.00 PM onwards).
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C146/22 13712/PB

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department
Notification for tender No.01/CAMPA/2022-23 dated 25.04.2022
The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department (JKFD) invites proposals for hiring of services of reputed and experienced agencies to undertake third party evaluation of activities under different components of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) executed by the Forest and allied Departments during 2019-20 to 2021-22, covering all forest divisions of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.
For details of RFP, please visit the official website of J&K Forest Department at www.jkforest.gov.in and www.jkforest.gov.in
The last date for receipt of tender is 16 May 2022 at 3:00 PM
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Chief Executive Officer, J&K CAMPA
Van Bhanan, Below Gumar Jammu-180001
jkcampa2022@gmail.com
DIPK-1130/22

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
School Education Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar
NOTICE
Subject: Publication of Advertisement notice for the post of Chairman, JKBOSE and Director JKSCERT.
Department of School Education, JKUT has invited application forms for Appointment to the post of Director, JKSCERT (JKUT) and Chairman JKBOSE from the eligible candidates of the country as given in the advertisement notice available on the official website of School Education Department jkeducation.gov.in For submission of SCERT application filled in all respect the mail address is scertappointment2022@gmail.com and for submission of JKBOSE application filled in all respects the mail address is jkboseappointment2022@gmail.com
Desirous and eligible candidates are informed to download application form from above website and submit the complete filled application form by or before 25th May 2022 on the above mentioned emails and hardcopy (pdf format) shall be send on the official address of Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department, Srinagar/Jammu against proper acknowledgement.
In case of any issue please contact Mr. Umesh Sharma (Deputy Secretary to Government, School Education Department) Cell No. 7006650198 or 7006862165.
Sd/-
(Naseer Ahmad Wani) JKAS
Additional Secretary to Government
School Education Department
DIPK-1105/22

BRIEFLY

Badminton Asia Championships: Sen, Sindhu eye medals

Manila: Focus will be on two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu and world championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen when they lead India's challenge at the Badminton Asia Championships, beginning here on Tuesday. A lot of hope will ride on Sen and Sindhu as the duo has been in good form in the run-up to the continent championships, which is returning after a gap of two years due to COVID-19.

WTA not returning to China in 2022

Mumbai: The WTA is still working to find a resolution to the standoff with China over the Peng Shuai issue but will not return to the country this year, Tour chief Steve Simon said. "We remain dedicated to finding a resolution to this," Simon told The Tennis Podcast. "We want to find a resolution that Peng can be comfortable with, the Chinese government can be comfortable with, and we can be comfortable with. We are not about walking away from China. We have suspended our operations there right now. We will continue to do that until we get to a resolution."

Asian Games will go ahead in Sept: OCA

Mumbai: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has requested an update from Beijing on the COVID-19 situation in China but remains confident the Asian Games will go ahead in Hangzhou in September, a senior official at the body told Reuters on Monday. The Games are scheduled to take place from Sept. 10-25 in the capital of Zhejiang province, some 175 kilometres southwest of Shanghai. A senior official, speaking under condition of anonymity, said the OCA had been in contact with Chinese officials but there was "as of now" no concern about cancellation or postponement.

Barca lose, Madrid 1 point from title

Madrid: Barcelona lost 1-0 to Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, marking the first time it lost three in a row at home in all competitions in the same season, and leaving leader Madrid just a point away from winning its second league title in three seasons. Madrid will have its first chance of lifting the trophy Saturday when it hosts Espanyol. Madrid is 15 points ahead of second-place Barcelona with five rounds to go.

Sharath wins 10th national TT title

Shillong: Star paddler A Sharath Kamal secured his 10th national title with a thrilling 4-3 win over G Sathianjan in the men's singles summit clash at the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships here on Monday. The 39-year-old dropped his racquet and ran around the arena to celebrate his triumph after Sathianjan's return went out, giving him the last point for a 7-11, 12-10, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-6 wins.

PTI, AP & REUTERS

The Dhawans show

Rishi in the final over, backed by Rabada and Arshdeep, and Shikhar with the bat, help PK pip CSK



Mayank Agarwal and Rishi Dhawan celebrate after the latter dismissed MS Dhoni in the final over.

All pics: Sportzpics for IPL

SYNOPSIS: After Dhawan guided Punjab to 187, Rabada and Arshdeep squeezed CSK at the death despite Rayudu's counter-attack

ABHISHEK PUROHIT

MUMBAI, APRIL 25

IN A near-repeat of Sunday's game at Wankhede Stadium, Shikhar Dhawan's unbeaten 88 lifted Punjab Kings to 187 for 4. Ambati Rayudu's 78 off 39 turned around a misfiring chase but Kagiso Rabada sent him back with two overs left, and MS Dhoni wasn't able to reprise his last-over heroics from Chennai Super Kings' previous game against Mumbai Indians.

Monday follows Sunday

The match was played on the same side pitch on which Lucknow Super Giants defeated Mumbai Indians a day ago. And at the halfway stage of the first innings, both LSG and PK were on the exact score - 72 for 1.

Stroke-making proved to be difficult again, especially at the start, on an already sticky surface that was being used on successive nights. Even the field placings were the same; deep point and deep square leg were the two deep fielders in the powerplay, with both third man and fine leg in the ring. With CSK's three spinners in action in helpful conditions, for a while it looked like they were operating at Chepauk. But PK would go on to take 115 off the last ten overs; LSG had managed 96.

One of the differences was CSK's twin drops of Bhanuka Rajapaksa in successive overs from Ravindra Jadeja right after the powerplay. Rutturaj Gaikwad and Mitchell Santner were the culprits on either side of the longer square leg-side boundary. Rajapaksa scored 42 off 32 helped along by misfield and poor deliveries in addition to the drops. He and Dhawan added 110 for the second wicket in 11.3 overs. Rajapaksa departed probably an over or two too late than what PK would have wanted, delaying the arrival of Liam Livingstone until the 18th over. But it also meant the English all-rounder came in with a clear mindset and did not

IPL TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
GT	7	6	1	12	0.396
SRH	7	5	2	10	0.691
RR	7	5	2	10	0.432
LSG	8	5	3	10	0.334
RCB	8	5	3	10	-0.472
PBKS	8	4	4	8	-0.419
DC	7	3	4	6	0.715
KKR	8	3	5	6	0.080
CSK	8	2	6	4	-0.538
MI	8	0	8	0	-1.000

have to think about batting longer in tricky conditions. Livingstone and Jonny Bairstow scored a combined 25 off ten balls, helping PK post 19 more than LSG had.

Dhawan takes it deep

Continuing the similarities from Sunday night, Dhawan batted through the first innings, like KL Rahul had, but with not as much late acceleration in an 88 off 59. Rahul had taken on the longer square rope and beaten the boundary riders with deft placement. What Dhawan did instead was make good use of the shorter side. He made sure the offerings on the pads disappeared past short fine leg. He also logged a couple of sixes over the shorter deep-midwicket boundary.

Dhawan may not be the tallest but all his moving around and arching enables him to have a decent reach. When the longer boundary was in play to his stronger off-side, he ensured CSK's helpful overpitched offerings were lofted over mid-off or driven past him for fours. It was Dhawan who started the PK acceleration with three fours in the 12th over bowled by Mukesh Choudhary, the left-arm seamer's natural incoming angle allowing Dhawan to line him up.

Rayudu steps in

The parallels with Sunday night just kept

coming. CSK's chase was foundering just like Mumbai Indians' had, both top orders failing to get going. And while Tilak Varma had threatened an MI revival for a while, Ambati Rayudu went a step ahead and got CSK close. Rayudu had hurt his left forearm at cover trying to stop a drive off the third ball of the game from Mayank Agarwal, and had spent the rest of the innings off the field.

He walked in at 40 for 3 after seven overs, and smacked his second ball from Rahul Chahar to the extra-cover boundary. The forcing cut, the massive slog-sweep, the charge-and-swish - whenever the asking-rate seemed to be getting out of hand, Rayudu had the boundary waiting.

A 23-run 16th over off Sandeep Sharma, playing his first match in nearly a month, brought the equation back to around two runs a ball. Rayudu swiped and slashed three successive sixes and ended the over with a dash to hammer a four over midwicket. There didn't seem to be much dew given there wasn't much ball-wiping from the PK fielders, but Sandeep still delivered high full tosses. And long boundary or not, Rayudu was not missing out.

But just when it seemed Rayudu's momentum would carry CSK home, Kagiso Rabada intervened, landing one around the blockhole and sending Rayudu back.

Arshdeep, Rishi see off Dhoni

Dhoni arrived with 35 needed off 13 and like Jaydev Unadkat in CSK's previous match, he had another left-arm in his sights - Arshdeep Singh, who bowled the 19th. But the young seamer stuck to the full length and wide angle across Dhoni to the longer boundary. Dhoni got one away past extra cover, but Agarwal there had already prevented one, and Arshdeep denied Dhoni off two other deliveries.

Ravindra Jadeja's inability to find the boundary meant CSK required an improbable 27 off the last over. And in his first IPL game in six years, Rishi Dhawan was good enough to bring up a comfortable victory.

BRIEF SCORES: Punjab Kings 187 for 4 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 88; Dwayne Bravo 2/42) bt Chennai Super Kings: 176 for 6 in 20 overs (Ambati Rayudu 78; Kagiso Rabada 2/23) by 11 runs

PLAYING TONIGHT

Indian Premier League

RCB vs RR, 7:30pm, Live on Star Sports Network

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

Livingstone's hips don't lie

From the 14-15h over on, Kings XI Punjab might well have thought about retiring out Bhanuka Rajapaksa. He had done his job and was only delaying the entry of Liam Livingstone. As it turned out after he hit a six in the 13.3, Rajapaksha only faced 7 balls, dealing in singles, over the next four overs before he sacrificed his wicket, going for a slog. Enter Livingstone, the modern-day Nathan Astle with his array of shots, going boom boom in a 7-ball 19 cameo. He is one of the clean hitters, who likes to go in the arc between long-off to long-on. Early on his career, by his own admission, he would obsess over the hitting style of Jos Buttler but re-



alised that Buttler was gifted with a wonderfully malleable wrists that powered his shots, and instead strived to be his original self. "I had got too whippy with my wrists", he started to work on having a strong base in his stance ("I used to lose quite bit of power with too wide a base"), move his back hip - which he reckons is his key - and smash through the line. He makes sure he doesn't have too long a front stride which renders the use of his hips a touch ineffective. "At point of contact, I make sure I whip my hips through which is where all my power comes from," he once told Sky Sports. He whipped his hips to lift Punjab over a par score.

Jadeja, captain cool

Ravindra Jadeja didn't have too much of the captaincy in the early part of the IPL with MS Dhoni being the conductor-in-chief on the field.

But one characteristic of the former skipper has rubbed off on the new one - the poker face. CSK were using a tried and tested formula of slowing down the ball on a used pitch at the Wankhede. Spinners Mahesh Teekshana and Mitchell Santner bowled four of the six Powerplay overs and along with medium pacer Mukesh Choudhary had kept things tight. The skipper, a dangerous left-arm spinner who gives no room to batsmen to free their arms, came into the attack in the seventh. He would have had two wickets against his name if not for the butter-fingered fielders. Punjab's Banuka Rajapaksa decided to take him on but was dropped by Rutturaj Gaikwad in the deep square leg region. In Jadeja's second over, Santner let the ball spill through his hands for a six at deep midwicket. The beneficiary was Rajapaksa again. If Jadeja was losing his cool he didn't show it. No expletives, not a hint of frustration on his face. He just looked away and got back to his bowling mark. A captain with a deadpan face has been one of CSK's success mantras.



Channel 9 duck emoji

Mayank Agarwal is almost Justin Langer in his responses to his dismissals. Not quite, as Langer would act as if he were robbed even when his stumps would have gone for a walk. But the disappointment and shake of head is pretty similar with Mayank. He has had a lot of head-shakes to do this IPL, repeatedly getting out cheaply and trudging off with one of the more expressive reactions of sadness in modern-day cricket. He would look to the heavens, shut his eyes, shake his head again and again, and like a true masochist, would catch the replay of his dismissal on the big screen and do it all over again. Then one more time in the dressing room after he catches the replay on the television. There is also another small clue that he isn't batting well. That mad risky suicidal single after tapping to mid-off. Hlt was a pretty short delivery from Maheesh Thikshana and he went too hard with his cut and sent a dolly to point. It triggered his expressive reaction as he walked back. In some ways, he is like that old Channel Nine duck emoji that would accompany the batsman, shaking and quacking under its breath. Hotstar could well do to create an Mayank emoji or even better, a GIF, for such occasions.



Butter.fingers.will.pay

Unless you are Jonty Rhodes, fielding coaches rarely get the spotlight. But that rule changes if a team drops a series of catches and their fielder on the fence turns twos into fours. After Rutturaj Gaikwad and Mitch Santner failed to hold on to simple catches and a couple of diving efforts went futile, the question that was begged to be asked was: Who is CSK's fielding coach? He is Raviv Kumar, a 5000 plus-runs domestic giant who has played for Bihar and Jharkhand. He replaced the reputed Aussie coach Steve Rixon a few years back. Raviv was Dhoni's captain at Jharkhand and is a go-to man for any MS update for the media. At the next CSK



nets, expect the old friends to organise a draining fielding session for the team.

'No DISCRIMINATION'

Smith cleared of racist decision-making as skipper & Director of Cricket

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

APRIL 25

FORMER SOUTH Africa skipper Graeme Smith has been cleared of charges of racist behaviour during his captaincy tenure and his time as the Board's Director of Cricket. The allegations were parsed by an arbitration panel arising from the earlier Social Justice and Nation Building (SJNB) hearings of Cricket South Africa.

The arbitration stated that Smith's actions could not be proved to constitute unfair racial discrimination or evince racial bias. The SJNB Ombudsman had assessed allegations against Smith, who was captain of the national men's cricket team from 2003 to 2014 and later CSA's first Director of Cricket (DoC) in December 2019.

The issues that came in for scrutiny as mentioned in the 95-page report of the arbitration:

Omission of Thami Tsolekile

CASE: The Ombudsman's tentative findings had pointed a finger at Smith who "likely had some influential role in decisions be-

tween 2012 and 2014 not to select Mr Thami Tsolekile for the Proteas."

The controversy concerns SA's series against England and Australia touring, and when hosting New Zealand in 2012-13. "Mr Tsolekile testified that, around the time he was awarded his contract, selector (Andrew) Hudson told him, while he was unlikely to play against England or Australia, he could or would play in the home series against New Zealand. Mr Hudson, in his statement, denies that it was a guarantee, but said he told Mr Tsolekile he was likely to get his shot against New Zealand. Whatever Mr Hudson told Mr Tsolekile, there is no claim that Mr Smith gave any assurances - for or against Mr Tsolekile - at this time. It was not even alleged by CSA that Mr Smith was aware of any promise," the report reads.

ARGUMENTS: While the captain is not a member of the selection panel, he "is entitled to freely and strongly indicate his preferences in selection." Tsolekile contended that after Mark Boucher injured his eye and subsequently retired, De Villiers stepped in as the back-up 'keeper, even as Tsolekile was called up. Hudson explained the selectors' thinking as follows: "De Villiers taking the



Graeme Smith wasn't found guilty of discriminating against Thami Tsolekile as captain or of bias against Black leadership at CSA. File

wicketkeeping gloves gave the team the 'X factor' and allowed us, the selectors, to select an extra batter at No. 7." The statement was put to Tsolekile who agreed with the proposition that this was "a strategy."

Smith's evidence pointed that Boucher's injury created "an opportunity to bring in Mr

The arbitration stated Smith's actions could not be proved to constitute unfair racial discrimination or evince racial bias

Jean-Paul Duminy who was a frontline top-order specialist batsman. In turn, that lengthened your batting line up with seven top batting performers."

South Africa's Transformation Policy - the guiding principle - was argued, given there was no Black African in the Proteas team that played the Tests in England. There were, however, five coloured players - Hashim Amla, Alviro Petersen, Vernon Philander, JP Duminy and Imran Tahir - who played all four Tests.

"Again, Mr Smith did not speak against Mr Tsolekile, or in his favour. He accepted the strategy followed by the selectors that had been successful in England. Mr Tsolekile himself did not complain about his treatment at the time, or in his evidence. He appeared to accept that the same "cricketing reasons" that justified selecting Mr De Villiers

in England still applied in Australia."

However, not being picked for the New Zealand series aggravated Tsolekile's unhappiness as it became clear de Kock would be next in line. Selector Linda Zondi testified: "Mr Smith did not influence the decision of the selectors not to select Mr Tsolekile as a wicketkeeper by reason of his race."

CONCLUSION: "There is no direct evidence, concerning the England tour, that Mr Smith actively influenced the selectors to exclude Mr Tsolekile from the playing XI. Instead, it appears to be accepted that Mr De Villiers was selected because of his ability, not because of his race." While the arbitration concluded that Smith did wield influence, it could not establish Tsolekile's omission had racist reasons.

Boucher/Nkwe issue

CASE: This concerned the appointment of Mark Boucher as Proteas Head Coach and if it amounted to racial discrimination with respect to Enoch Nkwe. The latter, a Black, had obtained a Level 4 coaching certificate - the highest available one - and coached one of South Africa's professional teams - Highveld Lions - winning Coach of the Year

award and served as interim coach of the Proteas on the tour to India in 2019. Boucher had played international cricket for 12 years. Smith was keen on finding a coach who could pick the pieces after the disastrous 2019 World Cup, and went for "international experience" with England due to tour soon.

Smith was accused of not following a formal process of gathering CVs and interviewing candidates, and preferring Boucher.

ARGUMENTS: Smith testified that CSA was aware of his idea to appoint Boucher and did not object to his preference or insist on a process, but approved of the choice. The report reads: "His given reasoning - a head coach of a national team is an extremely high pressurised position, you are at the cold face of the world media, the world crowds, people don't care about CSA's equity proposition, they care about results, and I felt that CSA and the team at the time needed someone that had extensive experience in dealing with conditions, with the pressures that come with the international game."

CONCLUSION: Though the process followed was unsatisfactory, and Nkwe received an unfair deal, this did not amount to "indirect discrimination" by Smith.

Nataraj breaks meet record on Day 2 of Khelo India Games

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