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By UNNNY



2 top athletes fail dope test; dropped from camp, face ban

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

INDIA'S DRIVE against doping in sports has received a setback with two of its track-and-field Tokyo Olympians, a male and a female, failing dope tests for using banned anabolic steroids and facing bans up to four years, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) was tight-lipped about the cases but multiple sources confirmed that the two top athletes have been dropped from the national training camp. "Two track-and-field athletes have tested positive and they are no longer part of the national camp," a national coach said, speaking to this newspaper on condition of anonymity.

India is ranked third in doping, according to the latest World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report released in 2021. With 152 cases across disciplines, the country is marginally below leaders Russia (167) and Italy (157) on this list.

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ON UKRAINE WAR IMPACT, GEN NARAVANE SAYS ARMY HAS BUFFER STOCKS 'Keen on good ties with Pak but it must end terror, bids to draw global attention to J&K'

'China troops along Ladakh LAC up from 8,000 to 60,000; Army can counter PLA'

ESHAROY
& SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

MORE THAN a year after India and Pakistan agreed on a ceasefire along the Line of Control, Indian Army chief General M M Naravane has said that "ceasefire violations along the border are in no one's interest" and India is "more than keen to have good relations with Pakistan", but "they (Pakistan) have to first rein in their support to terrorism and attempts to draw international

attention to J&K". This is the strongest endorsement of the ceasefire between the two countries and a positive articulation from the Indian Army chief, weeks after Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said the situation on the LoC has been "fairly peaceful" the past year and Pakistan stands ready to address the Kashmir

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



‘CONTINUING TO ENGAGE (WITH CHINA)... WILL LEAD TO RESOLVING OUR DIFFERENCES’
GENERAL M M NARAVANE
CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF

After two years, China says will permit 'some' Indian students to return

SHUBHAJIT ROY
& SHEETAL BANCHARIYA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

A MONTH after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised the issue, China on Friday announced plans to permit the return of "some" Indian students stranded here for over two years following visa and flight restrictions imposed by Beijing after

the pandemic.

"China attaches high importance to Indian students' concerns about returning to China for studies. We have shared with the Indian side the procedures and experience of other countries' students returning to China," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing.

"We understand that there is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Power shortage: Rlys cancels 753 trips to prioritise coal delivery

KARUNJIT SINGH
& ANISHA DUTTA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

WITH LOW coal stocks signalling a power crisis, the Railways has decided to cancel 753 trips involving 42 trains to prioritise the delivery of coal rakes across the country.

A total of 713 trips of the South East Central Railway (SECR) have been cancelled till May 25 while 40 trips of the Northern Railways (NR) have been cancelled till May 8.

The cancellations will primarily impact passengers travelling from key coal-producing states, including Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

At least 108 of India's 173 thermal coal-fired plants currently have critically low levels of coal inventory. A number of states, in-

EXPLAINED
E **Strain on the sector**

HIGH HEAT, rising demand and low output from imported coal-based thermal power plants have put major stress on the supply of coal. Shortages have already led to power cuts across most of north India and in parts of south India.

cluding Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand, Bihar, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, have faced power outages due to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HEAT WAVE UNTIL MAY 2: IMD **PAGE 7**

After 3 failed bids, Govt sells its stake in Pawan Hans to pvt consortium

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

AFTER THREE unsuccessful attempts at disinvesting its stake in the helicopter services provider, the government Friday approved the sale of Pawan Hans Ltd along with management control to Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd — a three-way consortium between Big Charter Private Limited, Maharaja Aviation Private Limited and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC.

This disinvestment is the second major sale from the government's aviation portfolio in the last 12 months — Air India went to Tata Group in January this year.

Pawan Hans, which currently operates 42 helicopters, is a 51:49 joint-venture between the government and state-owned Oil & Natural Gas Corp Ltd. ONGC had earlier decided to offer its entire shareholding to the successful bidder identified in the government strategic disinvestment transaction, on the same

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Curfew in Patiala, violence breaks out over 'anti-Khalistan' march

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
PATIALA, APRIL 29

AN 11-HOUR curfew was imposed in Punjab's Patiala from 7 pm on Friday after the police fired several rounds in the air to avert a clash between members of Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray), who had called for an "anti-Khalistan" march, and Sikh activists and Nihangs brandishing swords outside the Kali Mata temple, officials said.

The incident also led to stone-pelting by both sides,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The clash took place near Kali Mata Mandir, Patiala. Harmeet Sodhi
MANN FACES FIRST TEST | PM MEETS SIKH DELEGATION, **PAGE 6**

Mevani gets bail, court slams Assam Police: 'False FIR... police state'

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, APRIL 29

GRANTING BAIL to Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani, arrested for allegedly assaulting a woman police officer while in custody, a court in Assam's Bhopal district on Friday pulled up the state police for lodging a "false FIR" and "abusing the process of the court and the law". It also warned the Assam Police against "converting our hard earned democracy into a police state".



Was accused of assaulting a woman police officer

Citing "ongoing police excesses in the state", Bhopal District and Sessions Judge Apresh Chakravarty urged the Gauhati High Court to direct the police force to "reform itself". "Converting our hard earned

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FROM PAGE ONE

Army chief

issue with India through diplomacy and dialogue.

In an exclusive interview to *The Indian Express*, General Naravane, who demits office Saturday, said: "When your neighbouring country is unstable, it doesn't help. Instability in our neighbourhood doesn't help. Let's hope that our western neighbour sees the light of reason. We are more than keen to have good relations with them, but they have to first rein in their support to terrorism and attempts to draw international attention to J&K"

On the India-Pakistan ceasefire, he said: "Ceasefire violations along the border are in no one's interest. Peace and tranquility all around us is our aim. If the neighbourhood is stable, then we automatically as a nation become safer... The civilian population along the LoC has greatly benefited from the ceasefire, and their quality of life has improved."

Underlining that events of 2020 brought about a paradigm shift in force posturing in eastern Ladakh by both sides, General Naravane said the Chinese troop strength increased from 8,000 to 60,000 opposite eastern Ladakh and "our own deployment is in equal measure". He said the Indian Army is "well poised to counter any belligerent actions of the PLA in the future".

Asked why did the Galwan incident happen – 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in Galwan Valley in June 2020 – he said: "We have been asking ourselves this question as well for the past two years about China's move, but have not been able to fathom why this (Galwan incident) happened. Was it due to internal or external dynamics or pressure regarding

the Covid pandemic which led China to take this step? We don't know."

On the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and its impact on defence supplies, he said India is "dependent on both Ukraine and Russia" but has always maintained a buffer in stocks and, therefore, will not be impacted in the near-term.

He used an analogy to explain India's defence stocks. "Just as an analogy... we all keep two months of salary in our bank accounts as a buffer, in case we lose our jobs due to some reason. So we too have buffer stocks," he said, adding that "in case we continue to conserve our equipment, the stocks will last longer".

On the removal of AFSPA from certain areas, he said, "We were definitely consulted before AFSPA was lifted from certain areas, it is always a consultative process and a 'whole of government' approach... Removal of the Army from such areas which are no longer 'disturbed' helps us in focusing on our primary task – dealing with external enemies."

Indian students

a large number of Indian students studying in China. India may need some time to collect the names. China is ready to receive some Indian students under the current, complicated, severe epidemic situation. In handling foreign students returning to China for studies, we need to take into consideration the international epidemic situation, evolving circumstances, and their majors. This principle applies equally to all foreign students," Zhao said.

"Actually, the work for Indian students' return has already started. All that remains to be done is for the Indian side to provide the

after they returned home following the Covid-19 outbreak in China in December 2019. They could not return to China due to the restrictions imposed by the government there.

Following China's announcement, the Indian Embassy sought details of students who intend to return. "The Chinese side has expressed its willingness to consider facilitating the return of Indian students to China on a need-assessed basis... In order to facilitate this (return), the Indian Embassy intends to prepare a list of such students which will be shared with the Chinese side for their consideration. Therefore, Indian students are requested to provide necessary information by filling up the Google form... latest by 8 May," it said in a statement on Friday.

"Once the collated information is shared with the Chinese side, they would consult relevant Chinese departments to verify the list and indicate whether the identified students can travel to China to complete the course," it said. This coordination process would be carried out in a time-bound manner, it said.

The Chinese side has also conveyed that eligible students should unconditionally abide by pandemic prevention measures, and agree to bear all expenses related to such measures, it said.

On March 25, after his meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Jaishankar had said that he "took up strongly the predicament of Indian students studying in China who have not been allowed to return, citing Covid restrictions".

Most students stranded in India welcomed the announcement on Friday. "In July, I will appear for my third-year exams. Though the exam schedule is not out yet, we'll be happy to appear for offline exams if our return is facilitated soon... Even if we cannot return together, we are at least assured that we will be going back to the campus sooner or later," said Harsh Vyas, a 21-year-old MBBS student at Beihua University in Jilin City.

But Ghanshyam Yadav from Jaipur, also studying medicine at the University of South China, Hengyang, since 2018, said: "In July-August, I will appear

for my fourth-year exams. I have only a year left to finish my degree, and will have to undergo compulsory practical internship. After living here for over two years, I would like to intern at an Indian hospital instead of getting into the whole hassle of visas," he said.

Power shortage

a lack of sufficient coal at thermal power plants.

On April 28, India faced a shortage of 192.1 million units of power as peak demand reached a new all-time high of 204.6 GW. On average, India's thermal power plants had less than eight days worth of coal stock on Thursday against the norm of 24 days.

The shortage has come even as the Coal Ministry has insisted that there is sufficient coal to meet the demand of power houses. India relies on coal for about 75 per cent of power requirements, and the Railways is the primary transporter of coal.

According to the Rail Ministry, the SECR division, which covers the coal producing regions, has cancelled 34 trains. NR, which includes areas that receive coal for many power stations in the north, has cancelled eight trains.

Some passenger services under the SECR like the Bilaspur-Bhopal train, which was suspended on March 28, will remain at this status till May 3. The MEMU between Maharashtra's Gondia and Odisha's Jharsuguda stands cancelled from April 24 to May 23 as well as the Dongargarh-Raipur MEMU in Chhattisgarh from April 11 to May 24, according to the ministry.

Amid the crisis, the Rail Ministry has raised the average daily loading of coal rakes to over 400 a day, the highest in the past five years. The national transporter has also put over 500 rakes for coal duty per day, 53 more than were put into service last year. On Thursday, 1.62 million tonnes of coal was loaded in 427 rakes, according to the ministry.

Key issues that have led to the major shortage of coal at thermal power plants are high demand for power due to the economic recovery post-Covid and the sweltering heat across major parts of India.

At the same time, many imported coal-based thermal power plants have stopped power gener-

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ation due to high international coal prices and an inability to pass on the additional cost to states that procure power from them.

The demand for power is expected to rise further and peak at about 215-220 GW over the upcoming months. Officials are hopeful that the current crisis will ease in a fortnight as parts of southern India are expected to cool down. Experts have, however, noted that the current shortage of coal at thermal power plants could mean a worse power crisis later in the year. Thermal power plants usually build up coal stock during these months in preparation for the monsoon season when coal production and transportation are affected by heavy rains.

Pawan Hans

price and terms as the government. In December last year, the government received three financial bids for the company.

"M/S Star9 Mobility Private Ltd, a consortium of M/s Big Charter Private Limited, M/s Maharaja Aviation Private Limited and M/s Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC, emerged as the highest bidder quoting Rs 211.14 crore, which was above the Reserve Price," the Ministry of Finance said in a press release. "The other two bids were for Rs 181.05 crore and Rs 153.15 crore. Following due deliberations, the financial bid of M/s Star9 Mobility Private Limited has been accepted by the government," it said.

Mumbai-based Big Charter Pvt Ltd runs the 'flybig' airline, which operates on UDAN routes, while Delhi-based Maharaja Aviation Pvt Ltd is a helicopter charter company. Almas Global Opportunity Fund is a Cayman Islands-based fund managed by Dubai-based Almas Capital.

The consortium's bid was also granted clearance by the Alternative Mechanism for Pawan Hans disinvestment. The Alternative Mechanism comprises Road Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

"The strategic disinvestment transaction was implemented through an open, competitive bidding process supported by a multi-layered consultative decision-making mechanism involving Inter-Ministerial Group, Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment and the empowered Alternative Mechanism," the official statement said.

Moving forward, the government will now issue the Letter of Award, which will be followed by signing of the Share Purchase Agreement and closing the transaction.

and closing the transaction.

In October 2016, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved strategic disinvestment of the entire government stake in Pawan Hans and post that the government made three fruitless attempts at disinvestment.

Dope tests

The female athlete under the scanner was expected to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games this year, and was a contender to enter the World Athletics Championships finals. Buoyed by her meteoric rise and medal potential, the AFI had also scouted for a foreign coach after the Tokyo Olympics.

The male athlete's samples were collected during an out-of-competition test. Although his current form has dipped, he remains an international medalist.

Both were part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, under which athletes receive funding from the sports ministry, at various stages of their career.

At the domestic level, too, the scourge of doping has seen an Under-23 medal winner in the women's 100 metres, who was labelled as a future star, and a podium finisher among men at the Open Nationals testing positive. Both of them received reduced three-year bans after admitting to anti-doping rule violations instead of appearing for disciplinary panel hearings.

Patiala

officials said, adding that at least four persons, including two policemen, were injured in the clash.

The incident was the first major law-and-order incident in the state under the new AAP government. While Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann called for an "immediate probe" and directed officials to ensure that those guilty are not spared, the Opposition Congress and SAD criticised the state government for what they described was "anarchy".

On Friday evening, the Shiv Sena leadership in Mumbai directed its Punjab unit to take "stern action" against all those linked to the party who were involved in the clash. In a statement issued through the Punjab unit, the Sena said it has expelled a local leader, Harish Singla, who had allegedly led the "Khalistan Murdabad" march.

Singla was later arrested in a case lodged under IPC sections 153-A (promoting enmity), 186 (obstructing public servant), 188 (disobeying official orders) and 353 (assault to deter public servant).

Two more cases on various charges, including attempt to murder (IPC section 307) were registered against "unknown persons" on complaints from both sides involved in the clashes.

Singla has been described as the working president of Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray), the unit of the Sena in Punjab. The state has about 15 Sena factions, including Shiv Sena Samajwadi, Shiv Sena Rashtrawadi, Shiv Sena Hindu Bhayia and Shiv Sena Akhand Bharat.

Leaders at the Sena HQ in Mumbai said the party directed the Punjab unit to issue an official statement announcing the action against Singla. "Punjab Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) working president Harish Singla has been expelled

EXPRESS

AUDIO

Jignesh Mevani's arrest, Cong's Prashant Kishor fiasco, and PM on fuel

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Why Mevani was arrested by the Assam Police, why things didn't work out between Prashant Kishor and the Congress, and what PM Modi said about fuel prices

from the party. Along with him, a few party workers were also suspended. Singla led a protest rally in Patiala. The march turned violent, leading to clashes with some members of Sikh organisations," the statement said.

Sena MP Sanjay Raut said the group in the clashes was "not a Shiv Sena unit". "Some people claim to be from Shiv Sena. They have no connection with us. We have already said that they should be removed," Raut said.

Shiv Sena's Punjab president Yograj Shama said Singla has been officially expelled from the party for "anti-party activities" on "orders" from party supremo Uddhav Thackeray. Yuva Sena national president Aadiya Thackeray and Sena national secretary Anil Desai.

According to Sharma, the party had written to the Patiala SSP on April 20 to convey that it had nothing to do with Singla's call, which was made in "his personal capacity". Singla was not available for comment.

Singla had announced the march around 15 days after the banned outfit, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), gave a call to observe "Khalistan shapna diwas (Khalistan foundation day) in April across district police offices in Haryana".

Patiala SSP Nanak Singh said Singla was denied permission to hold the march. The officer also said that activists of the Sikh outfit SAD (Amritsar) were denied permission to hold a meeting on Thursday against Singla's call, and were assured that the march would not be allowed.

Following the clash, Singla was attacked by members of the Hindu community outside the temple on Friday evening when he had come to attend a meeting.

Patiala officials said curfew was imposed till 6 am on Saturday due to "incidents of breach of peace and disputes between certain different groups in the district, which can result in further disturbance of peace and communal and maintenance of law and order".

Describing the incident as "deeply unfortunate", Chief Minister Mann posted on Twitter: "I spoke with the DGP, peace has been restored in the area. We are closely monitoring the situation and will not let anyone create disturbance in the state."

Mann tweeted that his government "will not allow anti-Punjab forces to disturb Punjab's peace at any cost". The AAP, meanwhile, posted pictures purportedly from the clash and accused two people shown in the images of being BJP leaders with links to the party's top leadership.

Police in Patiala said a group of Nihangs gathered at Dukh Niwaran Sahib gurdwara to counter the Sena unit's call and marched towards the temple raising slogans. They were joined by other Sikh activists, they said.

The police team, including Patiala SSP Nanak Singh, fired several rounds in the air to disperse the Sikh group which had reached outside the temple. A separate police contingent was deployed at Arya Samaj, a kilometre away, where those supporting Singla's call were holding the march.

According to the SSP, Sikh protesters alleged that a member of their group suffered a gunshot injury. "We are getting it examined by doctors," he said. A member of the "anti-Khalistan" march sus-

tained a "minor injury" on the hand allegedly caused by a sharp-edged weapon, the SSP said.

(WITH KAMALDEEPSINGH BRAR IN AMRITSAR & ENS/MUMBAI)

Mevani

democracy into a police state is simply unthinkable and if the Assam Police is thinking about the same, the same is perverse thinking," the court said.

It said the High Court should consider directing "each and every police personnel engaged in law and order duty to wear body cameras, to install CCTV cameras in vehicles while arresting an accused or taking an accused to some place for recoveries of goods or other reasons, and also install CCTV cameras inside all police stations."

These measures should be considered to "prevent registration of false FIR like the present one and to give credibility to the police version of occurrences like the arrest of accused persons and the accused persons attempting to escape from police custody at midnight, while the accused was allegedly leading the police personnel to discover something, and the police personnel firing and killing or injuring such accused, which has become a routine phenomenon in the state," it said.

The court directed that a copy of the order be sent to the Registrar General of the High Court for placing it before the Chief Justice "to look into this aspect and consider whether the matter can be taken up as a PIL to curb the ongoing police excesses in the state".

According to data shared in the Assam Assembly last month, 29 people have been killed and 96 injured in police firing since Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took charge in May 2021.

"The bail has been granted against a personal bond of Rs 1,000. Some formalities are left and he has to be taken to Kokrajhar, so he will be released only tomorrow," said Mevani's counsel Angshuman Bora.

Mevani, an Independent MLA who has pledged support to the Congress, was arrested by the Assam Police from Gujarat's Banaskantha district on April 20 and flown to Guwahati following a complaint by a BJP leader in Kokrajhar district over a purported tweet against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On April 25, Mevani was granted bail by a Kokrajhar court, but was re-arrested in a fresh case filed in Barpeta district on the basis of a complaint by a policewoman who accused him of "assaulting" her and "outraging her modesty".

The woman police officer said Mevani "uttered slang words" and "physically pushed" her when she was escorting him from Guwahati airport to Kokrajhar on April 21. According to the FIR, two other police officers were present in the vehicle. The court said Friday that her version did not add up to the details in the FIR. "It was manufactured for the purpose of keeping the accused in detention for a longer period, abusing the process of the court and the law," it said.

"No sane person will ever try to outrage the modesty of a lady police officer in the presence of two male police officers and there is nothing in the record to hold that the accused... is an insane person."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that M/s SLB WELFARE ASSOCIATION (REGD.), a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 having Registration No. GBN09673 from District Registrar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh is the only authorized association of the home buyers of Project SAMPADA (LJA) situated at GH-06B, Sector CH-VI, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

NOTICE is further given to the public at large that the aforesaid order dated 06.06.2020 is the final outcome of the cancellation of the registration of the aforesaid project by UPRERA vide its order dated 30.09.2019. An appeal bearing no. 349/2019 was preferred by M/s PSA IMPEX PVT LTD before UP Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Lucknow which was dismissed vide order dated 20.10.2020. NOTICE is further given to the public at large that the aforesaid project vide office order dated 06.06.2020 bearing no. 51/UPRERA/rehabilitation/project/PMD/NCR/2020-21 passed by Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UPRERA) made it clear that the incomplete project shall be completed by the aforesaid Association only and the order dated 06.06.2020 attained finality when the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, Lucknow Bench vide its order dated 09.03.2021 in the Second Appeal No. 121 of 2020 preferred by the erstwhile promoters, M/s PSA IMPEX PVT LTD through Mr. Raj Kumar found that there is no infirmity in the order dated 30.09.2019 through which the registration of the aforesaid project was cancelled by UPRERA.

NOTICE is further given to the public at large that there are entities/ firms' associations formed by some vested interests with a deceptively similar name with a malafide intent to deceive/ cheat the bonafide home buyers.

NOTICE is further given to the public at large that for any queries, you may contact the undersigned being the President of the aforesaid Association and can also inspect the orders passed by UPRERA, Appellate Tribunal, Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, Lucknow Bench and any other detail towards the progress of the work carried out on the aforesaid project since the order dated 06.06.2020 passed by UPRERA as mentioned above.

SD/-
info@sampadadiv.com
SLB Welfare Association

उपरो पार ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. निविदा सूचना

निविदाएं दो भागों में अनुभव की टेकदारों से निम्न कार्य के सम्पादन हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्रत्येक निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर राशि एफ.डी.आर/सी.डी.आर. (राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक) के रूप में अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के पक्ष में देय हो एवं इन्कम टैक्स एवं पैन नं. इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण प्रपत्र की छाया प्रति तथा अनुभव सम्बंधी प्रपत्र अवश्य होने चाहिए अन्यथा की स्थिति में निविदा का भाग-2 विचारणीय नहीं होगा। निविदाओं के प्रपत्र निर्धारित शुल्क एवं निर्धारित धरोहर राशि आ.टी.जी.एस./एन.ई.एफ.टी. के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मेरठ के पक्ष में State Bank of India, Cantt Branch, Meerut Account No. 110047201099, IFSC Code SBIN0000680 में भी जमा करायी जा सकती है। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन स्लिम मूल का प्रति निविदा के प्रथम भाग के साथ संलग्न किये जायें अथवा निविदा प्रपत्र कार्यालय समय में निविदा खुलने के एक दिवस पूर्व 16.00 बजे तक कार्यालय से ही अवापसीय निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य भुगतान कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदाएं अघोषित/साक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में निविदा खुलने की निर्धारित दिनांक को 14.00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जायेंगी और उसी दिन सर्वजनिक रूप से टेकदारों अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में 15.00 बजे खोली जायेंगी। टी 25/22-23 (निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि 01.06.2022) विद्युत पारेषण मंडल मेरठ हेतु एक नग डीजल चलित कार (चालक सहित) 12 माह की अवधि के लिए क्रिये पर उपलब्ध करने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 3,50,00/- (रुपये तीन हजार पांच सौ मात्र), निविदा प्रपत्र की जी.एस.टी. सहित मूल्य रु. 590.00/- अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्रिय में ऊर्जा बचाये"। पत्रांक /No. 1109 वि.पा.मं./ETC/मेरठ/MT/Tender, दिनांक : 29/04/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1st Corrigendum

No. 256-Sig/SPL/TKJ/225/HNZM

Dated: 29.04.2022

Sub:1st corrigendum to tender notice No. 256-Sig/SPL/TKJ/225/HNZM dt. 20.04.2022 in connection with the tender for the work of "Replacement of signalling gears on age cum condition basis with EI at Hazrat Nizamuddin Station of DLI Division, Northern Railway".

The following item of above tender document under notice may be read as under:-

Tender Document has been changed. Kindly refer to IREPS at www.ireps.gov.in for details

1003/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM TO E-AUCTION NOTICE

No. CIID/SLR/E-Auction/Apr-22

e-Auction re-scheduled for 10.05.2022 11:00 am.

A notice for e-Auction for temporary lease contract (90 Days) for leasing of parcel space in 05 SLR compartments was published in various English & Hindi newspaper on 23.04.2022, where e-Auction was scheduled to be held on 04.05.2022. The said e-Auction date is hereby postponed because of some technical reasons and now the said e-Auction for same SLR compartments will be held on 10.05.2022 at 11:00 hrs. Kindly visit IREPS website (<https://www.ireps.gov.in/>) for further information in this regard.

1010/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice No. CM/MPS/DNR/2022

Notice for calling online bid On Open, competitive, single packet system for provision of Multi Purpose Stall at PPTA & FUT stations over Danapur Division for five years. Station: PPTA (A Class) & FUT (D Class): (1) Name of work with its location: Tender for allotment of Multi Purpose Stall (MPS) at PPTA (A Class) & FUT (D Class) stations over Danapur Division. (2) Reserve price (For 1 year): PPTA (A Class)- Rs 3,81,000/- FUT (D Class)- Rs 69,000/- (3) Earnest Money to be deposited: PPTA (A Class)- Rs 38,100/- FUT (D Class)- Rs 6,900/- (4) Date & time for submission of tender on IREPS website: 23.05.2022 up to 12:00 Hrs. (5) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Danapur.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager PR00164/DNR/COM/TLT/22-23/28 Danapur

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tender)

On behalf of President of India e-tenders are invited by the Sr. DMM/DSO/ NWR, Jodhpur. 1. Name of item : PVC Insulated Aluminum Conductor Armoured, Unscrewned underground Railwayway Signaling cable-Copper Conductor size 12 core x1.5 sq mm x 2. Approximate Cost of Items : ₹ 3551279.00 (Rs. Thirty Five Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine Only) Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹ 71030.00 Last date and time for Submission of e-tender and Opening of e-tender : 27.05.2022 before 14:25 Hrs. Website from which e-tender forms can be obtained : www.ireps.gov.in Address of the NIT issuing Office : Office of the Sr. DMM/DSO, NWR, Jodhpur 342001(Rajasthan) Note: 1. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. 2. Cost of tender document & EMD online through e-transfers i.e. through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website. 263-DP/22

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Bangalore - 560012

Corrigendum to Advertisement for the post of Assistant Project Engineer (Civil) and Site Engineer (Civil), Challakere dated 09.04.2022

It is hereby notified that the last date for submission of application for the post of Assistant Project Engineer (Civil) and Site Engineer (Civil), Challakere is hereby extended till 10.05.2022. The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions remains the same. Date: 29.04.2022

SD/-, REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNABEDA

No: / Date: /

e-Procurement Notice for Buildings works

1 Name of the work : Construction & Buildings as per Annexure (2 Nos)

3 Class of contractor : "B", "A", Class of (Odisha PWD) or separate class of other licensing authority.

4 Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs. 119.96 Lakhs to Rs 210.56 Lakhs (Approximately)

5 Details projects as per : Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender online for bidding From To Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification Date & Time of opening of tender

1 Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda CCE/RWCSBD -Online - 09/2022-23 02.05.2022 at 11:00 A.M. 18.05.2022 up to 5.30 P.M. 16.05.2022 up to 1.00 P.M. 19.05.2022 at 11:00 A.M. To be intimated separately

6. The details of works can be seen from the web site <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

7. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

SD/- Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

OIPR- 25182/11/0005/2223

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 06/P-69/2022-TMC/HQ/NCR/Prayagraj Date: 27.04.2022

TENDER NOTICE

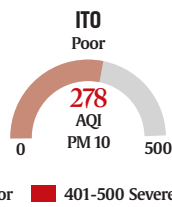
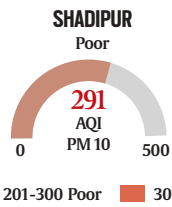
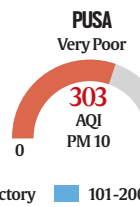
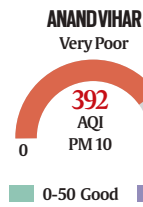
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Central Railway, Subedarganj, Prayagraj-211015 invites the following E-Procurement Tenders. (The complete information along with tender document of this E-Procurement Tender are available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> upto 15:00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

S Tender No. Brief Description Quantity Tender Value

1 TM 225062 PCB Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: Plasser) As per Section IV of tender document 43,51,740/-

1 TM 225069 VEE Belt Set. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: Caterpillar) -do- 1,63,677/-

Earnest Money: S.N.1. 87,100/-, 2. 3,300/-, Date of Opening : For all 23.05.2022, Note:- 1. The Complete information along with Tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available on website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>



0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe



FORECAST: April 30
Partly cloudy sky.
Heat wave conditions
at a few places.

MAX: 44 | **MIN: 26**
5.4°C above normal | 2.0°C above normal

Covid relief to families of 30 frontline workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE DELHI government has provided Covid relief assistance of Rs 1 crore to families of 30 'Covid warriors' who lost their lives during the pandemic, said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia after handing over the 'Samman Rashi' to the family of a staffer.

Sisodia visited the family of Kamlesh, a sanitation worker at Lok Nayak hospital, who died of Covid while serving patients.

Handing over the cheque of Rs 1 crore to the family, Sisodia said: "The country salutes the sacrifice of these brave Covid warriors. The government took a pledge to take care of the families of martyred Covid warriors, and will always stand with their families in every situation. During the pandemic, doctors, paramedical staff and sanitation workers were risking their lives. Though this amount cannot compensate for the loss of the families, we hope it will definitely help them stand again and have a dignified life."

MAN KILLED ON 'SUSPICION OF COW SLAUGHTER'

Dwarka farmhouse lynching: 2 arrested

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

DAYS AFTER a 40-year-old caretaker of a farmhouse was lynched by 10-15 men on suspicion of cow slaughter in Dwarka, police arrested two men from the Delhi-Haryana border.

The victim, Rajaram, lived with his family at the farmhouse and was working on April 11 when the accused, claiming to be gau rakshaks, barged in past midnight and assaulted him as well as some other workers at the spot. The accused had reached the farmhouse a while before police, too, reached the spot.

The *Indian Express* had earlier reported that an FIR was registered in the case stating that the incident took place in front of policemen but the accused managed to leave without giving their names.

DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said, "Our teams had rushed all the six men to RTRM

hospital where Rajaram succumbed to injuries. Soon after, FIRs were lodged and teams were sent to look for the men involved in the assault case, but they had fled from their homes. We conducted an investigation and, using technical evidence, identified 5-6 men."

Police said they have arrested two men who lived in the vicinity of the farmhouse, Ankit (25) and Praveen (26). They work as farm labourers and live in Chhawla. Initial questioning does not suggest the duo are associated with the Gau Raksha Dal, police said. During questioning, the men told police they were called to the spot by 3-4 locals who claimed to have seen cow carcasses being taken in vans from the farmhouse.

"The accused still claim they only scolded the victim... However, we have evidence such as their phone location and video footage that they were at the spot with the other accused. We are looking for 5-6 others

who are on the run. The men said they saw cows being slaughtered and their associates attacked the victim and his men," said an officer.

The two men have so far been booked for assault, said police, adding that more stringent sections could be added as their questioning progresses.

Those absconding have been charged with IPC section 302 (murder) too.

Police had also booked the men who were assaulted under charges of cow slaughter. "We had sent the animal remains to Ghazipur hospital and are awaiting autopsy reports," DCP Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, Rajaram's wife Jhaso Devi said the family has no work because police also took eight cows and calves as part of the case property: "I have two young daughters and a son to look after. We used to sell cow milk to earn. How will we survive now? My husband would never kill cows."

Contractor arrested after house collapse in Satya Niketan killed 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

DAYS AFTER two labourers died while four others sustained injuries after a three-storey house under renovation collapsed on them in South Delhi's Satya Niketan, police arrested the contractor from Bihar's Araria district on Friday.

According to police, the accused, Md Raees (46), had hired the workers, who also hailed from Araria, to renovate the house. They were paid around Rs 300-Rs 350 per day.

DCP (Southwest) Manoj C said, "We arrested Raees who has been absconding since the day of the incident. Labourers at the spot told us he was there in the morning but left after some time. We are yet to ascertain if he was present at the time of the collapse. An FIR has been registered against him. He was the

contractor in charge of modifying the building." Raees has been booked under IPC sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and section 304 (culpable homicide), said police.

During questioning, Raees said that he was hired by a broker who asked him to renovate the house.

"The previous owner was a businessman... We contacted him and found that he sold the house through the broker. We have received six-seven names of potential owners, but the documents aren't clear. There are also documents showing the property was sold through GPA (general power of attorney)," said a police officer.

Police are looking for the current owner who was allegedly trying to convert the house into a PG accommodation. "We are checking the documents and will soon identify the owner," said the DCP.

The South MCD had booked the property for unauthorised construction. A notice was also issued on March 31 and the authorities had sought police intervention.

An officer at South Campus police station said: "We have written to the SDMC seeking details of the owner as no document has his name. Before the incident, they had informed us once about the construction. There was no further communication from their side. Under the DMC Act, the authorities were supposed to book the owner but they have only mentioned the house number in their order..."

A senior South MCD official, however, said police should have taken action when they notified them of the illegal construction in the building. "We identify buildings where illegal construction is done. The building is booked in such cases, not people," said the official.

Lemonade seller beaten to death in Ghaziabad

New Delhi: A lemonade seller was beaten to death in Ghaziabad on Wednesday over payment issues, said police, adding that an e-rickshaw driver was arrested in connection with the incident on Thursday. The victim has been identified as Gaurav Kashyap.

Police said the accused, Bobby, along with two persons, stopped at Gaurav's stall in Raj Nagar Extension to buy lemonades. The accused told police that Gaurav allegedly used stale lemons to which Bobby and the others objected and Gaurav held on to the e-rickshaw for payment which overturned.

Locals told police that a scuffle broke out between them and Gaurav was rushed to a hospital. Police were informed that Gaurav died during treatment. His family alleged that he was beaten with sticks and stones. He is survived by his wife and eight-year-old daughter. **ENS**

Atishi addresses UN General Assembly

New Delhi: In her speech at the UN General Assembly titled "Delhi model of governance", AAP MLA Atishi talked about the development work done by the AAP government in the national capital in the past seven years. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to congratulate her.

Atishi talked about how the AAP government reduced the electricity tariff, developed government schools, improved public health infrastructure by introducing mohalla clinics and took several other initiatives for public welfare in the past seven years. "About four million households in Delhi get zero electricity bills, more than 1,500 residential areas have access to piped water supply and around 2,00,000 students shifted from private schools to government schools, and mohalla clinics are providing free healthcare to citizens," Atishi said in her speech. She also said the AAP's model of governance had increased Delhi's GDP.

Retweeting a video of Atishi's speech, Kejriwal said, "A moment of pride for India. Delhi and AAP make Indians proud. The world is now looking to Delhi for solutions in many areas of urban governance." **ENS**

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डॉ. बी. आर. अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय दिल्ली

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi

Established by Govt of NCT of Delhi vide Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Act, 2007 (Delhi Act 9 of 2007)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR TEACHING POSTS

No. AUD/16/2022/Acad. Ser./ **Dated: 22.04.2022**

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi is a State University established through Dr. B.R.Ambedkar University Delhi Act, 2007 by the Legislature of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi is one of the few universities in India with the core objective of promoting the study of humanities and social sciences and it recognizes these disciplines as pivotal to the understanding and imagination of a society in transition. University's aim is to reconceptualize social sciences with innovative curriculum and pedagogic processes. The University invites online applications from the eligible candidates for faculty positions (Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor) on regular basis in the following disciplines:

Sl. No.	School	Discipline	Professor (Pay Level-14)	Associate Professor (Pay Level-13A)	Assistant Professor (Pay Level-10)
1.	School of Culture and Creative Expression	(i) Performing Arts/ Performance Studies (ii) Literary Art/ Creative Writing (iii) Film Studies	OBC-1 -	UR-1 -	OBC-1 -
2.	School of Global Affairs	Global Studies Urban Studies	SC-1 02 (SC-1, ST-1)	02 (UR-1, OBC-1) 03 (UR-1, OBC-1, SC-1)	05 (UR-1, OBC-3, ST-1) 03 (UR-2, SC-1)
3.	School of Law, Governance and Citizenship	Law or Any Social Science/ Humanities Discipline	OBC-1	03 (UR-1, OBC-1, SC-1)	EWS-1
4.	School of Education Studies	Education	02 (EWS-1, UR-1)	-	-
5.	School of Undergraduate Studies	(i) Economics (ii) History (iii) Psychology (iv) Social Science and Humanities (v) English (vi) Mathematics (vii) Sociology	UR-1 OBC-1 - UR-1 OBC-1 -	UR-1 02 (SC-1, EWS-1) OBC-1 02 (EWS-1, SC-1) ST-1 UR-1 02 (UR-1, OBC-1)	- - - 03 (UR-1, EWS-1, OBC-1) -
6.	School of Vocational Studies	Tourism & Hospitality/ Retail Management/ Early Childhood Education/ Accounting in Finance/ Education	-	02 (UR-1, OBC-1)	04 (OBC-2, UR-2)
7.	School of Business Public Policy and Social Entrepreneurship	Management	UR-01	03 (UR-1, OBC-1, ST-1)	02 (UR-1, SC-1)
8.	School of Human Ecology	Ecology and Environmental Studies	ST-1	-	-
9.	School of Design	Design	EWS-1	EWS-1	-
TOTAL POSTS			14	22	19

Of these vacant posts, 02 are reserved for the Person with Disabilities in the following categories:-
(i) OH (Orthopedically Handicapped) (ii) VH (Visually Handicapped)

For details, please visit University website www.aud.ac.in for Qualifications, General Instructions, Eligibility Criteria, online application form, payment of fee & other details.

Commencement of online application form: 23.04.2022 Last date to apply online: 22.05.2022 (up to 23:59hrs)

The Last date of receiving hard copy of application form: 03.06.2022 (up to 17:30 hrs)

A hard copy of the online application along with self-attested required documents, mentioning the name of the post/discipline on the top of the envelope, must reach at the following address:-
DEPUTY REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC SERVICES), ROOM No.3, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI,
LOTHIAN ROAD, KASHMERE GATE CAMPUS, DELHI - 110 006

Registrar

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*As per law & legal advice, above recognised Degree/Diploma holders are eligible for registration with State Medical Councils and NMC.

DEPARTMENT OF ALLIED & HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS : B.SC (Nursing), M.SC (Nursing), ANM, GNM, Physiotherapy (DPT, BPT, MPT), D.Pharm, B.Pharm, M.Pharm, Medical Lab Technology (DMLT, BMLT, BSC-MLT, MSC-MLT, B.VOC-MLT), Radio Imaging Techno. (DRIT/BRIT), DIPLOMA In Nursing Care Assistant / Sonography / Dental Mechanics / Dialysis Technology / Health Inspector / X-Ray Technology / OT Technology / Occupational Therapy / MRI Technology / ECG Technology / Naturopathy Assistant / Ayurvedic Medicine Assistant & other courses.
*As per law and legal advice for Degree/Diploma holders registration is not mandatory to practice as a nurse also licence is not required to open a drug retail store & allied and healthcare professionals are also eligible to get registered under The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021 which received the assent of the Hon'ble President on 28 March 2021

DEPARTMENT OF HOMEOPATHY : BHMS & all other courses.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE : BAMS, BUMS, BNYS, MD (All Specialization) & all other courses.

DEPARTMENT OF MULTI CAREER / MULTI DISCIPLINARY EDUCATION	DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION	DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH
BA, MA, BSC, MSC, BCOM, MCOM, MBA, BCA, MCA, BED, BPED, MED, MPED, BTech, MTECH, CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA/ITI in Engineering (Computer/Electrical/Mechanical/Electronics/Civil/Textile/Chemical/Aerospace etc.) & other courses.	DEGREE/DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE in Architecture, Hotel Management, Fashion Designing, Financial Accounting, Beauty & Wellness, Photography, Food & Beverage Production & Management, 3D Animation & VFX, Taxation, Airline, Mass Comm. & Journalism, LLB/LLM (Hons. In General Practice/Civil Practice/Criminal Practice/Litigation Practice), CA & other courses.	PHD in all disciplines, D Litt. in all subjects, DSc and ILLD.

SINGHANIA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SECONDARY & SR. SECONDARY EDUCATION : 10th / 12th

**** NOTE : THE STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE ANY COMBINATIONS OF TWO COURSES OF THEIR CHOICE FOR DUAL DEGREE**

MODE OF STUDY : *ASSISTED SELF STUDY *BLENDED LEARNING *CONVENTIONAL MODE OF LEARNING

ALL UNDERGRADUATE, POST GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COURSES AVAILABLE. FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

LEGAL OPINION - (IN PUBLIC INTEREST)

As per law and legal opinion, Singhania University ("SU") being established by Government of Rajasthan by an Act of State Legislature and being recognised Constitutionally and also under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, in exercise of its fundamental right and by authority of law under Section 12A and 22 of the UGC Act, can take admission and impart education in all courses including medical i.e. MBBS and award degree, diploma, certificate to its pass out students which are sui generis valid for all intents and purposes i.e. registration with all professional councils including State Medical Councils and for Government jobs. Under Rule 2(ee)(i) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1954, recognised medical degree holders are deemed to be registered medical practitioner in law and as such, can practice medicine in India and also get registered with State Medical Councils. The medical qualifications awarded by SU are recognised under Section 35(1) and 35(8) of the NMC Act, 2019 and are also entitled for registration with the State Medical Councils & NMC. SU being a self-regulated autonomous constitutionally recognised statutory apex body for all education can also take admission of students returning from Ukraine, China and other countries on lateral entry basis and can award degree/ diploma on completion of left out course. SU degree holder will be entitled to practice medicine throughout India and also be entitled to be registered with State Councils & NMC. For detailed opinion, visit university website, or mail at: legal@singhaniauniversity.ac.in.

APPLY FOR COLLABORATION / AFFILIATION

INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR COLLABORATION/AFFILIATION FROM INSTITUTIONS, HOSPITALS, DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS, MEDICAL RESEARCH LABS & OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS FOR COUNSELING, ADMISSIONS, TRAINING & EXAMINATIONS. Mail At : coll@singhaniauniversity.ac.in

FOR ADMISSION CALL AT : 8448515516
OR MAIL AT : admission@singhaniauniversity.ac.in

SBI
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, BURDWAN (CODE-14817)
Ulhas, Gate No.1, PIN-713104, Dist. Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal. E-mail: sbi.14817@sbi.co.in

Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **STATE BANK OF INDIA** for an amount and interests thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Account/ Borrower & Address	Name of Proprietor/ Partners/ Guarantors/ Owner of property etc.	Description of the property mortgaged/charged	Date of Demand Notice & Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
M/s Catalox Chemicals, Prop.: Shri Rakesh Mani Tripathi	Smt. Priyanka Tripathi, W/o Shri Rakesh Mani Tripathi, and Shri Ram Naresh Tripathi, S/o Shri Man Bharan Tripathi	All piece and parcel of vacant land measuring area 3.75 decimal equivalent to 01 Katha bearing Thana No.-83, Tazui No.-3947, P.S. 83, Khata No.185, Khesara/Survey Plot No.-974(P) and 975(P), Deed No.-4272 of 2013, Ward No.-01, situated at Mauza-Saraya, P.S.-Gopalganj within Gopalganj Municipality, Distt.-Gopalganj. Property stands in the name of Rakesh Mani Tripathi. Bounded By: North-10' feet Self Road, South-Property of Badri Miyan, East-Property of Mustafi, West-Property of Champa Devi.	29.11.2021 & 25/04/2022	₹1,94,90,621.00 as on 28.11.2021 together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. w.e.f. 28.11.2021

Date : 25.04.2022
Place : Gopalganj

AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, BURDWAN

BRIEFLY

25 years after fake encounter at CP, HC grants Rs 15L to survivor

New Delhi: More than 25 years after police shot dead his two friends at Barakhamba Road near Connaught Place and injured him in a shootout, the Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to pay a compensation of Rs 15 lakh to Tarun Preet Singh along with an interest of 8% per annum from March 31, 1997, the date of the incident, within a period of eight weeks. Justice Prathiba M Singh said the injury caused due to the state action, and “that too one, where police officials were convicted of criminal offences and not some inaction or negligence”, needs to be considered at a higher standard than ordinary cases of negligence and inaction. Singh has a shrapnel lodged in the head and slight disability in the right hand.

New structural safety norms issued: Khattar

Gurgaon: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said the Haryana government had issued new structural safety guidelines to ensure the safety of residents of multi-storey residential buildings. As per the new guidelines, during the construction of a building, the developer will have to get the safety audit done three to four times till its completion, said the CM.

Govt to hold summer camp for children

New Delhi: To continue the focus on foundational learning in reading, writing and numeracy, all government school students of classes III to IX will be required to attend ‘summer camp’ in their schools from May 11 to June 15. Schools in Delhi have been operating at full capacity for all grades since April 1 and since then, the focus for government school students of classes III to IX has been entirely on foundational reading, writing and numeracy.

Burglar held

New Delhi: Police arrested a burglar following an encounter in South Delhi’s CR Park Friday morning. According to police, the incident took place at Jahanpanah City Forest where investigators laid a trap to nab five burglars on Thursday night. Police tried to arrest the accused, but the men allegedly retaliated using knives and fired at them, they said. **ENS**



THE YAMUNA

In the midst of a heatwave, parts of the Yamuna turned dry near ITO. Delhi recorded the second consecutive day of a heatwave spell on Friday when the maximum temperature settled at 43.5 degrees Celsius. *Praveen Khanna*

PEAK POWER DEMAND FOR APRIL HIT AROUND 6,000 MW ON THURSDAY

Power minister raises alarm: Some plants have coal to last just one day

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

DELHI POWER Minister Satyendar Jain reiterated on Friday that there is a shortage of coal at some power plants. “There is a major shortage of coal across the country and the major reason is the shortage of rakes for trains that transport coal,” he said. “The power plants need to have a stock of coal. In some plants, there is stock for only a day today.”

Jain wrote to the Centre on Thursday asking them to ensure that sufficient coal is available at power plants that supply electricity to Delhi.

Flagging “a major electricity crisis across the country”, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted on Friday: “So far we have managed somehow in Delhi. The situation is grave across the country. We have to find a solution to this quickly. It is necessary to take quick measures to deal with the problem.”

A statement from the government Thursday had pointed to disruption of power supply from Dadri-II and Uncharhar power stations that could lead to a problem in 24-hour power supply to essential institutions, including the Delhi Metro and hospitals.

NTPC Limited, which runs the power plants at Dadri and Uncharhar, however tweeted Friday that units at the two plants “are declaring more than 100% rated capacity to the grid”. All



Minister Satyendar Jain

units of Uncharhar and Dadri are running at full load, except Uncharhar unit-I which is under annual planned overhaul, it said. It also said units at Dadri and Uncharhar are receiving regular coal supplies. “Present stock is 1,40,000 MT and 95,000 MT respectively; import coal supplies are also in the pipeline,” it said. Sources said the distribution companies have been able to meet the growing power demand so far — the peak power demand for April hit an all-time high of around 6,000 MW on Thursday afternoon.

While states in the neighbourhood, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, recorded an energy shortage on Thursday, Delhi did not record a shortage, going by daily data on power supply reported by the Power System Operation Corporation Limited.

The maximum power demand met on Thursday was 5,942 MW, as per the report. Reports over

the past five days indicate that Delhi has not yet recorded a power shortage.

According to the power generation report for NTPC stations released by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Thursday, the coal stock available for six units at the Dadri National Capital Thermal Power Project was for six days — stock of a day for each of the six units. The coal stock available at the Uncharhar power plant was for 18 days — three days each for the six units at the plant. The stock at both plants falls short of the normative stock required at power plants, which is 26 days.

The daily coal stock report as of April 28 released by the CEA shows that the actual stock at the Dadri plant (1,59,000 tonnes) was only around 2% of the normative stock (65,09,000 tonnes). Coal stock is considered ‘critical’ if it is less than 25% of the normative stock. The actual stock at Uncharhar was around 17% of the normative stock. Both plants receive coal stock by rail.

Meanwhile, Delhi recorded the hottest April in the past 12 years, going by data from the India Meteorological Department. The average maximum temperature in April this year was 40.2 degrees Celsius, the highest since 2010 when the average for the month stood at 40.4 degrees Celsius. In the past 72 years, from 1951 onwards, the average maximum temperature in April has crossed 40 degrees only twice — in 2010 and now in 2022.

Power cut roster in Gurgaon, outages to last several hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, APRIL 29

AMID A power crisis across Haryana, with outages lasting hours, discom officials on Friday released a tentative roster of scheduled power cuts for the next few days in Gurgaon.

As per the tentative schedule, in urban areas under Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN), the total power cut duration would be 6.5 hours and for domestic supply areas, the total duration of power cuts would be at least 4 hours in a day. For industries, power would be cut for eight hours from 8 pm to 4 am.

The timings of the power cuts would be staggered. For urban areas under DHBVN, the tentative schedule of load shedding would be from 4 am to 5 am, 6 am to 7 am, 8.30 am to 9 am, 10 am to 12 noon and 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. For rural domestic supply areas under DHBVN, power would be cut for an hour each four times in a day — from 1 am to 2 am, 4 am to 5 am, 8 am to 9 am and 11 pm to midnight. A DHBVN official, requesting

anonymity, said due to increased demand and shortage of power in Haryana, the load shedding/ power cut to different categories of consumers has to be done to maintain the grid discipline and grid frequency.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also met Union Minister of Power R K Singh on Friday and discussed measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply in Haryana.

As per power department officials, Haryana’s demand has touched around 9,000 megawatts (MW) per day this week. Gurgaon’s peak demand on Thursday was around 1,650 MW. In the past week, long power outages have also hit industrial activity in the state.

“Across Haryana, there is a deficit of over 2,000 MW at present. In Gurgaon, the deficit in power supply is over 20%, resulting in scheduled and unscheduled power cuts. As per this roster, power cuts have been scheduled for the next few days. Measures are being taken to procure power from several resources and power crisis will be resolved soon,” said a DHBVN official.

HC defers Umar bail appeal: ‘Let SC take view on 124A first’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE DELHI High Court Friday deferred the hearing of the bail appeal of student activist Umar Khalid in the larger conspiracy case of the Northeast Delhi riots to May 6, saying that the challenge to IPC 124A (sedition) — one of the provisions invoked against Khalid and others by police — is listed for hearing before the Supreme Court on May 5.

“124A is under challenge before the Supreme Court and is coming up on May 5. The findings on 124A will have bearing on these cases also. My opinion is that we shall fix it after 5th of May, let the Supreme Court take a view on it,” said Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar at the outset of the hearing.

The division bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Bhatnagar has earlier heard arguments on the bail appeal on two dates. On Wednesday, after listening to a speech given by Khalid at Amravati, Maharashtra, in February 2020, which forms part of the chargesheet against him, the court had asked whether it was proper to use the term ‘jumla’ with respect to the Prime Minister and said there has to be a “a line” or a “lakshman rekha” when it comes to criticism of the government.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais, representing Khalid, Friday told the court that the case pertaining to 124A before the Supreme Court was not likely to be concluded on May 5. “Also, in so far as 124A is concerned, that is not an issue before your lordships. If it was only 124A, I would have got bail long ago. It is Section 43D(5) [of UAPA] and whether

15, 17 and 18 [of UAPA] are applicable at all. That is the difficulty,” argued Pais, while referring to the stringent bail provisions under UAPA. Pais added that though the matter before the Supreme Court on 124A no doubt is very important and “very seminal” on the question, he has to deal with UAPA provisions more during his arguments. However, Justice Mridul said, “We can have it on the 6th. There is no harm.



Umar Khalid is accused in the larger conspiracy case of the Northeast Delhi riots

Anything that may have a bearing, we should await the outcome.”

The court also said co-accused Sharjeel Imam’s bail plea is also before it now and Khalid’s application will be heard together with it on May 6. When Pais insisted again that the hearing of 124A challenge may not be concluded on May 5, Justice Mridul said the court will hear the bail appeals together and added, “In fact, we were keen to go back and hear that speech, Amravati, once again because according to you the origins of the chargesheet against you stem from that speech at Amravati.”

Pais submitted that the speech is the only “overt act” that the prosecution can “advert to” and that the “rest is fiction”. Justice Mridul said, “the rest could also be acts of omission”.

The court Wednesday had sought clarification regarding the use of expressions like ‘*in-quilabi*’ (revolutionary) and ‘*krantikari*’ (revolution). Khalid had mentioned ‘*inquilabi salam*’ and ‘*krantikari istiqbal*’ at the beginning of his speech. On April 22, while hearing Khalid’s application, the court had said that his speech at Amravati was “offensive”, “obnoxious” and hateful.

Meanwhile, the court on Friday issued notice to the police on Imam’s bail application in the same case. Imam has argued that he has been arrested by the police as part of a “targeted campaign” to have multiple FIRs and investigations against him at the same time. When the violence broke out in Northeast Delhi, he was already in custody in two other FIRs and no overt or covert act can possibly be attributed to him, reads the appeal.

Supertech towers demolition likely to miss May 22 deadline



The Supreme Court had on August 30 last year ordered the demolition of the twin towers. *Archive*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, APRIL 29

DEMOLITION OF the Supertech twin towers is likely to miss the May 22 deadline by one or two months as more time is required for the blast preparation, sources have told *The Indian Express*. The matter is likely to be discussed in court, said sources.

The Supreme Court had on August 30 last year ordered the demolition of the two towers in Supertech’s Emerald Court in Noida’s Sector 93A within three months for violating regulations on the distance between buildings.

Edifice Engineering, a company selected by the Noida Authority and the Central Building Research Institute, Roorki, is readying the buildings for the implosion in collaboration with Jet Demolition, a company from South Africa.

At the site, a mound of debris, nearly two storeys tall, was spotted next to the entrance gate

while laborers and technical staff prepared the buildings for the blast. Geotextile fabric was being wrapped around pillars and beams which will prevent dust and debris from splintering following the blast. Sources said steel containers will also be placed in the vicinity of the Apex and Cayenne towers to reduce the spread of debris.

“For the next few weeks, we will be laying out the fabric in different sections of the building. We are also trying to create space where the containers can be placed. Teams are working constantly and we are gathering more inputs on the safety procedures. Our main effort is to ensure that the blast is carried out safely,” said a source.

Foreign technicians from Jet Demolition Company were also at the site. The company is preparing the blast plan which will contain procedures for the implosion. A test blast was carried out earlier this month to ascertain the quantity of explosives required for the main blast.

India Art Fair returns to capital after Covid hiatus

VANDANA KALRA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE PANDEMIC led to the cancellation of the India Art Fair (IAF) last year, but as it opened its doors this week, despite the sweltering heat, it saw the coming together of the art community. In its 13th edition, it has on display works brought together by over 60 galleries and 14 institutional participants.

Raising concerns

Art is a reflection of society and artists often urge viewers to ask questions. Right at the entrance is a Madhukar Mucharla portrait of Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. Inside the tent, Riyas Komu’s Eighteen Steps to Nasreen Mohamedi (2022) too emphasises on nurturing a sense of community. “This work seeks to prise open the various intertwined and submerged plural pasts that are now ominously and violently be-

ing set for closure. It is an attempt to retrieve from the flux of time, memories and ebb and tides of the multi-layered culture that we are and ought to be,” says Komu.

There is also an attempt to document violence and call for peace. If T V Santhosh explores global conflicts and historical injustices through his works at The Guild booth, Gulammohammed Sheikh’s “Ecce Homo”, prompted after the fall of Kabul, is an interpretation of events from world over in the last two years that induces viewers to confront socio-political and religious realities. Mithu Sen puts together a collage of numerous instances of violence, from racism she witnessed in South Africa in 2012 to the 2015 Paris terrorist attack and the war in Ukraine, through a “bombed tree”. “Through the collage, I am attempting to map events as memorials of violence and precarious global climate,” says Sen.

Larger than life

There are instances when



India Art Fair is on till May 1 at NSIC Ground, Okhla. *Tashi Tobgyal*

some works also attract attention due to their medium and method. At Gallery Art Positive, Ankon Mitra is drawing crowds with delicate works in origami. This year sees the return of contemporary artist Shilo Shiv Debanjay Roy also has new-age Gandhi talking on his cellphone. At Museo Camera Booth, multiple projects come together, from an installation by Gopal Namjoshi

to a wall that documents the life of exiled Nepal premier Dev Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana through the archives of Bhuvan Kumari Devi. In a new set of works, Bangladeshi artist Tayeba Begum Lipi contemplates life during pandemic-related lockdowns. Tapasya Gupta dedicates her fibreglass and resin works to her father, who she lost to Covid.

Modernists on view

The IAF has a range of modernists, from the Bengal masters such as Nandalal Bose, Ramkinkar Baij and Somnath Hore at the Akar Prakar booth, to KG Subramanyan at Art Heritage. A tribute is being paid to artists Satish Gujral and Rini Dhumal, who passed away recently, in the ‘In Memoriam Section’. There is a room dedicated to MF Husain by Crayon Art Gallery.

While Dhoomimal Art Gallery is showcasing FN Souza, Amrita Sher-Gil and Jamini Roy, among others, the DAG booth has 200 years of Indian art capsuled in an exhibition that includes, among others, early Bengal oil paintings as well as works of MF Husain, SH Raza and a Dhanraj Bhagat sculpture. Attracting attention is a large canvas by Madhvi Parekh, where the artist depicts a “Christian theme” in a naïve Indian folk art style.

Indigenous art

Special effort has been made to highlight indigenous art

through Gond paintings by Jangarh Singh Shyam, rare bhuta bronze masks from Kerala and Karnataka. If the Pichvai Tradition & Beyond has works by artists from its atelier, Delhi Crafts Council has Rajasthani artist Sangeeta Jogi’s dot drawings depicting the many new roles performed by women.

Engaging with the audience

The audience can also be part of the art project. At their booth, artist duo Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra are educating them about the effect of greenhouse gases and asking them to bring it to zero in a game titled ‘2030 Net Zero’. They are also discussing the problems faced by farmers through another game, ‘Weeping Farm’. At the Khoj booth, meanwhile, one has to learn to survive as a woman from the agrarian community despite the various challenges.

India Art Fair is on till May 1 at NSIC Ground, Okhla. Tickets on bookmyshow.com

MANDATE DOCUMENT BY CURRICULUM REVISION PANEL

Don't wait, act now to fix learning loss: Govt panel

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE STATES and the Centre “must act urgently” to address the “huge learning loss” among students due to the interruptions in regular teaching and learning caused by the pandemic over the last two years, a high-powered committee set up to revise the country’s school curriculum has advised.

The committee, led by Princeton University professor Manjul Bhargava, has observed that authorities need not wait for the completion of curriculum revision exercises to help students make learning recoveries.

The observations are part of a “mandate document” released Friday by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Bengaluru. The mandate document will act as a guidebook for the experts working on revising the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for which a deadline of December 2022 has been set.

“The pandemic has driven a huge ‘learning loss’ amongst the vast majority of our children, and

EXPLAINED
A guide for revision

THE MANDATE document will guide the development of the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF). Its objective is primarily to provide direction to the groups of experts from varied backgrounds working on revising the NCF across the country.

the States and the Centre must act urgently and with great focus to recover this lost learning over the next 12 months,” the document reads. “This mandate document... encourages the development of teaching-learning- materials, training programs, and all other relevant initiatives for the effective implementation of such priorities. These need not wait or be held back for the development of the NCF...”

The document also says: “Even if a teacher’s personal val-

ues are different, she/he must only practise constitutional values while in the school.”

The mandate group has set February 28, 2023 as the deadline for the revision of syllabi based on the new NCF. And by October 30, 2023, NCERT books based on the new syllabi should be ready, they have recommended.

The “key deliverables” of the new curriculum, according to the mandate group, will be the development of foundational literacy and numeracy among students by class III, “constitutional values including gender equality”, “rootedness and pride in India”, a “sense of service or sewa to others in need”, and scientific temperament, among others.

At the release of the document, Pradhan said the revised NCF will be an instrument to “decolonise our education system”. “After 1947, we have adopted a methodology on our learning, teaching process where the method was envisioned by a set of people who are supposed to rule us. Let us decolonise our education system,” he said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Jaishankar in Bhutan: Our bond emotional, built on concern for each other

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIMPHU, APRIL 29

THE INDIA-BHUTAN relationship is based on genuine concern for each other’s welfare and interests, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Friday in Thimphu, asserting that New Delhi’s development cooperation paradigm with the Himalayan nation is prompted by moral principles and emotional bonds.

Jaishankar, who is in Thimphu on an official visit at the invitation of his Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo Tandi Dorji, is Bhutan’s first high-level foreign visitor since the onset of the pandemic. He met the country’s top leadership, including King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Lyonchhen Lotay Tshering.

At a handing-over ceremony for a consignment of medical supplies, the minister said: “Our relationship is based on a genuine concern for each other’s welfare and interests. India’s development cooperation paradigm is unique, prompted as much by economic impulse as by moral principles and emotional bonds.”

Police exam scam: Fugitive school owner, two teachers among 5 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, APRIL 29

FORMER PRESIDENT of the BJP’s Kalaburagi district women’s unit Divya Hagargi, an accused in the police sub-inspector recruitment exam scam, was among the five people arrested by the Karnataka Police’s Crime Investigation Department (CID) from Solapur in Maharashtra on Friday night.

Two of those arrested — Archana S and Sunanda S — were invigilators at Hagargi’s school, one of the exam centres. The remaining two, including a businessman from Maharashtra, were held for sheltering them.

Hagargi, 41, the owner-principal of the Jnana Jyothi English School in Kalaburagi, is accused of facilitating large-scale cheating in the police recruitment exam conducted on October 3, 2021, at the school that was one of the centres.

The CID had obtained an arrest warrant for Hagargi and three teachers from the school on April 19.

The Karnataka government has withdrawn the PSI exam results and announced that re-examination will be conducted soon. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra Friday said malpractices took place in more than one centre. He said: “We will reduce the number of centres and install network jammers.”

GOVT. OF BIHAR
BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.
UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2021 for BDS in Govt. Dental Colleges and Private Dental Colleges of Bihar
Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2021/27 Dated 29.04.2022 Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in
Important Notice for 2nd Round MOP-UP Counselling [BDS Course]
In the light of ADG (ME), New Delhi Letter no. F.No. U-11011/08/2021-MEC dated 28.04.2022 the last date of admission to BDS Courses for Dental Colleges has been extended up to 15.05.2022 for the academic session 2021. Fresh Online Registration and submission of Application form are invited from such qualified, eligible & intrested NEET(UG)-2021 candidates for appearing in the 2nd round offline MOP-UP Counselling of Under Graduate Medical Admission Counselling (UGMAC)-2021, who are not admitted in any Medical / Dental Colleges of India, on the vacant seats of Government/ Private Dental Colleges of Bihar after admission on the basis of UGMAC-2021 Online Mop-up round counselling from 05.04.2022 to 10.04.2022.
2. Second Round Mop-up Counselling will be conducted Offline at BCECE Board, IAS Bhawan, Near Patna Airport, Patna-800014.
3. Eligibility criteria and instructions and other details are available in the prospectus of UGMAC-2021 which can be downloaded from the Board's website bceceboard.bihar.gov.in.
If cut off marks for admission in BDS Course during the period of Registration and submission of Application form by apex body / MCC, those candidates shall also be eligible for Registration / Submission of Application form for this 2nd round Mop-up Counselling.
4. Those candidate who are admitted in any Govt./ Pvt. Medical / Dental College of India are not eligible for 2nd Round MOP-UP counselling.
5. Seat Matrix of vacancies after completion of 1st Round Mop-up Counselling will be available on Board's website from 02.05.2022. If any further vacancies arise, the Seat matrix of updated vacancies shall be uploaded on the Board's website on 12.05.2022 (10:00 A.M.) before starting of 2nd Round Mop-up Counselling. The details of programme / process / fee etc. has been uploaded on the Board's website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in vide adv. No. BCECEB(UGMAC)-2021/26 Dated 29.04.2022.
6. The concerned candidates are requested to download the details and go through it and complete the process accordingly as per the details of above advertisement for attending the 2nd round MOP-UP counselling.
Controller of Examination

High Commission of the Republic of Zambia, New Delhi
Expression of Interest for Shortlisting of Contractors for Construction of The Chancery & Residence for the High Commission of the Republic of Zambia
Expression of Interest are invited from reputed contractors. Interested parties may download EOI document from the website www.zambiaghcomdelhi.org / www.adpl.in Filled in EOI document as per instruction should be submit on or before 10 May by 3.00 PM on the address given below:
The High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Zambia, 7 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar New Delhi- 110057

ICAR- CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON GOATS
MAKHDOOM, P.O. FARAH-281 122, MATHURA U.P.
Phone: 0565-2763380 (Director), 0565-2763327 (Sr. Admin. Officer)
Fax No. 0565-2763246
F. No. 2-3(7)IR&P/2021 Dated: 29th April 2022
VACANCY NOTIFICATION
Two (02) contractual positions of Data Enumerator in the AICRP Barbati Unit and one (01) contractual position of Data Enumerator in the AICRP Jamunapari Unit is proposed to be filled through walk-in-interview on 05.05.2022 from 11:00 AM onwards.
Interested candidates may visit our website www.cirg.res.in for details.
Asstt. Admin. Officer

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF SHIV SAI METAL PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	PRIVATE LIMITED
1. Name of corporate debtor	Shiv Sai Metal Products Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	24th April 2012
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC- Patna
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U31906BR2012PTC018540
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	M/S Shiv Sai Metal Pvt Ltd Manor, Patna, Bihar 801108
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	27th April 2022
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	24th October 2022
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Aditya Kumar Titewal IBBI/PA-0011/P-00743/2017-2018/11249
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	7C, Kisan Shankar Roy Road, Hasting Chamber, Basement, Kolkata -700001 aditya@red@gmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	7C, Kisan Shankar Roy Road, Hasting Chamber, Basement, Kolkata -700001 Email - cnp.ssm@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	11th May 2022
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable
13. Names of insolvency professionals identified to act as Authorized Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a) Relevant Forms may be downloaded from the following web link: https://ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads (b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Shiv Sai Metal Products Private Limited on 27th April 2022.
The creditors of Shiv Sai Metal Products Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 11th May 2022 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorized representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorized representative of the class (specify class) in Form GA.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Aditya Kumar Titewal
Interim Resolution Professional
IBBI/PA-0011/P-00743/2017-2018/11249
Date: 30/04/2022
Place : Kolkata

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
Regional Office - II
2nd Floor, Maurya Tower, Maurya Lok Complex, Patna
POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
(For Immovable Property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrower and also owner of the property/surety to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from date of the said notice.
The borrower and also the owner of the property surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of the property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against account. The owner of the property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Canara Bank for the amount and interest/costs thereon, mentioned against account herein below.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
BRANCH : HAJIPUR
1. Borrower: Sri Uma Kant Prasad Nirala Prop of M/s Nirala Filling Station, Amount out-standing of ₹ 2,01,39,246/- (Rupees Two Crore One lakh Thirty Nine thousand Two Hundred Forty Six only) with interest and incidental charges and costs, Date of Demand Notice- 28.01.2022, Date of Possession- 27.04.2022, Description of the Immovable Property: Details of Security Assets:- All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.-91, Khesra No.-2992, Thana No.- 157, East of R N College, Yusufpur, Hajipur, Vaishali, Bihar, Survey Ward No. 13, Acquired through Sale Deed No.- 7086, Total: 11.6 Decimal, With in the Registration Sub District: Hajipur and Dist.- Vaishali, Boundaries:- North: Bharat Chaudhary, South: Rama Dubey, East: Dev Lal Singh, West: Kailash Bhagat.
2. Borrower: Md. Ekbal, S/o Ahmad Hussain, Amount out-standing of ₹ 5,57,783.75/- (Rupees Five lakh Fifty Seven thousand and Seven Hundred Eighty Three and Seventy Five Paisa only) with interest and incidental charges and costs, Date of Demand Notice- 20.04.2021, Date of Possession- 27.04.2022, Description of the Immovable Property: Details of Security Assets:- All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.-396, Khesra No.-541,542,543, Mauza- Noon Gola, Thana No.- 178, Anchal- Hajipur, Sub Division Office and District Sub Registry Office- Hajipur, Dist Vaishali, Extent- 2.72 Decimal. Boundaries:- North: W/o Kazi Basiru Rahman & Gali towards Nagarpalika Sarak, South: Md. Suleman & Others, East: Late Dr. Maniruddine, West: Bazuddin Haf Rafique Mian.
Date: 29.04.2022
Place: Hajipur
Authorized Officer
CANARA BANK

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008 Website: www.iiserpune.ac.in
RECRUITMENT: NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
Institute invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the position of “Senior Technical Officer” (Level-11, OBC-NCL) & “Technical Officer” (Level-10, OBC-NCL).
For detailed advertisement and filling online application, please visit www.iiserpune.ac.in and click on the link “Opportunities- Non-teaching/ Project”.
The last date for submission of online applications is May 20, 2022.
Advt. No.: 35/2022 dated 29.04.2022 Registrar

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office, 3rd Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001
Ph.: 0612-2320180, E-mail: npacopat@canarabank.com
PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/hypothecated/Pledged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is” and “Whatever there is” on 31.05.2022
Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name/Address/ Contact No./ A/c No. & IFSC Code of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (in Rs) EMD Bid Multiplier
1.	Katari Branch, Post-Katari, Sheikhpura 811102 Contact No. 8210998549 A/c No. 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0001722	Borrower/ Mortgagor: Mr. Ajeet Kumar S/o Brahmddev Prasad, Mohalla-Khandpar, Sheikhpura-811105.	Rs. 32,58,950/- as on 22.04.2022 + interest & other cost till realization.	EMT of land and building in the name of Mr. Brahmddeo Prasad, S/o Ragho Mahto. Mauza-Sheikhpura, (1) Khata No.-553, Khasra No.-2378, Tauzi No.-214, Thana No.-176, Area-0.06 Dec., Boundary: North-Ramla Mahto, South-Brahmddeo Prasad, East-Rasta, West-Bhola Mahto. (2) Khata No.-230, Khasra No.-2382, Area-0.07 Dec., Boudry: North-Niz Plot, South-Rasta, East-Rasta, West-Munna Mahto.	₹46,10,000/- ₹4,61,000/- ₹10,000/-
2.	Saristabad Branch Contact No. 8210998451 A/c No. 8361295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008361	Borrower/ Mortgagor: Sri Binod Kumar, S/o Raghu Nandan Singh, Prabha Niwash Adaresah Colony, Road No.-03, Khemini Chak, Patna, Bihar, Pin-800027 and Smt. Pusplata Sinha, W/o Binod Kumar, Prabha Niwash Adaresah Colony, Road No.-03, Khemini Chak, Patna, Bihar, Pin-800027	Rs. 24,91,637.17/- as on 30.04.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	All the part & parcel of the property Mauza-Brahampur, Sekhpura, P.S.-Phulwarisharif now Gaurichak, Tauzi No.-28, Thana No.111, Khata No.-38, S. Plot No.714 (Part), Society Plot No.-49, Registry-Danapur, Sadar Registry & Dist.-Patna, (Area-1322 Sq. Ft.), Bounded By:-North-S. Plot No.-48, South-S. Plot No.-50, East-20 Ft Road, West-Society Himself.	₹61,61,400/- ₹6,16,140/- ₹10,000/-
3.	Gulabghagh Branch, First Floor Hansda Road, Sanauli Chowk, Gulabghagh, Bihar-854326 Contact No. 8210998598 A/c No. 8362295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008362	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/S C A Trading, Prop.-Chand Ansari and Sabiya Khatoun W/o Mohammad Azizuddin	Rs. 68,16,387.28/- as on 21.04.2022 + further interest & cost	DEED NO.14788 DATED-17.12.2014 All that part and parcel of a land area 01 Khata 12 Dhur 10 Dhurki situated at Mauza Mahraiganj, Thana No.-238, Khatta No.868, Khesra No.337 under Khajanchi Haat, Dist.-Purnea, Bihar. In the name Chand Ansari S/o Late Asaraf Anasari. Bounded By:- North-Md. Imran Alam, South-Sami Ahmad, East-Road, West-Lovkush Kumar.	₹20,32,500/- ₹2,03,250/- ₹10,000/-
4.	Gulabghagh Branch, Village Bahuaara, Post Biddupur Bahuaara, Vaishali, Bihar-844502 Contact No. 8210998598 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/S GTC Trading Company, Proprietor-Vimal Kumari and Sujit Kumar S/o Rajendra Prasad Sah.	Rs. 51,77,642.31/- as on 21.04.2022 + further interest & cost	DEED NO. 3198 DATED-25.02.2011 All that part and parcel of land measuring 17 Decimal 8.50 Kari covered under Khata No.-445, Khesra No.-2516, Situated at Mauza-Abdullannagar, Tauzi No.8/5, Thana No.-100/1, Mohalla-Chandan Nagar, Ward No.-46, Dist.-Purnea, in the name of Sujit Kumar S/o Sri Rajendra Prasad Sah. Boundary: North-Pvt. Kachchi Rasta 10 ft, South-Saryug Sah, East-Nahar, West-Khesra No.2514 Falawati Devi.	₹37,65,500/- ₹3,76,550/- ₹10,000/-
5.	Bahuaara Branch, Village Bahuaara, Post Biddupur Bahuaara, Vaishali, Bihar-844502 Contact No. 8210998301 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/S D.K. Enterprises, Prop. Manish Kishore, S/o Surendra Prasad Singh, Villi-Shyampur Dayal, PO-Madhupur, Hajipur, Vaishali-844503	Rs. 7,68,000/- as on 25.04.2022 + further interest & cost	All the part and parcel of property land & building in the name of Pramila Devi, W/o Surendra Prasad Singh, consisting of Mauza-Shyampurdayal, Khata No.135, Thana No.-373, Khesara No.-205,206, PO & PS-Hajipur, Sub-Registry Office-Hajipur, Dist.-Vaishali, Total Area-1960 Sq. Ft. Sale Deed No.5872 dated 17/12/2013. Boundaries:- North-15 Feet wide rasta, South-Sunil Singh, East-Laldeo Singh, West-Mithilesh Pandit.	₹20,84,000/- ₹2,08,000/- ₹10,000/-
6.	Faridpur Branch, Vill-Audhey, Faridpur, P.O.-PS-Sheikhpura, Bihar-811105 Contact No. 8210998541 A/c No. 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0005469	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/S Jayanti Agro Fertilizers, Prop.: Rajeev Ranjan, Villi-Kewal Bigha, Barbigaha, Dist.-Sheikhpura (Bihar) 811101, and Co-Borrower: Sri Ramnandan Prasad & Smt. Jayanti Sinha, At-Fajilulapur (Hanumannagar) Barbigaha, Dist.-Sheikhpura (Bihar)811101.	Rs. 24,89,755.41/- as on 22.04.2022 + interest & other cost till realization	EMT of land and building in the name of 1. Sri Ramnandan Prasad Sinha S/o Late Nageshwar Prasad, Khata No.-292, Khasra No.631, Thana No.34, Hanuman Nagar, Barbigaha, Dist.-Sheikhpura. Total Area-0.06, 5/8 Acre. Boundry: As per Sale Deed No.4111, Dated 22/03/2014: North-Usha Devi, South-Jayanti Sinha, East-Jayanti Sinha & Sudarshan Kumar, West-8 feet wide private Rasta.	₹34,34,000/- ₹3,43,000/- ₹10,000/-
7.	Arrah Branch, Contact No. 8210998301 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower/ Mortgagor: Kamlesh Kumar Pandey, S/o Late Mundrika Pandey, Mohalla-Ramgarhia, P.S. Arrah Town Bhojpur-802301.	Rs. 34,50,000/- as on 25.04.2022 + interest & other cost till realization	All the part and parcel of property in the name of Kamlesh Kumar Pandey S/o Late Mundrika Pandey consisting of Mauza-Kasbe Arrah, Mohalla-Ramgarhia, Thana-Arrah Town Thana No.-237, Khata No.-1873, Khasra No.-8254 Arrah, District-Bhojpur-802301, Total Area-1 Katha five dhur. Boundaries:-North-Dhupa Devi, South-Drainage Channel, East-Road, West-Shri Nandlal Mahto.	₹14,59,000/- ₹1,46,000/- ₹10,000/-
8.	Sultanganj Branch, In front of Nagar Parishad Main Road, Sultanganj S.O. Bihar, Pin-813213 Contact No. 8210998630 A/c No. 8362295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008362	Borrower/ Mortgagor: Vashishtha Kumar S/O Late Manikant Thakur and Rina Devi W/o Vashishtha Thakur	Rs. 9,33,210.16/- as on 21.04.2022 + further interest & cost	SMT Deed No.8766/2017 Dated 21/09/2017 A) All that part and parcel of land measuring Khata No.-199, Khesra No.-811 (KM) Area 0-02.50 Decimals. Bounded By: North-Niz Executant, South-NH 80 Road, East-Milan Thakur, West-Amardeep Thakur. B) All that part and parcel of land measuring Khata No.-154, Khesra No.-810 (KM) Area	₹10,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹10,000/-
9.	Jamulpur Branch, 1st Floor, Munger Road, Dariapur, Jamalpur, Bihar, Pin-811214 Contact No. 8210998600 A/c No. 8362295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008362	Borrower/ Mortgagor: Sri Sai Shoe Store Prop.: Suman Upadhyay S/o Late Agendra Upadhyay and Manoj Kumar Sah S/o Brahmddeo Sah	Rs. 23,98,631.82/- as on 21.04.2022 + further interest & cost	Sale Deed No.: 1109/2019 Dated 26.04.2019 All that part and parcel of land measuring 01.26 Decimal covered under Khata No.-46, Khesra No.-5053, Situated at Mauza-Daulatpur, Maruf Mohalla-Chhoti Daulatpur, Thana-Jamalpur, Anchal-Jamalpur, Dist.-Munger, Tauzi No.-6213, Thana No.07, Municipality Survey Seat No.-46, Ward No.01, in the name of Suman Upadhyay S/o Late Agendra Upadhyay. Boundary: North-Mahesh Kumar Tanti, South-Nagarpalika Gail, East-Kachchi Rasta, West-New Purchaser Rohit Kumar.	₹12,33,000/- ₹1,23,300/- ₹10,000/-
10.	Dehri Branch, Kurtha Branch, Near Middle Town School, Pani Tanki Road, Dehri on Sone, Rohtas, Bihar-821305 Contact No. 8210998538 A/c No. 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0006337	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/s Shivam Trading, Prop.- Vijay Kumar Singh, S/o Ram Janam Singh, Behind Canara Bank Building, Pani Tanki Road, Dehri, Dist.-Rohtas, Bihar-821305.	Rs. 17,12,932.80/- as on 22.04.2022 + interest & other cost till realization	i. EMT of land and building in the name of Sri Vijay Kumar Singh, S/o Sri Ram Janam Singh, Khata No.-189, Plot No.-77, Ward No.-15, PS+Mauza-Dehri, Mohalla-New Dillian, under Dehri Dalmianagar Parishad, Dist.-Rohtas-821307. Total Area-½ Katha as per Possession Notice dated 01/12/2021. Boundary: South-Niz Seller, North-Asha Devi, East-Rasta then Dadan Singh, West-Niz Seller.	₹29,00,000/- ₹2,90,000/- ₹10,000/-
11.	SME Branch, Patna Contact No. 8210998452 A/c No. 8361295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008361	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/s Tara Polymer a partnership firm and the Guarantors 1. Sri Vivek Anand S/o Late Prem Chandra Verma and 2. Sri Shashi Bhushan Kumar, S/o Mathura Prasad Verma.	Rs. 48,36,372.46/- as on 30.04.2021 + interest & other cost till realization	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land and building in the name of Sri Shashi Bhushan Kumar, S/o Late Mathura Prasad @ Mathura Pnd. Verma, situated at Mohalla Nakhas pind, Mauza-Dhawalwara, Plot No.21, Tauzi No.39/02, Khata No.587, Thana No.1355, P.S New By-Pass, Sub Registry Office-Patna City, District-Patna. Area-1 Katha 15 Dhur. Bounded By: North-Jogji Mallah, South-Indu Bhushan, East-Rasta, West-Road and Gate.	₹27,34,000/- ₹2,73,400/- ₹10,000/-
12.	Hilsa Branch, Hilsa Patna Main Road, Hilsa, Dist.-Nalanda-801302 Contact No. 8210998546 A/c No. 209272946 IFSC Code: CNRB0004191	Borrower/ Mortgagor: M/s Tulsii Bhog Flour Mill, Prop.: Sri Prabhat Kumar, S/o Sri Pramod Prasad, Vill-Mai, Hilsa, Dist.-Nalanda, Bihar-801302. Guarantor: Sri Pramod Prasad, S/o Sri Darharr Singh, A/58, Vijay	Rs. 26,46,926.44/- as on 22.04.2022 + interest & other cost till realization	EMT of land and building in the name of Sri Prabhat Kumar S/o Pramod Prasad Khata No.-37, Khasra No.-3083 & 3084, Thana-176, Mahe, Ward No.-22, Hilsa, Dist.-Nalanda-801302. Total Area: 9.375 Decimal (As per Sale Deed No.7543 dated 14/10/2016). Boundary: North-Hazari, South-Raj Mani Prasad, East-Kailash Mahto, West-Pyne.	₹60,96,000/- ₹6,10,000/- ₹10,000/-

Shree Jagat Apartment, Pani Tanki Road, Near Tiwari Bechar, Kankarbagh Patna 20, Sampatchack Patna, Lohia Nagar, Patna Bihar-800020.
Last Date of EMD 26.05.2022 at 4.00 P.M.
For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com
Date : 22.04.2022
Place : Patna
Authorized Officer
(Canara Bank)

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CENTRAL STORES, JAMALPUR
(Tender Notice for Online E-Tendering)
Short Tender Notice No. 01/2022-23/Tender No. CST. 01/2022-23
Online tenders are invited by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation from Eligible and interested bidders for the supply of below items.
E-Tender Notice No. 01/2022-23 and CST No. 01/2022-23
Supply of ISI Marked 450 mm And 1000 mm Dia. K-9 Class D.I. Pipes (With Rubber Ring) conforming to IS:8329/2000 bearing ISI Mark and Suitable for Push on Joints. (Approx. Amt - Rs.4.52 Cr.)
Tenders available on Website(s) www.amc.nprocure.com or www.nprocure.com
Online Submission Date/Time upto Date:09-05-2022 upto 18.00 Hrs.
DY. MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER (Central Store.)



LOOKING ABROAD

THE NATIONAL Commission for Minorities has started taking cognizance of incidents of violence that are taking place in other countries against people from minority communities in India. In an unusual move, the Commission — headed by Iqbal Singh Lalpura — has written two letters to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, its parent ministry, urging it to raise the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs. The first letter is on an “attack on few Sikh persons” in Pakistan, including the former president of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, over an alleged land dispute. The second case that the Commission has alerted the ministry about is an alleged attack on Sikh persons in Richmond Hill, New York. The panel wants the MEA to take up the matter with representatives of the two countries.

ASSET BIFURCATION

DURING THE hearing on a matter pertaining to redistribution of assets between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana following the 2014 bifurcation, Senior Advocate KV Viswanathan told a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli that the Andhra Bhavan in Delhi has still not been bifurcated. Justice Kohli, who served as Telangana Chief Justice before being elevated to the SC, was quick to intervene. “Can I tell you something? It is bifurcated. You can take it from me,” she told the counsel, who said it has only been done temporarily, on a floor-wise basis. While some floors of the Bhavan, popular for its Andhra meals, are managed by Telangana, some are run by Andhra Pradesh.

THE COMMITMENT

AN EDUCATION MINISTRY event on Friday on the ongoing school curriculum revision exercise saw experts joining from across the country, and the globe. Fields Medal recipient Manjul Bhargava was among those who joined remotely from the US. By the time his turn to speak came, it was 2 am local time. The organisers appreciated Bhargava, who teaches at Princeton University, for his commitment. By the time the event ended, it was 3.30 am in Princeton.

Set up shops in smaller towns, PM urges Patidar businessmen

KAMAAL SAIYED
SURAT, APRIL 29

Urging the Patidar business community to “move out of big cities”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that they establish businesses in smaller towns to spread the scope of development in Gujarat.

Listing benefits such as “low investment, low rates of buildings, labour and wider spread of development”, Modi urged the businessmen to look beyond the “15-20 big cities of Gujarat”.

“We can build an economic empire, moving out of cities like Surat, Ahmedabad, Vadodara or Bhavnagar... I appeal to you that you now decide that whatever we do, we don’t want to do in the big cities. Let us pick 25-30 small cities and make them throbbing with activity. Who knew Surat 30 years ago? Hasn’t it gone ahead? Just like that I want to develop these small cities,” Modi said at the inauguration of the biennial Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) virtually Friday. The summit is being held in Surat.

Modi appealed to the businessmen to invest in agriculture and not just in real-estate. “Only buying and selling land... you want to do only that? Lay huge schemes, build these many flats, these many bungalows... That is also a job. Just like you make diamonds shine, make the farmers, too, shine,” the PM said.

be atmanirbhar (self-reliant) only in diamond”, he said.

Stating that agriculture has not progressed much, Modi said, “A builder comes and builds a tall building (on an agricultural land) and makes profit. But that is different. Now, when Narmada waters have reached every corner, I wish that you think of agriculture as a big business and modernise it...”

Modi recalled that as the CM of Gujarat he had built check dams not only for the water level to rise but “also the price of the land”. He also urged the businessmen to adopt 5-6 districts and build 75 “Amrut sarovars” or ponds in each district before the upcoming independence day.

PM Modi also referred to the 24-hour power supply scheme—Jyotigram Yojana—he had launched as the CM. It was because of the scheme, he said, that diamond polishers took their “emery wheel” back to their villages in Bhavnagar from the “small rooms where 25 polishers worked”, “work in their agricultural fields, and look after parents and polished diamonds in their free time”. The diamond industry of Surat is powered by a labour force mainly from the districts of Bhavnagar, Amreli and Rajkot in Saurashtra.

The PM further emphasised that the government is putting all possible efforts through its policies to create an environment where youth from an ordinary family become entrepreneurs. “We should never forget the words of Sardar Patel who said that India does not lack wealth, we have to just use our minds and resources to use this wealth in the best possible way...”

Patidar businessmen from different parts of Gujarat will participate in the three-day GPBS 2022 that commenced in Surat on Friday.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a Sikh delegation in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

‘Sikhs are India’s strong link with outside world’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE SIKH community has become a strong link between India and the outside world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said even as he termed the Indian diaspora, of which the community is a significant part, as “rashttradoot”.

“The New India is touching new dimensions, leaving its mark on the entire world. This period of Covid pandemic is the biggest example of this. At the beginning of this, people were expressing concerns about whether India would be able to deal with the pandemic. But, now people are giving examples of India everywhere,” Modi said while hosting a Sikh delegation at his official residence on Friday evening.

Modi, who recently addressed from the Red Fort at an event to commemorate the ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur, added: “Our Gurus have taught us courage and service. The people of India went

to different parts of the world without any resources and achieved success through their labour...”

Pointing out that the Sikh community has always played as a crucial connection between India and the other countries, Modi said he has got “opportunities to strengthen it further” and that he has been doing it. Addressing the delegation that included NRIs, he said: “You all are India’s lofty identity and voice outside. You have played a significant role in brightening India’s name outside. The increased respect and honour brings more opportunities also.” He said that the “entire country feels grateful to Sikhs for their contributions in the freedom struggle and in the post-Independence era”.

The PM has initiated a series of efforts to reach out to the Sikh community especially those in Punjab, following widespread anger against the Centre over the contentious farm laws, now withdrawn.



President Ram Nath Kovind hosts a dinner for Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, other SC judges and Chief Justices of High Courts at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Twitter/@rashtrapatibhvn

CJI: 126 vacancies filled in under a yr, 50 more appointments soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana Friday called upon chief justices of high courts that are “still having number of vacancies, to forward the names for elevation at the earliest” and said 50 vacancies are expected to be filled soon.

“I am happy to note that the response from some of the high courts has been extremely encouraging,” he said, noting that 126 vacancies were filled in less than a year and that “we are expecting 50 more appointments”.

In his welcome address at the 39th Chief Justices’ Conference in New Delhi on Friday, he recalled that one of his first communications after taking over as CJI was about the filling up of vacancies and “to expedite the process of recommending names to high courts, with an

emphasis on social diversity”.

The CJI said that despite Covid-19 and lockdown, the judiciary did its best to promote access to justice. “When I assumed this office towards the end of April last year, we were in the midst of a most devastating second wave of the Covid pandemic. We were again struck by the third wave towards the end of 2021... Yet, because of the grit and determination displayed by all of you, we could make sure that the functioning of the constitutional courts is not derailed.”

“...We have even managed to introduce an innovative FASTER system in the Supreme Court during this period,” CJI said.

FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) is a digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders and soon of the SC to the authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee meets Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi. Express

Mamata meets Kejriwal, TMC says courtesy call

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

AT A time AAP and TMC are vying for the Opposition space in several states, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday met his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee.

Banerjee reached the national capital Friday to attend a joint conference of chief ministers and chief justices of High Courts on Saturday which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The meeting, which lasted for around 30 minutes, took place at TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee’s residence in South Avenue where the TMC chief usually stays during her Delhi trips.

TMC sources said it was a “courtesy meeting”. The two had last met in July 2021 when Banerjee was visiting Delhi after

the TMC’s resounding victory over BJP in the West Bengal assembly polls. But there was no meeting between the two leaders when Banerjee visited Delhi in November.

It was widely seen as an outcome of frosty ties between AAP and TMC, particularly over the latter’s decision to contest the Goa assembly polls. AAP, which had contested the 2017 Goa polls as well, felt the TMC’s foray into the coastal state was a misguided move.

The AAP managed a vote share of 6.8 per cent with two seats, while the TMC, which allied with MGP, failed to register any win with a vote share of 5.2 per cent.

Banerjee plans to leave for Kolkata immediately after Saturday’s meeting. In Kolkata, she told reporters she won’t be able to have a separate meeting with the Prime Minister due to time constraints.

Last 4 of Boeing 747s that carried PM, President deregistered

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, APRIL 29

THE LAST four of Air India’s Boeing 747s planes that flew VVIPs including the Prime Minister, President, the Vice-President and other high-ranking officials have been deregistered by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) this week.

Stationed in Mumbai, the Boeing 747s were introduced in 1971 and were in bad shape. While DGCA Director General Arun Kumar said the aircraft were deregistered as a routine case, Air India spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said they “have no further comments on this”.

Air India has operated Boeing 747s for over 51 years — from April 1971 to April 2022.

“When Air India was to be sold to the Tata Group, the management did not want to refurbish them (Boeing 747s) as it involved huge costs,” a former Air India pilot said.

First major test for Mann govt, Opp raises pitch on inexperienced jibe

MANRAJ GREWAL
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 29



THE VIOLENT clash between two groups in Patiala, with protesters waving swords and pelting stones, is the first major test for the 43-day-old Bhagwant Singh Mann government.

On Friday evening, Mann held a meeting with top officials to take stock of the situation and underline that he will not let anyone disrupt peace and harmony in the state.

The government appears to have been taken by surprise at the scale of the violence. Neither police nor the administration seemed prepared despite Harish Singla of the Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) announcing the “anti-Khalistan” procession a fortnight ago. An application by the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) to hold a counter procession was denied. Following Friday’s incidents, the Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) announced it was expelling Singla.

It’s not the first time that the many different outfits in Punjab with Shiv Sena tagged to their name have had a run-in with either Sikh hardline groups or Dalits. In April 2018, a clash with Dalit activists in Phagwara had resulted in the death of a Dalit youth. In 2012, a Sikh youth was killed in a clash over the release of political prisoners, jailed in connection with the Khalistan agitation.

The Congress government had to face a similar crisis soon after it came to power in 2017, when there were targeted killings of RSS leaders. Then CM Captain

Amarinder Singh had called it a major conspiracy by Pakistan’s ISI to fan communal disturbance. The Opposition had tacitly supported the government at the time in going after the killers and troublemakers. But the AAP, a newcomer to Punjab, cannot take this support for granted. And the blame game has already begun.

There are growing murmurs that the situation can only be handled by someone who understands the interplay of politics and religion in the state, and not by “outsiders”, as AAP is often dubbed. Earlier this

EXPLAINED

AAP MP Sandeep Pathak called it a clash between “two political groups in Patiala”.

Modi should get Nobel Peace Prize for Covid work, says BSE chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, APRIL 29

THE NOBEL Peace Prize Committee should consider awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government for the humanitarian work done amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Ashish Chauhan, said on Friday.

Chauhan was the chief guest at the 57th annual convocation of IIM Calcutta. In his convocation address, Chauhan claimed that the free ration distribution by the Centre to over 80 crore people amid the pandemic was greater in terms of the number of people getting the benefits than the UN World Food Programme, which was awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

“We are thankful to the government for providing us with all the facilities within the limitations they had... and also providing rations to 80 crore people over the duration of the Covid-19 and even now. It is an unbelievably mammoth task that has not been recognised by us or by the world...”



BSE MD & CEO Ashish Chauhan

Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr										
No. 2124 /96M/E-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2022-23										
Very Short Term E-Procurement Inviting Tenders										
On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through http://tender.up.nic.in from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 9 below Road work Category as applied from Date 02.05.2022 10:00 A.M. to 09.05.2022 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 09.05.2022 at 12:30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.										
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Tender document fee including GST (In Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	New Construction of Girdharpur Navada Link Road	81.00	6.05	06 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B	(Roads)
2	Special Repair of Lakhowli Pali Khampur Basi Ghat Road to Suleila Link Road (Km. 1 to 9)	71.00	5.55	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+2000+18 % G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A,B,C	(Roads)
3	Special Repair of Kaser Station to Chhimpur to Umrairi Link Road	42.00	4.10	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+2000+18 % G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A,B,C	(Roads)
4	Special Repair of Changoli Mod to Azampur Hussainpur Link Road	54.00	4.70	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+2000+18 % G.S.T.Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A,B,C	(Roads)
1. Time allowed for completion of Whole work is mention in col. No. 4 with including rainy season. 2. The Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only. 3. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. at last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chansky Software before submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on http://tender.up.nic.in shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chansky software, before last date & time of submission of bid. 4. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on http://tender.up.nic.in 5. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety Measures for COVID-19 issued by the Uttar Pradesh government. 6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prathi Software URL for Prathi is http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prathi/ 7. All Work of Shall be carried out by Hot Mix Plant Road. LUPID No. 175554 D. 23/04/2022 www.up.gov.nic.in										

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल बेतिया

अत्यकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-01 SBD /2022-23

राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा निविदा

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण –

युग सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख ₹० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण-विषय का मूल्य (अप्रत्यपणीय) (रु० में)	बेलट्रॉन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अप्रत्यपणीय) केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुगलेय रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	De-Silting of Kohra River from 4.40 to 37.80 RD (1340M to 41910M) and its drainage channel (Agenda No.- 175/03/2021)	3764.47	4765000.00	10000.00	5900.00	15 Month

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक: 27.04.2022

3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 11.05.2022 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक-18.05.2022 के 03:00 बजे अपराह्न तक की अवधि(सिर्फ वेबसाईट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

4. प्रो-बिड मीटिंग का तिथि एवं समय, स्थान : दिनांक: 13.05.2022, 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, मुजफ्फरपुर।

5. अग्रघन की राशि एवं निविदा कागजात जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय, स्थान : दिनांक: 19.05.2022, 03:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न में (**ना के कंडिका 15 ख**)

6. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक : 20.05.2022 समय 03:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

7. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी (सिर्फ वेबसाईट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : दिनांक वेबसाईट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर

9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि से) : 120 दिन

10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, बेतिया

11. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> एवं वेबसाईट <https://wrd.fmiscwrdbihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता

जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल बेतिया

PR- 001433 (WRD) 2022-23

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

New Delhi



A man quenches his thirst in Navi Mumbai, Friday. PTI

IMD: At 47.4 degrees, UP's Banda hottest; heatwave till May 2

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, APRIL 29

AS SEVERE heatwave continues to sweep major parts of India, Banda in Bundelkhand region of eastern Uttar Pradesh recorded a maximum temperature of 47.4 degrees Celsius, breaking its all-time record to become India's hottest city on Friday. The previous highest maximum temperature ever recorded here was 46.7 degrees Celsius in April 1979.

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Vidarbha in Maharashtra continued to report very high day temperatures with departures from normal as high as 5 degrees. On Friday, Banda's maximum temperature was five degrees above normal. In the past decade, the maximum temperatures in April have ranged between 42 and 46 degrees Celsius, as per the data maintained by the India Meteorological Department.

Prayagraj recorded a maximum temperature of 46.8 degrees Celsius on the day, quashing yet another previous record of 46.6 degrees. Jhansi, at 46.2, experienced its hottest April day since

2010. Chandrapur in Maharashtra recorded 46.4 degrees, tying with its highest maximum temperature seen in April 1973.

On Friday, other hot locations with soaring maximum temperatures (44 degrees Celsius and above) included Ganganagar (46.4), Gurgaon (45.9), Brahmmapuri and Delhi Ridge (45.6 each), Wardha (45.5), Khajuraho (45.8), Gwalior and Churu (45.2 each), Hissar and Varanasi (45 each), Jalgaon (44.8), Gaya (44.1) and Kandla (44).

Over the past one week, the maximum impact of the heatwave was largely felt over Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The maximum temperatures particularly over Maharashtra's Vidarbha and west Rajasthan have remained over 44 degrees Celsius for several days at a stretch, making these states among the hottest areas in the world, said IMD officials. Chandrapur, Brahmmapuri, Akola, Jalgaon, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner have reported record-breaking temperatures for April, so far.

Dust storm is expected to blow over Punjab and Rajasthan on Saturday, while hailstorms could occur over Uttarakhand.

'Continuing to engage in positive atmosphere (with China)... sure it will resolve differences'

GENERAL M M NARAVANE demits office Saturday after an eventful stint as chief of the Indian Army. During his 28-month tenure as Chief of the Army Staff, some momentous events took place including the military standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, the Covid-19 pandemic, ceasefire with Pakistan and removal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from some districts in states of the North-East. **ESHA ROY AND SHUBHAJIT ROY** spoke to General Naravane on these key issues and challenges. These are edited excerpts from the interview:

The major challenges during your tenure

The two Cs — China and Covid. When the pandemic began, we realised that things would go bad, much before March when the lockdown happened. So, we had initiated precautionary methods under Operation Namaste — that is, folded hands replacing the handshake. Our endeavour was that if we wanted to help our countrymen, we needed our forces to be safe. Otherwise, how would we extend help when called to aid civil authority? We, therefore, took simple, common sense steps for our force preservation. We restricted movement, stopped leave, kept separate barracks for those who came back from leave/postings to enable planned and institutionalised quarantine in planned modules, without intermixing. We were, therefore, well prepared when we were called upon by the nation. We did not have a single case of Covid at any of our forward posts.

On China's posture in eastern Ladakh, change in the last two years

The events of 2020 have

brought about a paradigm shift in force posturing in eastern Ladakh by both sides. PLA today has a deployment of approximately 60,000 troops opposite eastern Ladakh from the erstwhile deployment of approximately 8,000 troops, and this deployment has been sustained since the last two years. Our own deployment is in equal measure and the Indian Army is well seized of the extant situation in eastern Ladakh and is well poised to counter any belligerent actions of the PLA in the future.

On lessons learnt from the Galwan incident

Galwan was amongst one of the many places along the LAC in eastern Ladakh where friction occurred in 2020. All these events brought to fore the primacy of the northern borders, based on which certain measures were undertaken, some of which are still ongoing. They include augmentation and rebalancing of forces. Based on the reviewed threat perception, rebalancing of forces was carried out, in which reorientation of forces to the northern borders has been done, while retaining effective capability along the western front. Development of requisite infrastructure to support operational and logistic requirements on the northern borders is being undertaken.

On why Galwan happened

We have been asking ourselves this question as well for the past two years about China's move, but have not been able to fathom why this (Galwan incident) happened. Was it due to internal/external dynamics or pressure regarding the Covid pandemic which led China to take this step? We don't know.



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
GENERAL M M NARAVANE
CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF

On the progress of talks at the remaining friction points

Till date, both sides have engaged in 15 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks, some of which have yielded disengagement from some friction areas. Talks for resolution of balance frictions points are ongoing, both in military and diplomatic domains. However, such processes take time and we must not expect an outcome after each round of talks. What is important is that both sides are continuing to engage in a positive atmosphere and I am sure it will lead to resolving our differences.

On ceasefire between India and Pakistan

Ceasefire violations along the border are in no one's interest. Peace and tranquility all around us is our aim. If the neighbourhood is stable, then we automatically as a nation become safer.

The instability in Myanmar, for instance, has led to refugees fleeing to India. The civilian population along the LoC has greatly benefited from the ceasefire, and their quality of life has improved.

On whether there is hope of forward movement

When your neighbouring country is unstable, it doesn't help. Instability in our neighbourhood doesn't help. Let's hope that our western neighbour sees the light of reason. We are more than keen to have good relations with them, but they have to first rein in their support to terrorism and attempts to draw international attention to J&K.

Nexus between China and Pakistan, the possibility of a two-front situation

The Indian Army is well poised and prepared to deal with any emerging contingency not only in eastern Ladakh, but all along the northern borders. While collusion between China and Pakistan continues to remain a challenge in both physical and political-military domains, the Indian Army maintains preparedness to meet the challenge. The current ceasefire along the Line of Control is an ongoing CBM between India and Pakistan and should in no manner be construed as dissipation of a collaborative threat. Engagement on both the fronts simultaneously would be challenging. However, our armed forces are well poised and disposed to handle both the fronts simultaneously including the internal security challenges.

On impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on India's defence supplies

We are dependent on both Ukraine and Russia for a number

of our weapons and military equipment. However, we have always maintained a buffer in our stocks and, therefore, will not be impacted in the near term. Just as an analogy, like we all keep two months of salary in our bank accounts as a buffer, in case we lose our jobs due to some reason. So we too have buffer stocks.

On diversification of India's weapons procurement

Some measures have been initiated at the Service HQ to diversify procurement. Due to the ongoing conflict, Soviet origin equipment has been a cause for concern. The measures initiated include critical assemblies and spares. Major assemblies of AFVs (Armoured Fighting Vehicles), guns and AAD (Army Air Defence) systems have been identified for manufacture in India. Due impetus has been given to indigenous manufacturing to reduce dependence on foreign OEMs (original equipment manufacturers). Alternate sources of supply from Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovakia and Czech Republic have been identified for equipment.

On removal of AFSPA from the North-East

AFSPA is an enabling Act which empowers the Army or security forces to operate in insurgency-affected areas and as long as the area remains 'disturbed', the need for the Act remains. The Act affords minimum essential protection to members of armed forces to ensure fulfilment of the constitutional obligation and to discharge our duties. It is no different from the kind of powers that the police also enjoy. It doesn't give immunity or carte blanche powers for

us to do whatever we want and has inherent safeguards built in. The review of AFSPA is closely linked to the prevalent security situation in the states where the Act is applicable. As and where the security situation has shown improvement, like in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, the applicability of the Act has been withdrawn. If the law and order improves, then there is no issue with its removal.

On whether similar removal can take place in Kashmir as well

The situation in J&K has improved over the last few years and the same stands vindicated by successful implementation of varied government-run initiatives and large-scale participation by *awaam* (public) in such programmes. However, these signs of near normalcy, though a welcome change for all, have been hurting Pakistan's narrative of gross human rights violations in the Valley and have, in turn, exacerbated the problems for Pak-Separatists-Tanzeems nexus. Pakistan's intransigence to disrupt various initiatives by the government continues, primarily in the form of rhetoric and attempts to draw international attention to J&K. Based on the assessment of the government, there may be certain areas within the UT wherein a reappraisal of AFSPA might take place in case the security/law and order situation is conducive and the area is no longer 'disturbed'. This has also been stated recently by the Honourable Raksha Mantri when (he was) speaking about the possibility of partial withdrawal of AFSPA from J&K.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
www.indianexpress.com

BID TO DEFILE RELIGIOUS PLACES, DISTURB PEACE

Among 7 in Ayodhya police net: former Bajrang Dal worker, freelance journalist, daily wager

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, APRIL 29

A FORMER Bajrang Dal worker, a man claiming to be a freelance journalist and a Bengaluru-based man who returned to Ayodhya during the Covid lockdown in 2020 are among seven men arrested for allegedly throwing objectionable objects and torn religious texts outside three mosques and a shrine in an attempt to break the peace. Police said 11 people were involved in the Wednesday incident in Ayodhya — four are absconding.

These are the seven men, according to police: **Mahesh Mishra (37):** Mishra, who the police are calling the "mastermind" of the incident, is a former Bajrang Dal worker. Currently unemployed, Mishra was earlier booked in four cases, including one in 2016 for holding an "arms training programme for youth using toy guns" in Ayodhya. "He had held a mock drill with local youth acting as terrorists and



11 people were involved in the Ayodhya incident: police. Express

soldiers. He was booked under IPC section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups)," a police officer said. According to police, Mishra's father is a retired Income Tax department official. His brothers work as teachers.

After he was thrown out of Bajrang Dal in 2015 for his "extremist views", Mishra, a police officer said, formed his own group called Hindu Yodha Sangathan. "This group is not registered anywhere. Mishra used to say he is the national president of the outfit," the officer said.

According to police, Mishra,

who is married, regularly uploaded posts against the minority community on social media. "He uploaded provocative posts," the officer said. "Mishra was the one who incited the other accused... He assembled the other accused through social media. These people were selected by him after they posted comments on his post," the officer said.

Pratyush Srivastava (23): An unemployed youth from Ayodhya. Srivastava was "impressed by Mishra's posts", the officer said. "He comes from a humble background. He used to spend time

with Mishra and agreed to undertake this activity after being incited by him," the officer said.

Nitin Kumar (30): Kumar returned to Ayodhya from Bengaluru during the Covid lockdown in 2020. He used to work as a helper in the services sector in Bengaluru. "After shifting to Ayodhya, he started working for a private firm and used to make Rs 20,000 per month," the officer said. Kumar is a graduate. He is married and has a child.

Deepak Kumar Gaur alias Gunjan (33): Gaur worked as a labourer at a wheat mill in Ayodhya. He spent a lot of time with Mishra in the last 6-7 days to plan the incident, police said. "He was in touch with Mishra for a year or two, and used to regularly engage with him through social media posts. He has no criminal background," police said.

Brijesh Pandey (35): Police claim Pandey is not a qualified medical practitioner but is known as "Doctor Sahab" in his neighbourhood. "He used to regularly visit government offices,

try to befriend officials. He is a very social person," a police officer said. Pandey has known Mishra for years. "After learning that police had figured out who all were involved, he ran away with Mishra, but was nabbed," the officer said.

Shatrughan Prajapati (50): Prajapati is a daily wager who does odd jobs. "He was not among those who threw the objectionable objects, but he knew about the plan and provided the other accused with food and other resources. They didn't take him along on Wednesday night," the officer said.

Vimal Pandey (28): Police say Pandey claims to be a freelance journalist. "He tries to stay close to police officers and gets photographs clicked with them. He is very active on social media," the officer said. "He was involved in the Wednesday incident. His role was to relay information to the other accused about the probe. No one suspected him because he claimed to be a journalist," the officer said.

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

LT GEN BS Raju, Director General of Military Operations, will take over as Vice Chief of the Army over the weekend. He will replace Lt Gen Manoj Pande, who will become Army Chief after the incumbent Gen M M Naravane retires.

Raju's elevation will be a rare instance of an officer taking over as Vice Chief before heading any of the seven commands of the Army, or becoming a Principal Staff Officer. Raju, who has 19 months of service left before retirement, is expected to serve as an Army Commander later.

Sources cited several reasons for the elevation of Raju rather than any of the serving commanders. Many of these commanders had taken over just months earlier, and their tenures would have been disrupted.

While some other commanders have a few months of service left, two commanders are involved in the study for theaterisation that was commissioned by Chief of Defence Staff General



Lt Gen BS Raju replaces Lt Gen Manoj Pande

Bipin Rawat before his death.

Lt Gen Raju is an infantry officer from the Jat Regiment, and has held sensitive posts during his 38-year career. He is a pass-out of Sainik School, Bijapur, and the National Defence Academy. He joined the Army in December 1984. He has commanded a battalion in J&K, a brigade in Uri and headed the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps till March 2021. Since then, the Army said Friday, he was "tenanting the appointment of Director General Military Operations during the standoff on the LAC".

Raju is a helicopter pilot and has operational flying experience in Somalia as part of the UN's operation there. This is the first instance in nearly 40 years when the Vice Chief will become an Army Commander.

2 get death for minor tribal girl's rape, murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, APRIL 29

A COURT in Rajasthan's Bundi district on Friday sentenced two men to death for raping and murdering a minor tribal girl in December last. Sultan, 27, and Chhotulal, 62, were convicted by a special judge of the POCSO Court with instructions for the sentence to be carried out within the 11 working days.

Bundi SP Jai Yadav said the girl's body, with no clothes on, had been found in a forest area on December 23 last year. Twelve hours later, the officer added, three people were arrested.

The third accused is a minor and will be tried separately, Yadav added. The special public prosecutor had told the court the case fell under the ambit of the "rarest of rare" crimes because the trio had raped the girl, murdered her and then raped the body too.

7 yrs on, man with Pak passport gets release order from apex court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday ordered release of a Pakistani passport holder, jailed for over seven years, following conviction under the Foreigners' Act. Pakistan is yet to accept his nationality.

"Facts as they stand before the court indicate that Mohd Qamar has served out his sentence... the detainee should be released on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 5,000 with two sureties of Indian citizens in the like amount," the court said. It also asked Qamar to furnish his Meerut address, where his children born out of wedlock in India are said to be residing, to the SHO concerned and report there on the 7th day of every month pending further orders. Qamar in his plea said he was born in India in 1959 and had gone to Pakistan with his mother in 1967-68 to meet relatives. But his mother died there and he remained with the relatives. He came to India on a Pakistani passport in the late eighties and married a woman from UP and had five children from the wedlock.

Have challenged acquittal in drug case: Manipur to SC

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE MANIPUR government on Friday told the Supreme Court that it has filed an appeal in the High Court against the December 2020 acquittal of Lhukhosei Zou and others by a Manipur court in a drug case.

The government submitted this in response to a petition by a civil society collective in Manipur, challenging the acquittal and alleging that the prosecution refused to file an appeal.

The Supreme Court had issued a notice to the Manipur government on March 25, asking the state why it had not filed an appeal in the matter.

The Manipur government informed the court on Friday that it filed an appeal against the acquittal in the high court on April 26. In its affidavit, the state government has said that the delay in the appeal has occurred as it received the

copy of the court order (acquittal) on April 22. The SC asked the government to submit a copy of the appeal filed, said the petitioners.

The case came made headlines in 2020 when Additional Superintendent of Police Th Brinda, accused then Manipur CM N Biren Singh as well as the BJP state vice-president of "putting pressure on the department to withdraw the case". Brinda had led the raid on Zou in 2018, and claimed to have recovered 4,595 kgs of heroin and 2,80,200 World is Yours Amphetamine tablets weighing 28 kgs, from different properties. The accusations came in the form of a sworn affidavit that Brinda filed in the high court.

At the time of his arrest, Zou was the Chairman of the 5th Autonomous District Council (ADC) of Chandel district. He was elected to the ADC in

June 2015 on a Congress ticket and became its chairman in September 2015. He defected to BJP in April 2017.

Bride shot dead at her wedding in Mathura

New Delhi: A 22-year-old bride was shot dead on the night of her wedding in Mathura on Thursday, police said on Friday. According to police, the incident took place when the victim, Kajal, a resident of Nauhil area of Mubarakpur village, returned to her room after the garland ceremony.

"We received information that a woman was shot dead during a wedding ceremony. The victim was the bride who was shot at from a close range. Prima facie it appears that the accused did not agree to her marriage and shot her out of anger. Anish and his associates are absconding and they will be arrested soon," said an officer from the Nauhil Police Station.

An FIR under IPC section 302 (murder) has been filed against victim's neighbour, Anish. The woman's family alleged that Anish shot Kajal as he was unhappy with her marriage. The police is scanning footage from nearby colonies to ascertain the movement of the accused. **ENS**

UP govt's loudspeaker noise band: busy crossing to people talking to sound in parks

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, APRIL 29

THE UTTAR Pradesh administration's notice seeking enforcement of its rules regarding the use of loudspeakers at religious places in the run-up to Eid and other festivals explains the decibel limit in layman's terms. As per this notice, the decibel levels can range between the noise at a busy crossing but without vehicle horns (the maximum), and one that prevails inside a park (the minimum).

While both mosques and temples across Lucknow are taking steps to meet the noise requirement, the apprehension on both sides is that the authorities would not fairly interpret the limits, leaving them open to harassment.

The decibel level for loudspeakers in industrial zones is set at 75dB during the daytime, with the notice explaining that 70dB would be like the noise made at a



Two loudspeakers were removed at a Lucknow mosque; (right) aarti is now played on music system at a temple. Maulshree Seth



busy traffic intersection. For commercial areas, the limit is 65 dB during the daytime, with 60dB explained as two-three people holding a conversation. The noise limit for residential areas is 55dB during daytime and for silence zones, like those near schools, hospitals etc, it is 50dB during daytime. As per the notice, 50dB is like the sound that would be inside a li-

brary. 40dB, which is to be maintained at night in the silence zone, is like the noise level in parks and gardens, it says.

Till 4 pm on Friday, as many as 37,000 loudspeakers have been removed from across the state, and the sound level of 54,000 loudspeakers has been reduced, a senior government official said.

At Ek Minara Masjid in the Old

City area of Lucknow, the mosque committee members have removed two of the masjid's four loudspeakers. They say they took these down voluntarily, thus averting a notice. The nearby Masjid Aisha at Chaudhari Garaia was served a notice by the local police station three days back.

Many temples in the Old City area, like the Santoshi Mata one, are playing evening *aarti* on the music system now. The Mahant says he has not been visited by any official to check for noise levels.

Among the temples to have received a notice is an old Hanuman mandir at Chanchikuan, near the Chaudhary Garaia Mosque. "We don't use loudspeakers but on occasions like *Bara Mangal* (Big Tuesday), there are special events, people want *bhagans* to be played loudly. You cannot test God," says chief priest Mahant Baba Anjani Das.

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In UP loudspeaker rap, 2017 HC order, 2018 directives

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, APRIL 29

SENIOR government officials in Uttar Pradesh said this week that thousands of “illegal” and “unauthorised” loudspeakers had been taken down across the state, or their loudness had been capped, under “an existing government order of 2018, and set rules for sound decibel limits and court directions”.

Districts had been told to implement these rules and directions firmly, and to report on compliance by April 30, the officials said.

Notices served on alleged violators by local police stations have quoted directions issued by the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court on December 20, 2017, and cited The Noise Pollution Rules, 2000.

The notices also advise recipients on how to estimate decibel levels without using technology -- for example, 50dB is like the “sound inside the library”; “conversation among two to three people” is 60dB; and the sounds of lightning, underground Metro train, and a busy traffic crossing with no vehicle horns are 120dB, 100dB, and

70dB respectively.

Orders of 2022, 2018

On April 23 this year, the UP government directed all divisional commissioners and police commissioners, district magistrates and superintendents of police to “strictly” ensure that the order passed by the Lucknow Bench of the High Court in *Moti Lal Yadav vs State of Uttar Pradesh* on December 20, 2017 with regard to The Noise Pollution Rules, 2000, are implemented.

The April 23 order said that two earlier orders passed by the government in 2018 were not being followed, and the situation needed to be rectified. Those earlier orders had been passed on January 4, 2018 and March 10, 2018 to ensure implementation of The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, but it had come to light that many “religious institutions are violating the standard decibel norms and are using loudspeakers in large numbers”, last week’s order said.

The order said that the 2000 Rules define “Ambient Air Quality Standards in Respect of Noise”, i.e., Industrial, Commercial, Residential, and Silence Zones, and asked of

THE LOUDEST ALLOWED

Under The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

INDUSTRIAL AREAS:
75 dB (A) leq during daytime; 70 at night

COMMERCIAL AREAS:
65 dB during daytime, 55 at night

RESIDENTIAL AREAS:
55 dB during daytime, 45 at night

SILENCE ZONES:
50 dB during daytime, 40 dB at night



DAYTIME IS DEFINED AS 6 am to 10 pm; NIGHTTIME IS 10 pm to 6 am.

■ **Silence Zones** are defined as areas comprising up to 100 m around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places, or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.

■ **Sound levels** are measured in dB (A) leq, which is the time-weighted average of the level of sound in decibels on scale A, which is relatable to human hearing.

officials to demarcate these areas and to ensure that the correct norms were followed.

The order asked officials to remove “illegal loudspeakers” after dialogue and coordination with religious leaders, and to ensure

that decibel levels are kept within laid down limits. Each police station has been asked to prepare a list of religious institutions using loudspeakers under their jurisdiction, and to report the action taken by April 30.

2017 High Court order

While several orders have been passed by courts on noise pollution, the government has referred to the 2017 order passed by a two-judge Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Abdul Moyn in the case of *Moti Lal Yadav*.

The petitioner had prayed in a PIL for “a writ, order or direction” to remove “all the loudspeakers/public address systems from the temples, mosques, church, gurudwaras for preventing noise pollution among human beings”, and to “ensure the implementation and enforcement of Rule ‘The Noise pollution (Regulation and Control)’, 2000,” in UP.

The court observed that “repeated filing of public interest litigations by the citizens indicates that the 2000 Rules are being flouted with impunity and the authorities who are put in charge of ensuring that the 2000 Rules are not violated either have no will to enforce the same or as there is no accountability fixed on the authorities”.

“Both the things are serious enough for this Court to intervene in the matter,” it said.

The court directed the principal secretary, Home, and chairman of the UP Pollution Board to file separate affidavits on the steps

taken to ensure enforceability of the 2000 Rules, and whether loudspeakers were installed at places of worship after obtaining the requisite permissions -- and if not, what action had been taken to remove them.

Also, the court said, “if the said loudspeakers or public address systems were allowed to come up over the temples, mosques, gurudwaras and other public places without any written permission from the authority, then what action has been taken against such officials who were required to ensure that no such loudspeakers or public address system shall be used except after obtaining written permission from the authority”.

The court sought details of “how many loudspeakers and public address systems have been dismantled and removed from temples, mosques, gurudwaras and other buildings which are being used without written permission; what action has been initiated against the processions which are taken out day and night with loud music including marriage processions, and whether a suitable enforcement machinery by means of an identified website has been setup or is in the process of being set up.”

Dog breed doesn’t usually predict behaviour: study

THE BREED ancestry of individual dogs is often assumed to be predictive of its temperament and behaviour -- friendliness or aggressiveness, playfulness, etc. The assumption is wrong, according to a genetic study involving more than 2,000 dogs, paired with 2,00,000 answers from dog owners on related surveys. The findings suggest that breed alone is a poor predictor of behaviour, and only explains 9% of the behavioural variation in individual dogs.

The study has been published in the *Journal Science*.

HISTORY: All modern dog breeds emerged about 200 years ago. For over 2,000 years before this, dogs were primarily selected for traits central to roles such as hunting, guarding, or herding. From the 1800s, humans began selecting dogs for their breed-defining physical and aesthetic traits. Today, most modern dog breeds are ascribed characteristic temperaments associated with their ancestral function. This has led to the notion that their breed ancestry predicts temperament and behaviour.

STUDY: Kathleen Morrill and colleagues used genome-wide association studies to search for common genetic variations that could predict specific behavioural traits in 2,155 purebred and mixed-breed dogs. They combined this data with 18,385 pet-owner surveys from Darwin’s Ark, an open-source database. The tests included data from 78 breeds, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which published *Science* journal and *Science* magazine, said in a statement.

FINDINGS: The results identified 11 genetic markers associated with behaviour, none of these specific to breed. Among the behaviours most strongly predicted by genetics was dog biddability -- how well dogs respond to human direction. However, this varied significantly among individual dogs. According to the



Study finds breed alone explains 9% of behavioural variation. *File*

findings, age or dog sex were the best predictors of behaviour. Investigators failed to find behaviours that were exclusive to any one breed.

Less than one-quarter of the differences in personality from dog to dog could be explained by genetics, according to *Science* magazine. But most behaviours did not have a strong genetic component, including playfulness around other dogs -- and whether a dog circles before it defecates.

Within the same pedigree, Labradors could be loving or standoffish. German shepherds, easy to train -- or impossible to headstrong. Just 9%, on average, of the personality differences between pups were related to their breed.

“The majority of behaviors that we think of as characteristics of specific modern dog breeds have most likely come about from thousands of years of evolution from wolf to wild canine to domesticated dog, and finally to modern breeds,” the AAAS release quoted author Elinor Karlsson as saying.

PAPER: ‘Ancestry-inclusive dog genomics challenges popular breed stereotypes’, Kathleen Morrill *et al*, *Science* (2022), [science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abb0639](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abb0639)



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SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE Service (IAS) officer Shah Faesal, who resigned from the service in protest against the “unabated” killings in Kashmir in 2019, has been reinstated.

The return to service of Faesal, the first Kashmiri to top the Civil Services Examination (2010 batch), had been indicated back in August 2020, when he stepped down as president of the Jammu and Kashmir People’s Movement (JKPM), the party that he had founded after leaving the IAS, and announced that he was quitting politics altogether.

Faesal’s resignation, in January 2019, had not been accepted by the government pending investigation into some of his posts on social media. In 2020, a senior government official had told *The Indian Express* that the fact that his resignation was never accepted meant that “the door is still open” for him to come back to the IAS.

Following the constitutional changes of August 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir, Faesal was stopped from flying to Istanbul, and was detained under Section 107 of the CrPC. He was ultimately released in June 2020. No cases are pending against him at the moment.

What rules apply when an IAS officer chooses to resign?

A resignation is a formal intimation in writing by an officer of his/her intention or a proposal to leave the IAS, either immediately or at a specified date in the future. Guidelines of the Department of Personnel, the cadre controlling department for the IAS, say that a resignation has to be clear and unconditional. The resignation of an officer of any of the three All-India Services -- IAS, the Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service -- is governed by Rules 5(1) and 5(1)(A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958. There are similar rules for resignation of officers belonging to the other central services as well.

Resignation from service is entirely different from accepting the government’s Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Those who take VRS are entitled to pension, whereas those who resign are not. Rule 5 of the DCRB Rules say, “No retirement benefits may be granted to a person who has been dismissed or removed from the Service or who has resigned from the Service.”



IAS officer Shah Faesal, who resigned in 2019, has now been reinstated. *File photo*

To whom must the resignation of an IAS officer be submitted?

An officer serving in a cadre (state) must submit his/her resignation to the chief secretary of the state. An officer who is on central deputation is required to submit his/her resignation to the secretary of the concerned Ministry or Department. The Ministry/Department then forwards the officer’s resignation to the concerned state cadre, along with its comments or recommendations.

What happens after the resignation is submitted?

The state checks to see if any dues are outstanding against the officer, as well as the vigilance status of the officer or whether any cases of corruption etc. are pending against him/her. In case there is such a case, the resignation is normally rejected.

Before forwarding the resignation to the central government, the concerned state is supposed to send information on the issues of dues and vigilance status, along with its recommendation.

The resignation of the officer is considered by the competent authority, i.e., the central government, only after the recommendation of the concerned cadre has been received. The competent authorities are: Minister of State at the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) in respect of the IAS, the Minister for Home Affairs in respect of the IPS, and the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate

Change in respect of the Forest Service.

Being the minister in charge of the DoPT, the Prime Minister himself takes decisions currently in respect of the IAS.

Under what circumstances is a resignation accepted or rejected?

A circular issued by the DoPT on February 15, 1988 regarding resignation says that it is not in the interest of the government to retain an officer who is unwilling to serve. The general rule, therefore, is that the resignation of an officer should be accepted -- except in certain circumstances.

The circular says: “Where a Government servant who is under suspension submits a resignation the competent authority should examine, with reference to the merit of the disciplinary case pending against the Government servant, whether it would be in the public interest to accept the resignation.”

In some cases, resignations have been rejected because disciplinary cases were pending. In such cases, concurrence of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is obtained.

The government also checks whether the concerned officer had executed any bond to serve the government for a specified number of years on account of having received specialised training, a fellowship, or scholarship for studies.

The circular also says: “Where the Government servant concerned is engaged on work of importance and it would take time to

make alternative arrangements for filling the post, the resignation should not be accepted straightway but only when alternative arrangements for filling the post have been made.”

Is an officer allowed to withdraw a resignation that has already been submitted?

Rule 5(1A)(i) of the amended DCRB Rules says the central government may permit an officer to withdraw his/her resignation “in the public interest”. An amendment in the Rules in 2011 states “that the period of absence from duty between the date on which the resignation became effective and the date on which the member is allowed to resume duty as a result of permission to withdraw the resignation is not more than ninety days”.

The same amendment in the Rules said, “Request for withdrawal of resignation shall not be accepted by the Central Government where a member of the Service resigns from his/her service or post with a view to be associated with any political parties or any organisation which takes part in politics, or to take part in, or subscribe in aid of, or assist in any other manner, any political movement or political activity or to canvass or otherwise interfere with, or use his/her influence in connection with, or take part in, an election to any legislature or local authority.”

And under what circumstances is the withdrawal of an officer’s resignation accepted?

The guidelines say that if an officer who has submitted his/her resignation sends an intimation in writing withdrawing it before its acceptance by the competent authority, the resignation will be deemed to have been automatically withdrawn.

Shah Faesal resigned on January 9, 2019, but his resignation was not processed. His Executive Record Sheet on the DoPT website has no details of his posting. The latest Civil List of IAS officers available on the DoPT website is that of 2021 -- and Faesal is listed as a serving officer, but whose posting details say “N.A.” (not available).

The Immovable Property Return (IPR), which every officer is required to declare every year and which is posted on the DoPT website, was last declared by Faesal on January 30, 2017. However, since his resignation itself was not accepted, his request for the withdrawal of resignation was accepted. This, despite the fact that he tried his luck in politics for a year and a half.

How far could a ban on menthol cigarettes help reduce smoking in India?

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday proposed rules for banning menthol cigarettes and all flavoured cigars, a move likely to have the deepest impact on Black smokers and young adults.

In its fact sheet, the FDA said nearly 85% of Black smokers use menthol cigarettes as compared to 30% white smokers, and that modelling studies estimate a 15% overall reduction in smoking over age 40 if menthol cigarettes were unavailable.

How would a similar ban be likely to play out in India?

If India were to ban menthol and other flavoured cigarettes, the impact might be limited, given that chewing tobacco and bidi are the most common forms of tobacco use.

India has 26.7 crore tobacco users aged 15 and above, as per the last available Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2016-17) -- 18% of the population uses smokeless tobacco, 7% smoke, and 4% use both.

Even among smokers, “the impact of such a step would only be on young adults and women who are just starting to smoke. Apart from giving tobacco a pleasant flavour, menthol reduces the harshness, irritation, and somewhat the smell, making it appealing to those who have just started smoking or those who need to hide the smell from family members”, said Dr S K Arora, a chest physician, a former head of Delhi’s Tobacco Control Cell, and winner of a World Health Organization (WHO) award for his role in controlling tobacco use in India.

“However, once a person continues smoking for two weeks to a month, the flavour is of no consequence. If we ban men-

WHY THE US PROPOSAL

HEALTH: Menthol reduces the irritation of smoking and increases appeal; it also enhances nicotine’s addictive effects, making it more difficult to quit smoking.

RACE: Menthol cigarette use is disproportionately higher among Black Americans (85% of smokers within the community) than White Americans (30%).

thol flavour, they will just continue smoking regular cigarettes,” he said.

Monika Arora, Director of the Public Health Promotion Division, Public Health Foundation of India, said, “Menthol cigarettes usually attract adolescents who initi-

ate with a flavoured product, then switch to regular cigarettes. Banning it could prevent new users” from beginning smoking.

Banning products has logistical issues as well. “Banning is not the solution. How much can you ban? Things will be smuggled in,” said Dr G K Rath, former head of the National Cancer Institute. Gutkha and e-cigarettes, which are banned in India, are still available.

India has no official estimate on the number of people who use menthol or other flavoured cigarettes, but availability of various flavours has increased over the years.

How many young Indians are tobacco users?

Tobacco use among 15-24-year-olds has been reducing in India, from 18.4% in GATS-1 (2009-10) to 12.4% in GATS-2 (2016-17), a relative reduction of 33%.

On the other hand, there has been an increase in tobacco use among American youth, driven mostly by e-cigarettes. More than 1 in 4 high school students used tobacco product in the previous 30 days in 2018, with e-cigarette use increasing from 11.7% to 20.8% among high school students from 2017 to 2018, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In India, e-cigarettes are banned.

“If such a step is taken by India, there will likely be a proportion of current users who will stop smoking. But it is likely to reduce initiation to smoking. There are several studies from across the world that show this,” said Dr Jagdish Kaur, regional advisor to WHO’s Tobacco Free Initiative.

A recent study from Canada shows that after menthol cigarettes were banned, 8% more menthol smokers quit smoking than non-menthol smokers.

Another modelling based study from

Singapore, where use of flavoured cigarettes is predominant, showed that in 50 years, smoking prevalence will increase from 12.7% to 15.2% if flavoured cigarettes are not banned, go down by 10.6% if there is a complete ban, and remain the same if there is a partial ban.

What additional measures need to be taken for tobacco control?

Other than banning tobacco products that draw in young new users, experts stressed a need for oversight on social media platforms, content streaming websites, and web based shopping portals.

“These websites not only advertise a tobacco product, which is against the law, they also make misleading claims such as menthol cigarettes being less harmful than regular cigarettes... These are the avenues that need to be regulated...,” Dr Monika Arora said.

9 REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC



MEMORY
★★★
Director: Martin Campbell
Cast: Liam Neeson, Monica Bellucci, Guy Pearce, Taj Atwal

It's All in the Mind

SHALINI LANGER

LIAM NEESON has played so many versions of this cynical, ageing (but never aged) assassin that memory, perhaps, is not what he needs to get it right. And it is not — despite the entire premise for this film being that Alex Lewis (Neeson) is an assassin with a difference, for being an assassin with Alzheimer's.

Once we have that established, rest is all a frame that can be filled anyhow. This time it is with a Mexican human smuggling racket, whose roots run deep and high — deep the film has no compunction plunging, high it has no ambition reaching. So it meanders somewhere in the middle, not knowing what to do with its many different actors of varying charm and screen presence (Pearce in curiously lanky, oily hair; Bellucci in suitably generic glamour), or its story of bad men and vulnerable immigrant girls, who come looping around to Neeson.

With Alzheimer's catching on, we are told Lewis wants out of this assassin business, but obviously can't, and hence finds himself dragged into a contract to kill, back

in his home town El Paso in Texas. But for the frisson of the El Paso name and the Mexican proximity, it would be incongruous to place Neeson, or for that matter, Bellucci, playing a real-estate mogul with full Italian lisp, in this Texan outpost. Even if you are willing to forget that, *Memory* just astounds you with its laziness in all the other aspects of filming as well.

There is talk of truth, justice, big money, networks, mafia, etc, but all that Campbell of *Casino Royale* fame is interested in is riding on Neeson's reputation. A crazy amount of time is spent on one bullet wound he sustains, for example, down to Pearce's FBI agent examining the gauze with blood closely.

What the film is suggesting is a scandal on an astounding scale. A processing centre for illegal Mexican immigrants, built with big money, being misused to meet the base needs of those behind it. Those faces behind bars are not easily forgotten; the many dead bodies Lewis leaves behind are not easy to remember. Now that's the problem with memory, it plays tricks.

shalini.langer@expressindia.com

Lights, Camera, Action, and The End

HEROPANTI 2
★

Director: Ahmed Khan
Cast: Tiger Shroff, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Tara Sutaria, Amrita Singh, Zakir Hussain

THE FIRST *Heropanti*, which came out in 2014, was Tiger Shroff's debut. The terribly tacky, dated plot notwithstanding, it was clear that a new star had emerged. With his athletic build, ripped abs and trippy moves, Tiger held out a youthful, millennial appeal, and he looked all set to travel much farther than his father, Jackie, ever had.

Eight years on, the sequel, *Heropanti 2*, proves just how little mainstream Bollywood has shifted in terms of plot and treatment. Tiger's Bablu is now a hacker and hackster extraordinaire, with a complicated backstory. And this time around, he has gone global, ranging from Yorkshire, to Egypt, to China, to Varanasi. But not even the super-agile Tiger can leapfrog over a worn, moth-eaten storyline which involves a loving mother (Singh), mandatory romantic interest, Inaya (Sutaria), and the extremely evil Laila (Siddiqui) and his multinational, multi-racial cohorts.

Actually, there really is no plot. It's basically a series of set

pieces featuring Bablu prancing, romancing and dancing, when he is not mowing down bunches of baddies. Even going by the low standards of leading ladies in such movies, Inaya touches a new low with the gutter language she is made to spout: how is it even admissible in a film meant to be family-friendly? Everything below the belt is up for grabs, and that's meant to be funny.

How do you hack into every single Indian's bank account on the same day? That is the challenge held out to our hero, as is the desirability of being a *deshbhakt*.

How can a mere Bollywood hero resist? He uses ludicrous passwords, and whistle-worthy lines like: "*Bablu dhoondhne se nahin, kismat se milta hai*". It's not as if Tiger doesn't work hard. Apart from the fancy cars that he gets to crash into (sleek Lamborghinis seem to have taken over that old Bollywood favourite, the Ferrari), he emerges, sexily smudged but intact from exploding hand grenades, his shirt neatly ripped to show us the real ribs.

But the *seetees* are reserved for the villain in this '*heropanti*' part two. As the campy, Kohl-rimmed, lipstickked Laila, Siddiqui is full-on, embracing the silliness of his role to match the tone of the movie. Too bad he's the only one: even Tiger is now looking same-old.

SG



Midflight Turbulence

RUNWAY 34
★★★

Director: Ajay Devgn
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh, Amitabh Bachchan, Boman Irani, Aakansha Singh, Angira Dhar, Ajey Nagar

SHUBHRA GUPTA

A HIGH-FLYING pilot, in charge of a flight from Dubai to Kochi, has to bring all his vaunted expertise to bear in order to power through bad weather and worsening visibility. Is he successful? Is that even a question?

The most effective disaster movies keep both stakes and suspense high, but in *Runway 34*, my heart was never in my mouth. In part because the real-life incident that the film is based on (a 2015 flight from Doha to Kochi had a successful trajectory), and in part because it has an invincible Bollywood hero at the helm.

When a mainstream film is so completely controlled by an A-lister (Ajay Devgn is producer-director-lead star), it is inconceivable that it will harbour any complexity, either in the creation of characters or in the way it is told. So going in, we know the kind of film we will get — put together in broad brushstrokes, easy to consume, and where the hero emerges victorious. For all that, Devgn manages to deliver a somewhat effective pre-interval portion despite its inelegant, underlined bits, helped enormously by computer graphics, and menacing background music. And then it falls prey to the perils of the second half, and crash-lands in a dreary civil-aviation courtroom.

When a mainstream film is controlled by an A-lister, it is inconceivable that it will harbour any complexity, in its characters or in the way it is told

The flight begins with the usual settling in, people placing their bags in the overhead cabins, the air-hostesses pacifying boorish flyers (there's almost always one who will demand more whiskey as soon as the flight takes off), the cabin crew making announcements, and a few people more outlined than the rest — apart from the bad tempered fellow, there's a Parsi mother-daughter duo, a young Muslim mum with a constantly crying baby, a smart-alecky young man with an ever-recording phone camera (Ajey Nagar aka the very famous i-l-I YouTuber CarryMinati), a bearded aviation journalist who gets to ask the crucial question: if the weather in Kochi is bad, why divert to nearby Trivandrum where the weather may be equally terrible, and why not to Bengaluru, a much safer choice?

That's what Captain Vikrant Khanna (Devgn) is asked by his first officer Tanya Albuquerque (Rakul Preet Singh). That question hangs in the thick air, as the fuel plunges,

the wind rises, the torrential rain lashes, and the plane flies into the kind of turbulence which is a nightmare for all: increasingly alarmed passengers and crew and air traffic control officers, who all gawp and cheer for the pilot who puts out the dreaded May day signal, but who manages, right at the very last minute, to pull out a genie from the bottle.

In its zeal to paint Vikrant a hero, despite clear signs of transgression (all-night partying, too many wakeful hours), he is made into a saviour with a photographic memory whose heart is in the right place. And to that end, the plot reduces all the other actors to bit parts: Boman Irani as a crafty airline owner, Aakansha Singh as Vikrant's supportive wife, Angira Dhar as his lawyer, even Amitabh Bachchan as his chief antagonist, as the thundering, intimidating, perfect-Hindi speaking interrogator, whose job is to fix responsibility. Singh is capable of more than just being a scared presence in the cockpit, but she doesn't really get a chance, and the Bachchan-Devgn face-off never quite takes off. In all this — the loose ends hanging, the jury being mute spectators, and the tricky questions brushed under the carpet — the one who keeps it on course is Devgn, with a performance that fits right into his movie.

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STREAMING WATCH LIST



GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI
NETFLIX
This visually-striking engrossing drama, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, follows the life of a young woman who was tricked by her lover and sold to a brothel. As Ganga becomes Gangubai (Alia Bhatt), she tries to expend her business and works for the welfare of sex workers in Mumbai. The movie also features powerful actors such as Vijay Raaz, and Seema Pahwa.



FLEE
ZEE5
Danish animated docudrama *Flee*, directed by Jonas Poher Rasmussen, made history by bagging Oscar nominations in three separate feature film categories — documentary, animated feature and international film. *Flee* is based on the true story of Amin Nawabi, a refugee in Denmark, who came from Afghanistan.



GASLI
LIONSGATE PLAY
Gasli, featuring Julia Roberts and Sean Penn, is a modern-day take on the Watergate scandal. Directed by Matt Ross, this thriller revolves around several untold stories, including Nixon's bumbling, the opportunistic subordinates, deranged zealots, and the whistle-blowers during that era.



UNDONE: SEASON 2
AMAZON PRIME VIDEO
This adult, animated series explores the elastic nature of reality. After encountering a near fatal car accident, Alma (Rosa Salazar) develops the ability to manipulate and move through time.

GRACE AND FRANKIE: SEASON 7
NETFLIX
The end of their respective marriages meant the beginning of an unlikely friendship between prim-and-proper Grace (Jane Fonda) and eccentric Frankie (Lily Tomlin), who find themselves sharing a beach house. This popular series follows their many adventures and heartbreaks.

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
NETFLIX
This 2019 Tom Hanks-starrer is based on the real-life friendship between American television host and producer Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. Directed by Marielle Heller and written by Micah Fitzerman, in this story kindness triumphs cynicism.

SOUNDTRACK
DISNEY+ HOTSTAR
The Korean drama centres around the lives of two best friends who put everything on the line when they move in together. This series features popular Korean actor Han So-hee (*The World of The Married*, 2020) and K-pop star Park Hyung-sik. Directed by Kim Hee-won and written by Ahn Sae-bom, the romantic series is set in modern-day Korea.

ALAKA SAHANI

MUSIC THIS WEEK

You Don't Know What You've Got Till it's Gone

HOME, SUSHMA SOMA WITH ADITYA PRAKASH
★★★★

SUANSHU KHURANA

IT WAS the death of a pregnant elephant after being fed a pineapple stuffed with firecrackers in Malappuram, Kerala, that left Singapore-based Carnatic vocalist Sushma Soma (*pictured*) devastated. As Soma grieved, she decided to turn her lament into *The Elephant's Funeral*, a song that borrows from the Tamil tradition of mourning where crying is accompanied by 'celebratory' sounding percussion. She bemoans the elephant's passing and her calf through a heartwrenching ballad based on the sorrowful raga, Mukhari.

As Soma enunciates each *gamaka* with much clarity, it instantly links you to these overwhelming emotions. Even though she builds the air of absolute sorrow while mourning in her searing voice through a 17th-century Carnatic composer Neelkanta Sivan piece, she juxtaposes it with the concordant beats of the Parai (one of the oldest percussion in-

struments) along a nadaswaram, as if implying the human race's disregard for the elephant and its calf's lives. It's heartwrenching as one doesn't hear this sort of attempt in mainstream or even independent music often. This music isn't consolatory. Soma sings the pain of death — not easy to pull off for a musician. Soma does it delicately but without restraint and that's where the power lies.

The song is a part of *Home*, her second album, and an ode to environment and sustainability through music.

She follows up *Elephant's funeral* with *Ivory game*, a song about illegal ivory trade and poaching that's led to innumerable animal deaths in Africa. She uses four words — *Lobh, krodh, moha, mada*, while emitting loud piercing cries, as if from a dying elephant, along heavy percussion arrangements by Praveen Sparsh, deftly creating vivid imagery of the violence and man's destruction of nature. She uses the rare raga Varali for the piece, the raga that creates the mood of abandonment. In the well-known *nirgun bhajan*, *Maili chadar odh ke kaise dwaar tere main aun* (How do I stand before you with this soiled body), the hopelessness in Soma's voice is disconcerting to say the least. The devotional piece is about find-



ing oneself at the court of conscience, equating *chadar* with one's body and *main* as the soul. It's been popularly sung as a more uplifting piece in the romantic Pahadi by many. But Soma sings it like a wistful resignation with-

out any percussion in the poignant raag Pilu.

While the songs of sorrow are much more impactful in *Home*, Soma also sings of the happiness that nature brings, in her opening piece. Composed in raag Hamsadhwani, she sings a bunch of syllables over a shifting rhythmic metre. The presence of noted hang player Manu Delago in the song is impressive. His solo lets one hear the cross-pattern of a circle of melody he builds with the warm sounds of the hang drum. *Man I* and *Man II* are both compositions by famed 16th-century saint-composer Muthuswamy Dikhsitar. Back in the day, these were inspired by western band music of the time. In these Soma uses voices from everyday life: wanting an extra shower, a young man wanting to double bag his food, sound of tearing the plastic off a packet among others and pairs them with words — *Lobh, krodh, moha, mada*. Fledgling pieces, the two come with an interesting concept but they need more work to sound natural. Right now they sound like practice sessions.

One of Soma's most prolific pieces in the album is *Ma* — a song for the Earth. She sings

three words — *Ma dhara Vasundhara* — in three stages, in three ragas, for seven minutes and makes a unique musical statement. She opens gently in *Shankarabharanam*, but somewhere into the second minute, one hears disenchantment and sadness through the despondent Bhairavi and later sharp shocks of fury along pounding drums through raag Varali. The silence after the storm is equally piercing. Her scream for nature's scourge and pain hangs in the air after the song's given an abrupt end.

One doesn't often hear a Carnatic classical vocalist go much beyond their structured world and still stay true to the basic Carnatic sensibilities. Soma lets the external world's damage affect her, revealing that classical music cannot and should not exist in a vacuum, that she is a part of the universe and needs to let her disdain and pain known.

One of the finest albums about environment and wildlife in a year when India won a Grammy for one that's all about positive messaging, Soma means business. We will be listening.





The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CENTRE-STATE FUEL

Calibrated and coordinated action is needed by both Centre and states to address the issue of high prices

THE ISSUE OF fuel taxes has emerged as another flashpoint in Centre-state relations. A few days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said several Opposition-ruled states did not heed the Centre's call to lower taxes on petrol and diesel. While several chief ministers contradicted the PM, the situation is particularly challenging for both the Centre and states as revenue from fuel taxes accounts for a sizeable share of general government revenues. As per the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, the sector's contribution to the Union government exchequer stood at Rs 4.55 lakh crore in 2020-21, up from Rs 1.72 lakh crore in 2014-15. In the case of states, it rose from Rs 1.6 lakh crore to Rs 2.17 lakh crore over the same period. For the latter, which are also likely to face a revenue shortfall this year as the collections through the GST compensation cess will possibly cease at the end of June, lowering of sales tax/VAT on POL (petroleum oil lubricants) products will be fiscally challenging.

In November 2021, the Centre had cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 respectively. Several states and UTs followed suit. However, in the months thereafter, as global crude oil prices hardened, domestic retail prices were kept on hold for around four months in the run up to five state assembly elections. This marked a departure from the routine practice of linking retail prices to global market prices, but rather subjecting them to the domestic political cycle. Introducing such distortions in the market has affected not just retailers, but also interest in the proposed disinvestment of BPCL.

As a substantial gap opened up between global and domestic prices, the OMCs opted for a phased recalibration rather than a one time adjustment, with prices being hiked over several days. As reported in this newspaper, since the revisions began in March, OMCs have raised prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 12 and Rs 10 per litre respectively. On April 16, the retail price of petrol stood at Rs 105.41 in Delhi (Indian Oil Corporation). This includes an excise duty levy of Rs 27.9 and a VAT of Rs 17.13 which works out to around 43 per cent of the retail selling price. As these taxes are levied at both the central and state level, calibrated action will be required at both levels — even the monetary policy committee has in the past called for cuts at both levels. Also, governments at both the central and state level could perhaps consider building in some counter-cyclicality in the taxes levied — cut taxes when prices are high, maintain stability when prices fall. This would factor in concerns over both revenue and inflation.

THE BIG PICTURE

Pan-Indian success of South Indian films reveals emergence of new region, language-agnostic audience

TWO WEEKS AFTER its April 14 release, the Kannada film *KGF: Chapter 2* is inching closer to the Rs 1,000-crore box office mark, a feat achieved by only three other films: *Dangal* (Rs 2,024 crore), *Baahubali: The Conclusion* (Rs 1,810 crore) and *RRR* (over Rs 1,100 crore). The film's Hindi-dubbed version alone has already earned over Rs 300 crore. *KGF: Chapter 2* is the most recent film from South India reporting such a phenomenal pan-Indian run, with SS Rajamouli's *RRR* and *Pushpa: The Rise* (2021), also reportedly smashing box office records, including ones set by the biggest Bollywood hits.

Bollywood, of course, remains a giant of Subcontinental entertainment. But according to the March 2022 EY-FICCI report on consumer trends in entertainment, its preeminent position is facing a stiff challenge from the combined might of the South Indian film industries. In 2021, South Indian cinema generated three times the box office revenues of Hindi films, with a total of Rs 2,400 crore. One contributing factor, no doubt, is the sheer number of films released — compare the Telugu industry's 204 and the Tamil industry's 152 releases to the mere 84 produced by the Hindi film industry in 2021. But the real story these numbers reveal is of an audience that is, increasingly, region — or language-agnostic, eager only for high-quality entertainment. Part of this is because OTT platforms have made it easier to access films from across India. Even for films that are not dubbed, the average Indian viewer is now more willing to cross the "one-inch-tall barrier of subtitles", as the South Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho described it. But the most important factor in South Indian cinema's success is its production quality. Today, the most ambitious set pieces, the most thrilling action sequences and the most breathtaking cinematography and sound in Indian cinema are found in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam films. The audience appreciates this.

This is a development to be welcomed. Never before has the average moviegoer had such access to the cinematic variety that India offers. It should not be turned into an opportunity for one-upmanship over language, such as the unseemly spat that broke out between Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn and Kannada star Kiccha Sudeep, after the latter tweeted that the success of *KGF* proves that Hindi is no longer the national language. The ensuing controversy, which also saw politicians weighing in, ended up reducing an important industry trend to bickering over language. No one and nothing is served well by this — not the languages whose honour is being defended so vociferously, and certainly not cinema and its audience.

THANK DOG!

Research now proves what every dog lover already knows: Breeds don't matter

A ROTTWEILER IS dangerous, a labrador is the perfect family pet and Indian dogs — and the so-called "mixed breeds" — have an unpredictable temperament. Yet, true dog lovers have always known, from both instinct and experience, that "there is no such thing as a bad dog, only bad owners". Now, research coming out of the US has confirmed their intuition. A study published in the *Journal of Science* found that the correlation between breeds and behavioural characteristics in over 18,000 dogs was minimal. Nature matters, of course, but nurture, it is quite clear, matters more.

Most of the breeds we know today began emerging in the Victorian era. And while much has changed in the last couple of centuries, the distinctly feudal obsession with the status dogs can provide remains intact. The upwardly-mobile family of the 1980s and '90s wanted a Pomeranian, the barking bling of choice today is Beagles. And, perhaps thanks to their virality on YouTube, it is now easy to spot Huskies — a breed meant for snow-clad, high-altitude climes — in the 45-degree heat of the Indian Subcontinent. The most common response from the status-conscious dog lovers, when confronted about why they don't adopt Indian breeds or "stray" dogs is: "Don't know the parents, or breed. What if their temperament is off?"

Scores of people across the world adopted dogs during the pandemic. It was, for many, the one solace of being trapped at home — most canine companions, after all, require constant attention. But the reward for that attention is, to put it simply, unconditional love. As jobs, relationships and friends came and went, dogs stayed firm in their loyalty. It did not matter if they were Cocker Spaniels or Great Danes, Dachshunds or Dobermans. Thank god for dogs, breed no bar.



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

WE MAY NOT have heard the last word yet on the Prashant Kishor (PK) episode in connection with the Congress party. It was bold on his part to offer to play a role larger than that of a mere consultant. For a party that is on the back foot, spurning the offer of PK's services was a bold move. Kishor exemplifies the new breed of political actors who cross over from the threshold of consultancy and bring a new approach to politics. Let us consider the party on the one hand and the phenomenon of "new politics" that PK symbolises on the other hand.

How does one make sense of the Congress's response? As is its practice, the party took an overtly bureaucratic approach to PK's offer. It also tried to delay the process as much as it could. So much so that one got an impression that the Congress did not want anyone to help it come out of the pathetic situation it is currently in. The baggage of being the oldest party and the self-perception of being the only all-India alternative to BJP weighed heavily on the Congress's response.

PK wanted a key role in implementing his ideas about the survival of the party. This meant that PK wanted to be equal to the three Gandhis. Obviously, that didn't go well with many party leaders. It is not clear how insecure either of the Gandhis felt due to this proposal but they were surely not enthusiastic about it. Besides, a new power centre would have curtailed the powers of two other sets of leaders — the Delhi-based confidants of the Gandhi family and the state-level bosses. Not many belong to the latter category.

This fiasco, then, was born out of a convergence of three factors: A less-than-enthusiastic reception of the PK plan by the apex leadership, the self-interest of those without much of a popular base but who have access to the top and the misgivings of leaders with a limited regional mass base.

There would have been no need to take the PK episode seriously if the Congress had been actively engaged in its reconstruction. But during the past eight years, the Congress

Another critical issue someone like PK underlines is the nature of party politics. He represents the professionalisation of politics. In itself, this is an attractive path and has been underway for a long time: Most parties take recourse to consultants, they commission voter surveys and monitor popular perceptions about policies and leaders. In fact, leaderships are overburdened with the idea of image building rather than actually connecting with voters. Election strategists like PK have become a common feature of electoral politics, from the local to the national level, because of this transformation.



KHINVRAJ JANGID

THE KASHMIR FILES was released in Israel with Hebrew subtitles this week. Israel's Consul General in Mumbai, Kobi Shoshani, released the Hebrew poster of the movie, and director Vivek Agnihotri tweeted how significant this was for him, his film and the India-Israel friendship. On April 20, he tweeted somewhat enthusiastically: "I am told that this such a huge demand for a Hindi film is the first time ever in Israel for an Indian film". Here, he is presumptuous and self-congratulatory.

Hindi cinema was very popular in Israel in the 1950s and '60s. Raj Kapoor's movies, in particular, had a great fan following and his film *Sangam* (1964) was a super hit in the country even though the Indian state did not have diplomatic relations with Israel. India under Jawaharlal Nehru was very critical of Israel. However, Israelis have been fond of Hindi cinema, Indian philosophy, yoga and food. Popular cable companies, like HOT, have had an exclusive channel for Indian movies since 2004.

In 2001, Israeli filmmaker Benny Toraty made *Kikar Ha-Halomot* (Desperado Square) to narrate how *Sangam* became a legend in Israel. Toraty's film is about a working-class neighbourhood outside Tel Aviv. It tells the story of the people who missed their great love but continue to hold on to their dreams and fantasies. The neighbourhood is thinking about reopening its cinema hall, and one of the characters, Aaron, suggests that it is only possible to do so if an Indian film like *Sangam* is screened. People will go crazy and

SANGAM IN TEL AVIV

Indian cinema has been popular in Israel for decades

Filmmakers like Raj Kapoor, Guru Dutt and many more who made films promoting egalitarianism, rather than chauvinism, universalism rather than nationalism and peace rather than war, were agents of India's soft power.

has been moving from one crisis to another. Electoral defeats constitute one part of this story. After every defeat, we are told that the party will introspect but there is neither introspection nor course correction. In these eight years, the party has lost the will to win elections; in fact, it has cultivated a habit of losing to such a degree that when it does win, it is unable to handle victory — as was seen in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Not a single move in eight years can be identified as a serious effort to overcome the dismal state of affairs in the party.

The offer by PK was valuable because the present moment in Indian politics is about much more than the political fortunes of the Congress. It is about the survival of competitive politics and the centrist space, that allows the slow but sure march of democracy.

There is a gap between the Congress party and the Congress space in Indian society. If the Congress party is not urgently reactivated, this gap will only widen and the Congress space will shrink further. That Congress space is marked by the centrist and non-sectarian tendencies in our public life. The failure of the Congress party to own this space has already meant that it either gets disintegrated or is occupied by disparate state-level forces, many of which may eventually be steamrolled by the now-dominant BJP. Surprisingly, not many in the party seem to recognise this reality. At the top, there is confusion over who will lead the party; at the middle, there is a short-sighted concern about individual and factional survival and at the bottom, the entry-level workers are left without purpose and promise.

That is where outside interventions become pertinent, which PK symbolises. Such interventions are not without their inherent traps. Organisationally, the trap is tricky: Someone like PK will bring new ideas and strategies but how will he ensure the in-flow of new members? Or will he turn around the party's future with the existing cadres alone? In the entire public spectacle that unfolded

forget their wounds, agonies and annoyances and reunite to watch the film.

The film depicts human folly but it's also about love and sacrifice. The renunciation of the self for greater good (in a tragic sense) appealed to the early Israelis — they came to their homeland, which was in conflict and that demanded plenty of self-sacrifice from them. They were all Jewish, but divided by language, culture and ethnicity. Emotionally tense, melodramatic but aspirational Hindi cinema resonated with them.

Monika Mehta of Binghamton University, New York, has written a paper on the enduring popularity of *Sangam* as well as other Hindi movies in Israel. She argues that the traditional themes of love, friendship and sacrifice appealed to Israelis coming from Africa and the Middle East — the Mizrahi. Because of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab cinema and music were scant in Israel and the Arab Jews had to keep away from their heritage, language and culture. Israel was, and still is, a country of immigrants. European Jews were the pioneers who established the state, enjoyed more power and shaped much of the Israeli identity, one which was alien to most non-European, including Indian, Jews. According to Ronie Parciack, professor of Indian Studies at Tel Aviv University, Hindi cinema was loved, because it provided a way to bypass the Israel-Arab Conflict. Arab Israelis could relate with Hindi movies as they were non-Western, attuned to norms of conservative sensibilities, traditional, and at the same time they depicted social real-

over the question of leadership and the role of newcomers, the party does not seem to have discussed this critical issue.

Another critical issue someone like PK underlines is the nature of party politics. He represents the professionalisation of politics. In itself, this is an attractive path and has been underway for a long time: Most parties take recourse to consultants, they commission voter surveys and monitor popular perceptions about policies and leaders. In fact, leaderships are overburdened with the idea of image building rather than actually connecting with voters. Election strategists like PK have become a common feature of electoral politics, from the local to the national level, because of this transformation. But we do not know what happens when a professional strategist crosses the threshold and seeks to become a political actor.

In the role as a consultant, we know the "commodity" called PK but we do not know him as a leader: What are his ideological inclinations? What policies would he prefer for his voters? Does he look upon people as supporters, stakeholders, citizens or just as voters? For that matter, how does a political consultant look upon politicians? Are they merely carriers of the brand or are they human agents negotiating alternative political routes, with dreams of their own?

Finally, can a party be rejuvenated by the intervention of a consultant-turned-professional? Does it not require the motivation and human agency of its active workers? Or, are parties set to turn into electoral machines alone?

These and other similar issues expand the Congress-PK episode beyond the fortunes and tactics of one party. They pose fundamental questions that are obscured by the debates over personalities and temporary turn-arounds in the fortunes of parties.

The writer, based in Pune, taught political science and is currently chief editor of *Studies in Indian Politics*



APRIL 30, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ZAIL SINGH'S CLAIMS

HOME MINISTER GIANI Zail Singh told the Rajya Sabha that the communal clashes in Amritsar had arisen out of a conspiracy aided and abetted by certain foreign powers. Declining to name the power, Singh who was responding to a call in attention motion raised by HS Surjeet of the CPM and several others alleged that the Dal Khalsa elements in Punjab were playing into the hands of foreign powers. He said that there were striking similarities in events leading to the incidents of communal violence in Moradabad, Allahabad and Amritsar. The best solution to the problems posed by the Dal Khalsa ex-

tremists was to ostracise them socially he said. He did not subscribe to the view that the challenge posed by the Dal Khala could be effectively countered by the use of force.

MINISTERS QUIT

FIVE CABINET MINISTERS, one deputy ministers and the chief parliamentary secretary of Haryana who were denied the Congress (I) ticket for the state assembly elections have resigned. The deputy labour minister R Lal Singh who did not resign after having been denied the ticket has been dismissed. The chief minister Bhajan Lal said that the resignations had been accepted by the governor.

FALKLAND TENSE

WITH A TOTAL British blockade only 24 hours away around the Falklands, US intelligence reports say that the British have already landed a few commandos to prepare the ground for the invasion just as they did in South Georgia.

INDIANS IN PAK JAILS

THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT has agreed to India's suggestion that there should be consular access on a reciprocal basis to ensure a better deal for Indian nationals detained in jails in Pakistan.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Big tech, big money

The Elon Musk-Twitter deal is a beginning. More and more self-made, innovative billionaires will seek to acquire and transform publicly traded companies into private entities



OPENING ARGUMENT
By MENAKA GURUSWAMY

THIS PAST WEEK, as many of us shopped on Amazon or perhaps booked flight tickets for the summer vacations, Elon Musk evinced his interest in purchasing the social media platform Twitter for \$44 billion. At the time of writing of this article, the Musk acquisition has nearly gone through and the Wall Street Journal reports that Musk has sold roughly \$4 billion worth of Tesla stock over the past two days to help with financing the acquisition.

Let us discuss the events of the Musk-Twitter engagement as they have unfolded since they offer valuable insights into legally tenable manoeuvres within commercial practice, while also providing insights into the era that we live in — what I call era of new-technology-billions (NTB). By NTB, I mean the fortunes that are generated by technologies that have the potential to change how we live as humans or have already changed how we live. This includes companies that innovate and create social media networks, electric vehicles, accessible space travel and cutting-edge medical innovations. Musk's own fortune comes from new technologies like these.

Let us first examine the precursors to the Musk-Twitter engagement. According to Forbes magazine, Elon Musk with a \$273 billion fortune is the richest man on our planet. Initially, what started out as a purchase of a substantial portion of Twitter shares by Musk, led to an offer from Twitter of a board seat. This was followed with a rejection by Musk of the seat at the board due to the conditions attached. Subsequently, Musk declared his intention of buying Twitter.

When Musk offered to purchase the company at \$54.20 per share, the board opted for a poison pill. A poison pill in commercial law is a defense strategy used by a target firm to prevent or discourage a potential hostile takeover by an acquiring company. Often it allows shareholders the right to purchase additional shares at a discount, thereby diluting the potential ownership interest of the new or hostile party.

As the Supreme Court explained in *Pramod Jain v Securities and Exchange Board of India* (2016), “a hostile takeover helps to unlock the hidden value of the shares and puts pressure on management to work efficiently. On the other hand, it has the potential of unduly upsetting the normal functioning of a target company. Thus, there is an undoubted need to regulate the process of acquisitions and takeovers in the post-liberalisation era after 1991.” The Supreme Court further observes that “poison pills make takeovers unviable for the acquirer by making the cost of acquisition unattractive”. In general, poison pills are also called shareholders rights plans. Such a plan is issued by the board of directors of the company that is being bought into.

Musk's offer for the Twitter purchase is a generous one. Twitter shares are trading well below the price offered by the billionaire. So, the board was rightly enthusiastic about the purchase. However, when the board formally heard from Musk that he



C R Sasikumar

had secured the requisite financing for the deal, it insisted on two important terms. The two terms are a \$1-billion breakup fee to protect Twitter shareholders should Musk walk away from the deal and should the deal go through then cash outs of employee-stock-options. The board has clearly prepared well to secure the company's long-term interests. Finally, on April 25, Twitter's board accepted Musk's offer, and it will become a private company after approval by regulators and shareholders.

As this deal comes to fruition, the ownership of Twitter will not be 50-year-old Musk's highest accomplishment. The South-Africa born Musk is the CEO of three innovative companies that have ensured his NTB — SpaceX, Tesla and Neuralink. Given his age, he clearly has many decades of entrepreneurship and innovation ahead of him. Each of these companies engages with new frontiers of science and technology. What do these companies do? SpaceX was founded by Musk in 2002 to enable colonisation of Mars. SpaceX manufactures the Falcon 9 and Falcon heavy launch vehicles. On April 26, a day after Twitter's board accepted Musk's offer, a SpaceX launch vehicle, consisting of a two-stage Falcon 9 rocket propelled the Dragon spacecraft carrying 4 NASA astronauts and one European astronaut into space.

According to NASA, the crew will conduct a science expedition in microgravity aboard the space station. Since 2020,

Let us discuss the events of the Musk-Twitter engagement as they have unfolded since they offer valuable insights into legally tenable manoeuvres within commercial practice, while also providing insights into the era that we live in — what I call the era of new-technology-billions (NTB). By NTB, I mean the fortunes that are generated by technologies that have the potential to change how we live as humans or have already changed how we live.

SpaceX has launched five flights with NASA astronauts. On April 18, a SpaceX Falcon rocket was used to successfully launch a US spy satellite force from the company's Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

The Musk company that has the potential to transform transportation for humans is Tesla, the electric vehicle maker. The *New York Times* reports that in 2012 Tesla delivered 2,650 cars. By the end of 2021, Tesla had 70 per cent of the market share on electric light-duty vehicles in the US and had delivered 936,000 vehicles worldwide. Neuralink aims to develop implantable brain-machine interfaces.

Whether or not the Twitter-Musk deal goes through, what is clear is that we live in the era of NTB. More and more acquisitions will be attempted by self-made, innovative billionaires who will seek to acquire and transform publicly traded companies into private entities. Challenges will emerge from these acquisitions. For instance, in the Musk-Twitter acquisition challenges of ensuring free speech, the regulation of fake news, and Musk's stated aims of ensuring open access to the algorithms relied on. Whether the law in all its facets — constitutional, commercial and tech-law — keeps up with the challenges posed by the acquisition ambitions fuelled by NTB remains to be seen.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India



SAGAR SHARMA & URMi TAT

Blueprint for semicon diplomacy

India could become alternative destination for semiconductor manufacturing

SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS ARE the lifeblood of the modern information age. They enable electronic products to compute and control actions that simplify our lives. The manufacturing cycle of a semiconductor chip from sand to a finished product, sees it change hands approximately 70 times across international borders. It is not difficult to imagine that the chip in the device closest to you was made by a Japanese engineer working on Dutch machinery in an American foundry in Taiwan to produce wafers which were shipped to Malaysia for packaging before being sent to India as a finished product. There cannot be a better example of peacetime global cooperation than the resolve involved in making the meticulous chip. These semiconductor chips are the drivers for ICT development and one of the key reasons for the current flattening of the world.

The semiconductor is the cornerstone of all electronic products. However, the semiconductor manufacturing capacities are concentrated in a few geographies. Nearly all leading edge (sub 10nm) semiconductor manufacturing capacity is limited to Taiwan and South Korea, with nearly 92 per cent located in the former. Further, 75 per cent of the semiconductor manufacturing capacity is concentrated in East Asia and China. The

concentration of capacities poses many challenges, leading several countries to be vulnerable to a few.

The current decade presents a unique opportunity to India. Companies are looking to diversify their supply chain and for alternatives to their bases in China. The chip shortages due to Covid-19 have hit automakers with a revenue loss of \$110 bn in 2021. The Russia-Ukraine conflict and its implications for raw material supplies for the semiconductor value chain has also poised chipmakers to invest in strengthening the semicon supply chain. India must seize this opportunity and become an attractive alternative destination for semiconductor manufacturing. The way ahead is conceptualising a semicon diplomacy action plan.

Placing semicon diplomacy at the heart of India's foreign policy is essential both strategically and economically. Semiconductors are used in critical infrastructures such as communication, power transmission etc., that have implications for national security. The establishment of the value chain for semiconductors would ensure a multiplier effect on the entire economy. Further, since electronics items form one of the most imported items after oil and petroleum products, domestic production would be saving

forex and reducing the balance of payments, especially vis a vis China.

One of the ways of leveraging semicon diplomacy is increasing multilateral and bilateral cooperation. This should be done across the value chain of semiconductors — design, manufacturing, and packaging. A key institution with immense potential in this regard is the Quad. Australia, being rich in raw materials required for semiconductors, can be an important supplier to fill in India's deficits. The US and Japan can be leveraged for capacity building and their advanced semiconductor technology in logic and memory segments.

Semicon diplomacy is pivotal to India's Act East Policy, which aims to build resilient ties in the Asia Pacific region. Considering that the semiconductor manufacturing and testing bases are heavily concentrated in East Asia, the Act East policy provides an opportunity to connect and strengthen ties with key players in the region. At the same time, keeping an eye on the larger vision, frequent technological exchanges between a regional bloc like ASEAN via tracks in forums like the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN regional forum will be beneficial.

India's neighbourhood has always held a special place in its diplomatic outreach.

Attaining self-sufficiency in semiconductor manufacturing can mean collective growth of the South Asian region.

Considering that the global semiconductor market is projected to be \$1.2 tn by 2030, India needs to be well-positioned to capture it. The recently announced Semicon India programme which provides \$10 bn fiscal support and other non-fiscal measures shows strong political will and is a step in the right direction. India needs to harness its strengths, such as the strong presence of global EMS players, diaspora, world-class design ecosystem, demographic dividend, and use it as a pedestal for global partnerships and outreach.

The PM's clarion call for Aatmanirbhar Bharat resonates well with India's drive for self-sufficiency in semiconductors. India's concept of self-reliance is not an individualistic endeavour but one that encourages growth and prosperity of all, in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, meaning the entire world is one family. Similarly, as the prime minister himself stated, we don't have an option but to be self-reliant in semiconductors.

The writers are from the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) team at Invest India

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The government must balance its books, but not at the expense of the vulnerable."
— DAWN

The one nation, one language fallacy

India has never done justice to its linguistic diversity. Languages, instead, have become instruments of exercising hegemony



MRINAL KAUL

Mera azm itna buland hai ki parae sholon ka dar nahin, mujhe khauf atish-e-gul se hai ye kahin chaman ko jala na de.

(My conviction is so strong that I do not fear the blaze of others, but indeed I dread the flame of a flower (of my own garden) lest it should not set ablaze the garden (itself)).

IN THE PAST few days, I have often found myself reciting, in my head, the above lines by the poet Shakeel Badayuni. If there's a Bharat Mata (Mother India), she is likely to agree with the sentiment expressed in these lines. Her adamant and unruly children have been innocently robbing her of her multifaceted glory by imposing a certain uninformed and ridiculous linguistic monism. A mammoth is being reduced to a mink.

We never really think beyond the political maps of South Asian countries. We never really imagine or explore the linguistic or cultural maps of South Asia and misinterpret the political as cultural. It is really hard to kill a language. But cultural maps in South Asia are fading to a monocolour and the linguistic maps are shrinking too. Just imagine a multilingual landscape as variegated as South Asia becoming monolingual one fine morning. Think of a time when everyone will speak and understand only one language — Hindi, English or Urdu.

I grew up speaking Kashmiri. I think in Kashmiri because that is how I grew up. I have Kashmiri friends and relatives who speak better Kashmiri than I do and others speak terrible Kashmiri. I do not know when I picked up Urdu while growing up in the Kashmir Valley. When I came outside the Valley as a child for the first time, I realised I was speaking to people around me in Urdu though they called it Hindi. However, when I came across people from the Hindi belt, I initially kept wondering why they spoke like characters we saw on television in Ramanand Sagar's *Ramayan* or B R Chopra's *Mahabharat*. I used to laugh at some of my friends and ask why they couldn't talk in a normal language, not realising that this was probably normal for them. And they, in turn, kept taunting me that my language sounded like Farsi (Persian) and thus very foreign to theirs. It was all linguistic fun and we enjoyed it.

In a few years, I was to be trained as a Sanskritist, and began dealing with the idea of languages professionally. I was gradually unfolding the power dynamics and identity issues related to languages. I do recall a

couple of times I felt severely discriminated against, along with a few other friends, while walking at Connaught Place in New Delhi at the hands of a few street vendors because we were talking in Kashmiri. I also gradually became aware of how the Kashmiri language had suffered in its land of birth by the dominance of Urdu (the state language) in the way that so many other South Asian languages are dominated by Hindi. The problem is not Hindi or Urdu or their marvellous literary traditions or the native speakers of these languages. The problem lies with the romantic notion of “one nation, one language” — the power that is being exercised through the imposition of a language of a large geographic zone of South Asia onto the length and the breadth of this multi-lingual landmass.

The line between love and hate is usually very subtle, but it could be rather simple as well. I love languages out of my absolute free will and according to my taste, but I would begin detesting them if they are imposed on me. I love my Urdu, but I do not like the Urdu that has been made to kill my mother tongue. One of the main reasons for the partition between Western Pakistan and Eastern Pakistan — later Bangladesh — was that the former was imposing Urdu on the latter. The former was predominantly a Punjabi-speaking area and the latter was a Bengali-speaking territory. Urdu as a concocted Islamic category was made to mediate between the two distinct cultural zones and unify them under a single imaginary Islamic linguistic umbrella. It had to be a miserable failure. In other words, the idea of a national language sounds wonderful, but only on a Wikipedia page. Language is not a representational symbol like a flag; it is a dynamic reality. Even if a multilingual nation like India becomes monolingual, over a course of time it will gradually create many distinct dialects. This is linguistic reality. Funny India could end up with hundreds of Hindis, but all unique in themselves.

India should have a robust language policy that emphasises on the quality of language learning rather than running language departments, both classical and modern, in almost all its public universities. A large number of these departments do not make any contribution to scholarship anyhow. Issues related to learning languages are always hijacked by facile questions: How many languages or which language should be taught. There is never a sound focus on how to study language structurally and systematically. There can be no bigger irony than this for a multilingual landscape like South Asia.

I must confess that I would still not mind the jokes we used to crack about languages as children, but I have problems with linguistic hegemony — my mother tongue has succumbed to it.

The writer teaches philosophy at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, Mumbai

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JUDGE WISELY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'With due respect' (IE, April 29). It is unfortunate that the Delhi High Court has taken offence to Umar Khalid's speech by cherry-picking words and phrases that supposedly were an incitement to violence. That the central government routinely slaps charges of sedition and prosecutes people under the UAPA to curb dissent, which it sees as lese majeste, is well-known. However, it is disquieting to see the judiciary reprimand Khalid, and by extension ordinary citizens, for exercising the fundamental right of freedom of expression. By speaking on behalf of the prime minister, it does an injustice to the judiciary's independence.

Ila Raikar, Mumbai

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'With due respect' (IE, April 29). The diversity of views of judges on similar matters coming to the courts is somewhat worrying. Granted that there could be some difference in interpretation of some sections of the law but a situation where two radically different views are expressed by different judges in cases of a similar nature, as in CAA NRC, is extraordinary. More so, because one of the interpretations questions the right to criticise the actions of the executive. The judiciary is the last resort of citizens against threatening regimes, and it must stand as a beacon of hope for them.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

FAIZ LIVES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Faiz is in the room' (IE, April 28). Though revolutionary poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz is not in this world, he will continue to inspire those who are fighting against injustice and dis-

crimination in any form and anywhere in the world. His exclusion or deletion from the school textbooks by fanatical forces in any garb, therefore, cannot efface him from the minds of his adherents. Diabolical ruling regimes often try to hide their allergy to dissent, diversity and protest by pretending to be closer the church though they are far from god.

Tarsem Singh, Mahipur

BILATERAL OPENING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Facing a common threat' (IE, April 27). India and Australia have much to gain by exploring each other's complementary markets. While New Delhi can sidestep Chinese imports of critical minerals like lithium by buying the same from Australia, Canberra can benefit from Indian human capital in the cybersecurity domain. Common threats like state-sponsored cyberattacks need to be tackled by both countries. Bilateral agreements for cooperation to address resource crunch and skilling ought to take priority in this arena.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

UMRAN'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Umrans Malik' (IE, April 29). India is now producing fast bowlers like Pakistan did some years back. The new speed sensation Umrans Malik has announced his arrival with a bang in the ongoing IPL. There are voices wanting to induct him into the national team. Undoubtedly, he will be a welcome addition to India's bowling unit. However, having said that, raw pace alone cannot make one last the rigours of Test cricket. Umrans needs carefully nurture and his skills and add to his repertoire.

Vipul Pande, Nainital

TOPOF THE WORLD

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif in Medina. *AP*

SAUDI ARABIA

New Pak PM on 1st Saudi trip

PAKISTAN'S NEWLY elected prime minister was visiting Saudi Arabia Friday on his first foreign trip since taking office, an attempt to boost economic relations with the wealthy, oil-rich kingdom as Pakistan struggles with huge debt, soaring inflation and a worsening energy crisis. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed on Thursday in the holy city of Medina, just weeks after political turmoil that rattled Pakistan's fragile democracy and led to the ouster of former Premier Imran Khan. Sharif professed enthusiasm before his departure, even speaking in Arabic in a video that praised the "brotherly kingdom" — a country where he spent years in exile and cultivated close ties with top officials. **AP**

USA

IS 'Beatle' gets life sentence

A US judge on Friday imposed a lifetime prison sentence on a member of an Islamic State militant group nicknamed "The Beatles" that beheaded American hostages, at a hearing where one victim's mother told the defendant, "I will not hate you." US District Judge TS Ellis in Alexandria, Virginia, held the sentencing hearing for UK-born Alexanda Kotey, 38, who pleaded guilty to murdering journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff and aid workers Kayla Mueller and Peter Kassig. Hostages held by Kotey and his fellow militants nicknamed them "The Beatles" for their British accents. **REUTERS**

SWEDEN

PM rejects referendum on possible NATO membership

SWEDEN'S GOVERNMENT does not plan to hold a referendum if its parliament decides to proceed with an application for NATO membership, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said on Friday. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced both Sweden and Finland to review long-held beliefs that military neutrality is the best means of ensuring security, with both countries expected to make a decision in the coming few weeks. But Andersson said a referendum was not the right way to make this decision. **REUTERS**

Russia launches missile attack on Kyiv during UN chief's visit

Zelenskyy says Moscow trying to humiliate UN; Radio Liberty journalist killed in attack

DAVID KEYTON & INNA VARENYTSIA KYIV, APRIL 29

UKRAINE'S LEADER accused Russia of trying to humiliate the United Nations by raining missiles on Kyiv during a visit by Secretary-General António Guterres, an attack that shattered the capital's tentative return to normality as the focus of the war moved east.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine's forces were holding off Russia's attempted advance in the south and east, as efforts continued to secure safe passage for residents trapped in Mariupol, which has been largely reduced to rubble in a 2-month-long siege. An official in the president's office did not rule out an evacuation as soon as Friday.

Russia pounded targets all over Ukraine on Thursday, including the attack on Kyiv that struck a residential high-rise and another building. US-funded broadcaster Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty said one of its journalists died in the strike.

In an apparent reference to the same strike, Russia's Defense Ministry said Friday that it had destroyed "production build-

An explosion in Kyiv on Thursday evening. *AP*

ings" at the Artem defence factory in Kyiv.

The attack on Kyiv came barely an hour after Zelenskyy held a news conference with Guterres, who toured some of the destruction in and around Kyiv and condemned attacks on civilians during his visit.

"This says a lot about Russia's true attitude toward global institutions, about attempts of the Russian leadership to humiliate the UN and everything the organization represents," Zelenskyy said late Thursday in his nightly video address to the nation.

"Therefore, it requires a correspondingly powerful response."

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko derided the attack as equivalent to Russian President Vladimir Putin showing Guterres "his middle finger".

The strikes were the boldest Russian bombardment of the capital since Moscow's forces retreated weeks ago following their failure to take the city in what they hoped would be a lightning offensive. Instead, stiff Ukrainian resistance, bolstered by Western arms, stalled Putin's advance and forced his troops to

pull back to regroup.

Some have now started to push into the country's eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas, which Moscow now says is its focus. Getting a full picture of the unfolding battle in the east has been difficult because airstrikes and artillery barrages have made it extremely dangerous for reporters to move around. Both Ukraine and the Moscow-backed rebels fighting in the east also have introduced tight restrictions on reporting from the combat zone.

But so far, Russia's troops and the separatist forces appear to have made only minor gains, and Britain's Defense Ministry said Friday that those have been achieved at significant cost to Russia's forces.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty said the body of Vira Hyrych, a journalist who had worked for the broadcaster since 2018 and who lived in one of the buildings hit, was found in the rubble on Friday.

Separately, a former US Marine was killed while fighting alongside Ukrainian forces, his relatives said in what would be the first known death of an American citizen taking part in the war. The US has not confirmed the report. **AP**

MEANWHILE

MUNICH TO STAGE 1ST OKTOBERFEST IN 2 YRS

The annual Oktoberfest is on again for this fall, the city of Munich said Friday, following a two-year pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The beer festival will be held without restrictions from September 17 to October 3 — Germany's national day. Oktoberfest, first held in 1810, has been cancelled dozens of times in its over 200-year history due to wars and pandemics.



EU nears ban on Russian oil

THE NEW YORK TIMES APRIL 29

THE EUROPEAN Union is readying a phased embargo of Russian oil, overcoming deep divisions among members who depend on Russia for energy supplies, at the end of a week that has seen the United States and its allies deepen their commitment to supporting Ukraine's ability not only to defend itself but to drive Russia from its territory.

The embargo has been weeks in the making, and intensive talks were to continue over the weekend before the European Commission, the bloc's executive, puts a finalised proposal on paper for EU ambassadors to approve next week, along with other new sanctions targeting Russia's biggest bank, Sberbank, and high-profile Russians.

Word of the embargo comes amid a flurry of activity to provide Ukraine with more weapons and support, and shore up the defences of NATO countries.

UK Opposition slams Boris for his visit to JCB factory in India

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, APRIL 29

OPPOSITION PARTIES in the UK have questioned in Parliament Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to visit a British-owned bulldozer factory in Gujarat during his visit to India last week.

A number of Labour Party MPs, including Indian-origin Nadia Whittome, questioned Johnson's visit to the JCB factory in Halol despite the use of some of the company's equipment in the controversial demolition of properties in north-west Delhi in the wake of recent communal clashes in Jahangirpuri.

The factory visit had created a stir across social media, pointing to the use of JCB equipment in the Municipal Corporation of

Boris Johnson during the inauguration of a JCB factory in Gujarat. *AP file*

Delhi's "anti-encroachment" drive in Delhi, an issue referred to the courts.

During an "Urgent Question" tabled in the House of Commons on Tuesday by the Scottish National Party (SNP) member of Parliament, Ian Blackford, the Opposition raised cries of "where is he?" after a junior minister was left to answer

questions on the topic of "Prime Minister's Visit to India".

Vicky Ford, the Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), was deputed on behalf of the government and said the visit would "supercharge" the UK-India trading relationship and that the issue of human rights is regarded as equally important.

"We do not pursue trade at the exclusion of human rights," said Ford.

"We regard both as an important part of a deep, mature and wide-ranging relationship with our partners. The partnership with India is very important for both our countries," she said. "If we have concerns, we raise them directly with the Government of India," Ford said. **PTI**

Blast at Kabul mosque kills at least 10 people

KATHY GANNON

KABUL, APRIL 29

A POWERFUL explosion ripped through a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Friday, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 20, a Taliban spokesman said.

Hundreds of worshippers had gathered for prayers on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramzan and the Khalifa Aga Gul Jan Mosque was packed, said local residents, fearing the casualty toll could rise further.

The Taliban-appointed interior ministry spokesman, Mohammad Nafi Takor, could not provide more details and Taliban security men cordoned off the area. The source of the ex-

plosion was not immediately known and no one has claimed responsibility for the blast.

The explosion was so loud that the neighbourhood of the mosque shook from the blast, residents said.

Ambulances raced to the site, driving up to the end of a narrow street in an eastern neighbourhood of Kabul to reach the mosque, which belongs to Afghanistan's majority Sunni Muslims.

The explosion was the latest in a series of such blasts amid relentless attacks across the country. Similar attacks on mosques have recently targeted the country's minority Shia Muslims and were claimed by the Islamic State group's regional affiliate, known as Islamic State in Khorasan Province or IS-K. **AP**

Beijing sees more Covid closures, anger grows in Shanghai

MARTIN QUIN POLLARD & DAVID STANWAY

BEIJING, SHANGHAI, APRIL 29

CHINA'S CAPITAL Beijing closed more businesses and residential compounds on Friday, with authorities ramping up contact tracing to contain a Covid-19 outbreak, while resentment at the month-long lockdown in Shanghai grew.

In the finance hub, fenced-in people have been protesting against the lockdown and difficulties in obtaining provisions by banging on pots and pans in the evenings, according to a Reuters witness and residents.

A video shared on social

A man gets a bag of supplies while standing behind barriers sealing off a Beijing residential area under lockdown. *Reuters*

media, whose authenticity could not be immediately verified, showed a woman warning people via a loud-hailer not to do so, saying such gestures

were being encouraged by "outsiders".

The Shanghai government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In Beijing, authorities were in a race against time to detect Covid cases and isolate those who have been around them.

A sign placed outside a residential complex read "Entry only. No exit".

Polish resident Joanna Szklarska, 51, was sent to a quarantine hotel as a close contact, but she refused to share the room, which had only one bed, with her neighbour.

She was sent back home, where authorities installed a front door alarm. Then she was called back to the hotel, where she now has her own room.

"Nothing makes sense here," the English-language consultant said by phone. **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED Politically sensitive time for Xi

SIGNS OF frustration among residents in areas under lockdown come at a politically sensitive time for President Xi. China's ruling Communist party is preparing for a major congress later this year, during which Xi is expected to be re-elected by delegates for a third term as president.

While public anger over lockdowns is unlikely to change this, it could affect the extent of his power within the party.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa (left) with the country's President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa. *AP file*

Sirisena: Sri Lanka's President agreed to remove brother as PM

PM Mahinda's spokesperson says no such move communicated by Gotabaya

AP & PTI

COLOMBO, APRIL 29

SRI LANKA'S President has agreed to replace his older brother as prime minister in a proposed interim government to solve a political impasse caused by the country's worst economic crisis in decades, a prominent lawmaker said Friday.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa agreed that a national council will be appointed to name a new prime minister and Cabinet comprised of all parties in Parliament, lawmaker Maithripala Sirisena said after meeting with the president. Sirisena was president before Gotabaya.

However, Rohan Weliwita, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, said the president has not communicated any intent to remove the prime minister and a decision will be announced if such a step is taken.

Gotabaya on Friday did extended an invitation to form an all-party government. The Opposition, however, has said that for such a government to be

formed, Mahinda must resign or be removed as PM.

Sri Lanka is near bankruptcy and has announced it is suspending payments on its foreign loans until it negotiates a rescue plan with the International Monetary Fund. It has to repay \$7 billion in foreign debt this year, and \$25 billion by 2026. Its foreign reserves stand at less than \$1 billion.

The foreign exchange shortage has severely limited imports, forcing people to wait in long lines to buy essentials such as food, fuel, cooking gas and medicine.

Gotabaya and his family have dominated politics in Sri Lanka for most of the last 20 years. Protesters who have crowded the streets since March hold them responsible for the crisis and are demanding that they quit politics.

On Thursday, businesses were closed, teachers absent and public transportation interrupted as Sri Lankans joined a general strike to pressure the president to step down.

Gotabaya earlier reshuffled his Cabinet and offered a unity government in an attempt to quell the protests, but was not successful.

British Virgin Islands Premier held on drug trafficking charges in US

VIMAL PATEL

APRIL 29

THE PREMIER of the British Virgin Islands was arrested on Thursday in the Miami area on drug trafficking and money laundering charges, the authorities said.

According to a criminal complaint filed in the US Southern District of Florida, Andrew Fahie, who is the elected head of government of the small territory of about 30,000, requested an upfront payment of \$500,000 to let cocaine slip through the territory en route to Miami and New York. He was charged with conspiracy to import at least five kilograms of a cocaine mixture and conspiracy to launder money.

The territory's director of ports, Oleanvine Pickering Maynard, and her son Kadeem Stephan Maynard, also face those charges, according to the complaint.

A man who presented himself as working for the Sinaloa Cartel, but who was a confidential source for the federal authorities, met with Maynard on March 20, according to the complaint.



Andrew Fahie

The man told Maynard he needed help ferrying thousands of kilograms of cocaine from Colombia through Tortola, which is in the British Virgin Islands, according to the document. Maynard agreed to assist, and said Fahie would also be open to such an arrangement, according to the complaint.

On April 7, the confidential source met with Fahie, who requested the upfront payment to get the process started and said that Maynard could provide the licences needed for the cocaine to slip through the ports, according to the complaint. The source then gave Fahie \$20,000 and said, "This is a good faith gift, to seal that we have an agreement," according to the document. **NYT**

A QUARTER OF TESLA'S REVENUE IN 2021 CAME FROM THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS BANNED TWITTER

Musk's ties to China could create headaches for Twitter

STEVEN LEE MYERS & PAUL MOZUR

SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 29

WHEN ELON Musk opened a Tesla factory in Shanghai in 2019, the Chinese government welcomed him with billions of dollars' worth of cheap land, loans, tax breaks and subsidies. "I really think China is the future," Musk cheered.

Tesla's road since then has been lucrative, with a quarter of the company's revenue in 2021 coming from China, but not without problems. The firm faced a consumer and regulatory revolt in China last year over

manufacturing flaws.

With his deal to take over Twitter, Musk's ties to China are about to get even more fraught.

Like all foreign investors in China, he operates Tesla at the pleasure of the Chinese authorities, who have shown a willingness to influence or punish companies that cross political red lines. Even Apple, the world's most valuable company, has given in to Chinese demands, including censoring its App Store.

Musk's extensive investments in China could be at risk if Twitter upsets the Communist Party state, which has banned the platform at home but used it extensively to push Beijing's foreign policy

Elon Musk at the opening event for Tesla's China-made Model Y programme, in Shanghai in January 2020. *Reuters*

around the globe — often with false or misleading information.

At the same time, China now has a sympathetic investor who is taking control of one of the

world's most influential megaphones. Musk said nothing publicly, for example, when authorities in Shanghai shut down Tesla's plant as part of the citywide effort

to control the latest Covid-19 outbreak, even after lambasting officials in Alameda County, California, for a similar step when the pandemic began in 2020.

"It's concerning to think about what could be a conflict of interests in these situations, looking at disinformation that could come out of China," said Jessica Maddox, an assistant professor of digital media technology at the University of Alabama.

Even Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and one of Musk's biggest rivals in tech, space and now media, weighed in — on Twitter — to question China's potential sway over the platform. "Did the Chinese government

just gain a bit of leverage over the town square?" Bezos wrote.

Musk has not detailed his plans for changing Twitter except to promise to free it up as a platform for free speech, while banning bots and artificial accounts that populate its user base. Even that simple pledge on bots could irritate China's propagandists, who have openly bought fake accounts and used them to undercut claims of human rights abuses in Xinjiang. It is not clear whether he intends to restore accounts or remove labels that identify some of Beijing's most prominent users as state officials.

Musk did not respond to an email requesting comment. **NYT**

KRYSTAL HU & ANIRBAN SEN

APRIL 29

ELON MUSK told banks that agreed to help fund his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter that he could crack down on executive and board pay at the social media company in a push to slash costs, and would develop new ways to monetize tweets, three people familiar with the matter said.

Musk made the pitch to the lenders as he tried to secure debt for the buyout days after submitting his offer to Twitter on April 14, the sources said. His submission of bank commitments on April 21

were key to Twitter's board accepting his "best and final" offer.

Musk had to convince the banks that Twitter produced enough cash flow to service the debt he sought. In the end, he clinched \$13 billion in loans secured against Twitter and a \$12.5 billion margin loan tied to his Tesla stock. He agreed to pay for the remainder of the consideration with his own cash.

Musk's pitch to the banks constituted his vision rather than firm commitments, the sources said, and the exact cost cuts he will pursue once he owns Twitter remain unclear. The plan he outlined to banks was thin on detail, the sources added. **REUTERS**

13 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹51,627



RUPEE

₹76.43/USD



OIL

\$103.51



SILVER

₹65,207

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of April 28

SENSEX: 57,060.87 ▼ 460.19 (0.80%) NIFTY: 17,102.55 ▼ 142.50 (0.83%) NIKKEI: 26,84790 ▲ 461.27 HANG SENG: 21,089.39 ▲ 813.22 FTSE: 7,530.03 ▲ 20.84 DAX: 14,086.42 ▲ 106.58

International market data till 1900 IST

AUTO WATCH
SMALL CARS

Weak sales in 'bread & butter' segment: Rising prices squeeze out entry-level buyers

PRANAVMUKUL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE SHRINKING market of entry-level hatchbacks, India's top selling car segment, in addition to a decline in two-wheeler sales over the last 3-4 years, points to severe distress in the segment of the economy that typically buys low-cost personal transport vehicles.

"The worrying part about the market this year has been the fact that we are now seeing that over the last three years that the market for lower end commuters who use two-wheelers or hatchbacks has been shrinking significantly. In 2018-19, about 15.5 lakh units of hatchbacks were sold. This year 11.5 lakh units were sold. This is over 25% decline in size of the market for hatchbacks, and this is a major part of the market in India," Maruti Suzuki Chairman RC Bhargava said during the company's earnings press conference Friday.

"This means that people who were buying lower-end cars are not being able to buy cars. In the two-wheeler segment also, in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, in all three years, there has been a double digit decline for two-wheelers," Bhargava added.

He pointed to "regulatory changes, taxes by state governments, increase in prices of commodities" as the reasons for increase in prices of the affordable vehicle segment. During financial year 2021-22, Maruti Suzuki, India's largest carmaker, hiked prices of its vehicles four times.

"...the prices of lower end of the market have increased... by such a figure, that lot of customers have dropped out of the market and they cannot afford personal transport. This is what the events of last three years

Maruti Suzuki profit soars 51%

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki Friday reported a 51.14 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,875.8 crore in Q4. **PTI**

have shown, and there seems no likelihood of the market reversing substantially in the near future," Bhargava said. But Maruti is not the only automobile company to witness a slump in entry-level segment. Several global automakers have changed their focus on sport-utility vehicles from hatchbacks and entry-level cars. Japanese carmaker Nissan has discontinued its Datsun brand of small cars in India. German Volkswagen has announced end of production for its Polo hatchback in India. "Small cars used to be our bread and butter," Bhargava said. "There's no butter in small cars anymore. We will have to change our strategy. People with limited income are getting squeezed out of the car market due to higher cost," he said. In the two-wheeler segment, which is an indicator of rural consumption, the slowdown is evident as well. As per data provided by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, two-wheeler dispatches fell to a 10-year low of 1.35 lakh units in FY22.

Releasing auto sales numbers earlier this month, SIAM president Kenichi Ayukawa said: "Despite some recovery from a low base, sales of all four segments are below even 2018-19 level. While some segments like commercial vehicles and SUVs are seeing improvement in demand, mass segments like two-wheelers and smaller cars are facing serious affordability issues".



Tata Motors Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran and Tata Motors passenger vehicles and Tata passenger electric mobility MD Shailesh Chandra at unveiling of Tata Avinya concept car. **PTI**

Core sector growth slows

New Delhi: Output growth of eight infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.3 per cent in March on fall in production of coal and crude oil, though for FY22, the core sectors saw 10.4 per cent expansion, official data showed Friday. The sectors are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity. **PTI**

BRIEFLY

DIPAM, LIC IPO

New Delhi: DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said Finance Ministry and Sebi will talk minimum public shareholding norm easing for LIC.

Wipro Q4 net

New Delhi: Wipro's consolidated profit in Q4FY22 rose 4% to ₹3,092.5 crore. **PTI**

Swiggy drone

New Delhi: Swiggy will conduct trials for drone delivery in Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru for its grocery platform Instamart. Drones will be used to replenish stocks between seller-run dark stores and from a store to a common customer point. **ENS**

PRICE STABILITY KEY FOR STRONG GROWTH, SAYS REPORT

Economy to take till 2035 to overcome Covid losses: RBI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 29

INDIA IS likely to take another 13 years to overcome the losses incurred due to the Covid pandemic that hit the country in March 2020, says a Reserve Bank of India report.

Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6 per cent for 2020-21, 8.9 per cent for 2021-22 and assuming growth rate of 7.2 per cent for 2022-23, and 7.5 per cent beyond that, India is expected to overcome COVID-19 losses in 2034-35, according to the RBI's Report on currency and Finance in 2021-22.

The central bank said the out-

'Wean away PSU banks from dependence on govt recap'

Mumbai: The RBI said PSU banks should not be dependent on the government for recapitalisation. In the medium term, it is necessary to wean away PSBs from their depend-

ence on government recapitalisation, this will be an important pre-condition to achieve greater privatisation of the sector, said the RBI's Report on currency and Finance. **ENS**

put losses for individual years have been worked out to Rs 19.1 lakh crore, Rs 17.1 lakh crore and Rs 16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively, it said. "The pandemic is not yet over," the RBI said. "In India, the restric-

tion levels are being dynamically calibrated at local levels in response to the evolving situation," the RBI said. With the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, the downward risks to global and domestic growth are getting accentuated

through surge in commodity prices and global supply chain disruptions, it said.

The supply constraints and longer delivery times pushed up shipping costs, commodity prices, thereby intensifying inflationary pressures and threatening the nascent economic recovery across the world. India too felt the pressure from the global supply chain disruptions with the supplier's delivery time falling to its lowest point of 29.5 in April 2020, the report said. It added price stability is a necessary precondition for strong and sustainable growth.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Actis to sell RE platform to Shell for \$1.5 bn

New Delhi: London-based Actis on Friday said it will sell Spring Energy to Shell Overseas Investments B.V. (Shell) for \$1.55 billion.

Spring Energy is a renewable energy platform set up in India in 2017 by Actis. In a statement, Actis said it will "sell renewables platform Spring Energy to Shell. Actis has agreed to sell... Spring Energy platforms (Spring) to Shell Overseas Investments B.V. (Shell) for \$1.55 billion." The transaction is expected to close later in 2022. **PTI**

FCA fall pulls forex reserves down \$3.271 bn to \$600.4 bn

Foreign exchange (forex) reserves fell by \$3.271 billion to \$600.423 billion in the week ended April 22, as per RBI data

Foreign currency assets (FCA) fell \$2.835 billion to \$533.933 billion

Gold reserves fell \$377 million to \$42.768 billion

Special drawing rights with IMF fell \$33 million to \$18.662 billion

India's reserve position with the IMF fell \$26 million to \$5.060 billion



India, EU to hold talks on FTA in June, set 2023-2024 target

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

INDIA AND the European Union are set to hold an initial round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement in June with the aim of concluding an FTA by late 2023 or early 2024, EU Ambassador to India and Bhutan, Ugo Astuto, said on Friday.

India had initiated negotiations for an FTA with the 27-country economic bloc in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues including intellectual property rights, duties on automobiles and spirits, and the movement of professionals. The two sides decided to resume negotiations in May last year.

Addressing a press conference, Astuto said that Indian and European officials had "set the parameters and a clear roadmap" for negotiations. He noted that both sides expected a deal to be struck before the Lok Sabha elections in

EXPLAINED
3rd largest trading partner

INDIA AND the EU are aiming to conclude an FTA by late 2023 or early 2024. This would be the most significant FTA for India as EU is its third largest trading partner after the US and China.

India and the EU parliamentary elections, which are both set to be held in 2024.

Earlier this week, President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen, visited India and held meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Ram Nath Kovind and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The two sides agreed to establish a trade and technology council which will allow India and the EU to address challenges in trade,

trusted technology and security, deepening cooperation in these fields. The US is the only other country which has a similar agreement with the EU.

India has been increasingly looking at international trade as a key engine of economic growth. Earlier this year, it concluded a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with the UAE and an interim trade deal with Australia. India is also in talks with Canada and the UK for FTAs. During his visit to India last week, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the two countries wanted to conclude negotiations for a trade agreement by October. India is currently pursuing an "early harvest" or interim trade agreement with Canada. Asked if India and the EU were considering an interim deal prior to the conclusion of a full FTA, Astuto said the two sides were only looking at a comprehensive trade deal.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

ONDC pilot launched

New Delhi: India on Friday launched the pilot phase of open network for digital commerce (ONDC), a UPI-type protocol, in five cities, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore, to democratise the e-commerce sector, help small retailers and reduce dominance of online giants.

"After UPI, another game changing idea to democratise commerce - ONDC soft launch today to select consumers, sellers and logistics providers. Get ready for a world of choice, convenience and transparency," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted.

Additional Secretary in the Department For Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Anil Agrawal, said the ONDC is a set of standards for voluntary adoption by sellers or logistics providers or payment gateways. As many as 80 firms are currently working with the ONDC and they are at different stages of integration. **PTI**

Make India chip hub: PM to industry

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
BENGALURU, APRIL 29

UNDERLINING THAT the country is investing heavily in skilling and training youth for the needs of the 21st century, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon the semiconductor industry to make India a key partner in global chip supply chains. He was addressing the inaugural session of Semicon India-2022 conference on Friday.

"A new world order is forming and we must seize this opportunity. We have worked hard over the last few years to create an environment that encourages growth. India has the appetite for

Vaishnaw: Need to update IT Act; no privacy concern in CERT-In guidelines

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
BENGALURU, APRIL 29

THE GOVERNMENT is working on a fresh set of amendments to the Information Technology Act, 2000 — the country's core legal framework that regulates entities on the internet such as social media platforms and e-commerce companies — and would come up with a consultation process "soon", Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw told *The Indian Express*.

Promulgated in 2000, the IT Act was developed to promote the IT industry, regulate e-commerce entities and prevent cybercrime. While over the years, certain sections of the Act have been updated, with the most recent one being changes to the social intermediary rules, the Act itself was last amended in 2008 to accommodate new developments in the IT space at the time.

However, the internet ecosystem has seen rapid changes since then and the current IT Act offers no regulatory framework for new age developments like artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, video streaming, and online gaming, among others.

Vaishnaw said, "We definitely need an updated version of the IT Act. Yes, we are working on a new version. It cannot be that same IT Act of 2000, a lot of things have changed. The world has changed. We are working on it and will come up with a consultation process soon."

He also explained why the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) recently came up with cybersecurity guidelines which, among other things, mandate that all cybersecurity incidents such as targeted scanning or probing of critical net-



ASHWINI VAISHNAW
Minister for Electronics & IT

works and systems, compromise of critical systems and information, unauthorised access of data and systems among others must be informed to it by the concerned companies within six hours of either being made aware of the incident or becoming aware itself.

"Cybersecurity is something which is continuously evolving. So we have issued very comprehensive guidelines from CERT-In. Ultimately, if there is a threat to you, the police and you would both have to work together," Vaishnaw said. "The basic concept (of the guidelines) is that the people who are actually running the infrastructure, should take all possible steps to make sure that things are in place and if there is any breach, immediately inform us so that we can take action."

The norms also require virtual private network providers to preserve a wide range of data on their customers for five years, which has raised privacy concerns. However, Vaishnaw said there was "nothing to worry about". "There is no privacy concern. Suppose, somebody takes a mask and shoots, wouldn't you ask them to remove that mask? It is like that," Vaishnaw said.

(The correspondent is in Bengaluru at the invite of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology)



PM Narendra Modi at Semicon India-2022. **PTI**

tech and risk-taking. We have put the odds in your favour as far as possible through a supportive policy environment. We have shown

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016483
Superintending Engineer (Material Management & Contract Wing)
Regd. Office: New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur-342003, Phone: (0291) 2742223, Fax: (0291) 2746539

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Short Term Tenders are invited for purchase of Substation Structure for Mounting of 11/0.4 KV Transformer on Double Pole (166.746KG) under TN-1807 (UBN JV2223GLOB00049), 1.4 m long M.S. Channel Bracket with Clamp TN-1808 (UBN JV2223GLOB00051) and 33/11 KV Sub-station Structure set (Rural) under TN-1809 (UBN JV2223GLOB00050). Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.jdvnl.com and also at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer (MM&C)
For Electricity Complaints Toll free No. 1800 180 6045

PUNE MAHANAGAR PARIVAHAN MAHAMANDAL LIMITED
Expression of Interest (EOI) for Implementing Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) Facility and Digital Advertising in PMPML Buses on PPP Basis

PMPML invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from prospective applicants for the above-mentioned project through E-tendering on www.mahatenders.gov.in. The EOI document will be available on the e-tender portal from **30 April 2022** onwards. Last date of submission of EOI is **08 May 2022** up to 1500 Hrs. Please refer to the uploaded EOI document for further details.

Sd/-
Adv. No.: Tel/01
Date : 28/04/2022
Joint Managing Director
PMPML

भारतीय कंटेनर लिमिटेड Container Corporation of India Ltd.
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING OPEN E-TENDER
CONCOR invites open e-tender in Two Packet System of tendering for the following work:-
Tender No. CON/EPI/A-III/COF-14845/Bal. work (terminated Contract)/ CIVIL & Track work/ Kadakola/2022-23

Name of Work: Balance work of terminated work of Earthwork (Cutting/Filling), Construction of CC Block Pavement, Approach Road, Culvert, P-way Track Work, Boundary Wall, Pre-Engineered Warehouses, Admin. Bldg., Canteen, and other Allied works i/c development of MMLP at KADAKOLA (Mysuru)

Estimated Cost: Rs. 5108.44 Lakhs (including GST)
Completion Period: 18 months
Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 27,04,200/-
Cost of Tender Document: NIL (Non-refundable)
Tender Processing Fee: Rs. 4,720/- (inclusive all taxes & duties through e-payment) (Non-refundable)

Date of sale of Tender (online): 30.04.2022 (from 15:00 hrs.) to 14.05.2022 (up to 17:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of submission of Tender: 16.05.2022 up to 17:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 18.05.2022 at 15:00 hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc, please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.co.in, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/CCL only. Further, Conendum/ Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/CCL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

Group General Manager (Engg.)/Area-III

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583
Kollam, Kerala, India. Phone: 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines), E-mail: contact@kmmml.com

TENDER NOTICE
Competitive Tenders are invited for the following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_488181_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
2	2022_KMML_487957_1	For the supply of 4100.00 MT of Sodium Silicate
3	2022_KMML_487191_1	For the supply of HT Power Cable

Chavara, 29.04.2022 Sd/-, DGM (Mts), For the Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silimanite

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WW)-II DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI
FLAT NO.-E1, TYPE-IV, STAFF QTRS. JHANDEWALAN, DELHI-110005
E-mail:- eeplantww.djb01@gmail.com/acewwp2@gmail.com

PRESS N.T. NO.04(2022-23)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money (Fresh)	Tender processing Fee (Fresh)	Publication date of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date & time for receipt of tender from e-procurement solution
1.	Refrubishment and renovation of bifurcation chamber and damaged/fragile condition of Raw Water Channel of 3rd 40 MGD Plant at Wazirabad WW. (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_221277_1)	3065051/-	61500/-	500/-	28.04.2022	10.05.2022

The more detail required above can be seen on website www.delhi.govtprocurement.com

Sd/- (ER. ABSAR AHMED) EX. ENGINEER(C) PLANT, WW C/o CE(WW)-II
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 71 (2022-23)
"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER(WW) THROUGH EE (E&M) HP-I DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
HAIDER PUR WATER WORKS, DELHI - 110085
Tel No. 011-27552446-47, Email ID: eeemhp1.djb@nic.in

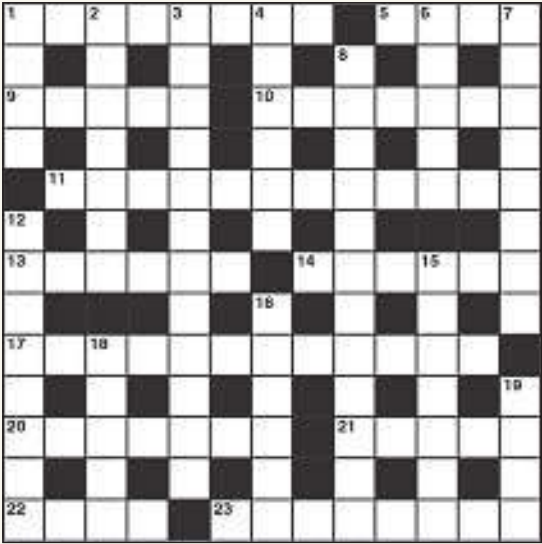
Press N.T.I. NO.1(2022-23)

S. No.	Name of work	Approximate value based on Schedule of rates/ Item rates/ lump Sum (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution.
1.	Renting out of existing DJB Sites for installations of Mobile Network Towers 98 Nos at Various WTP/ST/BPS/SPS and tube wells space of DJB. (Tender ID: 2022_DJB_221224_1)	Item Rate	Rs. 454 Lacs/-	1500/-	28.04.2022	19.05.2022

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

Sd/- (SUNIL KUMAR) EE (E&M) HP-I
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 70 (2022-23)
"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

CROSSWORD 4728



- ACROSS**

1 One rum is enough for a Frenchman (8)

5 Open a container (4)

9 Doctor has to die in agony, having no water left (5)

10 Comes from the revised version (7)

11 All alone, like Nelson (6-6)

13 An impressive month? (6)

14 Family tension (6)

17 Removed all the crooks? (12)

20 Decide to separate (7)

21 Benefit a few and suffer for it (5)

22 It has its ups and downs as a plaything (2-2)

23 Irresolution is a failing (8)
- DOWN**

1 Produced under pressure? (4)

2 Driving a point home? (7)

3 It's being idle that's hard to stomach (12)

4 Nude is out of pants perhaps (6)

6 Between Jan 1 and Dec 1 I've been dancing (5)

7 Not a visitor I'd outwardly object to (8)

8 Ruin the riverside as punters try to do (5,3,4)

12 Casual observer turned out to be a Serb spy (6-2)

15 Mean to declare a woman's secret (7)

16 Smile when you say that (6)

18 Get us included in a try-out when out of practice (5)

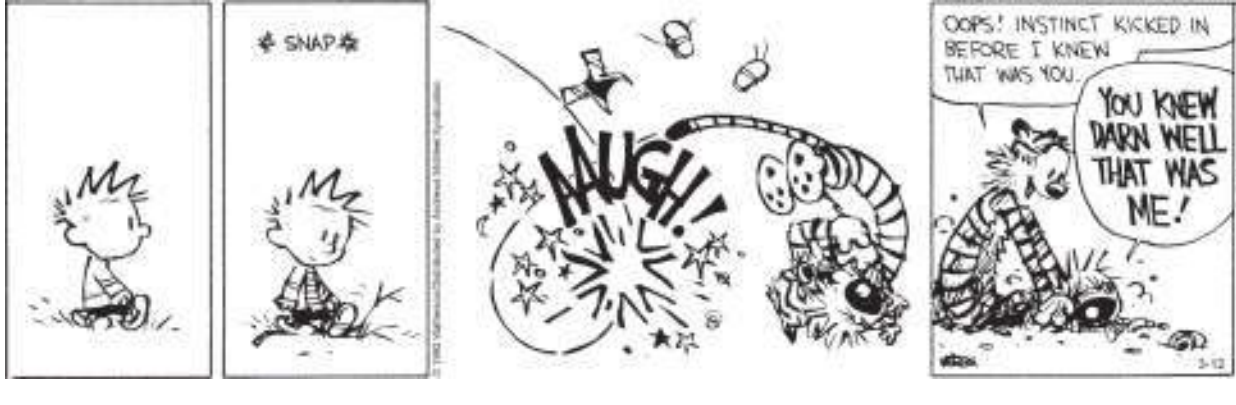
19 Some will suffer with misfortunes (4)

Solutions Crossword 4727: Across: 1 Adulthood, 8 Amuse, 9 Elevens, 10 Swathe, 11 Victor, 12 Eminence, 15 Contests, 18 Treble, 20 Loaded, 21 Enlarge, 22 Sweet, 23 Scientist. Down: 2 Delhi, 3 Levity, 4 Huntress, 5 Darwin, 6 Cutting, 7 Defiance, 11 Voiceless, 13 Instance, 14 Enrages, 16 Erects, 17 Repeat, 19 Lagos.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED 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.

SVAEE

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

IPRYLT

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

ABSRS

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

ANRSLY

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

SOLUTION: EAVES, BRASS, TRIPLE, SNAKELY. Answer: EAVES, BRASS, TRIPLE, SNAKELY. Quip: It's how one behaves in a crisis. — Frank Auerbach (4,5)

SUDOKU 4820

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4819



OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

File No. B-IV-H (H&D) 21/22 Ltr No. 16612 Dt. 26th Apr 2022

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE(B) - 02/2022-23

Name of the work: Engagement of Programme Management consultant for various Health infrastructure projects in Odisha.

1. "Last dt. of Submission of hardcopy" may be read as "Last dt. of online submission"

2. The Critical Dates have been modified as follows.

Description of Activity	Schedule Date	Extended Date
Availability of Bid Document in the website	From dt. 26.04.2022	From dt. 04.05.2022
Deadline for Submission of Pre-Proposal / Pre-Bid Queries	Dt. 07.05.2022 up to 11.00 AM	Dt. 13.05.2022
Issue of pre-proposal clarifications	Nil	Dt. 18.05.2022
Last dt. of Submission of hardcopy	Dt. 17.05.2022 up to 5.30 PM	Nil
Last dt. of online submission	Nil	Dt. 26.05.2022 up to 5.30 PM
Date of Opening of Bid	Dt. 18.05.2022 up to 11:30 AM.	Dt. 27.05.2022 at 11:30 AM

3. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha
OIPR-34117/11/0010/2223

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (P)-8,
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER BODIES-II
3rd FLOOR, VARUNALAYA PH-I, NEW DELHI- 110005
Email: eewb2djb@gmail.com
NIT NO. 03/EE(WB)-II(2022-23)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1	Providing laying & jointing 700 mm dia treated effluent rising main from 900 mm dia twin rising main Sewana PPL to Harewali Minor along Western Yamuna Canal.	Rs. 11,24,18,513/-	Rs. 21,25,000/-	Rs. 1,500/-	29.04.2022 2022_DJB_221352_1	20.05.2022 at 3.05 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 72(2022-23)
Sd/- Rakesh Kumar
EE(WB)-II

"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HIMACHAL PRADESH
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

O/o Deputy Director of Agriculture, Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P.
Telephone No. 01894230528 e-mail: ddakangra@gmail.com

On line bids on item rate basis are invited by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with HPPWD, HP Jal Shakti Vibhag, HP Housing Board, HPTDC etc

Name of Work:- Construction of Farmer Advisory cum Training Centre at Nagrota Bagwan Tehsil Nagrota Bagwan, Distt. Kangra, H.P.

Amount put to the tender: - Rs. 3455706/-

EMD: - Rs. 86400/-

Time of Completion: - One year.

Cost of Form:- Rs. 3500/- (Non Refundable)

1. Tender document and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in> by the firms /individual registered on the website, which is free of cost.

2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

3. **Key dates:-**

1. Date of Online Publication	05-05-2022, 05:00 PM
2. Download of e-tender Document	From 05-05-2022 05:00 PM up to 05:00 PM 21-05-2022
3. Bid submission start date and End	From 05-05-2022 05:00 PM up to 05:00 PM of 21-05-2022
4. Physical submission of Earnest Money Deposit and cost of tender document.	23-05-2022 Up to 05:00 PM
5. Date of opening of Bid	24-05-2022 at 11:30 AM

4. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in two covers:-
i) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of all Technical documents/eligibility information
ii) Cover-2 shall contain BOQ/Financial Bid where contractor will quote his offer for each item on the pre-scribed form.

a) Cover-1 shall contained scanned copies of following eligibility information" (**Scanned copies to be uploaded**)

- Earnest Money in shape of NSG/saving account on any of the Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh/Time Deposit Receipt of any nationalized bank, demand draft duly pledged in the name of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P. (By designation) OR Certificate of exemption of Earnest Money Deposit.
- Cost of tender form in shape of demand draft of Rs 3500/- only.
- Certificate of Registration HPPWD, HP Jal Shakti Vibhag etc. in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.
- Income tax & GST registration and latest clearance certificate thereof.
- A scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in form PWD 6& 8 as well as special terms and conditions appended along with schedule of quantity and NIT before quoting the rates in the BOQ chart and that I have Visited the site of work before quoting the rates.
- Certificate regarding successfully completion of - 3 works of each value of 25 % of 'amount put to tender' or 2 works of each value of 40 % of 'amount put to tender' or 1 work of value of 75 % of 'amount put to tender' or 1.5 times aggregate value in last 5 years 'amount put to tender'.
- PAN No details and EPF details.

b) Cover-2 shall contain BOQ where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5) Other conditions

- The tenders of contractor/firms who fail to fulfill the eligibility information will be summarily rejected.
- The contractor will submit the original document in respect of Earnest Money and cost of tender form in the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Palampur on or before 23.05.2022 up to 5PM.
- The negotiation/clarification, if any will be taken from successful contractor only in respect of error and omission, technical aspects and in case on financial bid.
- Taxes as applicable and security amount will be deducted from the bills as per government notifications.
- Earnest money of L1 and L2 may be retained for a period of 120 days
- The representative of the contractor/firm should inspect the site himself and make conversant with the site conditions
- If the tender opening days is a holiday, then the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time and venue
- The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.
- Cement shall be issued from the departmental store at Narwana Tehsil & Distt. Kangra H.P. @ Rs. 379/- per bag.
- In case of failure of supply/net connectivity problem, the tender shall be downloaded on the restoration of same.
- The tender opening committee reserve the right to cancel or reject any tender or tenders without assigning any reason.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN
0636/HP

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Department of Health Research
Government of India

Call for applications/nominations for the post of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)- cum-Secretary, Department of Health Research

Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India invites applications for the above post from Indian Medical Scientists with proven track record of medical/biological Health research and its administration.

2. The Department of Health Research (DHR) is a Department under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Different activities of DHR include promotion and coordination of basic, applied and clinical research including clinical trials and operational research through development of infrastructure, man power and skills in cutting edge areas of management of research. It also addresses ethical issues in medical and health research along with inter sectoral coordination and promotion of public-private partnership as well as training in research and international cooperation in areas related to international health. Investigation of outbreaks and development of tools for their prevention is also an important activity of DHR. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organisaiothn under DHR, promotes and supports intramural and extramural research activities in the fields of communicable and non-communicable diseases and basic medical sciences. ICMR has 27 institutes located in different parts of India.

The requirements of the post are as follows:

- Essential Qualifications:** MBBS, MD or equivalent from a recognised University and approved by Medical Council of India/National Medical Commission, with more than 15 years of research/ academic/ clinical experience with outstanding scientific achievement and temperament in above fields.
- Desirable Qualifications:** (i) Experience of heading a medical research institute of repute and should have demonstrated managerial/ administrative capability to plan, guide and implement the vast, varied and multifaceted activities in the area of medical research; (ii) Proven record of Medical/ Bio-medical Health Research as published in prestigious national and international journals; (iii) Involvement in multicentric/ technological research work involving handing of large projects in medical research; and (iv) Experience in regulatory issues and International collaborations.
- Last date for receiving applications:** Within 21 days of the date of publication of the advertisement.
- Address for receiving applications:** Candidates may address the application on plain paper giving detailed C.V. at the following address:
Smt. Geeta Narayan, Joint Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, IInd Floor, Indian Red Cross Society building, Red Cross Road, New Delhi- 110001.
Application can also be sent at the email id:- geetan@nic.in
- Pay and Emoluments:** Level -17 (Rs. 2,25,000/- fixed) + NPA & other allowances as admissible.

davp 17301/11/0004/2223

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It now seems that you will want to procrastinate and deliberate for a little longer before taking the plunge. Even if you do make a sudden decision this may be revised after additional factors enter the equation. As circumstances change so your mood will alter, and that creates difficulty in making final plans.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

These are hectic days for matters of an intimately personal nature and for those involving partnership and matrimonial affairs. For the best results, combine your romantic desires with a sense of what is truly possible and realistic, otherwise you'll be off in a fantasy-never-never land.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Even though you are entering a phase when work and routine chores will be consuming yet more of your time, there is no indication that this is going to be unpleasant. On the contrary, much of your future contentment will derive from good, solid, honest, hard work.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You shouldn't expect anyone to mean what they say. The reason is not any intention to mislead, rather a genuine confusion as to the real significance or nature of anything that happens, however trivial. Even minor developments can have major consequences, as acorns give birth to mighty oaks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Life is an expensive business and it is no use trying to cut corners. Every penny you try to save now will cost you a pound when the time for the great reckoning arrives. It's best to be realistic, especially as, believe it or not, other people are relying on you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It is from times of great astrological turbulence that all human advance results. Therefore, as far as you are concerned, current emotional strains may be thoroughly enjoyable if you are genuinely prepared to let go of the past. But if you hang on too hard, you may lose out.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Every action has its cost, and you must pay for commitments which may be irrelevant to the current state of your life. You may settle all debts and call in any money owing to you. The sooner the decks are cleared, the more easily you'll be able to tackle emotional questions.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Quite extraordinary and totally unexpected developments on the work front around now can, and will, make you feel that you did right to stand up for your own ideas and risk a break with established procedure. Come to think of it, a change could be as good as a very comfortable rest.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Life has been so exciting for most of you that I very much doubt whether you have had cause to complain about a lack of attention or enjoyment. Some of you, on the other hand, have yet to hit the jackpot. When you do, it will be all the better for having waited.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It now looks as if you cannot afford to make any more false moves. The general confusion in the air is too widespread for you to add to it by being uncertain about your own direction and motives. Try to work out what you want and do stop dithering.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

In many respects you fare better than most at the moment because you're so well fitted to deal with periods of general emotional upheaval. You, and only you, understand what is truly shaping people's affections. That's partly what makes you such a very special person.

World Skill Center
Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751007
Website: www.skillsindia.gov.in
E-mail: tenders@worldskillcenter.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ARCHITECTURE

Sealed quotation are invited from renowned architects for construction of hostel and other facilities in Bhubaneswar, for WSC. Details regarding eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and the formats for submission of tender can be downloaded from the website www.skillsindia.gov.in. Interested bidders shall submit the bids complete in all respects in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, First Floor, World Skill Center, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751007.

Last date & Time for Submission of RFP	3.00 PM of 20 th May, 2022
Date & Time of Opening of Bids	4.00 PM of 20 th May, 2022
Contact Number	0674-2580079

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
OIPR- 14083/11/0008/2223

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Jangpith, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN: U40102OR2005GC007583

TENDER ALERT

1) E-Tender Notice No.CPC-44/2021-22: (Lot-I)- Supply, laying, termination & erection of 33kV XLPE, 630 mm² Copper cable and accessories including civil works for interconnection of 20MVA, 132/33kV Transformer bays at 2x20 MVA Grid S/S, Chandipur. (Lot-II)- Supply, laying, termination & erection of 33kV XLPE, 1000 mm² Copper cable and accessories including civil works for interconnection of 40MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformer with 33kV transformer bays at 220/132/33kV Grid S/S, Dhamara at Balimunda. Complete set of bidding documents are available on www.tendervizard.com/OPTCL portal and OPTCL's official website: www.optcl.co.in.

HIPR-05/2022-23 CIPR- 0401/11/0017/2223

UPSIDA
U.P. State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDC Complex, A-1/4, Lakhanpur, Kanpur-208024

Notice for Public Objection / Suggestion on Amendment / Revised Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Babrala, District - Sambhal.

1 (a) The Amendment / Eevised Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Babrala, including creation of a **new Plot No. A-1/4M (Measuring-137096.0 Sq.m.) and revision in Plot no.- A-1/1, A-1/2, A-1/3, A-1/5, A-1/6, park and facility of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)** situated in District Sambhal has been prepared.

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

2. Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect to the Amendment / Revised Part Layout.

3. Objections and suggestions are shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager UPSIDA at Bareilly within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as **"Regarding Public Objection / Suggestion on Amendment / Revised Part Layout Plan for Babrala, District - Sambhal**. Any person making the Objections or Suggestions should also give his / her full name & address, Email id and contact number.

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

BRIEFLY

Pujara scores third century for Sussex

Hove: Senior India batter Cheteshwar Pujara continued his stellar show in the English County Championship, scoring his third century in as many games for Sussex here on Friday. Pujara, who was batting on 107 off 167 balls, hit 13 fours to help his side take a substantial lead against Durham, who were all out on 223 in their first innings. The out-of-favour India batter, who is in sparkling form, is making most of his county stint. He now has scored three hundreds including a double century in his five innings. Making his debut for Sussex, Pujara had scored 6 and an unbeaten 201 to help his side draw the match against Derbyshire. In the Sussex's 34-run loss to Worcestershire, he scored 109 in the first innings, followed by 12 in the second essay. **PTI**

Three-way lead at Asiad golf trials

Bengaluru: Rashid Khan hit sizzling form at the right time to card a 6-under 66 and join Viraj Madappa (69) and Karandeep Kochhar (67) in the lead at the Asian Games golf trials here. The golfers have now played four rounds with one more to go. The trio of Khan, Madappa and Kochhar is at 14-under. Yuvraj Sandhu got back into the reckoning with a 66 on the fourth day. In the women's section, Avani Prashanth (74-64-69-70) trails Jahnavi Bakshi (69-69-69-69) by one shot in the four-round aggregate, the opening set. **PTI**

Bengal beat Manipur, to meet Kerala in final

Mallapuram: Football powerhouse Bengal outplayed a lacklustre Manipur 3-0 to storm into the Santosh Trophy final for the 46th time, here on Friday. Before the Manipuri outfit could blink, the record 32-time champions slammed in two goals via Sujit Singh (2'), Mohammed Fardin Ali Molla (7') to give them a 2-0 lead at the break. Dilip Orawn (74') completed the tally for Bengal with a peach of a strike to set up a summit clash against hosts Kerala here on May 2. The last time Bengal advanced into the final was in the 2017-19 season when they lost to Kerala on penalties at their home venue of Salt Lake Stadium. On Thursday, Kerala beat Karnataka 7-3 and storm into the final. **PTI**

Six-team T20 league in South Africa

Johannesburg: Cricket South Africa on Friday announced a new six-team franchise based T20 league, to be played in January next year. The league is set to comprise six privately owned franchises playing each other in a double round before the top three sides move to the play-off stages. Thirty-three matches will be played over three to four weeks. Four international players to feature in the playing XIs of each team. **PTI**

Sindhu scripts drama, semis spot

Beats Chinese Bingjiao in thriller to reach last four of Badminton Asian Championship; is assured of medal

SHIVANI NAIK
APRIL 29

IT WILL always escape the dour medal-counters of Indian sport - those who get hung up on suffixes to attach to PV Sindhu — just how precious her value is, to sport's biggest metric: capturing eyeballs on a day-to-day basis. Capturing and holding them steady in the now, in the present.

Sindhu was born for television. Her game, the contests that reach the critical mass of excitement before exploding into fireworks and how an opponent gets snared into a duel entirely of her making, is the stuff of sporting spectacle that Olympic sports crave, in between Games years.

Badminton, with its widely whimsical broadcast schedules, where fans across the world are scrambling for livestreams of early rounds, lucks out when top players hit the tube. In her 10th year since her first major medal - the bronze at the 2013 World Championships, what's remained unchanged is Sindhu's ability to add a zing of natural theatrics to every contest, making her amongst the most prominent of pivots, the most happening gig at any tournament.

The inflection-point in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asian Championship in Manila - which Sindhu edged 21-9, 13-21, 21-19 - came at 16-14 in the decider against Chinese left-hander He Bingjiao. There is a whiff of controversy about whether it was actually 16-15, as the Chinese who was trailing, claimed. But the lead-up to that point was no less dramatic.

First the primer: the shuttles in Manila are literally shooting from one side of the court owing to the drift, which makes controlling them very difficult.

Sindhu was on the more manageable side in the opener and took it 21-9. Bingjiao broke away at 10-10 in the second from the better side, and raced to take the next 21-13. Evenstevens, aka Sindhu territory, the decider.

Dramatic decider

Carrying a clear plan of keeping a chunky cushioning lead while on the good side, Sindhu reached 11-5 in the third at the change of ends. She was 11-2 at one point. Against the Chinese whom she thumped in the Tokyo Olympics for a bronze after missing out on a gold medal-final, Sindhu looked set to win Match-22. Then came the catch.

The chair umpire had been kept busy by the duo with challenges as the shuttle struggled along the tramlines like a tipsy trundler at 3-2 early in the game.

In courtcraft, Sindhu's round-the-head reverse-angled dippers were fetching her points, even as the smash tested Bingjiao's body defence. The Chinese smashed one capriciously into the net and her lifts sailed out as Sindhu reached 16-9, well on course for the semis.

To be sure, this was a mediocre quality shot-making match, with errors hogging the bragging rights to points.

Realising she needed to curb Sindhu's flow, Bingjiao went for the forecourt low dips at the net to make Sindhu bend on the left and open up the right half of the court. Improvisations on this took the Chinese to



Sindhu will face top seeded Japanese Akane Yamaguchi in the semifinals. **PTI**

The inflection-point in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asian Championship in Manila — which Sindhu edged 21-9, 13-21, 21-19 - came at 16-14 in the decider against Chinese left-hander He Bingjiao. There is a whiff of controversy about whether it was actually 16-15, as the Chinese who was trailing, claimed. But the lead-up to that point was no less dramatic.

16-13. Sindhu's early lead was being chipped into, and it has happened often that opponents run away with momentum from here. Sindhu parked the bus.

Then something bizarre happened. It was at the end of a 13-shot rally that Bingjiao's floating return landed on the sideline, bringing her to two points within Sindhu's score. The challenge was more of a water-sipper break than anything with conviction because the shuttle dropped within inches of her. The review went in the Chinese player's favour.

At the start of that rally, the score on the adjacent court with another women's singles quarterfinal was 4-1.

On Sindhu's court, calling for the review

and then the resolution of the Hawkeye and then summoning of players saw a variety of scorelines flashing on the board. 16-14, 16-15, 16-13, 17-14, the confusion went on for long enough as the announced score and the screen scores were revised with two outside officials walking onto the court to resolve the muddle.

While the chair umpire was reeling off the score some moments later, both players took turns to declare their versions of the score to her.

The Chinese claimed it was 16-15 and seemed to be under the impression that a short point was played out after the review. Sindhu insisted it was 16-14 - something the umpire finally went with.

By this time, the other quarterfinal had moved to 14-4 from 4-1, and Bingjiao did indeed take the next point with a cross net interception that Sindhu dumped into the net.

Suddenly, it was a 1-point game after Bingjiao's flurry of six straight points, after a not-so-straight panning out of events. What followed was errors galore from both players who were a tad shaken by l'affaire score-board. Still Sindhu showed all kinds of stubbornness at the net to take it to 20-17 and three match points.

Three times in the match, Bingjiao was left crawling on all fours trying to reach the shuttle, as Sindhu's drops stumped her.

A 24-shot rally followed, and the shuttle demanded to hog attention brushing the very top of the tape, threatening to tumble over, but falling to the same side cheekily to bring the Chinese to 20-18. Another Sindhu error brought it to 20-19 before the Chinese found a flinging lift limp off the net and an emotional hyper-charged Sindhu fell to the floor in relief. There's still a semifinal to fight against Akane Yamaguchi on Saturday. But one wouldn't be blamed for thinking Friday was the blockbuster final.

Bowlers deliver as Lucknow edge out Punjab

SYNOPSIS: Krunal stars, as bowlers offset Lucknow Super Giants middle-overs muddle

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
APRIL 30

At 92/5, it fell on ginger-haired Bradford boy Jonny Bairstow to take his team, Punjab Kings, over the line. Lucknow Super Giants had scored 153/8, but the pitch was a bit tacky and their bowlers, especially Krunal Pandya and Dushmantha Chameera, stood up to be counted. Both teams dished out pretty average batting performances, refusing to grab the game by the lapels. Bairstow was Punjab's last hope but he flattered to deceive, as his team limped to 133/8 to lose by 20 runs. As their captain Mayank Agarwal said, "too many soft dismissals" derailed their chase.

Krunal stars

Liam Livingstone's wicket was the turning point of the game. Lucknow had employed the spin-choke, through Ravi Bishnoi and Krunal, but Livingstone took the attack to the former and broke the shackles with an 18-run over. Then, he became a prisoner of his overconfidence. Shuffling across to a Mohsin Khan delivery and attempting a cheeky flick cost him his wicket.

As Punjab faltered in their chase, Krunal was the real star for Lucknow. His miserly bowling built pressure, apart from accounting for Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Jitesh Sharma. The impressive Mohsin was Lucknow's most successful bowler with 3/24. But the medium pacer benefited from the pressure created by Krunal's 2/11 in his four overs. Chameera (2/17), too, was excellent. Together, they offset their side's middle-overs muddle.

"I thought we didn't quite have the total we wanted to, but the guys bowled really



Mohsin Khan, 23, starred with the ball for LSG, taking three wickets. **Sportspics** for IPL

well and somehow our bowlers got it done for us tonight. We have to thank them," wicketkeeper-opener Quinton de Kock nailed it at the post-match presentation.

Middle-overs muddle

In the end, De Kock's 37-ball 46 proved to be immensely vital. In fact, he was the top scorer in this game. This hasn't been a very productive IPL for de Kock, bar a couple of fifties. It takes time for any player to settle down in a new franchise. On Friday, he looked determined to take his knock deep, until a Sandeep Sharma delivery kissed the outside edge and the left-hander walked despite the on-field umpire negating the caught-behind appeal. Such sportsmanship is at a premium in modern-day cricket and de Kock set a fine example.

The IPL has entered mid-season and the pitches are getting tired and sluggish, especially in this extreme heat. It's no longer a

200-plus game and partnership batting is gaining importance. Lucknow's batting is a bit top-heavy, a tad over-reliant on their two openers. De Kock, a couple of reprieves notwithstanding, was building a partnership with Deepak Hooda, playing smart cricket and picking the right deliveries to hit. The two added 85 runs for the second wicket, but once de Kock was out, his team was caught in a middle-overs muddle.

Hooda was run out at the non-striker's end by a superb throw from Bairstow. Krunal holed out to long-on, trying to hoick Rabada, when common sense batting was the need of the hour. Ayush Badoni played an even poorer shot in the same over and fell prey to an excellent catch from Livingstone. Going ahead, the youngster will learn that a whipflick is a low-percentage shot against a bowler of Rabada's quality, and more so for a batsman of Badoni's height. Suddenly, from 98/1 in the 13th over, Lucknow slipped to

IPL TABLE						
TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR	
GT	8	7	1	14	0.371	
RR	8	6	2	12	0.561	
LSG	9	6	3	12	0.408	
SRH	8	5	3	10	0.600	
RCB	9	5	4	10	-0.572	
DC	8	4	4	8	0.695	
PK	9	4	5	8	-0.470	
KKR	9	3	6	6	-0.006	
CSK	8	2	6	4	-0.538	
MI	8	0	8	0	-1.000	

109/5 at the end of 15th. It quickly became 111/6 following Marcus Stoinis' dismissal - caught and bowled Rahul Chahar.

Lucknow were playing an extra bowler in this game, Avesh Khan coming in for Manish Pandey. At the toss, KL Rahul rued Jason Holder's lack of batting time and hoped that at No. 7, the all-rounder would have some opportunity to make an impact. Of course, the Lucknow skipper didn't foresee a collapse that would have Holder as the last recognised batsman standing when the death overs arrived. The latter hit a towering six off Chahar but was taken at deep cover next ball. Chameera swung for fun and hit two consecutive sixes against Rabada. But he played one big shot too many and became the fast bowler's fourth victim; 4/38. Still, those lower-order runs turned out to be hugely important for Lucknow.

BRIEF SCORES: Lucknow Super Kings: 153 for 8 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 46, Deepak Hooda 34; Kagiso Rabada 4/38) beat **Punjab Kings** 133 for 8 in 20 overs (Jonny Bairstow 32, Mayank Agarwal 25; Mohsin Khan 3/24, Krunal Pandya 2/11, Dushmantha Chameera 2/17)

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

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

Bishnoi smiles and Bishnoi winces

Ravi Bishnoi, whose run-up gives the air of a boy running away, clutching a stolen mango from the grove, winced when he realised he had over-stepped and had to bowl a free hit ball to the big-hitter Liam Livingstone. It was perfect way for Livingstone, who was set to get off the mark, to have a free swing without any second thoughts.

Instead, Bishnoi served a 109.1 pacy skidder that burst through to crash into the stumps even before Livingstone could get his bat down. But Livingstone would have his payback next over, when he skimmed down the track to blast the ball for successive sixes over long-off and long-on. Bishnoi's wince returned. Until that over, Bishnoi, who had an average outings in the last three games, was looking good. In his first over, he bowled a full one that straightened on the middle stump to beat Shikhar Dhawan's slog sweep. He fell in love with the art of legspin after watching Shane Warne and has said that he would like to produce a big leg break akin to Warne's ball of century that got Mike Gatting. For that though, he might well have to change his action; as things stand he is mainly a googly bowler who gets the ball to straighten on occasions.



Sharma does what he does best

The name of the franchise may change and teammates yet Sandeep Sharma seems to be a permanent feature of the Punjab franchise. His role also seldom changes - bowling most of his overs upfront when his predominantly inswing offerings are often difficult to negotiate. But when the ball loses its shine, his lack of express pace makes him vulnerable against the long handle.

Friday was also going to script. Sharma bowled the second, fourth and seventh overs as KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock and Deepak Hooda found him tough to line up, the ball beating the edge on several occasions. The three overs went for just eight runs, but Sharma has often seen initial good work spoil in the later overs. When he was brought back in the 13th over, something similar was expected with Hooda and De Kock set at the crease. With the first three balls going for nine runs - more than what Sharma had conceded in his first three overs - there would have been a sense of déjà vu. But then De Kock feathered an edge to Jitesh Sharma behind the stumps and walked. Final figures of 1/18 are nothing to be scoffed at, especially when the wicket precipitated a collapse that reduced Lucknow Super Giants to 111/6 from 98/1.



Becker gets jail time for bankruptcy offences

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, APRIL 29

TENNIS GREAT Boris Becker was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison on Friday for illicitly transferring large amounts of money and hiding assets after he was declared bankrupt. The three-time Wimbledon champion was convicted earlier this month on four charges under the Insolvency Act and had faced a maximum sentence of seven years in prison. Judge Deborah Taylor announced the sentence after hearing arguments from both the prosecutor and Becker's attorney. The 54-year-old German was

found to have transferred hundreds of thousands of pounds (dollars) after his June 2017 bankruptcy from his business account to other accounts, including those of his ex-wife Barbara and estranged wife Sharley "Lilly" Becker. Becker was also convicted of failing to declare a property in Germany and hiding an 825,000 euro (USD 871,000) bank loan and shares in a tech firm. The jury at Southwark Crown Court in London acquitted him on 20 other counts, including charges that he failed to hand over his many awards, including two Wimbledon trophies and an Olympic gold medal. Becker, wearing a striped tie in



Boris Becker and his partner Lilian at Southwark Crown Court in London. AP

Wimbledon's purple and green colors, walked into the courthouse hand in hand with girl-

friend Lilian de Carvalho Monteiro. The six-time Grand Slam champion has denied all the charges, saying he had cooperated with trustees tasked with securing his assets — even offering up his wedding ring — and had acted on expert advice. At Friday's sentencing hearing, prosecutor Rebecca Chalkey said Becker had acted "deliberately and dishonestly" and that he was "still seeking to blame others." Defense attorney Jonathan Laidlaw argued for leniency, saying his client hadn't spent money on a "lavish lifestyle" but rather on child support, rent and legal and business expenses. Becker, he told the court, has experi-

enced "public humiliation" and has no future earnings potential. Becker's bankruptcy stemmed from a 4.6 million euro (USD 5 million) loan from a private bank in 2013, as well as about USD 1.6 million borrowed from a British businessman the year after, according to testimony at the trial. During the trial Becker, said his USD 50 million career earnings had been swallowed up by payments for an "expensive divorce" and debts when he lost large chunks of his income after retirement. Becker rose to stardom in 1985 at the age of 17 when he became the first unseeded player to win the Wimbledon singles title and later rose to the No. 1 ranking.

Azarenka finds no sense in Wimbledon ban

REUTERS
MADRID, APRIL 29

BELARUS' VICTORIA Azarenka said the Wimbledon ban on players from Russia and her country makes no sense and the former world number one

called on the tennis governing bodies to take action against the decision.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), which hosts the grass court Grand Slam, took the decision in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the stand was swiftly condemned

by the men's and women's tours. read more "If you are asking me if I agree with Wimbledon or I see their reasoning after being on a personal call with them, I don't see their reasoning," Azarenka told reporters in Madrid on Thursday.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & TAXES

HUMAN RESOURCE BRANCH: ROOM NO. 315

3RD FLOOR, VYAPAR BHAWAN: NEW DELHI-110002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR HIRING OF TWO CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY FIRMS FOR ENGAGING 20 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Department of Trade and Taxes (DT&T) invites E-tender for engaging 2 (two) Chartered Accountancy Firms for engaging 20 Chartered Accountants. The tender is to be submitted Online in a two bid system consisting of three stages of Pre-Qualification Technical and Commercial Bid on the Govt. of NCT of Delhi e-procurement Portal at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. The tender document is also uploaded on Department's portal at <https://dvat.gov.in/>. The last date of submission of Bidding is 11.05.2022 (06.00PM).

The critical date sheet is as under:-

S. No.	Description of Activities	Date	Time
1.	Release of RFP on Govt. Procurement portal and Deptt. Website	11.04.2022	03.00PM
2.	Last date of Submission of Bids	11.05.2022	06.00PM
3.	Date & time for opening of Pre-Qualification Bid Cover	12.05.2022	12 Noon
4.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bids	17.05.2022	12 Noon
5.	Date of opening of Commercial Bids	23.05.2022	12 Noon

Note:-

1. If any due date happens to be a holiday then the next working day will be the due date at the same time.
2. Please note that the Pre-Bid. Meeting was conducted on 21.04.2022 and the replies to Pre-Bid queries have been uploaded on Deptt. Website.

Sd/-

Assistant Commissioner (HR)

Department of Trade and Taxes, Delhi

DIP/SHABDARTH/0064/22-23

Ronaldo salvages 1-1 draw for Man United

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER, APRIL 29

CRISTIANO RONALDO'S fifth goal in three games salvaged a point for Manchester United in a 1-1 draw against Chelsea that further damaged his team's chances of a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Ronaldo ran onto a ball over the Chelsea defense from Nemanja Matic and delivered a clinical finish in the 62nd minute, two minutes after Marcos Alonso gave the visitors the lead.

Reece James later curled a shot against the post for Chelsea, which dominated the first half but found United goalkeeper David de Gea in fine form. With only three games left to play in the league, United stayed in sixth place — five points behind fourth-place Arsenal and having played two matches more than its rival for Champions League qualification. Tottenham is between the two teams, in the fifth spot, with three more points than United and two games in hand. Chelsea consolidated third place and is six points above Arsenal. Ronaldo came into the game having scored a hat trick against Norwich and another goal against Arsenal in his previous two games. On 17

goals, Ronaldo is tied with Son Heung-min in second place in the Premier League scoring chart behind Mohamed Salah. "Not only the goal Cristiano scored but his whole performance, his attitude at age of 37, this is not normal to do that," interim United manager Ralf Rangnick said. "If he plays like he did today he can still be a big help to this team." The buildup was dominated by reports that Rangnick was considering taking over as Austria's national team coach as well as more protests against the Glazer family's ownership. Some protesters entered Old Trafford in the 17th minute, having missed a minute for each of the Glazers' 17 years in charge.

"Glazers out" read a banner above the tunnel before kickoff at Old Trafford, where a mixture of De Gea's saves and poor-decision making meant Chelsea failed to turn their 11 shots into a deserved halftime lead. Thomas Tuchel's team finally broke the deadlock when Alonso volleyed home following Kai Havertz's flick-on but Chelsea was unable to build on that. United defender Victor Lindelof saw a stoppage-time header denied and the highlight of the closing stages was the introduction of 17-year-old talent Alejandro Garnacho for his United debut.



HSIIDC invites online applications for allotment of

Industrial Plot(s) at IMT Rohtak

under 'Mega Project Category' (including Road Capital Investment i.e. investment in land, building, machinery & etc. Field area of Rs. 200 crore and above)



Opening Date for submission of applications
29th April 2022

Closing Date for submission of applications
13th May 2022

10% rebate on lumpsum payment of plot cost within 45 days of issuance of Regular Letter of Allotment.


Industrial Estate	Tentative Plot Size (Plot size category)	Allotment Rate/ Reserve Price# (Rs. per sqm) (Tentative)
IMT Rohtak	40,500 SQM (10 acre)	12,600/-
IMT Rohtak	18,300 SQM (5 acre)	12,600/-


Tentative rate of allotment for FY 2022-23. Exact rate to be indicated at the time of prior to e-Auction/allotment.

■ The applications shall be filed online on e-sewa portal of the Corporation www.hsiidcesewa.org.in through Single Window Portal of the State Government www.investharyana.in, alongwith 10% application money, applicable processing fee and requisite documents. ■ Applications/allotments shall be governed as per norms of Haryana Enterprises & Employment Policy-2020 and Estate Management Procedures (EMPP)-2015 of HSIIDC. ■ Plots will be allotted through auction. Number of plots, list of plot(s) as well as the schedule of auction shall be displayed in advance before start of e-Auction or manual auction/open auction at www.hsiidc.org.in. ■ e-Auctions would take place on <http://hsiidc.bids.in>, prior to which, the applicants who have filed their applications on www.hsiidcesewa.org.in, would be required to register at <http://hsiidc.bids.in> alongwith EMD of Rs. 100/-. ■ The applicants who submit 10% application money, applicable processing fee, requisite documents and qualify as per investment norms etc., would be advised to register at e-Auction portal <http://hsiidc.bids.in>. In case any other applicant registers at <http://hsiidc.bids.in>, who has not submitted 10% application money, applicable processing fee, requisite documents and does not qualify as per investment norms etc., the said applicant would not be allowed to participate in auction and/or bid of such bidder would be rejected. ■ In case, not more than one application is received for land/plot/site from eligible applicants, land/plot would be allotted to eligible applicant/investor as per/after approval of the competent authority, at the price/rate applicable at the time of issuance of Regular Letter of Allotment (RLA). ■ Size/Categories of the plots is tentative. The Corporation reserves the right to withdraw any plot/category from allotment or add any plot/category for allotment or reject any/all applications at any stage, without assigning any reason. ■ For more information relating to procedure for filing online applications for allotment and other terms & conditions of allotment, visit e-governance portal of HSIIDC www.hsiidcesewa.org.in. Any further information/details/amendments would be posted at e-governance portal of HSIIDC www.hsiidcesewa.org.in / website of the Corporation www.hsiidc.org.in.



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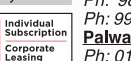
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New Delhi