

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Heralding Peace Fuelling Progress in Assam

APRIL
28
2022



Karbi Anglong



Dibrugarh

RALLY FOR PEACE, UNITY & DEVELOPMENT

Foundation stone laying for

- **College of Veterinary Science**

Manja, Karbi Anglong

- **College of Agriculture**

Kolonga, West Karbi Anglong

- **Model Government College**

Umpanai, West Karbi Anglong

Creating human resources, boosting agriculture & animal husbandry and empowering youth through modern education

State-wide launch of

- **2,985 Amrit Sarovars**

75+ water bodies of one hectare area each in every district for water conservation and livelihood generation

By Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Venue: Loringthepe, Karbi Anglong
Time: 11:30 a.m.

Inauguration of Dibrugarh Cancer Centre

Venue: AMCH, Dibrugarh
Time: 2.20 p.m.

Inauguration of 6 Cancer Centres

Barpeta | Tezpur | Jorhat
Darrang | Kokrajhar | Lakhimpur

Foundation stone laying for 7 Cancer Centres

Goalpara | Dhubri | Nagaon | Golaghat
Sivasagar | Tinsukia | Nalbari

By Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Venue: Khanikar, Dibrugarh
Time: 3.05 p.m.

A joint initiative of Government of Assam and Tata Trusts

3-level distributed cancer care model

South Asia's single largest affordable cancer care network of 17 hospitals under Assam Cancer Care Foundation

Facilities

Chemotherapy | Robotic Surgery | Bone Marrow Transplant
Diagnostic and Advance Imaging
Nuclear Medicine | Stem-Cell Research

Join the Event Live at



@cmofficeassam



@diprassam



@mygovassam

ओएनजीसी ONGC

EASTERN OFFSHORE ASSET & HPHT ASSET, KAKINADA (A.P.)

GLOBAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

ONGC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from global Oil & Gas companies with requisite technical expertise and financial strength to join as partner (with Participative Interest) for firming up a viable strategy in the following fields: (A) Development of the **Deen Dayal West (DDW): High Pressure High Temperature Field in KG-OSN-2001/3 Block (Offshore -Bay of Bengal)** to put the field on production. (B) Appraisal and development of the **Ultra deep discoveries in Cluster-III, NELP Block KG-DWN-98/2.** (A) DDW: Office of Asset Manager, EOA & HPHT Asset, Kakinada latest by **18-05-2022.** Advance copy may be sent by mail at **ddw@ongc.co.in** (B) **Cluster-III:** Office of Basin Manager, KG-PG Basin, Chennai. CMDA Tower-I, No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008 latest by **18-05-2022.** Advance copy may be sent by mail at **bm_kg@ongc.co.in.** For details of Expression of interest (EOI) and scope of work please logon to our website **https://tenders.ongc.co.in**

HAR EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 40-45 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Hair & Beard:** Black & white, **Wearing:** Light Blue coloured shirt, Black coloured pant and Slipper in feet, was found dead on 20.04.2022 from Vibhuti Marg, Minto Road, Near Parcel Gate, Railway Colony, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of MAMC. In this regard a **DD No.27-A, dated 20.04.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.



SHO
P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743

DP/1400/CD/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Madhu W/o Amar R/o Village Palla, Delhi **Age :** 32 years, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Build :** Medium, wearing blue colour suit-salwar and jutti in feet, has been missing since 14.02.2022 at about 02:00 P.M from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 71-A dated 11.03.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO: P.S. Alipur, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27202322,
07065036325

DP/1761/ON/22

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES CIRCLE, BILASPUR (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (Second Call)

System Tender No. : 97810/NIT No. : 04/SAC/2022-23 Dated : 25.04.2022

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 12.05.2022 at 17:30 Hour
Name of Work : RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK AND C.C. LINING OF CANALS OF KHUNTEE DIVERSION SCHEME.

Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 198.95 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 02-05-2022 at 17:31 hours (IST) onwards.

Note : All eligible/interested contractors/ bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor / supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
PENDRAROAD (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)

90573

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ OPEN TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 051P-69/2022-23/TMC/HQ/NCR/Prayagraj
Dated: 25.04.2022

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Central Railway, Subedarganj, Prayagraj-211015 invites the following E-Procurement Tenders: (The complete information along with tender document of this E-Procurement Tender are available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> up to 15.05.2022 at 15:00 hrs of the due date of tender opening).

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Tender Value	Earliest Money
1	TM 225057	Dam Ring. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser or Equivalent]	₹ 4,71,099/-	₹ 9,500/-
2	TM 225058	Various type of Electrical Items. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser, Dowel, Elcom, Schrader, Phoenix, Spectrol, Panasonic, Telomecanique, SGI/SG, EPE, Paramount, VDO, Pricol, Encoder, Bosch/Rexroth only]	₹ 33,73,940/-	₹ 67,500/-
3	TM 225065	Spare Parts for Track Machine. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser or Equivalent]	₹ 6,82,771/-	₹ 13,700/-

Quantity: As per Section IV of tender document for all Tenders (Sl. No. 1 to 3). **Date of Opening for all Tenders: 26.05.2022.** Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available on Website <https://ireps.gov.in>, up to 14:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Following condition has been included in Tender Document vide Railway Board Letter No. 2001/RS(g)/779/7 Pt. 1 dated 29.06.2017 "Whenever tender is floated with purchase restriction from sources approved by nominated authorities and there exists a suspected cartel situation by approved sources or the rates available from approved sources are adjudged unreasonably high, despite fair efforts as permissible, the purchaser reserves the right to place order on firms outside the approved vendors list, without any restriction". 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 alongwith class III Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act, 2000. 4. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in, 5. Allocation for Security deposit and Earnest money is "Deposit Misc scores 00844523". 6. In case of any difficulty helpline is available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 457/22 FA.

North central railways www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in North Central Railway/CP/ENDR

उत्तर प्रदेश गन्ना शोध परिषद, शाहजहांपुर

पत्रांक : 522-23/सात-17/2022-23/शाहजहांपुर दिनांक : 27.04.2022

तिथि परिवर्तन

Chlorantraniliprole की दिनांक 26.04.2022 को आमंत्रित की गई ई-निविदा में कोई भी डि प्राप्त न होने के कारण उक्त ई-निविदा दिनांक 04.05.2022 तक स्वीकार की जायेगी।

निदेशक
उ.प्र. गन्ना शोध परिषद,
शाहजहांपुर

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109RJ2005GC016482
Regd. Off.: Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makaravali Road, Ajmer- 305 004.
(TURN KEY WORKS CIRCLE)
Phone: +91-145-264507, E-mail: sgt@vidyutvitrannigam.com

No. AVVNL/SE (TW) /XEN (TW-III)/AENIT(TW-II) / NIT / D.104 Dt. 22-04-2022

E-Tender Notice TN-IT-44

- E Bids in two parts (Techno Commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible contractors for NIT's of "Route Survey, Design, Supply of Material, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 11 KV LINE / SERVICE line AND 11/0.433 KV sub stations for release of Agriculture Connections in various Circles" under domain of Ajmer Discom on Turnkey basis. UBN:- AVV223WLOB00067 to AVV223WLOB00080
NIT No./PACKAGE No.:- A/D/SE/TW/AG/TN-428 to TN-438
- E Bids in two parts (Techno Commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible contractors for NIT of Labour Rate Contract (LRC FY 2022-23) Circle wise under domain of Ajmer Discom. UBN:- AVV223WWSRC00055 to AVV223WWSRC00066
NIT No./PACKAGE No.:- A/D/SE/TW/LRC/TN-439 (Lot-1 to Lot-12)

All the details regarding tender is available at our website <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avnit> and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Further in future corrigendum/extension, if any shall be published only at www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/22/1068

Superintending Engineer (TW)

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010
Ph.: 0522-4918510; Fax: 0522-4918506 Website : www.drmlims.ac.in
Ref. No. RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2022-23/362 Dated: 27.04.2022

Tender Notice

On-line offers through two separate bids for supply and installation of Desktop Computers, UPS and Mono Laser Printers in the Institute are invited following BOQ bidding on GeM portal from Manufacturer/Direct Importers/Authorized Distributors/Dealers/Accredited Agents. The Vendors are required to submit their offer on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e. technical & financial bid as per norms of GeM portal.

For detailed information like Date of Submission and opening of bid etc., you may please visit the GeM portal www.gem.gov.in. The bid documents will also be available on our website www.drmlims.ac.in for reference only. The offer will be accepted On-Line only on GeM portal with terms and conditions as mentioned in GeM bidding documents. **Director**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Floriculture (G&P) Department Kashmir

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email:- kashflori@rediffmail.com
Subject:- Extension No. 01.

In view of Poor response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office Fresh e-Tender Notice No. 67 of 2022 dated 05.04.2022 for Outsourcing of Fast Food Point at vacant space as is where basis at Pratap Park, Srinagar near water body is hereby extended as per the details given below:-

1	Period of downloading of bidding document	27.04.2022 from 02:00 PM to 09:05.2022 up to 03:00 PM
2	Bid submission Start Date	28.04.2022 from 03:00 PM
3	Bid submission End date	09.05.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	11.05.2022 at 02:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

By Order
Sd/-
Accounts Officer
(Member Secretary)

No.-DFK/GS-545/357-58- Dt: -26/04/2022 DPK-1253/22

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

"A State Government Undertaking"
"Press Tender Notice" (E-tendering mode only)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on partial turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, from the Bidders Joint venture firms having A-Class Electrical contractor license from Chief Electrical Inspector, for the following work:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost	Earliest Money	Cost of Tender	Inclusive GST	Refundable	Completion Period
1	GEOMACT No. 031 SOP, Kanti-Shilal, LWS&S/2022-23	Providing SOP to 11 KV new Incoming outgoing panel at 33/11KV, 2x6.30 MVA Sub Station along with Augmentation of Existing 11 KV HT Line, and providing New 400 KVA Substation and LT line under LWSS Scheme for Augmentation and improvement of LWSS Kandi Sundraai, Naya and Kurhal in Tensi Shilal in ESD Shilal Under ED HPSEBL, Poanta Sahib, Operation Circle, HPSEBL, Nahan	Rs. 1,05,21,621/-	Rs. 1,05,217/-	Rs. 2360/-			8 Months

Key Dates:-
1. Date of online publication 05.05.2022
2. Start date and time of bid submission 05.05.2022 (at 11:30 AM)
3. End date and time of bid submission 17.05.2022 (up to 11:30 AM)
4. Date and time of opening of techno comm. bid 18.05.2022 (at 11:30 AM)

The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted on line on website <https://www.hpseblenders.gov.in>. Bidders would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidders are required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEBL may obtain the same from the website <http://www.hpseblenders.gov.in>. DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Sd/-
(Er. G.C. SHANDILYA)
Chief Engineer (OP) South,
HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4.

"SAVE ENERGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SELF & NATION"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ALIGARH CIRCLE, P.W.D., ALIGARH

Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender

पत्रांक : 1514 / कैशियर(निष्काशन)-अवगु / 2021 दिनांक 20.04.2022

1. The Superintending Engineer, Aligarh Circle, P.W.D., Aligarh on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved category Contractors registered with UP, PWD. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Category of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11
1	Kasganj	Construction Work Of Type-3 Houses of Junior Engineers of Kasganj	108.00	7.40	2000+300+ GST 414= 2714	12 Month	"A, B" Class (Building Category of PWD/ Central Govt./ Semi Govt./ Other UP Govt. Dept.)

Bids can be downloaded online from date 02.05.2022 at 12:00 Noon to 09.05.2022 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 09.05.2022 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 09.05.2022 at 04:00 PM.

Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by **Prahari Software**, the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.co.in>

Sd/-
(Nand Kishore)
Executive Engineer
Construction Division,
P.W.D., Kasganj

Sd/-
(Wahid Baksh)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ALIGARH CIRCLE, PWD,
ALIGARH

UPID-175312 DATE: 25/04/2022
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Namely **Bhoop Singh Malk** S/o Lt. Sh. Bhagwan Singh R/o 94, Sector -17 D, Dwarka, New Delhi also at 28-B, GG-2, Vikas Puri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 85/09 U/s 420/34 IPC registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Bhoop Singh Malk** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Bhoop Singh Malk** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Bhoop Singh Malk** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.06.2022**.

By Order
Sh. Fahad Uddin,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1742/OD/2022
(Court Notice)

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Notice inviting open tender through IREPS Portal Leasing Tender Notice no-22/91, Date 26.04.2022

No.-CBPL/Marketing/Lease SLR/22/91 Date: 26.04.2022

It is a Golden opportunity for manufacturer, Lease holders, and Cargo operators to be partner with West Central Railway, through contract of leasing of parcel space in SLR (04/3.9 Ton) by 17 trains for 36 SLRs on Bhopal division for 05 years. The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bhopal on the behalf of President of India invites open E-tender (Single Packet System) through IREPS portal from registered lease holders of Bhopal Division, registered under Comprehensive Parcel Leasing Policy, Freight Marketing Circular No-06 of 2014, dated 15.04.2014, before submission of tender please check all amendments its responsibility to tenderer, Details of notice inviting tender, terms & condition, agreement will be available on "www.ireps.gov.in" Tender opening date 20.05.2022. **DRM (C) BPL**
West Central Railway, Bhopal
कोरोना का भयानक है।
सावधान रहें क्योंकि समय है।

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER CORRIGENDUM

The date of opening of the Tender No. E-KGP-South-08-2022 would be 16.05.2022 instead of 13.05.2022. PR-66C

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-tender Notice No. Com/Lease/VPH/LVPH/DNR/22/1

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of The President of India invites open e-tender, for leasing space of 24 tonnes of LVPH on round trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels in following trains for a period of five (05) years.
Sl.no.: 1. Train no.: 12393/12394, From-To: From: RJPB-NDLS-RJPB, Reserve Price : 1,51,460/-
Date & time of submission of Tender:- up to 19.05.2022 at 12:00 hrs. through online www.ireps.gov.in only. Date & Time of opening of Tender : After 19.05.2022 at 12:00 hrs.
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) East Central Railway, Danapur PR/00154/DNR/COMLT/22-23/24

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR (NEAR MAHAIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10

TELE NO – 011- 26153558/9

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for fabrication of closed shed for school furniture. Details for the above and EOI form are available at school counter against DD/POS machine/UPI of ₹ 500/- each. Forms duly filled be submitted by 15 May 2022.

Chairman

DELHI JAL BOARD

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-3

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

H-BLOCK, SECTOR-15, ROHINI, DELHI-89

SHORT PRESS /NIT No.1 (E&M)-M-3/2022-23

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated cost	Tender Processing Fee (In INR)	Earnest Money (In INR)	Publishing date of tender	Last date and time for tender	Completion Period
1.	Up gradation of existing pumping system by SITC of higher capacity Pump set with all allied works at New Avastha BPS re invite	Item Rate	1000.00	140000.00	26.04.2022	04.05.2022 up to 1:00 PM	120 days
2.	SITC of Pump Set at SGT Nagar in AC-05 re invite	Item Rate	1000.00	194000.00	26.04.2022	04.05.2022 up to 1:00 PM	120 days

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 64 (2022-23)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.- ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-04-22-23

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

S.N. : 1. Name of work with its location : Earthwork in embankment, Blanketing work, Construction of minor bridges, RUB's & retaining wall, Height gauge, Subway, approach road etc. from Kesarai (excl.) i.e. KM 90.350 to Bhopatpur yard (incl.) i.e. KM 102.235 in connection with construction of Hajipur - Sugauli new rail line project. 2. Approx. cost of the work of : Rs. 94,98,36,951.07. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 48,99,200.00. 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 18.05.2022 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.

CAO/Con/North
EC Rly, MXX, Patna
PR/00151/CONN/ENG/T/22-23/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-

SN:1. E-Tender No.: ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-11-22-23. Name of work : providing architectural and technical consultancy for feasibility study, master planning, urban designing, engineering & Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for integrated re development of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Railway Station, Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) : 5512714.00, Cost of tender form in (Rs.) : 0.00, Earnest money in (Rs.) : 110300.00, Period of work completion : 240 (Two Hundred Forty) Days, Date and time for closing of tender : 17.05.2022 at 15.00 hrs.

Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above extended document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in connection with this e-tender. Any change/addendum/ corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only
CAO/Con/South
EC Rly, MXX, Patna
PR/00155/CONS/ENG/T/22-23/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum

Corrigendum No. 03 of Tender Notice No. CE/2021/21, Dated: 31.03.2022 Tender opening date of tender No: 02/216483SP, which was earlier scheduled to open on 29.04.2022, vide Corrigendum No. 01 of Tender Notice No. CE/2021/21 dt. 19.04.2022, has been extended on Administrative ground & now the same will open on 02.05.2022 with Modified tender document. Modified tender document is available on <https://www.ireps.gov.in>



Madhya Pradesh AUTO SHOW

28th - 30th April 2022 | INDORE

**PIONEERING EDITION OF MADHYA PRADESH
COME, CREATE A BUZZ!**



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh



EXPO



BUYER
SELLER MEETINGS



B2B & B2G
MEETINGS



CONFERENCES



SUPER CORRIDOR SQUARE,
NEAR AIRPORT, INDORE
& NATRAX, PITHAMPUR



Register Now
www.mpautoshow.in



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Rohit, S/o Rakesh, R/o H.No. RZF-7, Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Age : 19 years, Height : 5'8" Complexion-Fair, Face-long, Wearing-Black colour jacket and Dark blue pant has been missing/ kidnapped from the are of PS-Nihal Vihar, Delhi, since 05.03.2022 in this regard a case vide DD No. 175-A dated 07.03.2022 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform to the undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Fax : 011-23011334
DP/1639/OD/2022 Ph : 011-25946700, 259467140

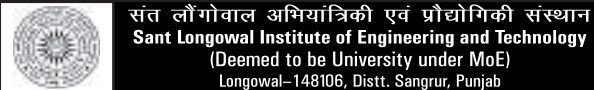
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajiv Ghosh** S/o Late Sh. Sheetal Ghosh R/o H. No. 44, Pkt-6, Ground Floor, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi has committed the offence Case No. 865/2018 u/s 138 NI Act P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi & a warrant of arrest issued has been returned stating thereupon that the said **Rajiv Ghosh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rajiv Ghosh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rajiv Ghosh** accused of Case No. 865/2018 u/s 138 NI Act P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **28.05.2022.**

By Order: Sh. Anuj Kumar Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West),
Room No. 113, 1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/1438/RD/22



संत लॉंगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
(Deemed to be University under MoE)
Longowal-148106, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders in two Bid System, i.e. Technical and Financial Bid are invited for the following works for Annual Repair & Maintenance at SLIET, Longowal FY 2022-23:

- (1) Supply of Electrical Material
- (2) Supply of Spare parts of Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- (3) Supply of Spares for 25/50 LPH Water Purifiers (Commercial) Make Eureka Forbes

For detailed, terms & conditions or any corrigendum, please visit www.sliet.ac.in

REGISTRAR
(भारत सरकार के अधीन सम विश्वविद्यालय)



Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813;
e-tendering portal: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Tender Enquiry No.: 32/IPC/RTS/2021-22 Dated: 13.04.2022
Dy. Chief Engineer/IPC, PSPCL, Shed No. T-8, Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites tender for Empanelment of EPC companies, producers, suppliers and system integrators & discovering L1 rates for Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Storage, Civil Work, erection, Testing & Commissioning of the Grid-connected rooftop solar PV project of capacity varying from 1 kWp to 500 kWp, including comprehensive Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the project for a period of 05 years, with Subsidy as applicable (Central Financial Assistance by MNRE, GOI) for Residential premises and Residential Welfare Associations/ Group Housing Societies premises in State of Punjab. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.04.2022.

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C153/22 13797/PB

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

DIP/J- 829

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING MINIRATNA COMPANY)
(UNDER MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT)
(An ISO 9001: 2015 Company)
G.T. Road, Naramau Kanpur-209217

Visit us: www.alimco.in, Email: manager1_mm@alimco.in, dgm_mm@alimco.in
Tele Fax 0512-2770137, Ph. 0120-4001002, TOLL FREE NO. 180041805129

E-PROCUREMENT OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. MM/OT/01 to 02/BA

Online Bids (Technical & Price Bid) are invited from well established & reputed Manufacturers/suppliers for supply of item as per details indicated below;

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Item	Appx. Estimated Value of Material (Rs. In Lakh)	Online Payment Receipt to be enclosed alongwith TC Bid towards EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Due date of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)
1	MM/OT/01/BA	Rechargeable Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery 25.6V, 24Ah with BMS and SMPS Battery Charger	1000.00	05.00	14.06.2022
2	MM/OT/02/BA	Fasteners	37.55	0.94	24.05.2022

Interested Tenderers may download the tender document from ALIMCO website www.alimco.in (for reference only) and CPPP website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Tender Fee of Rs. 600/- etc. as per Tender Terms to be submitted Through **Payment Gateway** available at www.alimco.in. All SSI/MSE vendors are exempted from tender fee on submission of valid UAM/URC.

Tenderers are requested to submit their Offers/Bids Online through E-Tendering Process only on <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and send original hard copy of Online Payment Receipt of Tender fee, EMD and Sample etc. to reach ALIMCO office on or before Bid submission end date which will be opened on Bid opening date indicated above. ALIMCO reserves the right to reject any or all requests/Others without assigning any reason.

No corrigendum notice shall be published in the news papers and interested parties have to visit NIC CPP portal/Corporation's website for updates, if any.

For ALIMCO - DGM (Materials)

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Corrigendum-3 to Tender Notice No. SATV Wires-09-2021-Revender, dt. 13.03.2022. The Tender Closing Date/Time for the above tender should be read as "20.05.2022 at 15.30 hrs." instead of "12.05.2022 at 15.30 hrs." and Bidding Start Date should be read as "16.05.2022" instead of "20.04.2022". Similarly, many more additions & alterations have been made in the above tender and the revised tender has already been uploaded on JSEPS website www.jseps.gov.in on 26.04.2022. Please visit website for the revised tender.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No. and Description of works/Materials	Due date & time for Submission of e-Tender
1.	CE/MECH/COAL	Coal (Ship) - 109 Dated 23.04.2022. SERVICES AS CHARTERER'S AGENTS FOR AGENCY WORKS AND FOR ENGAGING SURVEYORS AT PARADIP PORT FOR THE VESSELS CHARTERED BY TANGEDCO FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS.	16.05.2022 up to 14.30 Hours

The tender Specification can be downloaded from websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgp/app> at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the NIC portal. CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL
DIPR/2049/Tender/2022
"ஏதரமை கூட்டு கத்திரும் அகட்டுதலும், எதரமை ஸ்ரீத்து எத்திரும் பண்படுத்தும்."

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 04/JJMM/JSDS OF 04/2022, DATED: 24.04.2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore, invites-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/ Companies/ relevant classes registered in JK PWD/ CPWD/ Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Sopore of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on over all percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of Work (Days)
1.	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Nathipora by way of laying and fitting, construction of sluice chamber, revamping of 0.10 MGD plant, Chemical impregnation of existing OHT and allied works (under JJM).	89.43	500/-	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	90 Days
2.	Laying and fitting of pipes, construction of wash water sump, sluice chamber, chowkidar quarter, lavatory block, chain link fencing around structures and allied works for WSS Wadoora Bala (under JJM)	93.67	500/-	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	90 Days
3.	Retrofitting of water supply scheme Wadoora by way of laying and fitting, construction of sluice chamber, chain link fencing, PST and allied works (under JJM)	145.15	500/-	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	90 Days
4.	Retrofitting of WSS Mazbugh by way of laying and fitting of pipes, chowkidar quarter and allied works (under JJM)	86.81	500/-	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	90 Days
5.	Retrofitting of water supply scheme Nowpora Kalan, Construction of service reservoir alongwith sluice chamber, laying fitting of pipes, Chowkidar Quarter and allied works (under JJM)	110.23	500/-	02% of Adv. Cost	90 Days	90 Days

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division SOPORE
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

CRITICAL DATES:

i	Publish Date	25.04.2022
ii	Document Download start Date	25.04.2022
iii	Clarification start date	25.04.2022
iv	Clarification end date	30.04.2022
v	Bid submission start date	25.04.2022
vi	Bid submission end date	19.05.2022
vii	Date of Bid opening	20.05.2022

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table.
 - a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore.
4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder with draws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
7. Queries by email if any should be made at phesopore@gmail.com

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore

No. JSDS/JJM/607-18 Dated: 25/04/2022 DIPK-1217/22

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. PHQ/07_OF 2022-23 Dated: 26-04-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer JalShakti (PHE) Division Qazigund, invites-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/of all classes registered in JK PWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Qazigund of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Particular of the work	Estimated Cost(Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion Of work(days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	> Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves incl. other allied works.	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	500/-	02% of the estimated cost	90 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.
	> Const. of Grounds SRs & Filtration Plants					
	> Execution of ancillary civil works like spring covers, boundary walls, protection works etc					
	at various Water Supply schemes of Division Qazigund of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)					

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	27-04-2022 at 09.00 AM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	27-04-2022 at 09.00 AM
iii	Date of Pre-bid meeting	27-04-2022 from 10.00 AM
iv	Bid submission start date	30-04-2022 up to 6:00 P.M
v	Document Download/sale end Date	02-05-2022 from 10:00 A.M
vi	Bid submission end date	18-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M.
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	19-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M.

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, (PHE) Division Qazigund, Department Srinagar. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.

a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Qazigund.

4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial cover.

5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

7. Queries by email if any should be made at qazigundphedivision@gmail.com.

No. PHQ/431-46 Dated:26/04/2022 DIPK-1229/22

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-5
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TJM)-5
ROOM NO. 312, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I
JHANEWALAN, DELHI-110005

"STOP CORONA: Wear mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
SHORT PRESS NIT No. 04(2022-23) M-5

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	E/Money (EMD)	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	Date of release of Tender/Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Hiring of 37 nos Sewer Gang Beldars for maintenance of sewerage system of Ram Nagar Ward under EE(M)-22, (Re-invite)	Item Rate	₹ 85,000/-	₹ 500/-	Dt. 26.04.2022 2022_DJB_221110_1	04.05.2022 Upto 3.00 PM
2.	Hiring of 38 nos Sewer Gang Beldars for maintenance of sewerage system of Quresh Nagar Ward under EE(M)-22, (Re-invite)	Item Rate	₹ 87,300/-	₹ 500/-	Dt. 26.04.2022 2022_DJB_221110_2	04.05.2022 Upto 3.00 PM

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. NO. J.S.V. 63(2022-23)

Sd/-
(Satya Veer Singh)
Executive Engineer (TJM)-5

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION BIJBEHARA

Standard Bidding Document

For

> Laying, Fitting, Testing and Successful Commissioning of Delivery and Distribution Pipe network of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves

> Construction, Testing and Successful Commissioning of Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants

> Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works, staff quarters etc.

at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 08 OF 2022-23 Dated: 26-04-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invites-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/ Companies/ of all classes registered in JK PWD/ CPWD/ Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Particular of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion Of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	> Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	500/-	02% of the estimated cost	90 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.
	> Construction of Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants					
	> Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc.					
	at various Water Supply schemes of Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)					

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

1	Publish Date	27.04.2022
2	Document Download Start Date	27.04.2022 02.00 PM
3	Pre-bid meeting date	30.04.2022 12.00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	23.05.2022 04.00 PM.
5	Date and time of Bid opening	24.05.2022 11.00 AM Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara/

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the month etender portal.

3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.

a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/echallan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara

4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.

5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

7. Queries by email if any should be made at phbijbehara230@gmail.com

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara

No. PHB/986-1000 Dated: 26.04.2022 DIPK-1209/22



SRIRAM'S IAS
INTERVIEW PROGRAM
ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING
FINE TUNE IT WITH OUR
MOCK PANEL
AND CHAT WITH MR. SRIRAM
ENROL BY SCANNING THE CODE

AT MEETING WITH CMs, MODI NAMES STATES THAT DID NOT CUT VAT

PM flags high fuel prices in Opp-ruled states, their CMs hit back at Centre

Mamata to Uddhav to KCR, all disagree with PM, complain of 'step-motherly treatment', say Central policies to blame

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

RAISING THE issue of high fuel prices in Opposition-ruled states which did not heed the Centre's call to reduce Value Added Tax on petrol and diesel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged these states Wednesday to cut VAT and work "in the spirit of cooperative federalism" in this "time of global crisis". By not passing on benefits to the people, these states, he said, were doing them an "injustice" and also harming neighbouring states.

The Prime Minister said that last November a request was made to reduce VAT but states like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jharkhand did not



PM Modi at his meeting with CMs on Wednesday. PTI

GOVT & POLITICS

COVID NOT OVER YET, PM TELLS CMs PAGE 9

do so "for some reason". The remarks on the issue of fuel price, made during his meeting with

Chief Ministers to review the Covid-19 situation, had the Opposition reacting angrily and accusing him of "playing politics". TMC leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters in Kolkata that the interaction with the Prime Minister was "completely one-sided and misleading".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

For state govts, why cutting taxes on fuel is easier said than done

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

AMID soaring fuel prices in November 2021, the Centre went for the first cut in Central excise duties on petrol and diesel in over three years. This was followed by a cut in Value Added Tax (VAT) by many states. But the relief from the cuts in excise duty and VAT was outweighed by a series of 14 price hikes in 16 days for fuel, which started after lifting of the 137-day freeze post state elections in March this year.



The reluctance to reduce excise duty and VAT on fuel stems from the fact that it constitutes an important source of revenue for both the Union government and the states. Excise duty on fuel makes up about 18.4 per cent of Centre's gross tax revenues. Petroleum and alcohol, on an average, account for 25-35 per cent of the own tax revenue of states, as per the Study of Budgets 2020-21 by the Reserve Bank of India.

Of the total revenue receipts of states, Central tax transfers comprise 25-29 per cent, while own tax revenues have a share

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

STATES WITH HIGHEST POWER SHORTAGE

States/UTs	Demand met (mn units)	Shortage (mn units)	Shortage (%)
Jharkhand	216.7	45.27	17.28
J&K, Ladakh	289.3	38.02	11.62
Rajasthan	1824	193.75	9.60
Haryana	1,089.4	90.54	7.67
Uttarakhand	290	23.81	7.59
Bihar	798.8	30.29	3.65
MP	1,899	55.01	2.82
HP	222.6	5.33	2.34
UP	2,951.4	65.12	2.16

Heat wave, low coal stocks, delayed payments leading to power outages

Over past week, shortage of 623 mn units, more than total for all of March

KARUNJIT SINGH & VARINDER BHATIA
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, APRIL 27

INDIA'S POWER sector woes are likely to get worse as record high power demands are putting pressure on thermal power plants struggling with low coal inventories.

Over the past week, the total electricity shortage in India hit 623 million units (MU), surpassing the total shortage all of March. Low coal stocks at thermal power plants have led to power cuts this month across states including Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of J&K.

The increasing demand due to economic recovery after the pandemic and lower power sup-

EXPRESS NETWORK

HOW STATES ARE GRAPPLING WITH THE POWER CRUNCH PAGE 12

ply from imported coal-based power plants have led to increased pressure on thermal power plants using domestic coal. Delayed payments by some states to coal companies is also a key reason for low inventories at thermal power plants, according to senior government officials.

The maximum all-India power demand that was met crossed the record level of 201 GW mark Tuesday as large parts of the country reeled from the sweltering heat. The day also marked a peak shortage of 8.2 GW with 120 million units of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

A-I seeks to acquire AirAsia, Tata Group to house all together

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

IN WHAT marks the beginning of the consolidation of the Tata Group's aviation portfolio, its newly acquired airline, Air India, has sought approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the acquisition of its Bengaluru-based sister-airline AirAsia India. Additionally, the salt-to-software conglomerate has chalked up plans to move its five aviation companies — Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia India and Air India SATS Airport Services — under a single roof in Gurgaon.

AirAsia India, a low-cost airline which was launched as a joint



Tata Group currently holds 84 per cent in AirAsia India.

venture between the Tatas and Malaysia's AirAsia Group, is 83.67 per cent owned by the Tata Group with the remaining stake being held by the Malaysian company.

"The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Waving 4-yr-old order, UP govt removes 10,900 loudspeakers

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, APRIL 27

AMID RISING tensions in Maharashtra over the use of loudspeakers in places of worship, the UP government said that it removed over 10,900 "illegal" and "unauthorised" loudspeakers across the state by 4.30 pm on Wednesday following directions from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to implement guidelines laid down by courts on the issue.

Most of the loudspeakers removed were from Lucknow (2,395) and Gorakhpur (1,788) zones, officials said. Besides, over 35,000 loudspeakers across the state were brought under prescribed decibel limits, they said.

"There is an existing government order of 2018, and there are

NOT THE INDIA J&K ACCENDED TO: OMAR



NC LEADER Omar Abdullah Wednesday raised the loudspeaker issue, saying this was not the India J&K had accended to. He said if loudspeakers were not allowed in mosques, they shouldn't be allowed in other places of worship either. P14

set rules for sound decibel limits and court directions. Districts have been directed to ensure the

DHARAM SANSAD DENIED PERMISSION

Section 144, preventive arrests: Roorkee keeps the peace after SC order

AVANEESH MISHRA
ROORKEE (HARIDWAR), APRIL 27

WITH organisers put under preventive arrest and over 30 people facing CrPC restrictions, the Uttarakhnd Police managed to foil a mahapanchayat announced Wednesday in Roorkee's Dada Jalalpur village, the site of recent violence during a Hanuman Jayanti procession.

Starting Tuesday, the Haridwar district administration clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC in a 5 km area around the village, and deployed five companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary

(PAC) and over 250 police personnel overnight. With the Supreme Court directing the Uttarakhnd Chief Secretary Tuesday to place on record the state's assurance that there would be no "untoward situation" or "unacceptable statements", the administration stated that permission had not been granted for any mahapanchayat.

On Wednesday, peace prevailed in Dada Jalalpur, with schools and shops open and functioning normally. Police teams kept combing the area, with checkposts at every entrance and exit. No outsider was allowed to enter the village without proper identification. At least four drones were deployed to keep a watch.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Rajasthan wheat mandis empty as pvt buyers go directly to farmers

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
SRI GANGANAGAR, HANUMANGARH (RAJASTHAN), APRIL 27

THIS IS usually peak season for wheat procurement, when mandis are bustling with farmers, labourers, commission agents, officers from government agencies and private buyers.

But the "new" APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandi at Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar — a sprawling, 27-acre complex with over 200 shops established in late-2017 — has barely a dozen labourers, and just three farmers.

The labourers complain about lack of work. And the farmers say they have come from Jordkia village in the district's Padampur tehsil — not to sell kanak (wheat),



Labourers filling and stitching the few bags of wheat at the APMC mandi in Sri Ganganagar. Anju Agnihotri Chaba

but sarson (mustard).

"I have already sold my kanak for Rs 2,250 per quintal, above the sarkari rate (minimum support price or MSP) of Rs 2,015. The dalal (agent) of a private company picked it up at that price directly from my field," says

Som Dutt Bishnoi, who had sown wheat on seven of his 11-bigha holding this time — a hectare comprises about 4 bigha of land.

Mangi Lal Bishnoi has, likewise, sold his entire wheat on six out of ten bigha to the same agent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Stumps flying and batsmen ducking, 150 kmph Umran Malik announces his arrival on big stage

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

BEFORE THEIR match against Gujarat Titans, Sunrisers Hyderabad posted a video on their social media account of Umran Malik talking about his IPL season. The soft-spoken 22-year-old fast bowler from Jammu and Kashmir admitted that he had been off radar at the start, but had begun to do well in the last few matches. He just

wanted to keep extending his dream run, game by game.

By the end of his spell of 4-0-25-5 on Wednesday night, Malik had Wankhede Stadium on its feet, the ovation accompanied by chants of "Umran, Umran" and "Malik, Malik".

And no, the spectators didn't need the DJ to egg them on. They had been awed by the sheer speed of Malik shattering one set of stumps after the other. Four of his five victims were bowled, the fifth — Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya, no less — was too late on a bounce.

As the fans exited the stadium, buzzing excitedly about the



Umran Malik celebrates a Gujarat Titans wicket, Wednesday. PTI

Srinagar-born son of a fruit-seller for whom 150 kmph-plus deliveries are no longer a novelty, there was talk among pundits to fast-track him into the Indian team.

Sunil Gavaskar said Malik should be on the England tour later this month for the one-off Test. The hard-to-please former England batsman Kevin Pietersen was smiling and shaking his head. "I am going to be calling that India-England Test match, he better be playing that game," he said.

But while the world got all excited, the player himself seemed unfazed, almost

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FROM PAGE ONE

Cutting taxes

of 45-50 per cent.

Central and state taxes currently account for about 43 per cent of the retail price of petrol and about 37 per cent of the pump price of diesel in Delhi. Credit ratings agency ICRA had noted in February that the government would have to forego revenue of about Rs 92,000 crore in FY23 to restore excise duties on petrol and diesel to pre-pandemic levels.

Following the Centre's move to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 per litre respectively in November last year, 21 states and UTs (with legislature) reduced their VAT in the range of Rs 1.80-10 per litre for petrol and Rs 2-7 per litre for diesel, with the revenue loss to states due to the VAT cut estimated at 0.08 per cent of GDP, as per the RBI's State Finances report for 2021-22.

Despite the cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel, Central taxes have remained higher by Rs 8 per litre on petrol and by Rs 6 per litre on diesel compared to pre-pandemic levels.

During April-December 2021, taxes on crude oil and petroleum products had yielded Rs 3.10 lakh crore to the central exchequer, of which excise duty amounted to Rs 2.63 lakh crore, while cess on crude oil was Rs 11,661 crore. For the same period, Rs 2.07 lakh crore accrued to the states' exchequer, of which Rs 1.89 lakh crore was through VAT and rest was through royalty on crude oil and octroi/entry tax among others, as per data by Petroleum, Planning & Analysis Cell.

This compares with Rs 4.19 lakh crore (including Rs 3.73 lakh crore of excise and Rs 10,676 crore as cess) collected as taxes and duties on crude oil and petroleum products by the Centre and Rs 2.17 lakh crore by states (including Rs 2.03 lakh crore of VAT) in 2020-21.

Petroleum taxes with states are shared only out of basic excise duty. The Centre also levies additional excise duty and cesses on petroleum products. In 2020-21, the total central excise duty collected from petrol and diesel was Rs 19,972 crore.

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been revising prices since last month in line with rising crude oil prices, after a freeze of 137 days. Ordinarily, the prices of petrol and diesel are revised daily in line with a 15-day rolling average of benchmark prices of the petroleum products. However, oil marketing companies held the prices of both petrol and diesel constant starting November 4, when the Centre announced the excise duty cut. The freeze in price revisions continued till the end of the state elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur in March this year.

Ever since the revisions began in March, OMCs have hiked petrol prices by Rs 12 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 10 per litre. The price of LPG has also witnessed an increase with the price of a 15 kg cylinder being hiked by Rs 50 to Rs 949.5 and that of commercial 19 kg cylinders being hiked by Rs 250 to Rs 2,253 in the national capital.

The price of Brent crude has increased by about \$22.6 per barrel since November 4 to \$103.6 per barrel. India imports about 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

After the excise duty cut in November, as many as 19 states and seven UTs reduced their VAT on fuel. All 17 BJP-led states including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim cut state taxes within a day of excise duty cut. Odisha and Punjab announced a cut within a week of the excise cut.

Delhi announced a cut in VAT in December. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jharkhand have not reduced VAT, urging "all states to work as a team in this time of global crisis following the spirit of cooperative federalism".

LIC mega IPO

the cap price is 94.9 times the face value of the share, LIC said.

The government will sell 22.13 crore shares or its 3.5 per cent stake in LIC through the share offering.

Ahead of the public offer, the

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) increased the size of bids that retail investors can submit using Unified Payment Interface. Sebi cleared the LIC IPO on March 9.

The government was earlier keen on launching the LIC IPO in March 2022 to meet its revised disinvestment target for the current fiscal.

The issue size was cut amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine as US Federal and foreign investors started pulling out funds in the wake of the US Federal Reserve's rate hike plans.

At a press conference in Mumbai, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the IPO was sized correctly.

"This (LIC IPO) is right sized, considering the capital market environment and will not crowd out capital supply given the current market environment," Pandey said.

Even after the reduced size of about Rs 20,557 crore, the LIC IPO is going to be the biggest initial public offering ever in the country, he said.

In March this year, market experts had urged the government to price the public issue at attractive valuations for it to sail through in the current market conditions. With better pricing and 10 million policyholders opening demat accounts to get an additional discount on the IPO price, the issue is expected to sail through, analysts said.

LIC had filed its draft papers for the IPO on February 13. The government has time till May 12 to launch the IPO without filing fresh papers with regulator Sebi. Once the IPO is over, listing of LIC shares on the stock exchanges is expected to happen in April itself.

Roorkee

Haridwar SSP Yogendra Singh Rawat confirmed to *The Indian Express* that Haridwar-based Anand Swaroop Maharaj and Sindhu Sagar Maharaj were among those detained. Swaroop, one of the organisers of the mahapanchayat, was put under house arrest at an ashram owned by Dineshanand Maharaj in Roorkee.

Dada Jalalpur had seen communal clashes on the night of April 16, as a Hanuman Jayanti procession passed through a Muslim area. Several people were injured and at least four vehicles set on fire. Fourteen people, all belonging to the minority community, have been arrested in connection with the violence.

Swaroop had said earlier that the mahapanchayat would discuss the police action in the violence and "their failure to arrest the main culprits".

After he was detained, he issued a video statement, saying: "I have arrived in Roorkee, but heavy police force is deployed outside the ashram and the way from here to there (Dada Jalalpur) has been turned into a chhavani (a military cantonment). I don't know why the police and administration are so scared of us and why they are scared of Hindus... We never get involved in violence, we never spread terrorism. We respond to people in their own language."

Asking members of 'Kali Sena' to maintain peace and not resist police arrest, Swaroop added: "How long will they stop us?... One day this volcano will erupt, and when that happens, it will engulf everyone."

District Magistrate Vinay Shankar Pandey confirmed that after the Supreme Court took cognizance of the mahapanchayat, Section 144 had been imposed, meaning any gathering required permission of the administration. "It is to be clear that no permission was sought from us."

Pandey added: "The organizers of the event have been demanding more arrests in the Hanuman Jayanti violence case. However, the law does not work like that. More arrests will be made based on what the investigating officer finds."

He denied reports that several members of the minority community had left the village fearing police action, adding that only seven persons named in the FIR are absconding. "The investigating officer has taken a non-bailable warrant against them. The environment is entirely peaceful here, and if that wasn't the case, the schools, colleges and shops in the village would not be open."

Air India

entire equity share capital of AirAsia (India) Private Limited, by Air India Ltd, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons Private Limited," a notice filed with the CCI said. Deals beyond a certain threshold require

the approval of the antitrust body.

AirAsia India, which started flying in June 2014, offers scheduled air passenger transport, air cargo transport and charter flight services in the country. It does not have international operations. According to the notice, the proposed combination will not lead to any change in the competitive landscape or cause any appreciable adverse effect on competition in India, irrespective of the manner in which the relevant markets are defined.

Only a year after AirAsia India took to the skies, the Tata Group launched a full-service airline Vistara, in a 51:49 joint-venture with Singapore Airlines.

Earlier this year, after participating in the government's disinvestment exercise of Air India, the Tatas took control of the national airline, along with its subsidiary Air India Express, and Air India's stake in joint venture ground handling company Air India SATS Airport Services.

While Bengaluru-based AirAsia India operates low-cost domestic flights, Gurgaon-based Vistara operates domestic and international full-service flights, similar to Delhi-headquartered Air India. Kochi-based Air India Express, on the other hand, does low-cost international operations, mainly connecting India with West Asian destinations like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Kuwait, Muscat, Dammam etc in addition to Malaysia and Singapore.

According to a memo sent to the top management of these entities by the Tata Group, these aviation companies are expected to be housed in the same corporate office in Gurgaon. "...it has been decided that to optimise resources, increase team work and have higher synergies at work, the various entities will move together into a complex in Gurgaon... a new office space on NH-8 has been identified...", the memo noted.

According to sources, the conglomerate had roped in its real estate company, Tata Realty, to identify the new office space that is 70,000 square feet in area, and the relocation is expected to begin over the next few months. For the relocation plan, the group has assigned the responsibility to Air India's Executive Director Harpreet A De Singh, who is expected to prepare a strategy plan along with consultancy firm EY.

The strategy planning team for the relocation has sought inputs from the various entities pertaining to their office space requirements, to come up with a plan "at the earliest".

Umran Malik

undermining his rare talent. At the post-match award ceremony, he was asked if he could clock 155 kmph. "*Uparwala dalva-de toh daal denge, Inshallah* (I can if the Almighty wills it)," he said.

Speed and accuracy have been standout aspects of Malik's bowling this IPL, the batsmen getting done in by sheer, raw, unplayable pace. And his rise in the game has been as quick -- just five years ago, he was yet to play cricket with the leather ball.

Mentored earlier by former India player Irfan Pathan and currently based in Jammu, Malik entered the IPL system as a net bowler at Sunrisers and was drafted in as a Covid replacement for T Natarajan last year. He impressed so much that he was called up to bowl in the Indian team nets ahead of the 2021 T20 World Cup. Thereafter, he was included in the India 'A' squad for the tour of South Africa.

This year, Malik appears to have added control to his searing pace. And, the impact has been staggering. Batsmen used to facing the ubiquitous T20 variations in the form of slower balls and knuckle balls and cutters are having a hard time just protecting their stumps. Four of his five victims at the Wankhede were international batsmen -- Wriddhiman Saha, Shubman Gill, Pandya and David Miller.

In the IPL particularly, Jasprit Bumrah is known for his stinging yorkers, England's Jofra Archer for his awkward bouncers. With Malik, the crowds have come to expect the sight of stumps flying every time he runs in, with the rising buzz during his run-up quite like what accompanied two of the fastest of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Power outages

energy demand not met. The rising demand amid a coal crunch at thermal power plants could lead to further outages with the demand expected to peak at 215-220 GW in May and June.

Over the past week,

Jharkhand faced a shortage equal to about 17.3 per cent of the state's total electricity demand, the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh together faced a shortage of 11.6 per cent while Rajasthan had an electricity deficit of 9.6 per cent. Among other states with significant energy deficits in the past week were Haryana (7.7 per cent), Uttarakhand (7.6 per cent), Bihar (3.7 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (2.8 per cent).

Senior government officials said the key reason behind low coal supplies to Jharkhand was the delay in payments to coal companies. "They are not even paying current bills for coal," an official said.

Parts of J&K are facing power outages for more than 16 hours. While shortage of power in the open market as states rush to meet their own requirements is a key reason for the shortfall, the depleted capacity generation of J&K's own power projects has added to its woes. Its power projects have an installed generation capacity of 1,211 MW but they produce only a little over 450 MW. Officials say J&K has a deficit of around 2,300 MW, which it needs to buy from the Northern Grid, but because of the high power tariff and unavailability, it is procuring only around 800 MW. States looking to fill gaps in their own supply have over the last week bid up the price of power to the maximum allowable level of Rs 12 per unit in the Day-Ahead Market on the India Energy Exchange.

In Rajasthan, Principal Secretary, Energy Department, and Chairman of Discoms, Bhaskar A Sawant, said power demand had risen by 31 per cent compared to the previous year, and that the coal crisis had impacted power production in the state which has a capacity to generate up to 10,110 MW of power but is only generating about 6,600 MW.

Sawant said that in such a situation, and to provide uninterrupted power supply to necessary services such as hospitals, oxygen centres, drinking water facilities, military installations, etc, it has become "extremely necessary" to opt for power cuts in rural and urban areas, excluding district headquarters and divisional headquarters.

Key thermal power plants in Punjab are facing coal shortages, leading to reduced operations at certain plants. On April 19, the Goindwal Sahib thermal plant, generating 540 MW power, had to be temporarily closed as it was left with only half-a-day coal supply. Technical issues have had the state with only 7,000 MW of the available generating capacity even as the demand hit 7,800 MW, leading to power cuts ranging from 2-5 hours.

In Maharashtra, which has seen reduction in shortage over the past week compared to earlier in the month, there has been improvement in coal supplies. Principal Secretary Dinesh Waghmare said the peak demand of the state had gone over 25,000 MW, about 2,500 MW higher than last year. Maharashtra is one of the states with large outstanding dues to coal companies and the Centre is blaming it for non-payment. The Maharashtra power minister blames the ministries of Power and Railways for not supplying coal on time and in adequate quantity. A senior energy department officer said the state has been paying dues in instalments.

The rising demand for power across India has come at a time when international coal prices have soared due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, forcing a number of thermal plants using imported coal to shut operations as they renegotiate tariffs with state distribution companies. About 5,405 MW of imported coal-based thermal power generation capacity is currently non-operational with another 2,400 MW of such capacity operating at low levels, putting increasing pressure on thermal plants using domestic coal.

In the case of power plants that utilise domestic coal, 86 of 150 such plants currently have critically low levels of coal stock. The total inventory of coal at thermal power plants across India stands at 21.55 million tonnes as against normative levels of 66.33 million tonnes.

The Coal ministry has clarified that it had over 70 million tonnes of coal stock available to meet the needs of thermal power plants. Officials have noted that transportation of coal to thermal power plants has emerged as a key issue with a number of thermal power plants not getting the required number of rakes to meet normative stock levels.

The Railways, however, says

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EXPRESS AUDIO

The Hanuman Chalisa row, EU rules for Big Tech, Covid worriest

We discuss the politics behind the Hanuman Chalisa controversy, the rules that the European Union has set for big online companies, and whether we should worry about the slight rise in Covid cases

PM flags high fuel prices in Opp-ruled states, their CMs hit back at Centre

Opposition states, she said, get "step-motherly" treatment.

"The facts shared by him were wrong. Our government provided Re 1 subsidy on petrol prices. We have lost Rs 1,500 crore because of this, but the Prime Minister didn't say a word about this. Instead, he kept appreciating BJP-ruled states. The Centre owes West Bengal Rs 97,000 crore. I request the PM to pay us half of that amount and we will provide a much higher subsidy on petrol and diesel than BJP-ruled states," she said.

Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray issued a statement detailing the Centre and the state's share of taxes on fuel. "The Union government owes Rs 26,500 crore to the Maharashtra government. Maharashtra's contribution in direct taxes collection at the national level is 38.3 per cent and its share in the GST (collection) is 15 per cent, but the Centre gives us step-motherly treatment," Thackeray said in the statement.

TRS leader and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu said Telangana had not hiked fuel prices since 2014 when the TRS assumed power and the Centre

had no right to ask the state to reduce taxes. Minister K T Rama Rao blamed the Centre's policies for the high fuel prices, and called for scrapping of the cess "imposed" by the Centre.

In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal said the increase in petrol and diesel rates was due to the cess and surcharge levied by the Centre. "We have not increased fuel taxes for the last six years. Then how can Kerala reduce taxes. It is the Union government that has adopted a stand against federalism," he said.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala targeted Modi, demanding that he give an account of Rs 27 lakh crore "collected" by the government revenue loss while their neighbouring states earned revenue by not reducing tax. "It is natural that the states which cut the tax, they lose revenue. For example, if Karnataka had not cut tax, it would have got excess revenue of Rs 5,000 crore in six months. Had Gujarat also not reduced tax, it would have got more revenue to the tune of Rs 3,500 crore. Some such states, for the betterment of their citizens, have reduced VAT so that their citizens do not suffer. They have taken a posi-

tion in economic decisions. This is more necessary than ever. You all are aware of the situation of war which has arisen and the way the supply chain has been affected," he said.

"Now let me give a small example. The issue of petrol and diesel prices is before all of us. In order to reduce the burden of rising petrol and diesel prices on countrymen, the Central government had reduced excise duty in November last year. The Central government had also urged states to reduce their taxes and transfer these benefits to the citizens," he said.

He said (BJP-ruled) Karnataka and Gujarat had undertaken tax reduction for "the welfare of the people" despite revenue loss while their neighbouring states earned revenue by not reducing tax. "It is natural that the states which cut the tax, they lose revenue. For example, if Karnataka had not cut tax, it would have got excess revenue of Rs 5,000 crore in six months. Had Gujarat also not reduced tax, it would have got more revenue to the tune of Rs 3,500 crore. Some such states, for the betterment of their citizens, have reduced VAT so that their citizens do not suffer. They have taken a posi-

tion step."

He then named Opposition-ruled Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jharkhand for not reducing tax on petrol. "For some reason, they did not accept this and continue to burden the citizens of their state... But now I request you to do it in the interest of the country," he said.

Modi said 42 per cent of the revenue at the Centre goes to state governments. "I urge all states to work as a team in this time of global crisis following the spirit of cooperative federalism."

He gave a break-up of fuel prices in BJP-ruled cities as against Opposition-ruled cities. "Today, in Chennai, petrol is around Rs 111. The price in Hyderabad is more than Rs 119, the price in Kolkata is more than Rs 115. The price in Mumbai is more than Rs 120. However, in Daman and Diu, next to Mumbai, the price is Rs 102... In Jaipur, it is Rs 118, but in Guwahati, it is Rs 105. In Gurugram, it is Rs 105. And in Dehradun, in our small state Uttarakhand, it is Rs 103," he said.

—WITH ENS, PTI REPORTS

it increased coal transportation by 111 million tonnes in FY22 to 653 million tonnes and also augmented the loading of coal to the power sector by 32 per cent in the second half of FY22. The Railways is also set to increase the number of rakes used to transport coal per day to 415, up from about 380 in the first two weeks of the month, according to government sources.

The Power ministry has also encouraged states to opt for a tolling facility under which states will be able to utilise their linkage coal in plants closer to mines which can then transmit electricity, reducing the need to transport coal. However, officials said this facility is unlikely to have an impact on the need for coal transportation until the end of May.

Mandis

("I don't know which company he's from") at the same price. Sukhchain Singh, the third farmer, says his situation is no different.

This story is repeated across most APMC mandis in Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh, the two northern districts of Rajasthan bordering Punjab that are also the state's leading wheat producers. All of them wear a deserted look -- unusual for this time -- with a handful of farmers coming with their tractor-trolleys laden only with mustard or chana (chickpea).

At Sri Ganganagar's "old" APMC mandi, Gurdeep Singh has just sold his mustard crop at Rs 6,800 per quintal, which is also way above the official MSP of Rs 5,050. "It's worth bringing sarson here, but for my kanak, I am saving transport, loading, unloading and cleaning charges by selling directly from the field. Traders are paying me Rs 2,700-2,800/quintal for Raj-1482 (a quality wheat variety) and Rs 2,250-2,300/quintal for normal HD-3086 and 2851 varieties. Why should I sell at MSP?" asks the farmer who has planted wheat on half of his 50-bigha land in Jodhpewala village, about 25 km from Sri Ganganagar.

At the APMC in Hanumangarh town, The Indian Express could spot only a couple of farmers, who were from Munsari village of Nohar tehsil.

"A local flour miller bought my wheat for Rs 2,300 per quintal. The government should have

paid us more this time, especially when our crop has been badly hit due to the sudden jump in temperatures in March (at the crucial grain-filling stage, when the kernels accumulate starch and nutrients)," complains Dharam Singh. He is an 18-bigha farmer, whose wheat yields from 12 bigha averaged only 11 quintals/bigha, as against 14 quintals last year.

What these farmers have to say is borne out by data on procurement.

As on Tuesday, government agencies had bought a mere 694 tonnes of wheat from Hanumangarh and 37 tonnes from Sri Ganganagar during the current rabi marketing season, which starts from March 15. Last year, procurement from the two districts for the whole season was over 1.3 million tonnes.

"Normally, 85-90 per cent of procurement gets over by April-end and the balance 10-15 per cent in May. This time, not only government procurement, but even total APMC arrivals are much lower," admitted an official from Rajasthan's agriculture marketing department.

In Ganganagar district, total wheat arrivals last marketing season was 6.29 lakh tonnes (lt), and in Hanumangarh 7.25 lt. This year, only 92,233 tonnes have so far reached Ganganagar's APMCs and 1.07 lt in Hanumangarh. The bulk of even this wheat has been cornered by private players.

The official attributed the vastly reduced arrivals to an increase in "off-mandi transactions" (direct sales by farmers) and lower crop. The area sown under wheat and yields are down compared to last year.

"There is definitely a shortage. I normally buy about 25,000 tonnes from the mandis. This time, I decided to double my purchases, including from outside mandis, paying Rs 2,250 per quintal. I expect prices to go up and do not want to take any chances," said a large private flour miller from Sri Ganganagar, who did not wish to be identified.

Among the big losers are the mandi labourers.

Maheesh Kumar, who is from Supaul in Bihar, has been coming to the Hanumangarh APMC for the past nine years. This time, too, he arrived on March 1 along with 70 other labourers. "There was work for 10 days, but suddenly farmers stopped bringing their crop to the mandi. Hum toh makkhi maar raha hai (we are swatting flies)," he remarks.

At least 35 out of his 70 colleagues have already gone back to Bihar. "I am also planning to return," he says.

Loudspeakers

beyond the premises. For instance, if a premise has five loudspeakers, upto three loudspeakers may be removed to ensure that the sound is limited to the premises while people are able to undertake their normal religious activities as well."

Kumar said the "best part" about the government's action was that it involved "voluntary" participation from those affected. "We are telling them about the adverse impact, the court orders and the noise levels. Nowhere is this being done in a coercive manner. Be it temples, mosques or gurdwaras, people are doing it voluntarily," he said.

Lucknow-based Sunni cleric Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali and Balarampur's Shakti Peeth Devipatan temple priest Mithilesh Nath Yogi were among religious leaders who issued appeals endorsing the government move.

Maulana Khalid said he has asked all mosques under his jurisdiction to take down extra loudspeakers and limit the sound of remaining devices. "These directives are following court orders and for the benefit of future generations...not against any particular religion but for all. It is beneficial for us and our children, and keeping noise pollution in mind. It is my appeal to follow this law completely," he said.

Mithilesh Nath Yogi said three out of four loudspeakers have been removed from the temple. "Communal harmony and security of the region are important. We are endorsing the government's move...The loud noise obstructs children's studies and troubles people early in the morning. Thus, it is our appeal to follow the government's directives, take out extra loudspeakers and reduce sound in the rest," he said.

Last week, Adityanath had instructed officials to ensure that decibel limits are set for loud-

speakers, and sound levels restricted. The government subsequently directed districts to ensure that "illegal" loudspeakers are removed and those authorised follow "correct decibel limits". It also directed the police to prepare a list of violators, including places of worship, and to ensure the implementation of rules through dialogue with religious leaders.

Official sources said district administrations have been asked to share existing norms under the Noise Pollution (regulation and control) Rules, 2000. The rules prescribe separate decibel levels for industrial, commercial, residential zones -- and "silence zones", which are less than 100 metres around hospitals, educational institutions, courts and religious places or any other designated area.

In October 2005, the Supreme Court upheld the Constitutional validity of a provision introduced by the Centre in 2002 in the noise pollution rules of 2000. This provision allowed states to conditionally permit the use of loudspeakers or public address systems between 10 pm to midnight "on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding 15 days in all during a calendar year".

In all other cases, the apex court said, "no one shall beat a drum or tom-tom or blow a trumpet or beat or sound any instrument or use any sound amplifier at night (between 10 pm and 6 am) except in public emergencies".

Several High Courts, including the Lucknow High Court, have also laid down guidelines on the use of loudspeakers.

On April 19, the Bombay High Court said it will hear on June 14 a plea filed in 2018, seeking initiation of contempt proceedings for alleged non-compliance of directions issued against "illegal" installation of loudspeakers at religious places.

The court hearing came amid escalating tensions in Maharashtra over an ultimatum issued by MNS chief Raj Thackeray who warned of "repercussions" if loudspeakers are not removed from mosques by May 3 after the Ramzan period ends.

(WITH ANANTHAKRISHNAN IN NEW DELHI)

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	57,168
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	148
OXYGEN SUPPORT	47
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	1

	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	9,379	9,223	
	ICU BEDS		2,164	
	Recoveries	863	Deaths	1
April 26	1,204	863	1	25,963
April 27	1,367	1,042	1	30,346
Total	4,832*	18,47,456	26,170	3,77,62,098

*Total active cases in Delhi

	NOIDA	
	Apr 26	Apr 27
Cases	N/A	10
Deaths	N/A	0
	GURGAON	
	Cases	409
Deaths	0	0

BRIEFLY

10 injured as lift collapses at college

New Delhi: Ten students were injured after a lift collapsed in an institute in Ghaziabad Wednesday. According to officials, the incident took place on the IMS campus situated in Dasna, and the lift collapsed after a cable snapped due to excessive weight. "The students were safely brought out and taken to the nearest hospital. Some students have suffered fractures. Prima facie it appears that a cable of the lift snapped," said an official from Masuri police station. The incident took place around 10 am when 10 hostel students, heading for classes, stepped inside the lift that is situated close to the main building. College officials claim the lift has a capacity for around eight people, and the students stepped into the lift on the fifth floor. One of the hoisting cables broke and the lift hurtled down five floors, college officials said. Police said the lift had undergone maintenance recently. Six of the students are pursuing BBA while others are studying BCA and MIB courses. Four of the students had fractures on their legs while others had minor injuries.

Riots: Man acquitted in vandalism case

New Delhi: Observing that the manner in which he was identified as a rioter by police "appears to be absolutely doubtful and devoid of trustworthiness", a Delhi court acquitted a man in a case in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots. Police had arrested Noor Mohammad for allegedly vandalising a bakery shop.

Sajjan Kumar gets bail but will stay in jail

New Delhi: A CBI court has granted bail to former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in connection with the killing of a man and his son during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, noting that his name was first taken by the complainant after a period of seven years. The present case relates to the killing of West Delhi's Raj Nagar residents Jaswant Singh and his son Tarun Deep Singh by a mob. However, he will stay in jail in connection with another case. **ENS**

In Delhi, a colony under shadow of a garbage mountain on fire

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND & MALHAR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

MORE THAN 24 hours after the fire department received information of a blaze at the Bhalswa landfill, the fire was yet to be doused on Wednesday evening. Flames continued to envelop parts of the mountain of waste on Wednesday afternoon, smoke billowing from it.

Residents of Shradhdhanand Colony, close to the landfill, were worried about the flames spreading to their homes given the strong winds blowing all day. Rekha, a resident of the colony for 17 years, had her nose and mouth covered as clouds of smoke drifted above her home. A part of her roof was singed on Wednesday afternoon, she said, and neighbours helped pour buckets of water over the roof to prevent further damage. "We've been up all night worried about how much it will spread," said Rekha, whose house is just at the edge of the landfill, in very close proximity to where the fire has spread.

"The smoke stings our eyes. If we had known that the landfill was going to come up here, we would not have come to live here at all," said Abdunnissa, who has lived in the area for 40 years. "People tend to fall sick when the fire spreads. I had to ask my mother-in-law to move to Rohini because of the smoke. But we cannot leave the house and go from here. At least now they should stop dumping the garbage here," Rekha added.

Firemen were still at the site on Wednesday evening and were trying to control the blaze, said DFS chief Atul Garg. "We sent 10 fire tenders to douse the fire. It spread to the ground and now the teams are working with the MCD to control it. The weather and the smoke from the fire are posing a challenge for the teams. More than 80 personnel are deployed and have been working for more than 24 hours. We have to wear protective gear because of the toxic fumes and dirty water and other liquids flowing from the yard," he said. The firefighters were using excavators to remove excessive garbage.

"The residents have started complaining of sore throat, itchy eyes and breathing problems. Currently, eight fire tenders are working at the site. It will take at least two more days to douse the fire. Our teams are working round-the-clock," said a fire officer.

On Wednesday afternoon, a police officer asked Nashmina Bibi, whose jhuggi is right below the slope of the garbage mountain, to take her belongings and leave. "But how can we pack everything up so quickly and where will we go," she said. Saidun Bibi, a scrap collector, who also lives in a shack near the



The fire at Bhalswa was the fourth instance of a landfill fire in about a month, ever since temperatures began to rise. *Malhar Mishra*

landfill, is in a similar dilemma. "The flames had covered the waste yesterday evening. The smoke was so bad that we spent the night outside on the main road. They've sent many trucks to put it out but it's still burning," she said. As flames flared up the sides of the mountain of waste, personnel from the fire department were working with local residents to climb up onto the lower mounds of waste and hose down parts of it.

"We have been using water, but it's a slow process. It is also difficult to reach parts of the landfill. We are trying to direct efforts in such a way that the fire does not spread to the settlements nearby with the wind," said an officer of the fire service who was at the spot Wednesday afternoon.

The Bhalswa dumpsite is spread over 70 acres, same as the landfill at Ghazipur. The fire at Bhalswa was the fourth instance of a landfill fire in about a month, ever since temperatures began to rise. North MCD Standing Committee Chairman Jogi Ram Jain said that some of the inert waste generated from the trommels at the site was used over

the fire to prevent its spread.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "The increasing cases of fire in landfill sites are the result of increasing corruption in the BJP-administered MCD. The negligence of the MCD over the last 15 years resulted in the mountains of garbage created in Delhi." Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor retorted that "AAP leaders are in the habit of doing petty politics whenever a fire breaks out at any landfill site."

Rai has directed the DPCC to submit a report on the fire in 24 hours. The Environment Department will take appropriate measures and impose a penalty based on the findings of the DPCC, Rai added.

A senior DPCC official said that the methane generated at the site along with high temperature is likely to have been the cause of the fire. The DPCC inspected the site on Wednesday, he added.

The SAFAR air quality update and forecast issued on Wednesday said that "emissions from landfill fires yesterday degraded AQI".

EXPLAINED

E.

The capital's landfill crisis

THE QUANTITY of legacy (old) waste dumped at Bhalswa landfill site as of July 2019 was 80 lakh tonnes, less than Ghazipur's 140 lakh tonnes. Of this, around 21.65 lakh tonnes of waste (around 27% of the legacy waste) has been processed at Bhalswa as of February 28 this year, going by details submitted by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Of the 4,500 tonnes per day of solid waste generated in the North MCD area, only 2,300 TPD (51%) is being processed, and fresh waste continues to be dumped at the landfill.

BAIL HEARING

Is it proper to use the word 'jumla' for PM, asks HC in Umar case

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

HEARING THE bail application of student activist Umar Khalid in the larger conspiracy case of Northeast Delhi riots, the Delhi High Court Wednesday asked whether it was proper to use the term 'jumla' with respect to the Prime Minister and said there has to be "a line" or a "lakshman rekha" when it comes to criticism of the government.

"What he says about the Prime Minister in the speech? Some 'changa' word was used and after that... this 'jumla' is used for the Prime Minister of India. Is that proper? There has to be a line drawn for criticism also, a 'lakshman rekha'," the Division Bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar said, after listening to a speech given by Khalid at Amravati, Maharashtra, in February 2020, which forms part of the chargesheet against him.

In his speech, Khalid had referred to certain statements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his US visit in September 2019 in which he had used the phrase 'sab changa si' (all is well), and to Home Minister Amit Shah's call for a dialogue with anti-CAA protesters in February 2020.

The court asked who is referred to as 'oont' (camel) in the phrase "oont pahad ke niche aa gaya" in Khalid's speech, and sought clarification regarding the use of expressions like 'inquilabi' (revolutionary) and 'krantikari' (revolutionary). Khalid had mentioned "inquilabi salam" and "krantikari istiqbal" at the beginning of his speech.

"We will have to look at it in totality. When he employs the expressions 'inquilabi' and 'krantikari', what does he mean? You are saying that it (the speech) does not incite anybody and you said the camera pans at the audience and nobody seems to be agitated. The question is, this is not a knee-jerk reaction. The point is why should he refer to it as 'inquilabi' and 'krantikari'," said the court, addressing Khalid's counsel.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais, representing Khalid, said he was referring to Shah offering talks to anti-CAA protesters, after the government had declared its unwillingness to do so. Khalid had called Shah's statement a 'jumla'. The speech was anti-CAA, and against the government and its existing policies, but there was no call for violence, Pais submitted.

"The speech goes on to say that if we are subjected to arrest,



Faces a UAPA case

violence etc, we will not retaliate or respond with violence, we are willing to get arrested. We are persons who will not retaliate to a danda with a danda," Pais told the court, adding that expressions like 'sab changa si' were of a satirical nature.

On the court's observation regarding Khalid's comments on the PM, Pais said it was not illegal to criticise the government. "Criticism of the government cannot become a crime. 583 days in prison with UAPA charges was not envisaged for a person who speaks against the government. We cannot become so intolerant. At this rate, people will not be able to speak," Pais said, adding that the FIR against Khalid was a result of intolerance against freedom of speech.

Pais also argued that there was "mala fide invocation" of the UAPA in the case to ensure that the accused did not get bail. "If this is a terror crime of the nature that the prosecution makes it out to be, would they wait for six months to arrest the named accused? I would give the reasons why... because they spent this time getting statements against (him) and those statements have no basis in the actual crime," he argued, adding the speech may not meet everybody's approval but the same cannot make it a crime.

However, the court said the question was whether Khalid's speech and subsequent actions resulted in the riots. "The law is well-settled when it comes to the freedom of speech and expression, but what is the consequence of your employing these expressions, offensive as they evidently are?... Did they in fact incite the populace in Delhi to come out onto the streets and indulge in riots?" it said.

Justice Bhatnagar also said that the person who introduced Khalid at the Amravati event said that the speaker would present his "inquilabi khayalat" (revolutionary ideas) and observed

that people were clapping and nodding.

Pais submitted that people clap when anybody speaks. "It does not become terror."

The court, after hearing Pais's arguments, said that Khalid's entire case was that there was no incitement to violence in his speech. However, it said, "the speech may be totally innocuous by itself if we look at it in isolation, but if we look at it from the standpoint of whether it was sounding the bugle for something that was to follow..."

When Pais submitted that Khalid started his speech by referring to Mahatma Gandhi and showing his respect for the Constitution, the court said that somebody may say it was a cleverly-crafted speech and "evidently Dr Umar Khalid is an intelligent man".

On April 22, while hearing Khalid's application, the court had said that his speech at Amravati was "offensive", "obnoxious" and hateful. "These expressions being used, don't you think they incite people? You say things like *aapke purvaj angrezon ki dalali kar rahe the* (your ancestors were acting as agents of the British), you don't think it is offensive?... It is almost as if we distinctly get the impression that it was only one particular community that fought for India's Independence," the Division Bench had said.

The court had made the observation when the counsel representing Khalid was reading the portion where he said that Mahatma Gandhi had launched a non-cooperation movement against the British in 1920 and Jamia Millia Islamia University was one of the first educational institutes to be established after Gandhi's call. Khalid had gone on to invoke the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha "ancestors" of the "current rulers" and said since they wanted people to prove their ancestry, questions needed to be asked about their ancestors too.

The court had asked, "Don't you think it foments religious ferment between groups?"

Pais Wednesday told the court that there was serious violence against students of Jamia Millia Islamia University in December 2019 and the speech was made in that context. He said Khalid was not referring to communities but an organisation when he said "the ideological ancestors of persons who inhabit this organisation did not participate in the freedom struggle".

The court will continue hearing the appeal against the dismissal of the bail application on Thursday.

‘What did he do to deserve this?': Wife of man killed in bar brawl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, APRIL 27

A DAY after a 30-year-old man was beaten to death during a brawl at a pub in Noida's Gardens Galleria mall, police arrested seven men, including five restaurant employees.

"Nine men are involved in the brawl-murder incident and we have arrested seven. One is unknown and the other is absconding. Five of the accused are restaurant staffers and the others are security guards from the mall. We found that the security personnel behaved rashly," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvijay Singh said.

Brajesh Rai, who worked at a private firm in Noida, was at Lost Lemons gastropub with his office colleagues on Monday night when they got into a fight with the restaurant staffers over the bill. The fight escalated and Rai was fatally injured.

According to police, Brajesh's autopsy report revealed that he had sustained severe injuries to his head and ruptured his spleen. Brajesh is survived by his wife and two children who live in Noida. On Wednesday, the family went to their hometown in Bihar's Chhapra for the final rites. Pooja,



Brajesh Rai, his family

Brajesh's wife, blamed police and his friends for not informing her on time. "I last spoke to him in the evening. He said he would be back by 10.30 pm. I was waiting and kept calling him. I called his colleagues but they didn't tell me anything. I was worried and started looking for him. At 3 am, one of his colleagues said Brajesh was injured in a brawl. When I reached the hospital, I found he had died. Police and his colleagues were standing there, not doing anything. I wish I knew what happened. My kids keep asking about their father and I don't know what to say. What did my husband do to deserve this? He was punched and brutally assaulted... all over a food bill. What were the others doing? None of them has injuries," said Pooja, a school teacher.

The family shifted from Mumbai to Noida around four

months ago. "I feel completely lost. What crime did my husband commit? My father and father-in-law don't earn. Brajesh was our backbone... I need help for my children," said Pooja.

A senior police officer said, "We saw the autopsy reports and conducted an enquiry. The man was repeatedly punched and kicked in the abdomen. He also sustained injuries on his head. There was internal bleeding and a spleen rupture..." The arrested accused are restaurant managers Devender Singh and Sunder Singh, Kumer Singh, Himanshu Kumar, Medi Thakur, Guddu Singh and Kapil Singh.

Additional DCP Singh said the pub has been sealed and security has been increased at the mall. According to police, after dinner, Rai and his colleagues were handed a bill of Rs 7400. The men allegedly had an argument with the staffers over additional charges and a fight broke out. The mall security head and PR department did not respond to calls and texts seeking comment.

Rakesh Chauhan, District Information Officer, Gautam Buddha Nagar, said, "Taking cognizance, we are suspending the bar licence with immediate effect, and the team also issued a show-cause notice to the bar."

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE CENTRE has started the process of evicting artists who had been allotted government bungalows on rent in Asiad village in the 1970s. These include several Padma and Sangeet Natak Akademi awardees.

Among them is 91-year-old Odissi dance exponent Guru Mayadhar Raut, who was awarded a Padma Shri – the country's fourth highest civilian honour – in 2010 by the President for his significant role in giving Odissi its classical status. On Tuesday afternoon, the certificate signed by the President was lying on the road along with his other belongings as he was evicted.

His daughter, Odissi dancer Madhumita Raut, said she was serving lunch when officials arrived. "I'm just extremely hurt and broken today. Here is a dancer who trained some of the most legendary dancers in the country like Sonal Mansingh and Radha Reddy and this is how brutally you treat this legend. He taught in Delhi for 50 years, and does not own an inch of land anywhere... he does not deserve to



Odissi dance exponent Guru Mayadhar Raut after the eviction

be thrown out like this. Every citizen deserves basic dignity," said Madhumita, who has temporarily moved to a basement owned by her student's parents in Sarvodaya Enclave.

Since the 70s, the artistes between the age of 40-70, were allotted accommodations at nominal rents for three-year terms which were extended regularly. The extensions expired in 2014 and there has been a constant back and forth of letters between the artistes and the Culture Ministry since then. The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry had issued notices to them to vacate these houses in 2020. Some, in-

cluding late Kathak exponent Birju Maharaj, dhruwad exponent Wasifuddin Dagar, Kuchipudi guru Jayarama Rao and Mohiniyattam exponent Bharati Shivaji, had moved the court.

An official in the Directorate of Estates under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said their teams are going ahead with evicting the government bungalows. "The union cabinet had taken a decision that artistes will no longer be eligible for government bungalows. The Delhi High Court had upheld that decision and asked us to allow them some more time to move out on humanitarian grounds (till April 25).

That period, too, is gone and we have asked them to vacate. Out of 28 such accommodations, 17 artists have vacated and the remaining have communicated to us that they will do so in a few days," the official said.

According to Mohiniyattam exponent and Padma Shree awardee Bharati Shivaji, 74, who lives with her 98-year-old mother and also received the eviction notices, the incident with Guru Mayadhar was too painful, which is why she has packed her belongings and sent them to a storage facility while looking for an affordable apartment in Delhi. "I started here as a performer, have written three books out of this space, taught here, and now I am being removed from here. Artists don't retire, their role changes. The government needs to value that," said Shivaji.

Dhruwad exponent Wasifuddin Dagar has moved to Gurgaon to an apartment that a student's parents have arranged. "We are not the top guns of classical music. We don't have the kind of money that others get, so to get something affordable in Delhi will be hard. But this government is not listening," he said.

With inputs from Anisha Dutta

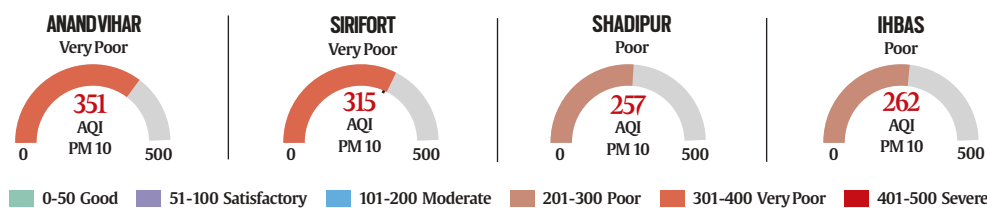
Atishi to address UN

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party MLA Atishi will speak on the Delhi government policies at the United Nations General Assembly in a meeting on the 'New Urban Agenda'.

The UNGA has convened a high-level meeting on implementation of the New Urban Agenda on April 28. The stated objectives of the meeting are to "assess the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and facilitate an ongoing exchange of experiences among the member states, local and regional governments, and other constituencies of the New Urban Agenda such as professional associations, grassroots organisations, and business leaders".

Atishi said, "It is a privilege for me to join the panel of eminent mayors from across the globe and discuss the effective people-centric policies of the Kejriwal government at such a prestigious international forum. This is a great opportunity for governments to learn from one another and help people all over the world through policies that are closely connected to the needs of citizens." The MLA from Kalkaji will be among those addressing the meeting, along with the mayors of Bogota and Barcelona on 'Best Practices of Leading Locally'. **ENS**

8 THE CITY



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: April 28
 Mainly clear sky. Heat wave conditions at isolated places. Strong surface winds (speed 35-45 kmph) during the day.
MAX: 43 | **MIN: 23**
 4.4°C Above normal | 1.0°C below normal

Anti-encroachment drive in Shaheen Bagh, says South MCD mayor, invokes 'Bangladeshis'

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

MAYOR OF the South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mukesh Suryan Wednesday inspected parts of Jaitpur, Sarita Vihar and Madanpur Khadar to assess the extent of encroachments.

During his visit, Suryan said a similar exercise and anti-encroachment drive will be undertaken in Shaheen Bagh. The area saw anti-CAA protests for months.

"We will run bulldozers in areas where Bangladeshis and Rohingyas have settled and

where there are illegal encroachments," said Suryan. He said drives would be against illegal encroachments in all areas except where courts have ordered a stay.

Earlier this month, the North MCD carried out a drive in Jahangirpuri, which was later stayed by the Supreme Court. The civic body had not issued notice for the drive, which came days after communal violence in the area.

Suryan said Wednesday's drive was to see the scale of encroachment, and action would be taken in the coming days. Talking about the drive being planned in Shaheen Bagh, he said, "We could



Mayor Suryan during his visit on Wednesday. *Gajendra Yadav*

not go there today as the local councillor could not be contacted. But in coming days there will be action there too."

Sources in the corporation

said that while Suryan is willing to conduct a drive, there is resistance from the municipal commissioner. Suryan has the backing of the BJP as party chief Adesh Gupta wrote to the East and South municipal corporations mayors recently to identify and demolish "illegal encroachment" in their jurisdictions, a day after the Jahangirpuri drive, sources said.

As Suryan visited these areas Wednesday, there were apprehensions among people, especially those living in jhuggi clusters, that their homes could be targeted.

Anil Kumar, a resident of Jasola Vihar Khadda Colony, said there were talks that houses would be demolished. Another resident of a jhuggi cluster in Jasola, Premwati, said, "We brought this home 40 years ago. We have all the papers, then why

are there so many government officials here?"

The Aam Aadmi Party meanwhile protested against the move, calling it anti-people. The party held a protest at the BJP headquarters on Wednesday, alleging that these drives are extortion rackets running in the guise of "bulldozer justice".

"BJP councillors have understood these are their last days in the MCD so they are trying their best to mint money," said AAP MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak.

Leader of opposition in the North MCD Vikas Goel said that people are being served notices so that BJP can use this model to extort money from them.

In the past, AAP has blamed the BJP for helping settle Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in different parts of the country to "use" them during communal riots.

Plaque in Mohammadpur village gives a new name: Madhavpuram

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

PLAQUES DECLARING Mohammadpur village as Madhavpuram were placed in the South Delhi village by local BJP councillor Bhagat Singh Tokas on Wednesday.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta attended the event along with some local residents to 'rename' the area.

Gupta said, "After the proposal for renaming Madhavpuram village was passed in the (South) corporation, the process of renaming the village was completed today. From now on, this village will be known as Madhavpuram instead of Mohammadpur."

"After 75 years of Independence, no symbol of slavery should remain. No Delhiite wants it," he added.



Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta attended the event

Asked if the South MCD can change name of a place as the ultimate power to change names rests with the Delhi government, Gupta said, "We have done it at our end, now the Delhi government should tell whether it wants to change the name or not."

Tokas, who had made the proposal for the name change, said: "I placed a board announcing the change of name on the

demand of villagers."

In the proposal, Tokas had said, "During the Mughal era, the name of every village was forcibly changed. Ward 66S village Mohammadpur falls in the urban village category under the jurisdiction of the South MCD. Mohammadpur villagers' demand to change the name of the village has been pending for a long time."

Two men die inside sewer in Outer Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

TWO MEN died after they fell into a sewer in Outer Delhi's Bawana area on Wednesday morning.

The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said they received a call at 11.25 am about the incident. DFS chief Atul Garg said, "It was a rescue call from Balaji Chowk. We were told two men had fallen inside a sewer. We sent two fire tenders. The firemen pulled out the men and sent them to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital where doctors declared them dead on arrival."

The deceased have been identified as Chittaranjan (26) and Abdul Kalam (18). During enquiry, police found that Kalam was a ragpicker who allegedly removed the sewer's cover, and entered to collect plastic

waste. He fell unconscious after inhaling gases, said police. DCP (Outer North) Brijendra Kumar Yadav said, "Kalam went down the sewer to collect waste but didn't return for some time. His brother, Sahil, who was also at the spot screamed for help. Chittaranjan, a driver, was passing by and stopped. He went down the sewer but also got trapped." Police said an enquiry under CrPc sections has been initiated.

Naushad, a labourer who works near the spot, said, "...We brought ropes for the rescue. We later saw the two men lying inside."

Another labourer, Gufrana, said, "Kalam would usually take a stick, tie it to a bucket and take the waste out. We don't know why he went into the sewer this time. The passerby, who also died, went into the sewer with a rope but the toxic gases killed him."

DU colleges to postpone practicals for students with Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

AMID A spike in daily Covid cases during the examination season, the Delhi University administration has given colleges permission to reschedule practical examinations for students with the virus.

Delhi University is set to conduct its first offline examinations since the onset of the pandemic, for 'even semester' students starting from May 11. So far, all examinations have been conducted in the online open book examination mode.

In the run up to the offline examinations, colleges have been conducting practical examinations. However, with the spike in cases, Dean Examinations Diwan Rawat has reached out to colleges, recommending that they exercise flexibility while conducting practical examinations.

While practicals are normally concluded before theory examinations begin, the administration has given colleges the go-ahead to conduct these after theory examinations if need be.

"If practical examinations are getting affected or some students miss them due to sickness, colleges should reschedule the exam for a later date for such students, it can even be after theory examination. Please try to help students during the most difficult time," wrote Rawat in a communication to colleges.

Delhi has been recording more than 1,000 cases daily for the last four days with a positivity rate above 4%.

A section of students has been opposing the offline examinations, claiming that they are not equipped since a majority of their teaching-learning has been conducted in the online mode. However, the university administration has been firm about the need to conduct examinations after offline classes resumed in February.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PWRD NAGAO & HOJAI ROAD CIRCLE,
NAGAON::ASSAM
No.SE/NRC/TB/NIT/12/2021-22/30
PRESS NOTICE INVITING Re- TENDER
 The Superintending Engineer, PWRD, Nagaon & Hojai Road Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for 1 (One) no. of work under (PR) SDRF for the year 2020-21 under Jamunamukh LAC in Hojai District amounting to Rs.68.78 Lakhs (approx.). Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/-
 Janasanyog/CF/284/22
Superintending Engineer, PWD
Nagaon & Hojai Road Circle, Nagaon

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
No.- C-470-Sonpur Division-WVM-22
Dated:- 27.04.2022
 On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Sonpur vide Tender Notification No. C-470-Sonpur Division-WVM-22 dated 20.04.2022 has invited open online tendering for provision of water vending machine at A-1, A and B category stations of Sonpur Division, wherein the last date of online tendering has been mentioned as 15.05.2022 instead of 13.05.2022 erroneously. **The last date of online tendering should be read as 13.05.2022 upto 15:00 Hrs.** Other terms and conditions of tender notification no. C-470-Sonpur Division-WVM-22 dated 20.04.2022 will remain same.
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Sonpur
PR/0157/SEE/COM/LUC/22-23/28

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in, e-Mail: cdcoe1@kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-E-Service/1/1322/2022-23 Date: 25.04.2022
Short term Tender Notification for Request for Proposal (RFP)
For Selection of Consultants for Providing Services
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)
 KIADB invites Tenders from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for Providing Services for Land Audit including individual plot survey and assets of KIADB industrial areas.
Name of the work: (1) Providing services for Land Audit including individual plot survey and assets of KIADB industrial areas coming in the Jurisdiction of Executive Engineer-Dharwad (9 Industrial Area – Total Extent: 4246.12 Acres) Package-1
(2) Providing services for Land Audit including individual plot survey and assets of KIADB industrial areas coming in the Jurisdiction of Executive Engineer-Davangere (10 Industrial Area – Total Extent: 1837.50 Acres) Package-2
(3) Providing services for Land Audit including individual plot survey and assets of KIADB industrial areas coming in the Jurisdiction of Executive Engineer-Belagavi (7 Industrial Area – Total Extent: 1375.50 Acres) Package-3.
 The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.05.2022 upto 04:00 pm**
 Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
Debts Recovery Tribunal
A, B & F Wings, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna - 800 025
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Vs
M/s Tirraj Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. & Others
(In R.P. Case No. 147/2013 arising out of Certificate No. OA 158/2012)
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
 As per order dated 23/03/2022, under mentioned property will be sold by **public online e-Auction** on the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of Rs.3,93,50,776/- from **M/s Tirraj Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. & Others**, the sum is recoverable together with interest cost, charges, as per the certificate subject to final calculation after deducting of recovered amount **Rs. 65,40,000/-**. The auction sale will be by way of online **e-Auction**.
Description of property:

Lot No.	Description of property	Reserve Price	EMD	Date and time of auction
1.	All that part and parcel of land standing in the name of M/s Tirraj Cold Storage through its Director, Shri Ritu Raj Choudhary S/o Sh. Subodh Kumar Choudhary, Lease for a period of 90 years from 06.11.2011 for land measuring 40,000 sq. ft. comprising of Industrial Plot No. 1,2,3,4, 5(P), Industrial Area, Gaya in Khersa/Plot No.542(P), Khata No.90, Thana No.352 situated in Mauza Tekuna, Gaya Dhoibi Road, Pargana-Pahara, and bounded as follows:- North: Industrial Plot No.P-5(P), South: 100-0 wide Industrial Road, East-Gaya Dhoibi Main Road; and West 50-0 wide Industrial Road. Together with all the buildings and structures constructed or to be constructed thereon, fixed plant and machinery attached the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, fixtures and fittings erected/installed or to be erected/installed thereon, both present and future, and every part thereof.	Rs. 2,65,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs and Fifty Thousand Only)	Rs. 26,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs and Fifty Thousand Only) on or before 23/05/2022 upto 4.00 PM.	25/05/2022 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be Rs. 50,000/-

Details of e-auction agency:
Company name/address:- M/s E-procurement Technologies Limited, B-704/705, Wall Street-II, Opp.-Orient Club. Nr. Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006.
Website add:- <https://drt.auctiontigger.net>
e-mail address:- bihar@auctiontigger.net support@auctiontigger.net
Support Held Desk Details: Mobile No 9265562818/9265562821/9265562819, Land Line No. 079-68136880/881/837/842.
Details of the facilitation center: Address:- (i) Office of Recovery Officer, A, B & F Wings, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sand, Ashiyana Digha Road, Patna- 25 and (ii) HUDCO, Regional Office, Block B-2, II Floor, Maurya Lok Complex, Dak Bunglow Road, PS: Kotwali, Patna- 800001. E-mail ID: pro@hudco.org.
Name of Contact Person:- Salyanarayan Gupta, Senior Manager (Law), Mob. No. 9430780213, Website <http://www.hudco.org>
ACCOUNT DETAIL FOR ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER

ACCOUNT NO & NAME	NAME	IFSC CODE
142010200000310	AXIS BANK LTD.- LOK NAYAK BAWAN PATNA	UTIB0000142

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-
 1. The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
 2. The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participation in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode.
 3. To take part in auction, each bidder shall deposit earnest money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna alongwith copy of pan card, address proof and identity proof with E-mail ID, mobile no. of bidder. The envelop containing EMD alongwith details of documents should be superscribed R.P. No. 147/2013 and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 23/05/2022 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna or should credit the amount in respective bank's/financial institution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
 4. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
 5. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs.1,000/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
 6. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
 7. The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
 8. EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
 9. Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
 10. Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.
(Kumar Rajiv Ranjan)
Recovery Officer
Dated 21/04/2022

Government of Maharashtra
Directorate of Archaeology and Museums
 St. George Fort, St. George Hospital Campus, Near C.S.M.T., Mumbai-400 001
E-mail : mahaarchaeology@gmail.com Tel. No. : (022)-22623380
No. : Museum 2022-23/State Museum-T.N./1077 Date : 22nd April 2022
Tender Notice
THE Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra State invites tender from the eligible firms' through the online mode for the appointment of the Museum Master Planner for the proposed Maharashtra State Museum. The applicant firm should fulfill the eligibility criteria mentioned below.
 1. The Firm should have completed a project of establishing a Museum with the Central or State Government on the site area of minimum ten acres.
 2. The build-up of the compelled Museum project should be of the minimum size measuring 20,000 Sq. Mtr. and of the minimum cost amounting to Rs. 250 crores.
 3. The applicant firm should have a minimum annual turnover of Rs. 2.50 crores for the last five financial years. However, for the COVID-19 lockdown period (Years 2020-21 and 2021-22), the minimum annual turnover is relaxed to Rs. 50 lakhs per year.
 4. The applicant firm should be practicing in the filed of Museum Establishment and Design for the minimum period of fifteen years. The firm having a global experience in the field is desirable.
 5. The appointment will be purely on a project based and no any permanent claim will be entertained in this regard.
 The tender form and document will be available for download with applicable charges on the web site <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 28th April, 2022 to 06th May, 2022. The eligible firms may visit the above mentioned web site for more details.
 The Directorate reserves the right to cancel/ postpone this notice of tender at any point of time and to accept/ reject any tender without assigning any reason.
Sd/-
Director
 DGIPR/2022-2023/C-334

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HYDRAULIC DIVISION URI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 05 OF 2022-23 Dated: 23.04.2022
 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Uri invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of Hydraulic Division Uri of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
 The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated cost in lacs	Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Validity Period	Time of completion of work (in days)
1	➤ Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting GI Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves. ➤ Construction of Service Reservoirs (SRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants. ➤ Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc. at various Water Supply schemes of Hydraulic Division Uri of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	500/-	02% of the estimate d cost	90 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Uri.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM)
Critical Dates

	Event	Date
i	Publish Date	25/04/2022 : 10:00 AM
ii	Document download/ sale start date	25/04/2022 : 10:00 AM
iii	Pre- Bid meeting date	26/04/2022 : 10:00 AM
iv	Bid submission start date	27/04/2022 : 10:00 AM
v	Bid submission end date	11/05/22 04:00 PM
vi	Date and time of bid opening	12/05/22 04:00 PM

 1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
 2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
 3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table.
 a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri.
 4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
 5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non- responsive.
 6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
 7. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphela@gmail.com.
No. HDU/CC-02/315-26
Dated: 23.04.2022
DIPK-1168/22
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
Hydraulic Division Uri

9 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



UPPER HAND

NOW THAT Haryana Congress veteran Bhupinder Singh Hooda has got what he wanted, the big question is will he continue his association with the G 23 leaders, some of them his close personal friends. Accepting his demand, the Congress on Wednesday removed Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja and appointed Uday Bhan, a four-time MLA who is considered a Hooda loyalist. So Hooda remains the Congress Legislature Party leader and a person loyal to him is the PCC chief, giving him complete control of the party in the state. Being a former chief minister, Hooda was among the prominent voices in the G 23 camp.

EYE ON POLLS

MORE THAN eight months after the TMC announced its plan to launch a full-fledged state committee in Tripura, a steering committee, which was supposed to be a temporary arrangement, continues to lead the party. The committee is led by former state legislator Subal Bhowmik, who has frequently changed parties in the past. The party got around 17 per cent vote in the civic polls last year, but its lone councilor joined the BJP earlier this month. Looking at the situation, the party recently deputed its Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev to put its house in order in the state, which is scheduled to go to polls in early 2023.

FLY SAFE

ON THE lines of Kashmir, the government has now operationalised air courier services for Central Armed Police Forces from Maoist-affected areas of Chhattisgarh as well. The service being run by Indigo Airlines – after Air India was taken over by Tata – was until now restricted to J&K, the North East and West Bengal. Sources said the new service, which runs from Delhi to Raipur to Jagdalpur, was operationalised on April 23. Air courier service helps personnel posted in remote or conflict zones to travel to mainland with ease and without danger. Following the 2019 Pulwama attack, the Ministry of Home Affairs had authorised free air travel for all rank and file of CAPFs through air couriers.

In a win for Hooda, loyalist Bhan is new Haryana Cong chief

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 27

THE CONGRESS on Wednesday replaced Kumari Selja as the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president with Uday Bhan, who is a loyalist of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Bhan also belongs to the Dalit community.

To defuse feuds, the high command also appointed four working presidents – one each from the Hooda, Kiran Choudhry, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Selja camps. They are Shruti Choudhry (Kiran's daughter), Ram Kishan Gujjar (Selja loyalist), Jitender Kumar Bhardwaj (from Hooda camp), and Suresh Gupta (Surjewala loyalist).

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) leader in charge of the Haryana unit, Vivek Bansal, told *The Indian Express*, "The party is supposed to do the balancing act. The most important thing at this point is to ensure unity in the state leadership. At the same time, by appointing the working presidents, the party has sent a message down the line that caste equations have been taken care of. It will strengthen the party as the leadership issue has been settled."

Sources in the party said Hooda, who had been pushing for



Uday Bhan, a 4-time MLA, replaced Kumari Selja

Selja's ouster, was offered the HPCC president's post but he turned it down. Party functionaries said Hooda, who met party president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Tuesday, was not willing to step down as CLP leader because he wanted to remain the Leader of Opposition. According to insiders, Hooda suggested 67-year-old Bhan's name as the next HPCC chief. Sources told *The Indian Express* that the central leadership, after deliberations that lasted a few weeks, agreed to give Hooda a free hand since most of the party's 31 MLAs are on his side.

"The party high command has taken a good decision," Hooda told *The Indian Express*. "Uday Bhan is a grassroots leader and a dependable Congress worker..."

Bhan, who is a four-time MLA, told *The Indian Express*, "The prime objective will be to strengthen the party at the ground level. We all will work under the able leadership and guidance of Bhupinder Singh Hooda and take the Congress to new heights. Since there is no leadership issue in the state unit now, we all will work together and strengthen the party at the block, booth, and district levels and across the state."

Cong: New Odisha party chief decision in a week

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 27

AMID SPECULATION surrounding changes in the leadership of the Congress's Odisha unit, the party's state in-charge A Chellakumar said a decision on the new Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president would most likely be finalised within a week.

Demands for an overhaul of the party in Odisha grew louder

after back-to-back debacles in the recent urban and rural elections. Concluding his two-day visit to Odisha on Wednesday, Chellakumar said, "I will submit a report to the AICC (All India Congress Committee), and the party will take a final decision on who will lead the OPCC next."

"The next leader will be appointed after thorough consultations and taking into consideration the views of all leaders and lawmakers from the party in the state," he said.

Covid-19 challenge not over, need to stay alert: PM to CMs

Says priority should be to vaccinate children, tells states to run special campaigns

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE CHALLENGE of Covid-19 is not fully over and the surge in cases in the past two weeks indicates that the country needs to stay alert, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Interacting with chief ministers to review the Covid-19 situation in the country, the Prime Minister raised a red flag, specifically highlighting the surge in cases being witnessed in European countries triggered by sub-variants of Omicron.

"In some states, Covid-19 cases are once again increasing... it is clear that the challenge of Covid-19 is not fully over. We are seeing in European countries, how Omicron and its sub-variants can lead to a serious situation. In the last few months, in a few countries, due to these sub-variants we have seen many surges," he said. "Compared to other countries, Indians have kept the situation relatively under control. Despite that, in the last two



PM Narendra Modi speaks with CMs via video link. PTI

weeks, the way the cases are surging in a few states, it is a sign that we need to be alert."

The Prime Minister emphasised that priority in the new phase of the pandemic should be to vaccinate all eligible children. He directed states to run special vaccination campaigns, especially in the backdrop of children returning to school after a long break.

"After a long break, the schools have reopened in our country. Some parents are worried about the increase in cases in some places. There are reports of some schools reporting children being tested positive for Covid-19. However, it is a matter of satisfaction that many children have also

received protection through the vaccines," he said.

"Yesterday, the regulator gave permission to administer Covaxin for 6-12 years. It is our priority to vaccinate all the eligible child population. For this, we have to run special drives in the schools. We have to create awareness among the parents and the teachers about the importance of vaccination."

He highlighted that the twin strategy of bringing the cases under control and allowing the economy to continue should remain the priority. "During the third wave, we witnessed more than three lakh daily cases. Every state handled these cases well. They also allowed economic and social activity to continue. This balance should be part of future strategy," the Prime Minister said.

"Our scientists and experts are continuously monitoring the global situation. Based on their advice, we have to adopt a pre-emptive, proactive, and collective approach."

The Prime Minister said that for early tracking of the variants, the local administration should

conduct RT-PCR tests on all hospitalised patients with influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory illness. "It was our priority to stop the infections right at the beginning. We have to continue to make this our priority now. We have to effectively implement the test, track and treat strategy. It is very important that we do 100% RT-PCR testing on hospitalised patients with influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory illness; all the positive cases should be sent for genome sequencing. By doing this, we will be able to detect the new variants."

Modi reiterated that the states promote Covid-19 appropriate behaviour at social gatherings. "At the same time, we should ensure we don't create panic among the public," he said.

On medical infrastructure, the PM asked the states to ensure all the PSA oxygen plants, and hospital beds are made fully functional.

Wednesday's meeting came in the backdrop of India's active caseload touching 16,279. The country's weekly positivity rate stands at 0.5, and 2,927 cases were reported in the past 24 hours.

NDMA notifies guidelines for Covid-19 death compensation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THOSE WANTING to claim compensation for the death of a family member due to Covid-19, will have to make an application to the government by May 23, a public notice issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Wednesday.

All Covid-19 deaths that have occurred before March 20, 2022 are eligible to apply for compensation and these claims will have to be processed and disbursal of compensation made within 30 days of the claims being received, it said.

For deaths occurring after the cut-off date, claims can be made within 90 days of the death.

The notice is a result of the Supreme Court ordering the government to provide compensation to Covid-19 victims and asking the NDMA to formulate the modalities last year. On March 24, following pleas by the Centre over alleged fake claims and the time limit for making claims, the apex court issued certain guidelines. The NDMA notice is based on these guidelines.

"The earlier order to process the claims and to make the actual payment of compensation within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of claim shall continue to be enforced," the notice said. In case of hardship where any claimant could not make an application in time, the claimant can approach the Grievance Redressal Committee.

FAREWELL TO DELHI

Cong can't exist without Gandhis in lead: Antony

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

BIDDING FAREWELL to Delhi and having decided to gradually withdraw from national politics, veteran Congress leader A K Antony on Wednesday sent out a strong message to regional forces, arguing that those who sincerely wish to oust the BJP-led NDA in 2024 should realise that they cannot succeed without the Congress playing a central role.

He also argued that the Congress cannot exist without the Nehru-Gandhi family leading it.

Antony, a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and head of the party's disciplinary action committee, hopes to gradually withdraw from organisational responsibilities as he shifts base back to home state, Kerala – he is scheduled to leave Delhi on Thursday.

Asked about continuing as a CWC member and head of the disciplinary committee, he signalled he may not like to continue.

Antony is shifting base at a time the party is struggling to revive itself, battling a leadership crisis and groping in the dark to find solutions to organisational problems. Antony refused to be drawn into the Prashant Kishor saga. He also parried questions on whether any of the recommendations of an introspection committee that he headed after the Congress's defeat in 2014 Lok Sabha polls were implemented.

He only said the Congress cannot exist without the Nehru-Gandhi family playing a



A K Antony at his Delhi residence on Wednesday. The veteran leader is shifting base to his home state, Kerala. Amit Mehra

Those who sincerely wish for a change of government at the Centre in 2024...they should accept the Congress's main role."

— A K ANTONY
CONGRESS LEADER

central role.

Asked whether he wants Rahul Gandhi to take over as Congress president, Antony said: "The Congress cannot exist without the Nehru-Gandhi family leading it. And an Opposition bloc without the Congress will also have no relevance in Indian politics. Those who sincerely wish for a change of government at the Centre in 2024...they should accept the Congress's main role..."

Hinting at parties such as TMC, he said, "If they think it can be done avoiding the Congress, I

think they are living in a dream world. I don't want to say more."

He admitted that the Congress has weakened over the years and does not enjoy the "monopoly" it had in Indian politics but argued that "five or 10 or 15 years is a short period in a country's history".

Antony said the Mandal agitation and the Ram Temple movement were the main factors which weakened the Congress in the 1990s. "And it is the politics of polarisation now which has created divisions and hatred," he said. "That is the problem...hate politics.... The issue now is how to counter that it is more important than organisational issues."

The Congress weakened, he said, as a result of "polarisation politics and many other issues". But "if you are sincere in bringing a change of guard at the Centre in 2024, the only way is to accept the Congress's lead," he added.

PM to visit Germany, Denmark, France in May

Trip in challenging times

THE PRIME Minister's trip to Europe comes amid the challenging situation arising out of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. New Delhi will have to navigate questions

EXPLAINED

from its European partners, who will seek India's support. Bilateral ties with Germany, France and the Nordic countries will help shape the agenda of the visit.

act with the Indian community in Germany.

In 2021, India and Germany commemorated 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations and have been strategic partners since 2000. "This visit will be an opportunity to enhance and intensify cooperation in a broad range of areas and for the two governments to exchange views on regional and global matters of mutual interest," the MEA said in a statement.

The Prime Minister will then travel to Copenhagen at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen. He

will participate in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit being hosted by Denmark. The bilateral component of the visit will include talks with PM Frederiksen as well as an audience with Queen Margrethe II.

"The Green Strategic Partnership was the first of its kind arrangement between India and Denmark. The visit would provide both sides an opportunity to review its progress, as well as examine ways to further expand our multifaceted cooperation," the MEA said. During the visit, he will also attend an India-Denmark Business Forum

and also address members of the Indian diaspora.

During the 2nd India-Nordic Summit, Modi will also interact with other Nordic leaders – PM Katrin Jakobsdóttir of Iceland, PM Jonas Gahr Støre of Norway, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and Prime Minister Sanna Marin of Finland.

"The Summit will focus on subjects like post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change, innovation and technology, renewable energy, the evolving global security scenario and India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region," the MEA said.

The 1st India-Nordic Summit took place in 2018 in Stockholm. On his return journey on May 4, PM Modi will briefly stop over in Paris and meet French President Emmanuel Macron, who has just been re-elected. "India and France are celebrating 75 years of their diplomatic relations this year and the meeting between the two leaders will set a more ambitious agenda of the Strategic Partnership," the MEA statement said.

RAISINA DIALOGUE



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his Portuguese counterpart Joao Cravinho in New Delhi. PTI

India should shun approach to please world: Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said India should engage the world on the basis of its confidence in its identity rather than trying to please the global community.

Speaking at the Raisina dialogue, Jaishankar said the country needs to put behind the idea that it needs the approval of other countries. "We have to be confident about who we are. I think, it is better to engage the world on the basis of who we are rather than try and please the world as a pale imitation of what they are. This idea that others define us, somehow we need to get the approval of other quarters, I think, that is an era we need to put behind us," he said.

Speaking at a session on India's 75-year-long journey after Independence and the way ahead, Jaishankar said, "We

should not be looking at the world with a sense of entitlement. We need to earn our place in the world and which, to a certain extent, therefore, comes to the issue of how the world benefits from the growth of India. We need to demonstrate that."

Asked about what should be the priority for the country in 25 years, Jaishankar said capability development in all possible areas should be the central focus.

Referring to the Ukraine crisis, the Minister said the best way to deal with it will be to focus on "stopping the fighting and getting the talking" and added that India's position on the conflict is best placed to advance such an approach.

On Tuesday, Jaishankar countered criticism of India's position on Russia's actions in

JAISHANKAR TO VISIT BANGLADESH, BHUTAN

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Bangladesh and Bhutan from April 28 to 30, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.

During the visit to Bangladesh on April 28-29, Jaishankar will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and also hold discussions with his counterpart A K Abdul Momen in Dhaka.

In Thimphu on April 29-30, he will be Bhutan's first high-level visitor from abroad since March 2020. "This will be the first high-level official visit since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic," the Bhutan Foreign ministry said, announcing the visit. **ENS**

Ukraine, saying the Western powers have been oblivious to the pressing challenges in Asia, including last year's developments in Afghanistan.

"We spent a lot of time yesterday on Ukraine and I have tried to explain what our views are but also explained that in our minds, the best way forward is to focus on stopping the fighting, getting the talking and finding ways of moving forward. We think our choices, our positions are best placed to advance that," he said.

In his address, Jaishankar also highlighted how the country played a key role in promoting democracy in South Asia. "If I were to pick a single thing that we have done, the difference we have made to the world in the last 75 years, it is the fact that we have a democracy," he said.

Quad, France military leaders discuss Ukraine, Indo-Pacific

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

NAVY CHIEF Admiral R Hari Kumar met Admiral John C Aquilino, Commander of US Indo-Pacific Command, on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue on Wednesday. They discussed avenues to enhance the existing cooperation between the two navies.

Earlier in the day, both admirals were part of a panel at the Raisina Dialogue during which they were joined by General Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff of Japan Self-Defence Forces, General Angus Campbell, Australian Defence Force chief, and Air Marshal Luc De Rancourt, deputy director general for international affairs and strategy, Ministry for Armed Forces, France.

India, US, Japan and Australia are members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, known as the Quad, and conduct the Malabar Naval exercise together.

Speaking at the panel, Admiral Kumar said, "We are in a contested present and moving on to quite an uncertain future. Why is this so? Primarily because of the conflict that we see as well as the challenges that are thrown in by the technologies which are emerging in various domains." He was referring to the war in Ukraine.

Stressing on the importance of working together with other nations, Admiral Kumar said that in



Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar

the Indian Ocean region, "To enhance maritime security, we try to respond and be the first responder. It helps in developing trust, interoperability, information exchange, good practices, and domain awareness. All this translates into maritime security."

Admiral Aquilino, referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, said this is the "most dangerous time in my lifetime, and the most dangerous time since World War 2".

Asked about China comparing the Quad with NATO, Aquilino said, "There are a lot of things that PRC (People's Republic of China) accuses people of that are not necessarily factual. Like-minded (countries) in the Indo-Pacific have been working together for 80 years." All nations, he said, "have a sovereign choice of what they want to do with other nations. If nations want to come together to provide security and prosperity, I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing."

General Yamazaki said Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a "violation of the international rules-based order. It violates sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is challenging the very foundation of the international order. It is the actual collapse of the international order."

The Indian

EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The editorial page

WORDLY WISE

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO ELIMINATE
EARTHQUAKES, WILDFIRES, DROUGHTS AND FLOODS.

— SHETH SHOSTAK

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

UNEMPLOYED INDIANS

For a country in the midst of a demographic transition, this is the biggest challenge

INDIA HAS AN employment problem which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. One indication of the building crisis is the continuing increase, over the years, in work demanded by households under the MGNREGA. In 2014-15, 4.13 crore households got work under the scheme. By 2019-20, just prior to the pandemic, this had risen to 5.48 crore. In 2020-21, at the peak of the economic distress, the number of households that worked under the scheme had risen to 7.55 crore. While that figure declined to 7.26 crore in the subsequent year, it remains considerably higher than the pre-pandemic level, indicating perhaps the continuing absence of alternatives. This growing divergence between the demand and supply of jobs manifests in a myriad of ways — from louder demands for reservation in the public sector by various caste groups, and for including the private sector in its ambit, to state governments exploring ways to ensure job quotas for locals. All this is indicative of a wide and deepening anxiety over employment prospects.

The deterioration in the employment scenario can be tracked at many levels. One, over the years, there has been a sharp fall in the labour force participation rate in India. Data from CMIE suggests that the labour force participation rate has fallen to around 40 per cent. For comparable countries, it is significantly higher. This decline suggests that despite India's young population, many have simply opted out of the labour force, perhaps feeling let down by the absence of remunerative, productive jobs. The situation is even more dire for women who had a considerably lower participation rate to begin with. India's female labour force participation is not only lower than the global average, but also lower than countries like Bangladesh. Two, even as the unemployment rate has declined from the highs observed during the initial phase of the pandemic, it remains elevated, suggesting that among those looking for jobs, those unable to find jobs remains high. Three, the unemployment rate is higher among the younger and more educated. As per the periodic labour force surveys, the unemployment rate is higher among those in the 15-29 age group (22.5 per cent in September 2019), and those educated up to at least the secondary level (11 per cent). Four, while there are signs of increasing formalisation as indicated by the EPFO data, a substantial share of the labour force continues to remain employed in the informal sector, lacking a safety net.

While successive governments have taken steps to address the issue, the jobs crisis is in large part the result of the absence of a labour intensive manufacturing sector which can not only absorb the millions entering the labour force each year, but also those moving out of agriculture. For a country of the young, in the midst of a demographic transition, the employment problem is perhaps the most formidable challenge before the government.

MUSK'S TWITTER

His buyout gives him outsize influence over public conversation, points to contours of future conflict with governments

THE OUTRIGHT PURCHASE of Twitter by Elon Musk for \$44 billion, after a series of controversies and conflicting reports — including of a "poison pill" defence by the company's board — is certain to shake up the tech industry, the digital public sphere and global markets. Given his position as a self-proclaimed "free speech absolutist", and the sheer size of the deal, the buyout also raises fundamental questions.

First, should one person, no matter how accomplished, wealthy or well-meaning, have disproportionate control over the global public conversation? Oversight is not just by governments and legislation, but the checks imposed by the fiduciary responsibility placed on publicly-traded companies. In the aftermath of the purchase, for example, Tesla's market capitalisation was wiped out by about \$126 billion. This sharp fall is at least in part due to concerns that Musk may sell stock in his flagship company to finance the buyout, as well as the fear that his attention will be occupied by Twitter — the platform's influence far outweighs its profitability. Second, Musk has been accused in the past of using Twitter and social media to further his companies' financial interests. Without oversight, his ability to manipulate the debate and markets for personal and financial ends only increases. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Musk's foreseeable plans for Twitter — reducing content moderation, in particular — frame the contours of a future conflict with national governments that are becoming more rigorous in their efforts to regulate social media.

Already, a spokesperson of the UK government has said that Twitter will have to comply with the Online Safety Bill once it becomes law. The European Union's commissioner for the internal market, Thierry Breton, tweeted that Musk and Twitter must comply with the Digital Services Act. In India, the government has often been at loggerheads with companies over taking down posts and tweets under Section 69(A) of the IT Act. Musk's response to the demand for oversight was to tweet: "The extreme antibody reaction from those who fear free speech says it all." It is no one's case that governments have been the best protectors of free speech, or that they have always been reasonable in their imposition of "reasonable restrictions". Yet, in democracies, there is a system of checks and balances, and legitimacy of law. Musk's Twitter — a for-profit company, with no one to answer to but him — has none of those boundaries or restraints. That could amount to not absolutely free speech, but an unencumbered entitlement. The onus is on the Musk-owned Twitter to alleviate these apprehensions.

SWEPT AWAY

South African floods underline that climate change will hit the poor the most. They should be the focus of adaptation strategies

THE DIRE WARNINGS of climate change experts are coming true. Flooding caused by torrential rainfall in the past two weeks has claimed close to 500 lives and left thousands homeless in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province. Tens of thousands of people in Durban are, reportedly, without water and there are concerns of an infectious disease outbreak. Authorities fear the toll could climb much higher.

Intense rainfall in spring and early summer is part of South Africa's weather pattern. In April-May, a low-pressure system, stemming from the westerly trough systems of cold air, develops south of the country and often results in inclement weather. In 2019, flash floods claimed 85 lives in Durban. But the intensity of the downpour this year was unprecedented. Some parts of KwaZulu-Natal experienced a year's rainfall in less than 36 hours. The weather vagary is straight out of classical climate change literature: Warmer seas push large amounts of moisture into the atmosphere leading to intense spells of rainfall. But that's one part of the story. The deluge's catastrophic turn has much to do with a failing that's common to several parts of the world, including India: Durban's drainage system that has, at best, seen cosmetic improvements in more than a century, was ill-equipped to handle the relentless downpour.

As in climate disasters in most parts of the world, the poor in South Africa have borne the brunt. Durban is a city of migrants, and large numbers live in shacks, locally called "informal settlements". These houses — an Apartheid-era legacy of the poor living in low-lying areas — were the first to be swept away by the flash floods. Experts have sounded the red alert for more extreme weather events in South Africa in the coming years. As in other parts of the world, the way forward lies in improving the accuracy of warning systems, and building the resilience of people, especially the poor. This should be the focus of adaptation strategies.



DHARMAKIRTI JOSHI AND PANKHURI TANDON

AFTER THE RAMPAGING virus, flaming prices are the new global scourge. Systemically important central banks that viewed the consistent uptick in inflation as transitory — caused by post-pandemic supply shocks — are now finding it hard to bottle the genie. Expectations that commodity and oil prices would cool down in 2022 as the pandemic ebbed were belied by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which exacerbated existing pressures. Fresh lockdowns in China are also extending the pandemic-induced supply-chain bottlenecks.

What central banks like even less is having to deal with rising inflation in times of weak growth. Because the primary tool they have to fight it — the interest rate hike — can be recessionary.

Cut to India, and you can see domestic inflation broad-basing in fiscal 2023. In just two months (between February and April), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sharply revised upwards its consumer price index-based (CPI) inflation forecast to 5.7 per cent from 4.5 per cent for this fiscal.

CPI inflation averaged 6.3 per cent in the January-March 2022, above the RBI's target range of 2-6 per cent. The RBI forecasts inflation for April-June at 6.3 per cent. One more quarter over the 6 per cent mark, and the central bank would owe the government an explanation.

But India's inflation — unlike in advanced countries where sizeable fiscal stimulus also contributed to the heating up of prices — has been largely "imported" via exogenous supply shocks. Pertinently, private consumption demand continues to be the weakest link in gross domestic product (GDP) growth so far. What's noteworthy, though, is that the drivers of inflation are morphing.

In fiscal 2021, inflationary pressures came largely from food and, to some extent, core (which excludes fuel and food). Back then, fuel inflation was quite benign. In fiscal 2022, crude prices hardened to emerge as the new driver. Core inflation firmed up further. But the drop in food inflation offset this, so overall inflation was lower at 5.5 per cent compared with 6.2 per cent the previous year.

What makes this fiscal worrying is, all three are firmly pointing in the same direction — up.

It is running riot, and there is little the central bank can do about it in the near term

In fiscal 2021, inflationary pressures came largely from food and, to some extent, core (which excludes fuel and food). Back then, fuel inflation was quite benign. In fiscal 2022, crude prices hardened to emerge as the new driver. Core inflation firmed up further. But the drop in food inflation offset this, so overall inflation was lower at 5.5 per cent compared with 6.2 per cent the previous year. What makes this fiscal worrying is, all three are firmly pointing in the same direction — up.



HITESH JAIN

PROPRIETY SUGGESTS A tried and tested method for making conclusions. It begins with formulating a hypothesis, testing it through research and then assessing its correctness. Another alternative is to turn this method on its head and work backwards. It entails the formulation of a favourable conclusion, which is followed by cherry-picking facts. Unfortunately, this method is in vogue and it is surprising to see renowned academicians opt for the same.

In an article in this paper ("The folly of an atmanirbhar internet", IE, March 30), Bhaskar Chakravorti took a veiled and somewhat exasperated swing at the country, the government, and oddly, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar. The article presents scattered criticism focused largely on the newly introduced Information Technology Rules (IT Rules) that lay down guidelines for social media intermediaries, along with stray observations on India's role in the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Grievances against India's stand on the Russia-Ukraine crisis warrant no explanation. India has always adopted a stance of peace when faced with issues of violence. This approach is not novel; it has been promoted at multiple points in time. The subsequent part of Chakravorti's article criticises the IT Rules and the idea of an atmanirbhar internet. However, before responding to these misplaced criticisms, we must understand why the government introduced such

WHY ATMANIRBHAR INTERNET

Critics of the idea fail to appreciate that it is a bid to counter hegemony of Big Tech

The country's judiciary, too, has highlighted the need for statutory guidelines to curb the spread of content that incites violence. Courts have regularly pulled up social media platforms for failing to do their bit in ensuring a dependable platform for their users. Recently, the Delhi High Court questioned Twitter on its lackadaisical approach in blocking an account that was ridiculing Hindu deities and reprimanded the platform for its lack of responsibility.

legislation in the first place.

With the introduction of the IT Rules, the government aims to strike a balance between the commercial interests of social media platforms and the rights of its citizens in the digital sphere. In this context, it is of the utmost importance to point out the role of the nodal officer. In case of a crisis, this officer's coordination with law enforcement agencies will facilitate timely action and provide a platform for a victim to seek urgent recourse. The shameful Sulli Deals and the Bulli Bai controversy drive home the relevance of such regulations.

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Those criticising the information technology minister's call for an atmanirbhar internet mistake self-sufficiency for protectionism. This defeatist reaction was seen in the past as well when the government announced the RuPay Cards and Unified Payments Interface as an alternative to Visa and MasterCard. Today, the UPI and RuPay success story is studied and analysed across the world. Initiatives such as these encourage the development of alternative organic

ecosystems and ensure that we are not left at the mercy of tech giants.

The article disappointingly presents a one-sided picture. It claims that compliance officers of social media intermediaries would be criminally liable for content on their platforms. In reality, social media intermediaries enjoy the privilege of legal immunity under Indian law. Criminal liability is only imposed upon failure to observe measures of due diligence. It also falsely alleges that the premises of Twitter were raided by the police. Actually, officials of the Delhi police visited the premises of Twitter India to merely serve a notice. Much of the criticism in the article is directed towards Rajeev Chandrasekhar. It would be pertinent to mention that Chandrasekhar has vast experience in the field of technology and policymaking.

Those putting forth such ill-conceived arguments should look inward. Policymakers across the United States have raised concerns about the hegemony of Big Tech and have introduced legislation to curb the same. The support for these pieces of legislation cuts across party lines — senators such as Rob Portman (a Republican) and Amy Klobuchar (a Democrat) are amongst their supporters.

Critics would do well to do some homework about the United States' legislative response to Big Tech before dissecting India's actions regarding the same.

The writer is managing partner, Parinam Law Associates

APRIL 28, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ARSON IN AMRITSAR

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES IN Amritsar have issued shoot at sight orders following fresh violence and cases of arson. Curfew was imposed at a number of places on April 27. At least one person was killed and 25 injured when police opened fire to quell rioting in the Golden Temple area. Police also fired at an unruly mob when it entered the police station at Budhlada near Bhatinda. But there was no casualty. Police was attacked with stones at several places. Om Prakash, deputy superintendent of police, and two constables were seriously injured. They have been admitted to hospital.

CENTRE SENDS TEAM

THE CENTRE IS sending three battalions of the CRPF to help the Punjab government deal with the violence. BSF battalions are also stationed in Amritsar and the state government has been told that it can requisition more. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has sent a high-level team, comprising Home Minister Giani Zail Singh, Industry Minister N D Tiwari and Home Secretary T N Chaturvedi to review the situation in the state.

FALKLAND CRISIS

THE FALKLAND CRISIS deepened as Britain

and Argentina hardened their attitude towards a negotiated settlement. According to Argentine news agency DYN, Argentina has told US officials that a new peace plan should be delivered to Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez, who is in Washington.

PHALKE FOR NAUSHAD

NOTWITHSTANDING THE presence of star actor Rekha, it was Naushad Ali, the veteran music composer of over 50 films who stole the limelight at Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan during the presentation of the National Film Awards. He was given the Dadasaheb Phalke award.

THE IDEAS PAGE

A time to revisit the school

Pandemic has left many families unable to support the education of their children. Restructuring, strengthening public schools could help level the field



AMEETA MULLA WATTAL

THE PANDEMIC HAS thrown a harsh light on the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by the world in education. There is an immense learning gap due to existing inequalities. In India, we have to accept that unless we mobilise learning resources and institutions at the government level, the divides will continue to expand and learners will continue to fall between the cracks. We urgently need the government, both at the Centre and state levels, to invest in learning systems. This will help address poverty and bring in gender equality.

How are we going to restart learning when we have pressed the pause button on many of our social systems?

There are too many headlines telling us that education is catastrophically broken. How do we fix it? The rhetoric of brokenness and crisis doesn't help. It favours quick fixes over dialogue and reflection. Systems have to be put into place to find a variety of methods to equip all learners — privileged, poor, middle-class and alternatively-abled. The child must always be the priority and not an afterthought.

The challenge is not about exams because exams are not a threat. It has been proven that assessments in the last three years, whether online or offline, have been child-centric, often to the point of being unrealistic. The challenge is about returning to school. Conversations continue to hover around the lack of vaccinations for children and unmanageable protocols, along with the general atmosphere of fear that prevails across the country.

In wealthier nations, schools have always been the first to open and last to close and citizens have benefited from the public school system.

In India, across states, there is a sense of despair due to unemployment and lack of financial resources, which has snowballed due to the pandemic, resulting in greater inequality. Sending children to school, as opposed to keeping them at home, is a huge financial investment, particularly in the private school system. Uniforms, books, shoes, refreshments, transportation and other material for activities and school programmes are essential for children attending private schools.

Parents have refrained from sending their children back to school due to a lack of funds. Ruchika Dhingra said, "My child is 3 years old and if I enrol her in any of the private pre-schools, the fees are approximately Rs 1,80,000 per annum. I may end up paying the fees and not sending her to school, as the virus may come again. I might as well not enrol her, as we are all facing a financial crunch". Another parent with two children has admitted the one with the better academic performance in an expensive private school, while the other child was admitted to a mediocre private school with lower fees. The reason they gave was that they did not have the money to educate both children in the same school.

These narratives show a lack of trust in government schools across the country. They would rather educate their children in a poor



C R Sasikumar

quality private school than a good government school.

As a result of the pandemic, opportunity gaps have widened, as families do not have the financial capacity to support the education of their children. Many have placed education second to health in the priority list, thereby undermining children's learning for years to come. The effect will be felt particularly in vulnerable countries and regions.

The big shift that we as a nation have to make is viewing education through a government school lens. This will only take place if states provide the opportunity for free, compulsory, neighbourhood education.

In western nations, over 90 per cent of education is under government control, with extremely well-run schools. Hot meals, uniforms, books, and other learning accessories, including medical care, are provided to the children.

Most children, other than those of extremely privileged citizens, attend public schools. This helps in achieving the sustainable development goals related to hunger, nutrition, quality education and gender equality, finally leading to livelihood and economic growth.

Radical reforms have to be implemented to restructure government schools and ensure quality. Across the country, subsidies are being given for electricity, gas, water, housing, food distribution and other basic amenities. The government, both at the Centre and in the states, should build good-quality primary, middle and high schools and provide facilities that the best private schools have to offer.

Parents have realised the multiple roles that schools play. They provide for the well-being of children, health and nutrition along with academic learning. This increased awareness will serve as the basis for a revival of public education.

We are subsumed by the myth that technology has expanded potential. The concern is that online learning will create greater inequality, not only in the global south but even in the most well-resourced corners of the planet. Online learning is not the way forward. We need to safeguard the right to education by mobilising government schools to support all stakeholders. The UNESCO's International Commission on the Futures of Education states in its report, 'the core commitments that should always be remembered are public education and common good'.

We are subsumed by the myth that technology has expanded potential. The concern is that online learning will create greater inequality, not only in the global South but even in the most well-resourced corners of the planet. Online learning is not the way forward.

We need to safeguard the right to education by mobilising government schools to support all stakeholders. The UNESCO's International Commission on the Futures of Education states in its report, "the core commitments that should always be remembered are public education and common good". It says, "This is not the time to step back and weaken these principles but rather to affirm and reinforce them." We must take the opportunity to protect and advance public education.

We cannot allow the government health system and government education to be opposed to one another. Their synergies must overlap. Governments have to be involved with the lifelong learning of people. The French philosopher Edgar Morin observed that "public health and public education are closely interconnected, as they show the undeniable necessity of collaboration, solidarity and collective action for the common good."

Public education is crucial to societies, communities and individual lives. It is the only thing that will enable us to live with dignity and purpose. We have arrived at a moment, however unexpectedly, where we need to revisit the purpose of schooling and how we organise it. How we thrive should not be a continuation of the world as it was, but of the world that should be: A more sustainable one.

The writer is chairperson and executive director education, DLF Foundation Schools and Scholarship Programmes

An army under siege

Pakistan's army is trying to distract from its failures domestically and abroad, regain its lost control and sheen



ANJU GUPTA

THROUGH MONTHS of melodrama in Pakistan, many experts expected that the army may intervene again in the name of "saving" the people from an "incompetent and self-serving" political class. Some experts believed that the Pakistan army will avoid taking responsibility for a troubled economy and the evolving complexities of geopolitics. In reality, the army is facing the real prospect of losing its control as well as its sheen. It has cleverly used political and non-political actors to shift the focus to the failures of the Imran Khan government and has set the stage for months of political wrangling between the government and an ex-PM on the loose.

This provides it with time and space to try to regain control within and beyond Pakistan's borders. The contours of the manoeuvres are already visible — including the use of proxy violence in Af-Pak, the aggressive propping up of the Haqqani group against the Kandahar Taliban and shoring up anti-West and extremist rhetoric in Pakistan through political and social media proxies. These dangerous moves are likely to further destabilise Af-Pak and other regions, and ultimately could create a "compelling" case for outside intervention in Afghanistan. The two historical "compelling" situations — the entry of Soviet troops in 1979 and the 9/11 attacks in the US — led to decades of war and violence in Afghanistan and serious spillover effects on the world. The decades since 1979 also led to the creation of some anti-Pakistan groups and resulted in much violence against its people. But the army strengthened its place as an "indispensable player".

Till now, the army has maintained "supreme" domestic and international standing on four grounds: The use of proxies such as the Taliban to ensure that under its rule, Afghanistan could not be used against Pakistan; providing access to the Taliban to the world; its ability to manage internal and external security in a neighbourhood portrayed as hostile and functional cooperation with both the US and China, attracting resources and seat at the high table. The army has sold itself as the "saviour and pride" of Pakistan and the go-to institution for the outside world.

However, the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, has shattered the army's standing. The world no longer needs it to access the Taliban or Afghanistan. The Taliban has turned the tables on the army by steadfastly supporting the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) attacks on Pakistan forces. The attacks picked up pace with the signing of the Doha Agreement in February 2020. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of attacks claimed by the TTP went up from about 180 to over 320 and the casualties of Pakistan forces from 400 to over 800. This year, TTP has claimed over 400 casualties in over 150 attacks on the Pakistan army, paramilitary

and police forces across the tribal belt, in Balochistan and key cities.

In the past, the army had managed to curb the TTP's social media campaigns to hide its casualties. Now, the TTP backed by pro-TTP Taliban accounts is showcasing the names and faces of those getting killed. The Baloch and other groups have also upped the ante and are drawing moral support from the TTP, which is portraying "Afghans, Pashtuns and Balochs" as victims of the army's brutality and calling for the liberation of the Af-Pak border region. Pashtun anger at the forcible erection of a barrier along the Durand Line is leading to frequent skirmishes with Pakistan's forces. Acutely aware of serious threats, for months, the army has been struggling to manage the security situation with "unannounced" operations. However, it seems to be failing. After years of blaming foreign agencies for propping up the TTP, it now has no excuse for its failures.

Relations with China, at least in public, remain steadfast. However, Chinese interests in Pakistan are now being targeted more often. The April 26 suicide attack by a Baloch woman on a Chinese team inside Karachi University is a big escalation, which is being hailed by the TTP.

Despite all the talk about counter-terrorism cooperation with the US, coupled with "deliberate bravado" delivered through then PM Khan, the US has not taken the bait. The phone call that the US president never made to the PM seemed to be a loud message to the army about its untrustworthiness. By getting the former PM to court Russia and raise the anti-US rhetoric, the army is trying to create space for some rapprochement with the US.

Fully aware of its own weaknesses in Afghanistan and the dominance of the Pakistan army along its most crucial border, the Taliban also seems to be deeply suspicious of the latter's intentions. The army's double-dealings have not only hurt its credibility with the West but also with the Taliban, perhaps irreparably. So, while the TTP is keeping the army in check, the Taliban is trying its hand at governing Afghanistan and stitching some loose alliances with other nations.

The army has used its command and control over the Islamic State Khurasan Province (ISKP) to mount deadly attacks on civilians, especially the Shia/Hazara and Taliban leaders and fighters in Afghanistan. In addition, it has been frequently attacking areas across the Durand line, inviting serious backlash from the Taliban-TTP combine as well as Pashtun populations. In a change of tactics, in the past few weeks, apart from Kabul, the ISKP is focusing on targets across non-Pashtun areas of northern Afghanistan. This would help divert the Taliban's energies to the north and move the conflict closer to Central Asia and Iran. While attempts would be made to somehow break Taliban-TTP links, serious efforts are also visible in South Asia, including in Bangladesh and India, especially in Jammu & Kashmir. The latest propaganda of the ISKP and the other Pakistan proxy, al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), is just one indicator of threats building up to "reverse stretch" the neighbours, while the army tries to regain its control and sheen.

The writer is an IPS officer. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PDS NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'PDS & a golden chapter' (IE, April 27). The present situation of rising prices and an uncertain economic recovery puts the poor in India at risk of hunger and starvation. It has underlined the importance of schemes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) and MGNREGA. PDS must be persisted with even if food production is low, by increasing the food subsidy and limiting retail sale by farmers, if necessary. State governments too, having seen the benefits of PDS, must ensure that at a time when inflation is high, at least food is supplied at a low cost to the poor. India must not slip further on its already low global ranking on hunger.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

EXPAND QUOTA

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A continuing exclusion' (IE, April 26). It has culled out some interesting but hitherto lesser-known aspects of the argument favouring the extension of Scheduled Caste (SC) status to those from the community among Christians and Muslims living in India. The argument that Hindus alone have castes is fallacious. Sikhs and Buddhists too have castes though not prescribed by their religion and they have been enjoying reservations after suitable amendments to the Constitution.

L R Murmu, Delhi



CHAPAL MEHRA

LATE ONE evening, over lukewarm tea, in the middle of discussing gay history and rights in South Asia, noted historian Saleem Kidwai quoted a Faiz Ahmad Faiz *nazm* (verse) to me. Its famous first line was "Aaj bazaar mein pa-ba-jaulan chalo", quite literally meaning "Let us walk in the market in chains". He explained that Faiz wrote this *nazm* while being taken in chains from prison by the military dictatorship at the time in Pakistan. It spoke about how we would all need to walk openly wearing the chains we are bound in by society until we achieve freedom.

Years later, it surprised me, pleasantly, that this very *nazm* was being taught to young CBSE students. Another line from this *nazm* is even more inspiring, as it tells its readers that it is "not enough to shed tears, to suffer anguish, not enough to nurse love in secret... Today, walk in the public square fettered in chains".

In these troubled, divisive times, reading Faiz is balm to our frayed nerves. Teaching it to our kids, well, now that's asking for trouble. After all, don't we want our kids to cooperate, to comply, and to fit in this new world? Don't we want them to follow rules and not question the status quo? Why, then, teach them about freedom or protest? Why should we let them read Faiz?

Faiz is in the room

Despite being deleted, the poet, long gone, continues to fervently ask questions

Recent news reports tell us that the revised Class X CBSE textbooks have bid goodbye to Faiz, along with chapters on "democracy and diversity" that documented social division and inequalities in India. Along with these deletions, two chapters on "popular struggles and movements" and "challenges to democracy" have been dropped as well. It's unclear whether these will be replaced or entirely obliterated from the textbooks.

This is not all. Those in Class XI and XII will no longer read about the Non-Aligned Movement, the Cold War era, the rise of Islamic empires in Afro-Asian territories, the chronicles of the Mughal courts or the industrial revolution. One wonders how, then, will they make sense of India's foreign policy, its current stance in the Ukraine war or understand the depth of the influence of Mughal India? It's confusing as we don't know if what arrives in its place will inform these students more eloquently about these concepts.

Perhaps, all these deletions and exclusions are good news. This is the order of our days. In today's times, ideas, especially those of diversity, struggles and non-alignment, are dangerous for young minds. What if they begin asking questions? What if they refuse to hate, or grow up unprejudiced? What if they turn to seek a path of protest? The en-

tire purpose of education would be lost. They, then, are unlikely to fit in anywhere while discussing such ideas or reading Faiz.

So it's not surprising that many think the consequences of these exclusions are insignificant. We grew up reading everyone from Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Agyeya, and Mahadevi Varma, alongside Faiz. Our ideas of dissent and freedom were informed as much by the material we read in textbooks as by the poetry we quoted — albeit in jest as we were still too young to comprehend its depth of meaning.

But the poetry stuck with us and does till today. We argued and questioned the rules, refusing the hate that society and the media handed out to us. Faiz and his friends did indeed ruin us.

So, for us ruined folks who grew up believing in the idea of a Subcontinental culture that sweeps across what we now recognise as independent countries, Faiz and other exclusions seem a deep cut. But it comes as no surprise, either. Faiz, whose words surround us in the popular culture of the Subcontinent, has always troubled the minds of smaller men. His poetry is remembered and reinvented every few years enrapturing us, yet again.

Erasure, of Faiz, or the ideas of humanism, democracy, and diversity is not possi-

ble. But do ask what these exclusions will cost our future generations. What will our children learn about the ideals on which the world's largest democracy brought together peoples of different languages, cultures, food habits and faiths? People who struggled together against oppression in action, poetry and song. And yet always found enough common ground to live together, irrespective of the many divisions of caste, class, gender, language and faith.

Reading Faiz in these times — when your religion, not your culture, is your identity, when the choice of what to wear, what to eat, what music to listen to is curtailed — is certainly needed. But who will argue for him to be read by our children?

Meanwhile, despite these deletions, Faiz, the poet, though long gone, continues to fervently ask questions. Someone mentions Faiz, someone sings him, someone quotes him. And then, he comes back again, rudely, uninvited, into the room and the conversation. With him creep in ideas of freedom, democracy, dissent, diversity, and exclusion. And then someone quotes another *nazm*. This time, it's the familiar "Hum dekhenge". We shall see...

The writer is a public health expert

BRIEFLY

GUJARAT

Teacher held for derogatory post on social media

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell arrested a school teacher in Ahmedabad for allegedly posting a derogatory and offensive statement regarding the minority community. Police said, the accused, Manisha Bhavsar, was employed by RH Kapadia school in Satellite area. Bhavsar was part of several WhatsApp groups where derogatory posts were shared, police said. An FIR was lodged on Tuesday, police said. **ENS**

KERALA

Govt makes mask must at public places

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala government on Wednesday issued orders making wearing of masks mandatory at public and work places, gatherings and during transport. The order issued by the chief secretary said non-compliance with order would be punishable under provisions of Disaster Management Act and other rules in force. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Property dealer held for murder of 2 in Prayagraj

Lucknow: A property dealer has been arrested for allegedly killing two men involved in the sale and purchase of properties in Dhoomanganj area of Prayagraj on Wednesday, said police. Deepak Vishwakarma (36) shot Yasid Ali and Sultan Ahmad after they had an argument over a property deal at the former's residence. The deceased and the accused were known to each other, police said. **ENS**

RAJIV GANDHI CASE

SC to Centre: Why can't convict be released after 36 yrs in prison

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday asked the Centre why it cannot release A G Perarivalan, who has served 36 years of his life term in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

It said the government took a "bizarre" stand that Tamil Nadu Governor had forwarded the decision of the state Cabinet of releasing the convict to the President, who is the competent authority to take a call on the mercy plea. The apex court said when people who have served lesser periods are being released, then why can't the Centre agree on releasing him.

The Tamil Nadu government said the Centre is only trying to unsettle the settled position in law. The top court said, prima facie, it finds the Governor's decision to be wrong and against the Constitution as he is bound by the aid and advice of the state Cabinet and it strikes a blow on the federal structure of the constitution.

A bench of Justices LN Rao and B R Gavai told Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, to seek proper instruction in a week or it will accept the submission of Perarivalan and release him following the earlier decision of this court. Nataraj said in certain situations, the President is the competent authority and not the Governor, especially when a sentence of death has to be commuted.

Justice Rao said that if at all the Governor disagrees with the state Cabinet's decision to release him, he can at most send it back to the Cabinet but cannot forward it to the President.

Kerala wants to study Gujarat dashboard, invites criticism

SHAJU PHILIP & RITU SHARMA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AHMEDABAD, APRIL 27

INA move that has been slammed by Opposition parties in Kerala as an admission of "failed governance", the CPM-led state government has sent a delegation of senior officers to BJP-ruled Gujarat to study a dashboard system that enables the Chief Minister's Office to access data from all e-governance applications down to taluk level.

The Kerala delegation, including Chief Secretary V P Joy and his office's staff officer N S K Umesh, is scheduled to attend a presentation on the dashboard system Thursday. The move comes two weeks after the CPM decided at its party congress in Kannur to take the "Kerala model of development and governance" across the country.

While the Gujarat dashboard has attracted attention and drawn a number of officials from several states and the Centre, the move from Kerala has raised eyebrows, given that both states are ruled by bitter political rivals from opposite sides of the ideological spectrum. The Congress, which is the main Opposition party in Kerala,

claimed the Left government's move has exposed the "close relationship" between Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The state BJP said Vijayan should "learn from all BJP-ruled states about the art of good governance".

The CPM has not reacted officially to the Opposition's remarks but a senior party leader told *The Indian Express* that "the Prime Minister, during one of his interactions with Vijayan, had suggested learning from the Gujarat CM's Dashboard". No decision has been taken on implementing the dashboard in Kerala, the leader said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Gujarat Education Minister Jitu Vaghani said: "It is good that the team from Kerala is visiting the CM Dashboard tomorrow. Officials from many states have already visited Gujarat to study this initiative."

Vaghani, who is also the Gujarat government's spokesperson, said: "The state and its people have benefited from the dashboard in every sector, be it health, education or agriculture. Various other initiatives taken by different departments of Gujarat should also be seen, studied and implemented by other states."

The "Gujarat CM Dashboard"

was set up with technical support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 2018, when Vijay Rupani was chief minister.

Gujarat officials described the dashboard as a "first of its kind" operation, incorporating over 3,000 performance indicators from e-governance applications used in at least 20 different government sectors on a daily basis. It essentially gives the Chief Minister's Office a window to the administrative machinery from the state to the village level.

Over the past two years, the dashboard has proved to be a key tool in managing the Covid situation — from data on case counts and relief measures to feedback from Covid patients who were discharged. "Also, the CM can use the dashboard, which has been installed at his official residence, to view live feed from CCTV cameras from government hospitals. From the launch of the vaccination campaign, regular feedback from beneficiaries was taken," said an official. Rupani handed over the reigns to Bhupendra Patel last year.

Apart from a NITI Aayog delegation led by its CEO Amitabh Kant and another from Himachal Pradesh led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, teams from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar

and Karnataka, and central ministers such as Ashwini Vaishnaw and Smriti Irani, and former Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, have visited Gujarat to study the dashboard.

Last November, Vijayan had announced that Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021 had ranked Kerala as the best governed in the country on various parameters.

"The Chief Minister boasts that Kerala is No.1 under his regime. It is the close relation with Modi that prompted Vijayan to study the Gujarat model. It reflects the CPM's understanding with the BJP to destroy the Congress," K Sudhakaran, who heads the Congress in Kerala, said. "Vijayan has sent the delegation when the CPM central leadership has repeatedly attacked the Gujarat model of development..."

BJP state chief K Surendran said: "Finally, Vijayan had to adopt the Gujarat model of governance. He should now abandon the failed Kerala model and roll out the Gujarat model in the state."

The senior CPM leader, who spoke to this newspaper, referred to Vijayan's official meetings with Modi and said it was "natural for states to take a proactive approach based on such interactions and suggestions".

Now, CBI looks into extortion charges against Mumbai ex-top cop Param Bir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

AFTER REGISTERING five first information reports against Param Bir Singh earlier this month, the CBI has now initiated three preliminary inquiries against the former Mumbai police commissioner. Sources said these inquiries are based on three separate complaints of extortion made against Singh.

"There were some pending complaints which had not been taken cognisance of. We have initiated inquiries in those matters. A regular case will be filed if we find prima facie evidence to go ahead. All action is in line with the directions of the Supreme Court," a CBI official said.

The agency had officially taken over the five criminal cases registered by the Maharashtra police against Singh earlier this month after a Supreme Court directive. Last month, amid opposition from Maharashtra, the court transferred the investigation against Singh to the CBI and put all departmental proceedings against him on hold.

SRK throwing T-shirts, smiley balls not acts of negligence: Gujarat HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 27

THE GUJARAT High Court on Wednesday quashed a criminal complaint against actor Shah Rukh Khan, observing that his act of waving, throwing T-shirts and smiley balls at the Vadodara railway station while promoting a movie cannot be termed as acts of "high degree of negligence" and "recklessness".

According to a private complaint filed by Vadodara resident Jitendra Solanki in February 2017

'India needs alternative agenda, not new front': KCR pitchforks himself onto national stage

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD APRIL 27

INA clear indication of his national ambition, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) called for the emergence of a "new political force", saying the country needs an alternative agenda, not new political fronts or realignment.

Addressing the party's 21st Foundation Day celebrations, KCR, who has been exploring a role for himself in national politics, said, "What is required and desirable are not political fronts. Many such fronts have come, what happened? Not political realignment, what is required is an alternative agenda. India will react because it wants an alternative agenda from which there is a possibility of a new political power emerging." He said the TRS is ready to play a key role in the nation's development.

In a speech that lasted an hour-and-a-half, KCR pitchforked himself to the national stage with references to the role the TRS could play in the development of the nation, "water wars and power sector woes" across the country, the alleged "attack on the federal structure" with Governors clashing with some state governments,



Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao hoists the TRS flag in Hyderabad on Wednesday. PTI

and how the party has decided to work for the progress of the nation in view of the "narrow-minded policies and tendencies" being witnessed in the country.

Before the event began, KCR hoisted the TRS flag. Several TRS leaders and activists at the event suggested that the TRS should enter national politics with the name 'Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi'.

Keeping the focus squarely on national issues, KCR said, "These days, what are we hearing? They are abusing a person like Mahatma Gandhi who left his lawyer's job and spent years in jails fighting for freedom. These people are abusing such a great man and praising Godse. Is this our culture?"

In which direction is this country going? Why this whipping up of religious hatred? There are so many issues that the country is facing: inflation, unemployment, hunger, but the focus is not on addressing these issues, instead we are seeing manipulation of sentiments in the name of Pulwama or surgical strike or Kashmir Files.'

On the hijab and halal controversy in neighbouring Karnataka, he said, "In Bengaluru, more than 30 lakh IT professionals work. It took a long time to bring that city to that status but what are we seeing now? Controversy over hijab and halal, and boycott of fruit and flower sellers belonging to other communities?"

Cabinet okays subsidy hike for P&K fertilisers in Kharif season

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE GOVERNMENT said it increased nutrient-based subsidy rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for Kharif season — from April to September — to protect farmers from increasing prices of fertilisers due to supply chain disruptions and costlier raw materials.

The Cabinet approved the subsidy, worth Rs 60,939.23 crore, including support for indigenous fertilisers through freight subsidy and additional support for indigenous manufacturing and imports of Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP).

Cabinet Minister Anurag Thakur said the subsidy is only for the Kharif period, while in 2021-2022, Rs 57,150 crore was the subsidy for the entire year.

The government said the "increase in the international prices" of DAP and its raw materials "have been primarily absorbed by the Centre". It mentioned that the Cabinet also approved subsidy of Rs 2,501 per bag on DAP instead of the existing subsidy of Rs 1,650 per bag — a 50 per cent increase over the last year's subsidy rates. Thakur said if needed, the subsidy can be extended beyond Kharif period.

Announcing another Cabinet decision, Thakur said to improve 4G telecom connectivity in areas affected by Left-wing extremism (LWE), 2,542 cell towers in 10 states would be upgraded at a cost of Rs 2,426 crore. "All these sites are in Naxal-affected areas," he said. State-owned BSNL, to which the LWE Phase-1 sites belong, will maintain them for five years.

Karnataka SI exam scam: ADGP shifted

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government on Wednesday transferred ADGP Amrit Paul, who was in-charge of state police's recruitment cell, days after irregularities came to the fore in the recruitment of sub-inspectors.

Paul has been transferred as the ADGP (Internal Security Division), R Hithendra, who is in charge of Crimes and Technical Services in Bengaluru, will concurrently oversee recruitment in the police, a government order said.

The scam came to light in Kalaburagi district after an aspirant was given 100 per cent marks though he had attempted only 21 questions in one of the papers.

Investigations revealed that 22 of 107 candidates selected through a written and objective exam on October 3, 2021, from the Kalyana Karnataka region took the exam at a particular centre. **ENS**



STATE OF THE POWER CRUNCH

From the heat wave to depleted capacity, and technical snags to coal shortage, states are facing multiple problems in meeting increased demand for power. A look at the situation in some:

JHARKHAND: The state has a power consumption of 1,800-2,100 MW during peak hours. Power supply to Jharkhand used to be around 1,850 MW before April, with the government usually managing to meet the shortage of 200-250 MW. Demand has now surged to 2,500-2,600 MW. Damodar Valley Corporation usually supplies 550 MW; CM Hemant Soren has asked it to provide 200 MW more to plug the shortage. The state has also filed its bid on the power exchange, but there is no availability. It is negotiating with private companies.

JAMMU & KASHMIR: Parts of J&K are facing power outages for more than 16 hours. Demand is 3,000 MW, and supply less than half of that. While shortage in open market is one reason, depleted capacity generation of J&K's own power projects has added to the woes. The UT's power projects have an installed capacity of 1,211 MW but produce just over 450 MW. While NHPC-owned projects in J&K have an installed capacity of 2000 MW, they produce less than 1,400 MW. Of this, J&K receives a little over 150 MW. Officials say J&K has a deficit of around 2,300 MWs but given high tariff and unavailability, it is purchasing around 800 MW.

RAJASTHAN: Daily power demand in April 2021 was about 2,131 lakh units. This has shot up to about 2,800 lakh units daily. Similarly, peak demand was 11,570 MW, which is now 13,700 MW. Principal Secretary (Energy) A Sawant said that due to a nationwide coal crisis, production has been affected and power plants are not working at full capacity. The state's plants can generate up to 10,110 MW but are generating about 6,600 MW.

HARYANA: Haryana is facing shortage of at least 3,000 MW. CM Manohar Lal Khattar has said the government is making arrangements from multiple sources to bridge the gap. Haryana is in negotiations with Adani Power Limited for restoration of supply from Mundra Power Plant and is expecting restoration of power supply to the tune of 1,000 MW in near future, Khattar stated. Power Minister Ranjit Singh has cited the heat wave and infrastructure projects to explain the rise in demand. "I hope 1400 MW due from Adani Power will be received within one week. I hope that by coming Saturday, the power situation will be fine," he said.

PUNJAB: Coal shortage and technical snags are said to be the main reasons behind the shortage. On

Wednesday, demand reached 7,800 MW and availability was around 7,000 MW. This led to 2-5 hour powercuts in domestic areas. Industrial areas faced no cuts. Agriculture power use is at a bare minimum now due to wheat harvesting. Thermal plants generate 5,480 MW in Punjab. As on Wednesday, they were generating only around 3,700 MW amid a coal shortage. Officials said around 1,000 MW f capacity is on maintenance and the remaining gap is due to technical snags.

ODISHA: Odisha has been facing a shortage of around 400 MW daily against its average need of 4,150 MW and maximum demand of 4,450 MW during peak hours. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra had on Monday held a meeting on the shortage. According to officials, the shortfall is temporary and the situation will improve within a week. Officials said the shortage is due to a technical snag that halted a 441-MW unit of NTPC in Sundargarh district. An Odisha Power Generation Corporation unit is undergoing annual maintenance.

INPUTS FROM ABHISHEK ANGAD, BASHAARAT MASOOD, HAMZA KHAN, VARINDER BHATIA, RAAKHI JAGGA, AISHWARYA MOHANTY

Dausa gangrape, murder: Family alleges 'hurried cremation'

DEEP MUKHERJEE
CHAKSU (JAIPUR), APRIL 27

THE LONG wails of mourning women can be heard from afar as one approaches a house in a village near Jaipur.

A group of men sitting in front of the house speak in low voices. The cluster steadily grows as other residents join in, paying their respects in front of the photo of the woman in her thirties who was gangraped and murdered on April 23 while she was going to her parents' house.

The anger is palpable among those at the condolence meet, with her family talking about a hurried cremation under "police pressure".

"There were 8-9 police vehicles which accompanied us when the body of my sister-in-law arrived from Dausa. But the policemen insisted they would stay until the body was cremated. As per our traditions, the last rites are not conducted after sunset. But we were in a state of shock due to grief and so the cremation was conducted hurriedly on Monday night amid police

presence, due to the pressure created upon us," alleged the woman's brother-in-law on Wednesday.

While the opposition BJP has alleged that the cremation was conducted without the family's permission, Rajasthan DGP ML Lather has vehemently denied the accusation and said that the last rites were done after getting proper permission from the family.

On Monday night, Congress MLA from Chaksu Ved Prakash Solanki had said he had asked the police not to conduct the last

rites in the night without the family's approval.

The family members allege that there are more accused in the case and want them behind bars.

"So far, only two people have been arrested. There are more people involved in the crime who are yet to be arrested. We demand their arrest and a death penalty for all the accused," said the brother-in-law. The woman, a mother of two, was going to visit her parents' house in Dausa district on April 23. She had started from Jaipur on the morn-

ing of April 23 and after reaching a bus stand in Dausa, was walking towards her house.

Police say it was while she was walking that the accused offered her a ride in their car. They gangraped and murdered the woman. They dumped the body in a dry well. It was discovered by the police on April 24. Police's preliminary investigation suggested that the accused tried to burn the body with acid and petrol in an effort to erase evidence.

Police said three other suspects are being questioned in the

case.

"We have rounded up three more persons whose role is being investigated after the arrested accused named them," said Raj Kumar Gupta, SP Dausa. So far the police have arrested two accused — Kaluram Meena (23) and Sanju Meena (18) — in the case.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has said that it will send a team to probe the case. The NCW has also written to the Rajasthan Police, asking it to immediately file an FIR in the matter.

TN: 11 electrocuted as temple chariot grazes power line

ENS & PTI
CHENNAI, APRIL 27

EIGHT MEN and three teenage boys were killed while 17 others injured in the early hours of Wednesday at Kalimedu near Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu after a temple chariot came in contact with an overhead High Tension electricity transmission line during a procession.

Locals said the wooden chariot, with parts being iron-based fitment, was part of the Appar temple's procession that was passing through the Thanjavur-Boodalur road around 3am when its dome and the decorations touched the transmission line. "People were thrown away...they just fell here and there. The unfolding scene was frightening as we could not understand what was happening," a woman eyewitness said.

The deceased, including a father-son duo, were part of the team that was pulling the chariot. Seven people died on the spot, authorities said. The injured are be-



Charred remains of the chariot in Thanjavur. PTI

ing treated at the Thanjavur Government Medical College Hospital and the condition of four is stated to be critical.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin visited the kin of the 11 victims and conveyed his condolences. He also handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakh to each of the victims' families and visited the injured in hospital. He also ordered setting up of a one-man commission of inquiry led by Principal Secretary (Revenue) Kumar Jayanth to look into the causes of the incident and make

recommendations to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

Reacting to the incident, PM Narendra Modi said he was deeply pained by the mishap. "My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. I hope those injured recover soon," he added. The PM announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the victims' families and Rs 50,000 to the injured from the PMNRF.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Governor R N Ravi also expressed grief over the tragedy.

Kerala actor booked for rape, cops ready second FIR for naming victim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
APRIL 27

KERALA POLICE have registered a rape case against Malayalam film actor-cum-producer Vijay Babu on the complaint of a woman actor from Kozhikode. Hours after the case was registered against him, Babu revealed the name of the survivor, claiming innocence and that he is the "real victim".

Police said Babu has gone into hiding and another case will be registered against him for revealing the identity of the complainant. According to the police, the woman had filed a complaint with Kochi police on April 22, alleging that Babu sexually abused her several times, promising roles in films.

Revealing the name of the complainant, Babu, in a Facebook live, said "I am the real victim in the case and hence revealing complainant's name".

Babu said he had known the woman since 2018 and she was given a chance to act in his pro-



Vijay Babu says he will file a defamation case against the woman

ductions. "She had sent several messages to me saying that she is facing depression. I have around 400 screen shots of those messages. I haven't sent any message to her for the last one-and-a-half years," he said.

Babu said he will file a complaint against the woman for tarnishing his image. "I will file a defamation case against the complainant. Let it be the beginning of a new Me Too. Let us start a new fight," he said.

The rape charge against the actor-cum-producer has come up at a time when many in the

Malayalam film industry are facing similar allegations. Last month, police had arrested filmmaker Liju Krishna on charges of sexually abusing a woman, who had assisted in his productions. Following the arrest, the directors' union under the Film Employees Federation of Kerala (FEFKA) revoked Krishna's membership even as the Women in Cinema Collective demanded his suspension from all film bodies.

Last month, Kerala High Court had asked organisations associated with the film industry to follow SC's Vishaka Guidelines. The petitioner, Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), had pointed out that the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists had failed to implement a grievance redressing mechanism for its members against sexual harassment at workplace.

Kochi City Police Deputy Commissioner VU Kuriakose said another case will be registered against the actor on charges of disclosing the name of the rape survivor. "A probe is on. He has gone into hiding after the rape case was

registered," he said.

Meanwhile, on the Facebook page of "Women Against Sexual Harassment," the rape survivor said Vijay Babu had assaulted her physically and sexually from March 13, 2022, to April 14.

Vijay Babu started his career as a mediaperson, working for Star TV, Asianet, and Surya TV. In 2013, he entered the Malayalam film industry as an actor and a producer. He, along with actor Sandra Thomas, founded Friday Film House, which went on to become one of the foremost production houses in the industry. However, things turned sour between the associates, and in 2017 Thomas filed a complaint against Babu for physically assaulting her. Babu had termed the complaint as "fake" in order to "take over the business". The matter was, however, resolved after some time.

As an actor, Babu is known for his roles in Philips and the Monkey Pen, Nee-Na, and the Aadu franchise. He was last seen in the movie Antakshahi which was released on April 22 on SonyLiv.

Mamata to police: Your negligence led to Nadia rape, Bogtui killings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, APRIL 27

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday lambasted the police, saying their "negligence" led to the recent incidents of killing and rape in various parts of the state for which her government had to face flak.

Pulling up Birbhumer police chief Nagendranath Tripathi for the killing of nine persons at Bogtui village following the murder of a local TMC leader, the CM said, "This has happened completely because of your negligence...The government had a loss of face for your mistake..." Banerjee said at an administrative review meeting. She also lambasted Nadia police officers over the alleged rape and murder of a teenage girl. "Why did the incident take place in the first place? You (police) have no sources," she said. At a Nadia village, a teenage girl was allegedly gangraped by the son of a local TMC leader.

The Calcutta HC ordered a CBI probe in both the cases.

NSA invoked against 3 arrested accused in Ballia paper leak case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, APRIL 27

THE STRINGENT National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked against three persons, including managers of two private schools, arrested in connection with the leak of the UP Board's Class XII English question paper last month.

"We have invoked the NSA against Ravindra Nath Singh, Rajeev Prajapati, and Nirbhay Narayan Singh. While Nirbhay and Ravindra were managers of two private schools in Ballia who were found to be involved in the leak, Prajapati owns a computer shop and was involved in the leak and subsequent distribution of the question paper," Superintendent of Police (Ballia) Raj Karan Nayyar said on Wednesday.

The paper leak had led to the cancellation of the examination in 24 districts of the state.

Police had earlier said that Nirbhay Narayan Singh of Maharaji Devi Smarak Inter College was the "mastermind" behind the paper leak.

A total of 55 people have been arrested in the case so far.

Final hearing on pleas challenging sedition law on May 5, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE SUPREME Court will next month take up for final hearing petitions challenging constitutional validity of Section 124A of Indian Penal Code (IPC), dealing with the offence of sedition. On Wednesday, a bench presided by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana fixed May 5 to hear the petitions.

Although there are multiple petitions pending before SC on the issue, the bench was considering two writ petitions filed by retired Army officer S G Vombatkere and the Editors Guild of India.

Appearing for the Central government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government is ready with its written reply and will file it in two days after carrying out necessary corrections.

The bench asked the Centre to file its reply by the end of the week and said the petitioners can submit their counter to the Centre's affidavit thereafter.

Since there are several petitions regarding the issue, the petitioners agreed that senior advocate Kapil Sibal will lead the

arguments for them.




Sibal said he will have a look at the different petitions and make submissions accordingly.

The court directed that the matter be listed for final disposal on May 5 and underlined that there will be no adjournments. Attorney General K K Venugopal will also assist the court in the matter. Issuing notice on the petitions in July last year, CJ Ramana, while referring to alleged misuse of the provision, had asked if the "colonial law...is...still needed after 75 years of independence".

CJ Ramana had said: "This dispute about law...it's a colonial law. It was meant to suppress the freedom movement. The same law was used by the British to silence Mahatma Gandhi, Tilak etc. Still, is it necessary after 75 years of independence?"

The CJ also said, "Our concern is misuse of law and no accountability of executive agencies."

Vombatkere's plea challenged the constitutional validity of the sedition law on the ground that it causes "chilling effect" on speech and is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right of free expression.

Regional Office : Krishna Honda Building, Akharaghat Road, Muzaffarpur-842001		 बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda  बैरद SIWAN  बैरद SIWAN		POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)	
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s)/Gurantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p> <p>The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Gurantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules.</p> <p>The Borrowers/Gurantors/Mortgagers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses tilll date of payment.</p> <p>The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</p>					
Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors		Description of the Immovable Propertiles		Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda, Siwan Branch Borrower :-MR. ANJANI PRASAD S/o LT. SUKHDEV PRASAD, CO-Borrower :-MS. BINDA DEVI W/o-ANJANI PRASAD. Both are at FATEHPUR, P.O. - SIWAN P.S. -SIWAN PIN-841226		Property : Immoveable property vide Sale Deed No.-I-0823/1996 being residential in nature belonging to MR. ANJANI PRASAD S/O SUKHDEO PRASAD situated at Mauza- FATEHPUR FATULAHAI appertaining to Tazui No.-1146, Thana No.-246, Khata No.-136, KhesraNo.-119, Mohalla/Village- Fatehpur, Khesara No.-119, Thana-Siwan dist.-Siwan Boundaries :-N: NIJ HAL MOHAN PD. & OTHERS/AJAY SINGH, S: NIJ LALMATI DEVI NO HAJA/NIJ, E: JIMA SINGH & JALIL MIAN / RASTA, W: RASTA 4' WIDE/SHIL PARNAT. Total Area being 10 Dhur i.e., 1.8555 decimal.		19-10-2021 / 22-04-2022	Rs. 17,01,006.00/- as on 10.01.2022 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses tilll date payments
Bank of Baroda, Siwan Branch Borrower :-MR. MANISH KUMAR S/o NAND KISHORE, SUSMITA GUPTA W/o- MANISH KUMAR . Both are at PAKADI BANGALI, NEAR JIN BABA P.O.-GOSALA ROAD,P.S.-SIWAN PIN-841226.		Property : Immoveable property vide Sale Deed No.-I-2010/2014 belonging to MR. MANISH KUMAR S/O NAND KISHOR situated at Mauza-PAKARI BANGALI appertaining to Tazui No-1375, Thana No.-247, Khata No.-64, Plot/Survey No.-1208, Thana-SIWAN, Dist.-Siwan. Boundaries :-N: HAL BAIDAR/ASHOK KUMAR, S: 5' WIDE RASTA & SIWAN FATULAHAI, E: BYNIJ NO HAJA PRESENT ANIL SONI, W: 5' WIDE RASTA BIRENDRA SINGH. Total Area being 11 Dhoor.		19-10-2021 / 22-04-2022	Rs. 15,92,178.41/- as on 11.01.2022 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses tilll date payments
Place : Siwan Date : 27.04.2022		Authorised Officer Bank Of Baroda			

Maharashtra to probe Navneet Rana's financial links with Yusuf Lakdawala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

MAHARASHTRA HOME Minister Dilip Walse Patil on Wednesday said that the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) will probe alleged links of arrested Independent MP Navneet Rana with late film financier and builder Yusuf Lakdawala, who was arrested in a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Patil's statement comes in the backdrop of allegations made by Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday, who sought a probe by the ED into the finan-

cial links of Rana with Lakdawala.

Raut said that as per the election affidavit filed by Rana, she had taken a loan of Rs 80 lakh from Lakdawala, who had died at the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai last September.

Raut made the allegations based on Rana's election affidavit filed when she was contesting the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"As per my information, the allegation (against Rana) is based on the election affidavit filed by her. Hence, if there is a need to probe it further, we will surely do it," Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil said, adding that the probe would be conducted by the EOW.



G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT
KOSI-KATARMAL, ALMORA-263 643, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

Applications are invited for purely project based temporary positions of **Project Assistant (01)** under DST-SERB funded project at Kosi-Katarmal (Almora) campus of the Institute. Candidates having appropriate qualifications in relevant subject/specialization with consistently good academic records and experience may send their application in the prescribed format with all supporting documents to the undersigned by e-mail (**os@gbpihed.nic.in**) on or before **15 May, 2022**. The shortlisted candidates will be informed about the date of interview separately. Interview will be held through Virtual (Video/Audio) mode.

For details (age, emoluments, qualification and application format etc.), please see Institute website (**www.gbpihed.gov.in**). **Office Superintendent**




Government of India
Ministry of Textiles
O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts),
West Block 7, RK Puram, New Delhi-110066
(MSS Section)

Proposals are invited from eligible Central/State Government agencies/corporations and Non- Government Organisations for organising domestic marketing events during 2022-23.


The Proposed marketing event and other details may be seen at our website **www.handicrafts.nic.in**. The last date of submission of proposal through NGO portal on our website is 06.05.2022

Assistant Director (MSS)
Phone: 011-26178675
Email: mkt-dchc-textiles@gov.in
marketinghandicrafts@gmail.com

davp 41103/11/0001/2223



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ
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Circle Sastra Patna North: 2nd Floor, Chanakya Tower, R-Block, Patna-800 001

POSSESSION NOTICE

Possession Notice for Immovable Properties of borrower by the Authorised Officer (For Immovable property)

Whereas Punjab National Bank/ the Authorized Officer/s of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned in the account calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned in the account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of said notice(s). The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred to him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned in the account. The borrower/s' guarantor/s' mortgagor/s' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Account/ Borrower	Name of the Owner of the property	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of demand notice
S.K. Puri	Sri Pravin Kumar Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh & Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh S/o Sri Ramanand Singh A/c No.- 623600NC00000138	1. Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh S/o Sri Ramanand Singh 2. Sri Pravin Kumar Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh	1. Reg. Mortgage of Property vide Sale Deed No.-6870 Dtd.26.06.2018 situated at Mauza-Abdullahchak, Thana- Gaurichak, Sub Registry Office-Phulwari Shariff, and Sadar Registry Office and Distt-Patna, Tazui No.-328, Thana No.-123, Thana Code No.-175, Khata No.-05, CS Plot No.-369(P), Jamabandi No.-546, Total Area-13.4935 decimal in Name of Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh, S/O Sri Ramanand Singh. Boundary: N-Jitendra Singh, S-Devendra Singh & Jagati Devi, E-Rasta & Santosh Singh, W-Bhola Singh. 2. EM of Land & Building situated at Mauza-Abdullahchak, Thana-Gopalpur, Pargana and Survey Thana-Phulwari, Sub Registry Office-Phulwarishariff, Sadar Registry Office and Dist.-Patna, Mulyankan Thana Code 175, Revenue Thana Code-123, Tazui No.-328(Bihar Sarkar), Khata No.-26, Survey Plot No.-375, Area-14 Decimal Vide Sale Deed No.7476 Dated 09.07.2018 Pertaining to Sri Pravin Kumar Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh. Boundary: N-Sahayak Rasta (10 feet wide road left for ever by Sri Satyendra Narayan Singh), S-Heirs of Late Devendra Singh, E-Heirs of Late Devendra Singh, W-Bhola Singh and Siddheswar Singh.	15.01.2022	22.04.2022	Rs. 2848551.00 (Rs. Twenty eight lakh forty eight thousand five hundred fifty one only)
Morcha Road	M/S Sarswati Enterprises Prop.-Sri Kumar Nitish S/o Sri Kumar Madan Mohan A/c No.- 2916008700004665 291600IL00000153	Sri Kumar Madan Mohan S/o Late Dwarika Singh	EM of Land and Building vide Sale Deed No.-26510 Dated 06.10.2012 Situated at Vill-Jakariyapur, Pargana-Ajimbabad, Thana-Sultanganj, Hal Thana-Agamkuan, Sub Registry Office-Patnacity, Sadar Registry Office & Distt.-Patna, Touzi-Bihar Sarkar, Survey Plot No.-423(P), Khata No.-16, Thana No.-15, Area-2356 sq ft Pertaining to Sri Kumar Madan Mohan S/o Late Dwarika Singh. Boundry: N-Prabha Sinha & Shyama Devi, S-Sri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh & Sri Amar Krishna Jamar, E-Smt. Jayanti Sinha, W-Samity Sarak.	23.11.2021	22.04.2022	Rs. 2445722.00 (Rs. Twenty four lakh forty five thousand seven hundred twenty two only)

Date : 22.04.2022
Place : Patna

(Authorised Officer)
Punjab National Bank



मध्यप्रदेश शासन
तकनीकी शिक्षा एवं कौशल विकास विभाग
कौशल विकास संचालनालय, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल
रिजिस्टर फॉर एम्प्लॉय - आईटीआई में ऑनलाइन परीक्षा हेतु

क्रमांक-कौशल/ स्टेज सं. 2022/491 /भोपाल, दिनांक:22.04.2022

विषय:- आईटीआई में ऑनलाइन परीक्षा करने के लिए एग्जेंसी चयन किये जाने हेतु आरएफबी जारी करने बाबत।

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य कौशल विकास एवं रोजगार निर्माण बोर्ड भोपाल द्वारा मध्यप्रदेश में स्थित विभिन्न आईटीआई में प्रशिक्षणार्थ प्रशिक्षणार्थियों को ऑनलाइन परीक्षा आयोजित करने के लिये एग्जेंसी का चयन किया जाना है। इस हेतु ऑनलाइन निर्दिष्ट वेबसाइट को जानी है। निर्दिष्ट प्रश्न तथा संबंधित शर्तें एवं संपूर्ण विवरण **www.mptenders.gov.in, www.dsd.mp.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ता:-
आतिशिक संचालक
कौशल विकास संचालनालय

G11963/22
कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें जरूरी टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपना ना दो गज दूरी

FORM No.-15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Wing A, B & F (2nd Floor) Karpu Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchhari Parishar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025

O.A. No. 395 of 2020
Punjab National Bank, BO., Akorhi, Mohaniya
Vs
Keshari Detergent Industry

APPLICANT
DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS
ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

To,

1. Resu Devi W/o Sanjay Kumar Keshari, R/o Village Bari Bazar, PO + PS Mohaniya, District- Kaimur


Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for the Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 24,22,961/-** (Rupees Twenty Four Lac, Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty one Only)

The above mentioned Defendants are, therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in Persons or through an Advocate or duly authorized Agent in support of their defence to Show Cause within 30 days from the date of Publication or on **20/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** (Forenoon) as to why Reliefs prayed for by the Applicant should not be granted.

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

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **12th day of April, 2022.**

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Patna



SHRI AMARNATHJI SHRINE BOARD
Chaitanya Ashram, Talab Tillo, Jammu (Nov-Apr)
Tele: 0191-2555662, Telefax: 0191-2503399

ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FOR PROVIDING HELICOPTER SERVICES
DURING YATRA 2022 AND 2023

1. Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) invites sealed tenders, in two-bids format, from reputed and registered Aviation Companies, having a minimum fleet of three airworthy light helicopters (for the Sector for which the Company is interested in bidding), endorsed on its NSOP OR may form a Consortium to offer three airworthy light helicopters, for flight operations in the air space of J&K, in the following two sectors:

a. Neelgrath – Lower Holy Cave – Neelgrath;
b. Pahalgam – Panjtarni – Pahalgam;

(Note: Purely on leave and license basis, for an initial period of the Yatra periods in two consecutive years i.e. Yatra 2022 and Yatra 2023).

2. Detailed NIT (DNIT) can be obtained from the office of Director Finance, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Chaitanya Ashram Talab Tillo, Jammu, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on any working day (Monday-Friday) on payment of the cost of document in cash i.e. Rs. 5,900/- (Rupees five thousand nine hundred only i.e. Rs. 5,000 + 18% GST) or in the shape of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, payable at Jammu. Alternatively, the DNIT can be downloaded from our website **www.shriamarnathjishrine.com**, in which case a cost of DNIT i.e. Rs. 5,900/- shall be deposited in the shape of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, payable at Jammu, in addition to the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) at the time of submission of Tender (in the Technical Bid).

3. The Tender, duly completed, along with EMD in the form of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, payable at Jammu, must reach latest by 1400 hours on 10.05.2022.

4. The pre-bid conference shall be held on 05.05.2022. For further details about the Tender, please refer our DNIT, or contact on the numbers given above.

No. SASB/DNIT/2022/41
Dated: 27.04.2022

Sd/-
Addl. Chief Executive Officer

FORM No.-15
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, AT PATNA

O.A. No. 124 of 2021
Punjab National Bank, Akorhi Branch, Dist.- Kaimur.Applicant
VERSES
M/s Harsh Rice Mill & Ors.Defendants

SUMMONS
ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

To,

1. M/s Harsh Rice Mill (Borrower), through its proprietor namely, Kamal Shil Sharma, S/o S/o- Sri Fadhindra Rai @ Fainindra Kumar Sharma, Situated at Village-Barhupari, P.S.- Mohania, District- Kaimur- 821109.

2. Kamal Shil Sharma (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor), S/o - Sri Fadhindra Rai @ Fainindra Kumar Sharma, resident of Village - Barhupari, P.S. - Mohania, District - Kaimur - 821109.Defendants

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for the Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 22,58,843.80/-** (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Three and Eighty Paise) as on 31.03.2021 together with current and future interest, costs and for other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendants are, therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in Person or through an Advocate or duly authorized Agent in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of Publication or on **25th day of May, 2022 at 10.30 A.M.** (Forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **11th day of April, 2022.**

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal

KARNATAKA

‘Cannot compare Quran, Bible with Bhagavad Gita’

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, APRIL 27

BIBLE AND Quran are religious texts but Bhagavad Gita is a book which speaks about values needed to lead life, Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh said on Wednesday.

The minister’s remarks came amid a row over a school in Bengaluru allegedly making par-

ents sign an undertaking during admission that they would not object to their children carrying the Bible to school.

On Tuesday, Archdiocese of Bangalore Archbishop Peter Machado, while terming the allegations against the school as false, had raised the issue of the state government introducing Bhagavad Gita in schools. He said, “If children are asked to buy Bhagavad Gita or books of other religions, can it be considered



Education Minister
B C Nagesh

forcing them to be influenced or inducing them to be converted

to these particular religions?”

Responding to this, Nagesh said on Wednesday, “Bible and Quran are religious texts... Bhagavad Gita does not speak about religion but speaks only about values needed to lead life. We cannot compare Bhagavad Gita with other religious books such as Quran and Bible.”“You can teach about Jesus’s life just like Swamy Vivekananda and others but should not impose religious text on students,” he said.

Meanwhile, the state education department has directed the Block Education Officers to inspect the syllabus of all Christian schools in the state over making reading of Bible compulsory.

Nagesh warned that if any violation is found in the syllabus, strict legal action will be initiated. He said there is information that schools run by Christian management are not giving admissions to children refusing to read the Bible.

SC upholds 6 yrs age cut-off for Class 1 admission in KVs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE SUPREME Court has rejected petitions challenging the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan’s (KVS) decision to raise the minimum age for admissions to Class 1 from 5 years to 6 years from 2022-23 academic year.

A bench presided by Justice S K Kaul dismissed the appeal by some parents against the Delhi High Court judgment, which upheld the KVS’s move to raise the age to 6 years. On April 11, a single bench of Delhi HC had dismissed petitions against this.

The KVS had contended before HC that its decision was in keeping with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Agreeing with the KVS stand, the single bench said, “No doubt, the policy formulated in 2020 is yet to be implemented across schools in Delhi, despite the same having been already implemented in 21 states. But once the statute — i.e., the RTE Act, 2009 — in itself places the KVS in

a separate category, coupled with the fact that all branches of KVS across the country being run by the same management are obliged to follow the uniform criteria, the anxiousness of KVS to introduce the age criteria of 6 years in accordance with NEP 2020 is well understandable.”

Appeals against this were dismissed by a division bench of HC on April 13.

Rejecting the Special Leave Petition filed against this, the Supreme Court bench of Justices Kaul and M M Sundresh said in its April 25 order, “We are informed that the other petitioners preferred a Letter Patent Appeal before the division bench of the High Court, and we may say, rightly so, and that appeal has also been dismissed on 13.04.2022.”

“We have also gone through the order of the learned Single Judge...and are in full agreement with the view taken and give our imprimatur to the same. The Special Leave Petition is accordingly dismissed,” the order stated.

Verify all cancelled ration cards: apex court to Telangana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday asked Telangana government to conduct a field verification of ration cards which were cancelled by it, allegedly without prior notice, and directed the state Chief Secretary to explain in an affidavit the measures taken by the state before cancelling the cards.

“We direct the State of Telangana to conduct verification of all the ration cards canceled pursuant to the directive issued by Central Government in 2016. We are informed there are 17 parameters taken into account before cancellation of ration cards. The authorities are directed to conduct field verification of all the cards and also deal with representation preferred by any aggrieved card holder whose card has been canceled expeditiously,” a bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai ordered.

The bench, which was hearing an appeal against an order of the Telangana High Court that had refused to entertain a PIL challenging the cancellations, also asked

the Chief Secretary to file an affidavit “informing this court as to the steps taken before cancellation of the ration card”.

Appearing for the appellant, Senior Advocate Colin Gonsalves said no notice was issued to the beneficiaries and that the ration cards were cancelled on the basis of some computer algorithm, which set out 17 parameters. A total of 21.94 lakh ration cards were cancelled in the state, he said.

Gonsalves said the central notification called for ground verification before cancelling the cards, but no such thing was done.

Appearing for the state, Advocate Venkata Reddy said the cancellations were part of a countrywide exercise following the Centre’s notification. He said the state had issued 23 lakh new ration cards and that this would also include many of those whose cards were cancelled.

But the bench said there is no means to determine whether the new cards were issued to fresh applicants or also to those whose cards were cancelled.

Justice Rao then suggested that the state conduct a review of the cancellations.



TO BEAT THE HEAT

Children dive in sea on a hot Wednesday afternoon in Mumbai. The IMD has issued a yellow alert across Maharashtra, warning of continuing heatwave conditions over several cities, till April 30.

Ganesh Shirsekare

Goa TMC president quits, blames Prashant Kishor for poll debacle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, APRIL 27

TWO DAYS after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) said that it will restructure its Goa unit, state chief Kiran Kandolkar resigned on Wednesday and blamed political strategist Prashant Kishor for party’s debacle in the Assembly elections. He said that the party “has no future in Goa”.

Talking to the reporters in Mapusa, Kandolkar said he has nothing against party chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee or other TMC leaders. “I have nothing against Mamata Banerjee or (TMC na-

tional general secretary) Abhishek Banerjee because they gave the responsibility of the Goa election to I-PAC. Prashant Kishor is the one who leads I-PAC. If anyone has failed, it is him. As (election) candidates, we have not failed... I-PAC came here with much fanfare... in Goa his political strategy was a total zero. I had met Prashant Kishor... He told us we have big plans for Goa... But as the election approached we all knew that all his plans had failed.”

Kandolkar was the TMC candidate from the Aldona constituency in North Goa for the elections held in February. Kandolkar, who left the Goa

Forward Party to join the TMC in November 2021, was made the state TMC president on January 18. “Best wishes to the party... me and my supporters from Aldona have nothing to do with the TMC anymore,” he said.

Kandolkar, who recently met party’s national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, said, “...From what he (Abhishek Banerjee) said, I felt that there is no clarity on what their plan for Goa is. I was compelled to take this decision (to resign).”

Three other state TMC leaders — Tarak Arolkar, Leao Dias and Sandeep Vazarkar—also resigned from the party on Wednesday.

Police register FIR against jawans in Jammu, Army denies assault charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 27

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police have registered an FIR against some soldiers, including a JCO, of the 22 Mahar Regiment under Section 353 of the IPC (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his/her duty).

Three policemen, including a Probationary Sub-Inspector (PSI), were reportedly injured when things went out of hands while negotiating a dispute between the troops and a civilian over some construction work at Lale Da Bagh area on the outskirts of Jammu city on Tuesday night.

Jammu SSP Chandan Kohli confirmed registration of the FIR.

“The matter is under investigation,” he added.

Incidentally, the soldiers had themselves brought the cops from Domana police station to stop the construction work adjacent to Army unit’s garrison in the area.

The injured policemen have been identified as PSI Sumit Sharma, besides Special Police Officers Naresh Sharma and Rohit Kumar. The civilian, who was also allegedly beaten up by the troops, has been identified as Vivek Sharma, a government school teacher. Vivek’s father Sham Lal Sharma, a retired headmaster, said that they were repairing the dilapidated boundary wall of the house. Around 8.30 pm, when he was away, some policemen called his son out of the house and when he did, sol-

diers attacked him, he alleged.

The policemen tried to intervene and in the process, they sustained minor injuries, it is learnt.

Vivek alleged that the Army personnel did not spare even his wife Chandni Sharma, when she tried to intervene. Vivek said he, too, has lodged a complaint against the soldiers, including JCO Sunil Kumar. He said he had obtained an NOC from the Army authorities in November last year for the repair and renovation work.

The Army refuted the allegations as a “malafide propaganda”. Defence PRO Lt Colonel Devender Anand said one Vivek Sharma was indulging in illegal construction activity in violation of NOC guidelines. Numerous complaints to this effect were lodged. “No jawan manhandled Vivek,” he said.

J&K: School run by it asks teachers to avoid hijab, Army says meant ‘niqab’

Mufti condemns move, Omar says not the India J&K acceded to

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, APRIL 27

A CIRCULAR by an Army-run school for special children in north Kashmir’s Baramulla, asking its teachers to “avoid hijab during school hours”, has triggered a controversy in the Valley with political leaders drawing parallels with the Karnataka hijab ban row.

The Army, however, said the word “hijab” (which covers the head) was mistakenly written in the circular instead of “niqab” (which covers the face, except for eyes). As the school is for special children, the niqab can be a hindrance in teaching, it said.

“Let me clarify this, it is not hijab but niqab,” Defence spokesman Emron Musavi told *The Indian Express*. “This is a school for specially abled children, who have hearing disability etc. They have to teach the phonetics using facial gestures. If a teacher is wearing niqab, how would she teach, what would the children see. That is why this order was passed. The circular is only for the teachers.”

The circular, issued on Monday by the principal of Dagger Parivaar School, said, “Parivaar School is a place to learn and grow emotionally and morally. As the staff of school, the main purpose is to provide for the

fullest possible development of each learner. For the same, the trust must be established with the students and make them feel welcome, safe and happy.”

“The staff is hereby instructed to avoid hijab during school hours so that students can feel comfortable and are forthcoming to interact with teachers and staff,” it said.

The circular led to strong reactions from the political leaders.

“I condemn this letter issuing diktats on hijab. J&K may be ruled by the BJP but it is certainly not like any other state where they bulldoze houses of minorities and not allow them the freedom to dress as they want. Our girls will not give up their right to choose,” tweeted PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah said J&K acceded to “India in which every religion is seen as equal”.

“This [circular] is wrong. In this country everyone has a freedom to follow his religion. The Constitution of our country records that we are a secular country. Secular country means every religion is equal,” he told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of youth National Conference. “Everyone has absolute freedom to decide what he or she wears. I don’t think any government has a right to interfere in this.”

NC, PDP suggest joint front in polls; Mufti says must hold off BJP

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, APRIL 27

THE TWO biggest mainstream parties of Kashmir, National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party, on Wednesday hinted that they would fight elections together, for a united front against the BJP.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah first suggested a joint front by constituents of the People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the NC youth wing. Soon after, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti told *The Indian Express* that she fully supported the same.

The NC and PDP are the two main constituents of the PAGD, which also includes the CPM and Awami National Conference.

“I am not an office-bearer of the PAGD. I can give my personal opinion. I would say they should contest jointly,” Omar said. “If they ask for my suggestion, it would be that we fight together.”

Mufti has in the past urged a joint fight to stop the BJP in J&K. Mufti has often said that her party’s priority is not who wins the elections but to stop the BJP march in the Union territory.

Recently, Mufti called on Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi, in the first

meeting between them since the PDP joined hands with the BJP to come to power in J&K in 2017. The two sides were tightlipped about the visit, with Mufti calling it a courtesy visit.

Backing Omar’s suggestion, Mufti said: “When you look at the larger picture, larger interests of the state — you see, I still call it a state — we need to do whatever is to be done, whatever is required, to stand up to the onslaught by the BJP government against Jammu and Kashmir,” Mufti said. “We need to stay together, whether during elections or otherwise.” She said a joint stand would give hope to the people of J&K. “It is the need of the hour to stay together. We have stand together for the people of J&K.”

Should they contest elections jointly — which the government has said would be held after the delimitation exercise is over — it would severely impact smaller parties like Altaf Bukhari’s Apni Party and Sajad Lone’s Peoples Conference. In a veiled reference to the Apni Party and Peoples Conference, Omar said: “We should not let the BJP or its B and C teams divide votes.” Formed after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the Apni Party is seen as having Delhi’s backing. The Peoples Conference has in the past been associated with the BJP.

COVID-19

Very few recombinant variants discovered in India: INSACOG

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE COUNTRY’S Covid-19 genomic sequencing consortium, INSACOG, has said in its bulletin that “very few recombinant variants have been discovered in India”.

Released after a gap of three months, the bulletin states that none of these recombinant variants sequenced so far have led to increased transmission or severe disease and hospitalisation.

“Incidences of suspected recombinants and possible public health relevance are being closely monitored,” the bulletin stated. The consortium has so far sequenced 2.4 lakh sequences from across the country. An offi-

cial from the consortium, on condition of anonymity, said, “Even if there are a few of XE, how does it matter unless it spreads faster or causes severe disease and death? Most of these variants are too similar to Omicron, which a huge proportion of our population has already been exposed to. So it is unlikely to cause a surge.”

XE is thought to be 22% to 27% more transmissible than one of its parents, the fast-spreading BA2 variant. At present, the world and India is on the lookout for two recombinant variants — XD and XE. A recombinant variant is created when parts of the genetic material of a variant combined with material from another variant. XD is a variant that has Omicron’s S gene incorporated in the Delta variant’s sequence. XE is a recombination of BA1 and BA2 sub-variants of the Omicron variant.

Last week, officials from Delhi government had reported spotting a sub-variant of Omicron BA2 identified as BA2.1.2.1 that was first reported from New York. This hasn’t been confirmed by INSACOG yet.

“All INSACOG labs are taking a look at their sequences now to see whether there have been cases of BA2.1.2.1 reported. So far we haven’t been able to confirm it,” a second INSACOG investigator said. Even if confirmed, it is not a recombinant variant; it is simply a mutated form of Omicron BA2.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR.

O-131


NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. 85 of 2021-2022

In partial modification to this office Bid Identification No. 85 of 2021-2022, the following amendment is made:

- The last date of bid submission in online is extended up to 17.00 hours of dt. 17.05.2022.
- The last date of seeking tender clarification is extended up to 13.00 hours of dt. 13.05.2022
- The date of opening of the technical bid in online is extended up to 11.00 hours of dt. 18.05.2022

All other terms and conditions remains unaltered.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer,**
RWS&S Division, Rairangpur
OIPR-2501/11/0005/2223



WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-02/2022-23
No. 1707 / Dt. 16.04.2022

Nature of Work :- Road Work & Building Works
Number of works :- 01 (One) Road & 2 (Two) Buildings
Amount put to Tender :- Rs. 244.96 Lakh to Rs. 312.91 Lakh
Class of Contractor :- "B" Class/ "A" Class/ "Special"
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal Dt. 28.04.2022 at 10:00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal Dt. 12.05.2022 up to 05:00 PM
Date of opening of bid :- Dt. 13.05.2022 at 11:00 AM
Name & address of the Office:- Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
inviting bid

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>". All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/- **R.Rout**
Chief Construction Engineer,
Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore
OIPR- 34026/11/0003/2223



उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं अधिकृत एवं अनुमोदी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं / फर्मों से, जो जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत हो, ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण प्रतिष्ठित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विभाग की वेबसाइट www.upptcl.org पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। विवरण निम्न प्रकार हैं:-ई-निविदा संख्या कार्य/आपूर्ति का विवरण, के क्रम पड़ा जाये :- **01 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-26 / वि.पा.म.(आ.) / 2022-23** - 765 के.बी. उपकेन्द्र फतेहाबाद आगरा के वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुसंधान सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु। **02 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-27 / वि.पा.म.(आ.) / 2022-23** - विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-फिरोजाबाद के अन्तर्गत 132 के.बी. उपकेन्द्र नसीरपुर पर कन्ट्रोल रूम की वायरिंग सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु। **03 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-28 / वि.पा.म.(आ.) / 2022-23** - विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय आगरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के.बी. उपकेन्द्र बोदला पर 40 एम.बी.ए. परिवर्तक की गैसफिल्ट बदलने सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु। **04 ई-निविदा संख्या टी-29 / वि.पा.म.(आ.) / 2022-23** - विद्युत 765 के.बी. उपकेन्द्र फतेहाबाद आगरा हेतु लाइटिंग मैटेरियल की आपूर्ति हेतु। **अधीक्षण अभियान्त, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, आगरा "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये" पत्रांक :1254 / विषयम(आ.) / ई-निविदा संख्या टी-26 से टी-29 / 2022-23 / दिनांक:27.04.2022**



TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/P&A/MT/PS	(570 Due date extension)	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.intenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DPR/02048/Tender/2022

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)


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Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
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GENERAL MANAGER




DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (W) PROJECT-I
THROUGH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT) W-III
ROOM NO. 403 VARUNALAYA PHASE I, KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005

Tender ID: 2022_DJB_221190_1
Short Notice N.I.T. NO. 01 (2022-23) Re-invite

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Date of Published on e-procurement portal/ Tender ID	Last Date and Time of Tender
1.	Installation of Tubewells for Augmentation of water supply through extraction of ground water, construction of tube wells rooms and laying water lines network in WTP complex Bawana under EE (Project) W-III	501,96,594	10,04,000	27.04.2022 2022_DJB_221190_1	07.05.2022 up to 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 68 (2022-23)

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SIMPLY PUT

The Baloch group behind Karachi bombing

Baloch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the suicide attack by a woman. A look at insurgency in Balochistan, and why a Chinese centre was targeted.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

ON TUESDAY, three Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in a suicide bombing at Karachi University, outside its Confucius Institute, a Chinese culture and education outreach centre supported by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack, also claiming that it was carried out by a female suicide bomber.

The BLA, which announced itself in 2005 with a rocket attack on a paramilitary camp in Balochistan Kohlu during a visit by then President Pervez Musharraf, is a nationalist militant group that has been waging an insurgency for Baloch self-determination and a separate homeland for the Baloch people.

Balochistan borders Afghanistan and Iran. With gas, oil, copper and gold deposits, it is the most resource-rich of Pakistan's four provinces. It makes up half of Pakistan's area, but has only 3.6% of its population. Much before Pakistan bought into Chinese President Xi Jinping's BRI initiative and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Musharraf had handed over Gwadar, a fishing village on the Baloch coastline, to the Chinese for development of a deep-water port that would provide China access

from the Karokoram Pass to the Arabian Sea.

Baloch nationalism

While the BLA's armed insurgency is about two decades old, demands of Baloch nationalists for political autonomy and threats of secession date back to 1947 when the Khan of Kalat (who claimed sovereignty over the four princely states of Kalat, Lasbela, Kharan and Makran) held out for independence, and the Pakistan Army forced his accession in March 1948. Between 1973 and 1977, the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto-led government sent in the Pakistan Army to crush a leftist guerilla war inspired by the liberation of Bangladesh.

The tribal sardars of Balochistan, who had been at the forefront of Baloch nationalism, and were co-opted by the state in the late 1970s, grew rebellious again in the early years of this century as Musharraf bypassed them in his vision of Balochistan as strategic territory that would bring China and Pakistan closer. The insurgency gathered momentum from 2006, after the Pakistan Army killed the Bugti sardar, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, who had been also been a chief minister and governor of the province. His grandson Brahmdagh Bugti is said to be based in Afghanistan.

Another tribal sardar, Khair Baksh Marri, who was among the early rebels against the Pakistan state, is considered the founder of the



Three Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in the attack on Karachi University's Confucius Institute. *Reuters*

BLA, and after he died of old age in 2014, the leadership is alleged by Pakistan to have passed to his son Hyrbairr. He lives in self-exile in London where he campaigns for an independent Balochistan, but denies links to the BLA.

The Pakistan Army's operations against Baloch militancy over the last two decades have seen hundreds of disappearances, and other alleged human rights violations. Baloch nationalists also see the sudden influx of jihadist groups such as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Lashkar-e-Toiba in the province as a move by the Pakistan security establishment to counter their nationalist demands.

According to journalist Malik Siraj Akbar in *Huffpost*, this phase of the Baloch armed struggle posed challenges to the Pakistani state because it "reached the breadth and width of Balochistan... (the) movement involved Baloch women and children who supported the armed groups through regular protest rallies... In 2012, the US Congress convened a hearing on Balochistan and supported the demand for a free Baloch land".

Pakistan has long alleged that the insurgency is backed by India. It alleges that India had training camps for Baloch rebels in Afghanistan. As Pakistan put pressure on

Afghanistan to crack down on Baloch militants on its territory, there were reports in 2017 that Brahmdagh Bugti had applied for Indian citizenship. New Delhi did not confirm or deny the reports. Other reports said he had applied for asylum in Switzerland. The 2019 US designation of the BLA, at a time when the Trump administration wanted Pakistan's help for talks with the Taliban, put further pressure on the Baloch insurgency.

China target in 2nd wind

After a lull in the middle of the last decade, the BLA made a sudden return in 2017, with a drive-by shooting of 10 workers building a Chinese road project that was part of the CPEC. From then on, BLA has claimed several attacks on Chinese targets in Balochistan and outside.

A November 2018 attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, in which four Pakistanis were killed, was claimed by the BLA. In May 2019, another attack claimed by the BLA targeted a five-star hotel in Gwadar, where Chinese delegations stayed. In July 2020, BLA gunmen attacked the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi – the bourse had sold 40% stake to a Chinese consortium in 2016.

Suicide bombers & BLA

It is rare that the BLA has deployed suicide bombers. Two previous instances have been

an attack in Dalbandin on a bus carrying Chinese engineers, and an attack on the home of the Baloch politician Naseer Mengal, which he survived but in which 13 others were killed. Tuesday marked the first time the group had deployed a woman on a suicide attack.

Shari Baloch, who carried out the attack, was a mother of two. Her husband is a dentist and her father a government employee. She had degrees in Zoology and Philosophy. Although her motivations are not clear, the BLA claimed in a statement that she had voluntarily signed up to the "self-sacrificing" mission after enlisting in the Majeed Brigade, a sub-group of the BLA, two years ago.

The Majeed Brigade is named after Abdul Majeed Baloch, who is said to have tried to make an attempt on the life of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at a public meeting in Quetta in 1974 and was shot down on the spot.

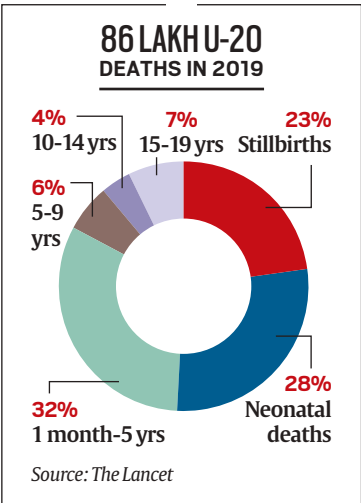
This is also the first time that a non-jihadist ethno-nationalist group has deployed a woman suicide bomber in the manner of Sri Lanka's LTTE. According to security experts familiar with the Baloch insurgency, it marks a worsening security situation, and points to a growing anger in the Baloch population against the Chinese presence. As the training camps are alleged by Pakistan to be in Afghanistan, the incident may also be a pointer to Pakistan's loss of control in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

86 lakh deaths in kids and adolescents in 2019: scientists call for comprehensive care

DESPITE RECENT progress, the world is at risk of failing to meet child and adolescent health targets, with more than 86 lakh deaths among children and adolescents (aged 0-20 years) recorded in 2019, according to a new series on optimising child and adolescent health and development, published in *The Lancet*. Stillbirths (23%) and neonatal deaths (28%) together accounted for over half these deaths, while another one-third (32%) of the deaths occurred in children between one month and five years of age (see chart).

"By looking at mortality and nutrition from the third trimester of pregnancy until age 20, we can have a more complete understanding of child and adolescent health. Our analysis clearly indicates that the first two years of life are crucial indicators of future health, but that age range is only one piece of the puzzle," study author Professor Robert Black from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, said in a statement.

The authors of the *Lancet* series have called on global leaders and policymakers to replace current approaches to child and adolescent health, which are often fragmented by age groups or specific health conditions, to offer comprehensive care that spans nutrition, preventive health, education, economic, and community support across age groups from pre-



conception through age 20. In a linked comment, World Health Organization Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said, "At this especially perilous moment in history, with conflict and fragility around the world, all countries need to prioritise child and adolescent health, and tailor health and multi-sectoral programmes to meet their needs and risk factors."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

DATA FROM the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that India's labour force participation rate (LFPR) has fallen to just 40% from an already low 47% in 2016. This suggests not only that more than half of India's population in the working-age group (15 years and older) is deciding to sit out of the job market, but also that this proportion of people is increasing.

What is LFPR?

Before understanding LFPR, we need to define the labour force itself. According to the CMIE, the labour force consists of persons who are of age 15 years or older, and belong to either of the following two categories:

- are employed
- are unemployed and are willing to work and are actively looking for a job

There is a crucial commonality between the two categories – they both have people "demanding" jobs. This demand is what LFPR refers to. While those in category 1 succeed in getting a job, those in category 2 fail to do so.

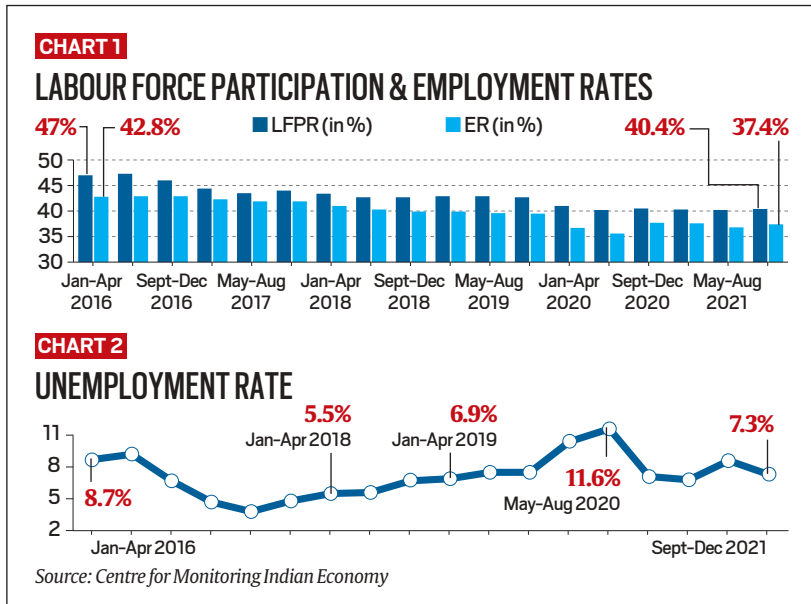
Thus, the LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is asking for a job; it represents the "demand" for jobs in an economy. It includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed. The Unemployment Rate (UER), which is routinely quoted in the news, is nothing but the number of unemployed (category 2) as a proportion of the labour force.

What is the significance of LFPR in India?

Typically, it is expected that the LFPR will remain largely stable. As such, any analysis of unemployment in an economy can be done just by looking at the UER.

But, in India, the LFPR is not only lower than in the rest of the world but also falling. This, in turn, affects the UER because LFPR is the base (the denominator) on which UER is calculated.

The world over, LFPR is around 60%. In India, it has been sliding over the last 10 years



and has shrunk from 47% in 2016 to just 40% as of December 2021.

This shrinkage implies that merely looking at UER will under-report the stress of unemployment in India.

How is it under-reported?

Imagine that there are just 100 people in the working-age group but only 60 ask for jobs – that is, the LFPR is 60% – and of these 60 people, 6 did not get a job. This would imply a UER of 10%.

Now imagine a scenario when the LFPR has fallen to 40% and, as such, only 40 people are demanding work. And of these 40, only 2 people fail to get a job. The UER would have fallen to 5% and it might appear that the economy is doing better on the jobs front but the truth is starkly different.

The truth is that beyond the 2 who are unemployed, a total of 20 people have stopped demanding work. Typically, this happens when people in the working-age get disheartened from not finding work.

Something similar has happened in India's case (see *Chart 1*). The LFPR has sustained a secular decline. In fact, every time

the LFPR falls, the UER also falls – because fewer people are now demanding jobs – giving the incorrect impression to policymakers that the situation has improved.

So, what is the correct way to assess India's unemployment stress?

When LFPR is falling as steadily and as sharply as it has done in India's case, it is better to track another variable: the Employment Rate (ER).

The ER refers to the total number of employed people as a percentage of the working-age population.

By using the working-age population as the base and looking at the number of people with jobs (instead of those without them), the ER captures the fall in LFPR to better represent the stress in the labour market.

If one looks at the ER data (*Chart 1*), it becomes clear that while India's working-age population has been increasing each year, the percentage of people with jobs has been coming down sharply.

Looking at the absolute numbers makes the stress even more clear. In December 2021, India had 107.9 crore people in the working

age group and of these, only 40.4 crore had a job (an ER of 37.4%). Compare this with December 2016 when India had 95.9 crore in the working-age group and 41.2 crore with jobs (ER 43%). In five years, while the total working-age population has gone up by 12 crore, the number of people with jobs has gone down by 80 lakh.

Why is India's LFPR so low?

The main reason for India's LFPR being low is the abysmally low level of female LFPR. According to CMIE data, as of December 2021, while the male LFPR was 67.4%, the female LFPR was as low as 9.4%. In other words, less than one in 10 working-age women in India are even demanding work. Even if one sources data from the World Bank, India's female labour force participation rate is around 25% when the global average is 47%.

Why do so few women demand work?

There are several reasons. One reason is essentially about the working conditions – such as law and order, efficient public transportation, violence against women, societal norms etc – being far from conducive for women to seek work.

The other has to do with correctly measuring women's contribution to the economy. Academics such as Ashwini Deshpande, professor of economics at Ashoka University, have pointed out methodological issues in formally capturing women's contribution to the economy since a lot of women in India are exclusively involved within their own homes (caring for their family) of their own volition. Lastly, it is also a question of adequate job opportunities for women.

How do people who leave the labour force survive?

According to Mahesh Vyas, CEO of CMIE, households with more than one working member often witness this phenomenon. He said the fall in the LFPR since 2016 has been accompanied by a fall in the proportion of households where more than one person is employed. "The fall in LFPR has largely been the result of the additional person employed in a typical household losing a job," he said.

The absence of rain: reason it is so hot almost everywhere in India

ANJALI MARAR & SANJANA BHALERAO
PUNE, MUMBAI, APRIL 27

THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday forecast heatwave conditions over East, Central & Northwest India during the next five days, and issued a yellow alert ("watch, be updated") for the entire country except Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and parts of the Northeast for Thursday.

Severe heat conditions have prevailed over large parts of India almost consistently since the beginning of March, and maximum temperatures in west Rajasthan and Vidarbha in Maharashtra have stayed between 40°C and 45°C throughout the last two months.

March this year was the third hottest since 1901, with the average maximum temperature at 32.65°C against the normal

of 31.24°C, the IMD said. The country has seen four heatwaves including one that is currently ongoing, and 26 heatwave days since the beginning of March. With no respite expected over the next few days, April too is likely to end with the mean maximum temperature well above normal.

Why is this happening?

The harsh early onset of summer is essentially due to the fact that the normal periodic light-intensity rainfall, hail, and lightning have remained by and large absent over most areas of the country.

The rainfall deviation from normal for the country as a whole was negative 70.7 per cent in March (8.9 mm instead of the normal 30.4 mm), according to IMD data. A total 231 out of 695 districts (33%) received no rain between March 1 and April 27, and in another 298 districts (43%) rain was deficient or 'large deficient'.

Normally, passing western disturbances

— eastward propagating windstreams that originate above the Mediterranean Sea — interact with moist winds from southern India to trigger thunderstorms (nor'westers). The intermittent light rain and thunder puts a check on the heat.

The western disturbances have not been sufficiently strong this summer, IMD officials have said. Three of the five western disturbances since March have been feeble, and have passed over the extreme northern regions of the country, failing to cause significant changes in weather.

However, it has rained over south peninsular and northeast India in April. As a result, the summer has been relatively cool in these areas so far.

What does a 'heatwave' mean?

The IMD declares a heatwave when the maximum temperature crosses a certain threshold — 40°C in the plains, 37°C along the coast, and 30°C in hilly regions. Alternatively,

a heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature rises by between 4.5°C and 6.4°C above normal. A severe heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature rises more than 6.4°C above normal.

A third condition for a heatwave arises when an area records a maximum temperature of more than 45°C and up to 47°C on any given day.

When and where do heatwaves occur?

Heatwaves are most common from April-June, and their severity and frequency peak in May. Heatwaves can last between four and 10 days, and occasionally for longer. Heatwave spells in May are longer than those in April and June.

The most heatwave prone areas — known as the Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ) — are Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, parts of Gangetic West Bengal,

coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

The first heatwave of this year, which affected Kutch-Saurashtra, northern Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, West Madhya Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh and interior Odisha, lasted from March 11 to 19. A second heatwave commenced on March 27, and abated only on April 12. It hit all the regions that were affected by the first heatwave, and also spanned Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rayalaseema and East Madhya Pradesh.

A new, relatively short heatwave started on April 17 and lasted until April 20, and was largely restricted to Delhi, Rajasthan, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Vidarbha. The fourth, ongoing heatwave spell began on April 24 over Kutch-Saurashtra and Rajasthan, and spread all over northern and western India.

How long is the current heatwave expected to last?

Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, interior Gangetic West Bengal, and Odisha must brace for hotter days until Sunday (May 1) at least.

The maximum temperature is expected to rise by 2°C until May 1 before falling marginally.

The heatwave over Bihar and Chhattisgarh will abate after April 30. On the other hand, temperatures over Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh could rise in the first week of May.

On Wednesday, the IMD warned that the heatwave over the next few days could lead to moderate health concerns for vulnerable individuals such as infants, the elderly, and those with chronic diseases. It advised people to avoid heat exposure and dehydration, drink water even if not thirsty, and to wear light, loose, cotton clothes and cover their heads with cloth, hat or an umbrella when outdoors.

16 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Macron is protected with an umbrella after attack . AP

FRANCE

Fruity near-miss for Macron, hit by tomatoes

Paris: Newly reelected French President Emmanuel Macron narrowly avoided being pelted by what looked like a small sackful of cherry tomatoes Wednesday as he waded through a boisterous and packed crowd in a market northwest of Paris. About six of the small fruits, some orange, some red, contained in what looked like a blue plastic bag, flew over the head of the French leader and bounced off the shoulder and arm of two men beside him, according to broadcaster BFM-TV's video. Macron seemed oblivious of the near-miss until someone in the crowd shouted "projectile" and bodyguards raised arms over the French leader's head to cover him. **AP**

USA

SpaceX launches four astronauts for NASA

Cape Canaveral: SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA on Wednesday, less than two days after completing a flight chartered by millionaires. It's the first NASA crew comprised equally of men and women, including the first Black woman making a long-term spaceflight, Jessica Watkins. "This is one of the most diversified, I think, crews that we've had in a really, really long time," said NASA's space operations mission chief Kathy Lueders. **AP**

USA

Trump appeals New York contempt ruling

New York: Former President Donald Trump has appealed a New York judge's decision to hold him in contempt of court and fine him \$10,000 per day for failing to adequately respond to a subpoena issued in the state attorney general's civil investigation into his business dealings. Trump's lawyer, Alina Habba, filed a notice of appeal on Wednesday with the appellate division of the state's trial court. Habba questioned the legal basis for holding Trump in contempt, arguing in court papers that he responded properly to the subpoena. **AP**

EUROPEAN NATIONS ACCUSE MOSCOW OF GAS 'BLACKMAIL'

Russia suspends natural gas supply to Poland and Bulgaria

ASSOCIATED PRESS
POKROVSK, APRIL 27

Russia dramatically escalated its standoff with the West over the war in Ukraine on Wednesday, cutting natural gas off to NATO members Poland and Bulgaria and threatening to disconnect even more nations.

A day after the US and other Western allies vowed to speed more and better military supplies to Ukraine, the Kremlin upped the ante, using its most essential export as leverage. The tactic could eventually force targeted nations to ration gas and deal another blow to economies suffering from rising prices.

State-controlled Russian giant Gazprom said it was shutting off the two countries because they refused to pay in rubles, as President Vladimir Putin has demanded of "unfriendly" nations. The Kremlin said other countries may be cut off if they don't agree to the payment arrangement.

Benchmark gas prices in Europe shot up on the news that Poland and Bulgaria were cut off, marking another dark turn in a war that has revived the geopolitical rifts of the Cold War.

The gas cuts do not immediately put the two countries in any dire trouble. Poland, especially, has been working for many years to line up other suppliers, and the continent is heading into summer, making gas less essential for households.

Yet the cutoff and the Kremlin warning that other countries could be next sent shivers of worry through the 27-nation EU. "It comes as no surprise that the Kremlin uses fossil fuels to try to blackmail us," said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "Today, the Kremlin failed once again in its attempt to sow division among member states. The era of Russian fossil fuel in Europe is coming to an end."

Polish and Bulgarian leaders accused Moscow of using natural gas to blackmail their countries af-



Ukrainian servicemen install a machine gun on the tank during the repair work after fighting against Russian forces in Donetsk region on Wednesday. AP

EXPLAINED

What is Putin after?

BECAUSE PUTIN'S order for ruble payments targets "unfriendly countries," it can be seen as retaliation for the sanctions that have cut off many Russian banks from international financial transactions. One motive could be political, to show the public at home that Putin can dictate the terms of gas exports.

ter Russia's state-controlled energy company said it would stop supplying the two European nations Wednesday.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told Poland's parliament that he thinks the suspension was revenge for new sanctions against Russia that Warsaw imposed over the war in Ukraine. Morawiecki vowed that Poland would not be cowed by the cutoff. He said the country was safe from an energy crisis thanks to years of

efforts to secure gas from other countries. Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov called Gazprom's suspension of gas deliveries to his country "a gross violation of their contract" and "blackmail." "We will not succumb to such a racket," he added.

On the battlefield, fighting continued in the country's east along a largely static front line. Russia claimed its missiles hit a batch of weapons that the US and European nations had delivered to Ukraine. One person was killed and at least two were injured when rockets hit a residential neighbourhood in Kharkiv.

Just across the border in Russia, an ammunition depot in the Belgorod region was burning early Wednesday after several explosions were heard, the governor said. Explosions were also reported in Russia's Kursk region, and authorities in Russia's Voronezh region said an air defense system shot down a drone. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak hinted at the country's involvement in the fires, saying in a Telegram post that "karma (is) a harsh thing."



A resident gets swabbed during a mass Covid test in Beijing. AP

Beijing enforces lockdowns, expands Covid mass testing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, APRIL 27

POLICE AND new fencing restricted who could leave a lockdown area in Beijing on Tuesday as authorities in the Chinese capital stepped up efforts to prevent a major Covid outbreak.

People lined up for throat swabs across much of Beijing as mass testing was expanded to 11 of the city's 16 districts. Another 22 cases were found in the last 24 hours, Beijing health officials said at a late afternoon news conference, bringing the total to 92 since

the outbreak was discovered five days ago. On Wednesday, China reported 14,222 new cases, the vast majority of which were asymptomatic.

Shanghai city authorities said Wednesday they will start rounds of Covid testing over the next few days to determine which neighbourhoods can safely be allowed a limited amount of freedom of movement. Shanghai's vice-head of its health committee, Zhao Dandan, announced Wednesday that the city would begin another round of testing for residents over the next few days to determine which districts were lower risk.

Russia releases US Marine vet as part of prisoner swap

Washington: Russia and the US have carried out an unexpected prisoner exchange in a time of high tensions, trading a Marine veteran jailed by Moscow for a convicted Russian drug trafficker serving a prison sentence in the US.

The deal announced by both countries involving Trevor Reed, an American imprisoned for nearly three years, would have been a notable diplomatic maneuver even in times of peace.

The US, for its part, returned Konstantin Yaroshenko, a Russian pilot who'd been serving a 20-year federal prison sentence in Connecticut for conspiracy to smuggle cocaine into the US after he was arrested in Liberia in 2010 and extradited to the US. The Justice Department has described him as "an experienced international drug trafficker" who conspired to distribute cocaine around the world. The exchange took place in Turkey, Reed's father, Joey Reed, told CNN. **AP**

Singapore executes Malaysian despite pleas of disability

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SINGAPORE, APRIL 27

SINGAPORE ON Wednesday hanged to death a Malaysian man convicted of drug smuggling after a court dismissed a last-minute challenge from his mother and international pleas to spare him on grounds he was mentally disabled.

Nagaenthran K Dharmalingam, 34, had been on death row for over a decade after he was found guilty of trafficking about 43 grams of heroin into Singapore. The city-state's government has said its use of death penalty for drug crimes is made clear at the borders.

Nagaenthran's family and social activists confirmed the execution Wednesday. "On this score may I declare that Malaysia is far more humane," his sister, Samila Dharmalingam, said.

Nagaenthran's supporters and lawyers said he had an IQ of 69 and was intellectually disabled, and that the execution of a mentally ill person was prohibited under international human rights law.

MEANWHILE

1/5TH OF WORLD REPTILES FACE EXTINCTION RISK

Even the king cobra is "vulnerable." More than 1 in 5 species of reptiles worldwide are threatened with extinction, according to a comprehensive new assessment of thousands of species published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*. Of 10,196 reptile species analysed, 21% percent were classified as endangered, critically endangered or vulnerable to extinction — including the iconic hooded snakes of South and Southeast Asia.



CANNOT AFFORD ENMITY WITH U.S. AT ALL: SHEHBAZ

Bilawal Bhutto takes oath as Pak's foreign minister

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 27

SCION OF Pakistan's leading political dynasty, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Wednesday took oath as the foreign minister in the government led by PM Shehbaz Sharif at a crucial juncture as he faces multiple challenges such as fixing strained ties with the US and finding a way to restart the peace process with India.

President Arif Alvi administered the oath to 33-year-old Bilawal at the Aiwan-i-Sadr (President's House), where PM Shehbaz, former president Asif Ali Zardari and other officials and leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were present.

It is for the first time when Bilawal has been given a key post in the government and assigned the key portfolio of foreign minister of the country. He was first elected to the National Assembly in 2018. Among the main challenges, Bilawal needs to fix strained ties with the US and find a way to restart the stalled peace process with India.

Meanwhile, Shehbaz Sharif also said that Pakistan cannot afford to have "enmity with the US at all," as he vowed to mend fences with all allies and friends of the country who have been estranged from Islamabad due to the faulty foreign policies. He said there was a need to end the mistrust between Pakistan and the US, and both countries needed to see if they had committed any mistakes in the past, the *Dawn* reported on Wednesday. **PTI**



Pakistan President Arif Alvi meets Bilawal Bhutto in Islamabad on Wednesday. Reuters

Karachi suicide bomber was an academician with strong background: Report

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 27

THE MOTHER of two children who carried out a daring suicide attack that killed three Chinese nationals at the University of Karachi was an academician, wife of a dentist and came from a well-established family in the restive Balochistan province, *The Express Tribune* reported on Wednesday.

When Shari, aka Baramsh, posted a good-bye message on Twitter 10 hours before the blast, no one was really aware of what she was going to do next.

Shari was a primary school teacher in her native Kech district in Balochistan. She completed her BEd in 2014 and MEd in 2018. She did her Master's in zoology from University of Balochistan and MPhil from the

Allama Iqbal Open University.

She left behind a daughter Mahrosh and a son Meer Hassan — both the children are as old as five. Her husband is a dentist while her father served as a director in a government agency.

It may be difficult to know what exactly provoked her to join the Baloch armed struggle, but she remained a member of the Baloch Students Organisation (BSO-Azad) in her student life. Importantly, none of her family members is missing or subjected to enforced disappearance except a fifth cousin who got killed in a military operation in 2018 in Kech.

The tactics to employ a woman in suicide bombings have raised questions: Is the Baloch insurgency redefining itself? Why use women now in such attacks. The answers to these questions remain unanswered to this date. **PTI**

SRI LANKA CRISIS: PM SAYS WON'T RESIGN

Gotabaya ready to discuss formation of all-party govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, APRIL 27

SRI LANKA'S President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday convened a meeting of political parties on April 29 to discuss the possible formation of an all-party government to end the protracted political impasse in the country, amid mounting pressure on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign to and make way for an interim government.

The PM on Wednesday asserted that the President has not asked him to resign and claimed that they were on the "same page" to resolve the crisis.

A letter to all party leaders in the ruling coalition said the government was in agreement to form an all-party government comprising parties represented in Parliament, as per a statement.

The meeting has been fixed for April 29 to discuss the new arrangement after the resignation of PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, it said.

This comes in the background of pressure mounted within the ruling coalition on the prime minister to resign to make way for an interim government.

However, the statement from the president is in contrast to the position taken the PM, who has said he will not resign and any interim government can be formed only under his leadership.

The ongoing street protest opposite the presidential secre-



Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

PROTESTER DEATH: COURT ORDERS ARREST OF OFFICERS

Colombo: A Sri Lankan court on Wednesday ordered the arrest of police officers involved in the death of a protester after the police opened fire at unarmed anti-government protesters demonstrating against the fuel price hike in southwestern region of Rambukkana. Magistrate Vasana Navaratne in the southwestern town of Kegalle ordered the arrest of the police hierarchy who had ordered the firing. **PTI**

tariat entered its nineteenth day on Wednesday. The protests are now also being held opposite the residence-cum-office of the PM.

The country's trade unions threatened on Wednesday that they will boycott work from Thursday in solidarity with protests that call for resignation of the Rajapaksa family. The railway trade union has said the train services would be halted for 24 hours from Wednesday midnight.



Aung San Suu Kyi. AP file

Suu Kyi gets 5-yr jail term for corruption

GRANT PECK
BANGKOK, APRIL 27

A COURT in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's former leader Aung San Suu Kyi of corruption and sentenced her to five years in prison Wednesday in the first of several corruption cases against her.

Suu Kyi, who was ousted by an army takeover last year, had denied the allegation that she had accepted gold and hundreds of thousands of dollars given her as a bribe by a top political colleague.

Her supporters and independent legal experts consider her prosecution an unjust move to discredit Suu Kyi and legitimise the military's seizure of power.

News of Wednesday's verdict came from a legal official. Suu Kyi's trial in the capital, Naypyitaw, was closed to the media, diplomats and spectators, and her lawyers were barred from speaking to the press. She has already been sentenced to six years' imprisonment in other cases and faces 10 more corruption charges. **AP**

CAIRO'S OLDEST CEMETERY IS BEING RAZED, AND THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES LIVING AMID GRAND MAUSOLEUMS FACE EVICTION

Demolishing city of the dead will displace a lively quarter of Cairo

VIVIAN YEE
CAIRO, APRIL 27

WHOEVER WAS being buried in Cairo's oldest working cemetery on a recent afternoon had been of some consequence. Glossy SUVs crammed the dusty lanes around an antique mausoleum draped in black and gold; designer sunglasses hid the mourners' tears.

The cemetery's chief undertaker, Ashraf Zaher, 48, paused to survey the funeral, another job done. But he did not stop for long. Just down the lane, his daughter was about to get married. Hundreds of his neighbours, who like him also live in

the cemetery, were gathering outside his home, a few mausoleums away.

As part of the celebration, men and boys were already updating a traditional sword dance with new break-dance moves. Women were serving celebratory couscous. They had set out on long tables the belongings the bride would take to her new home, a jumble of abundance against the austere centuries-old tombs where she had grown up.

Since the Arabs conquered Cairo in the seventh century, Cairenes have been burying their dead beneath the Mokattam cliffs that rise over the city's historic core, interring politicians,

poets, heroes and royalty in marble-clad tombs set amid verdant walled gardens.

By the mid-20th century, the City of the Dead had also come to house the living: tomb caretakers, morticians, gravediggers and their families, along with tens of thousands of poor Cairenes who found shelter in and among the grand mausoleums. Much of it will soon be gone.

The Egyptian government is razing large swaths of the historic cemetery, clearing the way for a flyover bridge that will link central Cairo to the New Administrative Capital, Egypt's grandiose new seat of government, which President Abdel-



Some plot owners have already exhumed and transferred the remains of their ancestors to new burial sites. NYT

Fattah el-Sissi is raising in the desert about 28 miles east of Cairo. The destruction and construction is part of his campaign to modernise Egypt. But its costs are rarely mentioned.

struction is part of his campaign to modernise Egypt. But its costs are rarely mentioned.

ings to construct his massive citadel, now one of the chief landmarks of the city it overlooks.

Nor is Cairo the only metropolis to pave over graveyards for public infrastructure, as New York did to establish some of its best-known parks. But, preservationists say, Cairo's City of the Dead is different: What will disappear is not only a historical monument where Egyptians still visit their ancestors and bury the newly deceased, but also a lively neighbourhood.

The mausoleums registered as landmarks will be preserved, according to Khaled el-Husseiny, a spokesperson for Administrative Capital for Urban

Development, the government-run company developing the new capital. Other tombs to be spared include that of a relative of el-Sissi, according to preservationists.

But only a small portion of the total have the landmark designation, which will leave them isolated islands between new construction, preservationists said.

Zaher, the chief undertaker, is moving to the new cemetery along with the displaced dead. He is not wasting time on nostalgia. There are many cemetery residents happy to be leaving shabby make-do homes for new apartments, he said. "Instead of living in a graveyard," said Zaher, "they'll get to live in an apartment." **NYT**





GOLD

₹51,233



RUPEE

76.52/USD



OIL

\$100.20



SILVER

₹64,618

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of April 26

SENSEX: 56,819.39 ▼ 537.22 (0.94%) NIFTY: 17,038.40 ▼ 162.40 (0.94%) NIKKEI: 26,386.63 ▼ 313.48 HANG SENG: 19,946.36 ▲ 11.65 FTSE: 7,438.74 ▲ 52.55 DAX: 13,798.06 ▲ 41.66

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Non-compete clause: Labour Min calls Infosys, union for joint discussion

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

FOLLOWING CONCERNS raised by a group of IT sector employees over a clause in the employment contract of India's second largest software company Infosys, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has called representatives of the company as well as the employees' union to hold a joint discussion on the issue.

In the letter addressed to Krish Shankar, Infosys' Group Head-Human Resources and Harpreet Singh Saluja, President, Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES), the Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner noted: "This with reference to the complaint from President, NITES against the management of Infosys Ltd in respect of non-compete agreement clause whereby the employees terminated from employment from Infosys for any reason have been restricted in respect of their future employment. The aforesaid clause has been alleged to be unethical and illegal by the complainant".

It added that a joint discussion will be held on the issue on Thursday. *The Indian Express* has reviewed a copy of this letter.

An e-mail query sent to Infosys seeking comments did not elicit a response.

Last week, NITES wrote to the ministries of labour, and corporate affairs seeking intervention on a non-compete clause in the contract of Infosys employees, which restricted staffers from joining some of its competitors. NITES said that Infosys was enforcing this non-compete clause says that after resigning, an Infosys employee cannot work, for a period of six months, with one of the named rival companies on a

EXPLAINED
What is the issue?

LAST WEEK, NITES wrote to the Labour, and Corporate Affairs ministries, seeking intervention on a non-compete clause in the contract of Infosys employees. NITES said Infosys was enforcing this clause, saying that after resigning, an Infosys employee cannot work, for a period of six months, with one of the named rival companies on a client he or she would have serviced in the preceding 12 months before quitting.

Among the rival companies named in the employment contract are TCS, Accenture, IBM, Cognizant and Wipro for Infosys' software services wing. For the companies business processing management (BPM) wing, the named competitors in the employment pact are Tech Mahindra, Genpact, WNS, TCS, Accenture, IBM, Cognizant, Wipro and HCL.

At the time, Infosys had said that such a non-compete clause is a "standard business practice" in employment contracts.

"It is standard business practice in many parts of the world for employment contracts to include controls of reasonable scope and duration to protect confidentiality of information, customer connection and other legitimate business interests. These are fully disclosed to all job aspirants before they decide to join Infosys, and do not have the effect of preventing employees from joining other organisations for career growth and aspirations," the company had said in a statement on April 20.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP; RIL ARM TO INVEST ₹1,645 CRORE

Murdoch-Shankar platform leads ₹13,500-cr funding in Viacom18

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

RELiance AND Viacom18 on Wednesday announced a strategic partnership with Bodhi Tree Systems, which is a platform of James Murdoch's Lupa Systems and Uday Shankar, to form one of the largest TV and digital streaming companies in India.

Bodhi Tree Systems is leading a fundraise with a consortium of investors to invest Rs 13,500 crore in Viacom18, to jointly build India's leading entertainment platform and pioneer the Indian media landscape's transformation to a "streaming-first" approach. Viacom18 owns and operates the suite of Colors TV channels and OTT platform, VOOOT.

RIL subsidiary Reliance

'ONE OF LARGEST TV, DIGITAL STREAMING COS IN INDIA'

■ Bodhi Tree Systems is leading a fundraise with a consortium of investors to invest Rs 13,500 crore in Viacom18, to jointly build India's leading entertainment platform and pioneer the Indian media landscape's transformation to a "streaming-first" approach.

■ JioCinema OTT app will be transferred to Viacom18. ■ Bodhi Tree Systems is a newly formed platform between Lupa Systems founder and CEO James Murdoch and Uday Shankar, former president of The Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific and former Chairman of Star and Disney India.

Projects & Property Management Services Ltd, which has significant presence in television, OTT, distribution, content creation, and production services, will invest Rs 1,645 crore.

In addition, JioCinema OTT app will be transferred to

Viacom18. Paramount Global (formerly known as ViacomCBS), a global media and entertainment company comprising content studios, TV networks and streaming services including CBS, Showtime Networks, Paramount Pictures, Nickelodeon, MTV,

Comedy Central, BET, Paramount+ and Pluto TV will continue as a shareholder of Viacom18 and will continue to supply Viacom18 its premium global content.

Bodhi Tree Systems, a newly formed platform between Lupa Systems Founder and CEO James Murdoch and Uday Shankar, former president of The Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific and former chairman of Star and Disney India, will leverage the partners' shared track record of building iconic businesses and shaping the media landscape in India and globally. Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund of the State of Qatar, is an investor in Bodhi Tree Systems.

RIL Chairman and MD Mukesh D Ambani said, "We are

very excited to partner with Bodhi Tree and lead India's transition to a streaming-first media market. We are committed to bringing the best media and entertainment services for Indian customers through this partnership."

"We could not be more pleased to announce our new partnership," Murdoch and Shankar said. "Our ambition is to leverage technology advances, particularly in mobile, to provide meaningful solutions to meet everyday media and entertainment needs at scale. We seek to reshape the entertainment experience across more than 1 billion screens."

The transaction is expected to close within six months and is subject to closing conditions and requisite approvals.

'Indian retail industry likely to grow to \$2 trillion by 2032'

India's retail industry has resumed its growth trajectory and is likely to witness 10% annual growth to reach approximately \$2 trillion by 2032, as per a BCG-RAI report



India's consumption, which was growing at about 12% pre-Covid, has now recovered to surpass pre-pandemic growth levels at 17%, as per the report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Retailers Association of India (RAI)

E-commerce is expected to reach \$130 billion by 2026

Footprint expansion across all formats to fuel future growth will be the focus of organised retailers next decade

Source: BCG & RAI/PTI

NEW LAWS TO BE IMPLEMENTED SOON, SAYS LABOUR MINISTER

Draft rules by 90% states on 4 labour codes: Yadav

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

UNION LABOUR Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday said nearly 90 per cent of states have already come out with draft rules for the four labour codes.

Speaking to reporters here, the minister said around 90 per cent of the states have already published draft rules on the labour codes — which would bring another wave of reforms — and he expects the four legis-

lations would become operational soon.

In 2019 and 2020, 29 central labour laws were amalgamated, rationalised and simplified into four labour codes: the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020.

The new laws are in accordance with the changing labour market trends and, at the same time, accommodate the minimum wage requirement and welfare needs of the unorgan-

ised sector workers, including the self-employed and migrant workers, within the framework of legislation.

The central government has also pre-published the draft rules for all four codes. Now, states are required to frame regulations on their part as labour is a concurrent subject.

The Centre notified four labour codes, namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, on August 8, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and

Working Conditions Code, 2020 on September 29, 2020.

However, the Centre as well as states are required to notify rules under the four codes to enforce these laws in respective jurisdictions.

Under the four labour codes, the power to make rules has been entrusted to the central government, state government and appropriate government and there is a requirement for publication of rules in their official gazette for a period of 30 or 45 days for public consultation. **WITH PTI**

BRIEFLY

GST dues

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry said the Centre has already released 8 months of GST compensation dues to states for fiscal ended March 2022 and ₹78,704 crore is pending due to inadequate balance in the cess fund.

City gas bids

New Delhi: BPCL and HPCL got city gas licences for two geographical areas each and GAIL Gas for one to retail CNG to automobiles and PNG to households in the latest bid round, PNGRB said.

Chipset target

New Delhi: The government has set a timeline to commercially roll out the first indigenous chipsets by FY24 under Digital India RISC-V programme launched Wednesday, MoS Electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar said. **PTI**

'WhatsApp plan'

New Delhi: WhatsApp will within weeks roll out cash-back rewards to lure more Indians to its peer-to-peer payments service and is testing similar incentives for merchant payments, two sources said, as the company seeks to compete with rivals including Google. **REUTERS**

AUSFB profit

New Delhi: AU Small Finance Bank completed 5 years of operations, and saw a 105% rise in Q4FY22 net profit at ₹346 crore and FY22 profit after tax of ₹1,130 crore. **ENS**

US court denies Musk bid to end SEC deal on tweets oversight

New York: A US district judge on Wednesday denied Elon Musk's request to end an agreement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for oversight over his tweets relating to Tesla. His lawyers had sought to terminate the 2018 consent decree that resolved SEC securities fraud charges and argued the regulator's pursuit of Musk "crossed the line into harassment."

Tesla lost \$126 billion in value on Tuesday amid investor concerns that Musk may have to sell shares to fund his equity contribution for his Twitter buyout. It gained 2.8 per cent intra-day on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

FM: Sanctions can have collateral impact on many other nations

Washington: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that in an interconnected world, sanctions can have unintended consequences, and India is trying to work through them.

Economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the US and European Union following the invasion of Ukraine in February this year have led to a fall in bilateral trade with Moscow. The ongoing war also fuelled energy prices and a shortage of foodgrains. Speaking at Stanford University, she said India's stand on the Russia-Ukraine war is with the view to safeguard its economic and security interest.

Sanction always has an impact on not just the country on which it is imposed but on many other

Ex-chairman of debt-hit IL&FS Ravi Parthasarathy passes away

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

RAVI PARTHASARATHY, former chairman of debt-laden non-banking firm Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) passed away Wednesday.

Parthasarathy was suffering from cancer and had been hospitalised since November last year.

He was credited with building IL&FS into a big financial services and infrastructure group, and was also responsible for its downfall with a debt of Rs 99,000 crore in the last couple of years.

He was one of the accused in the case and was arrested in June 2021 for various offences under

RAVI PARTHASARATHY
1952-2022

the IPC and the TNPID Act.

On July 20, 2018, Parthasarathy resigned as non-executive chairman of IL&FS, the

holding company of the IL&FS group, which he served for over 30 years. He joined IL&FS in 1987 as president & chief executive officer and was appointed managing director in 1989.

The IL&FS group had overall — fund based and non-fund based — debt of over Rs 99,000 crore as of October 2018 when it started defaulting on repayments.

There were 347 entities under the IL&FS group as of October 2018 when its board was superseded by the government. Among these, a total of 246 entities were resolved by the new management, leaving 101 entities to be resolved in the next financial year.

'No adverse observations on DGCA in US FAA audit'

New Delhi: US aviation regulator FAA has conducted an audit of its Indian counterpart, DGCA, and not made any adverse observations, sources said on Wednesday.

The audit went extremely well and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) noted and endorsed the reforms carried out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the sources in the Indian regulator added. The FAA regularly audits the DGCA. The previous audit of the DGCA was conducted by it in October last year.

The sources said in a record of sorts, no adverse observation was made by the FAA. **PTI**

India, China, Russia, four others on US IP 'Priority Watch List'

Washington: The United States on Wednesday placed India, China, Russia and four other countries on its annual 'Priority Watch List' for intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement.

The other countries that have been put on the list issued by the Office of the US Trade Representative are Argentina, Chile, Indonesia and Venezuela.

All seven countries on this year's list were on last year's, too.

In its "Special 301 Report" on the adequacy and effectiveness of US trading partners' protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said these countries will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral en-

INTENSE BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT: TAI



Reuters file

USTR Representative Katherine Tai said these countries will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral engagement during the coming year.

agement during the coming year.

Twenty trading partners are on the Watch List, and merit bilateral attention to address underlying IP problems — Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand,

Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

The 'Special 301' Report is an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement. USTR reviewed more than one hundred trading partners for this year's Special 301 Report. **PTI**

'CHALLENGING INFLATION CIRCUMSTANCES' HUL Q4 net rises 8.5%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 27

FMCG MAJOR Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Wednesday posted an 8.59 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 2,327 crore for the quarter ended March 2022 as against Rs 2,143 crore a year ago despite "challenging circumstances" posed by high inflation. On a sequential basis, net profit rose 3.7 per cent against Rs 2,243 crore.

Standalone Q4 total income rose to Rs 13,584 crore, a rise of 11 per cent from Rs 12,241 crore reported in the previous corresponding quarter. "EBITDA margin at 24.6 per cent remained healthy. In the context of unprecedented inflation, we continue to manage our business dynamically, driving



HUL CEO-MD Sanjiv Mehta File

savings harder across all lines of P&L and taking calibrated pricing actions using the principles of net revenue management. We continue to invest competitively behind our brands," HUL said.

"... We have grown competitively and protected our business model... I am also pleased that we have become a Rs 50,000 crore turnover company in this fiscal," CEO & MD Sanjiv Mehta said.

'Manipulation scheme': US charges Hwang

REUTERS
BENGALURU, APRIL 27

US AUTHORITIES Wednesday charged Archeos Capital Management owner Bill Hwang with racketeering, fraud and market manipulation over the meltdown of his New York family office which left global banks nursing \$10 billion in losses.

On Wednesday, US authorities alleged that Hwang, who denies wrongdoing, amassed his huge equity exposures by lying to the banks in order to increase Archeos' credit lines and then used derivatives he traded with them to manipulate the underlying shares and ratchet up his returns.

Adani forays into media biz

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises Ltd has entered the media segment with the setting up of a wholly owned subsidiary, AMG Media Networks Ltd.

The new company will "carry on the business of media related activities, including publishing, advertising, broadcasting, distributing etc. of content over different types of media networks".

According to the Registrar of Companies (RoC), AMG Media Networks has three directors — Pranav Vinod Adani, director at Adani Enterprises, Sanjay Pugalía, CEO & editor-in-chief, Media Initiatives, Adani Enterprises and Sudipta Bhattacharya, the chief technology officer of the Adani Group. The company, as per its memorandum of association, will develop content for a range of platforms and media. In March, Quintillion Business Media Private Ltd, an indirect subsidiary of Quint Digital had said that Adani Group will acquire a minority stake in it. QBM runs *Bloomberg Quint*. **ENS**

'PowerMin to states: Step up coal imports for 3 years'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

THE GOVERNMENT has urged states to step up coal imports for the next three years to build up inventories and satisfy demand, sources said.

The decision to boost imports underscores the severity of the fuel crisis as coal inventories are low and electricity demand is rising. "The states were asked to continue importing because the private sector will take till at least early 2025 to produce significant output," said a power ministry official who attended Singh's meeting with state officials on Tuesday.

In addition, the rail network suffers a persistent shortage of trains to move domestic coal, the official added.

At the meeting, states were asked to sign long-term import deals to ensure supply and lower prices, as well as buy rail wagons to resolve the logistics problems, said another ministry official who was briefed on it, but did not attend. But high global prices of coal



A thermal plant, Punjab. File

will strain the debt-laden utilities of states. Global prices have shot up over fears of a supply crunch after the European Commission decided to ban coal imports from Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. India, which has a long-standing policy to trim imports of coal, said in December there should be no imports other than very essential ones. "Only last year they told us to cut down imports," said one of the state officials at Tuesday's meeting. "Now they want us to import as much as we can and are saying there are supply constraints. This is a very confusing, mixed signal."

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,hitherto known as Naina Bedi,D/o Anil Bedi,W/o Kanish-Aggarwal,R/o Ho-no-24, Road-no-57,West Punjabi-Bagh,Delhi-110026,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Naina Aggarwal.

0040611607-8

I,BALDEV S/O.KAPILDEV TIWARI,ADD-12,30,NEHRU NAGAR, SOUTH EAST DELHI 110065, Changed my name to BALDEV TIWARI. Permanently.

0040611600-1

I,Vandana Francis W/o Robin Son,R/o E-66 (S3) Vishnu Garden Delhi,have changed my name to Vandana Robin.

0040611600-6

I,VANDANA W/O GAGAN BHUTANI,R/O L-73,NEW MAHAVIR NAGAR,TILAK NAGAR,DELHI-110018. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VANDANA BHUTANI.

0040611607-3

I,SHANTI DEVI,R/O D-15,-D-BLOCK,PANKHA ROAD,MAHINDRA PARK,UTTAM NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059,inform that in my Passport no.85001576,my name SHANTI DEVI NAIR and my,husband name RAJINDER KUMAR wrongly-written. My correct name SHANTI DEVI and my,husband correct name RAJENDRA KUMAR for all,future purpose.

0040611607-10

I,SHAGUN RATHI,W/O AKSHAT MITTAL R/O V-3/14,4TH-FLOOR,DLF PHASE-3, GURGAON HARYANA-122010,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAGUN RATHI MITTAL.

0040611600-4

I,Ramesh Kumar,S/o Sh.Ram Kanwar Permanent-R/o VPO-Humayunpur,Distt.Rohatka and Presam-R/o A-79, Himgiri-Enclave,Nilothi Extension,Nangloi,Delhi-110041,have changed name,from Ramesh to Ramesh kumar,for all purposes.

0040611613-8

I,RAVINDRA KUMAR KASANA,S/O RAGHU RAJ,R/O-39,Sharifabad-Rajapur, Farruk-Nagar,Ghaziabad,UP,have changed my name to RAVINDRA KASANA.

0040611613-1

I,Poonam Bhatia,D/O Prakash Chand Bhatia,married to Ritesh Kalra,S/O Anand Nassin Kalra on.20th.January,2010,R/o.H.No.86,2nd-Floor,Bharat-Nagar, Ashok-Vihar,Phase-4,Near-Deep-Chand Bandhu-Hospital,Delhi-110052,Have Changed my Name to Suhani Kalra,for All,Legal Purposes.

0040611607-4

I,PIYUSH, S/O -VIRENDER KUMAR, Address-C-53,PAKKA KUNJ, KARBALA,LODHI ROAD,New Delhi-110003, changed my name to PIYUSH KUMAR.

0040611600-10

I,No-9102327A,Sepoyee Bashir Ahmad Hajam, S/O- Abdul Ahad Hajam, R/O-Arin, District-Bandipora. In my service records name's and D o B of my family has been wrongly mentioned as father as Ab Ahad instead of Abdul Ahad Hajam 83 years, Mother as Haiinya 77 years instead of Zoonaa Begum (D o B-1-3-1950),Wife as Farida Begum (D o B- 7-4-1985) instead of Fareeda Begum (4-5-1983),Son's as Saqeeb Ahmad (D o B-22-11-2004), Usair Bashir (D o B-8-04-2007) instead of Saqib Bashir Ahmad (D o B-1-7-2006),Zubair Bashir (D o B-10-9-2008) and daughter as Tyba Bashir (D o B- 30-3-2009) instead of Tabiya Bashir (15-4-2012).It needs correction. Objections be filed to DSC 26 Ammunition Coy Jaisalmer Rajsthan within seven days.

0020438159-1

I,Nayanaben,an legally-wedded spouse of No.14864094F NK/MT Babriyaa Kishansinh Kalabhai, presently resident of Village-Maliya Hatina, Teh-Maliya Hatina, Distt-Junagadh, Gujarat have changed my name from Nayanaben to Babriyaa Nayanaben Kishansinh vide affidavit dated 26/04/2022 before Notary Public, Delhi.

0040611582-1

I,Raj Kumari,D/o Ghanshyam Das,D/O Bhartendu Arora,R/o 532,Ground-Floor, Sector-23,Gurgaon,Haryana-122017,have changed my name to Raj Arora.

0040611625-3

I,Naseebara w/o Muwarik,R/O H.No-A-19,4 floor, Gali No-01,Chand Bagh,Delhi-110094,Have Changed my name to Nasibara. permanently.

0040611625-1

I,Mehar D/o Harjeet Singh Bharaj,R/O S-221/168C, Gali.No.4 Vishnu-Garden Delhi,have changed my name to Mehar Kaur Bharaj.

0040611600-5

I,Manoj Kumar,S/o Battu Ram,R/O C-67/68, Staff-Quarter, Ashok-Hotel,Kutliya-Marg,Chanakypuri,New Delhi,have changed my name,from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Kumar Chhajlani,for all purposes.

0040611613-9

I,Reena Garg, W/o Ramkumar Agarwal, R/o E-131, Kamla Nagar, Agra, Uttar Pardesh-282005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reena Agarwal.

0070782716-1

I,Ramya Sethi, D/o Sh. Vijay Sethi, residing at 1/6892, East Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi 110032, have changed my name from Shivani Sethi to Ramya Sethi. 0040611508-1

I,Ramakant Pathak, S/o Matum Membran, R/o House No-723, Heisenberg Academy, Near Dayal Market, Karan Garden Road, Village, Ali Pur, Delhi-110036, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shraban Membran. 0070782705-1

I,Rajiv Kumar S/o Shri Birendra Kumar, R/o Flat No.809, Azure Shipra Krishna, Kaushambi, GHAZIABAD (U.P.) have changed my minor daughter name from NARAYANI KUMARI to NARAYANI KUMAR for all future purposes. Further stated that NARAYANI KUMARI to NARAYANI KUMAR is one & the same person. 0040611505-9

I,Rajesh Behl, S/o Bhushan Lal, R/o Near Gandhi Square A-3, First Floor, Malka Ganj S.O. Delhi-110007, have changed the name of my minor Daughter Khushboo Behl aged about 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as Kusshbu Behl. 0070782704-1

I,Pooja Banerjee W/o Debmalya Chandra Banerjee R/o C-2/61, UGF, Safdarjung Development-Area, Hauz khas, N.Delhi-110016 should be known as Pooja Prakash Ramchandani.

0040611613-7

I,Peeyush Kumar, S/o Prashant Kumar, R/o H.no. D-249, Sushant Lok-1, D-Block, Chakkarpur, Gurgaon, Haryana-122022, have changed my minor Daughter name from Aaira Shah to Aaira Kumar for all future purposes.

0070782736-1

I,Nandan Ram, S/o Prem Ram, R/o House No- 326/6, Mitraon Village, Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Nandan Sharma in my minor Daughter Himanshi, aged 17 years in her Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is Nandan Ram. 0070782719-1

I,RITa Binitta Roy, D/o Emmanuel Roy, S/o Prashant Manish Theodore, R/O E-9, NPL Colony, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060, have changed my name to RITA Theodore after marriage. I have changed my name not my Religion.

0070782682-1

I,Mohit Dhall S/o Suresh Kumar Dhall R/O 1756, Bettina Tower, Mahagun Mascot, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my name to Mohit Bakshi. 0040611515-1

I,Manisha Vatsyayan, W/o Pankaj Vatsyayan, R/o D-506, Plot No-6, Sector-7, Satisar Apartment, Dwarka Sec-6, Delhi-110075, have changed the name of my minor daughter Venya Vats aged about 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as Venya Vatsyayan. 0070782708-1

I,Manisha Vatsyayan, W/o Pankaj Vatsyayan, R/o D-506, Plot No-6, Sector-7, Satisar Apartment, Dwarka Sec-6, Delhi-110075, have changed the name of my minor daughter Prisha Vats aged about 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as Prisha Vatsyayan. 0070782714-1

I,Lovishka Singh, D/o Hemant Kumar Singh, Residence-A-172, Sec-31, Noida, U.P.holding Indian Passport No.-H8939922, issued at Delhi on 13/01/2010 valid upto 12/01/2015 hereby declare as I have changed my name from LOVISHKA RAJ SINGH to LOVISHKA SINGH and I will use this new name (LOVISHKA SINGH) for all-purpose in future. 0070782742-1

I,KANTA spouse of PREM KUMAR PRASHAR resident of House No.WE-73 Mohan Gardem Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 have changed my name from KANTA to KANTA PRASHAR vide Affidavit dated 27.04.2022 at New Delhi.

0040611579-1

I,Hodi Anwar Husain Rizvi Alias Hadi Hasan, S/o Anwar Hussain, R/O A-14, Nala Road, Ziauddin New Mustafabad, Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Hadi Hasan Anwar Husain.

0070782720-1

I,Gaurav Dilipbhai Joshi, S/o Dilipkumar Keshavlal Joshi, R/o C-706, Krishna Apra Sapphire, 1-1 Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Gaurav Dilipkumar Joshi.

0070782737-1

I,Chanchal Gaur, W/o Kapil Sharma, D/o Ram Kumar Sharma, R/O E-4/65, Second Floor, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name after my marriage to Chanchal Sharma for all purposes.

0070782735-1

I,Mohd Suhail S/O Mohd Halim R/O of N-223, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohammad Sohail.

0040611572-1

I,Kunal S/O, Kamal Kumar R/O A-426, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Kunal Dhillion for all purposes. 0040611514-1

I,Anil Kumar S/o Bishamber Dass Mehta R/O 6/2, First Floor, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Anil Mehta.

0040611613-5

I,Zaheeruddin R/O H.NO 193 STREET NO 10 JAFRABAD DELHI-110053 have changed my Minor's daughter name from Shiza to Shiza Parveen

0040611512-1

I,Isha alias Isha Chhabra D/o Sh. Satish Chhabra R/o House No.DG-1201, New Colony Extension Part-2, Near Bhuragiri Mandir, Palwal, Haryana-121102 have changed my name to Isha Chhabra for all purposes. 0040611505-8

I,Gaurav Kumar, S/O Ummed Pal Singh, R/o Dabathuwa, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-250341, have changed my name to Saurabh Kumar.

0070782712-1

I Kulvinder singh R/o D-2062 2nd floor palam vihar gurgaon have changed my minor's daughter name from Bani Kaur Dhunna to Baani Kaur Dhunna

0040611513-1

I,Nasibara w/o -Muwarik,R/O A-19,4th Floor,Gali.No-01,Chand Bagh,Delhi-110094,have changed the name of my minor daughter,from JASMEEN to JASMINE.

0040611625-2

I,GAGAN S/O DHARAMVIR BHUTANI R/O L-73,NEW MAHAVIR NAGAR,TILAK NAGAR,DELHI-110018. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GAGAN BHUTANI.

0040611607-2

I,WASIM AHMED/WASEEM AHMAD,S/o KHALIQ AHMED,R/O H.NO.107 KHUREJI KHAS,DELHI-10051,have changed my name to WASEEM AHMED,for all,future purposes. 0040611607-7

I Parwati Rawat W/o Balwant Singh Rawat R/o Kharsra No. 97/23, Street No. 6, Block-F, Tomar Colony, Delhi-110084 in my daughter school recordd my name is wrongly mentioned as Parul Rawat but my correct name is Parwati Rawat. Parwati Rawat and Parul Rawat both are same and one person. 0040610298-3

LOST & FOUND

Lost my agreement to sale of Property of H.No. 106-B, Pocket-L, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-95, document no. In-DL-776584689184700, dt.14/01/22, Delhi is lodged L.R. No. 32093/2022. Mukesh Kumar Srivastav S/o D.N. Srivastav At above press or Ph. 753004079.

0070782732-1

I,Manisha Bajaj D/o Sh. Brij Mohan R/O 249, Gagan Vihar, Delhi-110051 have lost my Original Payment Receipt executed by Mohinder Jit Singh in favour of Messers Sumata Properties on 22.08.1988 of Property No.294, Gurgaon Vihar, Delhi-110051. Finders may contact at above address.

0040611505-11

I,Vineeta Dhvani,D/o P D Dhyani,R/o 39,Surya Niketan,Delhi-110092,have lost my Pre PhD Marksheet Certificate Enrolment no-D01214021,Year-2015,from KLE University Belagavi Karnataka. Finder please contact.

0040611613-10

I,Ramesh Chand Joshi, S/o Anand Ballabh Joshi and Mrs Meenakshi Joshi, W/o Ramesh Chand Joshi, R/o-149, Block-KG-1, Vikas Puri, Delhi, have lost my original allotment letter at flat No. B-301, Steller Mill Legacy, Zeta-1, Greater Noida, UP.

0070782740-1

I Rani D/o Sh. Shyam Lal Chadha R/O 55, Street No-16, New Gobind Pura, Delhi-110051 have lost my Original Agreement to Sell, Affidavit, Payment Receipt & Possession Letter executed on 16.11.2009 by Vikas Kapoor in favour of Raj Rani Arora of First Floor of Property No.K-15, New Gobind Pura Extn., Delhi-110051. Finders may contact at above address. 0040611505-10

PUBLIC NOTICE

Miss Ektia Ahiwala
My Clients Smt. Anum Kumar son of sh Nar Singh Sah R/O A-2/301 DDA flats, Lawrence Road, Delhi-110035 hereby declare for general public that: That my client is owner of the built up Flat No 403, Top Floor, LOTUS APARTMENT, BLOCK-08, OMICRON-3, GREATER NOIDA UP and had executed registered Will dt 19-4-2022 in favour his wife Poonima: Kumar in respect of the above said FLAT, My client further undertakes that he shall not cancel this WILL, and never executed any another Will and never sold the above said property to any one. In case my client wants to sell the flat then it will inform three months prior to the persons mentioned in this affidavit dated 26.02.2022.

Sd/- **Amil Sharma (Advocate)**
Ch. No. 272, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

My Client Smt. Anum Kumar son of sh Nar Singh Sah R/O A-2/301 DDA flats, Lawrence Road, Delhi-110035 hereby declare for general public that: That my client is owner of the built up Flat No 403, Top Floor, LOTUS APARTMENT, BLOCK-08, OMICRON-3, GREATER NOIDA UP and had executed registered Will dt 19-4-2022 in favour his wife Poonima: Kumar in respect of the above said FLAT, My client further undertakes that he shall not cancel this WILL, and never executed any another Will and never sold the above said property to any one. In case my client wants to sell the flat then it will inform three months prior to the persons mentioned in this affidavit dated 26.02.2022.

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Sd/- **Amil Sharma (Advocate)**
Ch. No. 272, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS my client **Sh. Karn Singh** son of **Sh. Deep Chand** residing at **H.No. 547, V.P.O. Bawana, Delhi-110039**, has desired and declared that he has broken all family relation with his son **Jitender** causing mis-behavior and due to beyond control forever with immediate effect. That my client has debarred his son from all movable and immovable properties, my client will not responsible for any dealing with him.

Deo Raj Singh (Advocate)
Chamber No. B-108, Baba Guru Charan Singh Block, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

Be it known that my client **Sh. SATISH KUMAR** S/O: SH. JAI SINGH R/O: H. NO. B-37, GALI NO. 8, BHAKT SINGH MARG, SHALIMAR VILLAGE, DELHI- 110088, disowned and severed all relationship with his son namely **MR. LUNAR**, debarred him from all his movable and immovable properties acquired or to be acquired because of his mis-behavior & conduct and his nature is being disobedient and he is abusing and quarrelling with my client, so my client has debarred him from him. Any person dealing and having relation with him in any manner shall be at their own risk, cost & consequences. My client shall not be responsible for any act and deed of the aforesaid.

Surender Kumar (Advocate)
Enrl. No. D/152/1989

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client **Smt. Shashi Gupta** W/o Late **Sh. R. K. Gupta** R/O S-485, School Block, Shakapur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have disowned and debarred their son namely **Mitrag Gupta** and daughter in law **Shwanki Aggarwal** from all their movable and immovable properties and cancelled all their relations with them in future due to their conduct and behavior towards my client. That if anyone deals with them shall deal as per their own risk cost and consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible for any of their acts.

Sd/- DAKSH KWATRA (ADVOCATE)
Enrl. No. D-3953/3020
4SE, AMAR PALA, I.P. EXTENSION, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092

I,GAGAN S/O DHARAMVIR BHUTANI R/O L-73,NEW MAHAVIR NAGAR,TILAK NAGAR,DELHI-110018. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GAGAN BHUTANI.

0040611607-2

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I Parwati Rawat W/o Balwant Singh Rawat R/o Kharsra No. 97/23, Street No. 6, Block-F, Tomar Colony, Delhi-110084 in my daughter school recordd my name is wrongly mentioned as Parul Rawat but my correct name is Parwati Rawat. Parwati Rawat and Parul Rawat both are same and one person. 0040610298-3

Sumit Kumar (Advocate)
Delhi High Court
E.No. D317811
Mob:- 9996787186, 8527483289

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN THAT MY CLIENTS **SH. MOOL CHAND BAWANA**, S/O LATE **SH. CHETNAL AND SMT. ANGOORI DEE WIFE OF SH. MOOL CHAND BAWANA**, R/O E-1, DDA QUINSHIPUR PUMSHA BHAWAN, DELHI-110065, HAS DISOWNED AND DEBARRED HIS SONS **NANDEY, MR. RAJESH, KISHAN LAL**, AND **MAHENDER** INCLUDING THEIR WIVES AND LEGAL HEIRS FROM ALL OF THEIR PROPERTIES, BOTH MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE INCLUDING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PROPERTIES. MY CLIENTS HAVE ALSO NOT IN ANY MANNER COVER HIS SAID SONS & DAUGHTER-IN-LAWS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY HARASSING MY CLIENTS AND CAUSING EMOTIONAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL AGONY, AND HAVE NO RESPECT AND REGARD FOR MY CLIENTS. THEREFORE, MY CLIENTS HAVE ABSOLUTELY DISOWNED AND DEBARRED THE ABOVE NAMED SONS AND DAUGHTER IN LAWS INCLUDING THEIR LEGAL HEIRS.

MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR **CLAIMS & DEBTS** OF ABOVE NAMED PERSONS. MY CLIENTS HAVE ALREADY EXECUTED A DISOWNING DEED DATED 24/09/2022 IN THIS REGARD.

Sd/- **LOKESH BARMAL (ADVOCATE)**
Chamber No. 131, One Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Anum Kumar son of sh Nar Singh Sah R/O A-2/301 DDA flats, Lawrence Road, Delhi-110035 hereby declare for general public that: That my client is owner of the built up Flat No 403, Top Floor, LOTUS APARTMENT, BLOCK-08, OMICRON-3, GREATER NOIDA UP and had executed registered Will dt 19-4-2022 in favour his wife Poonima: Kumar in respect of the above said FLAT, My client further undertakes that he shall not cancel this WILL, and never executed any another Will and never sold the above said property to any one. In case my client wants to sell the flat then it will inform three months prior to the persons mentioned in this affidavit dated 26.02.2022.

Sd/- **Amil Sharma (Advocate)**
Ch. No. 272, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that my client **Late Lt. Col Sanjay Ahlawat** S/o Harpat Singh alongwith his wife **Mrs. Anupama Ahlawat** R/O D-811 Jalvayu Towers, Sector-56, Gurgaon has in joint ownership, a flat number F3/1401 admeasuring 1420 square feet in Yatika Gurgaon 21, Late Lt. Col Sanjay Ahlawat passed away on 24/Oct/2020. Now Mrs. Anupama Ahlawat has moved an application for replacement of the name of **Late Lt. Col Sanjay Ahlawat** with that of their daughter **Miss. Ekta Ahlawat**.

Any person having any objection on processing of the said request for replacement of name of **Late Lt. Col Sanjay Ahlawat** with that of **Miss. Ekta Ahlawat** may contact the below person within 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice in the newspaper, after which No Claim of any nature would be entertained.

Name deletion: Late Lt. Col Sanjay Ahlawat. **Name addition:** **Miss. Ekta Ahlawat**.

Mrs. Anupama Ahlawat, D-811 Jalvayu Towers, Sector-56, Gurgaon, Haryana, India- 122011
Contact number- 9079347339

Enrl No. D/314/03

MY CLIENT [JRAMU DASS S/O LT. SHASH CHAND R/O ANAND NAGAR GREEN PUBLIC SCHOOL, SWAROOP VIHAR KADIPIR, NORTH WEST DELHI 110036, UJD NO.2657-4052-484, D/O ANJAL W/O RAMU DASS R/O A-251, GALI NO. 12, SWAROOP VIHAR, NORTH WEST DELHI 110036 UJD NO- 518-8352-6715, HAVE DEBARRED ALL THEIR RELATIONS & DEBARRED THEIR SON VIJAY FROM ALL THEIR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY DUE TO HIS HOSTILE & RABD BEHAVIOUR, AND WHOSEVER WITH DEAL WITH HIM, WILL BE DOING AT HIS OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY AND MY CLIENT AND HIS FAMILY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY ACT OF THE ABOVE NAMED SON OF MY CLIENT.

NARAIN & ANJIA ASSOCIATES ADVOCATE

Enrl No. D/314/03

MY CLIENT [JRAMU DASS S/O LT. SHASH CHAND R/O ANAND NAGAR GREEN PUBLIC SCHOOL, SWAROOP VIHAR KADIPIR, NORTH WEST DELHI 110036, UJD NO.2657-4052-484, D/O ANJAL W/O RAMU DASS R/O A-251, GALI NO. 12, SWAROOP VIHAR, NORTH WEST DELHI 110036 UJD NO- 518-8352-6715, HAVE DEBARRED ALL THEIR RELATIONS & DEBARRED THEIR SON VIJAY FROM ALL THEIR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY DUE TO HIS HOSTILE & RABD BEHAVIOUR, AND WHOSEVER WITH DEAL WITH HIM, WILL BE DOING AT HIS OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY AND MY CLIENT AND HIS FAMILY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY ACT OF THE ABOVE NAMED SON OF MY CLIENT.

NARAIN & ANJIA ASSOCIATES ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought in knowledge at large that my client **Sh. Jitender Kumar** S/o Sh. Rishi Krishan and his wife **Smt. Sangeta** both R/O H.No- 697, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi-110028, have debarred their son namely **Ankit Verma** and his wife **Seema Gupta** from their all movable and immovable properties due to his bad conduct, ill will manner and irresponsible behavior towards to my clients above named clients. My clients will not be held responsible for any illegal act or deed if they had done with the any financial institution or any institution for all of the wrong doing of their above-named son and daughter-in-law.

Neeraj Verma (Advocate)
Ch. No. 1026, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify public that My Client **Japal Singh** S/o Late **Puran mal** R/O A-71,Ekta Enclave, Baruni, Delhi -110084 has disowned his son **Rishi Prakash** from all his movable and immovable properties and have severed all his relationship with him, he will have no claim over any of my client's assets and my client shall be free to sell/transact any of his movable or immovable assets to anyone and he will have no objection to the same. Henceforth My client shall not be responsible for any of the acts & deeds of his above-mentioned son and anyone.

Kartikay Bhaskar-Advocate
Harsh Bela 1239 Sant Nagar Burari, Delhi-110084. Ph.554008980

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Suresh Gupta** (S/o Late **Shri R.D Bansal**) and **Kavita Gupta** (S/o A/H-32, 1st Floor, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, hereby through this public notice disowned and debar their son **Ankush Gupta** and **Daughter in Law** **Nikita Saraf Gupta** from their all movable/ immovable properties and have severed all relations with them to their disrespectful behaviour. Anybody dealing with them in any civil and criminal activities shall bear at their own cost and risk. My client shall not be responsible for any of their acts, conduct, omission or commission whatsoever from the immediate effect from the date of its publication.

HIMANSHU NAGPAL (ADVOCATE)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Mr. MANOJ KUMAR GULATI S/O LATE SH. RL GULATI AND SMT. NEERAJ GULATI, W/O MANOJ KUMAR GULATI RESIDENT OF 24/568, THIRD FLOOR, SHRI NATHO RAM JOLLY, RIO-D-9, AKASH BHARTI APARTMENT, 24, I.P. EXTN., DELHI-110092, is also informed that, Late Shri NATHO RAM JOLLY, RIO-D-9, AKASH BHARTI APARTMENT, 24, I.P. EXTN., DELHI-110092, is past, present and future. Anyone who deals with him may be doing of their own cost and risks and may not be held to have responsibility for their acts hereafter.

Sd/- **SHIV DATT ATRI ADVOCATE** M.NO. 889996065 S.O.B. JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to General public at large that my clients **Mr. Anurag Gangal** and **Mr. Amit Gangal** who are the owners of Property bearing No. II-A/9, admeasuring area of 46513 Sq.mtrs., Sitapur, Ghaziabad, U.P. by virtue of Mutation letter dated 26/03/2022 issued by Ghaziabad Development Authority. Initially, the said property was acquired by virtue of Freehold Deed dated 13.01.1997 executed by Ghaziabad Development Authority. After demarcation of Mr. S.P. Gangal and Mrs. Sadhna wife of Mr. S.P. Gangal and Mr. Sunil Kumar (son) leaving behind the legal heirs **Mr. Anurag Gangal, Mr. Amit Gangal, Mrs. Renu Kumar, Mrs. Rekha Gupta, Mrs. Kavita Gangal, Shantanu Raghuw, Anika Gangal & Anjinya Gangal**, my clients got their names mutated in the record of Ghaziabad Development Authority. Now, they intends to sell the said property.

Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim or objection in respect of the sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 07 days shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser.

Mr. Khaliq Hussain (Advocate)
A-36, Kalash Colony, New Delhi-48
Mob. No.- 9310391672

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is given hereby to public at large that my client is in process of purchasing the Residential Flat/Block XII, 8th Floor, (Type Sterling), DLF City, Phase-II, Gurugram, Haryana-12202 Admeasuring 424.56 Sq. Meters along with two covered Car Parkings No. 1073 & 1075 from its recorded and registered owner namely **M/s. Maxflow Pumps India Pvt. Ltd.** Having its registered office at 39, Kushal House, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110092 Through its Director namely **Mr. Nareesh Arora & Radha Arora**.

Whereas it has been portrayed to my client that the above mentioned Residential Flat is exclusively and absolutely owned by the above named seller Company and same is free from all kinds of charges, lien, mortgage, litigation, insolvency proceedings etc. except with Federal Bank, Gurugram Haryana. On the basis of representation & assurances of above named seller, my client has agreed to purchase the above captioned flat.

Whereas all persons including the individuals, companies, banks, financial institutions (banking and non banking), firms, creditors, claimants family members etc. except Federal Bank, Gurugram Branch, Gurugram Haryana having any right, interest, claim, objection in respect of above mentioned Penthouse/Apartment thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, maintenance, easement, succession, lease etc. of whatsoever nature, are hereby requested to submit the same in writing by registered post, supported by the original documents, to the undersigned at the address below within the period of 10 days from the publication of the instant notice, failing which, the claim or right if any, of the said person/body/company etc. shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

ANJALASH VASHISHT (ADVOCATE)
B31, Model Town, Delhi-110009

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of General public that my client **Mr. Manoj Kumar** S/o Mr. Mool Chand is the owner of entire Prop. MPL No. 3631, (Old Plot No- 76), Nangal Colony, Tri Nagar, Delhi, and has lost the Original GPA dated 15.07.1992. Our client has also lodged a FIR dated 24.04.2022 for the same. Any person dealing with the said document may do so at his/her own risk and manner whatsoever any claim on the basis of the title document will be entertained within 07 days of publication, failing which any such rights, title interest or claim if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our client.

Sd/- Manoj Kumar, Advocate,
Ch. No. 192, Tis Hazari Courts, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054
Mobile No. 9868581889

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE of loss of shares of HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LIMITED (Formerly HINDUSTAN LEVER LIMITED) Regd. Office- Hindustan Lever Limited, Unilever House, B D Savant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East) Mumbai- 400089. Notice is hereby given that the Equity share Certificates in name of **Gheta Mehta and V K Mehta** per Folio No. DL0741809 Certificate No. 5031894, Destructive No. 1585841/29154320 have been

These Titans never sink

Gujarat biff 22 off the final six courtesy six-hitting from their spin-bowling all-rounders Khan and Tewatia

SYNOPSIS: Rashid Khan's three sixes in four balls stole a last-ball win for GT over SRH after Umran Malik's five had ripped through their line-up

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
APRIL 27

RASHID KHAN endured his costliest spell of the season against his former franchise, dropped a catch and misjudged another chance. But with Gujarat Titans requiring 15 off the last four balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad in a chase of 196, he smoked three sixes off Marco Jansen to steal a last-ball five-wicket win.

Tewatia, Rashid at it again

With 56 needed off the last four, Umran Malik's spell of 4-0-25-5 had all but shocked and stunned Sunrisers into submission. But Tewatia seems to thrive in such situations. He wasn't letting the asking-rate run out of control. A loft over mid-off, a swipe over midwicket, a massive slog-sweep or two, he produced the boundary when GT desperately needed it.

Still, as many as 22 were required off the last over to be bowled by Marco Jansen. Tewatia swung a six but only a single next meant it was down to Rashid. The field changed now; point was sent back, third man was brought up. Rashid guessed correctly, it was going to be full and wide and he slaughtered it high and over the sightscreen. Jansen went full and wide again, and Rashid sliced it with all his might over extra cover now.

Jansen banged it into the pitch at Rashid. The Afghan veteran swivelled and swung it over fine leg towards an ecstatic Garware Pavilion, and raised his arms in celebration and also redemption.

Saha sets it up

Wriddhiman Saha has been in the news for off-field controversies, but here he was an unlikely candidate to get the GT chase off with a sparkling 68 off 38 at the top of the order. It was typical Saha, and it was effective. There were the swipe-whips over square leg, the skip-and-chip over mid-on and mid-off, and after a while, the gaps were being sniffed out with efficient regularity. Until he became Umran's third victim with a near 153 kph missile, Saha had kept GT's nose in front.

Abhishek flattens Rashid

In these sides' first clash this season at DY Patil Stadium, Shami had kept Abhishek quiet in the powerplay with a point and a shortish backward point next to him. The same field was in place right away at Wankhede too for the young left-hander, and Shami left him groping with two away-seaming peaches from back of a length. But Abhishek prospered against the fuller lengths of Yash Dayal, and later Alzarri Joseph. Even as the left-arm seamer Dayal found some late swing away from him, Abhishek had it covered with his stride and sent it over cover with the sweetest of lofted drives.

The 21-year old Punjab allrounder doesn't really have a power game, at least yet, but when he times it, it is worth watching.

At DY Patil, Abhishek had fallen to Rashid Khan; he'd tried to pull but the ball had hurried on and he'd found deep mid-

wicket. On the smaller boundaries at Wankhede, he was prepared to take on Rashid more aggressively.

He slog-swept the leg-spinner for three sixes when he saw some flight, and when Rashid bowled a flatter googly, he slapped him over extra cover for four.

He was slogging with the turn, of course, but the Afghan is hard to pick; he'd tossed one up in GT's previous game at DY Patil inviting Venkatesh Iyer to slog-sweep, but it was a wrong 'un, and the Kolkata Knight Riders left-hander had failed to clear deep midwicket.

But Abhishek comfortably cleared the Wankhede boundary, handing his former team-mate his most expensive figures of the season - 0/45 - the first time in eight games that Rashid had conceded more than 30.

It was an off-colour game in the field too for Rashid. He'd already put down Rahul Tripathi at backward point and now misjudged a pull from Aiden Markram. He ran in first from deep midwicket and then realised the ball had more distance on it; had he remained in position, it would likely have been a straightforward chance. But it ended up going for six.

Abhishek and Aiden Markram put on 96 for the third wicket in ten overs, and at 140 for 2 after 15, Sunrisers were well in sight of 200. GT's on-pace offerings had cost them plenty all night, but they took some pace off at the death. That put the brakes on Sunrisers, who lost four wickets in three overs for only 22 runs.

Shashank stuns Lockie

Playing his sixth game of the season but batting for the first time, Shashank Singh got Sunrisers close to 200 with three sixes off the last three balls of the innings. The 30-year-old allrounder now plays for Chhattisgarh, but began his career for Mumbai. He dispatched Lockie Ferguson to three different parts of the Wankhede - a heave over deep midwicket, a lap over short fine leg and a mow that just cleared a jumping long-off.

Sunrisers have been including him ahead of their retained hitter Abdul Samad, and with a nerveless 25 off 6, Shashank gave a glimpse of the reason. But Rashid would be ready with three blows of his own as payback

Brief scores: Sunrisers Hyderabad 195 for 6 (Abhishek 65, Markram 56, Shashank 25*, Shami 3-39) lost by five wickets to Gujarat Titans 199 for 5 (Saha 68, Tewatia 40*, Rashid 31*, Malik 5-25)

IPL TABLE						
TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR	
GT	8	7	1	14	0.371	
RR	8	6	2	12	0.561	
SRH	8	5	3	10	0.600	
LSG	8	5	3	10	0.334	
RCB	9	5	4	10	-0.572	
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	

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Good reader, quick learner

Jaswant Rai, Arshdeep's longtime coach, is pleased with the pacer's overall development. "Arshdeep is a very keen and quick learner," he tells *The Indian Express*.

As per Rai, it is the preparation before every game that is helping Arshdeep outsmart batsmen. "Before every match, he will prepare his plans for the batsmen. If he is bowling to Dhoni and Surya, he will not give them width. Or if he is bowling to a left-hander, he will bowl yorkers on the pads. He bowled wide yorkers to Rayudu, who was batting exceptionally well but couldn't get him away," says Rai, a veteran of 70 first-class matches.

Red-ball impact

Since IPL 2020, Arshdeep has an economy rate of 8.63 in death overs and is only behind Anrich Nortje and Bumrah in this regard. He was never an express bowler, but before the



Rashid Khan (31 not out off 11) sealed the game for Gujarat Titans with a last-ball six.

Sportzpics for IPL

Not Tendulkar, Dhoni or Kohli, why do they want to make a movie on me?: Tambe

DEVENDRA PANDEY
APRIL 27

"I'M NOT Tendulkar, Dhoni or Kohli, why do they want to make a movie on me?" It was his first reaction when a production house approached Pravin Tambe with the idea to make a movie on his life. Fast forward to an evening at a Mumbai hotel where he saw the movie 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' for the first and only time, in a special screening held for Kolkata Knight Riders.

Shreyas Iyer choked up, so did his former Mumbai team-mate Abhishek Nayar, and the foreign players enveloped him with a hug at the end of the movie. Tambe was asked to address the audience but he couldn't; no words would come out but somehow he controlled his emotions. "The only thing I could manage to tell them is chase your dreams and dreams do come true," Tambe tells this newspaper.

There are perhaps not many who are more qualified than him to say those words with any conviction. His life would turn around dramatically, so much so that when the movie on his life was about to be released, Tambe was playing in the Champions League in the Caribbean, and couldn't give his final approval. His family did it for him.

"I asked my wife and my brother, how was it? They all said it's too good. They were telling me the story, I said, no-no, please don't, let me watch the movie myself. Then I laughed, arre yeh tot mere he story hai, (this is my story, only!)" he blushes.

It's been some story: from anonymity to starring in front of crowds and inspiring the likes of Rahul Dravid, who shared the story in a heartwarming speech that went viral.

Still, when the moviemakers approached him for the movie, Tambe wasn't sure.

"In the first instance I said no, I didn't show



Ever since the release of the movie, starring Shreyas Talpade, Pravin Tambe's phone has been flooded with messages.

any interest but they called me again requesting me to meet once. They wanted to show the 41-year-old Tambe's journey. One line which struck me was when they said, people knew that you have played at the age of 41 but what you did in the last 20 years, people should know your struggle. I agreed," Tambe says over phone where is now part of the coaching team with KKR.

His life's script has had its twists and turns; one step forward, two steps back seemed the constant theme. Playing cricket professionally was his childhood dream but life intervened. In the 90's, a friend who worked with Orient Shipping company drafted him in the corporate team at Times Shield and he starred. But the opposition team protested that he wasn't even an employee to play in that corporate tournament but the company would issue a back-dated appointment letter. A few years later, though, after suffering losses, the company shut down their cricket and Tambe lost his job. He found odd jobs here and there, and in 2007, DY Patil offered him a job of playing cricket. Next year, when the IPL started, Tambe was the liaison manager inside the stadium. Then we know what happened.

There are many who believe that life's fate runs in the lines of the palms but in the case of Tambe, it was literally his palms that changed the course of his life.

It was coach Vidya Paradkar, who insisted that Tambe should try leg-spin, as he has big palms. Until then, in the 90's, he was a medium pacer but Mumbai Ranji selectors didn't see him fitting in the strong team. It took some time but Tambe became a leg-spinner.

At 41 he was picked for Mumbai Vijay Hazare Trophy team but didn't play. In 2013, he was roped in by Rajasthan Royals and since then he went on to play for other IPL franchises. He played for Mumbai Ranji Trophy in the 2014 season. Ever since the release of the movie, Tambe has been flooded with messages. "My phone hasn't stopped buzzing. There have been thousands of messages on my phone. Earlier, I used to get messages from cricketing circles but now I am getting messages from corporates and other sectors. It means the movie has touched many," he says.

Before the movie Shreyas Talpade, the actor, asked for 15 sittings with Tambe. The writers revisited his past. From Mumbai's Parel to shifting to New Mumbai, all areas were covered. Talpade took four sittings to understand and copy his action. The production crew also told him that few fictional characters will be added to his biopic. The journalist, who tried to play down Tambe in his career, was one such fictional character. "The biggest problem was to pick my pattern. Shreyas told me that everyone has some pattern and we try to grab that but in my case there is no pattern. I told him that we as a player always try to be unique, agar job read kar liye toh batsman maarega," (if my action is read, the batsmen will hit me for runs)," he recalled telling the actor.

From earning 1200 rupees monthly to getting a six digit pay cheque, Tambe has seen it all. Now no one asks, "Kaun Pravin Tambe?"

BRIEFLY

Asian Badminton: Sindhu, Saina sweat to reach 2nd round



Lakshya Sen and B Sai Praneeth in the Badminton Asia Championships on Wednesday. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu was made to toil by Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po as the fourth seeded Indian came back from a game down to win 18-21 27-25 21-9 in a marathon women's singles opening round match which lasted one hour and 17 minutes. London Olympics bronze medallist Saina, who is recovering from some nagging injuries, also had to sweat it out to register a 21-15 17-21 21-13 win over Sim Yujin of South Korea. Sindhu will next play Singapore's Yue Yann Jaslyn Hooi. Saina will be up against China's Zhi Yi Wang.

PTI

Russian invasion derails Ukraine league

Kyiv: The Ukrainian Premier League soccer season has been officially declared to be over following the Russian invasion. The league said after a video conference with clubs Tuesday that the standings as of Feb. 24, when the Russian invasion began and games were suspended, will be declared final "because the championship cannot be played to completion." Shakhtar Donetsk was the leader at that time but the league said no official award would be made. The standings could potentially determine qualification for European competitions next season if Ukrainian clubs are deemed able to take part. The league's decision must be approved by the Ukrainian Football Association.

AP

Mumbai end ACL campaign with win

Riyadh: Indian Super League side Mumbai City FC ended their historic AFC Champions League (ACL) campaign on a winning note, defeating Air Force Club of Iraq 1-0 in their last group match here. A first half strike from Diego Mauricio (31st minute) secured Mumbai City all the three points at the King Fahd International Stadium on Tuesday night. It was their second win in the continent's top-tier club competition in their debut appearance after their 2-1 victory over the same opponents in the first match of the double round-robin group league. Mumbai City ended second in Group B, which itself is a huge achievement, with seven points from six matches. They had also played out a goal-less draw against Al Jazira of UAE.

PTI

Pacer Arshdeep making heads turn again with his death bowling

PRATYUSHRAJ
APRIL 27

NOT EVERY day one sees an uncapped Indian pacer standing at mid-off walking down to someone like Kagiso Rabada and giving him advice after the Proteas pacer had conceded back-to-back boundaries by Hardik Pandya.

Arshdeep Singh had bowled the 16th and 18th overs to Pandya and Shubman Gill in the game against Gujarat Titans and conceded only six and five runs respectively. His spell turned the tide in Punjab Kings' favour before Rahul Tewatia sealed the game for the Titans.

Talking to Punjab Kings' official website, Arshdeep recalled what he had said. "Rabada is a very experienced bowler. I just went up to him normally, spoke to him about staying calm and composed, and taking his time before executing a delivery. I didn't say anything specific."

A couple of weeks later, Rabada heaped praise on Arshdeep after Punjab Kings' 11-run win over Chennai Super Kings.

"I think Arsh has been the best death bowler in this competition," the South African told the host broadcaster. "He's a youngster coming in. He's got a lot of drive, a lot of ambition and he's got talent as well. I've always bowled at the death, but Arsh has just been magnificent and is leading the way in that discipline."

Rabada's assessment is backed by data. As per ESPNcricinfo stats, Arshdeep has conceded just 5.66 runs an over at the death, the best economy rate with a minimum of 30 balls in

the death overs in IPL 2022. He has done better than Sunil Narine (6.00), Jasprit Bumrah (8.16), Mohammed Shami (8.40), and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (8.50).

Not bad for a bowler who started his IPL 2022 campaign with five wides, and has just three wickets in eight games.

Against Chennai, Arshdeep had bowled the 17th and 19th overs and gave away only six and eight runs respectively. And he managed to keep the likes of MS Dhoni, Ambati Rayudu and Ravindra Jadeja in check.

Against Mumbai Indians, Arshdeep bowled the 18th over and conceded only five. Punjab Kings won the match by 12 runs.

Good reader, quick learner

Jaswant Rai, Arshdeep's longtime coach, is pleased with the pacer's overall development. "Arshdeep is a very keen and quick learner," he tells *The Indian Express*.

As per Rai, it is the preparation before every game that is helping Arshdeep outsmart batsmen. "Before every match, he will prepare his plans for the batsmen. If he is bowling to Dhoni and Surya, he will not give them width. Or if he is bowling to a left-hander, he will bowl yorkers on the pads. He bowled wide yorkers to Rayudu, who was batting exceptionally well but couldn't get him away," says Rai, a veteran of 70 first-class matches.

Red-ball impact

Since IPL 2020, Arshdeep has an economy rate of 8.63 in death overs and is only behind Anrich Nortje and Bumrah in this regard. He was never an express bowler, but before the

Ranji Trophy, worked on his pace and lengths. The pace has gone to 137-38 kmph from 130, and the length has also changed.

Rai credits Ranji Trophy for his turnaround. Before the last season, for six weeks, the coach worked on Arshdeep's run-up and wrist position. "He had a diagonal run-up, which is straighter now. It has helped him get those extra yards of pace. His wrist was dropping while delivering. It wouldn't matter much in white-ball cricket, but in the longer format of the game, it would be difficult to bowl an inswinger to right-handed batsmen," says Rai.

He thinks the real test is red-ball cricket, and his advice to Arshdeep before going to the IPL was to bowl a Test-match length and keep the variations limited.

"For the past two years, he had hardly bowled with the red ball. If you are bowling with white balls only, you will become predictable. You can't rely on bowling six different deliveries in an over. My advice to Arsh was that 6-8-foot hard length 85 per cent of the time and keep the variations to only 15 per cent. No batsman will be comfortable facing a 135kmph hard-length ball even in T20s," says Rai.

The Langeveldt effect

Rai feels IPL 2020 helped Arshdeep improve as a cricketer by leaps and bounds. The time he spent with South African Charl Langeveldt - one of the finest death bowlers during his heyday - made him a different bowler.

"The impact Langeveldt had on Arshdeep in UAE was immense and it reflected in his per-

formance as he showed no nerves against power-hitters," says Rai.

Langeveldt's contribution was acknowledged by Arshdeep himself.

"He taught me how to handle a pressure situation, how to execute plans; most importantly, just to back myself in every situation. He was very particular about finishing the over on a good note. Even if a bowler concedes 10 or 14 runs off his first three deliveries, he must not give up on that over and has to make a comeback in the next three. Every single run in T20 is crucial," he had told this paper earlier.

Ever-improving

In 2018, India won the U-19 World Cup under Prithvi Shaw in New Zealand. During the campaign, the preferred fast-bowling troika consisted of Ishan Porel, Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep got his chance only when Porel was injured. He played against Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe, before making way for Porel for the rest of the tournament.

Cut to the present, both Porel and Arshdeep are part of Punjab Kings. This time Arshdeep has managed to pip Porel to the first XI of the franchise. He was one of the three players retained ahead of IPL 2022, and has repaid the team's faith.

He was picked as a net bowler for India's tour to Sri Lanka last year and later added to the squad when half a dozen players tested positive for Covid-19.

Arshdeep also played a pivotal role in Punjab lifting the U-23 Col CK Nayudu Trophy by grabbing 46 wickets in 10 matches.

STEPPING UP WHEN NEEDED

TACKLING DHONI

Arshdeep bowled the 17th and 19th overs and conceded six and eight runs respectively.

17th over - CSK need 47 runs from 24b: Arshdeep bowled three balls each to Rayudu and Jadeja. To Rayudu, he bowled wide yorkers, while to Jadeja, he was nailing those yorkers on the pads.

19th over - CSK need 35 from 12 balls: After an exceptional 19th over Kagiso Rabada, Punjab Kings were on top, but MS Dhoni was in the middle. Arshdeep stuck to the full length and wide-angle across Dhoni to the longer boundary. He missed his length once and Dhoni hit it past extra cover.

KEEPING GILL, PANDYA IN CHECK Arshdeep mixed up his lengths and troubled Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya.

16th over - Titans need 56 runs from 30 balls: He conceded just two off the first five balls before he missed his wide yorker fractionally, and Pandya slices it to the point boundary.

118th over - Titans need 37 runs



from 18 balls: Arshdeep gave away only five runs in the 18th over, bowling three balls each to Gill and Pandya.

KEEPING DK QUIET Arshdeep bowled the 18th over and kept Dinesh Karthik and Virat Kohli quiet. He removed Far du Plessis on the first ball and bowled two dots to Karthik. He gave away only three runs.

TROUBLING SKY Mumbai Indians needed 33 off 18 balls. Arshdeep again bowled the 18th over. He landed the yorkers right and gave away just five runs, upsetting Suryakumar Yadav.



New Delhi

