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SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST IN CHENNAI'S PONDY BAZAAR DRAWS HIMSELF OUT OF POVERTY, ONE STROKE AT A TIME

Twenty-year-old M Surendhar sits quietly on a busy shopping street in the city, his deft hands moving quickly across a white paper, conjuring portraits of people in minutes – while his efforts help sustain his family

SCIENCE

TWO ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORIES
Reflections of rich heritage and a not-so-glorious present

TECH

EV SCOOTER FIRES
Why companies think swapping fully discharged battery could be the solution

How Pakistan PM Imran Khan could soon lose power

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

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

FROM PAGE ONE

India, Australia

The agreement was signed by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

"This is indeed a watershed moment for our bilateral relationship," Modi said, adding that the agreement would make it easier for both countries to exchange students, professionals and tourists which in turn would strengthen ties.

Under the agreement, Indian graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will be granted extended post-study work visas. Australia will also set up a programme to grant visas to young Indians looking to pursue working holidays in Australia.

According to news agency Reuters, Morrison, who is expected to call a general election within days, told reporters in Tasmania that the agreement represented "one of the biggest economic doors there is to open in the world today".

"These are never all or nothing deals as far as we're concerned, we see all of these as the next step and the next step and the next step," he said.

The agreement is expected to come into force after it is ratified by the Australian Parliament.

Goyal said the agreement was expected to boost trade between the two countries to \$45-50 billion within five years and generate over one million jobs in India.

Officials pointed out that a number of Indian exports currently face a tariff disadvantage of 4-5% in many labour-intensive sectors relative to competitors — those with FTAs with Australia — such as China, Thailand, Vietnam. Removing this barrier, officials said, could enhance merchandise exports significantly.

Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Australia stood at \$27.5 billion in FY2021. Goyal said merchandise exports to Australia had grown faster than exports to any other country in FY2022.

Officials said Indian goods and services exports to Australia are expected to reach \$20 billion in FY2027 and \$35 billion in FY2035, up from about \$10.5 billion in 2021.

Australian wine imports, almonds, lentils, oranges, mandarins, pears, apricots and strawberries are set to benefit from lower tariffs under the agreement.

India has, however, excluded a number of Australian products from tariff reductions under the agreement to protect "sensitive sectors" including dairy products, wheat, rice, chickpeas, beef, sugar, apples, toys and iron ore.

Australia is set to benefit from zero-duty access on coal which currently accounts for about 74

per cent of Australia's exports to India and currently attracts a duty of 2.5 per cent.

The elimination of duties on coking coal, which accounts for about 73 per cent of coal imports, is also expected to boost the competitiveness of Indian steel exports. Zero-duty access for Australia is set to increase to cover 91 per cent of its exports by value and over 70 per cent of India's tariff lines over 10 years.

Other key Australian products which will see tariffs eliminated when the agreement comes into force include LNG, wool, sheep meat, alumina and metallic ores while tariffs on avocados, onions, pistachios, macadamias, cashews in-shell, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries are set to be eliminated over seven years.

Officials said that procuring lower cost raw materials such as alumina from Australia is in India's interest as it will boost the international competitiveness of Indian manufacturers.

Lower duties would be provided on products such as cotton, lentils, oranges, almonds and mandarins based on tariff-rate quotas which would see tariffs return to pre-agreement levels for imports above threshold quantities.

For instance, lentil imports up to 1.5 lakh tonnes from Australia will only attract total import taxes of 15 per cent, compared to 30 per cent duties on lentil imports from countries with which India does not have trade agreements.

The agreement also includes strict rules of origin to prevent any routing of products from other countries and provides for a safeguard mechanism to address any sudden surges in imports of a product.

Duty concessions would be provided on Australian wines in a phased manner based on prices.

The agreement will also allow for faster approval of Indian medicines by Australian regulators as they have agreed to use inspection reports and approvals from Canada and the EU.

Australia has also addressed a long-standing concern of Indian IT firms on double taxation by agreeing to amend local taxation laws to stop the taxation of off-shore income of Indian firms providing technical services to Australia.

Arunachal firing

An Army officer, who did not want to be named, said: "The Army had some inputs about insurgent movement in the area."

Mize said that the situation in Chasa village was "now under control". "There was a meeting held on Friday at the village chief's house. The security forces accepted their mistake, and agreed to pay Rs 2 lakh compensation to each victim, as well as consider employing them," he said.

Tirap, along with Changlang and Longding, are the three districts in Arunachal where the

‘Avoid politicisation of border issue’

KEY OUTCOMES

■ Launch and operationalisation of 35km-long cross-border rail link from Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal.

■ Inauguration of 90km-long 132 KV Solu Corridor transmission line built at a cost of Rs 200 crore with Indian line of credit

■ Launch of RuPay card in Nepal

■ Construction of 132 health facilities in Nepal, undertaken with US\$ 50 million in post-earthquake reconstruction grant

issues. And I urged Modiji to resolve through (the) establishment (of) bilateral mechanism," Deuba said after his meeting with Modi.

Modi, who was listening to Deuba, said: "We also discussed today the issue of open borders of India and Nepal being misused by unwanted elements. We stressed on maintaining close cooperation between our defence and security institutions. I am sure that our talks today will prove to be effective in setting ambitious goals for the future of India-Nepal relations."

Later, briefing reporters on the bilateral meeting, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the border issue was discussed "briefly". "There was a general understanding that both sides needed to address this in a responsible manner through discussion and dialogue, in the spirit of our close and friendly relations, and that politicisation of such issues needs to be avoided," he said.

India-Nepal bilateral ties came under strain over the boundary issue in May 2020, when K P Sharma Oli was the PM. Both sides are now engaged in damage control.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval also met Deuba separately.

Deuba was accompanied by a high-level delegation of four Cabinet ministers in

charge of foreign affairs, energy, water resources, health and agriculture among others. The two sides reviewed the full spectrum of the bilateral agenda covering political, economic, trade, energy, security and developmental issues.

Modi said both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the power sector and finalised a joint vision statement on power cooperation, which acts as a blueprint for the future.

A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said the two PMs discussed the "unprecedented opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector".

They also reviewed the progress in implementation of Indian projects in Nepal, including the cross-border rail links connecting Jayanagar-Kurtha-Bijalpur-Bardibas, Jogbani-Biratnagar and Raxaul-Katmandu.

"In a historic milestone, the first broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting

India and Nepal in the Jayanagar-Kurtha section was flagged off by the two PMs during the visit. The Jayanagar-Kurtha rail link has been built with grant assistance from the Government of India," the MEA said.

"A joint vision statement on power sector cooperation that spells out the shared commitment as well as opportunities for win-win collaboration in power generation, transmission and trade was concluded during the visit. Both PMs jointly inaugurated the 90 km long 132 KVDC Solu Corridor Transmission line and substation built under the line of credit extended by India. Both sides agreed to expedite progress in the implementation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, beginning with early finalisation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR)," the MEA said.

Deuba appreciated the fresh approvals granted to the Nepal Electricity Authority for

the export of substantial amounts of power to India and invited greater participation of Indian companies in Nepal's hydropower development projects. The progress made in the 900 MW Arun-III hydroelectric project in Nepal was also noted, the MEA said.

Modi thanked Deuba for assuring the Nepal government's "full support in resolving bottlenecks and facilitating the time-bound completion of all India-assisted projects, including the National Police Academy at Kavrepalanchovk, the Integrated Check Posts at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa and the projects under the Ramayana circuit".

The MEA said that as part of India's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', India will inaugurate 75 development projects in Nepal this year.

"The use of Indian RuPay cards in Nepal was jointly launched by the two PMs. This would open new vistas for co-operation in financial connectivity, and is expected to facilitate bilateral tourist flows as well as further strengthen people-to-people linkages between India and Nepal," it said.

Deuba will visit Varanasi on Sunday, where he will be received by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Deuba has visited India in each of his four earlier stints as Prime Minister – most recently in 2017.

Centre extended AFSPA on Friday. AFSPA gives armed forces sweeping powers to arrest without a warrant and even shoot to kill in certain situations.

YouTube videos

and how frequently parents (or guardians) simply let them watch kids' content from general YouTube. Our findings indicate a need for tighter integration between YouTube general and YouTube kids to be more vigilant about kids' safety," the study states.

When asked about the accuracy of its automatic captions, a YouTube spokesperson said in a statement: "YouTube Kids delivers enriching and entertaining content for kids and is our recommended experience for children under 13. Automatic captions are not available on YouTube Kids, however, our caption tools on our main YouTube site allow channels to reach a wide audience and improve accessibility for everyone on YouTube. We are continually working to improve automatic captions and reduce errors."

Another example of a misinterpreted word in one of the popular videos goes like this: "You should also find porn." The actual dialogue ended with "corn".

KhudaBukhsh said these errors could be due to the data fed to ASR systems during training. "See 'I love porn' is a more likely sentence than 'I love corn' when two adults have a conversation. One of the reasons some of these adult words are creeping into transcription is because maybe the ASR are trained more on speech examples coming from adults," he said.

KhudaBukhsh said introducing a human element into the transcription process could be one of the ways to stop these inappropriate words from being telecast to millions of young viewers.

Stalin office

the Congress's only steadfast ally. In fact, wary that some parties may stay away, the Congress has not even called a meeting of Opposition floor leaders for floor

coordination in Parliament during the second leg of the Budget session, which is ending next week.

Unlike in the past, Stalin did not call on Sonia during his visit to the capital this time. Instead, he spent time with Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Friday, visiting a Delhi government school and mohalla clinic.

Sources in Opposition parties said most of the leaders are confounded by the Congress's reluctance to put its house in order and make a meaningful move to bring the parties together. As a result, many of the regional leaders are now asserting themselves.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has written to all her non-BJP counterparts and other Opposition leaders, urging them to come together to fight the BJP.

Accusing the BJP government of using investigative agencies to "target, harass and corner political opponents" for "vendetta", she has "urged everyone to come together for a meeting to deliberate on the way forward at a place as per everyone's convenience and suitability." "Let us commit to the cause of a unified and principled Opposition that will make way for the government that our country deserves," she said.

Two days later, Yechury called Stalin the most acceptable leader among the non-BJP CMs, and urged him to convene a meeting of chief ministers to discuss federalism, social justice and steps to protect the people of India.

While Yechury would not welcome a meeting called by Banerjee, the CPM's arch rival in West Bengal, it was interesting that he did not appeal to the Congress to take the lead.

Earlier this week, the Shiv Sena also called for a rejig of the UPA and suggested that the alliance should have a new leader. An editorial in party mouthpiece Saamana suggested that leaders like NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Stalin, Banerjee, Kejriwal, TRS leader and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao were all capable of bringing the

Opposition together.

The NCP's youth wing, in the presence of Pawar, passed a resolution recommending Pawar's name for the post of UPA chairperson. Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, a member of the G-23 faction in the Congress, also met Pawar earlier.

On Saturday, while several leaders attended the DMK event, there were no speeches or joint exhortation for Opposition unity. Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP P Chidambaram, MDMK leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vaiko, TDP's Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar and Jayadev Galla and TMC's Mahua Moitra were also present.

Aryan case

While Sail's wife Pooja also said they didn't have any suspicions, his mother Hiravati said he was fine till the day before and the death came as a shock. Sail, who lived in Mahul in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai, is survived by his parents, wife and two children.

Walse-Patil said many people had suspicions regarding the death. "How could such a strong and healthy man die suddenly?"

A senior Maharashtra Police officer said an accidental death report had been recorded and police were probing. "The post-mortem report is awaited. If any foul play is indicated, police will register an FIR," an officer said.

Pooja said Sail had some chest pain and went on his own to Chandra Hospital in Chembur. "The doctor saw his ECG and said the condition was serious and he should get admitted instantly. Within five minutes, he suffered a heart attack. We saw CCTV footage of him walking into the hospital, and have no suspicions regarding any foul play."

A relative said things had gone downhill for Sail since the Cordelia case. "Earlier he was employed as Gosavi's bodyguard and hence had a fixed income. After Gosavi was arrested, he tried getting jobs, but found it difficult. At one or two places where he managed to get a job, he was

Electoral bonds

of weapons, forcibly entered the factory, beat up the security guards and practically held our employees/workers on duty as hostage. They also damaged the CCTV cameras, computers, medical room etc. inside the factory," it had said in the filing, adding that the company had to shut the factory down following the alleged attack.

"We have sought help from the Chief Minister of West Bengal and also from Finance, Commerce and Industry Minister of the State of West Bengal. We are awaiting for better environment before the plant can be reopened," it noted.

Later that year, on December 22, in yet another stock exchange filing, the company said that the unit was opened on July 2, 2020 after police protection was provided by local authorities but added that, "till date no offenders have been brought to book".

In the same filing, the company wrote: "Further, the alcohol business of the Company has been suffering -- and is under threat, as we have been singled out by certain excise officials for not succumbing to their illegal demands -- have requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and also from Hon'ble Finance, Commerce and Industry Minister of the State of West Bengal to look into/investigate the same. This is for your information and record".

Queries sent by The Indian Express to West Bengal's Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya did not elicit any response.

In its latest available annual report for the financial year 2020-21, IFB Agro has claimed that its Indian Made Indian Liquor business was impacted during the year because "excise authorities created hindrance to the business for not adhering to their illegal demands, by adopting various unethical steps like (a) closure of Dankuni plant for 9 days in June 2020 on alleged quality issues, which ultimately turned to be baseless, (b) closure of all tie-up units for 25 days in November 2020, (c) non re-registration of the company's flagship brand "Captain" almost for a month in November 2020, (d) putting restriction on retailers in various district, on lifting of the company's product."

IFB Agro is a group company of IFB Industries, which manufactures and sells home appliances. IFB Agro has seven bottling plants for Indian made Indian liquor in West Bengal — Bardhaman, Hooghly, Kolkata, Murshidabad, North Bengal, Purulia and South 24 Parganas. The company sells IMIL under its flagship "Captain" brand.

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Pakistan PM

said it was important "we keep the flames of fire away from our region" and that "in this regard, besides the Kashmir issue, the India-China border dispute is also a matter of great concern for us" and must be resolved "quickly through dialogue and diplomacy" for peace in the region, making a three-way link between India, Pakistan and China.

"I believe it is time for the political leadership of the region to rise above their emotional and perceptual biases, and break the shackles of history to bring peace and prosperity to almost 3 billion people in the region," he said.

"Pakistan continues to believe in using dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all outstanding issues, including the Kashmir dispute, and is ready to move forward on this front if India also agrees to do so," Bajwa said. He made no mention of the raging domestic political battle in triggering which the Pakistan Army appears to have had a key role.

Last year, at the inaugural conference, he had laid out a vision for "geo-economics" over geopolitics in the region, calling for trade

and connectivity "in all directions," days after Pakistan and India signed an agreement reaffirming their commitment to the 2003 ceasefire. The "geo-economics" plan ran into opposition from sections of Pakistan's establishment and a proposal to restart trade with India in a limited way was cancelled overnight after several ministers opposed it.

Bajwa's renewed outreach to Delhi, at a time when Khan's departure from office seems imminent, is significant.

He described the situation on the Line of Control as "satisfactory and fairly peaceful," and said this "had brought great relief to the people living along both sides."

But he did not let go of the opportunity to refer to the recent misfiring of a missile from India into Pakistan. He spoke of what he called Delhi's "indifferent attitude" in not informing Pakistan about the incident immediately.

Pakistan's "maturity and responsibility" in the wake of the missile incident, Bajwa said, was comparable to its return of IAF pilot Abhinandan, captured by Pakistani forces when his aircraft was downed in PoK after a dogfight in February 2019.

In the wake of Imran Khan's anti-US rhetoric, Bajwa also did some damage-control by emphasising that Pakistan has "excellent" relationships with both China and the US, and wants to broaden the friendships. He also named the UK, EU, Gulf, Southeast Asia and Japan as important partners.

Last month, Khan had publicly berated EU ambassadors in Pakistan for urging Islamabad to take a stand against Russia. Bajwa also rowed back from Khan's visit to Russia with a strong statement in which he called for immediate cessation of hostilities, ceasefire and "dialogue between all sides."

"The continuation or expansion of conflict in Ukraine will not serve the interest of any side, least of all the developing countries which will continue to face social economic costs of the conflict, a conflict which can easily get out of hand," Bajwa said.

Meanwhile, Khan, ahead of the scheduled vote in the Pakistan National Assembly on the no-confidence motion against him, reiterated his allegation of a "foreign hand" for which he claimed to have "proof" and asked the country's youth, who form the bulk of his support base, to hold "peaceful protests" against the "foreign conspiracy".

"The cabinet, NSC and the parliament's security committee have seen it. The official document says that if you remove Imran Khan, your relations with the US will get better," he said during a live question-and-answer session with the public that was broadcast on radio, television and social media platforms.

"You don't have to sit silently (because) if you stay quiet, you will be on the side of the bad. I want you to protest and speak up against this conspiracy, not for me but for your future," he said, addressing the youth.

"There's a conspiracy against the government right now and it has been proven that politicians are being bought like goats to topple the government... I want Pakistan's history to not forget these traitors either. It is your responsibility. Don't let them feel that you have forgotten," he said.

Khan's fightback seems aimed at securing a political future after Sunday's outcome. Playing the martyr, he recalled, in a tweet Saturday night, the sacrifice at Karbala by Imam Hussain, the third Shia Imam and the grandson of the Prophet. "In Karbala, facing an enemy that far outnumbered them, Imam Hussain AS, his family & followers laid down their lives to show people the difference between Haq (right/truth) & Baatil (falsehood). Today, we are fighting for truth & patriotism against falsehood & treason."

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New Delhi

3 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	11,290
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	62
OXYGEN SUPPORT	6
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	2

DELHI: TOTAL CASES	18,65,215
April 1	Cases 131 Recoveries 105 Deaths 1 Tests 23,105
April 2	Cases 114 Recoveries 88 Deaths 0 Tests 16,061
Total	Cases 509* Recoveries 18,38,553 Deaths 26,153 Tests 3,74,09,047

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Apr 1	Apr 2
Cases	18	12
Deaths	0	0

GURGAON	Apr 1	Apr 2
Cases	39	41
Deaths	0	0

ONE-TIME MEASURE IN DU

Students taking offline exams to get extra time, more choices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

AS A special one-time measure, Delhi University (DU) has decided to give students who will be appearing for exams in the physical mode after a gap of almost two years an additional 30 minutes to write the exam. Faculties and departments have also been asked to provide them more choices in the question paper.

Due to the Covid pandemic, DU had shifted to the online open book exam mode for students in 2020 and had been continuing to hold exams in the same format since. While students of first, third and fifth semesters are appearing for online open book exams, for students of second, fourth and sixth semesters, the exams will be held in the physical mode after May.

In a notification issued Friday, Dean Examinations D S Rawat enlisted the special provisions for

exams this year. "Duration of exam for each paper shall be extended for an additional 30 minutes as a special one-time measure. Faculty/Department will be requested to give additional choices in the Question Paper, wherever applicable," the notification said. "Those students who have filled the Examination Form and are not able to appear for it due to justifiable reasons may be given another chance to appear for the same. For that purpose, Phase-II of the aforesaid examination will be conducted for the leftover (remaining) students," it added.

The examination department also said that faculties, departments and colleges will be "requested to provide study material to the needy students" and also be "requested to conduct mock tests in addition to class tests of the internal assessment component". They have also been asked to upload syllabi on their respective websites.



For students of second, fourth and sixth semesters, the exams will be held in offline mode after May. *Archive*

Ghaziabad: Four men rob bank at gunpoint, flee with Rs 11 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, APRIL 2

A BANK in Ghaziabad was robbed by four men who fled with nearly Rs 11 lakh cash after holding the staff at gunpoint, said police. The robbery took place at the Punjab National Bank branch in Noor Nagar on Saturday afternoon. No one was injured, police said.

"We received information of a robbery at the bank branch. As per initial information, there were four armed accused. They held the staff inside the bank (at gunpoint) and fled with the money. We are ascertaining more information through CCTV footage to identify the accused," said an official from Nandgram police station.

According to local residents, four persons dressed in black and wearing red masks entered the bank after 1 pm. Due to a technical issue with the bank server, there weren't many people inside at the time, they said.

"It happened very quickly... The persons came on two bikes and were carrying pistols. There were around 4-5 people inside the bank besides staff. Within 10 minutes, the men left the bank with the cash and a harrowed manager stepped out after they fled," said Shobhit, an eyewitness who lives in the opposite building.

The bank is situated on the ground floor of a residential complex. Police said the accused fled from a narrow lane next to the bank and suspect that they were familiar with the area. Police are scanning CCTV footage from nearby buildings to trace the route taken by them.

This is the second incident of a robbery in the district in the last week. Four days ago, unknown assailants looted Rs 25 lakh from a petrol pump in Masuri area.

On March 31, Ghaziabad Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar was suspended by the UP government for alleged failure to control crime, corruption, and dereliction of duty.

Govt holds first mega PTM since pandemic; will address competency gap, says Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

THE DELHI government conducted its first mega Parents-Teachers Meeting (PTM) since the onset of Covid to "help parents understand the educational and emotional needs of their children in the post-Covid era". The PTMs were conducted in more than 1,000 Delhi government schools.

Meeting students and parents during the session, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "Schools were closed for almost two years due to the pandemic. This not only harmed the education of our children but also affected their ability to think, understand and be happy. Now, the need of the hour is to fix this together. Joint efforts by parents and teachers will help



Sisodia said he was happy to see a large number of parents take part in the PTM. *ANI*

children cope with the post-pandemic situation better."

Sisodia said he was happy to see a large number of parents take part in the mega PTM.

"During the lockdown, schools were shut and students were confined to their houses. Even teachers were meeting parents virtually most of the time.

Cop out with family attacked for scolding man for rash driving

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

A DELHI Police sub-inspector who was out with his wife and two-year-old daughter was attacked with a knife after he pulled up a man driving rashly in a local market in Kanjhawala. An FIR has been registered and a search is on to arrest the accused.

Police said that the complainant, Chetan Kumar, works at Kanjhawala police station and stays in a nearby colony.

"The incident took place on Wednesday evening when he had gone out with his wife and

Police said Kumar saved his daughter from harm's way and when people gathered, the accused managed to flee the spot

daughter. He was standing outside the market with his daughter, and his wife was inside when he saw a man driving past him rashly," a senior police officer said.

After a few metres, the errant driver stopped his car and was confronted by Kumar. "He asked

him to drive properly and the driver misbehaved with him. He entered into a heated argument with Kumar and attacked him with a sharp weapon," an officer said.

Police said Kumar somehow saved his daughter from harm's way and when people gathered, the accused managed to flee the spot.

The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where he was discharged after first aid. He then filed a complaint and police lodged an FIR.

Police said they have started an investigation and scanned several CCTV cameras to trace the errant driver.

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam reverses order banning sale of meat during Navratri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, APRIL 2

THE GHAZIABAD Nagar Nigam reversed its order banning the sale of raw meat during the period of Navratri. As per the initial order issued Friday, the ban would have been in effect between April 2 and 10. Officials had claimed that the meat ban during the festival was a routine order.

On Saturday, a fresh letter issued by the Mayor stated that the regulations by the UP government would be followed in this case. Currently, there are no orders by the state government banning

sale of meat, officials said.

The earlier order, issued in five zones of the district, had stated: "It has been ordered by the directions of the mayor to maintain cleanliness in temples and to close meat shops during the period. It is directed to maintain cleanliness in respective zones, in temples and to ensure meat shops remain closed."

Loni MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar had in the past issued several appeals to close meat shops during festivals. On Thursday, he wrote a letter to the DM stating that several shops were selling meat in the open in his constituency and requested officials to take action.

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National Law University Jodhpur invites applications for admission to Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme in Law for the academic session 2022-23. Application Form downloaded from University website till 18th April, 2022. Last date for submission of Application Form in hard copy is 18th April, 2022. Entrance Test Date (Online): 24th April, 2022. For more details, visit the University website <http://www.nlujodhpur.ac.in/admission.php?mn=phd> REGISTRAR

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 - (d) Should be able to make Power Point slides, Basic computer course (BBC) from certified Institute.
 - (e) Should be available for whole academic year.
- Please submit application alongwith attested copies of certificates to the Principal, SAPPs, Anarwala by **15 Apr 2022**.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview telephonically, followed by e-mail, intimating the date/time of interview.

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How to prepare for the IAS/UPSC Interview

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The UPSC interview lasts for about 30 minutes and carries 275 marks out of the total 2025. However, a candidate's score in Mains or Prelims doesn't play any part in determining the course of the interview but the marks of both the Mains and Personality Test are considered for the final UPSC ranking. Interview is not a test of knowledge (they have already tested it in Mains and Prelims) but your innate personality.

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE NATURE OF THE INTERVIEW

The ultimate objective of conducting an interview is to test whether a candidate is suitable for civil services. In other words, the interview determines a candidate's potential in administrative skills. The panel members will not try to test a candidate's knowledge but would rather try to observe the way he/she approaches the question; they would try to assess his/her personality to determine his/her suitability in civil services. Never think that board members are meant for eliminating you or to demean you. You should have a positive mindset.

WHY DO CANDIDATES GENERALLY FEEL UNEASY ABOUT PREPARING FOR THE UPSC INTERVIEW?

There is no defined syllabus unlike Prelims and Mains exams. The interview panellists are drawn from diverse academic disciplines; they ask questions from their domain and that becomes challenging.

The preparation for the UPSC Interview should be comprehensive. Topics such as Optional Subject chosen for Mains, educational background, place of residence, a reason to become an IAS/IPS officer, content written in the Detailed Application Form (DAF) and current affairs are most likely to come up in a discussion. Hence one should cover every aspect of a candidate's life and his/her preparation of UPSC. The following is some basic information on how to prepare for these topics:

IMPORTANCE OF MASTERING DAF IN UPSC INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Candidates who have been declared qualified in the written part of the examinations have to first fill-up the Online Detailed Application Form (DAF). Preparing a DAF is equivalent to getting your half work done. The Interview panel generally tests a candidate on the content written in the DAF as it contains the detailed information about a candidate such as his/her birthplace, subjects in graduation, Optional Subject, details of the college, professional experience, the topics of interest, hobbies and so on. Hence, a candidate must think things through before preparing for DAF-based questions in the Interview. The following are some tips:

(a) A candidate must have a detailed knowledge of the word mentioned in DAF. For example, in case of a candidate's name, he/she should know if he/she shares the name with any famous personality, the meaning of name/surname etc.

(b) Be aware of the personalities related to the sports or hobbies that the candidate wants to pursue. There is no need to do a Ph.D. in sports or hobbies but your interest must reflect your curiosity on the subject.

It is always advisable to have a hobby that reflects the traits of your personality. For instance, motivating others as a hobby reflects your personality.

PREPARING FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

The candidate must be ready to answer details about the college/university where he had undertaken his graduation or masters. For instance, if the name of the college is Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College, a candidate can expect a question on Ramakrishna and his mission.

DEGREE PURSUED BY CANDIDATE AND REASON FOR CHOOSING

UPSC expects the candidate to have ade-



quate knowledge of his stream since he has devoted three to five years in mastering it. Hence refresh the important topics and concepts about your chosen stream. Check if there is any current news on it. For example, a candidate belonging to mechanical engineering must be aware of 4D printing that is often discussed in the news. The candidate needs to substantiate with an example how he/she will apply the degree in civil services.

PREPARING FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE

(a) Sound knowledge of the organisation in which a candidate is/was working.

(b) Key responsibility areas in that organisation.

(c) Any application of his work experience in civil services.

(d) Preparing for questions related to your reasons for choosing your civil service.

WHY DOES A CANDIDATE WANT TO JOIN CIVIL SERVICE?

■ If already working, why does a candidate want to switch the job?

■ How can the job expertise be useful in the field of civil service?

PREPARING FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO YOUR OPTIONAL SUBJECT

■ Reason for choosing Optional subject if the optional differs from the one candidate has studied in graduation.

■ Concepts and topics of the Optional Subject need to be brushed up as the question can be asked from the same. For example, a candidate having economics optional can be asked about the present state of the crisis engulfing the economy.

PREPARING FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO YOUR PREFERENCE OF SERVICES

■ The candidate needs to prepare on the following aspects and state the reason for giving preference to the order of services --- IAS>IRS>IPS Why a preference is given for a particular state?

■ If a particular state is not allotted, how will a candidate adjust with the state that is linguistically and culturally different?

PREPARING FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO YOUR HOBBIES

The candidate must be clear about the reason for pursuing a particular hobby. Have a good knowledge base about your chosen hobby. If part of an NGO or club, the candidate must elaborate on his role in a particular NGO/club.

PREPARING FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO YOUR DISTRICT AND STATE

One of the most common expected questions that you may confront is related to your state and district. So, you should prepare to answer questions on the problem of your

state and town and some statistics related to it, like gender inequality, sex ratio, rising corruption and things like that. Collect details about your birthplace. Know the problems in your village or city.

IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION OF CURRENT AFFAIRS

The UPSC asks questions about everything under the sun from the current affairs point of view. The candidate must be aware of the current developments on all fronts across the world. The interview panel comprises subject experts from different fields and the common ground for them would be current affairs.

DOS AND DON'TS OF INTERVIEW

a) Ideal Etiquette of Candidate: First and foremost, don't pretend and be yourself in the interview. Some of the questions might be tricky and it's better to reply respectfully and politely that you are not aware of the answer. Take time before answering as this strategy will not only give some time to frame points in your mind but will also add weight to your answer. Take time to answer every question and weigh your opinions.

b) Bluffing the Interviewer: When you don't know the answer, tell the interviewer so clearly. At the same time, you can ask for permission to guess that answer. By doing these little things, you will reflect honesty in your personality. Whatever you say, say it confidently. Do not lie. Even if you lie, do it confidently.

c) Maintaining Composure: It's important to remain calm throughout the interview as a board member will check on your ability to deal with stressful situations. UPSC is more interested in your response to the question rather than the answer. Maintain your smile as this will reflect your confidence and your positive nature.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND DURING THE INTERVIEW

■ It is to be kept in mind that the candidate is not expected to answer all the questions. The UPSC interview is not going to be a quiz com-

petition where you answer more questions to fetch more marks.

■ As they say look before you leap, same applies here. Don't answer the question that you are not aware of as this will allow the interview panel to probe you with a further question.

■ The answer by a candidate should reflect his clarity of thought, decision-making approach and it should be thoughtful, crisp and clear.

■ While answering, a candidate needs to make eye contact with all the members and not only towards the member who had posed a question.

■ A candidate should take a stand but that stand must not show his non-accommodative approach. He or she must display the willingness to hear the board.

■ Do not fidget or throw your hands around, or shake your head. Less movement does not mean you should sit stiff unnaturally. Your posture should be attentive and relaxed at the same time. Do not crouch/bend forward or place your hands on the table.

■ Use a couple of words from the question while answering any question. It shows you have listened to the question carefully. But at the same time limit the use of technical jargon.

■ It is an attitude rather than aptitude, which will determine success in the interview.

■ Do not start evaluating your performance while still in the interview. Even if you have committed mistakes in the beginning, do not think that you have already lost the game. They are looking for warm, sensitive, respectful and attentive youngsters. They know you are good or you would not have come so far.

■ Say less to convey more. Less is more these days as per the minimalist creed. Argue logically and generalise correctly. Do not try to read too much between the lines.

■ The candidate must remain alert throughout the interview and must thank the board politely after the completion of the interview.

■ Remember no one is perfect and perform your best with moral integrity.

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Trust this guidance for interviews



The UPSC personality test is the third and final level of the civil services examination. Candidates almost more than double the number of vacancies are selected through the Mains exams and called to appear for the Personality Test before the UPSC board which selects the best and most suitable candidates to serve the society with their administrative skills.

Personality Test is a face-to-face conversation where questions are asked by the board and answers are given by aspirants. The board does not check how many questions aspirants did not answer but rather analyse how they answered the questions. The Personality Test, lasting approximately 45 minutes to one hour, depending upon the nature of the questions and the way the candidate answers, carries 275 marks. The purpose of this interview is not to test the knowledge of the candidate but his/her personality and suitability. The knowledge of the candidates is already checked in the Mains exams.

Those who are willing to become a civil servant must know that at different levels of the civil service exam, UPSC checks the different traits and qualities. For example, the preliminary test is to check the IQ and in-depth knowledge and the Main test is to check the subject knowledge and understanding, effective presentation and way of expressing the knowledge on paper.

The objective of the Personality Test is to meet the candidate face-to-face and check his/her moral and ethical integrity, dressing sense, mental awareness and psychological readiness. Therefore, in the interview the Board can ask anything under the sun. The objective of the interview is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service. Many good coaching institutions like Plutus IAS & Yojna IAS help aspirants prepare for Personality Test. It is intended to evaluate the mental calibre of a candidate, confidence, spontaneity, decision-making power and the ability to handle the complicated situation. It is an assessment of not only a candidate's intellectual qualities but also of his/her social traits and interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgment, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, and intellectual and moral integrity.

There are certain Dos and Don'ts that every candidate should keep in mind

while preparing themselves for the Personality Test.

DON'TS FOR THE UPSC CSE INTERVIEW

■ Don't show dishonesty: Never be dishonest while responding to any question, be it technical or personal. Always speak with truthfulness. There are chances that you may have to justify your answers. So, be truthful.

■ Never let the discussion turn into an argumentative mode: Discussion is healthy but the argument brings you down. Never indulge in trivial arguments. Don't cling to your perspective trying to convince everyone. Keep in mind, it is an interview, not a group discussion.

■ Haste makes waste. So, don't rush: Listen to questions patiently and ask again if there is any ambiguity. When you rush to respond to the question, it reveals that you lack confidence and have vague knowledge.

■ Never be impolite and discourteous while speaking: Be amiable and speak in a humble manner. It might be possible that the panel deliberately incites you to test your patience. In such a circumstance, you can get over it by being level-headed. Never use offensive words that show your coarseness to the panel.

■ Don't lean: Avoid leaning and sit upright. Your body language portrays your personality. Sit confidently and in a manner that gives an impression that you are listening to them carefully.

DOS FOR THE UPSC CSE INTERVIEW

■ Your first impression is your last impression. A congenial look and smile can form a good impression. Formal clothing is a must in the interview.

■ Enter with confidence and greet the board. If there is any female member in the panel, greet her first to show courtesy.

■ Answer those questions in which you are comfortable and which can lead your interview in a positive direction.

■ Never answer any question that is based on your assumption. Instead, say politely and firmly that you are not aware of the subject. Show clarity and straightforwardness in your approach.

■ You must read the newspaper of that particular day on which you are having your interview.

■ Try to maintain eye-contact with the board in order to show your confidence. It also demonstrates your heedfulness.

■ Prepare your DAF well as most of the interviews start with the analysis and discussion of your DAF.



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UPSC INTERVIEW: Let’s not Take it Easy, Make it Easy

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IT IS said, “The finish line is just the beginning of a whole new race.” This holds true in case of UPSC exams as well. The UPSC interview is that finish line which can determine the final selection of a candidate in the exams. So, how does one ensure that the final step is also flawlessly completed? How does one leave no stone unturned to achieve their goals and flourish into a thorough bureaucrat? The UPSC Interview is a test of personality more than knowledge which requires ample preparation. So, let’s see all that you need to know about the process.

WHAT?
The process of UPSC interview lasts about 30 minutes and carries around 275 marks out of total 2025, which is a hefty percentage and in fact, a game changer. It is not just the 30 minutes that will decide the marks but the effort that you put in from the very first day you started preparing for UPSC. Understanding this, we, at Next IAS provide guidance to students for interview preparation starting with our GS Prelims cum Mains Foundation course, focussing on building individual takes on critical ongoing matters, including special sessions by retired bureaucrats and prominent faculty members of NEXT IAS, Mains answer writing practice, current affairs and so on apart from regular classroom teaching.

The interview questions are based on the Detailed Application Form (DAF) filled by the candidates (Personal information, academics, family background, optional subject, hobbies, interests etc.) at the time of their registration for the Mains examination and before the interview along with current issues prevalent in the country.



Mr. B. Singh (Ex. IES), CMD, NEXT IAS & MADE EASY

Now, simplifying the interview process according to the types of questions asked:

Personal information such as name, educational background, family background, home state, professional experience etc.

Opinion-based questions generally related to current happenings in India and around the world, policies of the present and previous governments, social and economic issues.

Role-based questions wherein the candidate is put in a position of responsibility (DM/Commissioner/Chief Secretary etc.) in a real or hypothetical situation and assessed based on the decisions that they could have taken.

Fact-based/Miscellaneous questions as part of which knowledge as well as confidence while answering the questions or not being able to do so in some cases are being assessed by the panel.



WHY?
The objective of the Interview/Personality Test is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a Board of competent and unbiased observers. The Interview/Personality Test is intended to judge the mental calibre of a candidate. In broad terms, this is really an assessment of not only intellectual qualities but also social traits and interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.

HOW?
It is imperative to note that preparation and thorough practice by appearing for multiple Mock Interviews is of essence here. Prepare and analyse the DAF in such a manner that all probable questions are covered and the candidate is ready with the best suited answer to the interviewer’s questions.

Analysing the whole process and requirements of UPSC CSE Personality Test, NEXT IAS conducts an exclusive course known as “Interview Guidance Programme” under the guidance of B. Singh (Ex. IES) CMD, MADE EASY Group, and a panel of experts.

The programme emphasises on inculcating all the necessary qualities that are needed as a civil servant. Our panel members help to find out the weaknesses and psychological setbacks of

the aspirants. Various dedicated sessions are conducted to ensure the best possible preparation in all aspects of the examination. At the end of the sessions, two Mock Interviews are conducted. We also offer the facility of accessing video coverage of the Mock Interviews so that aspirants can assess and understand their weakness and work on it before the actual interview. The various sessions conducted at NEXT IAS include topics such as PROFILE OF UPSC BOARD MEMBERS, CADRE POLICY & SERVICE PREFERENCES, FACING THE INTERVIEW, BUDGET & ECONOMIC SURVEY, CURRENT AFFAIRS SESSIONS, SESSION ON HOME STATE AND EXCLUSIVE SESSIONS FOR ENGINEERING OPTIONAL AND ENGINEERING BACKGROUND STUDENTS.

The session alone does not cater to certain specific questions of the candidates based on his DAF. For this purpose, two special one-to-one sessions are further conducted where inputs are given for general DAF preparation and technical background DAF preparation.

Last but not the least, a very close UPSC-like interview experience is needed to assess one’s performance and possible improvements. For this purpose, two mocks are conducted at NEXT IAS having a five-member interview panel as per UPSC standards, consisting of retired renowned civil servants, personality and HR experts, psychologists and senior subject matter experts.

As Abraham Lincoln once said “Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

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Be original, have the right attitude

Sriram Srirangam suggests essentials you need to keep ready for the Personality Test and interview

IT IS that time of the year when Civil Services Main Examination results are declared and the successful candidates prepare for their Personality Test. They had faced the objective and the essay type of examinations where they had successfully deployed their respective skills. Now the time has come to switch gears and get ready for a similar handling of the last stage of the exam process.

The difference is that it is an oral exam. It is a fairly rigorous interaction with five eminent people. Some are generalists (serving or former civil servants) and the rest are specialists in various subjects like economics, sociology, international relations, Constitution of India and so on.

The Personality Test, which carries 275 marks is about facts, analysis and values just as in the Mains. There is a marked difference, however. Unlike in the Main Exam, where except the invigilator, no one else is watching, the Personality Test is under the gaze of a panel where there is ruthlessness for lack of homework and generosity for good performance. No error goes unnoticed; minor errors may be overlooked but just may be. More importantly, where the candidate shows qualities of a civil servant, he gets profusely rewarded. Now, what are these qualities?

First and foremost, one should be original. There is something unique and valuable about one's responses. It is not about the answer, either in the Main or the interview. It is the nature of response in which words matter as much as the body language, particularly the facial expressions.



Attitude is next. It is the way one evaluates various aspects of society and the world. One's prejudices and beliefs are revealed. One cannot overcome them unless a conscientious, knowledgeable and perceptive observer points them out or holds a mirror. I can say from experience that candidates are remarkably efficient in re-orienting themselves almost overnight.

Agility can make a big difference. Agility may be the quickness with which the response is given but it is much more. It is awareness, mindfulness and responsiveness. It is application of one's information for the given question in an effective manner, to produce the desired results. Each candi-

date has his own style and substance for it.

Then, there is the issue of confidence; and under and over-confidence. Confidence is essential. It helps you recall and analyse well. Sets the right ambience too. Under-confidence is entirely unnecessary. It is unjustified too as one already has proved himself convincingly. Over-confidence is often offensive and can be self-destructive. Avoid it for interview and for life at large. It is toxic.

There's the question of humour. In corporate and academic interviews, it may be tolerated. In journalistic interviews, it may be encouraged. But in bureaucratic interviews, it is not. You can-

not crack a joke unless you are 'rarest of rare'! Interview Board members may be joking and the humour may be of good quality but you are not supposed to laugh unless you know how exactly to. That's very very tricky. Best is to suspend the laughter pleasantly till the interview is over.

QUITE IMPORTANT ABOUT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

■ Don't duck a question on the assumption that it could lead to further questions that you might not be able to answer.

■ Say 'I don't know sir/madam' with dignity and respectfulness where you have to.

■ For analytical questions, there may not be room at all to say 'I don't know'.

■ Be ready for a string of connected questions and answers. For example, if a question arises about the economic crisis of Sri Lanka, it can trigger a whole lot of related queries like, when did it start; if Chinese debt trap diplomacy is fully exposed with it; how India is bailing Sri Lanka out; what is a currency swap; can you relate it to RBI's currency swap currently within India; why shift to organic farming proved self-destructive; any lessons for India on agriculture; geopolitical implications of the crisis and so on. Keep these aspects in mind and work your way to the top. Remember there is help at hand, if necessary. Round the clock. Best wishes.

(The author is **Sriram Srirangam**, Director, SRIRAM's IAS, New Delhi)

Drishti's 3-step approach



"YOU didn't come this far to only come this far." As the golden opportunity of UPSC CSE knocks on your door, you should be well-prepared to receive it as the final step to achieving your dream. However, proper guidance is necessary to train even the brightest of minds in the right direction, to make sure their knowledge is adequate and relevant to tackle all the burning questions with a calm and composed mind.

The three-stage Interview Guidance Programme by Drishti IAS adheres to the observations of the Kothari Committee, constituted by the UPSC, to list the qualities that should be rated in the personality test. The qualities include clarity of expression; grasp of narrative and argument; reasoning ability; appreciation of different points of view; awareness and concern for socio-economic problems; and range and depth of interests and personal attributes relevant to interaction with people.

The candidate will be interviewed on their past education, career (if any), hobbies and other facets of life, including on matters of general interest. Our Interview Guidance Programme is structured in a manner that guides the candidate on analysing their Detailed Application Form (DAF) through One-to-One discussion with an expert member.

The personality test also assesses the candidate's intellectual qualities, social traits and interest in current affairs. As a firm believer of constant evaluation, Drishti IAS has put together a panel of extremely competent people, including senior IAS & IPS officers, Delhi University professors and experts from various fields. The mock sessions ensure that candidates receive detailed evaluation and feedback, thereby enabling them to gauge their standing. Drishti IAS is very excited to have you in the programme and produce unmatched results this year as well.



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Mr. Yogendra Kumar, Former Ambassador & Author

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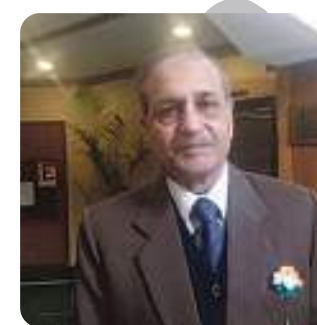
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VISION IAS is the leading research and training institute for civil services in India. Driven by the core values of innovation and excellence, the institute has earned immense credibility among aspirants in a short span of time. In pursuance of our organisational effort to provide authentic guidance to students, here we have tried to answer some of the key aspects of the Personality Test and interview guidance programme offered by the institution.

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THE PERSONALITY TEST?

Personality Test is the last stage before an aspirant concludes the full cycle of the UPSC examination and awaits positive results. This stage plays a significant role in successful conclusion of the examination for two reasons; first, it can be the most important 30 minutes of an aspirant's life as a crucial 275 marks are at stake. This score makes a great difference in the final selection. Second, to appear in person before the panel of experts presents both the opportunity and challenge for making a lasting impression to fetch good marks. A notable performance in this test not only brightens a candidate's chances of being in the final merit list but also plays a critical role in getting entry into a service of one's choice and the desired cadre.

DOES THE CANDIDATE NEED SPECIAL PREPARATION TO UNDERSTAND THE DESIRED QUALITIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS?

A common question related to the Personality Test is whether it requires a special preparation or not. While it tests one's ability to retain and reproduce facts, figures and other crucial pieces of information, the board members do make an attempt to know how a candidate sees himself and applies his mind to critical issues surrounding him. It is through a candidate's responses to their questions that the board members get an insight into his personal traits like honesty, integrity among others. Further there are some desirable qualities expected in a civil servant like having an administrative mind, curiosity, integrity, objectivity and rationality. Conscious preparation makes it easier to understand and practise them. And it is also very important that candi-

dates learn not only to focus on their strengths and inherent positive traits, but also realise their limitations as well as personal prejudices and biases. This can only happen if the candidate has spent adequate time and effort to prepare for this last stage of the examination.

WHAT IS BEING OFFERED IN THE COURSE?

Personality Test is a purpose-driven conversation in a formal setting aimed at choosing the best candidates for the administration of the country. Whether a candidate is objective and rational is reflected not only through his conduct and performance in the Personality Test, but also through his DAF. The DAF should reflect his determination, application of mind, forthright attitude, honesty as well as a firm self-appraisal. It is here that the Personality Development Programme offered by Vision IAS can make a difference. An in-person one-to-one DAF Analysis session is conducted for all students of the programme. During this session, not only is the DAF discussed in detail but the mentor also helps in preparing a plan for the student and charting a future course of action for him.

WHAT CAN THE CANDIDATE DO AND EXPECT FROM THE COURSE?

While it is not possible to make an accurate assessment of the questions that are likely to be asked by the board members in UPSC, preparing oneself thoroughly with the DAF and current issues of national and global importance helps in ensuring that the students are confident enough to do well in the Personality Test. In the personality development programme, the students are given an opportunity to appear for mock interviews with senior faculty of Vision IAS and retired civil servants. The organisation strives for the best to make sure that these mock interviews are as close as possible to those conducted by the UPSC. Our experience has shown that with the right set of guidance and support, one can develop the needed aptitude and skill to face the personality test. Our consistent results have proven the efficacy of our methodology and strategy. As an organisation, Vision IAS is committed to provide quality guidance in all walks of civil service examination preparation.

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New Delhi

MONTH AFTER IT PROHIBITED DISCOUNTS

Private shops can now offer up to 25% discount on liquor: Govt order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

THE DELHI government has allowed private shops to offer up to 25% discount on the maximum retail price (MRP) of liquor, over a month after it prohibited such discounts in the national capital. An order issued by the Excise Commissioner states that licensees can from now on offer discounts of up to 25% on the MRP of liquor in Delhi. It further mentions, "The licensees shall, however, strictly abide by the terms and conditions of the licence and if any violation of the same is noticed, strict penal action shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Excise Act and Rules..." In an order issued on February



The reason given for stopping discounts was the gathering of large crowds outside liquor shops that can aggravate the Covid situation, and cause law-and-order issues. Archive

28, the Delhi government had directed sellers to discontinue discounts, rebates and concessions on the MRP of liquor. The reason given for this then was the gathering of large crowds outside

liquor shops that can aggravate the Covid situation, cause law-and-order issues and inconvenience to the local population. The discounts were discontinued "...taking into account the

violation of DDMA guidelines and the distortion in the market that was witnessed due to unregulated discounts offered by some of the licensees in the month of February 2022," according to the Excise Commissioner's order dated April 1 to permit these discounts. The order adds that the "government has reconsidered the aforesaid decision" and that the government "reserves the right to withdraw the discounts being allowed at any time during the year". Liquor sellers had filed a petition in the High Court challenging the government's previous decision to ban discounts. The court had last month refused to stay the government's decision in this regard. Reacting to the concession in

liquor prices, those in the liquor industry said the policy must be consistent in the long term. Vinod Giri, Director General, Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), said: "...The Delhi excise policy explicitly and boldly advocates free market and permission to (offer) discount freely. It was also a material assumption on which retailers had based their bids. Hence, we had reservations on stopping discounts. The decision to reinstate discount, even if it is up to 25%, is therefore a welcome step. We hope that soon it is restored back to discounting as (per) the retailer's wishes. Besides benefitting Delhi consumers, discounts also reduce price arbitrage vis a vis Haryana and thus help plug Delhi sales and revenue leakage."



Star Publications was among several publishers that came up in the area. Amit Mehra

How Partition migrants made Daryaganj a hub for Hindi publishers

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

WHEN AMARNATH Varma, 87, and his family decided to move out of Multan in the wake of the Partition, the most prized possessions they transferred to Delhi beforehand were thousands of books that lined their bookstore. Varma's grandfather had started the books business, selling titles in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.

As they struggled to put together their uprooted life in Delhi's Paharganj, the family managed to find a small vacant shop in Dariba Kalan to restart their bookshop as 'Punjabi Pustak Bhandar'. But in the chaotic days following the Partition, it was not easy for the books business to take off, said Varma. "The only books in demand were Hindu religious ones."

After struggling to make the bookshop work, in the mid-1950s Varma came across Hind Pocket Books, the publishing house started by Dina Nath Malhotra and credited with developing the market for paperback Hindi books in Delhi. Like Varma, Malhotra too was a Partition migrant from Lahore and had set up his business in Daryaganj, the thriving commercial district of



Amarnath Varma (87) moved his bookshop to Daryaganj in the mid-1950s. Adrija Roychowdhury

and the British removed their cantonment as well," explained Liddle.

Consequently, the area remained vacant for a long time. It was rebuilt again in 1911 when the new capital was established in Delhi. "When a city becomes a capital a lot of business and non-administrative personnel also move to the city. Thereafter a lot of the educational institutions and commercial buildings came up in this area," said Liddle. Yet another avatar was bestowed upon Daryaganj after Independence, that of being a hub for publishing.

"The publishing industry of present day Daryaganj (mostly Ansari Road) was established by migrants who moved to the area after the Partition of India and

immediately following the Partition, Urdu had lost the stature and popularity it once enjoyed in India. The only market for Urdu publications was restricted to the Urdu Bazaar area around Jama Masjid.

"The hub of Hindi publication was in Banaras and Prayagraj. It is only in the last 75 years that Delhi became the intellectual centre for Hindi literature," said Aditi Maheshwari-Goyal, who is a managing trustee at Vani Foundation and heads the Department of Copyright and Translation at Vani Prakashan. "Delhi was the political hub for the Independence movement and like any other movement, the freedom movement also had to happen in a certain language. Hindi had emerged as that connecting language; it touched the common psyche and got everyone on the streets in the fight for Independence."

Varma said that initially, he did publish a few books in Urdu, the first being a collection of film songs by the poet Sahir Ludhianvi titled 'Gaata Jaaye Banjara'. "But Urdu had lost all popularity, so we published very few books in the language," he said.

In course of time, Varma became friends with some of the tallest names in Hindi literature who were also his authors, including Amrita Pritam, Krishan Chander, Ramdhani Singh Dinkar and Kamleshwar. His best-selling author was novelist and screenwriter Gulshan Nanda. "Out of the 35 books written by Nanda, I published 25," said Varma.

Since the 1970s and with the establishment of the Oxford University Press, Daryaganj found popularity among the English publications as well. "The biggest advantage with the area was the logistics. The Post Office is close by and so is the New Delhi Railway Station, so it is easy to supply books from here," said Maheshwari-Goyal.

With the growth in popularity of English reading, most of the Hindi publishers also expanded in English publishing. Varma narrated how, in the course of his career, he journeyed to 61 countries and picked up some lucrative ideas. Beaming with pride, he said he has published in over 80 languages. His books are regularly supplied to the Library of Congress in Washington DC and are part of the Frankfurt Book Fair.

BRIEFLY

1 held for vandalising US embassy signboard

New Delhi: The signboard outside the US embassy was vandalised, with a poster put up sporting a message against US President Joe Biden, police said, adding that one person has been arrested and an FIR lodged. The Hindu Sena claimed responsibility for the act. DCP (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said: "The accused, Pawan Kumar, has been arrested. He disclosed that he and Vishnu Gupta (Hindu Sena national president), arrived near the US embassy and on instructions of Gupta, he pasted a poster on the signboard." In a statement issued Friday, Gupta claimed members of his outfit protested against the "continuous bullying of India by US President Joe Biden's administration".

IIT-Delhi gets indoor sports complex

New Delhi: IIT-Delhi Friday got a "world-class" indoor sports complex spread over 2,000 sqm. Named after and built with the support of 1995 batch alumnus Saurabh Mittal who contributed Rs 10 crore, it's a three-storey AC complex housing four badminton courts, two squash courts, two table tennis halls, an open-air theatre, a conference room and a terrace garden.

4 thieves steal Rs 13 lakh from ATM

Gurgaon: Four thieves allegedly stole Rs 13.28 lakh from an ATM of a private bank in Gurgaon Friday. Police said the accused are yet to be identified, and probe found that they used a gas cutter to break into the ATM and sprayed paint on CCTVs before fleeing. **ENS**

Country sees hottest March in 122 yrs, heatwave to continue in Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

LIKE THE rest of the country, Northwest India recorded the hottest March in 122 years, with the average maximum temperature in the region reaching 30.73 degrees Celsius this year.

For the period between 1901 and 2022, this year's average maximum temperature for the month of March surpassed the previous record of 30.67 degrees Celsius in 2004. The average minimum temperature in Northwest India in March was 15.26 degrees Celsius, the second highest for the month in the past 122 years.

Northwest India, including Delhi, experienced heatwaves in March. Delhi recorded heatwave conditions from March 29-31, and recorded no rainfall for the entire month, keeping temperatures high. While western disturbances did pass across North India during the month, they did not carry enough moisture to bring rainfall, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The normal amount of rainfall for the Safdarjung observatory in March is 15.9 mm.

The average minimum and maximum temperatures were



On Saturday, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 39.4 degrees Celsius, six degrees above normal. Gajendra Yadav

both above normal in March in Delhi — the average maximum temperature for the month was 32.9 degrees Celsius, 3.3 degrees above the normal average of 29.6 degrees Celsius, and the average minimum temperature was 17.6 degrees Celsius, two degrees above the normal average.

The average maximum temperature for the country as a whole in March was also the highest in 122 years — 33.10 degrees Celsius, higher than the earlier record of 33.09 degrees Celsius registered in March 2010.

On Saturday, the capital recorded a maximum temperature of 39.4 degrees Celsius, six degrees above the normal for this time of the year. At some weather observatories in Delhi-NCR, the maximum temperature hit 40 degrees.

At the weather station at the Ridge, for instance, a maximum temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius was recorded on Saturday. Najafgarh recorded an even higher maximum temperature of 41.2 degrees Celsius, while Pitampura in Northwest Delhi

recorded 41 degrees. Gurgaon recorded 40.8 degrees. The minimum temperature recorded on Saturday was 17.4 degrees, a degree below the normal.

Heatwave conditions are forecast for Delhi from April 5-8. The maximum temperature is likely to be at around 40 or 41 degrees Celsius during this period. On Sunday, the maximum temperature is likely to settle at around 39 degrees Celsius. Clear skies are on the forecast for the day, and the minimum temperature is likely to be 18 degrees Celsius.

Gang hit planned from inside Tihar, police raids on to catch two shooters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

DAYS AFTER an associate of jailed gangster Sunil alias Tillu Tajpuriya was shot dead inside a luxury car in Rohini, police probe has revealed that the murder conspiracy was hatched from inside Tihar jail allegedly by one Rohit Moi, an old associate of slain gangster Jitender Gogi.

The rivalry between gangs led by Tillu and Gogi is among the oldest in the national capital region, and has only escalated after the latter was gunned down during a court hearing.

Tillu's associate Shekhar Rana alias Sannata (29) was gunned down on March 23.

Police said they arrested one Gaurav Kumar in connection with the latest murder, and during



Grab from CCTV footage shows one of the 2 shooters

questioning, he claimed that the shooters were given directions by Rohit from inside Tihar. "Rohit was arrested from Gurgaon in 2020 along with Gogi and Kuldeep alias Fajja. At the time, he had a reward of Rs 2 lakh on his head from the Delhi Police and Rs 1 lakh from the Haryana Police. Ever since Gogi's murder, Rohit is believed to be

heading the gang and coordinating from inside the jail," a senior police officer said.

Police had found footage from two CCTV cameras — one showed two attackers shooting 11 rounds at Shekhar, who was sitting inside a Jaguar vehicle, and the other showed their faces. This included Gaurav, who was seen allegedly conducting a reconnaissance outside the house of the victim's girlfriend.

"Police identified the two shooters as Gogi's gang members and teams are conducting raids in Haryana and the outskirts of Delhi to nab them," an officer said.

During investigation, police found that the victim, Shekhar, had organised a party after Gogi was killed by two armed assailants, allegedly on Tillu's behest, on September 24 last year. Videos from the party went viral, angering members of the ri-

val gang. "We came to know that after Gogi was killed, Shekhar threw a party and several videos of him cutting a cake had gone viral," an officer said.

According to police, Gogi's associates have also been targeting other members of Tillu's gang, and this is the second killing in the last two months.

Police found that Shekhar was hiding in Punjab after Gogi's murder, and had come to Delhi the week of his murder to meet his girlfriend. That night, he borrowed his friend's Jaguar and went to meet his girlfriend at her place in Rohini. Officers said Gogi's associates received a tip-off about his movement and followed him.

Police said Shekhar's brother, Ravinder Rana, was also killed in 2019, allegedly by Gogi's associate Fajja.

HC HAD ORDERED REPAIRS TO PRESERVE HERITAGE STRUCTURE OF BUILDING

Premier theatre, now crumbling: Revisiting once-famous Regal Cinema

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

FIVE YEARS ago, in March 2017, Raj Kapoor's films *Mera Naam Joker* and *Sangam* were screened at Regal Cinema as a sign off for the theatre. In 1932, when it began operations — as a venue for ballets, plays and talkies — the late director's father, Prithviraj

Kapoor, used to stage shows here. As a young boy, Raj would accompany him on those jaunts. So, when he grew up in stature as an actor and director, he made sure all his movies were screened at Regal. Not only this, the Oscar-winning *Gone with the Wind* had its Indian premiere here in 1940.

Once considered a landmark, the building in Connaught Place has not been able to sustain itself

post the closing down of the eponymous theatre — literally as well as metaphorically.

Earlier this week, the Delhi High Court ordered repairs to preserve its structural integrity. After going through a report submitted by IIT-Delhi, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva remarked: "The building is a heritage building and, as such, the heritage structure of the building has to be protected and



It shut down in 2017. Archive

preserved."

The three-storey building was designed by architect Walter Sykes George, who helped Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in designing the capital complex. The design is a fusion of Georgian and Mughal architecture.

Till the 90s, Regal retained its place as a capital hotspot — a theatre adorned with artwork and among the few that would host

press screenings and premieres; the Standard restaurant with its helpings of espresso coffee; and Regal's own snack bar. India's first discotheque, The Cellar, was opened at one end, along with a cafe called Parlour in the mid-1960s. But years rolled by and Regal came down from being a genteel establishment to a run-down building, infamous equally for rowdy hawkers as for the pick-

pockets who operated on the pavements outside.

Once Regal Cinema was shut, its owners announced a plan to open a multiplex instead. "With time everything changes and it's high time for Regal to close down and open again in a new avatar," Vishal Chaudhary, one of its owners was quoted as saying in 2017.

The same year, the building's first and second floors were

leased out to Madame Tussauds to open the famed wax museum. But a couple of years down, it shut too. A spokesperson from Merlin Entertainment, which owned the museum, said, "Even though it was a prime location, there were many issues — encroachment by street vendors, hawkers, parking issues, and the place being crowded and unsafe for visiting families with young children."

9 GOVT & POLITICS

Jaipur blast plot: Houses of 5 accused razed in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, APRIL 2

THE RATLAM district administration in Madhya Pradesh Friday demolished alleged illegal homes and constructions erected by five of the six accused held recently on charges of plotting serial blasts in Jaipur.

While the Rajasthan Police had arrested three of them from Chittorgarh on Wednesday following alleged discovery of explosives during a routine check, the next day, the Madhya Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had detained 25 people and arrested three others from Ratlam city. They were handed

over to the Rajasthan Police for further investigation.

The six accused have been identified as Imran Khan, Altamash Khan, Zubair Fakheer, Amin Khan, Amin Sherani and Saifuddin.

Ratlam District Collector Purushottam Kumar said, "Illegal encroachments by these offenders were demolished. Action will continue against several other sympathisers as well."

In demolitions carried out in Ratlam throughout Friday, police razed the house and poultry farm of Imran, a resident of Mohan Nagar. Khan has previous cases against him under three sections of the IPC, besides three cases under the

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. According to police, the conspiracy for the blasts was hatched at his farm.

Police also demolished a bungalow of Altamash Khan (26) in Shauranipur area. Khan has been booked in seven cases over the last 12 years and faces various charges, including those under eight different sections of the UAPA and the Explosives Act. Zubair Fakreb (34), a resident of Anand Colony, has two cases under the UAPA and Explosives Act, registered since 2014. The front portion of his house, which had allegedly been erected illegally, was razed.

Similarly, the front portion of the house of Amin Khan, who

has three previous cases against him, was also demolished.

Amin Patel, a resident of Vikram Nagar who has seven cases against him, had allegedly illegally occupied government land and constructed his house on it.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said Imran was a hardcore criminal. "He started his activities in 2014 through social programmes. He was under watch and also wanted to go to Syria. He was put behind bars for a year. He then sent three of his men with explosives to Rajasthan," Mishra said.

The demolitions came the same day as Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a

meeting with Mishra and state police officials, where the administration was instructed to teach a "befitting lesson" to criminals, especially those involved in crimes against women, the marginalised and poor.

On the lines of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who came to be celebrated as 'Bulldozer Baba' during the recent Assembly elections for his government's 'tough' stance on criminals, Chouhan is now being referred to in Madhya Pradesh as 'Bulldozer Mama'.

"Uncle's bulldozer has always worked. It won't stop till all criminals are swept away. We won't spare anti-social elements," Chouhan said recently.

NEPAL'S 1st BROAD-GAUGE PASSENGER SERVICE

Modi, Deuba jointly flag off cross-border train

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

AFTER EIGHT years of work, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba jointly flagged off the cross-border train service between Bihar's Jayanagar and Nepal's Kurtha, with the Hindu pilgrimage city of Janakpur Dham — the mythical birthplace of Sita — in between, through video link on Saturday.

This is going to be Nepal's first broad gauge passenger train service, all of which has been hand-held by India from the start.

Part of the 68.73-km Jaynagar-Bardibas train service from Nepal side beyond Janakpur had to be stopped due to flooding of some railway bridges in 2001, while service from Janakpur to Jaynagar continued until March 2014 when India and Nepal decided to go for converting the entire narrow gauge link into broad gauge.

"PM Deubaji and I also agreed to give priority to trade and cross-border connectivity initiatives in all respects. The beginning of the Jayanagar-Kurtha rail line is a part of this," Modi said at the joint press meet with Deuba in Delhi. "Such schemes will make a great contribution for smooth, hassle-free exchange of people between the two countries."

The project is being funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, as the line is a small link to the larger scheme of things in deepening India's ties with Nepal through Railways — people and freight movement — bypassing the influence of other neighbouring countries in this strategically vital region, sources said.

"We both are confident that further connectivity projects, roads, railways, can gain further



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Nepal counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba in New Delhi on Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

Ties on track

NEW DELHI is footing the construction bill of Rs 784 crore for the entire 68.73-km track between Bihar's Jaynagar and Nepal's Bardibas as a grant to the neighbouring country. It's an out-and-out India show with Railway-arm IRCON carrying out the design and construction and another PSU, the Konkan

EXPLAINED Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), slated to help the Nepal Railway Company in operations and maintenance, including training of manpower. KRCL has already supplied two sets of 1,600 horsepower Diesel Electric Multiple Unit passenger trains to run at a top speed of 100 kmph.

momentum. Likewise Prime Minister Modi and I have discussed further cooperation in civil aviation," Deuba said.

The next stretch of 17 km from Kurtha to Bijalpura is also getting finishing touches. For the rest of the portion up to Bardibas, land is being handed over to IRCON.

The rail link line has been popular since the early 20th Century. The British had built the narrow gauge line in 1937 to ferry cargo, mainly logs, from Nepal to India. However, over time, it became a popular passenger service for people of the two countries.

The Jayanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail project passes through Madhubani district of Bihar and agriculturally and densely populated districts of Dhanusa, Mahottari and Siraha in Nepal.

In the first phase, Inerva, Khajuri, Mahinathpur halt, Baidehi, Careha halt, and Janakpur Dham stations have been built between the complete Jayanagar-Kurtha rail section. Custom check-points have been created at Jayanagar in India and Innerva in Nepal. The Jaynagar station has a parallel station building operated by Nepal Railway Company for this line.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, the Chief of Air Staff, in Hyderabad on Saturday. *PTI*

Underlining supply issues, Rajnath pushes for indigenous defence tech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

IN THE backdrop of India's defence requirements coming under stress amid Russian invasion of Ukraine, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday underlined supply constraints even as he pushed for indigenous defence technology.

"These days, there have been challenges in ensuring supply lines. External situation has affected the serviceability of critical weapons and equipment. Therefore, we are leaving no stone unturned to achieve self-reliance. Earlier, the country was dependent on imports from other countries to bolster the defence sector. This government believes in strengthening our own shoulders to protect ourselves. We are making sure that India is not dependent on anyone," Singh said while addressing an IAF event in Hyderabad to commemorate 60 years of Chetak helicopters.

India imports majority of its defence equipment from Russia. These supplies have come under pressure due to the ongoing war.

Underlining the importance of a strong security apparatus for nations to maintain peace in the world, he stated that in the last few years, the government has created an environment which has enabled the Armed Forces, scientists and defence manufacturers to think pro-actively and move forward on the path of making India strong and self-reliant.

Singh called for fast-tracking of design and development of helicopters in India.

"According to an estimate, there is a demand for more than 1,000 civilian helicopters in the country and an equal number of helicopters in the defence sector. We need to exploit this huge potential in the helicopter market. In addition, we need to make efforts to strengthen India's claim in the Rotary wing domain. The era is changing. I am sure that in the times to come, we will be more bright, strong and completely self-reliant," he said.

AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, APRIL 2

WITH ASSEMBLY elections in Rajasthan just over one-and-a-half years away, the principal Opposition BJP has started focusing on the state's eastern part, a region where it had suffered massive losses in the 2018 polls that led to the Congress coming to power.

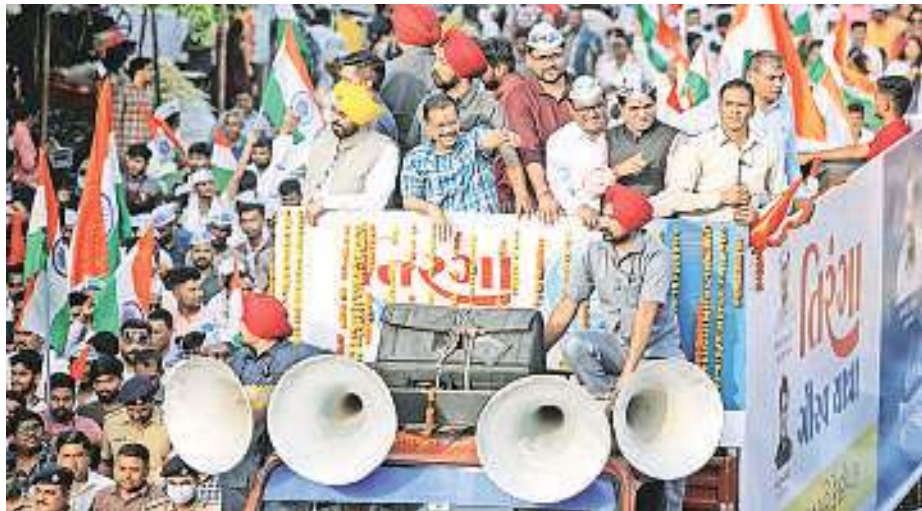
On Saturday, BJP president JP Nadda visited Sawai Madhopur district in eastern Rajasthan to attend a programme involving

VAIBHAV JHA
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 2

ADDRESSING A rally in Ahmedabad during his two-day visit to Gujarat, where elections are scheduled later this year, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that he will end corruption in Gujarat if given a chance to rule the state. Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held a massive roadshow in the Nikol area of Ahmedabad on Saturday evening, where the AAP convenor said he has come to the state to "make Gujaratis win".

The roadshow started from Mata Khodiyar temple in Nikol and ended in Bapunagar under heavy police presence after AAP Gujarat workers submitted a complaint to the Ahmedabad police commissioner stating that Kejriwal was issued threats.

"I don't know how to do politics but I do know how to end corruption. We have finished corruption in Delhi. Today if you go to any office in Delhi, you don't have to



Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann, the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Punjab, respectively, at a roadshow in Ahmedabad on Saturday. *Nirmal Harindran*

pay bribe. Similarly, Bhagwant Mann ended corruption in Punjab in mere ten days of his governance..." said Kejriwal. He added that he has come to Gujarat to make Gujaratis win.

"We ended corruption in Punjab within 10 days and BJP

has not been able to do the same in Gujarat for the past 25 years. Today I have not come to bad-mouth any party... I have come to make Gujarat and Gujaratis win. Give a chance to AAP, if you don't like us during our five years of work then you can anyway

bring these people back to power," said Kejriwal.

On the occasion, Mann said, "Today all of you have come with Tricolour, so it is clear that you all are patriots. If there is anyone anti-national then it is those who are trying to divide the patriots."

With AFSPA lifting, Northeast has joined mainstream: Rijiju

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

DESCRIBING THE Centre's decision of lifting the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from "major areas" of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur as a "revolutionary step", Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said that for the first time, it is felt that the Northeast has joined the mainstream of the country.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Rijiju said that in the remaining few places where the law is still in force, things will be back to normal soon.

"For the first time, it is felt that the Northeast has joined the mainstream. Recently, a decision has been taken to lift the Armed Forces Special Powers Act from the major areas of three states of Northeast — Assam, Nagaland and Manipur —, which is a revolutionary step."

Rijiju said that lifting of the AFSPA means that peace has been restored in those areas. He said that AFSPA was brought in view of insurgency in Nagaland in 1958. "This has a long history. After so many years, peace has been restored in those areas," he said.

Rijiju said that few areas are prominent people from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community, which was organised by the state party's ST Morcha.

The eastern Rajasthan districts, including Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Dholpur, Karauli and Dausa, have high concentration of the SC and ST population. "The focus of the visit of the BJP national president is on eastern Rajasthan. This is the first time that a BJP national president has come to Rajasthan to directly reach out to the ST community. Sixteen Assembly seats from Bharatpur, Dausa and



Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju

still left where the AFSPA is in force but things will be back to normal in those areas soon. With this, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make north-east AFSPA-free will be completed, he said, adding that the people of northeast including civil society members have welcomed this move, while expressing gratitude towards the Prime Minister for the move.

Rijiju, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal Pradesh, said that several important agreements including Bodo Accord, NLFT, Bru-Reang Agreement have been reached in the last few years. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-pronged approach of development and dialogue with insurgent groups in dealing with various challenges in the region has paid dividends," he said.

He attacked the Congress and said that the party had left the region "devastated".

On March 31, 2022, Home Minister Amit Shah had announced lifting of the AFSPA from the certain areas of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

BJP taking poll wins as licence to loot people: Cong on price rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

ATTACKING THE BJP-led central government over the rise in prices of essential commodities, including fuel, fertilizer and medicines, the Congress on Saturday said "the BJP is taking its electoral victories as a licence to loot people".

It claimed that by hiking prices of several commodities, the government has put a burden of Rs 1.25-lakh crore on the people.

"The price of DAP bag of 50 kg has been increased by Rs 150 per bag, India's farmers buy 1.20-lakh crore tonnes of DAP every year. The additional burden on farmer comes to Rs 3,600 crores. Likewise, the price of NPKS bag of



Randeep Surjewala

50 kg has been increased by Rs 110 per bag, putting an additional burden to the tune of Rs 3,740 crores on farmer," Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala told a press conference.

He said according to the government's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, India's consumption of Petrol in 2020-21 was 27,969 thousand metric tonnes. "At a price increase of Rs 7.20 per litre, the additional yearly burden on people comes to Rs 20,138 crores," he said.

Surjewala said the Modi gov-

Bomma announces Rs 5 cr for police welfare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, APRIL 2

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced Rs 5 crore grant for the Police Welfare Fund on Saturday. Participating in the Police Flag Day celebrations, Bommai said crime could only be controlled if the police functioned without any compromise with crime and criminals.

"The state government is proud of its police force and I wish it rises to the top

spot in the country," he said.

He said maintaining peace and order in society and ensuring the security of people was the duty of the police department. "Discipline, efficiency and integrity is important. Our police force is known for its conscience, impartiality and humanitarian qualities," Bommai said.

Hailing the role of forensic laboratories in crime detection and nabbing criminals, he said police stations with forensic, narcotics and cyber labs had been

opened in Bengaluru.

Bomma also instructed the DCs and SPs of all districts to take necessary measures to ensure peaceful celebration of 'Hosathodaku'. "Festivals should be celebrated without any disruption in law and order," he said.

On a question about a campaign by some pro-Hindu outfits against halal meat, Bommai said officials had been instructed to hold peace meetings in their areas to ensure peaceful celebration of the festival.

ing development of tribals in the state and the country.

"The Congress ruled from 1947 to 1998 and again from 2004... But you had to wait for the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government to get a ministry for tribals. You will have to understand which party and which leader care for tribals," the BJP chief said.

Nadda mentioned tribal heroes such as Birsu Munda, and highlighted the role of Rajasthan's Bheel community in helping Maharana Pratap during his battles with Mughal emperor Akbar.

ASSAM

Now left in the dust by BJP in RS polls, 'allies' Congress, AIUDF sling mud

TORA AGARWALA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

TWO DAYS after the Rajya Sabha polls in Assam in which the BJP-led NDA coalition won both the seats, amidst allegations of Opposition cross-voting, a war of words erupted between the Congress and All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF).

The NDA had the numbers for winning only one seat. The fact that it won a second one Thursday was an indication that at least seven Opposition MLAs broke ranks to vote for the BJP and its alliance partner, United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

While one MLA (South Karimganj legislator Siddique Ahmed) wrote "one" instead of the prescribed "1", leading to the cancellation of his vote, the identity of the other six turncoats is still not clear, leading to mudslinging between the Congress and AIUDF.

The latest dust-up is a continuation of the on-again, off-again relationship between the Congress and Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF. Since 2020, they have been trying to patch up an alliance to oust the BJP from Assam. However, the relationship has been rocky. They tied up for the 2021 Assembly elections; but split two months after the results returning the BJP to power. Now, they announced a joint candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls, but are bickering again after defeat.

Friday morning began with Congress spokesperson Manjit Mahanta alleging that five legislators of the AIUDF had "entered" Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's residence at 6 am, insinuating they had voted for the NDA.

In response, the AIUDF moved a breach of privilege motion against the Congress in the Assembly, saying they were "insulted" by the allegation. "All our 15 legislators voted for the united Opposition candidate,



AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal

Ripun Bora. There are internal differences within the Assam Congress, and it is a section of them who voted for the BJP," alleged AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam. Congress MLA and Leader of Opposition Debabrata Saikia countered that Congress legislators "believed in our own party". "Apart from the one whose vote was rejected, rest were loyal," said Saikia.

Failing to stay relevant in the face of the BJP's might, Congress may see an option in the AIUDF, but the two are hardly natural allies. The AIUDF has a large support base among Bengali-origin Muslims of Assam, and is popular in lower Assam and Barak Valley. However, as Akhil Ranjan Dutta, who heads the Political Science Department at Gauhati University, points out, tying up with AIUDF comes at the cost of alienating voters of Upper Assam. Upper Assam, which lies at heart of state's ethnic sub-nationalism, is represented by the "indigenous" Assamese and caste-Hindu vote.

"Smaller regional parties like the Asom Jatiya Parishad and Akhil Gogoi's Rajior Dal, which the Congress has been trying to ally with, are also anti-AIUDF," adds Dutta.

Many in the Congress too have been opposed to an alliance with the AIUDF on the same grounds. Says a senior Congress leader: "...Time and again, we make the mistake of allying with them. But in reality, many of us never wanted this alliance, but we are a minority within the party."



JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No:- JDA/EE&T&TtoDir.Engg.-II/2021-22/D-43

Dated:24.03.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-II/01/2021-22

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given below:-

S. No.	Zone	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	EE-4	JDA2122WS0800619	271.42	110/2020-21	Development Works	13.04.2022

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajjasthan.gov.in

Raj. Samwad/C/2022-23/48

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg-II



Replacement of Route Interlocking on age cum condition basis

Open e-tender notice No. TRD/OT/12/DDUR/RI/21-22. E-tender are invited from regulated contractors having proven experience, electrical license, and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents for the work as per details given below:-

SI.No. : 1. Name of work with location : Replacement of Route Interlocking on age cum condition basis. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : Rs. 19,37,360.22. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 38800.00, 4. Last date and time for submission of tender : Upto 22/04/2022 on 15.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars from where the details of e-tender can be obtained :- www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divnl. Elect. Engineer (Tr-D)
E. C. Railway/DDU
PR/0002/DDU/ETRD/T/22-23/24

राजस्थान सरकार

कार्यालय आबकारी आयुक्त, राजस्थान, उदयपुर

आबकारी भवन,2-गुनियावाला, पंचवटी, उदयपुर-313001

क्रमांक पं. 32 (बी) (1)आब./एल./2022/3730

दिनांक : 02.04.2022

आबकारी एवं मद्य-संयम नीति वर्ष 2022-23 एवं वर्ष 2023-24 के तहत मदिरा की रिटेल ऑफ कम्पोजिट दुकानों के अनुज्ञापत्र हेतु ई-नीलामी आमंत्रण सूचना :-

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि राज्य सरकार की आज्ञा क्रमांक प.4(1) चित/आब/2022 दिनांक 05.02.2022 के द्वारा आबकारी एवं मद्य-संयम नीति वर्ष 2022-23 एवं वर्ष 2023-24 का निर्धारण किया गया है। नीति के अनुसार बन्दोबस्त दो वर्ष 2022-23 व 2023--24 (1 अप्रैल, 2022 से 31 मार्च, 2024 तक) के लिए किया जाना है। नीति के निर्देशानुसार नवीनीकरण से शेष रही मदिरा दुकानों के लिए ऑनलाईन नीलामी द्वारा बन्दोबस्त किया जाना है, इस हेतु भारत सरकार के उपक्रम एम.एस.टी.सी. लिमिटेड के माध्यम से ई-नीलामी (ई-बोली) प्रक्रिया से बन्दोबस्त करने हेतु विभिन्न चरणों में निम्नानुसार ई-बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है :

1. ऑनलाईन नीलामी कार्यक्रम :

क्र. सं.	नीलामी की दिनांक	नीलामी का समय
1.	08.04.2022	प्रातः 11.00 बजे से सांय 4.00 बजे तक
2.	11.04.2022	प्रातः 11.00 बजे से सांय 4.00 बजे तक
3.	12.04.2022	प्रातः 11.00 बजे से सांय 4.00 बजे तक

- नीलामी एक कार्य दिवस में न्यूनतम पांच घण्टे की होगी एवं उसके पश्चात जब तक बोली, लगती रहे तब तक 20 मिनट के अनन्त विस्तार (indefinite extension) तक जारी रहेगी।
- बोलीदाता को कम से कम रु. 10,000/- अथवा रु. 10,000 के गुणांक में बढ़ाकर बोली लगानी होगी।
- बोलीदाता एक बार में रिजर्व प्राइस/पछिली बोली से 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक राशि बढ़ाकर बोली नहीं लगा सकेगा।
- देशी मदिरा, राजस्थान निर्मित मदिरा (RML), भारत निर्मित विदेशी मदिरा (IMFL) एवं बीयर को कम्पोजिट दुकानों का जिलेवार व नीलामी की दिनांकवार विवरण एवं उनके आवेदन शुल्क, न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राइस एवं अमानत राशि का विवरण विभागीय वेबसाईट <https://rajexcise.gov.in> एवं एम.एस.टी.सी. लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> पर नीलामी की नियत दिनांक से 03 दिवस पूर्व से उपलब्ध रहेगा।
- ई-नीलामी हेतु सर्वप्रथम इच्छुक बोलीदाता को एम.एस.टी.सी. लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> पर एकबारीय ऑनलाईन पंजीकरण (रजिस्ट्रेशन) करना होगा, जिससे आबकारी बन्दोबस्त वर्ष 2022-23 में होने वाली दुकानों की समस्त नीलामियों में भाग लिया जा सकेगा।
- एकबारीय पंजीकरण**:- बोलीदाता को एम.एस.टी.सी. लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट पर पंजीकरण के लिये पेनकार्ड नम्बर दर्ज करना अनिवार्य होगा। आधार कार्ड का नम्बर इन्द्राज करना वैकल्पिक होगा। नीलामिता इन् इन दस्तावेज के नम्बर इन्द्राज करने पर लाॅगिन आई.डी. व पासवार्ड जरूरत कर एकबारीय पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया पूर्ण कर सकेगा। साथ ही बोलीदाता को पहचान एवं पते के प्रमाण स्वस्थ आधार कार्ड या निर्वाचन विभाग द्वारा जारी फोटो परिचय पत्र या ड्राइविंग लाईसेंस की स्व: प्रमाणीत प्रति अपलोड करनी होगी। कम्पनी/फर्म की स्थिति में उससे सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज भी अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। एक बारीय पंजीकरण कर लिया है उन्हें पुन: एकबारीय पंजीकरण करना आवश्यक नहीं है।
- प्रत्येक बोलीदाता को एम.एस.टी.सी. के पोर्टल पर एकबारीय पंजीकरण के समय 1500/- रु. का पंजीयन शुल्क जमा कराया होगा। यह शुल्क पंजीकरण से संबंधित माह (जिस माह में एकबारीय पंजीकरण कराया गया है) की नीलामी प्रक्रिया में काम में लिया जा सकेगा एवं बोलीदाता के आवेदन शुल्क में समाविष्ट किया जायेगा। यदि बोलीदाता ने उस माह में किसी भी नीलामी में भाग नहीं लिया है तो यह राशि आगामी माहों में ई-नीलामी आवेदन शुल्क के पेटे समायेजन योग्य नहीं होगी एवं MSTC द्वारा राक्षकोष में जमा करायी जायेगी।
- आवेदन**:-दुकानों का विवरण प्रस्तुति होने के साथ ही इच्छुक बोलीदाता दुकानों का चयन कर ऑनलाईन नीलामी (ई-नीलामी) के आवेदन कर सकेंगे। दुकान का चयन नीलामी हेतु नियत दिवस को नीलामी हेतु नियत समय समाप्ति से पूर्व तक किया जा सकता है। परन्तु MSTC की वेबसाईट पर ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में पंजीयन राशि जमा होना आवश्यक है।
- नीलामी में भाग लेने हेतु इच्छुक आवेदक द्वारा सम्बन्धित मदिरा दुकान हेतु निर्धारित आवेदन शुल्क एवं अमानत राशि एम.एस.टी.सी. द्वारा बोलीदाता के खातिन पर उपलब्ध कराये गये ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के तहत जमा करनी होगी जिसके आधार पर वह ई-नीलामी में भाग ले सकेगा। नीलामी के समय बोलीदाता के वॉलेंट में बाॅलित आवेदन शुल्क एवं लगाई जाने वाली बोली राशि के अनुरूप अमानत राशि उपलब्ध होनी अनिवार्य है।
- ऑनलाईन नीलामी में भाग लेने हेतु इच्छुक आवेदक द्वारा मदिरा दुकानों का चयन कर आवेदन शुल्क एवं अमानत राशि यथासंभव नीलामी की तिथि से एक दिवस पहले रात 11.59 तक MSTC की वेबसाइट पर बोलीदाता के ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में जमा हो जानी चाहिये। ऐसा करने से बोलीदाता विभिन्न प्रकार की तकनीकी समस्याओं से बच सकेंगे।
- आवेदन शुल्क व अमानत राशि ऑनलाईन/इंटरनेट बैंकिंग के माध्यम से जमा कराये जा सकते है।
- बोलीदाता एक से अधिक दुकानों के लिए ई-नीलामी में भाग ले सकेगा। एक से अधिक दुकानों के नीलामी में भाग लेने हेतु बोलीदाता को प्रत्येक दुकान हेतु पृथक-पृथक आवेदन शुल्क व अमानत राशि जमा करानी होगी।
- वर्ष 2022-23 के लिये नीलामी हेतु मदिरा दुकानों (कम्पोजिट) के लिए अग्रतिदेय (Non-refundable) आवेदन शुल्क निम्नानुसार निर्धारित है :

श्रेणी	आवेदन शुल्क
1 करोड़ रुपए तक न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस वाली दुकान	75,000
1 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक एवं 2 करोड़ रुपए तक न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस वाली दुकान	1 लाख
2 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक एवं 3 करोड़ रुपए तक न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस वाली दुकान	1.25 लाख
3 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक एवं 4 करोड़ रुपए तक न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस वाली दुकान	1.50 लाख
4 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक एवं 5 करोड़ रुपए तक न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस वाली दुकान	1.75 लाख
5 करोड़ रुपए से अधिक न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस वाली दुकान	2 लाख

- अमानत राशि (Earnest Money) - प्रत्येक दुकान के लिये ऑनलाईन नीलामी में भाग लेने हेतु निर्धारित न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस की 2 प्रतिशत राशि अमानत राशि के रूप में आवेदन के साथ जमा करायी जानी है। बिड राशि के अनुसार अतिरिक्त अमानत राशि भी जमा करानी होगी। ऑनलाईन नीलामी में Dynamic अमानत राशि का प्रावधान रखा गया है। वर्ष 2022-23 से ऑनलाईन नीलामी प्रक्रिया में Dynamic अमानत राशि का प्रावधान रखा गया है। प्रत्येक दुकान के लिये ऑनलाईन. नीलामी में भाग लेने हेतु निर्धारित न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस से जिस अधिकतम राशि तक बोलीदाता बोली लगाने का इच्छुक है, के 2 प्रतिशत के बराबर अमानत राशि, बोली से पूर्व MSTC के ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में जमा करानी होगी। उदाहरणस्वरूप, अगर किसी दुकान को न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस 1.00 करोड है और बोलीदाता उस बोली को 2.00 करोड़ तक ले जाने का इच्छुक है तो उसको अमानत राशि के पेटे 4.00 लाख रु.एम.एस.टी.सी. के ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में जमा करना होगा। ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में बोली की संभावित राशि के अनुसार अमानत राशि जमा होने पर ही वह उस राशि तक बोली लगा सकेगा। अतः तकनीकी समस्याओं से बचने के लिए नीलामी से पूर्व ही न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राइज से जिस अधिकतम राशि तक बोली लगानी है का 2 प्रतिशत के बराबर अमानत राशि MSTC के ऑनलाईन वॉलेंट में जमा करवा देनी चाहिए। अनुज्ञापत्र हेतु अर्चनाित आवेदक द्वारा जमा कार्ड आई अमानत राशि को धरोहर राशि पेटे समायेजित किया जा सकेगा।
- उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H1) को एम.एस.टी.सी. द्वारा बोली अंतिम (Finalization of Bid) होने की सूचना दी जायेगी।
- नीलामी प्रक्रिया में न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राइज पर ऑनलाईन बोली में अधिकतम राशि देने वाले बोलीदाता को सफल आवेदक के रूप में चयन किया जायेगा। दुकानवार नीलामी से प्राप्त अधिकतम बोली सम्बन्धित दुकान के लिये "वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि के रूप में निर्धारित की जायेगी। दुकानों की बोली स्वीकृति सूची सम्बन्धित जिला आबकारी अधिकारी द्वारा विभागीय वेबसाईट एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर प्रदर्शित की जायेगी।
- सफल बोलीदाता को मदिरा दुकान के लिये स्वीकृत निर्धारित वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि की 05 प्रतिशत के बराबर धरोहर राशि (Security Deposit) बोली स्वीकार्य होने की दिनांक से 03 बैंक कार्यदिवस में जमा करानी होगी।
- सफल बोलीदाता को वर्ष 2022-23 के लिये वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि का 05 प्रतिशत राशि अग्रिम वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि के रूप में नीलामी की बोली स्वीकार्य होने से 05 बैंक कार्यदिवस में राजकोष में जमा करानी होगी।
- सफल बोलीदाता को वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि की 5 प्रतिशत राशि वार्षिक लाईसेंस फीस के रूप में जमा करानी होगी, जिसकी 50 प्रतिशत राशि नीलामी स्वीकार्य होने से 05 कार्यदिवस में तथा शेष 50 प्रतिशत राशि दो किश्तों में क्रमश: द्वितीय और तृतीय त्रैमास में जमा करानी होगी।
- बिन्दु संख्या 18, 19 एवं 20 में बैंक कार्यदिवसों की गणना में जिला आबकारी अधिकारी द्वारा जारी स्वीकृति की दिनांक भी शामिल होगी।
- सफल बोलीदाता द्वारा जमा कार्ड आई अमानत राशि (Earnest Money) को संबंधित मदिरा दुकान की धरोहर राशि पेटे समायेजन किया जा सकेगा।
- निर्धारित समय में बाॅलित राशियाँ यथा-धरोहर राशि, अग्रिम गारण्टी राशि एवं वार्षिक लाईसेंस फीस जमा न करने पर स्वीकृति निरस्त कर अमानत जमा राशि जराजग की जायेगी।
- नीलामी सम्पत्ति के पश्चात प्रत्यय तीन उच्चतम बोलीदाताओं (H1, H2 व H3) की अमानत राशि के अतिरिक्त शेष सभी बोलीदाताओं की अमानत राशि एम.एस.टीसी द्वारा संबंधित बोलीदाता के ऑनलाईन बाॅलिट में थ्यांनॉलित कर दी जाएगी।
- सफल बोलीदाता (H1) के किसी कारण से बैंक आउट होने पर द्वितीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H2) को सफल बोलीदाता (H1) द्वारा प्रस्तावित वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि पर उस दुकान को लेने हेतु अवसर दिया जायेगा तथा द्वितीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H2) द्वारा सहमति देने पर पूर्व उल्लेखित प्रक्रिया अनुसार राशि जमा करने पर उसके पक्ष में अस्थायी अनुज्ञापत्र जारी किया जायेगा।
- द्वितीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H2) द्वारा उपर्युक्त अवसर के बाद सहमति ना देने पर तृतीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H3) को प्रथम सफल बोलीदाता (H1) द्वारा प्रस्तावित वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि पर उस दुकान को लेने हेतु अवसर दिया जायेगा तथा तृतीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H3) द्वारा सहमति देने पर पूर्व उल्लेखित प्रक्रिया अनुसार राशि जमा करने पर उसके पक्ष में अस्थायी अनुज्ञापत्र जारी किया जायेगा।
- प्रथम (H1), द्वितीय (H2) व तृतीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H3) द्वारा उपर्युक्त प्रक्रिया में बैंक आउट होने पर नये सिरे से निर्धारित प्रक्रिया अनुसार पुन: बन्दोबस्त की कार्यवाही की जायेगी।
- नीलामी प्रक्रिया में न्यूनतम रिजर्व प्राईस पर ऑनलाईन बोली में अधिकतम राशि देने वाले बोलीदाता को सफल आवेदक के रूप में चयन किया जायेगा, परन्तु एक व्यक्ति एक जिले में दो दुकानों से अधिक एवं समूणों राज्य में पांच दुकानों से अधिक नहीं ले सकेगा। यह शर्त राज सरकार के मदिरा होल्सेलर राजस्थान गंगागार. शुगर मिल्स लि. एवं राजस्थान स्टेट बेक्केरेज कॉर्पोरेशन लि. पर लागू नहीं होगी।
- बोलीदाता की किसी आबकारी जिले में दो से अधिक दुकानों के लिए उच्चतम बोली रहने पर केवल दो दुकानों के लिए ही अस्थायी अनुज्ञापत्र की स्वीकृति जारी की जाएगी।
- किसी बोलीदाता को राज्य में पांच से अधिक अधिक दुकानों के लिए उच्चतम बोली रहने पर केवल पांच दुकानों के लिए ही अस्थायी अनुज्ञापत्र की स्वीकृति जारी की जायेगी। बोलीदाता का यह दावित्व होगा की राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में उसके द्वारा लगाई गई बोलियों में से रही उच्चतम बोली की सूचना (दुकान व आबकारी वृत्तवार) संबंधित जिला आबकारी अधिकारियों को नीलामी समाप्ति के पश्चात तत्काल (12 घंटे के भीतर) सूचित करेगा।
- यदि आबकारी जिले में किसी बोलीदाता को दो या तथा राज्य में पांच से अधिक दुकानों के लिए उच्चतम बोली रहती है तो बोलीदाता को संबंधित जिले में वें दो दुकाने व राज्य में वे पांच दुकानें स्वीकृत की जाएगी जिनकी वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि अधिकतम हो। शेष दुकानो हेतु द्वितीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H2) को सफल बोलीदाता (H1) द्वारा प्रस्तावित वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि पर उस रिटेल ऑफ दुकान (कम्पोजिट दुकान) को लेने हेतु अवसर दिया जायेगा तथा द्वितीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H2) द्वारा सहमति देने पर पूर्व उल्लेखित प्रक्रिया अनुसार राशि जमा करने पर उसके पक्ष में अस्थायी अनुज्ञापत्र की स्वीकृति जारी की जायेगी।
- द्वितीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H2) द्वारा उपर्युक्त अवसर के बाद सहमति ना देने पर तृतीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H3) को प्रथम सफल बोलीदाता (H1) द्वारा प्रस्तावित वार्षिक गारण्टी राशि पर उस दुकान (कम्पोजिट दुकान) को लेने हेतु अवसर दिया जायेगा तथा तृतीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H3) द्वारा सहमति देने पर पूर्व उल्लेखित प्रक्रिया अनुसार राशि जमा करने पर उसके पक्ष में अस्थायी अनुज्ञापत्र जारी किया जायेगा। द्वितीय (H2) व तृतीय उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H3) द्वारा उपर्युक्त प्रक्रिया में बैंक आउट होने/सहमति नहीं देने पर नये सिरे से निर्धारित प्रक्रिया अनुसार पुन: बन्दोबस्त की कार्यवाही की जाएगी।
- बिंदु संख्या 30 के प्रकरणों में प्रथम तीन उच्चतम बोलीदाता (H1, H2 एवं H3) में से जिस बोलीदाता के पक्ष में अनुज्ञापत्र जारी होता है उसके अनुज्ञापत्र जारी होने के उपरांत H1 एवं अनुज्ञापत्र के अतिरिक्त शेष बोलीदाताओं की अमानत राशि संबंधित जिला आबकारी अधिकारी के निर्देशानुसार एमएसटीसी द्वारा संबंधित बोलीदाता के वॉलेंट में लौटा दी जायेगी।
- बोलीदाता को ई-नीलामी में भाग लेने से पूर्व विभागीय वेबसाईट <https://rajexcise.gov.in> एवं एम.एस.टी.सी. लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> पर उपलब्ध आबकारी एवं मद्यसंयम नीति वर्ष 2022-23 एवं 2023-24, समस्त दिशा-निर्देश, प्रक्रिया एवं शर्तों का सावधानीपूर्वक अध्ययन कर लिया जाना चाहिये।
- बोलीदाता कम्प्यूटर/लेपटॉप को इंटरनेट से जोड़ कर घर, कार्यालय, ई-मित्र सेन्टर तथा साइबर कैंफे के माध्यम से ई-नीलामी में भाग ले सकता है।
- राजस्थान आबकारी अधिनियम, 1950 एवं इसके अन्तर्गत बनाए गए नियमों के समस्त प्रावधान यथास्थान में लागू होंगे।
- मदिरा दुकानों के बन्दोबस्त हेतु वे हो व्यक्ति ई-नीलामी में भाग ले सकेगें, जो राजस्थान आबकारी अधिनियम, 1950 एवं इसके अन्तर्गत बनाए गए नियमों, आबकारी एवं मध्यस्थन नीति वर्ष 2022-23 व 2023-24 व भारतीय सिविद अधिनियम के तहत अनुबन्ध करने की योग्यता रखते हो। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत दिशा निर्देश <https://rajexcise.gov.in> व <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> पर उपलब्ध है।
- आबकारी बंदोबस्त की अवधि वर्ष 2022-23 व वर्ष 2023-24 (दिनांक 01.04.2022 से 31.03.2024) के लिए होगी। वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए बन्दोबस्त आबकारी एवं मद्यसंयम नीति वर्ष 2022-23 एवं वर्ष 2023-24 के बिन्दु संख्या 2.7 के अनुसार होगा।
- ई-नीलामी के संबंध में अन्य जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाईट <https://rajexcise.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु संबंधित अतिरिक्त आयुक्त जौन, जिला आबकारी अधिकारी एवं जिला आबकारी अधिकारी कार्यालय से सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
- एमएसटीसी हैल्व डेस्क पर भी कार्यालय समय में मार्गदर्शन लिया जा सकता है।
- ई-नीलामी के संबंध में अन्य प्रावधान आबकारी एवं मद्यसंयम नीति 2022-23 व 2023-24 के अनुसार रहेंगे।
- ई-नीलामी के संबंध में यदि कोई विवाद उत्पन्न होता है तो न्यायिक क्षेत्र संबंधित जिला ही रहेगा।

हस्ता/-

(चेतन देवड़ा)

आबकारी आयुक्त
राजस्थान, उदयपुर

दिनांक: 02.04.2022

MASKS IN PUBLIC NO LONGER MUST IN HARYANA

Gurgaon: The Haryana government said Saturday that wearing face masks in public places was no longer mandatory. A notification issued by additional chief secretary (health and family welfare) Rajeev Arora stated, "State govern-

ment notification dated 27.05.2020, vide which wearing face mask by each person, while being in public places and work-places, was made mandatory, is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect..."

ENS



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice Number: Cycle-Sco-Motcyc-AF-22-01

Date 17.03.2022

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-tender on prescribed forms are invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Agra on behalf of The President of India for awarding of Cycle, Scooter, Motor Cycle & Car parking Contract at Agra fort Railway Station (PF- 01, Near Outward Parcel Office circulating area) North Central Railway for the period of Five years under "Two packet tendering system". The details of particulars are as follows:-

Tender No.	Cycle-Sco-Motcyc-AF-22-01	Date 17.03.2022
	Cycle Scooter, Motor Cycle & Car Parking Contract at Agra Fort Railway Station (PF-01, Near Outward Parcel Office circulating area)	
Name of work		
Duration of work	5 Years	
Approx. cost of the work	Rs. 36,84,598/- (For 05 years)	
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 20000/-	
Cost of Tender Form	Rs. 3,540.00	
Validity of offer	90 days from the date of tender opening	
E-Tender closing date & time	13.04.2022 up to 15:00 Hours	
E-Tender opening date & time	13.04.2022 up to 15:30 Hours	
E-Tender Uploading date	23.03.2022	

For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in.

- Tender can be submitted only online on web portal www.ireps.gov.in
- Earnest money and tender document cost shall only be submitted on web portal www.ireps.gov.in by net banking.

369/22 (SP)

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



U.P.RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD HARDUAGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION, KASIMPUR (ALIGARH)

E-Tender Notice

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&MC-I, DTPS, HTPS, KASIMPUR

- E-Tender No. ST-06/O&MC-I/OG&CD/DTPS/HTPS/2021-22, Online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Round the clock operation, routine, preventive & Breakdown maintenance of Pre-treatment plant including ETM, DP plant & Gravity filtration plant, CW Treatment Plant & Coal Slurry settling Plant of WTP, Maintenance of Phosphate, Ammonia, Hydrazine & NaOH dosing system etc. & General maintenance of L P Piping system of, OG&CD DTPS HTPS" E-tender has been uploaded on 30.03.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work Rs. 33,71,798, Time Period: 12 Months, EMD Cost: Rs. 67,500.00, Last date of Tender 16.04.2022 at 14:00 Hrs. **Superintending Engineer, O&MC-IV, DTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh**
- Very Short Term E-Tender No. 61/O&MC-IV/D TPS/EMD-III/C TPS/2021-22, Online e-bids are invited for the work of "work of "Providing Temporary power supply to Tower T-4/C and T-3/C building at new colony, HTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh." E-tender will be uploaded up to 30.03.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work Rs.2,81,100.00 only. Time period : 03 Month, EMD Cost Rs. 5622.00, Last date of Tender 18.04.2022 up to 14:00 Hrs. **Superintending Engineer, MMC, Harduaganj 'D' TPS, Kasimpur (Aligarh)**
- E-Tender No. : ET-11/MMC/EPD/DTPS/2022, Online e-bids are invited for the work of Supply of Mild Steel Grating for Platform of Mill Floor of DTPS, Kasimpur, E-tender will be uploaded up to 01.04.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of e-tender is Rs. 1722564.00. EMD Rs. 28000.00, Last date of Tender 02.05.2022
- E-Tender No. : ET-12/MMC/EPD/DTPS/2022, Online e-bids are invited for the work of Supply of feed gate pneumatic cylinder with complete viton seals for Ash Handling Plant of DTPS, Kasimpur. E-Tender will be uploaded up to 02.04.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of e-tender is Rs. 504155.00. EMD. Last date of Tender 04.05.2022
- E-Tender No. : ET-13/MMC/EPD/DTPS/2022, Online e-bids are invited for the work of Supply & refilling of Hydrogen H₂ gas Cylinders for Generators of Unit#7 & DTPS, Kasimpur. E-tender will be uploaded up to 01.04.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of e-tender is Rs. 2365953.00. EMD Rs. 40000, Tender will be uploaded on 01.04.2022. Last date of Tender 02.05.2022
- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, E&MCC-V, 1x660 MW, HTPS, KASIMPUR, ALIGARH**
- E-Tender No. ET-01/EMCC-V/EMCD-IX/1x660 MW/HDGJ/2021-22, Online e-bids are invited for the work "Biennial contract for round the clock routine, preventive maintenance cum operation and breakdown maintenance of mechanical equipments and general cleaning works of wet limestone FGD and SCR systems of 1x660 MW (Ext.-II), HTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh", E-tender will be uploaded up to 31.03.2022 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> at 16:00 Hrs. Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 4,39,70,308.00, EMD: Rs. 4,50,000.00, Last date of tender 09.05.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs.
- Note-** Tender ET- 11/12/13 Eligibility Conditions: Only reputed Manufacturers/ their Authorized Dealer can participate in this tender.
- Note- Total quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender documents available on the e-portal. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Part-I shall contain Tender Cost/Earnest money and other necessary documents as per pre-qualifying conditions and Part -II will contain price bid as per bill of quantity. Tender specification may be downloaded from the website (<http://etender.up.nic.in>) and other specification details can be seen on Nigam website www.uprvnl.org. The contractors have to submit the hard copy before the schedule date/time in the concern office in sealed envelope containing details of the tender mentioned on the envelope. Tenders are advised to send their hard copy directly to the concerned tendering authority of the Circles/ Division. Who reserve the right to unaccept/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Superintending Engineer (H.Q.)

पत्रांक : 12/अधी0अधि0(गु)/विज्ञापन/कैम्प-1(11)/22 दिनांक 31.03.2022

“Save Electricity Enhance National Productivity”

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY					
OPEN TENDER		Batch No. 113/22			
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.					
Sr.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Published on	
1	04223996A	Brake Beam complete	3198 Nos.	24.03.22/13:41:41	
2	04223957	Wearing piece for side bearer	984 Nos.	26.03.22/22:35:19	
3	04211048B	Upgraded high capacity drag gear	273 Nos.	26.03.22/22:38:35	
4	04223997	Inhibitor corrosion for 1600 HHP	15000 Ltrs	26.03.22/22:27:07	
5	06211019	Terminal block 6 way	17620 Nos.	29.03.22/11:19:40	
6	06225002	Led signal lamps for main colour light signals	7984 Nos.	30.03.22/11:19:40	
7	06215164A	Underground Railway jelling filled 6 quad cable	643 KM	30.03.22/11:19:40	
8	062250025	Supply, installation & commissioning of multi section digital axle counter	1 Set	30.03.22/11:19:40	
9	11227150A	New insulation oil shall	100989 Ltrs	31.03.22/12:11:11	

Bharat Biotech suspends Covaxin supply to UN agencies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

THE WORLD Health Organisation on Saturday confirmed suspension of supply of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin through UN procurement agencies to allow the company to address "GMP (good manufacturing practices) deficiencies". The WHO after conducting a post-EUL (emergency use listing) inspection between March 14 and 22 identified the deficiencies and suggested process and facility upgrade.

This, however, does not impact the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. "The risk assessment to date does not indicate change in the risk-benefit ratio. The data, available to WHO, indicate the vaccine is effective and no safety concern exists," said WHO in a release.

The WHO said that the company has decided to suspend its production for export as a precautionary measure. "The company is developing a corrective and preventive action plan," it said.

The WHO has asked countries receiving Covaxin to take appropriate measures and has provided a list of other approved vaccines to continue their vaccination drive. This comes after the company announced scaling down its supply within the country for the maintenance and upgrade of its manufacturing facility.

So far, over 30.78 crore doses of Covaxin have been administered, according to data from the government's CoWIN portal. The company was supplying over 5 to 6 crore doses every month.

TN govt effects property tax revision after 24 years, AIADMK sees red

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, APRIL 2

THE TAMIL Nadu government on Saturday announced effecting an across-the-board revision in property tax to mop up revenue for local bodies, proposing up to 150 per cent increase, but asserted the rates were lesser than many other states.

The main opposition AIADMK lashed out at the move, saying this was only a "trailer" and that more "bumper prizes were in store" for the people for electing its rival, the DMK, in the elections.

DMK ally Congress also opposed the decision, saying it would further burden the people in the wake of the rising fuel

KERALA SILVERLINE PROJECT

Family endorses rail corridor during Union Minister's protest campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 2

UNION MINISTER V Muraleedharan's campaign against the Kerala government's flagship SilverLine project saw a dramatic twist on Saturday as a family here publicly endorsed the rail corridor and informed him that they have no problem in parting with their land for the same even though he repeatedly tried to explain to them its 'drawbacks'.

The embarrassing incident occurred at Kazhakkootam here when the minister arrived to meet people and lend a ear to their concerns regarding the semi-high-speed rail project by visiting their homes as part of his anti-SilverLine campaign.

However, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan once again rejected state-wide protests against the ambitious project and said people would receive compensation twice the market price for their acquired land.

The future of the land is more important, he said while speaking at a function in Kozhikode and urged the media not to act as "megaphones" of anti-development campaigners.

Meanwhile, Muraleedharan, in the visuals aired by the television channels, could be seen visiting the house of an elderly couple and trying to talk to them.

As soon as he stepped into

As minister backs anti-halal protests, slaughter norm order raises fears

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, APRIL 2

AS HINDU right-wing organisations continue to press their campaign against halal meat, traders fear that a routine government circular reiterating that an animal be stunned before slaughter could be used to harass them.

The order was issued by the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services on Friday, noting that complaints had been received of licences being issued for slaughterhouses without ensuring that rules were being followed, and that officials must ensure that such facilities provide for stunning (usually done through administration of an electric shock). A violation would entail a fine of Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

With most slaughterhouses operating from small facilities, few meet the stunning requirement. Plus, whether the meat of an animal killed after stunning could qualify as halal is a grey area.

An anti-halal campaign has been going on in Karnataka coinciding with the Kannada New Year of Ugadi (this year observed on Saturday), marked by many Hindus by eating meat the day after. The Hindu right-wing outfits have been urging Hindus to not buy meat from halal shops, with incidents reported of Bajrang Dal men assaulting Muslim shop and restaurant owners.

On Saturday, Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai instructed DCs

prices and called for a re-think on the mode of its implementation.

Another ally of the DMK, CPI (M), sought a rollback of the revision. Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru told reporters in New Delhi that the tax revision was effected in line with the 15th Finance Commission guidelines and that central funds would be made available only if it was done.

BJP state chief K Annamalai refuted the Centre had issued any mandate on revising the tax structure and referred the relevant parts from the order in this connection to buttress his claim.

"The central government has nowhere directed two or three fold increase in the tax," he said in a statement.



Police use water cannon to disperse Muslim Youth League activists during their protest in front of the State Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday. PTI

their premises, the woman in the house raised slogans praising Vijayan and his development programmes. "We are with the government... our land is for the development programme," she said and wanted the SilverLine project to be implemented in the southern state.

Though visibly surprised at the unexpected turn of events, the Minister tried to talk and convince them but the elderly woman said she did not want to hear anything from him as they had enough knowledge about the project. Her husband also made it clear that they had no qualms in giving away the land and were ready to shift to another property owned by the family if the present place is acquired for the rail corridor.

The woman told reporters



Karnataka minister Shashikala Jolle says Hindu outfits are spreading awareness about 'jhatka cut'.

and SPs of all districts to take necessary measures to ensure peaceful celebrations. "Festivals should be celebrated without any disruption in law and order," he said.

On a question about a campaign by some pro-Hindu outfits against halal meat, Bommai said officials had been instructed to hold peace meetings in their areas. At the same time, Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment Minister Shashikala Jolle said she backed the protests against halal meat. "The halal vs non-halal meat is very much an issue in coastal Karnataka, if not in other parts of the state. Whatever our Hindu outfits are doing appears right. They are spreading awareness about the 'jhatka cut' of the animal because it has to be offered to god," she told reporters.

An official in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike admitted that the Animal Husbandry Department's letter was a routine order during

Smuggled baby kangaroo found dead, 3 rescued in north Bengal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, APRIL 2

A BABY kangaroo was found dead and three others rescued from different parts of Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal, thousands of kilometres from their natural habitat in Australia and New Guinea, forest department officials said on Saturday.

The dead joey (baby kangaroo) was found in Nepali Bustee near Farabari area of Siliguri town in northern Bengal on Saturday, while others were rescued from the Gajaldoba and Dabgram-Farabari localities last night following a tip-off, they further said.

In both cases, those carrying the kangaroos fled from the spot, they further said. Baikunthapur Forest Division Ranger Sanjay Dutta said that an investigation has been initiated into the entire

Ugadi, and that it is barely followed with few slaughterhouses equipped with shock facilities to stun animals. A Veterinary Department official who spoke to *The Sunday Express* on condition of anonymity said the state doesn't have enough registered slaughterhouses for stunning the animal. "The order cannot be implemented but can be used as a tool to impose fines on slaughterhouses," the official said.

The Central government order requiring stunning before slaughter of any animal or bird dates back to March 23, 2001, and falls under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Slaughter House) Rules 2001 section (6) subsection (4).

Khasim Shoaibur Rahaman Qureshi, the president of the All India Jamaithul Qureshi of Karnataka, an organisation of butchers in the state, said the latest notification would be used to target halal meat sellers. "There are very few large meat exporters who have the facility. Has the government modernised slaughterhouses for this? And who even knows about this rule?"

Santosh, who owns two meat shops in Bengaluru and is anticipating good business this year due to the social media campaign for jhatka meat compared to halal, also expressed ignorance about stunning. "Where is the awareness and where are the facilities? The Animal Husbandry Department is so corrupt that one can get a licence for a butcher shop for Rs 2,000."



Two of the four kangaroos after being rescued. Express

matter. "After being rescued, all three kangaroos were sent for treatment. We are surprised as who brought these kangaroos here and how. We suspect these kangaroos were being smuggled to Nepal. But we are looking into the motive behind smuggling as well," a senior forest official said. The kangaroos were sent to

Sangeet Som Sena chief, six others booked for vandalising food cart

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, APRIL 2

SARDHANA POLICE on Saturday booked the UP chief of Sangeet Som Sena, Sachin Khatik, and six others for trying to disturb communal peace after they allegedly vandalised a food cart, claiming that mutton biryani was being sold.

The outfit, formed by the supporters of former BJP MLA Sangeet Som, had earlier reportedly called for a ban on the sale of meat and non-vegetarian food in Sardhana during the Navratri festival that began on Saturday.

"We have registered a case against Khatik and six others as they tried to disturb communal peace. The food cart seller was selling vegetable biryani, which Khatik and his supporters claimed to be mutton biryani. Even if it had been non-veg biryani, vandalising the cart was a crime aimed at creating unnecessary mischief because sale of mutton or chicken biryani is not banned," Laxman Verma, the in-charge of Sardhana Police Station told *The Sunday Express*.

Sardhana is a town with a sizable Muslim population. Ahead of Navratri festival, meat sellers

in the town had decided to do away with the sale of mutton and chicken during the nine-day festival. According to police, Khatik and his supporters on Saturday roamed the town to see if the cart sellers had heeded their call for a ban on the sale of mutton and chicken. They allegedly targeted the food cart, which was selling vegetable biryani, and turned it upside down.

Saajid, the owner of the food cart, alleged that Khatik and his supporters also looted money from him. "I was instructed by the police not to sell mutton or chicken biryani during the Navratri. That is why I had prepared vegetable biryani. In the afternoon, members of the Sangeet Som Sena stormed toward my cart and vandalised it. They also looted the cash I had," Saajid said.

Later, former zila panchayat chief, Seema Pradhan, reached the spot and protested against Sangeet Som Sena. "Though a case has been registered against the Sangeet Som Sena chief, we doubt that police would go for a serious investigation because of the clout that the former BJP MLA wields," alleged Seema Pradhan, whose husband, Atul Pradhan, defeated Sangeet Som in the just concluded Assembly elections in the state.

Two police posts created for Gorakhnath temple security

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, APRIL 2

AFTER KASHI Vishwanath temple in Varanasi, Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi site in Mathura and the under-construction Ram Temple site in Ayodhya, the UP government has now created posts of an additional superintendent of police (ASP) and a deputy superintendent of police for the security of Gorakhnath Math in Gorakhpur, where the head priest is Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The UP Police had recently sent a proposal to the government to upgrade the security of the Gorakhnath temple.

"We assess security and threat perception of vital installations, including shrines, and found that there is a need to upgrade the security at Gorakhnath temple. A proposal was sent to the government to upgrade its security," UP Director General of Police Mukul Goel said.

When asked if was there any specific input of threat to the temple, the DGP said: "It (the temple) is a possible target and its security should be more tightened. We will work according to the direction issued by the government."

Notably, an Additional SP (Security) was posted at the Gorakhnath temple in January this year. Sources said that the UP Police had sought two gazetted officers, who will be responsible for the temple's security.

The Gorakhnath temple emerged as a political power centre after its head Yogi Adityanath became the CM of UP in 2017. The temple has a large number of followers across the country. The math is known to have played an active role in the Ayodhya Ram Temple movement under its three mahants—Digvijay Nath, Avaidyanath and Yogi Adityanath.

Waqf Board returns 7 encroached properties to Rampur royals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, APRIL 2

THE UP Shia Central Waqf Board has taken possession of at least seven Waqf properties in Rampur that were allegedly encroached upon by senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, and handed them over to the erstwhile royal family of Rampur.

"There were allegations that Azam Khan had encroached several Waqf properties in Rampur and had distributed the custodi-

anship of the properties to his people. At least seven such properties in Rampur, which are valued hundreds of crores, have been returned to the family of the Rampur Nawab's family," Ali Zaidi, chairman of Shia Central Waqf Board, told *The Sunday Express*.

"There were also allegations that people working at these properties had not received salaries for the past 13 months. Haider Ali Khan alias Hamza Miyan, the grandson of Begum Noorbano of the royal family, has been made the caretaker," Zaidi,

who was elected chairman of the Board last November, said, adding the decision was taken during the March 31 meeting of the Waqf Board.

Khan was elected MLA from Rampur in the just concluded Assembly elections. He is currently in Sitapur jail in connection with several cases of land grabbing. As per the Rampur police record, as many as 81 cases were lodged against Azam Khan since the BJP government came to power in the state in 2017.

Notably, the erstwhile royal



Shops that were torched during the clash, Saturday. Express

RAJASTHAN

Curfew in Karauli after clash during bike rally

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, APRIL 2

CURFEW WAS imposed in Karauli city of Rajasthan after communal tension broke out following stone-pelting at a motorcycle rally passing through a Muslim-dominated area on Nav Samvatsar, the first day of the new year under the Hindu calendar on Saturday, officials said.

According to police, the incident took place on Saturday evening in Karauli city which resulted in arson of shops and vehicles. "Hindu outfits were taking out a religious bike rally on the occasion of Hindu new year today evening. While the procession reached near a mosque, some miscreants pelted stones on them. This resulted in stone pelting and arson by the other side too in which a few two-wheelers and shops were torched. The situation is under control now and a large number of police personnel have been deployed," said ADG Administration and Law and Order, Hawa Singh Ghumaria on Saturday.

Ghumaria added that people from both sides sustained injuries during the incident. "More than 20 people sustained injuries. Most of the injuries are minor in nature. One person sustained injuries in the head and has been referred to Jaipur in a critical condition. We have rounded up two dozen people and curfew has been imposed in the area," Ghumaria

added. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot spoke to the DGP and has directed that all guilty be dealt with strictly. Gehlot also appealed to the public to maintain peace.

The opposition BJP criticised the government over the incident. "I strongly condemn the attack on the rally in Karauli on the occasion of Nav Samvatsar by people from opposing mentality. Hateful mindset can't be allowed to grow in Rajasthan. The administration should take strong action against the culprits," tweeted former chief minister Vasundhara Raje in Hindi. Raje said that had the administration taken caution before the rally, the incident could have been avoided. "The harmony deteriorated also because of the laxity of the administration," said Raje.

State BJP president Satish Poonia also criticised the government and said that incident is a result of the Congress's policy of 'appeasement'. ADG Ghumaria added that senior police officers including IG Bharatpur, IG Law and Order have been sent to Karauli. "Extra force of around 600 police personnel have been sent to Karauli. Fire brigade has controlled the fire at most of the shops which were targeted during the arson," said Ghumaria.

Meanwhile, the Karauli administration wrote a letter to the Bharatpur divisional commissioner, requesting that internet services be suspended in the district till April 3 midnight.

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

Nine NHAI officials among 22 booked for 'corruption'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

NINE OFFICIALS of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and five companies are among 22 accused booked by the CBI for alleged corruption in execution and operation of three highway projects.

The CBI alleged that the NHAI officials, including three general manager-level officers, took Rs 1-2 lakh monthly bribe from the accused companies. The offence took place between 2008 and 2010 when the UPA government was in power at the Centre. According to the CBI, the companies also fudged accounts and falsified payment receipts against work that was never done.

The case pertains to three NHAI projects — Surat-Hazira Port Section of NH 6; Varanasi-Aurangabad Section of NH-2; and Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar Section of NH-8.

The three general managers identified as accused in the CBI FIR are LP Padhy, CK Sinha and Vibhav Mittal. Other officials include project directors and managers. The companies accused in the case are Isolux Corsan India Engineering and Construction Pvt Ltd (ICIECPL); Goyal Construction Co, Jaipur; Soma-Isolux Surat-Hazira Tollway Pvt Ltd; Soma-Isolux Varanasi-Aurangabad Tollway Pvt Ltd; and Mahadeo Construction Co.

According to CBI, ICIECPL is

already under liquidation. According to Registrar of Companies, the company was incorporated in June 2008. Barring Mahadev Construction and Goyal Constructions, the other two companies are special purpose vehicles of Isolux and Soma Enterprises to operate the highway. The CBI had initiated a preliminary inquiry into the matter in November 2018 based on "source information". Following its completion, a regular case has been filed.

The CBI has alleged that in the Surat-Hazira Port Section of NH-6, NHAI officials CK Sinha and Vibhav Mittal entered into a criminal conspiracy with office-bearers of Isolux and one Kamal Constructions. "CK Sinha and Vibhav Mittal... habitually accepted monthly cash amount of Rs 1 lakh each from Isolux, facilitated by Kamal Construction, Surat, during execution of the said project for its smooth functioning," the CBI FIR said.

It alleged that Kamal Constructions facilitated cash generation "by providing false invoices of Kamal Construction to Isolux against which no work was done, got the amount credited to its bank account and provided cash (after deducting 4 per cent commission)" to an officer-bearer of ICIECPL.

According to CBI, similar modus operandi was adopted in Varanasi-Aurangabad Section of NH-2 and Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar Section of NH-8.

on Saturday said after the formation of the SP government in 2012, many Waqf properties were allegedly "encroached" by Azam Khan, who was then the Waqf Minister.

Following the reorganisation of the Shia Waqf Board last November, an inquiry was conducted into complaints of illegal occupation of the Waqf properties. The official said Azam Khan could not give "satisfactory answers" during the probe. "The action has been taken as per rules of the Waqf Properties Act."

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**PNIT No.:** 32/EE/MCD/PWD(R&B)/21-22

The Executive Engineer, Medical College Division, PWD (Buildings), Agartala, West Tripura on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura', invites online percentage rate e-tender for the following work:

- Name of work:** Up-gradation / Strengthening of ANM School at Durjoynagar, Agartala, Tripura (West)/SH: Construction of Administrative & Academic (G+2) Storied Building/ Building portion including Internal water supply, Sanitary Installation, Sewage & Drainage works.
 - Estimated Cost** : ₹ 7,45,33,826.51
 - Bid Fee** : 10,000.00
 - Last date & time for online Bidding** : 27-04-2022 upto 3:00 PM
- Note:** The bid forms and other details including online activities should be done in the e-procurement portal <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Sd/-

Executive Engineer**Medical College Division, PWD (Buildings)
Agartala, West Tripura**

ICA-C-015-22

Save Energy for the benefit of self and nation
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Government Undertaking)

PRESS TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on partial lumpsum 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:

Tender No.	CE/M&C/OTRS-Mashobra (LWSS)/T No. 01/2022-23
Description of Work:	Providing New Spare Capacity of DTPs (1x3.15 MVA & 2x2 MVA) for LWSS Scheme at Gumma and Drabia at various stages to provide Reliable Power Supply to Pumping Station in ES Gumma under ESJ Mashobra under operation HPSEB Ltd. Shimla-09.
Estimated Cost	Rs. 2,15,02,971/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,15,030/-
Cost of Tender Document inclusive GST (Non-refundable)	Rs. 2,360/-
Completion period	05 months
Key Dates:-	
1. Date of online publication	05.04.2022
2. Start date and time of bid submission	05.04.2022 (at 11:30 AM)
3. End date and time of bid submission	12.04.2022 (upto 11:30 AM)
4. Date and time of opening of techno comm. bid	13.04.2022 (at 11:30 AM)

The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted on line on website <https://www.hpsebtenders.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 HPSEB, may obtain the same from the website <https://www.hpsebtenders.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.

Dr. G. C. Shandilya,
Chief Engineer (DPI) South, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BHANDARA**
NOTICE FOR Request for Proposal (RFP) Tenders
Executive Engineer, Public Work Division, BHANDARA .
email-bhandara.ee@mahapwd.gov.in (Phone No. 07184-252412)

E-TENDER NOTICE/ 45/ FOR 2021-22

INVITATION of Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study cum DPR, Survey and Preparation of Land Plan by adopting LIDAR or similar technology for Widening to two lane with Paved Shoulders to various roads as per packages mentioned below in the state of Maharashtra Public Works Department Public Works Division Bhandara (the "Authority") is engaged in the development of highways and as part of this endeavor. The Public Works department in Government of Maharashtra through Maharashtra Road Improvement Project with financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (the "Projects") has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of the Consultant to whom the D P R Preparation of the Project may be awarded. Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

E-Tender Time Table	
1. Download Period of Online Tender	Dt. 05.04/2022 at 10.00 a.m. To Dt. 19/04/2022 at 18.00 p.m.
2. Last date and time online raising of technical points for clarification	Online raising of technical points on before Dt. 12/04/2022 @ 12.00 hrs.
Last date for receiving queries for pre bid/Pre-proposal meeting (Pre-bid Meeting & Place)	Dt. 17/04/2022 @ 12.00 hrs In the Office of the Superintendent Engineer, P.W. Circle Nagpur, Old Secretariats, Opp. GPN CIVILLINE Nagpur, 440001
3. Submission of Tender Document (HardCopy)	Office of Superintendent Engineer, P.W. Circle, Nagpur Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bhandara On or before 19/04/2022 at 10.00 a.m.
6. Place, Date and timing of opening Request For Proposal	Dt. 22.04.2022 at 11.00 a.m. in the office of Superintendent Engineer, Public Works Circle, Nagpur.

Note:-

- All the payment towards cost of Tender forms will be done online only through RTGS/NEFT. It should be noted that one should complete these activities at leastone day in advance.
- All eligible/interested consultants who want to participate in tendering process should compulsory get enrolled on e-tendering portal " <https://mahatenders.gov.in> " and further need to empanel online on sub portal " <http://pwd.maharashtra.tenders.in> " in the appropriate category applicable to them.
- Contact below for difficulties in online submission of tenders, 0120-4001 002 , 0120-4001 005, 0120-6277 787
Email Id support-eproc(at)nic(dot)in
- Other terms and conditions are detailed in online e-tender form. Right to reject any or all online bid of work, without assigning any reasons thereof, is reserved with department.
- Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website www.mahapwd.com

Outward No. /T/C/Dt.

**Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division
Bhandara**
Ph. No.:- 07184-252412
Email-bhandara.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer
Public Works Division
Bhandara**

“IMPORTANT”

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

SALUTE THE SOLDIERHC/GD A P YADAV
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BCL DHANBAD
03-04-1996CT/GD H MONDAL
BCL DHANBAD
03-04-1996CT/GD ALAM ALI
BCL DHANBAD
03-04-1996

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with militants. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY**e-Tender Notice**

Tender No. : 02/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD. KIIFB -2017-18 - CWSS to Karimba, Kongad and Mundur (Part) panchayaths - phase I - Package - 2 - balance works. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 17700. Last Date for submitting Tender : 03-05-2022 03:00:pm. Phone : 04912544927. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in. www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Palakkad

KWA-JB-GL-6-11-2022-23



NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Govt. Of India Undertaking)
NANGAL UNIT, NAYA NANGAL - 140125 (PUNJAB)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Ref. No. NFL/NGU/Materials/PN/SPX/2021/102 Date: 02.04.2022

Ref. No. NFL/NGU/Welfare/18/2022

Sr. No.	Work Description	EMD FEE Tender Fee in Rs.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Last date & time of on-line submission of tenders/receipt of tenders	Opening date & time of on-line opening of Tender
1	Online bids in two part bid system are invited for Procurement of complete Boiler Feed Water Pump along with Steam Turbine, Lube Oil System and Accessories.	EMD- 01.00 Lakh	7.10 Crore	15.04.2022 up to 11.00 A.M.	16.04.2022 at 11.00 P.M.
2	Sealed tenders are invited in three part bid system for providing Canteen Services on round the clock basis in NFL, Nangal unit for a period of two years.	EMD- Rs. 20,000/- Tender Fee- 750/-	---	18.04.2022 at 02.30 P.M.	18.04.2022 at 03.30 P.M.

For any further details please visit our website www.nationalfertilizers.com, etenders.gov.in/eprocureapp. Vendors are requested to visit our website regularly. Any amendment/ corrigendum to the above will be displayed only on aforesaid websites.

Senior Manager (Materials), DGM (HR)



Office of the Superintending Engineer
12th Circle P.W.D. Pauri

Office of The Superintending Engineer, 12th Circle, P.W.D. Pauri

Fax & Phone No. 01368-222322

E-mail:-sepwdpauricircle@gmail.com

Letter No 1116/141 Yata-12/2021-22 Dated 31/03/2022

Short Term- Inviting Tender

Superintending Engineer, 12th Circle, Public Works Department Pauri on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, invites item rate e-tender (two bid system) of the following works. For further details please log in to <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 05-04-2022.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Earnest money (in Rs Lakh)	Cost of Tender	Validity of tender in Days	Time of completion in Month	Contractor's category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Renewal Work (2022-23) By SDBC of Marchula Saraikeht Bajiro Pokhara Satpali Pauri Motor Road (Km 149, 150, 151, 181, 182, 192, 193, total 7.00 km) and Pabou- Santudhar-Naongunkhal- Dandewal-Chubattakhal- Choriakhal Motor Road (Km 10, 15, 16 total 3.00 km) Under Annual Maintenance. (C.D. Pabau)	3.50	5000 + 18% G.S.T	120	09	Category B or higher with for Road/work in Central / State Govt. or any PSU under Central / State Govt.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT****OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)****ARR&TI COMPLEX FATASIL AMBARI GUWAHATI-25 ASSAM Email: cea.apwd@nic.in****RFB No.:** CE/APART/21/2022/19**REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)****E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE****(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)**

The Government of Assam through Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the APART Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below.

SL. No.	Package no.	Name of the work	Approx. value of work (Rupees in Lakh)	Bid security (INR)	Cost of Bid Documents (INR)	Completion Period (month)
1	APART/ NOCP/ ROADS/ MR-10	Construction of Road from Balipara to Sonaipar, Kalmoubari Village in Morigaon District (Length 1.00 KM) under APART	149.64	2,99,280	5000	9
2	APART/ NOCP/ ROADS/ HOJ-01	Construction of Road from Milan Das Parika House to Borboha PWRD road of Dhanuharbasti Village in Hojai District (Length 1.40 KM) under APART	202.66	4,05,320	5000	12
3	APART/ NOCP/ ROADS/ HOJ-2	Construction of road from Deobali Shiv Mandir to Kachadhara Bonia Namghar, Village 2 Block 2 No Gaon road, Kaki Mouza in Hojai District (Length 1.00 KM) under APART.	134.54	2,69,080	5000	9
4	APART/ NOCP/ ROADS/ HOJ-3	Construction of road from House of Haradhan Das to Haramohan Biswas House of Sautalabasti, Uttar Matikhola Village Jugijan Mouza in Hojai District (Length 1.50 KM) under APART.	217.86	4,35,720	5000	12
5	APART/ NOCP/ ROADS/ HOJ-4	Construction of road from Adarsha Sishu Bidyalaya (Radhanagar) to Kumrakata PMGSY Road Dakhin Radhanagar No. 1 Village Jugijan Mouja in Hojai District (Length 1.50 KM) under APART.	202.57	4,05,140	5000	12
6	APART/ NOCP/ WAREHOUSES/ SIV-01	Renovation & Up-gradation of Warehousing Facilities in existing Warehouse complex (Godown 1 & Godown 7) at Sivasagar District under APART.	393.16	7,86,320	5000	12
7	APART/ NOCP/ WAREHOUSES/ SIV-02	Renovation & Up-gradation of Warehousing Facilities in existing Warehouse complex (Godown 2) at Sivasagar District under APART.	296.09	5,92,180	5000	9
8	APART/ NOCP/ WAREHOUSES/ SIV-03	Renovation & Up-gradation of Warehousing Facilities in existing Warehouse complex (Godown 3) at Sivasagar District under APART.	246.39	4,92,780	5000	9
9	APART/ NOCP/ WAREHOUSES/ SIV-04	Renovation & Up-gradation of Warehousing Facilities in existing Warehouse complex (Godown 5 & Godown 6) at Sivasagar District under APART.	506.53	10,13,060	5000	12
10	APART/ NOCP/ WAREHOUSES/ KOK-01	Renovation & Up-gradation of Warehousing Facilities in existing Warehouse complex at Gossagaon in Kokrajhar District under APART.	299.92	5,99,840	5000	9

The bidding documents are available online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> from 07/04/2022 to 09/05/2022. Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 14:00 Hours on 09/05/2022. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.

Janasanyog/CF/19/22

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

TENDER NOTICE
NO. AGC-ELG-T-02-2022-23 01.04.2022

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through online only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	AGC-ELG-T-02-2022-23
1.	Name of work with its location & Completion Period	Part (A) Agra Cantt - Provision of 750V AC supply for testing of LHB rakes at Pit Line Agra, Part (B) Provision of illumination of washing pit at Agra Fort Station. Completion period 08 months
2.	Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 9562782.87

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in. Tenders can be submitted through web portal www.irops.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs on 22.04.2022.

375/22 (AN)

www.northcentralrailways.gov.in www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in cp@ncrncr

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड-नई दिल्ली
वीकानेर हाऊस, पडारा रोड, नई दिल्ली-110011 दिनांक: 25.03.2022

क्रमांक:- 1348

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 15/राजस्थान हाउस बिल्डिंग को उद्घाटन कराना/2021-22

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से Dismantling of Rajasthan House, New Delhi with considering of Approximate cost of unserviceable/serviceable material amount as per "H" Schedule कार्य के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठन/केन्द्रीय सरकार लोक निर्माण विभाग/दाक एमए दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदक, जो राजस्थान सरकार के (ए) व (ए) श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निविदा रिफ़र में ई प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

इच्छुक संवेदकों को ई-निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु वेब साइट <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्य वाईड यू.बी.एन. नम्बर निम्न प्रकार है:-

S.No.	Name of work	UBN No
1	Dismantling of Rajasthan House, New Delhi with considering of Approximate cost of unserviceable/serviceable material amount as per "H" Schedule	PWD2122WSOB17370

इमल/—
(राजस्थान)
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता,
सार्वजनिक निर्माण,
फोन नम्बर 011-20848003

DIPRC/C/4458/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY

RAIL COACH NAVEENKARAN KARKHANA, SONIPAT

TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	E-file No. 100629 RT
Name of work and its location	Tender for "Provision of Stripping, fitment, Testing & commissioning of switch board cabinet for 25 LHB AC Coaches as per scope of work at N.Railway, Rail Coach NaveenKaran Karkhana/SNP" for a period six months.
Approx Cost of work	Rs. Tender Cost : Rs. 9226112/- (Rs. Ninety Two Lacs twenty Six Thousand one Hundred Twelve only) Including GST @ 18%
Earnest Money	184500
Completion period of work	Six Months of date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/bid post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11.00 hrs on 16.04.2022 Opening of Tender at 11.30 hrs
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.irops.gov.in
No. :- E-file No. 100629 RT Dated: 01.04.2022	719/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely **Ashma D/o Suleman Khan R/o F-7/211, Sec-16, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 21.03.2022. In this regard, a case **DD.No. 24A dt. 22.03.2022 has been registered at P.S. KN Katju Marg, Delhi.** The description of the missing / kidnapped girl are as under.

Age: 29 Years, **Height:** 5', **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** White colour with black dot suit-salwar and light Black colour chunni and black colour jutti in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing girl then please inform P.S. KN Katju Marg, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O

KN Katju Marg, Delhi**Ph.: 011-27571162**

DP/1379/RD/2022



ASHMA

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE No. SG-664-15-SIG-2021-22

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

Sl.No. : 1. Name of the work : Reliability improvement of the signaling gears for the UFSBI & HASSCAD in BRWD & CPU section through media diversity arrangement. 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹1,76,80,434.54 (Approx). 3. Earnest Money : ₹2,38,400.00, 4. Date & time for closing of tender : 21.04.2022 at 12:30 Hrs. 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post / Courier / FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firms letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in>

Note :-Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum / corrections etc.in response to this E-Tender.

Sr.D.S.T.E
East Central Railway, Dhanbad
PR/0006/DHN/S&T/T/22-23/32

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

DRM (Electrical)/TRD/ECRD/Dhanbad for and behalf of the President of India invites GeM e-tender for execution of the work indicated as under: **E-Tender No. GeM Bid No. GEM/2022/B/207875 Sl.No. 01**

Name of work with location and Completion of work: Manning & House-keeping of 02 Nos. 'B' Area TRD Maintenance Depots at DHN/OHE, DHN/S&W and 13 Nos. 'C' Area TRD Maintenance Depots at GMO/OHE, GMO/PSI, HZD/OHE, KOR/PSI, GJD/OHE, PRP/OHE, CRP/OHE & PSI, GMIA/OHE, BRKA/S&W, BRKA/OHE, KLRE/OHE, LTHR/OHE, DTO/OHE & PSI) in Dhanbad Division for the period of two years. (Completion period 02) (Years) 02

Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 2,93,01,854.40/- (Cost of e-tender form-Nil) 03

Earnest money to be deposited: Nil 04

Date & Time for submission of closing and opening of E-Tender: Closing of GeM Bid - On 21.04.2022 at 11.00 hrs. Opening of GeM Bid - On 21.04.2022 at 11.30 hrs. 05

Website particulars: Website: www.gem.gov.in Manual tender offer note accepted under GeM Bid.

Divl. Railway Manager (Elect.)/TRD
East Central Railway, Dhanbad
PR/001935/DHN/ETRD/7/21-22/36

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, Head Quarters Office, North Western Railway near Jawahar Circle, Jagatpura, Jaipur-302017 (Rajasthan), invites e-tender on www.irops.gov.in website for following.

1. **Tender No. : STMNWR2223-01**

Description of stores : Supply of Portable D.C. Welding Generator as per RDSO specification No. TM/SM/20.

Tender Value : Rs. 6,92,084.80

Earnest money : Rs. 0

2. **Tender No. : STMNWR2223-02**

Description of stores : Supply of BOX TYPE GAUGE CUM LEVEL (BG) as per RDSO specification No. TM-58 along with SPIRIT LEVEL as per RDSO specification No. TM-52

Tender Value : Rs. 8,13,008.00

Earnest money : Rs. 0

3. **Tender No. : STMNWR2223-03**

Description of stores : Supply of HYDRAULIC TRACK LIFTING CUM SLEWING DEVICE (TRAILIS) 15T capacity as per RDSO specification No. TM/SM/TRALIS/20

Tender Value : Rs. 4,26,373.20

Earnest money : Rs. 0

4. **Tender No. : STMNWR2223-04**

Description of stores : Supply of LIGHT WEIGHT RAIL (MONO) CUM ROAD TROLLEY as per RDSO specification No. TM/SM/16

Tender Value : Rs. 1,68,645.60

Earnest money : Rs. 0

Date & time of Tender Closing : 28.04.2022 (15.30 hrs.)

Note : The details of tender & conditions may be seen on Railway website "www.irops.gov.in". 171-CQ/22

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

निविदा सूचना

वाणिज्य विभाग बीकानेर मण्डल लघु अवधि ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 156 / 2022 / वाणिज्य / बीकानेर दिनांक 30.03.2022

मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक (वाणिज्य), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर माल के राष्‍ट्रीय की ओर से अनुमति विज्ञापन एजेंसियों से

Classifieds
PERSONAL

I,Hitherto Known As Gautam, D/o Gulshan Kumar,W/o Gaurav Budhiraja,Residing At,G-1,Arya Apartment, Sector-15,Rohini,North West-Delhi-110089,Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known AS Gautami.

0040608735-2
I,AMIT KUMAR/AMIT KUMAR ASRI S/O SUBHASH ASRI, R/O B-15,MANSAROVER GARDEN, DELHI-110015.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AMIT ASRI.

0040608760-4
I,DARPAN MALHOTRA,W/O HARVINDER PAL SINGH,R/O WZ-50B,GROUND-FLOOR, GALINO,25,SANTGARH,TILAK-NAGAR, DELHI-110018. CHANGED MY NAME TO DARPAN PREET KAUR.

0040608735-6
I,Vinod Kumar,S/o Late. Rajaram,R/o A-217/1,Sanjay-Colony, Okhla, Ph-II,New Delhi-110020,have changed name of my son,from Sehawg Tundelkar to Prateek Tundelkar,for all,future purposes.

0040608765-2
I,Vinod Kumar,S/o Late. Rajaram,R/o A-217/1,Sanjay-Colony,Okhla, Ph-II,New Delhi-110020,have changed name of my son,from Manish Tundalkar to Manish Tundelkar,for all future purposes.

0040608765-3
I,hitherto known as Baljinder Kaur Mann w/o Jaswinder Singh Mann residing at Village Gakharna, P.O. Manki, Teh. Samrala, Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab-141114, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BALWINDER KAUR.

0040608694-1
I, Amrit Goyal S/o Harphool Singh Goel R/o 110 Church Lane, Jangpura Bhogal New Delhi-14, changed my name as Amrit Lal Goel for all purposes.

0040608595-1
I, Ganesh Kumar Pandey R/o H No. A-115, Pocket-A, Sarita Vihar, South Delhi-110076 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from GANESH KUMAR to GANESH KUMAR PANDY for all future purposes.

0040608682-1
I, Junaid Alam S/o Mohd Qutubuddin Alam R/o U-16, Pul Prahladpur, Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Mohd Junaid Alam.

0040608511-4
I, Sukhdev Singh Syan /Sukhdev Syan S/o Prem Singh R/O-B-80,Second floor,Lajpat nagar-1, Delhi 110024 have changed my name to Sukhdev Singh.

0040608511-4
I, D BHANU wife of Dunna Tumbanath Presently residing at 412, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name from D BHANU to D BHANUMATI, vide-affidavit dated-4-3-2022.

0040608323-7
I,ANUPAMA SEHGAL,W/O RAVIKANT DHAWAN,R/O F-14, 2nd-FLOOR,JEEVAN PARK, UTTAM-NAGAR,DELHI-110059. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANU DHAWAN.

0040608760-3
I, Santosh, W/o Ajay Kumar, R/O C-3/331, Nand Nagri, Delhi-93, do hereby declare that my correct name is Santosh. Santosh (in Aadhar Card) & Pinky (in my Son's School record) are the name of same person. In future, I will be know as Santosh for all purposes.

0040608686-1
I, Yogesh Kumar Haritwal S/o Late Ram Avatar Haritwal H.No. 4318/3 Kh No. 117/20, Street no.111,Block B, Sant Nagar, burari, Delhi-110084, declares that Yogesh Kumar Haritwal and Yogesh Sharma are the two names of a single person

0040608735-5
I,Rajeev Jain,S/o Sh.Kali Ram Jain,R/o 806/48,Lekhu-Nagar, Tri-Nagar,North West-Delhi,Delhi-110035,have declared that name of mine is wrongly-written as Rajeev Kumar Jain in my Passport.No. P9679104.The actual-name of mine is Rajeev Jain,which may be amended accordingly.

0040608735-5
I,P.C.Sharma S/o-Late Shri. M.N.Sharma R/o G-5,HILL View-Apartment,1055/1,Ward-7, Mehrauli,New-Delhi-110030, have changed my name as Prakash Chand Sharma,S/o Late Shri.Madhawa Nand Sharma,for all,future purposes.

0040608738-3
I,No-12954168A,NK Mansoor Ahmad Khoja,F/O-Zahid Mansoor Khoja,R/O- Kralpora Dardpora Kupwara. In my service record the name nd D o B of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Zahid Ahmad Khoja (D o B- 11.12.2010) instead of Zahid Mansoor Khoja (D o B- 05-02-2011).It needs correction..Objections be filed to Unit 160(TA) JAKRIF within seven days.

0020436896-1
I,Rakesh Kumar,S/o-Rameshkr Singh,R/o-H.No-J-418,Arpan Vihar,Jaipur Extn., Badapur,New Delhi-110044,inform that in my,Passport No.L2406123,my name Rakesh Kumar Singh wrongly-written instead-of correct name Rakesh Kumar,both name are same person.

I,ARIBA D/o SHABANA BEGUM,R/O 7890,GALI MOHALLA SHAIKHAN BARA HINDU-RAO,DELHI-110006. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Ariba Raza,D/O SHABANA RAZA.

0040608735-3
I,ARPITA SAHU/ ARPITA VIPIN CHAND SAHU,W/o-VIPIN CHAND SAHU R/o-2804,28th-FLOOR TOWER-1 CATANIA-MAHAGUN MEZZARIA SECTOR-78,NOIDA GAUTAMBUDDHA NAGAR,U.P.201301,changed my name to ARPITA VIPIN SAHU.

0040608735-7
I,BIMAL KUMAR JAIN,S/O MAHABIR PRASAD JAIN,R/O 962,2nd-FLOOR,BAJAJAN WALLI-GALI,JAIN-DHARAMSHALA, NAJAFGARH,DELHI-110043. CHANGED MY NAME TO VIMAL KUMAR JAIN.

0040608735-8
I,Deepak @Rahul S/o Sh. Vinod,R/o 16/427-28 KalyanPuri,Mayur-Vihar Patparganj,East-Delhi-110091, Deepak and Rahul is one and the same person.For all,future purposes.

0040608760-5
I,HARWANT/HARWANT SINGH S/O HARBHAJAN SINGH R/O HNO.1/53,GROUND-FLOOR, FRONT-SIDE,SUBHASH NAGAR,TAGORE-GARDEN, DELHI-110027.CHANGED MY NAME TO HARVANT SINGH.

0040608741-2
I,hitherto known as Laxmi,D/o Madu Ram,residing at A-77, State-Bank of India Raghunir-Nagar,Tagore-Garden,Delhi-110027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ayesha.

0040608738-6
I,ZAHID S/O MOHD ARIF,R/O 3322 GALI SAWAR KHAN KUCHA PANDIT LAL KUAN,DELHI-110006,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD ZAHID.

0040608738-8
I,Vinod Kumar,S/o Late Rajaram,R/o A-217/1,Sanjay-Colony,Okhla, Ph-II,New Delhi-110020,have changed name of my son,from Sonia Tundalkar to Sonia Tundelkar,for all,future purposes.

0040608765-1
I,Vikas father of Laavika,R/o-8820,Gali No-3,Multani Dhandra,Pahar Ganj,New-Delhi-110055,have changed my minor daughter name Laavika to Laavika Anand,for all purposes.

0040608738-8
I,VIPIN SAHU,S/o-VIMAL CHANDRA SAHU,R/o-2804,28th-floor TOWER-1 CATANIA MAHAGUN MEZZARIA SECTOR-78,NOIDA GAUTAMBUDDHA NAGAR,U.P.201301,Changed my name to VIPIN CHAND SAHU.

0040608738-2
I,Umesh Kumar Sharma,S/o Sh.Yashpal R/O-3301,Aastha Kunj,Plot No-3,Sector-3, Dwarka,South West-Delhi-110078,have changed my name to Umesh Sharma,for all purposes.

0040608738-7
I,Km Sweta Devi W/o Amit Kumar Singh R/o H No-234, DDA-Flats, Badapur,New Delhi-110044,have changed my name Shweta Singh,for all purpose.

0040608735-4
I,Khalil Ull Nissa Sheikh,D/O-Niyaz Ali R/O-G-38,First-Floor, East-Of-Kailash,New Delhi-110065,Have Changed My, Minor Daughters,Name Samah Noor To Samah Noor Sheikh For All,Future Purposes Sheikh in Surname.

0040608735-4
I,Kanishk S/o Pramod Rohella, R/o,H.No.-C-1/G-5,Shalimar Garden Extn-2 Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,U.P.-201005,have been changed my name to Kanishk Rohilla

0040608738-9
I,K.Navin S/O Vishwanathan,R/O C-1505 Charms Castle,NH-58 bypass,Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad-201017,have changed my name to K.Navin Iyer.

0040608735-11
I,MISS.ANSHIKA SHARMA,D/o-Sh.Narendar Kumar Sharma, R/o-186,Old Gupta Colony,Vijay Nagar,Delhi-110009,inform to the general public that ANSHIKA and ANSHIKA SHARMA,both names belong to one and the same person and it's me.I have added my,family surname/title 'Sharma' to to my name Anshika.

0040608735-11
I,Hitherto Known As Imlesh Kumar,S/o Kishan Pal Singh,Residing At,H.No.81, Block-C,Pratap-Nagar,Mandoli Saboli,North-East,Delhi-110093,Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Viraj Singh.

0040608735-1
I,J.C-530528P Subedar Major Kunwar Singh,S/o-Heera Saingh Balawaala,R/O Bhagirathi-Puram,Dehradun, Uttarakhand:-248001,Inform That name of my son has been erroneously recorded as VEBHAV in my service-documents.The correct-name of my son is VAIBHAV RAWAT.

0040608738-4
I,Ujjwal Bhardwaj S/O Rajesh Kumar,R/O E-2/10,Ganga Triveni, Apartment Plot No.24/1,Sector-9,Rohini Delhi-110085 changed my name to Ujjwal.

0040608741-1
I,Ratan Dutta S/O.Narayan Chandra Dutta,R/O-B-430, Block-B,Radha Krishna Mandir Road Swaroop-Nagar Libas Pur Delhi-110042,have changed my name to Rattan Dutta.

0040608695-1
I,Sunil Malik S/o Late. Ramesh Chander Malik R/o E-2,Antriksh Greens, Plot No-F-1, Sector-50,Noida, Gautambudhnagar have changed my name to Sunil Raj Malik

0040608738-6
I,JASKEERAT SINGH S/O HARVANT SINGH R/O HNO. 1/53,GROUND-FLOOR,FRONT-SIDE,SUBHASH-NAGAR, TAGORE-GARDEN,DELHI-110027.CHANGED MY NAME TO JASKIRAT SINGH.

0040608738-5
I,VEENA, W/O.ASHOK KUMAR, D-57101,C-82, BALJEET NAGAR PATEL NAGAR CENTRAL DELHI-110008. Changed my name to MEENAKSHI KATYAL, permanently.

0040608738-5
I,Sanya Choudhary D/o-Navneet Singh R/o-C-1103, Prateek Ghyome Apartment, Plot No-Gh-04/B, Sec-45 Noida, Up-201303 have changed my name to Sanya Chowdhury.

0040608697-1
I,SANJEEV GARG,S/O KANHIYA LAL GARG,R/O Flat.No.701, Celestial Comfort Condominium, GH-27,Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad(UP)have changed my name to SANJEEV KUMAR GARG.

LOST & FOUND

0040608741-8
I,Ishwar Chander Kapur,s/o Ram Ditta Mal Kapur,resident of,A-1/48,Janakpuri, New-Delhi-110058,have lost the above mentioned-property's documents namely:Allotment-Letter,Handing Over Possession-Letter,Possession Slip,D-Form and C-Form.

0040608738-10
I,Vinit Lal,S/o J.M.Lal,R/o,C-177,Golf View Apartment Saket,New Delhi,have lost my original-Demand Cum- Allotment Letter,Letter for Handing over of Possession, Site-Possession and NOC for Electricity and Water-Supply of above said Address.Finder may contact at-Mobile.No. 9810080559.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Double Storey house for Sale in prime & excellent location near Haridwar, the house complies with Vastu Shastra & near to temple and Gurudwara. It has 2 bed rooms, hall, kitchen and verandah in ground floor plus 2 bed rooms, hall kitchen and verandah on 1st floor with roof top, 2 seprate toilets and batrooms on ground & 1st floor. Please send your interest to : RLOCHAN22@GMAIL.COM

SERVICES

ASTROLOGY

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

Mail at astrologer_kumar@yahoo.com for complete details. Satisfaction assured.

SITUATION VACANT

Required Immediate Male/Female Tele callers Having Knowledge Of Any Two Languages as Given: Punjabi, Marathi,Gujrati,Bengali, Assamese,Mizo,Telegu,Malaya lam, Kannard and Tamil. Apply Only Who Can Speak/Write/ Read any of Two Languages to hr@biinfotech.com

0040608741-10



NRI/GREEN CARD

Australian citizen, 41/ 57'7", B'Tech, MBA, Please send girl's biodata with recent photos at redgum85@gmail.com <mailto:redgum85@gmail.com> or WhatsApp (+61) 467610362

0050194544-1
Suitable match for Australian Citizen very fair Hindu boy 1984, 5'-8", Now in New Delhi for few days. Masters in Accounts & Finance and CPA from Australia. Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Financial Risk Manager (FRM) from USA. Contact: 98110-14549, 98109-38142.

0020436864-1
I,Ratan Dutta S/O.Narayan Chandra Dutta,R/O-B-430, Block-B,Radha Krishna Mandir Road Swaroop-Nagar Libas Pur Delhi-110042,have changed my name to Rattan Dutta.

0040608695-1
I,Sunil Malik S/o Late. Ramesh Chander Malik R/o E-2,Antriksh Greens, Plot No-F-1, Sector-50,Noida, Gautambudhnagar have changed my name to Sunil Raj Malik

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT SH. PRAVEEN KUMAR SINGH S/O SH. UMED SINGH R/O B-147/C2, PREM NAGAR, SECTOR NO.7 PHASE-1, GURGAON, HARYANA, MOBILE NO.9817178888 had booked on 18.09.2013 an Apartment Unit bearing No. MGE-2, TW-06/14A booked with M3M India Ltd. in their Project titled M3M Golf Estate-Farway, East, located in Sector-65, Gurgaon, Haryana having super area of 5219 sq. ft. As M3M India Ltd. could not handover the aforementioned apartment on time, my clients approached National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi and filed Consumer Case against M3M India Ltd. praying for necessary reliefs and the said case is still pending before the Hon'ble NCDRC, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that following share certificates of Pfizer Limited having its registered office at Pfizer center, Patel estate, Patel estate road, off SV Road, Jageshwar West, Mumbai-400102 registered in the name of the **Wined Kumar Kaul** have been lost by the registered holder of Folio No. 0014066, (1) Certificate No. 72408, Distinctive No. 5974359-5974358 share-50 (2) Certificate No. 72409, Distinctive No. 5974359-5974358 share-10 & (3) Certificate No. 72410, Distinctive No. 5974359-5974358 share-04, Total share-64. The public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in anyway with the above referred share certificates. Any person(s) has/have any claim in respect of the said share certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the company or its authorized agent or the Registrar of Companies Pvt Ltd, Karvy Selenium Tower B Plot no 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial district, Hyderabad-500032, within 15 days of the publication of the notice. After which no claim will be entertained and the company may proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) to the registered holder(s).

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that following share certificates of Pfizer Limited having its registered office at Pfizer center, Patel estate, Patel estate road, off SV Road, Jageshwar West, Mumbai-400102 registered in the name of the **VIDYA SHOREE KAUL** has been lost by the registered holder of Folio No. 0014066, (1) Certificate No. 72417, Distinctive No. 5974421-5974420 share-50 (2) Certificate No. 72418, Distinctive No. 5974421-5974480, share-10 & (3) Certificate No. 72419, Distinctive No. 5974481-5974484, share 04, Total share -64. The public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in anyway with the above referred share certificates. Any person(s) has/have any claim in respect of the said share certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the company or its authorized agent or the Registrar of Companies Pvt Ltd, Karvy Selenium Tower B Plot no 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial district, Hyderabad-500032, within 15 days of the publication of the notice. After which no claim will be entertained and the company may proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) to the registered holder(s).

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that Sh. **Omjit Singh**, Dutt Sugandh S/o Late Sh. Babu Lal Sugandh R/O II/45/2, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi - 110010, owner & legal possessor of properties bearing No. II/45/2, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt in Survey No. 4936 & 4937 has requested Delhi Cantonment Board for recording his name in the House Tax Register in respect to properties bearing No. II/45/2, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt AND II/40/03, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, being the owner of the said properties. The said properties are in his exclusive possession. If any person has objection to the recording of his name in respect of the said properties, he/she/they may file his/her/their objection(s) within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the Chief Executive Officer of Delhi Cantonment Board, failing which the matter for recording of the name in the House Tax Register qua the said properties shall be considered by the competent authority in accordance with law. For and on behalf of Sh. Sunil Dutt Sugandh S/o Late Sh. Babu Lal Sugandh R/O II/45/2, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi - 110010

CHIRANJEEV SUGANDH
Office: 3331558, Beadon Pura, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is put to notice that, my client Mrs. **Rajni Bala Sharma** W/o Mr. Parmod Kumar Sharma being permanent resident of GP 15, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 has been cheated by her son Mr. Chetan Sharma S/o Mr. Parmod Kumar Sharma and his wife Mrs. Rakhi Sharma w/o Mr. Chetan Sharma and therefore she has severed all her relations and disowned them and have declared them as trespasser from her property at First Floor, House No. 456, Block & Pocket G-30, Sector 3, Rohini, Delhi, 110085 and also joint property bearing number GP 15, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 and other movable & immovable properties. Any person who has made any transactions in the past without my client's specific consent has done at his own risk or deals or carries on any transaction with them now or in future shall do at his own cost and consequences.

Manish Pratap Singh
Advocate
LGF, M-97, G.K.I., New Delhi-110048
manish080444@yahoo.co.in
Mob: 98971524404

PUBLIC NOTICE
The public in general is hereby informed that my clients Mr. Parveen Gupta & Mrs. Rukmini Gupta, intend to purchase Flat No. J-1401, 14th Floor (size 2666-14 Sq.ft.) with 2 car parking No. U-J-60 & L-J-52 in the project 'Premier Terraces at The Palm Drive, Sector 66, Gurgaon, Haryana' from Mr. Shalender Kohthari S/o Sh. Surya Prashad Kohthari & Mrs Nidhi Kohthari W/o Mr. Shalender Kohthari R/O Flat No. 887, Sector -A, Pocket -C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, Presently Residing at 6029 Roaring Springs Drive, North Richmond Hills, Texas 76180, USA.

PUBLIC NOTICE
"It is hereby notified to the general public by this public notice that my client Mr. Nidhi Kumar Singh S/o Late Sh. Kamlesh Kumar Singh R/O d-63, Ground Floor, Hakikat Rai Road, Gali No. 6, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, had executed a GPA in favour of Mr. Mahender Singh S/o Mr. Ram Kumar Singh in respect of entire third floor, with roof terrace rights, being part of shop bearing No. B-202, Situated at New Subot Mandi, Azadpur, Delhi- 110033 on 23.05.2017, duly attested by the Notary Public, Delhi and under certain circumstances, my client does not want to retain said Mr. Mahender Singh as his General Attorney anyone and all the powers in respect of the aforesaid property delegated to said Mr. Mahender Singh through aforesaid GPA dated 23.05.2017 is cancelled, revoked and withdrawn and my client has also served a legal notice dated 29.03.2022, to this effect to said Mr. Mahender Singh. If anyone deals with said Mr. Mahender Singh on the basis of said general power of attorney, in any manner whatsoever shall be doing his/her own risk and responsibility, my client shall not be responsible for the same.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client's **Dr. MAN MOHAN KOHLI S/O SH. SRI RAM KOHLI and Mrs. PRATIBHA KOHLI W/O Dr. MAN MOHAN KOHLI** both R/O C-47A, Shivaji Park, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026 have severed all relations with their son **Mr. SHIKHAR KOHLI** and his wife **Dr. AKANSHA MAHAJAN** and have further debarrd and disowned them from any right or authority to their all movable and immovable properties, or relationship with them, nor shall my client have any liability in respect of their actions/inactions, in any kind whatsoever.

ANKUR SHARMA (Advocate)
110, Rishal Complex, Shiva Market, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is inform to the public at large that my client **Shri Kulwant Singh S/o Bari Ram and Smt. Sushila W/o Kulwant Singh R/O House No.16304/6, B-Block, Bengala Colony, Humnagar, Sant Nagar, Burewala, Delhi** has disowned and debarred his Son **Shri Ajit Singh R/O W/o Sh. Shivaji Park, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026** Daughter **Anusavi** from his movable and immovable properties and also has severed all connection with them. Any body dealing with them hisher on their risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner.

RAJINI JAIN ADVOCATE
ENRL No. D-157-A/1979
CHAMBER No. 208, 2ND FLOOR,
LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK,
ROHINI COURTS, DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be It Known that my clients **ANAMIKA WADHWIA W/O DEEPAK WADHWIA R/B-93, First Floor Ashok Enclave Part-2, Sector-37, Faridabad**, have disowned and severed all their relation with her son namely **JAGAN WADHWIA** and daughter-in law **KRITI CHATRAI** W/o JAGAN WADHWIA debarred him from her movable and immovable properties/assets due to his mis-behaviour. Any body dealing with him in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her/their Own risk, Cost and responsibility.

KAMAL SINGH (Advocate)
Enrl.No.D-748/2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE
KNOW ALL MEN that my clients **Sh. Ashok Kumar Sadana S/o Late Sh. Chaman Lal Sadana and Smt. Veena Sadana W/O Sh. Ashok Kumar Sadana** both R/O BD-82, Vishakh Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have severed all their relations with their son **Sh. Amit Sadana** and his wife **Smt. Shalu Sharma** both presently residing at BD-82, Vishakh Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 and further debarred them from all their movable and immovable properties and also causing immense mental and physical torture, humiliation, disrespect, harassment, hurting and abusing and advancing threats to implicate them in false and frivolous cases. Any one dealing with them in any way or manner whatsoever shall be doing on his own risks and consequences.

K.P. GUPTA ADVOCATE
M.P. 41, Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my clients **Mr. Anvinder Pal Singh S/o Late S. Kawal Pal Singh and Mrs. Navneet Kaur W/o Anvinder Pal Singh**, both R/O A-2018, DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon, Haryana, Mob. No.9810061678 had booked on 18.09.2013 an Apartment Unit bearing No. MGE-2, TW-06/14A booked with M3M India Ltd. in their Project titled M3M Golf Estate-Farway, East, located in Sector-65, Gurgaon, Haryana having super area of 5219 sq. ft. As M3M India Ltd. could not handover the aforementioned apartment on time, my clients approached National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi and filed Consumer Case against M3M India Ltd. praying for necessary reliefs and the said case is still pending before the Hon'ble NCDRC, New Delhi.

RAJIV DEWAN ADVOCATE
Off. 325, Lawyer's Chamber, High Court Building, Sher Shah Suri Road, New Delhi-110003

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my clients **Sh. Gurbanti Kaur, W/o Mr. Jasmeet Singh & Mr. Jasmeet Singh S/o Late S. Kawal Pal Singh**, both R/O A-2018, DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon, Haryana, Mob. No.981717888 had booked on 18.09.2013 an Apartment Unit bearing No. MGE-2, TW-06/07B booked with M3M India Ltd. in their Project titled M3M Golf Estate-Farway, East, located in Sector-65, Gurgaon, Haryana having super area of 5219 sq. ft. As M3M India Ltd. could not handover the aforementioned apartment on time, my clients approached National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi and filed Consumer Case against M3M India Ltd. praying for necessary reliefs and the said case is still pending before the Hon'ble NCDRC, New Delhi and the decision of the Hon'ble Commission will be final in this respect.

RAJIV DEWAN ADVOCATE
Off. 325, Lawyer's Chamber, High Court Building, Sher Shah Suri Road, New Delhi-110003

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India, invites E- tenders for the following work: **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: http://www.ireps.gov.in** 2. **Date & time of closing of e-tenders :** 27.04.2022 at 15.00 hours. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tenders :** After 15.00 Hrs on 27.04.2022 **Tender Notice No.:** 06-TRD-BKN-E-Tender-2021-22R **Name of work :** TRD work of modification of OHE in C/W provision of track machine siding at Ding & Kalanaurkan station On Hisar - Bhatinda & Rohtak - Bhiwani Section of Bikaner division. **Approx. Cost of the work :** 3131952 EMD/SD (Rupees) : 62600.00 **170-CO/22**

Follow us on:

TOPOF THE WORLD



Film Academy said Smith's resignation was accepted. AP

UNITED STATES Will Smith resigns from film Academy

Los Angeles: Will Smith resigned on Friday from the motion picture academy following his Oscars night slap of Chris Rock and said he would accept any further punishment the organisation imposed. Smith in a statement said he will "fully accept any and all consequences for my conduct." Film academy president David Rubin said Smith's resignation was accepted. "We will continue to move forward with our disciplinary proceedings against Smith." "I betrayed the trust of the Academy, I deprived other nominees and winners of their opportunity to celebrate and be celebrated for their extraordinary work," Smith's statement said. AP

UNITED KINGDOM Media watchdog Ofcom suspends Khalsa TV licence

London: The UK's media watchdog has suspended the licence of Khalsa Television Ltd to broadcast in the country after an investigation found its KTV channel breached broadcasting rules with Khalistani propaganda. The Office of Communications (Ofcom) announced its decision this week after serving a suspension notice to the company over a 'Prime Time' programme, broadcast on KTV on December 30 last year, for a breach of the Broadcasting Code with content likely to "encourage or incite the commission of a crime or lead to disorder". Khalsa TV Ltd now has 21 days in which to make representations to Ofcom. PTI

CHINA US investigators to aid in plane crash probe

Beijing: US accident investigators have flown to China to help authorities there probe last month's deadly crash of a Boeing jetliner. The National Transportation Safety Board said the team departed for China on Friday to participate in the Civil Aviation Administration of China's investigation of the crash of a China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800. As part of that assistance, the plane's cockpit voice recorder is being downloaded and analysed at a US lab in Washington, federal officials said Friday. AP

UNITED STATES Two with India origin get key admin positions

Washington: US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Indian-origin civil rights attorney Kalpana Kotagal and certified public accountant Vinay Singh to key administration positions. Kotagal is the nominee for Commissioner on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, while Singh has been nominated as Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the White House said on Friday. PTI

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED

Crisis-hit Lanka imposes curfew as food, fuel shortages trigger protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, APRIL 2

THE SRI Lankan government on Saturday imposed a 36-hour curfew as a nationwide public emergency has been enforced ahead of a planned anti-government rally over the worst economic crisis in the island nation that has hit the common man.

The island-wide curfew has been imposed with effect from 6pm Saturday to 6am Monday (April 4), the information department said. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has given the directive under the Public Security Ordinance regulations, it said.

The move came as the island nation braced for country-wide protests on Sunday against the government's poor handling of the ongoing economic crisis where people currently endure long hours of power outages and scarcity of essentials. The imposition of curfew would prevent citizens from holding protests.

Rajapaksa issued a special gazette notification late on Friday night, declaring a public emergency with effect from April 1.

In another regulation following his action to impose a state of emergency, Rajapaksa said no one should come out and visit public places during the curfew.

However, even after the curfew came into force at 6pm on Saturday, peaceful protests continued well into the night. People were seen protesting in Colombo suburbs despite the curfew order.



A bus was set on fire by demonstrators during protests against Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa outside his residence on Friday. Reuters

INDIAN TROOPS NOT HELPING US: MINISTRY

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Defence Ministry on Saturday rejected social media speculation that Indian Armed troops had arrived in the island nation to help maintain law and order, amid growing public protests. Secretary, Defence Ministry, Kamal Gunaratne told news personnel that local troops were capable of handling any national security emergency and no such aid from outside was required. PTI

Economic crisis: Ex-President's party urges Gotabaya to form all-party govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, APRIL 2

Sri Lanka's former President Maithripala Sirisena's Freedom Party has called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to form an all-party government to tide over the worst economic crisis in the island nation and said it may leave the alliance if its request was ignored.

Party's general secretary

and a state minister Dayasiri Jayasekera said the Central Committee decided on Friday to urge for the formation of a government representing all parties in Parliament.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) with 14 Members of Parliament is the largest group within the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) ruling coalition. Sirisena is SLPP chair but he is not a minister.

"We have entrusted the

40k MT diesel from India reaches Lanka

Colombo: A consignment of 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel from India reached Sri Lanka on Saturday, the fourth such assistance from New Delhi, to mitigate the spike in power cuts in the island nation. Officials of the state fuel entity, Ceylon Electricity Board, said the supplies would ease the power cuts. "More fuel supplies delivered by #India to #SriLanka! #Indian assistance through Line of Credit of \$500 mn was handed over by High Commissioner to Energy Minister Gamini Lokuge in #Colombo today," the Indian High Commission tweeted. PTI

party leaders to take a decision as to whether the SLFP would leave the government if the government ignored our request to form an all-party government," Jayasekera said.

Rajapaksa has defended his government's actions, saying the foreign exchange crisis was not his making and the economic downturn was largely pandemic driven where the island's tourism revenue and inward remittances waning.

NO-TRUST VOTE TODAY

In numbers game, Imran's run out chances are high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, APRIL 2

PAKISTAN'S PRIME Minister Imran Khan, who has promised to bowl an inswing yorker against Opposition leaders for tabling a no-confidence motion against him, is now facing the prospect of being run out in the number game in Parliament on Sunday with key allies deserting him and a sizeable number of rebel lawmakers vowing to vote against him.

Khan, who came to power in 2018 with promises to create a 'Naya Pakistan', is at a critical juncture of his political career as he has lost majority after defection from his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Two of his allied parties also withdrew their support and joined the ranks of the rejuvenated Opposition.

The 69-year-old cricketer-turned politician is facing the no-confidence motion, which was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif on March 28. The National Assembly is scheduled to vote on the no-trust motion on Sunday.

Khan needs 172 votes in the lower house of 342 to foil the Opposition's bid to topple him. However, the Opposition claims it has the support of 175 lawmakers and the prime minister should immediately resign.

A defiant Khan has said that he will not resign despite losing the majority and insisted that he will "fight till the last ball" and



Imran has lost majority after defection from his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. File

EXPLAINED What happens after vote?

IF IMRAN loses the vote, Parliament can continue to function until its five-year tenure ends in August 2023, after which a general election is due within 60 days. There will be a vote in the National Assembly to elect a new PM to serve until then. Candidates can be put forward by any party with legislators in the assembly. The new PM can call a general election immediately, without waiting until 2023.

face the vote of no-confidence in the National Assembly. Khan has described the rebel lawmakers as "traitors" and said that they will be branded as such for the rest of their lives as he pleaded with them to come back and foil the Opposition's attempt to topple his government.

RUSSIAN TROOPS SHIFT FOCUS EAST; UKRAINE REGAINS 30 TOWNS, VILLAGES

Zelenskyy warns of disaster around Kyiv

AP & REUTERS KYIV, APRIL 2

AS RUSSIAN forces pull back from Ukraine's capital region, retreating troops are creating a "catastrophic" situation for civilians by leaving mines around homes, abandoned equipment and "even the bodies of those killed," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Saturday.

Ukraine and its Western allies reported mounting evidence of Russia withdrawing its forces from around Kyiv and building up troop strength in eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian fighters reclaimed several areas near the capital after forcing the Russians out or moving in after them, officials said. Zelenskyy said he expects departed towns to endure missile and rocket strikes from afar and for battle in the east to be intense.

Moscow's focus on eastern Ukraine also kept the besieged Mariupol in the crosshairs. The International Committee of the Red Cross planned to try Saturday to get into Mariupol to evacuate residents. The humanitarian group said a team was on the way to help facilitate the safe passage of civilians on Saturday.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Okeksiy Arestovych said Ukrainian troops had retaken over 30 towns and villages in the region since Russia announced this week it would scale down operations around the capital to focus on battles in the east.



Russian shelling damages Makariv town on Friday. Reuters

Shaken at first, many Russians now rally behind Putin's Ukraine invasion

THE NEW YORK TIMES APRIL 2

THE STREAM of antiwar letters to a St. Petersburg lawmaker has dried up. Some Russians who had criticised the Kremlin have turned into cheerleaders for the war. Those who publicly oppose it have found the word "traitor" scrawled on their apartment door.

Five weeks into President Vladimir V. Putin's invasion of Ukraine, there are signs that the Russian public's initial shock has given way to a mix of support for

their troops and anger at the West.

Polls and interviews show that many Russians now accept Putin's contention that their country is under siege from the West and had no choice but to attack. The war's opponents are leaving the country or keeping quiet.

"We are in a time machine, hurtling into the glorious past," an opposition politician in the western Russian region of Kaliningrad, Solomon I. Ginzburg, said in a telephone interview. He portrayed it as a political and economic regression into Soviet times. "I would call it a devolution, or an involution."

Polls released this week by Russia's most respected independent pollster, Levada, showed Putin's approval rating hitting 83 per cent, up from 69 per cent in January. Eighty-one per cent said they supported the war, describing the need to protect Russian speakers as its primary justification.

Antiwar protests, which led to more than 15,000 arrests across the country in the first weeks of the war, have largely petered out. By some estimates, several hundred thousand Russians have fled amid outrage over the war and fear of conscription and closed borders.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS ON ONLINE PLATFORMS SHOWED WAILING BABIES KEPT 3 TO A COT

Shanghai separates Covid-positive children from parents

BRENDA GOH & ENGEN THAM SHANGHAI, APRIL 2

ESTHER ZHAO thought she was doing the right thing when she brought her 2-1/2-year-old daughter to a Shanghai hospital with a fever on March 26.

Three days later, Zhao was begging health authorities not to separate them after she and the little girl both tested positive for Covid-19, saying her daughter was too young to be taken away to a quarantine centre for children.

Doctors then threatened Zhao that her daughter would be left at the hospital, while she was sent to the centre, if she did not agree to transfer the girl to the Shanghai



The second stage of a two-stage lockdown begins in Shanghai on Friday. Reuters

Public Health Clinical Center in the city's Jinshan district.

Since her daughter was sent to the centre Zhao has had only

one brief message that she was fine, sent through a group chat with doctors, despite repeated pleas for information from

Zhao and her husband, who is in a separate quarantine site after also testing positive.

Zhao is panicking even more after images of crying children at a Shanghai health facility went viral in China. The anonymous poster said these were children who had tested positive for Covid and been separated from their parents at Jinshan centre.

The photos and videos posted on China's Weibo and Douyin social media platforms showed wailing babies kept three to a cot. In one video, a groaning toddler crawls out of a room with four child-sized beds pushed against the wall. While a few adults can be seen in the videos, they are outnumbered by the number of children.

Reuters could not immediately verify the images, but a source familiar with the facility confirmed they were taken at the Jinshan facility.

The Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center said, however, that the photos and videos circulating on internet were not of a "Jinshan infant quarantine facility" but were scenes taken when the hospital was moving its paediatric ward to another building to cope with a rising Covid paediatric patients.

This was done to "improve the hospital environment", it said on its official WeChat account on Saturday. The Shanghai government referred Reuters to the hospital's statement and declined to comment further. REUTERS

Covid in UK at record levels with 4.9 mn infected

London: The prevalence of Covid-19 in the UK has reached record levels, with about 1 in 13 people estimated to be infected with the virus in the past week, latest figures from Britain's official statistics agency showed.

Some 4.9 million people were estimated to have the coronavirus in the week ending March 26, up from 4.3 million recorded in the previous week, the Office for National Statistics said Friday. The latest surge is driven by the more transmissible Omicron variant BA.2.

Hospitalisations and death rates are rising, although the number of people dying with Covid is still relatively low compared with earlier this year. The figures came on the day the government ended free rapid Covid-19 tests for most people in England. AP

New strain more transmissible than others, says WHO

United Nations/Geneva: A new strain of the Covid-19 Omicron variant, first detected in the UK, appears to be more transmissible than previous strains, the WHO has said, asserting that Covid-19 remains a public health emergency of international concern. WHO said the XE recombinant (BA.1-BA.2) was first detected in the UK on January 19 and more than 600 sequences have been reported and confirmed since then.

"Early-day estimates indicate a community growth rate advantage of 10% compared with BA.2. However, this finding requires confirmation," it said. PTI

15 SUNDAY STORY

REPETITION DOES not kill the romance of the story.

A 36-year-old billionaire happens to watch a thrilling Champions League semi-final game between Real Madrid and Manchester United at the UK's Old Trafford. Awestruck, he decides that night to buy a football club in England. So determined was he that he did buy a club – not yet among the elites of the league, but one with a proud heritage – in a little more than a weekend into the post-season break.

That was Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich in 2003, when he bought Chelsea Football Club.

Now 55, Abramovich is watching another duel from a very different vantage point, this time at a government building in Istanbul, as teams from Ukraine and Russia negotiate peace in the middle of a war. While Abramovich's role in the negotiations has not been officially clarified, the speculation in Ukraine and the rest of Europe is that it's a bid by the billionaire to save his assets scattered across the world. According to *The Guardian*, he has contacted the financial advisor of Ukraine's Minister of Finance and promised to invest in the country.

Beyond the speculation, the mere presence of Abramovich in the negotiating room, along with unverified claims only days earlier that he was poisoned, has thrust this largely reclusive figure into the spotlight.



The first time the world took note of the silver-haired businessman was when he bought the club, which, for all his wealth, continues to define his identity. Thus began the Roman Abramovich era in the English Premier League. Thus began the petrodollar milieu in European football, when the finest of footballers on the planet were bought with extravagant, oil-smeared dollars, and automatically won the most glittering of trophies. Since 2003, Chelsea and Manchester City, owned by the prince of Abu Dhabi, have between them collected 10 of the 19 league titles.

There were wizened sceptics, but there were also those who were enamoured by the fanciful, fairytale story of a Russian oligarch sprinkling the magic gold dust of dollars and transforming the club to an overnight elite.

There was something magnetically appealing about his backstory too, a "typically Russian story" which Abramovich himself has described, not in an interview or autobiography but during a court hearing in a cheating case filed against him by oil baron Boris Berezovsky, his mentor-godfather-business partner-turned-rival.

Abramovich was born in the perennially wintry Saratov in the Lower Volga region in October 1966 into a lower middle-class family. When he was barely two, he lost his mother, a music teacher, and his father, a construction site daily-wager. He was brought up by an uncle and aunt in the northern industrial town of Ukhta, about 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle, before he moved to Moscow to live with his grandmother.

At 18, he was called up for national service, and served his time in Afghanistan with the Red Army. Even at that age, his business acumen caught the attention of his colleagues and officers.

THE SUNDAY PROFILE

Roman's Empire

He is an oligarch, the Chelsea Football Club owner and among the richest Russians, with over USD 8 billion in personal wealth. SANDIP G on the reclusive, silver-haired magnate, a familiar figure in the stands at the club's matches, who is now rooting for a different set of players: the negotiators between Russia and Ukraine



Illustration: Shyam Kumar



Years later, in an interview with Russian newspaper *Zhizn*, Nikolai Panteleimonov, who served alongside Abramovich at a rocket force unit stationed in the town of Kirzhach, a small town in Russia's Vladimir Oblast, recalled, "He could make money out of thin air. A soldier's monthly allowance was 7 rubles back then. It's not enough if you have a sweet tooth or a date you want to take to the movies during leave. Roma came up with a scheme: he managed to talk the drivers into siphoning some fuel off their vehicles. The containers full of fuel would be dropped at a location that had been agreed on in advance."

In another 18 years, Abramovich would go on to own a premier league club in London, and a few more in Moscow and Ukraine.

Two decades on, his identified wealth, according to a Russian wealth tracker, is over USD 8 billion. This includes property worth \$300 million in the UK – 70 houses, a 15-bedroom mansion in Kensington Palace Gardens that he bought for £120 million, two jets (a £39-million Gulfstream and a \$10.4-million Bombardier), a pair of Airbus helicopters, and two yachts (a 458-ft Solaris and

the 533-ft Eclipse). All this glamour hasurnished the aura of Abramovich.

The path to these riches, though, was lined with sweat and grime. After leaving the Army, post the splintering of the Soviet Union, he even set up a toy manufacturing unit, selling plastic ducks from his Moscow apartment.

His steep rise – when he harnessed the economic chaos that followed the political turmoil in the aftermath of the collapse of the USSR – began soon after, much of it attributed to his connection with oil baron Berezovsky, then the second richest man of Russia.

There were, of course, theories that he

was close to Putin (and before that, Boris Yeltsin), so much so that he did not need an appointment.

Last year, in her book *Putin's People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and then Took on the West*, Catherine Belton narrated some of those 'connections', saying Abramovich bought the London club on Putin's orders. Abramovich rubbished it – with his spokesperson saying he was not "Putin's cashier" – and filed a defamation suit while his lawyers claimed that "Abramovich is someone who is distant from Putin".

There were also newspaper editors who suspected Abramovich's Chelsea investment was more a guarantee against risk than a profit-churning venture. "He wasn't investing in order to make a return, which is the way most people operate commercial assets. He knew there was a risk that Putin would come after him like he has with other oligarchs for his role in this very dubious business practice under Yeltsin. And he knew one of the best ways of protecting himself from being got at by the Russian authorities was to associate himself with a highly visible British asset – and he chose Chelsea Football Club," wrote *The Times's* Matthew Syed.

Whatever his motives, he was a very involved club owner. Before he was barred from living in the UK last month – as part of sanctions imposed on him by the UK government over his perceived ties with Putin, one of seven Russians who faced the rap – Abramovich, who also holds Israeli and Portuguese citizenships, was a familiar figure in the stands for almost every other Chelsea match.

His hair carefully disheveled and stubble untrimmed, usually seen in Neptune-blue sweaters wrapped over navy-blue shirts, wearing a '90s-style digital watch and half-a-smile, Abramovich would often drop by the training grounds to watch Chelsea practise, usually in his helicopter. He seldom spoke and rarely missed a board meeting, personally sanctioned player purchases and was the final word on recruiting and axing managers. He is said to have been so emotionally invested in some players that he would go to any extent to buy them. He wanted to buy Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev club because he liked their striker Andriy Shevchenko, whom he duly shipped to Chelsea.

Just as he indulged the performers, he was intolerant towards failures. As many as 13 full-time managers have helmed Chelsea in his time, with many being sacked midway through the seasons – even legendary names (Jose Mourinho, twice) or club totems (Frank Lampard). He was not merely satisfied with England's Football Association cups or league titles, but wanted Chelsea to win the Champions League. The ruthless ambition of its owner transformed Chelsea from stylish pretenders to tough winners, Europe's finest, and now the defending champions.

In the process, he changed the nature, ethos, and ethics of the league too. He was not perhaps a footballing visionary or a philosopher, but his 19-year-old reign is an unerasable chapter in the history of modern football, embellished by the romance of the story of that Old Trafford European night.

Now that he finds himself in a roomful of people who are negotiating the contours of a messy war, Abramovich might well have another shot at history.

== TAKE 5 == GUJARAT CATTLE LAW

SARJU VARU, 30,
A TRADITIONAL CATTLE-REARER



"If govt can allot land to Amul dairy, why not us?" *Express*

'Is cattle-rearing illegal? New law will push us to margins of cities'

In a bid to check the menace of stray cattle in urban areas, the Gujarat Assembly recently passed the Gujarat Cattle Control (Keeping and Movement) in Urban Areas Bill 2022, that gives the state government and local bodies the power to declare parts of an urban area or an entire urban area as 'prohibited zones' for cattle rearing and movement. As part of the new law, which has been opposed by the maldhari community of cattle-rearers, violations will now be a cognisable offence. Sarju Varu, 30, who owns 10 cows and 2 buffaloes in Milpara, in the heart of Rajkot city, is unhappy with the law

GOPAL KATESHIYA

1 How will the new law impact you?

Under the new law, fodder won't be freely available; it will only be sold in designated areas. In that case, maintaining my herd is going to be a very costly affair since I don't know where I will have to travel to purchase fodder. And suppose they notify Milpara as a prohibited zone, I will be forced to migrate to some place outside the city with my herd. I have 125 customers in the city. Given the petrol rate, how will I be able to afford two trips to the city every day if I have to move out? This law will further push us maldharis to the margins of the city. I think this is a conspiracy in favour of big dairies.

2 Since when have you been living in Rajkot?

My grandfather Lakshmanbhai migrated to Rajkot city from Motavada, a village 35 km from here, around 60 years ago. This city has been home to four generations of our family.

3 Are maldharis taking up other occupations?

We are traditionally milk suppliers, but gradually, maldharis have begun running tea-stalls in cities and towns. The community is also getting into milk-processing – one of my cousins has set up a *paneer* plant.

4 Is cattle-rearing compatible with the urban landscape?

Is cattle-rearing an illegal activity? We maldharis are just practising our traditional occupation.

5 What, according to you, is the solution?

I agree cattle should not be let loose on city roads. But the problem really is of bulls and male calves that are of no use these days. I am not against the law but the government should think about our means of livelihood too. Even if we move out of the city limits, once the city grows, we will again be thrown out. But if the government allots us land – even if on the outskirts but with long-term guarantees – we can consider moving out. If the government can allot land to an Amul dairy, it can certainly allot some land to maldharis, who supply milk to everyone, including Amul.



NUMBER PLATE

345 million

Estimated population of India at the time of Independence in 1947.

361 million

Population of India as per the 1951 Census, of which 298 million was living in rural areas and 62 million in urban areas. This was the first Census after Independence.

1,210 MILLION

India's population as per the 2011 Census. The 2021 Census has been delayed due to Covid-19.

1,375 MILLION

The projected population of India as on

March 1, 2022, as per a report of The Technical Group on Population Projections, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The projected figure of urban population in 2022 is 478 million, while the rural population stands at 897 million.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

‘Maybe my siblings can go to school... I will do this for life’

Numbers he knows from selling trinkets, alphabets from street signs around him, life from a lifetime spent on the streets. As the Delhi govt plans a boarding school for streetchildren, a 13-year-old expects that to be the sum of his education

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND

TRYING TO hawk a bunch of head scratchers he is clutching, he gestures towards the green sign marking Block 'A' of Connaught Place. "I know some of the alphabets because of these blocks. See, this is Block A, then there is B, C and D. I also know some numbers, that's all."

The 13-year-old who has spent almost his entire life on footpaths, in the shadows of the Capital's glitziest shops, at the heart of the country's seat of power, is among the children the Delhi government aims to put in a boarding school. The initiative for streetchildren, with a provision of Rs 10 crore, was announced by the Arvind Kejriwal government as part of the recent budget.

The 13-year-old has never been to school, and says he doesn't see himself ever going to one. "I have three sisters and a brother. My elder sister and I must earn, and maybe our younger siblings can go to school," he says. "I will do this for the rest of my life."

This earns a sharp rebuke from his 10-year-old, school-going cousin, who is selling glass bottles with lights stuffed in them. "Yeh maal bechke zindagi bana lega (You will make a life out of selling this stuff)?" he asks. "Bana lega (Yes)," shoots back the 13-year-old.

The boy started off selling balloons, progressed to airplanes that whir a little distance up into the air, before moving on to selling head scratchers by day and glass bottles by night. He says he has been doing this for the past six months or so, after the airplanes became "too expensive". Depending on the cus-



tomers, the 13-year-old admits sheepishly, he can sell a head scratcher for anything between Rs 50 and Rs 100.

Like his cousin, his siblings and parents also sell similar trinkets across Connaught Place and nearby areas.

The cousin in school dreams of becoming a policeman someday, and hopes to own a car like one parked nearby. "He thinks of these things, not me," the 13-year-old shrugs.

While they are talking, the two spot a stern New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) staffer



"People ask me about school, take our number. They don't call back." *Abhinaya Harigovind*

headed towards them, and both take to their heels. However, the official manages to catch up, and pulls the two up for trying to sell their wares at a place where it is prohibited.

The official gone, the boys stroll over to a touchscreen interface set up by the NDMC on a pavement with information on the city, its tourist sites, and services offered by the NDMC. They fiddle with the screen for a few minutes, jabbing at the coloured squares, not able to read the words on them.

"We'll walk around here, and then go

back to the block when the NDMC people have gone away. They will either take away what we're trying to sell, or ask us to pay a fine," says the experienced 13-year-old.

It's 5 pm on Friday, when Connaught Place is bustling, and the two boys, who have been at the block since around 2 pm, expect another four hours of business before returning to a shelter at Paharganj, around 3 km away, for the night. The family, originally from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, has been living at the shelter for a few years now, he says.

A good day's work day means Rs 800-Rs 900, the 13-year-old explains. "If we fool around, we make only Rs 50-Rs 100."

Announcing the boarding school for children from homeless families, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia said, "These schools will facilitate the children to live, along with education, and try to bring them into the mainstream."

The 13-year-old says others have offered him schooling before. "People have asked me about it. Somebody came and took my father's number too. But they never called."

As evening sets in, the 13-year-old swaps the head scratchers for lit-up glass bottles, the same as his cousin is carrying, and heads for nearby Janpath Market. His father purchased the same from Sadar Bazaar in the morning, like all the stuff they sell. "The bottles sell well at night," he says, for around Rs 100 each.

On the way to Janpath, the boys stop for rest outside Palika Bazaar, but are shoed away by a person, who threatens to break the bottles.

Clicking as the boys walk carrying them, some slung over their shoulder, others in their hands, the bottles turn some heads. However, even as the two walk up and down the market trying to sell them, more people stop just to have a look at the lights and then carry on. When the 13-year-old lingers for a while in front of a stall, the shopkeeper asks him to move somewhere else.

Close to 8 pm, he has sold enough bottles to have one hand free. The 13-year-old throws it over his cousin's shoulder, and the two melt away into the crowded street.

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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After taxing the poor and the middle-class and collecting humongous amounts, the central government used that money to provide ‘additional welfare’ to them! The annual outgo on these transfers was no more than Rs 2,25,000 crore, which is less than the annual fuel taxes collected by the Centre alone

WE MUST admire the ingenuity of the NDA government that has found a way to connect taxes, welfare and winning votes. It was as ingenious as the Electoral Bond scheme where crony capitalism, corruption and electoral funding were connected in a way that no law is seemingly violated.

Coming back to the first triad: taxes, welfare and votes. Shortly after being re-elected in 2019, the Modi government practically gave up on reforms, structural changes in the economy and private investment as the main drivers of GDP growth, creation of jobs and reduction of poverty. That was a painstaking task that required sound economic management. Instead, the government discovered an alternative route to win popular support: welfarism. The advent of Covid-19 provided an economic justification for the new policy. (That the welfare measures fell short of the minimum needs of the very poor, the migrant workers, those who had lost their jobs, the MSMEs that were forced to shut down, and the sick and the old people is a separate point and has been marked as a failure of the government.)

UNJUST TAX POLICY

The Modi government quickly latched on to the political and electoral rewards of expanded welfarism. The

crucial question was, ‘Who should pay for them?’

It was a stroke of genius to hit upon the idea that the poor — who were supposed to benefit from the new welfare measures — *should and can fund the new measures themselves!* In an equities and just society, the government would have asked the rich and the corporates to pay more so that the government could fund the new welfare measures. The Modi government did the opposite: it cut the corporate tax rate to 22-25 per cent and introduced a generously low rate of 15 per cent for new investments. It also maintained the highest personal income tax rate at 30 per cent, plus an Education & Health surcharge of 4 per cent on the tax. Wealth tax had been abolished and an inheritance tax was not even contemplated.

The main sources of revenue of the government were GST and the taxes on fuel. In the latter, the government found a gold mine. The government also realised that it did not even have to make an effort to mine the gold: the tax payers themselves would mine the gold and hand it over to the government every minute of every day!

EXTORTIONATE RATES

Compare the excise duty rates on petrol and diesel when the Modi govern-

ment assumed office and the rates today, and the prices of essential fuels:

	MAY 2014	AT PRESENT (IN RUPEES)
EXCISE DUTIES		
Petrol (litre)	9.20	26.90
Diesel (litre)	3.46	21.80
PRICES		
Petrol (litre)	71.41	101.81-116.72
Diesel (litre)	55.49	96.07-100.10
LPG cylinder	410	949.50-1000
PNG per scm	25.50	36.61
CNG per kg	35.20	67.37-79.49

And the extortionate prices have been charged on consumers when the price of crude was nowhere near the USD 108 per barrel that prevailed in May 2014. In the last three years (2019-2021) the average price was about USD 60 per barrel.

The tax contribution of the petroleum sector to the central revenues is mind-boggling:

YEAR	RUPEES IN CRORE
2014-15	1,72,065
2015-16	2,54,297
2016-17	3,35,175
2017-18	3,36,163
2018-19	3,48,041
2019-20	3,34,315
2020-21	4,55,069
2021-22 (est.)	4,16,794
Total	26,51,919

POOR PAY DAILY

The bulk of these amounts were paid by farmers who own diesel pump sets and tractors, owners of two-wheelers and cars, auto and taxi drivers, commuters and home-makers. During 2020-21, when millions of consumers paid the Central government Rs 4,55,069 crore as fuel taxes (and another Rs 2,17,650 crore to the state governments), the wealth of just 142 billionaires increased from Rs 23,14,000 crore to Rs 53,16,000 crore — an increase of Rs 30,00,000 crore!

After taxing the poor and the middle-class and collecting humongous amounts, the Central government used that money to provide ‘additional welfare’ to them! And how much was given as additional Direct Benefit Transfer since 2020? We can count free food grain (Rs 2,68,349 crore in two years), one-time cash allowances to women (Rs 30,000 crore), Rs 6,000 a year to farmers (annual bill Rs 50,000 crore) and some sundry expenditure as *pure* cash transfers. The annual outgo on these transfers was no more than Rs 2,25,000 crore — which is less than the annual fuel taxes collected by the Centre alone.

That’s why I say, welfare for the poor means that the poor pay for their own welfare! Meanwhile, the number of billionaires and their untaxed wealth grows by leaps and bounds.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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What harms
India’s
stature

IN CONVERSATIONS with Narendra Modi’s more ardent devotees, I have found that one of the things they love most about him is that he has ‘raised India’s stature’ in the eyes of the world. So, there has been much exultation in ‘*bhakti*’ circles about the long line of important foreign visitors that have come to Delhi in recent days and the long queue of those still waiting to come. This makes it most puzzling, that in the very moment when India suddenly seems to have become the centre of the world, the BJP allowed its youth wing to attack the home of the Chief Minister of Delhi. Leading the mob was the President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Tejasvi Surya, who is an MP and a rising star in Karnataka. What made the whole ugly business uglier was that BJP cheerleaders then justified this attack on social media on the dodgy grounds that since Arvind Kejriwal was once a famous protester himself, he should have no right to complain.

It was because the Aam Aadmi Party was stupid enough to charge the BJP mob with attempted murder that the incident dissolved into a silly charade. This does not take away from the worrying truth that we have become so accustomed to gratuitous violence in recent years that the attack on the home of a serving Chief Minister no longer shocks us like it should. As someone who cannot understand at all the reasons why the BJP continues to use senseless violence to burnish its credentials, I have to say that it is time for this kind of violence to stop, because until it does, India’s ‘stature’ will continue to be lower than it should be in the eyes of the world.

The BJP has just done extraordinarily well in vital state elections. I am no fan of Yogi Adityanath, but in a democracy, you cannot argue with the verdict of the people, so I applaud him for becoming the first chief minister to win two consecutive terms in Uttar Pradesh. He must have done many, many things right for voters to erase those horrible images from last summer of bodies floating in the Ganga and pyres burning day and night in cremation grounds. When I spoke to a Hindu voter about the reasons why the BJP won, he said two things. “Modi was a big factor in Yogi’s victory and Muslim women seem to have voted for the BJP because of that triple talaq business.”

If it is true that Muslim women voted for the BJP, it makes even less sense that much of the gratuitous violence that we see erupting in states ruled by the BJP is directed at Muslims. In recent weeks it is in Karnataka that we have seen the most eruptions. It is the considered view of this column that the demand by Muslim girl students to wear hijab in their classrooms was engineered by the Popular Front of India (PFI), whose Islamist character is so well known that it is puzzling that this vile organisation continues to function openly.

In any case, no sooner did those girls start demanding the right to wear the hijab than appeared upon the scene young men wearing saffron scarves the like of which seem to turn up every time there is trouble. In Karnataka they have been spotted leading a campaign to boycott Muslim shops and later demanding that Hindus boycott shops selling ‘halal’ meat. They were also at the forefront of the campaign to prevent Muslims from opening shops at Hindu religious fairs.

The result of these campaigns is that Bengaluru, once famous for being India’s Silicon Valley, is now being increasingly seen as a town filled with religious fanaticism and hate. Sadly, it must be said that since Modi became prime minister it is these traits that have come to sully India’s image. The response from Modi’s ministers and BJP spokesmen has been to attack the western media for orchestrating a campaign to damage India’s fair name. It is an indication of their provincial mindset that they appear not to have noticed that the publications they make this charge against are among the most respected in the world.

What confuses me is why a country whose ‘stature’ has risen so high in the past eight years needs to be so obsessed with what *The New York Times* or *The Economist* thinks of our prime minister? As an ex-*bhakt*, my advice to my former comrades is that when India feels the need to respond in high dudgeon every time an article against Modi appears in some western publication, it exhibits provincialism. The other piece of free advice I have to offer is that if there were fewer BJP workers spreading hatred and disaffection, there would be less criticism of the Prime Minister not just abroad but in India.

As the leader with the highest approval ratings in the world, why does he need around him people whose only speciality is violence? Their acts of violence harm not just Modi’s image but the image of India and it lowers the country’s ‘stature’ because it makes people forget the good changes that have happened in the past eight years. The only thing that gratuitous violence achieves is to create more gratuitous violence, and to create the impression that in India the rule of law is slowly weakening.

Losers all? Time to rethink
first-past-the-post system

Dalitality

SURAJ YENGDE

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WE NEED to figure out a way to the existing unfair electoral roll call. It comes across as an untrustworthy method wholesomely relying on political machinations, under the table dealings, and a game of winning instead of representing.

In almost every election, from national, state, to local governments, or even at the office level, one has to play the game of dirty craftsmanship to get a sizeable vote share in elections. Due to the nature of India’s democracy, votes are enshrined in caste and religion.

The current system in place is called the first-past-the-post system (FPTP). The candidate with a diversity or plurality of votes gets elected. The candidate does not need to have a majority. They just need to have more votes than all the others contesting the same seat. So, if there are four strong candidates with equal possibility of gaining representation, the votes are divided four ways. The winner could be someone with, say, 26 per cent of the votes; the other candidates who scored more than 20% do not have any chance of seeing the gates of the zilla parishad, municipality, Assembly or Parliament.

As a result, political parties put up candidates who do not alienate the majority of voters. Since Dalits, Adivasis and women candidates have only a long shot at winning, parties are discouraged to field candidates from minority groups outside the reserved seats.

Under such intense representation protocols, the vote share must be co-opted for the one candidate to win. Thus, backdoor dealings are done without the poor voter having any idea about the fate of their vote.

Such is the nature of this politics that even notable leaders have faced defeat due to communal division of votes under the FPTP system. Even the tallest leader of his times, Dr Ambedkar, couldn’t see the doors of the Lok Sabha.

We need to reconsider our election model. Do we still follow the unrepresentative model of government where its vote share may not be in the majority? Take, for example, the BJP in 2014. The party had a vote share of merely 31%, the

lowest percentage of any party to win the majority seats. How is this democratic? Going by FPTP, vote share does not amount to representation in seats. If, say, a party has more than 15% votes, that needn’t reflect its seat share in Parliament or the Assembly.

FPTP can work well in smaller countries with manageable election logistics. In India, it is not a viable option. The purpose of FPTP was geared towards having a two-party system, with minority, small parties not being bothersome coalition partners. But Indian elections since 1952 have undergone massive social changes. This has contributed to each caste polity reclaiming its share, giving rise to coalition governments, thus going against the maxim of FPTP.

Ideally, people should vote for their candidates. But this happens in rare circumstances. Local leaders piggyback on national leaders in their election campaigns.

It is only fair to demand that the parties should have representation in Parliament or Assembly according to their vote share. Having a sizeable vote and not having representation in the House defeats the purpose of those voters who have cast a vote for their party. If the party loses, does it mean their votes are wasted?

Ideally, as seen in the UK and Canada, where FPTP operates, the MP is accountable to their constituency. In India, where even a small parliamentary constituency has a population of 1.5 to 2.5 million, it is a fiefdom of India’s feudal politics. The MPs can also defect from their party in the interest of their constituents in the aforementioned countries. In India, anti-defection law makes it harder for the candidate to stand by his or her constituents and instead they follow the dictates of their leadership.

Smaller parties need to exist as rightful partners in India’s electoral politics. However, due to the current system, they are forced to either get co-opted or aligned with the interests of national parties, defeating the purpose of federalism and local self-government. The BJP, with its majority, has a responsibility toward its citizens. They can correct the current fallouts. Today they are ruling. Tomorrow they might struggle. Thus, a method combining FPTP and proportional representation needs to be charted out for the health of India’s republicanism.

Suraj Yengde, the author of
Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly
‘Dalitality’ column

history
HEADLINE

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SOBHA SINGH was 22 when he and his father Sujan Singh were invited by the British for the Delhi Durbar of December 2011. The contractors from Sargoda (Punjab) were working on the Kalka-Shimla rail road at the time and when they heard that the British capital would be shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, an astute Sobha Singh is said to have surmised: “It’s time to buy land here.” Years later, he would be called “*aadhe dilli da malik*”.

Delhi’s most famous pre-Independence builder — whose firm is now at the centre of a legal dispute with the government over alleged non-payment of rent by the latter in Delhi’s Sujan Singh Park area — has lent more than his touch to some of the Capital’s iconic buildings, including Regal, Scindia House, Connaught Place’s A Block, and Chelmsford Club.

But Sobha Singh was not the only contractor who shaped the new Capital. Called Delhi’s ‘*panj pyaaras*’ — after the first five Sikh volunteers to be initiated into the Khalsa order — this group had, besides Sobha Singh, Narain Singh, Dharam Singh Sethi, Baisakha Singh, and Ram Singh Kabli. There were at least three other prominent contractors — Akbar Ali from Jhelum and Lachhman Das and Seth Haroun from Sindh. Each brought their expertise to the work that turned a barren stretch into a landmark city.

Though the building of Delhi was to begin soon after the announcement in 1911, with World War I, budgets were slashed and costs escalated. The inaugural would have to wait another two decades.

British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker were called in to design buildings along the Central Vista, which included the Viceroy House (Rashtrapati Bhavan), Secretariat Buildings (North and South Blocks), numerous offices and government housing. The land was levelled, and the long winding streets of Old Delhi were relinquished for hexagons and axial layouts.

But the real builders were these contractors, besides the many architects and engineers who shaped the landscape and gave Delhi its monumentality.

At a time when Delhi was home to hyenas and jackals, when families in Old Delhi warned their children not to go to New Delhi after dusk — the boundary then was Amrita Shergill Marg — here were industrialists businessmen who saw beyond the reality of the barren, undulating terrain.

Khushwant Singh, Sobha Singh’s son, wrote in his book *Not A Nice Man To Know* about these ‘pioneer builders... of littleed-

Team of 5, and some more,
who built New Delhi



Sobha Singh’s house on Jantar Mantar Road is now Kerala House. *Express*

ucation and modest means” who went on to become millionaires.

One of the first to arrive was Haroun, a Sindhi, who helped build the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Then there was Das, “legendary for his honesty”, who never used cheap material and always paid his labourers right. He assisted in building Parliament House and Bikaner House and his family was famous in Agra for the work they did on marble. Narain, who arrived from Sangrur, would go on to build roads, level the terrain and lay the foundation for Rashtrapati Bhavan. His son Ranjit Singh built The Imperial with Francis Blomfield as its architect; his grandsons currently manage the hotel. Baisakha Singh, who arrived from Amritsar, was responsible for the construction of the entire North Block, besides the bungalows for government officers.

Dharam Singh would go on to build a palatial house on Jantar Mantar Road, which later housed the All India Congress Committee office. In fact, most of them built houses for themselves along the same street. Sobha Singh got his architect Walter George to build him a house, which is now Kerala House. Next door was Baisakha Singh.

It is said that Sobha Singh and Baisakha Singh wouldn’t let walls come between them, that they even had a boundary wall breached so that their families could mingle without leaving the gates. Opposite Sobha Singh’s house lived Narain Singh.

Delhi was part of Punjab at the time of the Delhi Durbar, and most contractors came from Punjab or Sindh. These contractors found an opportunity to move to Delhi when a new capital was being built.

Sumanta Bhowmick, Additional Director, Parliament of India, whose book *Princely Palaces in New Delhi* tells the his-

tory of imperial and post-Independence New Delhi, says, “We must credit them not because they accumulated wealth, but because they were an industrious and enterprising lot who came to Delhi at a time when the land was bare except for brick kilns and tombs. Delhi wasn’t an attractive place at all.”

But among all the builders, Sobha Singh landed the biggest chunk of projects, including Vijay Chowk, India Gate, National Museum, AIR, Baroda House, and Sujan Singh Park (SSP). What marked SSP as a unique project was that it was a precursor to other housing projects in Delhi, including colonies by the Delhi Development Authority, introducing the style of four blocks of houses surrounding a park.

Architect Gaurav Raj Sharma, who recently did renovations of apartments in SSP, says, “After the shifting of the Capital, there was a shortage of housing stock in New Delhi. In 1943, the New Delhi Municipal Corporation approached Sobha Singh to develop around a hundred flats for government use in a four-storied building. The 11-acre land on the south-eastern fringe of New Delhi was offered on a 99-year lease.”

The condition of the lease was that the lessee would build, using his own funds, and on completion, the government retained the right to use the whole of the buildings or any part by paying a fair rent. This arrangement would continue until the end of WWII and up to one year later. After this period, “a certain number of the flats, not exceeding 50 per cent of the total, shall be leased to government officials at a fair rent”.

This builder-model of apartment construction is followed to this day in the real-estate market.

On the
LOOSE

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IT IS some consolation that it’s not just comedians in India who need to worry about getting beaten up for a bad joke. The world was stunned when actor Will Smith nonchalantly climbed the Oscars stage and punched host Chris Rock last week. Smith went on to win an Oscar and dance the night away, the lack of consequences alarming for whacking someone with billions watching. There were plenty of others who deserved to be celebrated that night but the narrative of the Academy Awards 2022 was hijacked by the slap — another unfortunate example of how viral culture is perpetually overshadowing important achievements.

For thousands of years, mankind has settled all kinds of disputes by blows.

The joke’s on all of us

Violence has been part and parcel of the human experience since time immemorial. If it were the 17th or 18th Century in England, this particular Oscar debacle would have been settled by a duel — an arranged combat with matched weapons (where Smith wouldn’t have had the critical advantage of surprise). Duels took place under strict rules, the idea being to respect those willing to risk their lives to regain lost honour.

The human mind is most fertile when it comes to conjuring ways to humiliate alleged transgressors; even today, after every highly publicised rape in Delhi it’s common to hear people opine that rapists should be hung somewhere central, where onlookers can stone them. Human beings are innately violent, so even in the 21st Century, an autocrat can get away with bombing a neighbouring country into oblivion, while the rest of us watch on helplessly.

For whatever it’s worth, we still (outwardly) abhor erratic behaviour — society places a premium on the cultivated art of politeness — which is why Smith’s expletive-ridden outburst has created a furore.

Right or wrong, the unwritten rules of etiquette demand we hide our anger, no matter what the provocation. Recently I found myself on a long road journey with three people I like but whose political opinions I disagree with. Over eight tedious hours, I could feel my blood pressure rising wildly and ebbing repeatedly. It would be a lie if I didn’t admit it crossed my mind how nice it would be if I could just box them, and make them shut up.

That’s the thing about freedom of speech; we all support it, till we hear things we don’t like. The sage Jiddu Krishnamurti noted, to observe without judgment is the highest form of intelligence; people who can manage that are rare and wholly de-

serving of a halo around their heads.

The main takeaway from the Smith fiasco is that absolutely nobody is free of grave imperfections; scratch the surface and it’s evident, no one’s leading a dream life either. We tend to view Hollywood legends as earthlings inhabiting a rarefied stratosphere where nothing bad ever happens, but success, it turns out, is no protection from petty emotions and fits of rage. There will be moments in all our lives that we deeply regret irrespective of what we have achieved.

Meanwhile, consider the plight of the beleaguered comedian left wondering where, exactly, is that imaginary line between hilarity and insult that must never be crossed. Political correctness and cancel culture have doomed humour; it’s not just stand-up comics, we must all tread gingerly for fear of being accused as insensitive towards the dis-

advantaged. The fact is, people are an entangled mess of hopeless contradictions. Surely, it’s possible to laugh at an inappropriate sexist joke, yet uphold values of equality and feminism.

It’s impossible to explain why we find what we find funny. The best jokes take a serious issue, twist it around and expose the absurdities around it, cleverly stripping injustice, or tragedy, of its power. It doesn’t seem that terminal illness could have any connection with comedy but there is a whole sub genre of cancer humour available online, with patients laughing the loudest. Sometimes, rather, when everything else fails, laughter is the best medicine. Comedy is subjective. Not everyone is going to like a particular joke. Crucially, just because somebody is offended, doesn’t mean they’re right.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



SPOTLIGHT

Multiple Perspectives

BBC's director-general Tim Davie on competing in a crowded space, finding a hold in the Indian market and its coverage of the war in Ukraine

Dipanita Nath

A DISHAKTI Theatre Arts, an institution of performing arts near Puducherry, is on a campus covered with trees, half of which do not bear flower or fruit. When the group moved here in 1993, the artistes funded their theatre activities by cultivating and selling French bean, cucumber, radish and pumpkin. Three years later, as their art evolved, the performers no longer wanted to look at plants from the perspective of utilitarianism. The practice of taking produce to the market stopped and the fertile land was nurtured to grow a small forest.

Mud paths lead to buildings, made of earth and lateritic rock, where artistes live and work. It is in this isolated space that Veenapani Chawla, a pioneering theatre director, created a form of theatre whose sole purpose was not to entertain or inform but to understand the psychic or the "space for luminous creativity" in every person. Adishakti — the name means primal female energy — is celebrating its 40th anniversary from April 5, with a festival, titled "Remembering Veenapani 2022".

In an interview to Leela Gandhi, a literary and cultural theorist, in 2011, Chawla had said, "We know our superficial personality is made up of a body, mind and emotional/vital being. But, behind this, hidden from us, is what he (the spiritual teacher Sri Aurobindo) calls the subliminal part, which is much vaster but not known by us. Our external personality constantly receives influences, touches and communication from this part but does not know from where these are coming. Hidden behind the subliminal is the psychic, the evolving best part of us. One of the important objectives of our practice is to bring this part into the open, to become conscious of it, to let us direct life."

Until she died in 2014, aged 67, Chawla was seeking knowledge from multiple sources and exploring the self through theatre. Her iconic productions, such as *Impressions of Bhima* (1995), *Brhannala*



BODY LANGUAGE

As Adishakti turns 40, remembering its founder Veenapani Chawla, who rescued theatre from the spoken word and gave the physical body full play

POINT OF VIEW

Closest Thing to Flying

A collection of radio talks by India's best-known ornithologist, Sálím Ali, captures his vision of involving people in conservation



PHOTOS COURTESY ADISHAKTI THEATRE ARTS

IN HER STEPS

Veenapani Chawla; (left) Adishakti Theatre Arts, Auroville

(1998), *Ganapati* (2000) and *The Hare and The Tortoise* (2007), emerged from studying wide-ranging subjects such as ancient Indian philosophy, Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem of mathematical logic and the Dutch graphic artist Maurits Cornelis Escher. Chawla's intense legacy attracts new generations of theatre-makers till today. Parshathy J Nath, 31, from Kerala, was a part of Adishakti's 10-day workshop, "Source of Performance Energy" in 2018, where participants were taught to tap into their bodies, breaths and emotions for the primal source of energy. Now, she is staying on the campus as part of an Inlaks Scholarship to develop a play on Surpanakha, the demon princess from the Ramayana. "The workshop was a very rigorous experience, one I hadn't found in any other theatre space until then. I wanted to be a part of Adishakti's experience," she says.

» CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



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DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Armour Light and Tough

What connects pangolin’s scale, porcupine’s quill and rhino’s horn?

IT COULDN'T be more ironical: the very effective, light armour they carry for their own homeland security (sometimes, used for offence) is swiftly leading to their own downfall — at our hands, and for reasons that ought to make us hang our heads in shame. The magnificent rhino, the quaint pangolin and the fierce porcupine are perfectly equipped to protect themselves: the rhino can upend a truck with a toss of its horn, the pangolin roll itself into a scaly ball which even lions cannot prise open, and the porcupine can put out the eye of the tiger with just one of its myriad quills. And these weapons are made of essentially the same thing: a structural protein called keratin — incidentally, it is also what our own hair is made of. And in our eternal wisdom, we believe that crushed rhino horn serves up as an aphrodisiac and pangolin scales have great medicinal value: as a result, both the animals are now teetering on the brink of extinction. It's intriguing how Mother Nature has engineered this protein to suit myriad needs and guises. The basics remain the same: the weapon is light (relatively speaking) and very strong. Keratins are divided into alpha keratin and beta keratin. The former is found in hair, wool and skin of animals, the latter in birds and reptiles. Keratins are a key structural material that can make scales, hair, nails, claws, feathers, horns and hoofs and provide a protective, impervious layer to the skin. I've never held a rhino horn, but feathers and porcupine quills are astonishingly light and structurally sound. Porcupine quills can draw blood with consummate ease! Interestingly, spiders' silk is also composed of keratin and is stronger than steel wire of similar dimensions. For lightness and toughness there's really nothing to beat keratin — except for its only rival: chitin. This exists in the protective "exoskeleton" armour that most insects wear. In the medieval days, gallant knights, clad in heavy metal armour (and chain mail), would clank around waving swords and spears as heavy as tree trunks. If they fell



RANJIT LAL

GOT THEIR BACK

The beetles' tough light elytra (wing cases) comprises chitin

down, it was game over! Insects, in the meanwhile, with their segmented bodies trundle around at top speed, not in the least hampered by their tough composite exoskeletons. Chitin serves more for defensive purposes than as a weapon of offence, providing a protective hard shell, which is difficult to penetrate by a predator. The chitin-based hard "beak" of the octopus is an exception. In its pristine form, chitin is translucent, resistant, quite pliable and fairly tough. In insects (arthropods), it is often combined with a composite of other materials to form the tough exoskeleton. When combined with calcium carbonate, as in the shells of crustaceans and mollusks, it becomes stiffer, tougher and less brittle than if the shell had been composed of calcium carbonate alone. The caterpillar's soft squishy "skin" is composed mainly of chitin, while the tough light elytra (wing cases) of beetles are a composite of chitin with a substance called sclerotin. In butterflies' wings, chitin is arranged in a manner to enable iridescence, and in dragonfly's wing, it is pliable enough to twist about its axis in flight allowing the insect maximum lift. Chitin also forms the tough cell walls of fungi and enables fungi to heave itself out of the ground through piles of leaves and soil. While chitin is indigestible by all vertebrates, those that do eat insects usually have a symbiotic bacteria or protozoa in their guts that can break it down (I wonder if all the "survival" experts on TV who are constantly stuffing their faces with cockroaches and scorpions have these bacteria, though chitin is used as a dietary supplement!). It's used to make surgical thread, and there's hope to make biodegradable plastic and paper from it, too. If it's keratin and chitin for mammals and arthropods respectively, it's cellulose for plants, which provides the major structural component that gives rigidity to their cell walls. It is the most abundant naturally occurring organic compound, indigestible by all except for a selection of ruminants (who have symbiotic microorganisms to help them) and termites. For us, it simply helps us in being "regular"! We've only recently begun exploring "composite" materials seriously — for the construction of planes, cars or anything that needs to be light and strong. Whether Kevlar or any other such composite for bulletproof jackets, or carbon-fibre polymers used for racing cars, these materials are showing us promise for the future. As usual, Mother Nature has beaten us it. Plus, rhino horn (compressed hair) and porcupine quills, unlike plastic, are all biodegradable. As for us, we're content with deluding ourselves that pangolin scales will protect us from witchcraft, and secure our finances, and rhino horn (apart from tearing holes in Land Rovers) can turn us into Casanova!



TASHI TOBGYAL

Aakash Joshi

In older markets like India, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is no longer the primary window to the world. How do you see the company competing in a crowded space?

I think one of the most important things for the BBC is to stay true to its values. If you go back to the basics, we are a public-service organisation, absolutely driven by impartial, fair news coverage, and content in many genres. So, in a very busy market, the last thing you want to do is do what everyone else is doing. You want to double down on where you're different. And the BBC is different, in that it's largely publicly funded, and it cares about the truth. What I've tried to do as leader of the BBC is be innovative in how we deliver things through digital means, making sure we were very, very fast-moving. But our values stay true and hold firm. We're 100 years old, and we're still growing. This year, we're close to 500 million people in terms of our reach globally. It's growing in India — we're up to 72 million. So, I think, the appetite for trusted news sources and trusted content has remained strong. You could argue in this modern world, where everything is disputed, there's so much noise, the value of a trusted source is going to become higher, not lower.

Last year, the UK Treasury Secretary said the BBC model would be reviewed in six years, in 2027. How, as BBC's head, do you navigate being a public broadcaster and a major subject of partisan politics?

I think the BBC, if you look at its history, has always been at the centre of political debates: Does it lean one way politically or another? With social media and hundreds of new channels, you've got lots of competition. So, there

is absolutely going to be a valid debate about what the purpose of a public broadcaster is at this point. But my personal view is, this is all about what people and the public want. It's not about what politicians ultimately want. In that sense, the BBC is in a pretty decent position. We have to healthily be worried about staying relevant. But in the UK, we believe a universal mission where everyone pays for the broadcaster is critical. And it's important to emphasise we're not a state broadcaster. We're a public-service broadcaster, paid for by the public, and most of the public get value from the BBC, which is why it stays. That's the model that we've got to keep relevant to the public.

How do you see the Indian market and its news ecosystems in terms of hyperbole and misinformation?

Every market is different. But there are great similarities around the world now emerging. And that is enormous amounts of voices and channels, hyper-competition. We're in a world where the barriers to entry are now severely reduced. The competition for audiences puts enormous pressure on the economics of businesses and increases the temptation to become more polarised, noisier. The Indian market is incredibly competitive. The BBC is playing a different game. We don't need all of your media time. I think the danger for us, as I said earlier, is that impartial, fair reporting begins to be seen as slightly dull. In my experience, our journalists look at the facts, at the truth, they can also have an opinion. But what they are not trying to do is just generate conflict for a short term, to try and push shares. I say that not to be critical. I think there's a place in the market for all of this. My role is not to come from London and criticise the Indian market. But I think we have a place that isn't the same as everyone else's.

One of BBC's recent criticisms has been in

FIELD WORK

Tim Davie, BBC's director-general, at the BBC office in New Delhi

‘We are not just a company broadcasting from London’

Tim Davie, BBC’s director-general, on its coverage of the war in Ukraine and finding a hold in the Indian market

its ‘Western’ coverage of the Ukraine crisis. How do you respond to questions emerging from the global South?

I'm very proud of our coverage in Ukraine. I think we've seen some incredibly brave journalism. Second, of course, we need to listen hard as the BBC. It's really important that the BBC doesn't just have a perspective from one country. My objective is that as a global media organisation we deeply understand some of these issues and reflect on them. I think we do that carefully. And we listen hard. The BBC is not just a company broadcasting from London.

Take India, for instance: a vast majority of our team here are Indians. I was just with some of my Indian teams that were showing analysis of how this war is viewed from an Indian perspective. While I understand some of those concerns, if you look across the breadth of our coverage, some of these issues are debated. We engage in the topic and look at the West itself. Have we got frameworks of thinking in various places that are limiting our reporting? I think, simultaneously, I'll rigorously defend our reporting and the balance of our reporting, while also saying, we need to listen hard to our Indian colleagues, make sure we're reporting from an Indian perspective and places outside of London that clearly identify that there are different ways of looking at situations and different things to consider. I think great journalists are always suspicious of simplistic narratives, simplistic storytelling.

How are new technologies contributing to BBC's tackling of misinformation? Given BBC's growing digital presence and big tech acting as a gatekeeper, how do you balance distribution platforms?

It's important that we are in a lot of services and platforms. My worry and task is to make sure we don't chase views for their own sake. We don't just do more sensationalist

videos for their sake. We know what gets big reach on YouTube but we've got to get the balance right. We've been pioneers, quite deliberately, in putting significant resources in place to look at areas where there is substantial disinformation and try to get the facts. In the UK, we began this by hiring people who work solely on this. In India, we have a pilot project on checking misinformation. Realistically, I don't think we'll ever get rid of disinformation or misinformation.

Our role is to see where that disinformation is happening at scale, digging into it, and expose where things are just not true. There's no doubt that there's an incredibly positive effect of some of the technology companies to enable us to get to new audiences. But at the BBC, we also believe our future is not wholly where everything is in bits, and not on our own services. That means that the overwhelming priority for us is to build branded services where people come to the BBC to get the fullest offer, with exclusive content. For the long-term future of brands, it's not just about the individual pieces of journalism or content. It's also about trusted services.

To move away from news, when will the iPlayer come to India? Or more fiction and cultural programming?

The limitation at the moment is one of rights to programme. Second, the economic models — which countries you go to, at what speed are determined by this. We may sell the rights around the world to different broadcasters and they may pay, for instance, 80 per cent of the programming cost. What's interesting is that there's just such huge potential in India. With the cultural connections we've got, and the quality programming, there's a lot to be done with the sheer scale of India. We're ambitious about our commercial businesses here. And we want to keep expanding.

Body Language

» FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

CHAWLA WAS born in Mumbai in 1947, her grandparents having migrated from the part of Punjab that would become Pakistan. She attended Dehradun's Welham Girls' school, where she was introduced to theatre by a teacher, and watched Geoffrey Kendall's touring group Shakespeareana. At Miranda House college, she observed Delhi's thriving theatre scene and the plays of William Shakespeare, Harold Pinter and Eugène Ionesco. In an exhaustive study of the thespian, *The Theatre of Veenapani Chawla* (2014), theatre critic and author Shanta Gokhale writes, "Her first experience of a traditional drama form came during the Total Theatre Festival in Delhi, where she'd seen a Kathakali performance. Her direct experience of the stage was, even now, confined to standing in the wings and prompting or playing ladies-in-waiting." Since childhood, Chawla and her parents were regulars at Sri Aurobindo Ashram, sometimes staying up to a month there. The spiritual commune in Auroville was set up in 1926 by philosopher and freedom fighter Sri Aurobindo to reflect his goals of Integral yoga, which is to "manifest a higher consciousness here on earth by transforming human nature and all aspects of human activity".

By her 20s, Chawla knew she wanted to join the commune, but was told it was not her time yet. In a letter to philosopher, poet and linguist Nolini Kant Gupta, the oldest disciple of Sri Aurobindo, she wrote, "I want to develop my mind into a fine instrument. I want to make my emotional being refined and cultivated. I like theatre. Is that the way?" "He underlined that and wrote in the margin, 'Yes, continue'. And then, he gave me my name Veenapani, as a goal to achieve. It is the name of the goddess Mahasaraswati and stands for the power of perfection in the world and knowledge," Chawla told Gandhi. Her original name was Veena. Adishakti was set up in Mumbai in 1981. By then, Chawla had made her mark as a director through children's plays such as *Savitri* (1975), based on Sri Aurobindo's epic poem about the soul's spiritual destiny, with pupils

of Arya Vidya Mandir in Mumbai, where she taught history and literature till 1978. She introduced the young performers to meditation as part of prepping for the play. Chawla was well-known in the cultural circuit of Mumbai and attended the experimental performances emerging in the city but, according to Gokhale, was unmoved by these. "On the contrary, they convinced her that this was not the kind of theatre she wanted to do," writes Gokhale.

Chawla's first production with adults, *Oedipus* (1981), starring Naseeruddin Shah, shows that she seemed less interested in the collective messages of society and more on working with the self. In *Oedipus*, she saw not a tragedy of a king who blinded himself as a punishment for heinous acts, but a seeker shutting out external distractions and developing an inner gaze. What did the Mumbai audience think of the radical interpretation of a classic? Gokhale writes, "*Oedipus* succeeded beyond Chawla's and her cast's wildest imagination. They had expected to do five shows but did 25, each to resounding applause." Shah returned, as Hamlet, in the next Adishakti performance, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1983). Gokhale writes, "Chawla referred to the spirit during rehearsals as a 'state of controlled anarchy'. The play kept its promise. It sparked with wit and excellent performances."



The land where Adishakti is located in Auroville was gifted to Chawla by an admirer of her theatre. Symbolically, it is on the outskirts of Tamil Nadu and the Aurobindo Ashram which is its spiritual wellspring. The surrounding villages are rich with subaltern practices and rituals of the Draupadi cult, with temples to the heroine of the Mahabharata, who is not a figure of worship in mainstream India. A short drive from Adishakti is Koovagam village in Villupuram, which hosts an annual 18-day festival of the transgender community. The different forms of artistic practices would provide a rich palette for Adishakti's later works.

"I first met her at a martial-arts institute



COURTESY ADISHAKTI THEATRE ARTS

AVANT-GARDE

An archival image of Vinay Kumar KJ in the play *Bhannala* (1997)

where I was training. I saw somebody in their 40s who had the dedication of a person in their 20s. There was an enthusiasm to break free the body from its social conditioning. Later, younger performers like me had no excuse because, however problematic a movement was, she would jump into it," says Vinay Kumar KJ, the artistic director of Adishakti. The body and its actions, especially breathing, is the crux of Adishakti's process. Chawla's interrogation of her body took her to folk performance forms such as Chhau, Kalaripayattu and Koodiyattam. When he joined Chawla, Vinay realised the extent to which a person's body is conditioned by social influences and their behaviour constructed by the people around. "Our personal behaviour is not really us, and this can create all kinds of contradictions after adolescence. Unlearning is important and difficult," he says. Vinay, 52, is one of the country's most powerful performers and an integral part of Chawla's oeuvre. If she was the philosopher, he was the body on stage. Their first collaboration, *Impressions of Bhima*, had a difficult

start. Chawla and Vinay worked for three years to free his body and activate different facets of it. "The training was so rigorous that, even now, I feel *Bhima* changed my body," he says. Had Chawla been directly applying Sri Aurobindo's philosophy on stage or using traditional moves to talk of present concerns, she'd have created mundane works. She studied to form an opinion and searched within herself and her actor. *Impressions of Bhima* and other myths that formed the core of her subsequent works was chosen because "with modernity, we assume we have a more fashionable physiological and psychological understanding of the world, but our ethical dilemmas haven't changed from the mythical stories from ages ago," says Vinay.

Bhima started as an exploration to show two Bhimas, one is strong and the other a child, within the flash of a second. Vinay is on the stage, his knuckles planted on the floor and the light illuminating only his taut back muscles. Then, only his hands loosen and, the moment his head turns, the audience sees a baby face. *Bhima* is an example of how Chawla and Vinay created the works that followed, such as *Bhannala*, which traces the concept of *ardhanarishwar* in terms of gender fluidity — male and female energies in the same body; and *Ganapati*, inspired by *koodiyattam*, and how mathematical progressions of a rhythm structure reflects a basic human emotion.

Bali (2018), the first production by Adishakti after Chawla's death, was directed by Nimmy Raphael, 39, a senior actor of the group. It maintains Chawla's methodology — a gestation process that goes on for many months, no linear narrative, each actor playing multiple roles and stories meshing into one another. "Our idea is that the actor expresses the *bhava* and the audience gets the *rasa*," says Vinay.

Students of theatre find that, at Adishakti, the core of each production entails working on the breath. "Our ideas of happiness depend on social constructs (jobs, home and money), which cater to four primary impulses: greed, desire, lust, gluttony. We see this when we look at breath philosophically," he says. The Adishakti way of theatre is complex, it requires confronting one's strengths and fears. There's much to learn and unlearn. "In Adishakti, there is no ownership, we are just custodians. We enrich the space and the method and transfer to the next generation of artists," says Vinay.



Devyani Onial

Delivered between 1941 and 1985, Ali's talks were recorded mainly at the All India



A group of five men are gathered outdoors on a grassy field. On the left, a young man in a dark sweater sits on a wicker stool, holding a small object. Next to him, another young man in a light green shirt sits on the ground, looking towards the center. In the middle, a man in a white shirt sits on the ground, holding a small object. To his right, an elderly man with a white beard, wearing a brown beanie and glasses, sits on a wicker stool. On the far right, a man in a light blue sweater and a dark cap kneels, pointing towards the object held by the man in the white shirt. A blue box is open on the ground in the foreground, containing some items. The background shows a hazy landscape with trees and a body of water.

COURTESY: BLACK KITE

(Clockwise from above) Sálím Ali could reach out to a cross-section of society, telling them about birds and the stellar role they play in preserving our environment; India's birdman, Ali ; Tara Gandhi



be credited for taking the discipline outside museums and collections and out in the natural habitat and widening its scope. 'The kind of projects he undertook later on from the '60s onwards were extremely important and absolutely pragmatic. He took on a project on birds in the aviation sector, that is bird hazards in aviation. It was a huge project and it

But being dubbed India's birdman sometimes shadowed his role as a conservationist. "He would say repeatedly that everything is interlinked in nature. It is not just the birds themselves, it is the habitat of the birds and different ecosystems in India he wanted conserved for the sake of all the flora and fauna within them. He spoke about conservation of endangered species and regretted that so many species had died out. Ali was instrumental in getting a number of national parks and protected areas established. Through his communication skills he was even able to persuade royal families to set aside their hunting reserves for conserving the species within them," says Gandhi.



LINE AND PATTERNS

The gold leaf in the murals adds to the lustre

The state corridor is a showcase of India's cultural wonders through its magnificent murals

Sunil Trivedi



Living History

AN INDIAN EXPRESS
COLLABORATION WITH THE
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

From Harappan seals depicting bulls; motifs from the thangka style of Tibetan paintings; Buddhist paintings of Ajanta; the *alponas* of Bengal, and the sacred *mandalas* that represent the cosmos, figures of lotuses, conch shells, flowers and peacocks have been painted with perfect symmetry and precision. The Indian aesthetics of



This message of equanimity, of adhering to the ultimate truth, of excellence with dispassion is a defining feature of what may be called the first building of the country, the residence and workplace of its first citizen. The main dome of a building can be said to be its head or face. The grand dome of the Rashtrapati Bhavan is an architectural homage to the Sanchi Stupa and the Buddha's message of compassion and love. The murals in the state corridor are, likewise, a reflection of our philosophy and culture.

Sunil Trivedi is Officer on Special Duty (Research),
Rashtrapati Bhavan

Can we look away from the noise of self-serving sectarianism and open our minds to introspective reflection and meditative growth?

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

I learned from Urdu poetry that our lives are verdant valleys and impenetrable citadels of boundless hope and eternal love. I learned that life is the sum of four romantic interludes and joyous longings, of passionate pain and fulfilling suffering, of endearing pangs of anxiety and thrills of nervousness, of heart-wrenching ecstasy and soul-stirring despair. I was taught that it is for us to make the most of any situation. To eke out the best of every moment that we live, every breath we breathe.



SUVIR SARAN

LOOK WITHIN

Conscience is the
bright light of
enlightened thinking
and gives us the
guiding principles
and the roadmap for
our personal
journeys to maturity

Urdu gave me pride in the land of my birth. Its poetry bursting with layered emotions, fleshed out the glee, joy, melancholy, and heartbreak that came my way. Reading and writing Urdu was an adventure, one I wish I had spent more hours and years pursuing. How I wish I could do the *kalam poaja* like my now-deceased paternal uncle, retired chief of Border Security Force, Hargobind Prasad Bhatnagar, did. He would write all our names, stories, dreams and aspirations in Urdu, as my paternal grandfather had done before him. How delicious it was to be celebrating a Hindu festival and marking its rituals with Urdu lettering, which is indelibly stained into our family's collective psyche and familial scroll.

Conscience is the bright light of enlight-

20 ECONOMY

SECTOR WATCH CONSUMER INTERNET COS

Q-comm workers flouting traffic rules, Chennai cops flag 'pressure' from cos

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

BUILDING ON the concerns around quick delivery of groceries and food, the Greater Chennai Traffic Police conducted a special enforcement drive on March 30, where it registered cases against more than 970 delivery workers deployed by platforms including Swiggy, Zomato, Dunzo and Amazon, for flouting traffic norms like signal violation, riding without helmet, driving on the wrong side, etc.

This comes at a time when several stakeholders including lawmakers and local police bodies have flagged concerns over traffic violations and rider safety. The Greater Chennai police department has been the one to have come out against the quick delivery format, and now has data to back up its assertions.

The police actions

As per a statement by the police, 978 workers were fined a sum of Rs 1,35,400 for various violations. Of this, 450 delivery workers were deployed by Swiggy, followed by 278 of Zomato, and Dunzo with 188 of its delivery partners having cases registered against them.

This is perhaps for the first time there is data to show that delivery workers often end up driving rashly while violating traffic norms in a rush to deliver orders quickly as the companies they work for have been promising increasingly short turnaround times to their customers. App-based delivery times in India typically range from 10-25 minutes, depending on the service and platforms users choose.

In a statement, the police noted that the platforms promise quick deliveries to customers, "pressurising" delivery workers to drive quickly. It also said the incentive-based payout structure that most of these companies have for their gig workers was forcing workers to flout traffic norms.

Reaction to quick deliveries

Last month, when Zomato announced that it would soon



A Zomato delivery worker. The company had last month said it would start delivering food within 10 minutes. *File*

start delivering food within 10 minutes, it was met with fierce backlash as stakeholders from across the board raised concerns that the short delivery timeline may add to the pressure on already overworked delivery persons, potentially prompting them to engage in rash driving and traffic violations.

Trade unions like the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union said Zomato should look at its delivery workers "as human beings", and not as "data points" for an algorithm to manage. Lawmakers like Madhya Pradesh Home Minister and Congress MP Karti Chidambaram too had said that the short delivery timeline may put additional pressure on delivery workers. Zomato, however, said that to complete a quick delivery, workers will typically ride for between 3 and 6 minutes, at an average speed of around 20 km per hour, to address concerns that they would engage in rash driving to stick to the 10-minute timeline.

Before Zomato, startups like Blinkit and Zepto popularised the 10 minute delivery segment in the country. Blinkit had earlier told *The Sunday Express* that as its dark stores are located in close proximity to customers, its delivery workers "don't need to break any traffic rules to deliver orders under 10 minutes". Zepto co-founder Aadit Palicha had, during an interaction with this paper earlier, said that in delivering a million orders, a very small fraction — "in decimals" — of its delivery workers have been "mildly injured".

TO CUT DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIA, EU EYES GREEN HYDROGEN

Netherlands offers to be India's 'gateway' to fuel EU's green shift

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

WITH THE Russia-Ukraine crisis leading to rise in oil and gas prices, there is a rethink of energy dependency on Russia among the European nations. The Netherlands is looking at reducing its energy dependency with Russia "as soon as possible", while exploring alternatives including green hydrogen in the coming times.

"One of the things that is crystal clear now is that we should have done more in the last 10 years as a continent as Europeans, but also as Dutch to make sure we create more energy independence. We have talked about it for 10 years, potentially even longer, and we've done too little. Now, this clearly is something that is very much a topic again and we will make sure we get that energy independence as quickly as possible. I talked to the US Secretary of State (Antony) Blinken and Minister (Annalena) Baerbock from Germany and to many other colleagues. We will make sure we see this through and we will make sure we become energy independent of Russia ASAP," Netherlands' Foreign Minister



Wopke Hoekstra said in an interaction with Indian journalists.

"We cannot organise that tomorrow. For the Netherlands, the burden isn't that high but for some of our friends in Europe, the burden is quite high. But we will see it through and we will do it as quickly as possible. And we will do it together with the whole European EU family," he added.

The war in Ukraine has put dialogue around energy dependence in a faster transition mode, said the Netherlands' Climate Envoy Prince Jaime de Bourbon de Parme, adding there's potential for the Netherlands and India to explore trade in green hydrogen.

"One of the alternatives is green hydrogen. As it happens, it is one of the goals for India to be-

come a net exporter of green hydrogen, we could become a net importer because the Netherlands doesn't have enough space to produce all the green hydrogen ourselves. That's not just for energy intensive industries, but also for transport and household usages. Potentially, gas could be replaced by green hydrogen," he said.

The Netherlands could become a facilitator for export of green hydrogen from India to Europe, Jaime said.

"The Netherlands is well-positioned to be your gateway to the rest of Europe, with the Port of Rotterdam as Europe's biggest port, linking to Northern European countries including Germany and Belgium. There's a potential to explore for our two countries," he added.

The Netherlands is at present in dialogue with the industry because they are in the process of placing orders. "So the question is how do we structure it and what infrastructure do we need? Are you going to ship hydrogen as ammonia or in frozen form? All that needs to be agreed to see which way is the best. Right now, Singapore and Japan are the furthest developed in importing green hydrogen, so we are looking at them

also to set the standard and to see what is the standard going forward," Jaime said.

Going ahead, investments from the Netherlands — the fifth biggest foreign investor for India — could see a shift towards renewables from fossil fuels, he added. As per calculations by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), India needs about \$42 billion over the period till 2030 per year for the annual renewal energy investments.

The Netherlands is working with India on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on renewable energy, which is likely to be taken up for discussion during the upcoming visit of President Ram Nath Kovind next week to the country.

"There are several areas of collaboration, such as research, knowledge, building plants and infrastructure such as ports and solar and wind generation. All these areas need to be mapped out and severely reduce emissions if we are to preserve a futureproof planet," Jaime said.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com (The correspondent was in The Hague on an invitation from the Netherlands government)

Investment via P-notes rises to ₹89,143 crore as of Feb-end

Capital market investments via P-notes (participatory notes) rose to ₹89,143 crore till February-end, as per Sebi data



Value of P-note investments in Indian markets — equity, debt, and hybrid securities — stood at ₹89,143 crore by the end of February, compared to ₹87,989 crore at January-end

Positive trend is likely continue in coming months on expectations of strong corporate earnings by India Inc which will enthrone foreign investors, experts believe

At end of December 2021, investment level via P-notes was at ₹95,501 crore

P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of Indian stock market without registering themselves directly

Source: Sebi/PTI

Fuel prices rise by 80p, up ₹7.2/L in last 12 days

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

IN THE latest price hike on Saturday, petrol and diesel prices were increased by 80 paise a litre each. Both fuels have now become costlier by more than Rs 7 a litre within the last fortnight.

In the national capital, petrol price rose to Rs 102.61 per litre as against Rs 101.81 previously. The price of diesel increased from Rs 93.07 per litre to Rs 93.87, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers. Prices of fuels have risen across India and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of local taxation.

Saturday was the tenth instance of hike in prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22. In all, prices have gone up by Rs 720 per litre in the last 12 days. **WITHPTI**

Tata Neu set for Apr 7 launch

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

TATA GROUP'S super app Tata Neu is set for launch on April 7. So far, the app has been restricted for use only by Tata group employees. The company made the announcement through a teaser image on the app's Google Play Store page.

The 'super app'

Tata Neu is the group's super app, to bring together all of its digital services and apps on a single platform. On its Play Store page, the app's description reads: "Consume cutting-edge digital content, make payments, manage your finances, plan your next holiday or perhaps just your next meal — there's lots to explore and experi-

ence in the world of Tata Neu".

Services available

Various Tata group digital services like tickets on AirAsia India, Air India or booking hotels at Taj Group properties, ordering groceries from BigBasket or medicines from 1mg will be possible.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

Microsoft, EU

Brussels: EU antitrust regulators are quizzing Microsoft's rivals and customers about its cloud business and licensing deals, as per a questionnaire seen by *Reuters*, in a move that could lead to a formal investigation and renewed scrutiny of the company. The European Commission has fined Microsoft a total 1.6 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) in the previous decade for breaching antitrust rules and for not complying with its order to halt anti-competitive practices.

Digital yuan plan

Shanghai: The People's Bank of China said it will further expand a pilot scheme of its digital currency to more areas, including cities in the eastern Zhejiang province which is set to host the Asian Games later this year. It will promote the research and development of the digital currency, dubbed e-CNY, and expand the scope of the pilot scheme, as per an online statement. **REUTERS**

Tata Motors EVs

New Delhi: Tata Motors, along with its 24 dealer partners, delivered 712 electric vehicles (EVs) on Saturday to individual customers in Maharashtra and Goa. The auto major delivered 564 Nexon EVs and 148 Tigor EVs to customers. **PTI**

'Infosys shutting Russia ops, eyes replacement for staff in Moscow'

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

SOFTWARE MAJOR Infosys is closing down its operations in Russia, according to reports. The move comes just days after Rishi Sunak, the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer and the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder NR Narayan Murthy, was accused by the British media of profiting from Russia President Vladimir Putin's regime.

Britain's public service broadcaster BBC late night on Friday reported, quoting sources, that Infosys was "trying to find replacement roles abroad for staff employed in Moscow". Infosys has so far not responded to mails sent by *The Sunday Express* which sought to know the number of employees it had in Russia and the reasons behind the closure of operations in the country.

The reported shutting down of operations comes about a week after the British media accused Sunak of profiting from the Putin regime as Infosys had ties to local enterprises in Russia. Sunak is married to NR Narayan Murthy's daughter Akshata Murthy.

In an earlier statement, Infosys had denied having any active business relationships with any local enterprises, and said that the company had committed \$1 million towards relief efforts for the victims of war in Ukraine. "Infosys has a small team based out of Russia, that services some of our



British media had accused UK Finance Minister Rishi Sunak of profiting from the Putin regime. *Reuters file*

global clients, locally. We do not have any active business relationships with local Russian enterprises. A key priority for Infosys in times of adversity, is to continue extending support to the community. The company has committed USD 1 million towards relief efforts for the victims of war from Ukraine," the company had said in a statement last month.

Earlier in March, Sunak had, in a televised statement, asked companies from the UK refrain from making new investments in Russia. "I welcome commitments already made by a number of firms to divest from Russian assets — and I want to make it crystal clear that the government supports further signals of intent. I am urging firms to think very carefully about their investments in Russia and how they may aid the Putin regime — and I am also clear that there is no case for new investment in Russia," he had said on March 13.

Mutual fund account pooling: Jul 1 new deadline

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 2

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has barred the launch of mutual fund schemes till July 1 in order to facilitate the discontinuation of the practice of pooling of accounts.

The regulator has agreed to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) request to extend the existing timeline of April 1 for implementing the discontinuation of pooling of accounts to July 1.

The extension in the deadline is to facilitate efficient technology overhaul and its smooth transition

to serve growing investor needs, the industry body said.

"To stay focused on its efficient and effective implementation of the said October 4, 2021, SEBI circular, we as mutual fund industry, have agreed to keep new fund offers (NFOs) launches on hold during this period. We are confident that NFOs will be back on track soon," said N S Venkatesh, chief executive, AMFI.

According to Amfi, after mutual discussion and agreement, Sebi has given the mutual fund industry extended timelines until July 1, 2022, to enable the industry to bring in a high level of operational efficiency in the interest of

investors and efficient functioning of mutual fund subscriptions and redemption.

The platforms of financial advisers, distributors and brokers have been using the fund pooling mechanism.

When an investor puts money through an aggregator, the money goes into a pool account. The money gets aggregated there and is then sent to individual asset management companies.

The regulator's view is that there is a risk involved in pooling of accounts because the money comes to the aggregator's account and there could be some scope for misuse at that level, or delay of the

How Russia-Ukraine war threatens to splinter the internet

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

IN 2001, when the internet was staring at a slew of regulations from across the globe, Clyde Wayne Crews, a researcher at libertarian think-tank Cato Institute, proposed the idea of 'splinternet' — an internet splintered into disparate realms controlled by different dispensations or powers.

The fundamental proposal was to have more internets instead of having more regulations.

Over the past two decades, a splintering of internet has occurred in some limited ways. China's 'Great Firewall' keeps American tech giants out while pushing online services developed indigenously. Russia, in 2019, passed the sovereign internet law — or the online Iron Curtain — that enabled the country to disconnect its internet from rest of the world.

The splintering

Crews may have been ahead of his time in propounding a splinternet. But the events of the past four weeks pose the first serious challenge to the way the internet has evolved into a global system of interconnected computer networks that uses the internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to communicate between networks and devices.

However dystopian that the idea of the splinternet may have seemed over these years, all the way up to just a few weeks ago, Russia's invasion of Ukraine does seem as a potential trigger for a splintered internet, with France's digital affairs envoy Henri Verdier, in an interview to *Bloomberg News*, stating that in as many words. He said categorically that the combination of Moscow's rising online censorship attempts combined with Ukraine's repeated calls for Russia to be taken offline could potentially offer the trigger for the eventual "fragmentation of the internet." "Will the unique, neutral, multi-stakeholder, free internet survive this crisis?" Verdier said. "I'm not sure".

The Internet is essentially a global network of physical cables, that can include copper telephone wires, TV cables, and fiber optic cables, alongside wireless connections such as Wi-Fi and 3G/4G that leverage the physical cables to hook users and devices on to the Internet. Countries hook on to global web services via undersea cables or nodes that are connection points through which data is

SPLINTERING OVER PAST TWO DECADES

■ Over the past two decades, a splintering of internet has occurred in some limited ways, including China's 'Great Firewall' keeping American tech giants out and Russia, in 2019, passing the sovereign internet law

EXPLAINED

transmitted to and from other countries' communication networks. The concept of the splinternet envisages blocks or regulation of these connections points.

Viability barrier

Can Russia, or China, simply create a parallel or alternative system that will be viable? There are already experiments of government-managed walled garden that are taking shape. In Iran, for instance, a project called the National Information Network (NIN), also known as National Internet in Iran has been initiated by the state-owned Telecommunication Company of Iran. Another experiment on these lines is the so-called 'The Golden Shield Project, also called the "great firewall of China" initiated by the Ministry of Public Security division of the Chinese government.

Problems

So far, state-sponsored cyberwarfare, despite stray instances, has been a scattered occurrence. This has mainly been possible because of diplomatic involvement of countries and jurisdictions in maintaining cyber-relations. The splinternet could be a spanner in these works. According to Verdier, any move by Russia to move toward an independent internet "would have severe consequences", including the temptation by countries to launch cyberattacks as they would be insulated from the impact.

Case for a splinternet

Crews had argued two decades ago that "warfare on the digital commons invites more regulation and adds to a deteriorating and antiquated Internet". He had written that splintering the internet would not only increase the options but also protect the rights of internet users, "which depend so critically on the institution of private property". *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Tesla delivers record vehicles in Mar quarter

REUTERS
BENGALURU, APRIL 2

TESLA INC on Saturday reported record electric vehicle deliveries for the first quarter, but its production fell from the previous quarter as supply chain disruptions and a China plant suspension weighed.

"This was an "exceptionally" difficult quarter due to supply chain interruptions & China zero Covid policy," CEO Elon Musk tweeted. Tesla delivered 310,048 vehicles in the quarter, a slight increase from the previous quarter, and up 68 per cent from a year earlier. Wall Street had expected deliveries of 308,836 cars, according to *Refinitiv* data. Tesla produced 305,407 vehicles during the January to March period, from 305,840 the previous quarter.

Tesla, the world's most valuable automaker boosted sales, navigating the pandemic and supply chain disruptions better than rivals and with its new factory in Shanghai in China driving growth. But a recent spike in Covid-19 cases in China has forced Tesla to suspend production temporarily at its factory in Shanghai as the city locks down to tests residents for the disease.

Tesla said it sold a total of 295,324 Model 3 sedans and Model Y sport utility vehicles, while it delivered 14,724 Model S luxury sedans and Model X premium SUVs.



Amazon workers outside the NLRB offices in Brooklyn, New York, on Friday. *Reuters*

Board (NLRB).

The vote represented a victory for US organized labor and a milestone for labor advocates, who for

years have considered Amazon's labor practices a threat to workers. Union organizer Christian Smalls, dressed all in Amazon

SPORTLINE: Out of Indian archery team for nearly three years, the 36-year-old reunited with his old coach and reinvented himself with changes to his technique to make an improbable comeback

TALUKDAR’S JOURNEY: From long shot to on the mark

MIHIR VASAVDA
APRIL 2

JAYANTA TALUKDAR is talking about the point in his career when, other than his inner circle, almost everyone else stopped believing in him. At first, he says, it was ‘mentally disturbing’. That led to a crisis of confidence, which fuelled self-doubt and insecurity. “And then I thought, should I just give up?”

This was nearly three years ago, when the veteran archer was out of the national team. Talukdar has been around long enough to understand the vagaries of sport and an athlete’s constant struggle with form – either to find it when one hits a rough patch, or maintain it when everything’s sailing smoothly.

He’d spent the major part of the previous decade doing the former. Talukdar tried almost everything within his abilities to arrest his slide. But one setback followed another: the inability to make the team for the 2014 Asian Games, the failure to qualify for the Rio Olympics, being unable to get into the team for the World Cups from 2017 and ultimately, in 2019, losing his spot in the Indian team.

Giving up, at that point, must have felt like an easy and tempting option. Despite the struggles, Talukdar still had a career he could’ve been proud of, having won medals at the World Championships, the World Cups and Asian Championships, competed at the Olympic Games and been a dominant force on the domestic circuit for years.

Call it a sportsman’s pride, the sheer will to prove his naysayers wrong or the burning desire to play for the country again, but Talukdar did not want to bow out when his career had touched nadir. “Deep down, I knew I still had it in me,” he says.

His instinct wasn’t wrong. Last weekend, Talukdar returned to the national team by finishing in the top three during the selection trials held in Sonapat. And after nearly three years of no international competition, his 2022 calendar suddenly looks chock-a-block. For the first time after five years, Talukdar will compete in the World Cup, and in September, he will return to the Asian Games after 12 years. “After such a long break, returning to the Indian team is not easy,” he says.

Comebacks have been rare in Indian archery, be it by an archer who has been sidelined or from the shooting line during im-



Jayanta Talukdar lost his spot in the Indian team three years ago. (Top right) Talukdar with Korean coach Lim Chae Woong. *Express*

portant international matches.

Talukdar is aware of the unforgiving nature of the sport in which the margin of error is very fine. “You need to keep a minimum score of 29 (out of 30) to stay in contention and sometimes, even that’s not enough,” the 36-year-old says. “Shooting a 10 with each of the three arrows from 70m distance... wind plays a factor; technique and timing matter... it’s not easy.”

Indian archers would know. Few sports have, over the last decade or so, generated so much hype but delivered so little at big events as much as archery. In this context, the outcome of the selection trials is eye-catching, not least because of Talukdar’s comeback. As much as the return of the old guard, it also signals a change, led by young archers like 17-year-old national champion Ridhi Phor and two-time youth world champion Komalika Bari. At the same time, some

of the established stars, who have consistently under-performed at major championships, have been shaken out of their complacency and, at least for now, fallen out of favour with the national team.

The biggest casualties are Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari, India’s top-ranked recurve archers. They finished outside the top four and consequently, won’t compete in any of the major events this year. Even their funding under the government’s Target Olympic Podium Scheme has been stopped. “We have nothing left for the remaining of the year,” world number 2 Deepika, who has been a national team regular since 2010, told PTI. “Pura saal chhutti ho gaya hai (we have been left out for the whole year).”

It’s the kind of jolt that could lead to extreme results – former internationals Rahul Banerjee and Mangal Singh Champia, Talukdar points out, got lost during a similar



churn a few years ago and are nowhere on the anvil now. Then, there’s Talukdar himself, who was determined not to face the same fate as his two former teammates.

When he lost his spot in the team, Talukdar, after nearly two decades of competing internationally, reinvented himself: introducing wholesale changes to his style and technique, which might be invisible to an untrained eye but have made a gradual impact on his game.

Reinventing technique

It started by reuniting with his former coach, Lim Chae Woong. The South Korean had been training Talukdar since 2003 but in 2014-15, he returned to his home country. Coincidentally, this also marked the beginning of Talukdar’s slide. Desperate to make amends, Talukdar recalled him to Jamshedpur, his training base, towards the end of 2019. “I was blind to my mistakes but Lim was able to spot them clearly,” Talukdar says. “So, step-by-step, we started working on them.”

It began, he adds, by lowering the angle of his left shoulder to reduce its stiffness and get a straight posture while releasing the arrow. Corresponding changes were then made to the right shoulder muscles, which had to be relaxed to ensure a smooth release. The next step was to refine the anchor position – that moment just before the shot when the arrow and the string are brought close to the jaw, neck and chin for better aim.

“And lastly, I completely changed the style to draw the bow. Normally, I used to pull it down from up. Now, I keep a straight angle. This is to make sure there is a balance in my shoulder level, once again, to get a better aim,” he explains.

Hit by Covid

Just when he was building some confidence with his new technique, Talukdar was down with Covid-19 during the second wave last year, with symptoms so severe that he had

to be admitted to the ICU. When he returned, the effect was so damaging that he didn’t even have the strength to lift his bow. “My poundage had reduced drastically – from 44 pounds to 30 pounds. It took around 4-5 months to return to my old poundage,” he says.

As much as physical, it also took a mental toll on him: months before he contracted the virus, Talukdar had suffered a tear in the tendon in his left shoulder. He was still in rehab when he got Covid and once he recovered from the virus and began practicing again, the pain in his left shoulder resurfaced as well. “All the technical things I was working on... I had to restart. There wasn’t any point in working on technique while I was working with a low-poundage bow. At that time, I was working on my technique, increasing my poundage to pre-Covid levels, undergoing rehab... there was so much happening.”

He endured through all of this, which helped him get mentally stronger as well.

India’s archers have often been found lacking the psychological strength to deal with the pressures of shooting in crunch situations. Talukdar agrees with the diagnosis but believes that without strength and sound technique, mentality means little.

“If I have the power to hold a 44-pound bow without shaking it while aiming, then I can work on technique. But if I don’t have power and my technique isn’t right, no matter how hard I work on the mental side, I won’t succeed,” he says.

So once he regained strength and almost reinvented his technique, Talukdar shifted his focus on the psychological end of things. “I increased the number of arrows I shot every day; from around 200-250 to 400. When you put more hours playing, you get stronger mentally and feel more confident. So that helped.”

He began to rely more on visualisation, a technique that athletes across sports swear by. But ultimately, it boiled down to the belief within, he says. “I feel confident. Earlier, when I went to selection trials, I kept my passport at home. This time, I was sure I would get in so I carried it along,” he laughs.

Soon, it’ll bear the stamps of Turkey, South Korea, France and Colombia, the four countries that’ll host the World Cup series.

“It’s been five years since I competed in a World Cup,” he says, the enthusiasm in his voice apparent. “Very few people would have expected me to make this comeback, very few.”

BRIEFLY

Indian eves thrash Wales 5-1 in Jr Hockey WC opener

Potchefstroom: The Indian women’s hockey team started its campaign in the FIH Junior World Cup on a resounding note, thrashing a lowly Wales 5-1 in its opening pool match here on Saturday. The Indians scored through field efforts from Lalremsiami (4th minute), Lalrindiki (32nd) and Muntaz Khan (41st) before Lalrindiki (57th) and Deepika (58th) converted two late penalty corners for the winners. Wales’ lone goal was scored by Millie Holme in the 26th minute from a field strike. India will play formidable Germany on Sunday in their second Pool D match. The Indians will then take on Malaysia in the final pool match before the quarterfinal round which starts on April 8. **AP**

Kartik, Sanjivani win gold in Fed Cup

Kozhikode: Long distance runners Kartik Kumar and Sanjivani Jadhav as well as pole vaulter Rosy Meena Paul produced personal best efforts to claim gold medals on an action-packed opening day of the Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships here on Saturday. In the other events of the day, Aishwarya Mishra ran an impressive race to clock a personal best time of 52.41 seconds en route to women’s 400m final, while long jumper M Srees Shankar crossed 8m mark yet again. However, the much-anticipated 100m clash between Dutee Chand and Hima Das will not happen as the latter pulled out of the heat races over the distance to concentrate on World Championships qualification later this year. **PTI**

India beat England 3-2 in shoot-out

Bhubaneswar: The Indian men’s hockey team beat England in a dramatic shoot-out after both the sides were locked 3-3 in the regulation time in the opening match of the double-leg FIH Pro League tie at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday. In the shoot-out, the hosts won 3-2 to pocket two points (including a bonus) as against England’s one. Abhishek (14th minute), Shamsher Singh (27th) and Harmanpreet Singh (52nd) were the goal scorers for India in the regulation time. Both the teams will face each other again on Sunday. **PTI**

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH		WEST		NORTH		EAST		SOUTH	
♠	108			1H					
♥	A2								
♦	QJ762			Pass	2D	Pass	2H		
♣	KQJ3			Pass	2D	Pass	3NT		
SOUTH									
♠	KQ97								
♥	A10								
♦	AQ10								
♣	A932								

South declares 3NT with a harmless club lead. That lead, however, does not give anything away. South starts with seven sure tricks and he still has seven sure tricks. Spades, diamonds, and hearts offer hope. What are the odds on these chances?

The West Hand: S-A52 H-J5D-K104 C-98762
The East Hand: S-J643H-Q1098D-A985 C-5

Hearts will gain you two tricks if they are 3-3, a 35% chance. Diamonds will require a miracle for you to get more than one trick and getting none is possible. Spades look hopeful. Can you get three spade tricks, and what must happen for that to occur?

If you can get three spade tricks you are home, and fortunately, that is relatively easy. Lead the ten from dummy and take a finesse against the jack. All you need is for East to have the jack of spades. You will be able to finesse again if necessary since you have entries to dummy. The spade suit gives you a 50% chance for a ninth trick, way better than going after hearts or diamonds. What is the layout?

East has the jack of spades so you succeed. Did you notice that the nine and eight of spades were both necessary to making the spade suit worth going after for three tricks? Imagine if you were missing either one. It would not be so easy.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠	KQ72	♠	A9843
♥	83	♥	Q94
♦	93	♦	AQ6
♣	KJ972	♣	Q10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1S		
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South opens 1S and North makes a limit raise. Is the South hand worth bidding game? South did do that and when dummy came down he was not so sure of his choice. West leads the jack of hearts to East’s king. Do you like your chances now?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2367

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

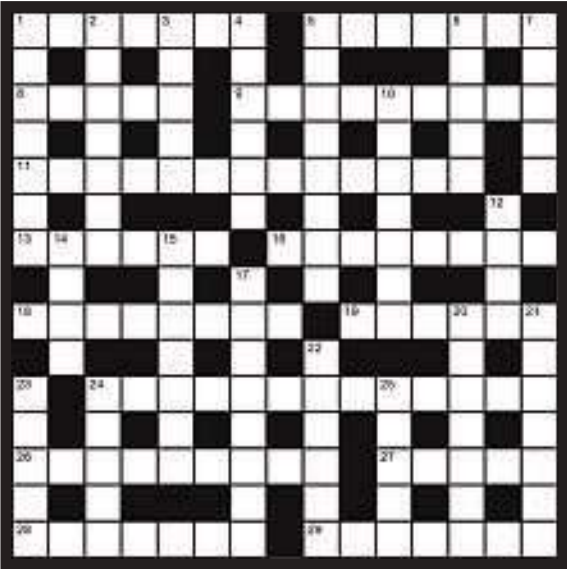
- Of the stomach (7)
- Attack (7)
- Large sea (5)
- Playwright (9)
- Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)
- A group of nine - “End Ena” anagram (7,6)
- Throws into disorder (8)
- An absolute ruler (8)
- A percussion instrument (7,6)
- Scheming, cunning and amoral (13)
- Period following nuptials (9)
- British Army canteen/shop (5)
- Step out of line (7)
- Lively party (7)

DOWN

- Hello ____: The Beatles hit (7)
- A broad-brimmed hat - “no tests” anagram (7)
- India’s cricket trophy (5)
- Hug or embrace fondly (6)
- Spider or scorpion (8)
- Alliance (5)
- Tribal symbol (5)
- Tidy smokers use this? (3-4)
- Ground wheat used for making chapatis (4)
- Part of a finger (4)
- Lawlessness (7)
- Bitterness; ill feeling (8)
- A bandit or an outlaw (7)
- Yeaming (7)
- Episodes; they happen or take place? (6)
- Hurt (5)
- Fixes or repairs (5)
- Hawaiian verandah (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

- Understood by you and me to be an historian (7)
- Garment paid for on receipt in Massachusetts (4,3)
- He provides fifty in hard cash (5)
- Bobby to tout for cheese (9)
- The story doesn’t end with these works (2,2,9)
- Gives up interest in shares (6)
- Mad and depressed about (8)
- Meetings to what extent form passive TV programme? (4,4)
- One can strip off the old copper (6)
- Jack to obtain, after resting, an easy victim (7,6)
- Presumably for the future one



- follows this course (9)
27. Tight sprint in outskirts of Dunkirk (5)
28. Principal peg for a bowler to aim at? (7)
29. Nobody asked him to interfere? (7)

DOWN

- Silently, cattily, oddly (7)
- Liberal in charge shows character (7)
- Unusual cut in garment (5)
- Farewell, speech given at some length (2,4)
- Joined in, without being searched (8)
- Time among diplomats regarded as being in confinement (5)
- Red upstart railway in Northern Ireland (5)
- Eek! Lulu playing guitar? (7)
- Wife tempted to hold garden party (4)
- Said differently when belonging to the girl? (4)
- DIY publishing that offers elbow room (7)
- Jack has a name for quickness (8)
- Tease Yank supporting cricket side (3-4)
- The photographer who messed up the first exposure, for example? (7)

Solutions to 2366

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Cede, 3 Gooseberry, 10 Makeoff, 11 Alabama, 12 Septic, 13 Odrin, 15 Pokos, 16 At present, 18 Raincheck, 21 Uncle, 23 Encash, 25 Robotic, 27 Montage, 28 Anandji, 29 Instigated, 30 Slog, Down: 1 Comes apart, 2 De Klerk, 4 Officiate, 5 Stand, 6 Bramble, 7 Realise, 8 Yuan, 9 Loathe, 14 Stretching, 17 Poker-face, 19 Innings, 20 Chapatti, 21 Upbeat, 22 Citadel, 24 Hyena, 26 Amari, **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Trig, 3 Small hours, 10 Mudbath, 11 Shiven, 12 On paper, 13 Retain, 15 Relief, 16 Suit-cases, 18 Night-time, 21 Infra, 23 Jumper, 25 Rip-cord, 27 Spin-out, 28 Algeria, 29 Parcel post, 30 Adze, Down: 1 Tambourine, 2 In-depth, 4 Maharishi, 5 Loser, 6 Heretic, 7 Unwells, 8 Sung, 9 Dapple, 14 Island race, 17 Ice creams, 19 Gaudier, 20 Top-hole, 21 Impugn, 22 Floored, 24 Retap, 26 RSVP.

If it’s your Birthday

Sunday April 3

It’s time to scotch all those nasty rumours that you are being lazy. Pluto’s impact on your sign is urging you to restore your standing at home, but also to face the truth about hopes and wishes.

Monday April 4

If you’ve been keeping certain secrets recently, then get ready for the bright light of publicity, for some of them are about to come into the open.

Tuesday April 5

Partners have to have their say, and there’s no way you can stop them. It could be positively to your advantage if partners are permitted to express themselves as and when they wish.

Wednesday April 6

Look to the future with hope in your heart. You are set for a share of emotional warmth and domestic contentment.

Thursday April 7

You are ready and willing to make the most of next year’s opportunities. Be prepared for sudden changes of plan and possible emotional challenges.

Friday April 8


It’s the deepest questions which count at the moment. Legal matters are vital, and it’s your job must be aware of your rights as well as your responsibilities.

Saturday April 9

Take life one positive step at a time. You can make small decisions, but whether you are ready to make a substantial long-term commitment is a moot point.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD


ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

 Much has been said and written about the recurring professional changes which are dominating your existence at the moment. Such trends are due to grow more intense over the next three months; to say that your life is undergoing a series of major improvements may be a classic understatement.


TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

 Conditions in your solar chart are special at the moment. Looking back over the recent past, you can be proud of the way you have handled associates who have tried to take you for a ride or assumed they can jump on your bandwagon.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

 Very conveniently, Jupiter is now sending its benevolent powers in your direction. This means that you have exactly seven months to fulfil the promise that this generous planet has brought you. If you are a typical Gemini, you may still be feeling unsettled, but that is to be expected.


CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

 The last thing you must do is imagine that the planets have it in for you. They are firmly on your side, and every hazard you meet, every difficulty you encounter, is a message to you to alter your approach or even to change direction. It’s also vital to realise that you have the final say.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

 It seems as if you can’t really put a foot wrong, what with Venus and Mars so happily placed in your solar chart. Let’s forget the psychological ramifications and emotional complexities and stick to simple predictions. This is an excellent month for all romantic associations.


VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

 The indications in your solar chart are rather hard to decode at the moment. On the one hand, you are clearly determined to secure respect for your professional and public achievements and make absolutely sure you are noticed.


LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

 It seems that you may have got yourself in a position where your aspirations to succeed on the career front are conflicting with your desire to have a happy and secure home. Out of such feelings may come resentment at either professional obligations or home commitments for holding you back.


SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

 There may be a hint of rough justice in the fact that someone else’s loss is soon to be your gain. However, this will offer you an excellent opportunity to put your own interests to one side and come to the aid of those less fortunate than you.


SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

 Most of you have now felt the benefits of one particular relationship throughout considerable areas of your life. Yet now you are moving towards a period when you must once again be standing on your own two feet, this time dealing with your affairs with greater maturity and wisdom than in the past.


CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

 The long-term trends in your life this year and next are considerably more important than day-to-day ups and downs. This is not to say that striking events this month will not have major consequences for both personal and professional affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

 Mars and Venus, the pair responsible for your passions, are stirring up your deepest feelings. And about time, too! If you forget your pride and ignore any slights or insults, you stand the chance of having a wonderful time, relishing emotional encounters and indulging yourself as never before.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

 You usually prefer to do things discreetly and work behind the scenes to make others fulfil their promises and obligations. However, the only way you will proceed with personal schemes is by teaming up with people who can offer you practical support and guidance.

JUMBLER WORDS

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

Humour is a _____ - it allows you to make a point without drawing blood - Mark Twain (6,5)

LUERR



DEBUTS



GSORS



LOSRYBW



SOLUTION: LUERRER, GROSS, BUTS, BLOWY
Answer: Humour is a rubber sword - it allows you to make a point without drawing blood - Mark Twain

SUDOKU 4793

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4792



THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, APRIL 3, 2022

22 SPORT

Ferguson, Gill star for Titans

SYNOPSIS: Ferguson cranks up speed after Pandya's bowling effort and Gill's classy knock.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
APRIL 2

AT 142/7 and 30 runs required for victory off the last three overs, it became Rovman Powell-or-bust for Delhi Capitals. The Jamaican was batting on 20 off 11 deliveries and Mohammed Shami had the ball. The fast bowler had given away 27 runs in his previous three overs. But cometh the hour, his class shone through. An incoming delivery that skidded off the surface trapped Powel leg-before. Another angled-in delivery that reared off a length accounted for Khaleel Ahmed. Mustafizur Rahman saved the hat-trick but he should have been out in the final ball of the over. Substitute Jayant Yadav dropped a tough catch at fine leg.

By then, though, Gujarat Titans were breathing easy. Shami's over had tilted the balance in their favour. Pant's 29-ball 43 and Powell's power-hitting had kept Delhi in the game. In the end, Gujarat's 171/6 proved to be enough. They won by 14 runs. Shubman Gill and Lockie Ferguson were the chief architects of their win.

Ferguson cranks up speed

Ferguson came into the attack in the fifth over and immediately hit the deck hard. Speed-gun showed 138kph but Prithvi Shaw was late on the pull, top-eding the delivery to Shankar. Ferguson would gradually increase his pace to 147kph, making Mandeep Singh to back away and nick a thunderbolt to Matthew Wade behind the stumps. The fast bowler set the tone with two wickets in his first over. Pant tried to counter-attack Ferguson but he, too, wasn't comfortable against such whirlwind pace. Wade dropped a tough chance when the Delhi captain was on seven. But the evening belonged to the Kiwi. He would come back to have his man, when Pant could have taken the game away from the opponents. And after softening up Axar Patel with a 144kph yorker, Ferguson dismissed him as well to return with 4/28 from four overs.

Pandya's bloody effort

Before the IPL, Hardik Pandya got the message loud and clear from chief selector Chetan Sharma—he wouldn't be considered for India selection until he was bowling regularly. The Gujarat captain looks to be back to full fitness. He bowled four overs in the first game against Lucknow Super Giants. On Saturday, against Delhi in Pune, Pandya took the new ball and dismissed Tim Seifert. Figures of 1/22 from four overs had been a very good effort. It also allowed Ferguson to bowl with the semi-new ball, something which the New Zealander likes.

Gill's classy knock

On his way to an eye-catching 84 off 46 balls, Gill hit glorious shots aplenty. His straight six against the left-arm spinner Axar Patel was gorgeous. In between, Gill's back-to-back fours against Ahmed, a brilliant six against Kuldeep and an exquisite cover drive off Shardul Thakur were the shots to fall for. Fifty came off 32 balls and Gill looked set to reach three-figures. He anchored the innings with a 65-run third wicket partnership with Pandya.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Titans: 171 for 6 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 84; Mustafizur Rahman 3/23) beat **Delhi Capitals:** 157 for 9 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 43, Lalit Yadav 25; Lockie Ferguson 4/28, Md Shami 2/30).

ANDREW AMSAN
CALICUT, APRIL 2

AFTER THE very first training session with long jumper Jeswin Aldrin, Cuban coach Yoandri Betanzos realised that the Tamil Nadu youngster belonged in the 8metre club. In just a few months after his arrival at the JSW facilities in Bellary, Jeswin breached the mark with an 8.20m leap last month in the Indian Grand Prix. "I told him I could easily take him beyond the 8m mark and I proved it," Betanzos said.

"I corrected Jeswin's arm position, the strides, the momentum and the fall. We have been improving a lot but there is still a lot to improve on," he adds.

Betanzos, 40, a two time World Championship silver medalist, comes from a family of sportspersons. His father is still an active boxing coach, his mother was a sprinter, and his brother is a former jumper. In fact, his mother, a sprinter Amaraillis Francis almost gave birth to him on the track. "It's true. My mother was jumping over hurdles during a training session and felt a sharp pain and she was rushed to the hospital and I was born," he narrates the incident with a bright smile on his face.

Growing up, Betanzos always knew he would become a sportsperson but he wasn't sure which sport to pursue a career in. He

Buttler's opening blitz

RR's overseas star smashes 100 off 68, first century of this IPL season, before bowlers led by R Ashwin and Chahal pull off 23-run win over Mumbai Indians

SYNOPSIS: Buttler thumps Mumbai again, RR capitalise on three overs. MI's chase fails after Varma exit

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, APRIL 2

JOS BUTTLER'S century helped Rajasthan Royals post 193, which was 23 runs too many for Mumbai Indians against the quality of Trent Boult, R Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Buttler thumps Mumbai again

Jos Buttler now averages 70 in eight games against Mumbai Indians at a strike-rate of 155. In 24 games for the franchise half a decade ago, he averaged 25 and struck at 146. On Saturday afternoon, it was a case of Buttler being intent on making the most of the shorter boundary, and MI trying for the most part to deny him, but succeeding only in patches.

The left-arm seamers Tymal Mills and Daniel Sams bowled all their eight overs from the pavilion end, their natural angle heading away from the right-hander, at least theoretically forcing Buttler to play towards the longer boundary. And Jasprit Bumrah was close to unhittable.

But Buttler at his best in this format is a thinker and executioner combined at warp speed. Deep into his knock, a rare full toss from Bumrah would be placed for four between point and third man on the longer boundary with minimal use of power and acute awareness of the field settings. When Sams went too far outside off trying to prevent the hit to the closer rope, Buttler neatly tapped him square for four to the distant rope.

The brutal beauty of his hitting burst to life against Basil Thampi in the fourth over. A sequence of four, six, six, four, six later, Thampi had been hit out of the game with 26 runs in what would be his only over. All the blows were to the shorter side in the arc between cow corner and the sightscreen.

Buttler stood on off stump with his slightly open stance. His trigger movement, instead of any shuffling or back-and-across, appeared to coil and ensconce him further into the stable base of the crease, from where he uncoiled himself mercilessly on the ball.

A late unwrapping of the forearms and wrists sent Thampi's slot offerings repeatedly out of sight.

Thampi tried the yorker, but missed, and was launched for a dead-straight four. He tried denying pace late in the over, but by then Buttler was sending everything out of the ground. There wasn't any obvious attempt to deny Buttler a go at the nearer boundary, but then, it was harder for a right-arm, and especially one who was being ruthlessly taken apart.

Three overs of mayhem

Apart from Thampi, M Ashwin (21 in the 11th) and Kieron Pollard (26 in the 17th) also conceded more than 20 in an over. Buttler and Sanju Samson went after M Ashwin, and Shimron Hetmyer (35 off 14) handed Pollard (1/46) his most expensive analysis in the IPL, beating the 1/45 at the same ground against Chennai Super Kings in the 2010 IPL final.

But MI gave away only 120 in the other 17 overs. Barring the Thampi over, RR managed only 22 in the rest of the powerplay. And they were denied a strong finish by Bumrah and Mills, with just 11 coming in the last two



Buttler now averages 70 in 8 games against MI at a strike-rate of 155. sportzpics/IPL

The brutal beauty of his hitting burst to life against Basil Thampi in the fourth over. A sequence of four, six, six, four, six later, Thampi had been hit out of the game with 26 runs in what would be his only over.

overs. Buttler slowed down too—probably partly due to the heat and humidity and partly as he was off strike for a while—and scored just five off his last ten deliveries. Buttler himself didn't sound very pleased during the innings break.

"I'm a bit nervous as it is hard to tell if it is a good score or not with the short boundary one side. I got frustrated towards the end as I slowed down," Buttler said.

"I couldn't get the ball away as I would have liked and that's why I feel we could have got a few more. But we would have taken (a target of) 194 at the start."

Chase fails after Varma exit

Even in MI's opener against Delhi Capitals, young Tilak Varma had impressed with the crisp decisiveness in his hitting. The

former India Under-19 left-hander gave further notice of his talent with 61 off 33. Varma's followthrough is high and firm, he commits to his strokes fully and also maintains his hitting shape quite well, particularly for someone only 19. When he reverse-swept R Ashwin for six, MI needed 59 off 35 with seven wickets remaining. But R Ashwin tossed up the next one and spun it into off stump past Varma's attempted slog-sweep.

Yuzvendra Chahal then effectively shut MI out with the wickets of Tim David and Sams in successive balls in the 16th over.

He would have made it a hat-trick had substitute Karun Nair not dropped M Ashwin at slip. Pollard was left with too much to do against a quality attack with no support at the other end, and a tame 22 off 24 showed it was just not his evening.

After Trent Boult was done, Prasidh Krishna delivered an excellent 19th over considering he was running in against Pollard and his fearsome reputation.

BRIEF SCORES: Rajasthan Royals: 193 for 8 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 100, Shimron Hetmyer 35, Sanju Samson 30; Jasprit Bumrah 3/17) bt **Mumbai Indians:** 170 for 8 in 20 overs (Tilak Verma 61, Ishan Kishan 54; Yuzvendra Chahal 2/26, Navdeep Saini 2/36)

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

Pandya bends his back

WITH THE T20 World Cup months away, every Hardik Pandya delivery undergoes forensic examination. The early test results from Pune are heartening. For starters when Gujarat Titan's skipper Pandya decided to open the bowling with Mohammad Shami, the writing was on the wall that India's premier pace all-rounder was no longer a reluctant bowler, a tag he has dubiously carried for a while. A wicket on his first ball would have seen the bursting of firecrackers at Cricket Centre and NCA.

Finally, India's T20 playing XI's vital jigsaw piece had been sighted. Pandya did get rid of Tim Seifert but it wasn't quite a wicket-taking ball. It was actually the third ball of the over, to Mandeep Singh that would have got a smile on India coach Rahul Dravid's face.

In that over Pandya was flying on the turf, hitting the crease with purpose and, most importantly, he was even bending his back.

The result was a short, but heavy, ball that climbed on Mandeep. The at-



tempted pull was a disaster. Hitting on the upper part of the bat, the ball failed to clear the 30 yards circle. Luckily it fell in no-man's land. It is not always the wicket-taking balls that define the form of a player.

Razzies for Pollard

In this Oscar week, MI's Kieron Pollard gave a performance that could have got him a Razzie. In his 4-0-46-0 forgettable act, what clinched the award for him was his last over to Shimron Hetmyer where he conceded 26 runs. It wasn't just about the runs that MI's old hand conceded—who doesn't have—it was lack of application that was puzzling. Pollard seemed to have had a brain freeze. Bowl to the field, the MI's stand-by captain would have instructed a million times when leading the team but he didn't stick to that basic rule. With the fine-leg inside the circle, Pollard kept bowling his gentle trundlers to Hetmyer's legs. Making it easier for Hetmyer was a virtual long hop and a full-toss that Pollard gift-wrapped for the fellow West Indian. After 6, 6, 4, 4, 1w, 4lb where every run was scored on the leg-side, Hetmyer took a single to retain the strike. He would hit a 6 and 4 in the first 3 balls of the next over.



Standing his ground

Lalit Yadav refused to budge. Apparently, his interpretation of the Law was different to the MCC manual. It was a run-out at the bowler's end and Yadav was short of his crease. But Vijay Shankar had stepped on the stumps and dislodged one of the bails. After collecting the throw from Abhinav Manohar, the bowler whipped the other bail off, with Yadav still about a foot short. Third umpire Bruce Oxenford rightly adjudged the non-striker run-out, but Yadav stood his ground. Without the stumps being taken out, he wasn't convinced about his dismissal. The stumps had to be dismantled if both the bails were dislodged. What Shankar did was perfectly legal. However, it took some convincing and a word from his captain Rishabh Pant before Yadav reluctantly trudged off.



Last action hero out first ball.

What is Mathew Wade's most famous shot? The half-squat, tumbling on the off-side, flip over the fine-leg to a left-arm pacer. Shaheen Afridi—along with Pakistan, and even Indian, fans—will never forget this bit of Wade trivia. In the World T20 semi-final, Pakistan, after finally beating India in an ICC event, seemed all set to play the final. Wade would spoil the dream, he hit Afridi for three sixes in the final over to take Australia to the final that they would go on to win.

The Aussie wicket-keeper, a villain in Pakistan, would feature in millions of hilarious memes getting beeped on Indian WhatsApp groups.

Of those three sixes, two went flying

over fine-leg. Wade's pre-meditating gamble paying off both times. In cricket, however, there are no guarantees.

The plan that works on the final ball of a World T20 game might fall flat in IPL.

Wade, opening for Gujarat Titans, faced Bangladesh left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman first up. In T20 you don't wait to bring out your best weapon. On the first ball of the innings, Wade walked outside off, waited for the ball, almost went down on one knee and tried to help the ball along to clear the boundary.

Not today, Mustafizur was smart, his delivery was slower and shorter. It took Wade's edge and reached Pant's hands. Last action hero out first ball.



Two-time World C'ships medalist from Cuba now grooming India's NextGen



Cuban coach Yoandri Betanzos

tried to follow in his father Alvaro's footsteps and took up the boxing gloves at eight but soon switched to athletics. He started off as a high jumper but his coach Rafael Alvarez thought Betanzos wasn't tall enough for the event. A switch to triple jump yielded good results and he was soon absorbed into the junior national set-up.

"I started very early. From eight until 34 I was an athlete and now at 40, I am a coach. My life was and is only sports," says the father of three.

Betanzos is currently guiding several top jumpers including Pravin Chitravel, the top triple jumper last year with 16.88m, Sherin, and Asian Games champion Arpinder Singh.

Chitravel, who had earlier trained with French coach Antony Yaich, has spent two months under the Cuban coach and feels he has improved in all aspects.

"My training has improved immensely. He focuses both on power and technique. He corrected the way I was lifting my feet during jumps and that has helped me add more explosiveness to my jumps," says Chitravel.

Even before his arrival, coach Betanzos was provided with a list of athletes and their training and competition videos for analysis. "The first batch of corrections and suggestions were sent to the athletes even before I landed in the country. I studied all the athletes and they have similar styles and techniques when compared to Cubans," he says.

Although it's still early days, Betanzos has no qualms in admitting that he is dreaming big. "I am here so that India has a world medal in jumps," he says with conviction. Betanzos's belief cannot be questioned. Despite harbouring an injury he pushed himself at the Athens Olympics and managed a fourth-place, just agonizing one centimetre from a bronze medal with a 17.47m. In the qualifying stage, he had leapt 17.54m—one cm less than what the silver medal went for in the finals.

"Oh don't ask. I still feel terrible about missing the medal by just one centimetre. I can't do anything now. Now my athletes will have to fulfil my dream," he says.

Why Lovlina has to change weight class

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 2

THE INTERNATIONAL Boxing Association (IBA) announced new weight categories for the Paris 2024 Olympics. Men's boxing will see a total of seven weight categories, down from eight. Women's boxing will have six, up from five. From an Indian perspective, Tokyo Olympics' bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain's welter-weight 69 Kg category has been culled.

Which are the new weight categories?

Men's events will be conducted in 51 kg, 57 kg, 63.5 kg, 71 kg, 80 kg, 92 kg and 92+ kg. In Tokyo there were eight categories—fly-weight (52 kg), featherweight (56 kg), lightweight (63 kg), welter-weight (69 kg), middleweight (75 kg), light heavy-weight (81 kg), heavy-weight (91 kg) and super heavy-weight (91+ kg). In the rejigging, IBA has removed middleweight (75kg), a category in which Vijender Singh had won India's first-ever Olympics medal in boxing in 2008.

Similarly, in women's events, IBA has increased the weight categories to six with 54 Kg and 66 kg being the new additions.

Why new weight categories?

The International Olympics Committee wants parity in men's and women's events. At the London Olympics, where Mary Kom won a historic bronze for India, there were



Tokyo Games bronze medallist Lovlina will have to move from 69 kg to either 66 kg or 75 kg.

10 categories for men and three for women. The categories remained unchanged for the

Rio Olympics. In Tokyo there were eight for men and five for women. In Paris 2024, a total of 252 quota places will be on offer with 124 men boxers and 128 women. "As a pure boxing lover, I am disappointed with the number of weight categories in men but then

women's boxing has seen tremendous growth in recent years and the IOC wants gender parity in all the events," Boxing Federation of India's high performance director Santiago Nieva said.

What is the qualification scenario?

The new qualification system will see quota places being awarded to the highest-

ranked eight boxers in each of the men's and women's Olympic categories as of December 31, 2023. The host country will be given seven quota places. The highest-ranked boxer from each continent will also be allocated one quota place. Apart from this, two quota places will be awarded to finalists of World Qualification tournament set to be held between April and May 2024.

With no continental qualification tournament, Nieva sees this as a tricky situation. "The new qualification system will be a trickier one. With no continental qualifiers, most will rely on world rankings starting this year and that means we have to send our best boxers for most of the tournaments to gain as many points as we can. But a dip in form and emergence of a new boxer in that category will mean less chances for the country," Nieva said.

What happens to Lovlina, other Indians?

While Lovlina has to either step down to 66 kg or step up to 75 kg to be able to qualify for Paris. Three established Indian male boxers will have to change their category. Vikas Krishan (69 kg), Akash Sangwan (69kg), Sumit (75kg) will either have to compete in the 71 kg category or 80 kg.

"I still have not discussed with Lovlina about her new weight category but I guess it will be easier for her to move up to 75 kg. She will need to gain more muscle. Her speed in 69 kg will help her in 75 kg. We have seen the likes of Amit Panghal moving from 49 kg to 52 kg and Shiva Thapa and Manish Kaushik moving from 60 kg to 63 kg with ease earlier. Nieva said.