

Will hear petition against electoral bond scheme: CJI

In 19 tranches since 2018, poll bonds worth Rs 9,208 crore sold: Govt data

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE SUPREME COURT has agreed to take up for hearing a pending plea challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018.

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana told Advocate Prashant Bhushan, who mentioned the matter Tuesday, that the court would have heard it earlier had it not been for Covid-19. "We will hear it," the CJI said.

Seeking urgent hearing, Bhushan said there is news that a company in Kolkata paid Rs 40 crore to avoid a raid. "It's distorting democracy," he contended. The top court is seized of pe-



Could not hear plea earlier due to Covid: CJI

titions filed by two NGOs — Common Cause and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) — challenging the scheme.

The 20th tranche of electoral bonds opened for sale April 1 to April 10.

Last month, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary provided break-up of the sale of electoral bonds: Rs 1056.73 crore

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After missile 'malfunction', BrahMos buyer Manila called Indian envoy

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

DAYS AFTER the "accidental firing" of an Indian missile which landed in Pakistan, the Philippines, which is buying BrahMos missiles from India, reached out to India and sought an explanation on what had happened.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, one of the most senior ministers in the Philippines cabinet led by President Rodrigo Duterte, had called in Shambhu S Kumaran, Indian ambassador in Manila.

Kumaran told Lorenzana there was no technical issue with the missile systems and an "enquiry was underway". He also conveyed that as and when the probe details are available, it will be shared with the authorities.

The accidental firing of the missile — it was believed to be a BrahMos but there was no official word on that — triggered some concern in Manila. On January 28 this year, the Philippines signed a deal to buy three batteries of the BrahMos missile which is developed jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. Manufactured by BrahMos Aerospace in India, the Philippines deal is worth nearly \$375 million, and is being touted as India's first significant defence export.

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Hot March may singe wheat, crop sown late set to suffer yield loss

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

HARISH DAMODARAN
JHAJJAR, PATAUDI
(HARYANA), APRIL 5

IT'S 40 degrees Celsius at Mohan Kumar's wheat field, but he's unfazed. "Garmi se pareshan nahin hain (The heat doesn't worry me)," says the 47-year-old, who farms 52 acres — 12 of his own and 40 leased — at Khera Pataudi village in Haryana's Jhajjar.

The reason: Kumar's entire wheat on 30 acres — the remaining 22 acres have mustard — was sown early, between October 8 and November 1. It could, therefore, escape the sudden heat spike from the second half of March, which scientists fear may impact grain yields in many wheat-growing areas.

Maximum temperatures in Jhajjar crossed 35 degrees on March 15, 38 on March 20, and 40 by the month-end. But when The Indian Express visited Kumar on Monday afternoon, he had al-



Mohan Kumar at his farm in Jhajjar dist. Harish Damodaran

ready harvested the crop on all but 3 acres. "I should get 65 manna per acre (26 quintals; one manna is 40 kg) from this plot. My average yields on the rest were 55 manna (22 quintals/acre). But that was due to water-logging from too much rain in January and not heat," he says.

A typical 140 to 145-day wheat crop takes 90 to 100 days for flowering. That's when the "baali" (earheads bearing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BONDING OVER DINNER

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari was among the BJP leaders at a dinner hosted by NCP chief Sharad Pawar for visiting Maharashtra MLAs in New Delhi on Tuesday. Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut was also present. ANI

Raut in Mumbai, Jain in Delhi: ED attaches assets linked to Opp leaders

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) moved against two prominent Opposition leaders on Tuesday, provisionally attaching assets worth Rs 115 crore linked to three persons in Mumbai, including the wife of Shiv Sena MP



AAP's Satyendar Jain and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut

Sanjay Raut, and, in a separate move, assets worth Rs 4.81 crore of companies allegedly linked to AAP leader and Delhi Minister Satyendra Jain and his relatives. In both cases, the central agency moved under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In Mumbai, the ED said its case is linked to alleged irregularities

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Fear, confusion after Delhi meat shop directive; apply across country: BJP MP

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND & ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE RIPPLES of a letter by the South MCD mayor, directing meat shops in South Delhi to shut during Navratri, were felt at several Delhi neighbourhoods Tuesday as some shopkeepers downed shutters out of fear while others decided to open, albeit cautiously.

This came as the BJP, which rules Delhi's three civic bodies — South, East and North — doubled down on the directive, with its MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma saying meat shops across the



Shops at INA market were shut Tuesday morning. Some opened later. Tashi Tobgyal

country should be shut during Navratri, and the opposition — AAP, Congress and even former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah — hitting back.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Amid financial ruin, Sri Lanka caught in political deadlock

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 5

THE ECONOMIC ruin appears to have brought to an abrupt end the ruling Rajapaksa family's total domination of Sri Lanka, but the country finds itself in the middle of a peculiar political crisis today: the Opposition seems almost diffident about testing what is left of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's support in Parliament.

While the President is directly elected and firewalled from changes in Parliamentary configurations, the government is now in minority after about 40



Police guard a road leading to Parliament in Colombo on Tuesday. Reuters

lawmakers in the big tent called Sri Lanka People's Freedom Alliance decided to quit the ruling coalition and function as an "independent" group.

UNSC MEETING ON UKRAINE

Condemn Bucha killings, back call for probe: India

Without naming Russia, Delhi's strongest statement yet

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

WITH IMAGES of civilian bodies littering the streets of Bucha sparking a global outcry, India Tuesday "unequivocally condemned" the killings as "deeply disturbing" and supported the call for an "independent probe" into the happenings in the Ukrainian town which had been under Russian occupation until recently.

This is the strongest statement by New Delhi so far on Russia's actions following its invasion of Ukraine which began February 24.

Ahead of the statement at the United Nations Security Council, US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. This was their second conversation within a week. They are due to meet in Washington DC on April 11 for the Indo-US 2+2 meeting between

EXPLAINED
E The space shrinks

DELHI HAS maintained a diplomatic balance on the Ukraine conflict. But the Bucha killings have led to shrinking of India's diplomatic space created with much effort. This has prompted Delhi to condemn the incident, indirectly targeting Moscow.

Foreign and Defence ministers. At the UNSC meeting on Ukraine which was addressed by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, T S Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative at the UN, without naming Russia, said: "Recent reports of civilian killings in Bucha are deeply disturbing. We unequivocally con-

THE WORLD



AT UN, ZELENSKY ACCUSES RUSSIAN MILITARY OF WAR CRIMES PAGE 13

demn these killings and support the call for an independent investigation."

"The situation in Ukraine has not shown any significant improvement... the security situation has only deteriorated, as well as its humanitarian consequences," he said. "We hope the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Day after attack, police back to guard 2 Pandit families in Shopian

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, APRIL 5

THERE ARE only two Kashmiri Pandit families living in Chotigam village of Shopian — the Bhats and a neighbour. When militancy erupted in Kashmir and other Pandits left the Valley, including over a dozen families from Chotigam, the two decided to stay back.

On Monday evening, Anil Kumar Bhat was sitting outside his medical shop when he saw two youths drive up on a motorcycle, and one of them alight and go in. Anil thought they had come to buy some medicines.

Suddenly, he says, gunshots punctuated the silence of the sleepy village, and Anil's brother Bal Krishan Bhat came out screaming.

Anil says: "They fired at Bal Krishan with a pistol. They aimed at his head, but he covered it with his arms, and that saved him."

A critical Bal Krishan was rushed to the Army's 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar. He is now stable.

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PM LIKELY TO VISIT JAMMU ON APRIL 24 PAGE 8

BUSINESS AS USUAL

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New Delhi

FROM PAGE ONE

Bucha killings

international community will continue to respond positively to humanitarian needs. We support calling for guarantees of safe passage to deliver essential humanitarian and medical supplies. Keeping in view the "dire humanitarian situation" in Ukraine, Tirumurti said India has been sending humanitarian supplies to Ukraine and its neighbours — these include medicines and other essential relief material. "We stand ready to provide more medical supplies to Ukraine in the coming days," he said.

Urging that humanitarian help should not be "politicized", he said, "Allow me to reiterate the importance of UN Guiding Principles of Humanitarian Assistance once again. Humanitarian action must always be guided by the principles of humanitarian assistance, i.e., humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence. These measures should never be politicized." He reiterated India's call for an end to violence and advocated diplomacy -- in line with what Delhi has conveyed to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Zelenskyy.

"India continues to remain deeply concerned at the worsening situation and reiterates its call for immediate cessation of violence and end to hostilities. We have emphasized right from the beginning of the conflict the need

to pursue the path of diplomacy and dialogue. When innocent human lives are at stake, diplomacy must prevail as the only viable option. In this context we take note of the ongoing efforts, including the meetings held recently between the parties," he said.

In another reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Tirumurti said: "We continue to emphasize to all member states of the UN that the global order is anchored on international law, UN Charter and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states." He also pointed to the impact of the crisis on India's domestic prices — oil prices have been hiked by Rs 9.20 in 15 days in India. "The impact of the crisis is being felt beyond the region with increasing food and energy costs, especially for many developing countries. It is in our collective interest to work constructively, both inside the United Nations and outside, towards seeking an early resolution to the conflict," he said.

The graphic images of killings in Bucha, a town north of Kyiv, has shocked the international community. Zelenskyy has called it "genocide". He travelled to Bucha Monday. Ukraine said its forces have retaken all areas around Kyiv for the first time since the start of the Russian invasion, according to Reuters. US Secretary of State Blinken said that the Bucha images are "a punch to the gut. We have come out and said that we believe that Russian forces have

committed war crimes and we've been working to document that."

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said Russia's "indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians ... must be investigated as war crimes." NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said this is "brutality against civilians" not seen in Europe for decades.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock tweeted that the images emerging from Bucha are "unbearable." "Those responsible for these war crimes must be held accountable," she said.

Rejecting the allegations, Russia's envoy at the UN, Vassily Nebenzia, said: "What happened in Bucha is exactly a false flag attack by the Kiev regime and its Western sponsors. The possible goal of this provocation is horrifying and brings back the nightmares of the Nazi crimes during the Second World War."

Poll bonds

in 2018; Rs 5071.99 crore in 2019; Rs 363.96 crore in 2020; Rs 1502.29 crore in 2021; and Rs 1213.26 crore in 2022.

In 19 tranches since 2018, bonds worth Rs 9208.23 crore were sold. Political parties encashed bonds worth Rs 9187.55 crore. The reply also stated that no bonds were sold to foreign entities as the scheme does not allow this.

Electoral bonds are purchased by donors and are valid for 15 days from the date of issue. A debt instrument, these can be bought by donors from a bank, and the political party can then encash them. These can be redeemed only by an eligible party by depositing them in its designated account maintained with a bank.

The bonds are issued by SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.

In March 2021, the Supreme Court had dismissed ADR's prayer to stay fresh sale of electoral bonds while an earlier petition it filed against the scheme is pending.

Disputing the NGO's contention regarding "complete anonymity" of bond purchasers, the court said "it is not as though the operations under the Scheme are behind iron curtains incapable of being pierced". The court pointed out that bonds had been issued in the past — in 2018, 2019 and 2020 — "without any impediment" and it had already ordered "certain safeguards" by way of an interim order on April 12, 2019.

In its April 2019 interim order, which also came on an application by ADR, the Supreme Court had directed political parties to "forthwith" submit details of these bonds to the Election Commission. That order too had come on the petition filed by ADR in September 2017.

However, the NGO again approached the court, contending that the identity of the donors could never be known to the public. The court referred to the EC receiving details of contributions received through bonds, in pursuance of its April 2019 order, and said "we do not know at this stage as to how far the allegation that under the Scheme, there would be complete anonymity in the financing of political parties by corporate houses, both in India and abroad, is sustainable".

ED raids

in the Patra chawl redevelopment project in Goregaon by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL), in Delhi, the central agency said the attachment of properties linked to five companies were made in connection with a case of money laundering against the Delhi Health Minister.

Reacting to the ED action against his wife Varsha Raut, Sanjay Raut said: "I'm not one to get scared. Seize my property, shoot me, or send me to jail, Sanjay Raut is Balasaheb Thackeray's follower and a Shiv Sainik, he will fight and expose everyone. I'm not one to stay quiet, let them dance. The truth will prevail." The ED action in Mumbai is the latest in a series of moves by the central agency against leaders of the MVA government in Maharashtra, including Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and former state home minister Anil Deshmukh of NCP, and Transport Minister Anil Parab of Shiv Sena.

The AAP, meanwhile, said the ED move against Jain reflected the ruling BJP's "fear of its expansion across the country". "Given the way the (Arvind) Kejriwal model is being accepted and embraced everywhere, we had expected that the BJP will use agencies against the Opposition as usual. They registered more than 100 cases against our MLAs and ministers, and each one has been dismissed in court. Satyendar Jain is a staunchly honest man and this case will also be completely dismissed," the party said.

In a statement on the Mumbai case, the ED said: "The attached assets are in form of lands held by Pravin M Raut, former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, Mumbai at Palghar, a flat at Dadar of Varsha Raut and plots at Kihim beach at Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut, wife of Shri Sanjay Raut, and Swapna Patkar, wife of Shri Sujit Patkar."

The ED had arrested Pravin Raut, a businessman, on February 4 for having allegedly "diverted" Rs 100 crore received from HDIL to various accounts of "his close associates, family members, his business entities", including the family of Sanjay Raut.

The ED has claimed that its probe into alleged irregularities in the redevelopment of Patra chawl found an agreement signed between Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) and Guru Ashish Construction. According to ED, Guru Ashish Construction was to provide flats to 672 tenants of the chawl, develop flats for MHADA and sell the remaining area to private builders. However, the ED said, the directors of Guru Ashish Construction, including Pravin Raut, allegedly misled MHADA and sold space to nine developers, collecting Rs 901.79 crore, without constructing the portion for the tenants and the MHADA.

"Further, Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd has also launched one project namely Meadows and took the booking amount of around Rs 138 crore from flat buyers. The total proceeds of the crime generated by directors of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd through the illegal activities was approximately Rs 1,039.79 crore," said the ED statement. The ED has alleged that in 2010, a part of the "proceeds of crime" of Rs 83 lakh was transferred to Varsha Raut from Madhuri Raut, the wife of Pravin Raut. "This amount was utilised by Varsha Raut for purchase of flat at Dadar. It is also revealed that after initiation of ED investigation, the amount of Rs 55 Lakh was transferred by Varsha Raut to Madhuri Raut," said the statement.

According to ED, at least eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug were allegedly purchased in the name of Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, the wife of Sujit Patkar, who was a close associate of Sanjay Raut at the time. These properties, too, have been provisionally attached, the ED said.

The ED action against Jain in Delhi is based on an FIR filed by the CBI in 2017 against the AAP Minister under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Apart from properties linked to the five companies — Akinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Mangalayatan Projects Pvt Ltd and J J Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd — the ED has provisionally attached properties belonging to four persons, Swati Jain, Sushila Jain, Ajit Prasad Jain and Indu Jain.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the ED said: "Investigation by ED revealed that during the period 2015-16, when Sh. Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the above-mentioned companies beneficially owned and controlled by him received accommodation entries to the tune of Rs.4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through Hawala route. These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for the repayment of loan taken for purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi."

The agency had recently summoned Jain again in the case after questioning him in 2018.

BrahMos buyer

Speaking at a session organised by the Ananta Centre Tuesday, Kumar said: "I won't call it a concern, but there was a query... I did have a conversation with the Defence Secretary, and explained to him that there was no technical issue (with the system) and an enquiry is underway." While the BrahMos missile is a joint venture with Russia, Kumar said India uses it "extensively" and there is "confidence" in the missile system.

On March 10, a day after the incident took place, the Pakistan Army said that an unarmed Indian supersonic missile took off from Siroa and landed near Mian Channu in Khanewal district, around 124 km inside Pakistani territory. On March 11, the Indian government said it was an accidental firing. The Ministry of Defence, in a statement, said: "On 9 March 2022, in the course of a routine maintenance, a technical malfunction led to the accidental firing of a missile. The Government of India has taken a serious view and ordered a high-level Court of Enquiry. It is learnt that the missile landed in an area

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Banning Muslim vendors, Pakistan's crisis, and hate speeches yet again

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The calls to ban Muslim vendors from temple fairs, how Pakistan's Assembly was dissolved, and Yati Narsinghanand delivers hate filled speeches again

of Pakistan. While the incident is deeply regrettable, it is also a matter of relief that there has been no loss of life due to the accident."

Meat shop order

In a letter to the South MCD Commissioner on Monday, mayor Mukesh Suryaan had sought "closure of meat shops during the nine-day period of the Navratri festival extending from April 2 to April 11". He wrote that during this period, "people forgo even the use of onion and garlic, and the sight of meat being sold in open or near temples makes them uncomfortable".

Verma, who represents the West Delhi Lok Sabha seat, Tuesday said Muslims should not be influenced by "provocative" statements made by leaders such as Asaduddin Owaisi, and to respect the Hindu festival. He said others would also respect their sentiments when their festivals come. There are around 1,500 registered meat shops under the SDMC's jurisdiction. While this is the first time a civic body in Delhi has sought closure of meat shops during Navratri, it is not the first time it has tried regulating them.

In the past, MCDs have asked shopkeepers to display whether the meat sold is jhatka or halal, and also tried to clamp down on meat being displayed in the open. On the ground, though, enforcement has been difficult.

The Congress called the latest move a cheap publicity stunt as the mayor does not have the power to impose it. "The Commissioner has the power to impose such bans and these statements by the mayor are only to be in the news and please his leaders," said Delhi Congress vice-president Abhishek Dutt. AAP's MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said the BJP should impose such a ban in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, which they rule, if they hope to find success in implementing it in Delhi.

And on Tuesday night, Abdullah tweeted: "During Ramzan we don't eat between sunrise & sunset. I suppose it's OK if we ban every non-Muslim resident or tourist from eating in public, especially in the Muslim dominated areas. If majoritarianism is right for South Delhi, it has to be right for J&K"

While an official notification had not been issued until Tuesday, many shop owners in South Delhi trode cautiously. All 38 meat shops at the INA Market were shut Tuesday morning, said Ramesh Bhutani, president, INA Market Traders' Association.

"The traders came to meet me in the afternoon. Since we did not get any official order, I asked them to open," Bhutani said. Shops at the market also supply to hotels, and that supply could be hit if they are not allowed to open, he added.

Jaswant Singh was among the meat shop owners who kept shutters down in the morning, but opened after the meeting with the president of the association. "We opened in the evening. The stock will go bad otherwise and lead to huge losses. We're still not sure about what to do tomorrow," he said.

Krishan Kumar, who chose to keep his shop closed all day, said they had read in the papers that those opening their shops would face a penalty or get their licences cancelled. "If we were told in advance, we wouldn't have stocked up on meat. I have stock worth nearly Rs 2 lakh. The workers who help with chopping meat or cleaning will lose their daily wage of at least Rs 500 per day if the market has to shut," he said.

Meat shops at INA market are open all week, even on Tuesdays, when meat shops in other parts of the city are usually shut.

Ashok Bajaj, who owns a fish store and two meat shops at the market, which were all shut Tuesday, said losses would be immense if they have to shut during Navratri — from April 2 to 11. "Labourers will lose out on daily wages as well," he said.

Shop owners gathered in groups at the market, discussing

the situation and trying to decide if they can lift the shutters on Wednesday. The meat comes from the Ghazipur slaughterhouse, which is also shut on Tuesday, said Mohammad Ibrahim, whose store was open but without much stock. Each trader might purchase anything between 20 kg to 50 kg for sale, he said. At market 2 in CR Park, nearly all of the 20 shops are usually closed on Tuesdays, said Aurobinda Das, who runs a fish stall. "We are not sure if we can open tomorrow. We learnt about what the Mayor said when customers called us and asked us about the closure. We have not received any official notice yet. If meat shops are asked to shut, does that also include fish? It's a clean market, and we are not close to a temple," he said.

Shishir Hajra, who owns an establishment at the market, said: "I usually open the shop on Tuesdays. I found out about this when I came here in the morning, and I decided to keep it closed today." During Navratri, sales are slow anyway, said traders at both markets. While Bhutani estimates that sales fall at the INA market by about 40 per cent during Navratri, Krishan Kumar pegged it at about 25 per cent less than normal.

Meat stores at Hauz Khas and Jamia Nagar, meanwhile, were open. Mohammad Junaid, who runs a meat shop in Jamia Nagar, said: "We usually shut only on Fridays."

Mohammad Amanullah, who runs a chicken and mutton shop at Jamia Nagar, said: "Till the procedure is followed and a circular is issued, shops can't be asked to shut. The shops here were open today." Haseen, who runs Kallu meat shop at Hauz Khas, said that the establishment was open on Tuesday. "We'll have to see about tomorrow, but no order was received today."

Sri Lanka

President have given no indication that they might step down even as calls for them to go grow louder on the streets.

While the combined opposition may not have the required numbers to form a government, the only possible challenger indicated in Parliament on Tuesday that he would play a long game. Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa, son of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa and head of Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) or United People's Power, demanded that the executive presidency be scrapped immediately.

"People want a new beginning. The present government received a massive mandate from people who were full of expectations. All this is lost today, and the country wants a new beginning. Do those who are gathered in this chamber understand the plight of the people? They are unable to buy essential goods. People want this government to go home. Time has come to change the executive presidency. We have to do this urgently. Let's do it within this week using the available mechanism," he said.

Sri Lanka's executive presidency is one of the most powerful in the world. Even J R Jayewardene, who brought in the present presidential form of government in 1978, is said to have joked once that the only thing a President of Sri Lanka does not have the powers to do was change a man into a woman and vice versa. But it has been held to be the cause of many of Sri Lanka's systemic problems, too. Scrapping the system is a massive constitutional project.

Rebuffing Gotabaya's offer for the Opposition to join a "national government", which is being seen as a ploy by the Rajapaksa to spread the blame evenly, Premadasa said the SJB was not prepared to indulge in "a game of musical chairs" with Cabinet positions. With 54 seats, SJB is the main Opposition party.

Some Parliamentarians who have broken away from the Rajapaksa have called for their

resignation and the formation of an interim government. The United National Party, Sri Lanka's biggest party once, has no voice after being reduced to a single seat in Parliament.

The political situation is expected to become clearer on Wednesday when the Parliament, which has 225 members, will sit again to debate the economic meltdown that has led to an unprecedented outpouring of public anger after months of crippling shortages.

Protesters have poured out onto the streets in several parts of the country, abusing the Rajapaksa family, asking them to quit, and for all the family members to be arrested. On Tuesday, a swarm of people gathered outside Mahinda Rajapaksa's official home, demanding that he step down, and at several other places in the capital.

For the Rajapaksa brothers, there could not have been a bigger fall from grace.

Gotabaya made his name as the architect of the 2009 military victory against the Tamil Tigers, and it was on the back of that success that he won with 52 per cent of the votes in the 2019 presidential election. And, Mahinda led the SLPFA to a two-thirds victory in the 2020 parliamentary election.

They have tried to shift blame for the economic crisis to the previous government. But most protesters see them as responsible. The meltdown was triggered by a shortage of dollars, which in turn was the result of economic mismanagement — several analysts point to Gotabaya's waiver of indirect taxes, an election promise as one example — and the complete failure to anticipate the consequences of the pandemic.

Day after attack

The attack on the Kashmiri Pandit, the first such after a gap of five months — when a prominent businessman had been shot in Srinagar — has left a chill in the area. Chotigam is a sleepy village, on the border of Shopian and Kulgam. The Bhat brothers, who live in a joint family with their parents and run the medical shop from the outer portion of their house, got married only last year.

Until 2016, the Bhat brothers enjoyed police security. But after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, when militants started targeting police pickets, the government removed all small ones as these were vulnerable.

On Tuesday, a team of J&K Police returned to Chotigam village to guard the two Pandit families. A senior police officer in South Kashmir told The Indian Express they were yet to find out who was behind the attack. "We have got some leads and are working on them," he said. "In the meantime, we have provided the families security cover so that they feel safe." Anil says he is not really surprised at what has happened. "It is the story of the last 30 years (of the Valley)," he says.

However, he doesn't blame his neighbours, adding that they have never had any trouble and they all live peacefully. "What can they do when you have a gunman standing in front of you? Everyone tries to save their own life."

While scared, the Bhat brothers are not thinking of a step like leaving their home yet. "We have not decided anything," Anil says. "Let the patient first return home and only then will we take a call."

Hot March

flowers) fully emerge from the tillers (stems that grow from the parent shoot).

Pollination (transfer of pollen from the male anther to the female stigma part of the same flower) also takes place by this time, which is followed by about 25 days of early kernel formation ("milk" stage) and another 15 days or more of grain-filling ("dough").

Day temperatures should ideally be in the early-30 degrees

range during the dough stage, when the kernel accumulates starch and nutrients.

For the wheat sown on time — before November 15 — yield losses from the soaring mercury are seen to be minimal, as flowering would have been over by mid-February. Much of the grain-filling, too, would have been completed when temperatures really surged after around March 20. The losses would be even less for the crop sown by the first week of November.

Mohan Kumar planted 15 acres under HDCSW-18, an early-sown wheat variety, between October 8 and October 25. He planted an equal area under another variety, WH-1142, from October 25 to November 1. And he has managed to harvest over 22 quintals yields per acre — above the 19-20 quintals normal year average for Haryana and Punjab — even with all-India average maximum temperatures this March being the highest ever recorded for the month, according to a Met Department statement on April 2.

"The crop in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which is largely timely or early sown, may not be affected much. The problem would be with the moderately late (mid to end-November) to late (December onwards) sown wheat in most parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar," said Rajbir Yadav, head of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute's division of genetics.

In UP, farmers usually plant wheat around December after harvesting their "ratoon" season sugarcane. This crop is now in the grain-filling stage when maximum temperatures in Haridoi and Shahjahanpur are at 41-42 degrees. Yadav is the chief breeder of HDCSW-18, a high-yielding variety suitable for sowing in the second week of October. Normal wheat varieties cannot be sown before early-November, as the crop tends to prematurely flower 10-15 days earlier.

HDCSW-18 has a mild "vernalisation requirement" or the need for a certain minimum period of low winter temperatures for initiation of flowering. If it is sown on October 15, flowering and pollination will take an extra 10 days: 100-110 days, instead of 90-100. But even that's over by late-January or early-February, giving a longer window for grain-filling. The general thumb rule is that every extra day during the grain-filling stage confers an additional wheat yield of 40-50 kg per hectare. HDCSW-18 is also amenable for zero-tillage agriculture: Farmers harvesting paddy in early to mid-October can sow this wheat the same day — directly with the leftover stubble on the field using a Happy Seeder.

But terminal heat stress — high March temperatures forcing premature ripening and drying of wheat grains — isn't the only issue facing farmers. Kumar's mustard yields have also averaged only 15 mann or 6 quintals per acre this time, as against 22 mann (8.8 quintals) last year. The cause: Excess rains in January when the crop was in late flowering stage.

"January was bad for mustard and March for wheat," says Pawan Kumar Chauhan, who has grown the two crops on 9.5 acres and 3.5 acres, respectively. This farmer from Jatauli in Gurgaon district's Pataudi tehsil harvested only 17-18 mann of mustard per acre this March, compared to last time's 24-25 mann. The only consolation is that he has realised a higher price for his crop — Rs 6,400-6,400 per quintal versus Rs 5,200-5,300 last March-April — at the local Haiyemandi market.

As things stand, the Union Agriculture Ministry may have to revise downwards its all-time-high production estimates of 11.32 million tonnes (mt) for wheat and, maybe, also the 11.46 mt for rapeseed-mustard.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

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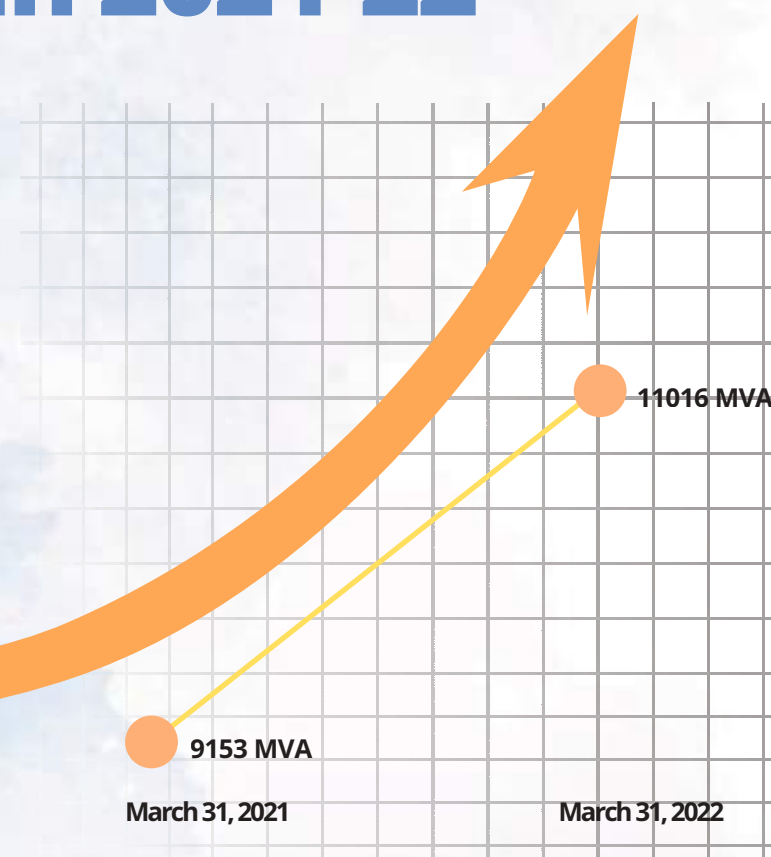
Quantum leap in Power Sector



Massive capacity addition in Power Transmission System in 2021-22

Total Transformation
Capacity as on
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9153 MVA

Total Transformation
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VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	OXYGEN SUPPORT	VENTILATOR SUPPORT
21,200	48	4	1

DELHI: TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	9,755	9,705	
18,65,494	ICU BEDS	2,202	2,189	
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
April 4	82	95	1	6,114
April 5	112	92	0	10,629
Total	488*	18,38,852	26,154	3,74,35,619

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Total	
	Apr 4	Apr 5
Cases	4	N/A
Deaths	0	N/A

GURGAON	Total	
	Apr 4	Apr 5
Cases	36	55
Deaths	0	0

BAIL DENIED TO 8 BJYM MEMBERS

Protesters who targeted CM home 'exceeded fundamental right to peacefully protest': Court

ANANDMOHAN J
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

OBSERVING THAT society can withdraw liberty sanctioned to an individual when he becomes a danger to societal order, a Delhi court has denied bail to eight Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, who barged through security barricades and smeared paint on Chief Minister Kejriwal's residence on March 30.

Additional Sessions Judge Naveen Kumar Kashyap denied bail to the eight accused observing that "prima facie it is clear that their fundamental right to peacefully protest is exceeded by them knowingly/intentionally".

The court said that the "liberty of an individual is not absolute".

"The society, by its collective wisdom through the process of law, can withdraw the liberty that it has sanctioned to an individual when an individual becomes a danger to the societal order. A society expects responsibility and accountability from the member, and it desires that the citizens should obey the law, respecting it as a cherished social norm," the court said.

It emphasised that when an individual "behaves in a disharmonious manner ushering in disorderly thing, which the society disapproves, the legal consequences are bound to follow".

The court agreed that the right to assemble and protest by a political party is a fundamental right, but added that "such right is subject to certain restrictions and is not



During the protest on March 30. Amit Mehra

an uncontrolled one".

"In the present case, it is not a simple case that they protested and ended their protest then and there... despite telling protesters and their leaders, including the present applicants, they can protest at a particular place,

they did not comply with the same," the court said.

Senior advocate Kirti Uppal, who argued on behalf of the accused, told the court that the offences in this case are punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years and, in violation of

the Supreme Court guidelines, police "did not serve any notice and straight away arrested the accused illegally".

Uppal argued that "there was no intention to hurt anyone" and it "was only a demonstration which is a right of every citizen and political party under the constitution".

The court agreed with Uppal's arguments and sent a copy of the order to the DCP concerned for action against the police for not following proper guidelines.

The police told the court that a request to protest by Tejasvi Surya, national president, BJYM and other BJP leaders and supporters outside the CM's residence had been denied. Police submitted that on March 30, around 200-250 BJYM supporters were guided about a designated spot for a

protest, but "they started moving towards 'first layer' of barricades and started pushing the barricades to break the chain".

Police argued that water cannons were used against the protesters when they crossed the second layer of barricades, but some of them managed to sneak through the third layer of barricades via the bushes and started charging heavily. The state prosecutor argued that the investigation was at an initial stage and search for the other absconding accused was underway.

Nearly 200 members of the BJYM, the BJP's youth wing, had staged a protest outside the CM's house against his remarks on the "The Kashmir Files". They broke the boom barrier, banged the main gate before painting it red.

Admission under CUET: V-C outlines subjects for entrance test

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

DELHI UNIVERSITY (DU) Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh Tuesday launched the admission policy of the university's Common University Entrance Test (CUET), outlining what subjects students will need to sit in for the entrance to gain admission to various courses.

Singh said that since the university was moving from a cut-off based system to a merit list, colleges would be given 30% additional students according to their seats, in case of dropouts or withdrawals. Sports and Extracurricular Activities (ECA) for which trials had stopped due to the pandemic, will also be restarted, he said. However, certificates will also be considered for it along with the CUET score.

Dean Admissions Haneet Gandhi said there would be three sections of the CUET 2022, wherein the first section is divided into two parts, and will consist of 13 languages in the first part and 20 languages in the second. "It is mandatory for the candidates to appear in at least one language for admission to Delhi University, out of both these parts combined," she said.

"The second section consists of 27 domain-specific topics. The third section is based on general knowledge which will be for admission to BA Program only," she said.

For admission to most UG programs, a candidate has to choose at least three subjects from the second section, which has two parts. Gandhi said most B.Sc programs would be calculated based on Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics or Biology. However, 30% of the marks in any one language in the CUET, would also have to be obtained as qualifying criteria.

"For admission to Bachelor of

Arts, a candidate will have to appear in the entrance test in any one language from section one and any three subjects from the other section. Merit will be calculated based on marks obtained by the candidate in the same subject and language," said Gandhi.

"For BA (Hons) Economics, it is mandatory for the candidates to take the test in Mathematics for the CUET. Merit for this will be calculated based on marks obtained in the chosen language, Mathematics and any two subjects," she said.

For admission to language programs, candidates can choose a particular language at the CUET or take a test in any other language. However, preference will be given to those appearing for the particular language. Yogesh Singh said a candidate can appear in a maximum of six subjects, out of which one must be a language subject. The best score will be considered for admission. "For admission through Sports and ECA, a candidate will have to appear for performance-based tests along with the CUET. Merit for this will be based on a combined score of the CUET (25%) and performance-based test (75%)," he said.

Singh said as of now applicants will only need to register on the National Testing Agency website which conducts the CUET, after which they may need to register on the DU website for centralised e-counselling.

Asked what the admission process will be once the exam is given, Singh said, "Students will get the option of filling their preference of colleges on the DU website, based on which colleges will be allocated. Colleges will have no say; it will be determined by students. In the second round of counselling, we will give students the option to revise their preferences depending on their score in case they don't get their preferred colleges," he said.

BRIEFLY

Gopal Rai writes to Bhupender Yadav seeking joint meeting

New Delhi: For the fourth time in about six months, Environment Minister Gopal Rai has written to Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, asking for a joint meeting with Environment Ministers and experts of the NCR states to work out a collective plan of action to mitigate air pollution.

HC directs govt to move elephant by April 15

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the AAP government to ensure the translocation of a female elephant, who was taken away by the authorities from an individual in 2017 on account of unsuitable standards for its care and upkeep, from Haryana's Yamuna Nagar to Gujarat's Jamnagar by April 15.

DBSE signs MoU with German cultural association

New Delhi: Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) has signed an MoU with Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, a non-profit German cultural association operational worldwide to promote the German language, to offer courses in government schools. ENS



IN SINGLE FILE

Buses at ITO on Tuesday. They have been assigned lanes on at least 15 road stretches across the capital, and the transport enforcement team has issued challans of Rs 10,000 to 35 bus drivers till now. Gajendra Yadav

IIT-D, Jal Board join hands to work on water issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology Delhi has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Delhi Jal Board to collaborate on addressing issues related to water security.

As part of the MoU, they will collaborate on identifying research & development initiatives in the areas of water supply and distribution; wastewater conveyance, treatment, recycle/reuse and disposal.

"Both sides will work towards the development of policy and best practice initiatives for wastewater treatment and its reuse/recycling to achieve the goal of zero waste discharge into drains and River Yamuna," IIT-D said in a statement.

"IIT Delhi, DJB will work together to build shared knowledge platforms and to disseminate data and information products to improve understanding of water and wastewater management alternatives for NCT of Delhi... They will also collaborate to jointly develop the Smart Operation and

Management framework for DJB's water and wastewater infrastructure," it said.

Some other areas of collaboration include jointly developing "effective and efficient strategies for management, improvement and rehabilitation of DJB's Water Distribution and Wastewater Conveyance Systems" and "developing continuing education and training modules for in-service officers of DJB".

Udit Prakash Rai, CEO, DJB, said, "The MoU seeks to foster a partnership between IIT-D and DJB, Government of NCT of Delhi, based on shared interests in the area of water and wastewater management and policy infrastructure within the overarching domain of water security and sustainability under present and future climate scenarios."

"This MoU will provide a platform to facilitate collaboration between IIT-D and DJB in joint studies, research, training and data sharing in problems such as operation and management, policy and planning of water and wastewater infrastructure", said Professor Dhanya CT, Department of Civil Engineering,

Sportspersons who got Olympic glory felicitated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal handed over monetary awards to Olympic medal winners and participants from Delhi on Tuesday. Wrestler Bajrang Punia who won a bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics last year was presented with a cheque of Rs 1 crore. Sportspersons who competed in the Olympics including table tennis player Manika Batra, shooter Deepak Kumar, and coach Shallaz Kumar, who coaches high-jumper Sharad Kumar, were awarded Rs 10 lakh each.

High-jumper Sharad Kumar, who won a bronze medal in the Paralympics in Tokyo last year, was presented with his letter of appointment as an Assistant Director in the Education Department, according to a communication from the Delhi government.

The Directorate of Education and Sports had organised a ceremony to facilitate the Olympians. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was at the event, said: "From this session the ad-

missions for our Sports University will begin, which will give a platform to talented individuals from all over Delhi as well as the country to hone their mastery in their choice of sport. School-level admissions will also begin, for which the Specialised School of Excellence on Sports has been launched by the Delhi Sports University and the Directorate of Education, Delhi."

Kejriwal said, "To develop a sports positive mindset we have developed the Delhi Sports University. It is the first year of the Sports University right now but we will do whatever we can to make it successful."

Athlete Sharad Kumar said, "...please don't lose hope, you'll feel alone and feel like giving up. But that's the time you realise that underneath it all is someone who will emerge with your performance. This has happened to me and I have seen that most athletes from Delhi have either left or given up the sport. But I persisted and I stand here today and now the Delhi government has recognized it. This is a ray of hope for everyone to follow their passion and I'm sure times are changing."

Bail denied to Jamia student in riots case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

A DELHI court denied bail to Rashtriya Janata Dal Party (RJD) leader and Jamia Millia Islamia student Meeran Haider in an Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) case in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat denied bail to Haider, noting that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against him is prima facie true.

The court said Haider's lawyers arguing that the accused has worked on socio-political issues and has a lot of qualifications, including a PhD, is not a relevant consideration while deciding the bail application.

On the argument that Haider was not present at the spot during the riots, the court held that "in a case of a conspiracy, it is not necessary that every accused should be present at the spot."

Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad had argued that at the stage of bail, "evidence collected by the investigating agency in reference to the accusation against the accused, must prevail unless contradicted and overcome or disproved by other evidence and on the face of it, shows the complicity of the accused in the commission of the offence."

Haider is accused by police of setting up anti-CAA protest sites across Delhi and giving provocative speeches there. He has also been accused of raising funds for the riots.

His lawyers have argued that even taken at face value, the allegations don't disclose any crime committed under UAPA.

The defence counsel argued that "no material has been placed on record to even prima facie show that any money was received or used by the accused for financing the unfortunate riots."

HOW CUET WILL WORK

CUET 2022 will be held in 3 sections:

Section I is divided into 2 parts Section IA and IB

There are 13 languages in Section IA and 20 languages in Section IB

Candidates will have to appear in at least one language

Section II of CUET 2022 has 27 Domain-Specific subjects

For most of the programs at DU, the candidate will have to choose at least 3 subjects from Section II

Subjects in Section II of CUET are categorised in List B1 and B2

Candidates must appear in CUET in the subject combinations like:

For B.Sc. (Hons) Biological Sciences, B.Sc. (Hons) Botany, B.Sc. (Hons) Zoology — Physics + Chemistry + Biology/ Biological Studies/ Biotechnology

Merit will be based on the 'CUET score' obtained from the

above-mentioned subjects

The candidate must obtain a minimum of 30% marks in Section I of CUET

For B.Sc. (Hons) Chemistry, B.Sc. (Hons) Physics and B.Sc. (H) Polymer Science—Physics + Chemistry + Mathematics

For BA (Hons) Economics

Any one Language from List A + Mathematics + Any two subjects out of which one should be from List B1

For most of the B.Sc programs, merit will be calculated on the basis of CUET scores obtained in 3 subjects

Obtaining a minimum of 30% marks in any one language in CUET is mandatory

For Bachelors of Arts (Languages)

The candidates may select that language in CUET or may appear in any other language

However, preference will be given to those candidates appearing in the particular language

FOR 'WILFULLY DISOBEYING DIRECTIONS OF COURT AND NGT'

Tree damage in CR Park: PWD officials held guilty of contempt of court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE DELHI High Court has held the Engineer-in-Chief and an Executive Engineer of Delhi's Public Works Department guilty of contempt of court in a case pertaining to the chopping of roots of trees in Chittaranjan Park. The officers have been directed to remain present on April 7 for sentencing.

"It was for the PWD to have ensured that such damage was prevented. Not doing so, it has

been complicit in the damage to the trees. The PWD itself has re-laid the pavements and created manholes of 6x6 radius around 16 trees," said Justice Najmi Waziri in an order.

Justice Waziri further said the "imperative of protecting trees" can never be overlooked, as the city has witnessed the worst period of air pollution in the past four-five years. "The generation of fresh oxygen by trees and their acting as carbon sumps would always mitigate air pollution," observed the bench.

It also noted that a stretch of a

road is dug up by one agency and no sooner before the work ordinarily is completed by that agency, another digs up the same road. "This cycle continues year-round, be it for the work of laying down internet cables, electricity lines, water pipes, telephone cables, etc," said the court.

The court on February 25 had taken a strong note of the damage being done to trees by the government agencies while carrying out the works on Bipin Chandra Pal Marg and nearby areas, and issued notices to the CEO of BSES Rajdhani Power



The court had on Feb 25 taken a strong note of the damage done to trees

Limited, Engineer-in-Chief of the PWD, other officials of the forest department and the SHO of Chittaranjan Park police station in the contempt petition filed by New Delhi Nature Society.

Both the Engineer-in-Chief and the Executive Engineer had not responded to the court's notice by the time the order was passed. "They are held guilty of contempt of court for wilfully disobeying the directions of this court and of the NGT," said the bench.

Despite a status quo being ordered by the court on February

25, the court was informed that construction work continued at the site. The work was being carried out on a road maintained by the PWD, and it was on the department to ensure that the work was stopped, advocate Aditya N Prasad, who represents the petitioner, told the court.

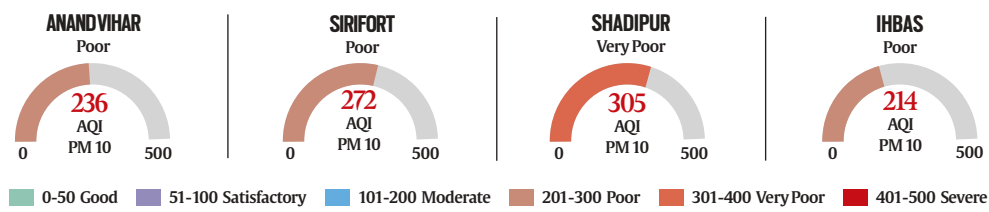
The government also told the court that the Tree Officer on inspection of the site found about 13 trees had been damaged in an exercise carried out by the SDMC and 10 trees were damaged by the PWD. The court was further informed that there also was un-

lawful concretisation of the earth around the trees. A fine of Rs 40,000 and Rs 1 lakh had been imposed on the SDMC and PWD, the forest department told the court. "Callous and deliberate disregard of the court's directions and a concerted effort to damage the ecology of the city is clearly evident from the photographs," it said, while also noting that a boundary wall of a Community Centre is being laid down by damaging 13 fully grown trees.

The court has also directed the Chief Secretary, Delhi to pass an

order to make it mandatory for all government agencies to seek permission of the Tree Officer first before the initiation of any civil work, which is likely to be made within a distance of 2 metres from any existing tree.

"As and when a request for police assistance is made by the Tree Officer or a Forest Guard, the SHO concerned shall deputise at least two police officers so that there is no threat to the life and limb of the said Tree Officer. The Police Commissioner, Delhi shall issue appropriate directions in this regard," said the court further.



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: April 6
 Mainly clear sky. Heat wave conditions at a few places.
MAX: 40 | **MIN: 19**
 6.5°C above normal | 0.4°C above normal

Jal Board & NDMC issue, then withdraw, Ramzan circulars for employees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE DELHI Jal Board Tuesday withdrew a circular that granted two-hour leave to all Muslim employees for the month of Ramzan – from April 4 to May 5. Later in the day, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) issued and then withdrew a circular giving permission to Muslim employees to leave early from office during Ramzan.

On Monday, the DJB had issued a circular which stated: "The competent authority has accorded approval to allow short leave period (approx two hours per day) by the concerned DDO/controlling officer to Muslim employees during the days of Ramzan... subject to the condition that they will accomplish their work during remaining office hours so that office work does not suffer."

However, in a fresh order issued on Tuesday, the DJB stated: "A circular was issued on April 4 for short leave to Muslim employees during the days of

Ramzan. Now the competent authority has decided to withdraw the order with immediate effect."

The circular was undersigned by Virender Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Welfare, DJB. Delhi Jal Board CEO, AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj, did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

On the NDMC circular being withdrawn, the council's V-C, BJP leader Satish Upadhyay, said: "I spoke to the chairman and competent authority to withdraw the order. You call this a secular country, why are you giving special treatment to one particular community? Hindus fast for nine days in Navratras, why don't you give them two hours break in lunch and let them leave early so they can go to a temple and perform puja."

According to a senior DJB official, the Board has issued circulars in previous years granting short leaves and relaxation to Muslim employees during the month of Ramzan. However, withdrawing the order has happened for the first time. "I

have seen notifications since 2013. We provide short period leaves following the request of the workers' union, which in fact has a majority of non-Muslim members... There is no communal or religious reason behind this order," said a senior official from the welfare department.

The official added: "The decision (to withdraw the order) was taken at secretariat level and we have been asked to issue a fresh circular. But that doesn't mean Muslim employees will be barred from praying or performing namaz. They can still do so like they usually do. Also, the short period was given during lunch-time, so the employees can pray during lunch and those who pray in the evening can pray at that time. The Jal Board is a secular department and respects all religions and their rituals," said the official.

BJP leader Kapil Mishra, meanwhile, waded into the issue, tweeting on Tuesday night: "Jai Shri Ram. The Kejriwal government had to withdraw an order giving separate holidays to Muslims every day during Ramzan. It is necessary to oppose Muslim appeasement."

15-year-old dead in hit and run, family says police did not do enough: 'All we want is a fair probe'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE FAMILY of 15-year-old Priya Singh, who went missing and was later found killed in a road accident, remembers her leaving home "to meet her *bua* (aunt), who would help her with studies". It was the last time they would see her.

At their home in West Delhi's Mayapuri, the family told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday that they kept searching for her and also called police, but "nobody helped". Little did they know that Priya had been hit by a vehicle less than 5 km from her residence.

"She was happy to return to school recently. We remember she was reading, and had decided to

meet her *bua*, who lives 4-5 km from our house. Her aunt helps her with studies. We had told her to come back soon. I wish I had never allowed her (to go). She was a hardworking and sweet girl. We don't know what to do now," said Balram, her father, who works as a helper in a private firm in Delhi.

Priya studied at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya near Clock Tower. On Saturday, she went to school in the morning and returned home in the afternoon. Her mother, Suneeta, said she had been pushing her parents to buy her a new kurta.

Around 6 pm that day, she left the house. And around half an hour later, Priya was run over by a car in Mayapuri. According to her family, the accused driver, Ravi Prakash, took her to the hospital and allegedly

fled from there. At Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital, doctors said she died during treatment. She had suffered injuries on her head and back.

Her family was meanwhile busy looking for her. Rahul, her brother, who works at a shop in the area, said, "I was worried because our aunt called and said Priya wasn't at her place. I took my friends and searched for her everywhere. We called the police but they kept saying that my sister must be with her friends. I went to all shops and restaurants in the area to look for her. At night, we went to police station and reported that she was missing. We pushed them to file a kidnapping case. We thought someone had taken her."

On Sunday afternoon, the family said they received a call and were told that she was at DDU hospital.

They said the police met them there and told them their daughter had died in a road accident.

"I was devastated... I was crying... the police asked us to take the body... but my wife and other family members pushed for a medical report and an FIR," said Balram.

Around 2-3 hours later, Prakash was arrested and booked under sections of rash driving and causing death by negligence. He was released on bail later. Delhi Police denied the allegations, saying they registered a case as soon as the body was found. DCP (West) Ghanshyam Bansal said, "The accused was absconding. Our team scanned over a dozen CCTVs to identify him and arrested him in a day." Police said Prakash, who works as a DTC driver, was allegedly taking a sharp turn when he hit the girl.

Atishi seeks report on Ghazipur landfill from MCD commissioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE ENVIRONMENT Committee of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, chaired by AAP MLA Atishi, has asked the East Delhi Municipal Corporation commissioner to submit an action plan by next Tuesday to clear the Ghazipur landfill.

After a fire broke out at the landfill last week, the committee had summoned the commissioner Tuesday to explain steps taken by the MCD to clear the landfill, and prevent fires. "The EDMC has stated it will take 10 years at peak performance to clear the Ghazipur landfill," stated a communication from the committee. The EDMC has informed the committee nine lakh tonnes of waste had been cleared in the past year and a

half. This is out of the 140 lakh tonnes of legacy waste lying at the site. The EDMC has also told the waste-to-energy plant at the site is undergoing renovation and is expected to be operational only from May this year. According to information presented by the EDMC to the committee, the dumpsite is filled, but EDMC has no option but to continue dumping waste there.

Atishi said: "It is shocking to see that despite years of persisting problems at the landfill EDMC does not have a concrete plan to deal with hazardous waste." The EDMC had requested DDA for land for a waste processing facility. DDA had allotted a parcel of land on Yamuna floodplains, and an expert committee appointed on orders of NGT to oversee rejuvenation of the river and floodplains, had rejected the request to change land use of the floodplains.

Cop 'records woman taking a bath', FIR filed

Gurgaon: A head constable of the Gurgaon Police was suspended for allegedly recording a video of a woman while she was taking a bath, police said. An FIR was registered and a departmental enquiry has been initiated against the official, police added.

Police said the incident took place on April 3. In the police complaint, the woman said she was taking a bath when the accused passed by carrying a bucket. "I closed the bathroom door. There is no ceiling between bathrooms. He was recording a video from an adjacent bathroom. When I saw him, I yelled and he ran away. I then reported the incident to police," she said in the FIR. **ENS**

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Sr. No.	Name of the Account, Account No., Borrower/Guarantors Name, Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged Owners' Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	Date of Demand Notice 13 (2)	Date of Possession Notice affixed	Amount Outstanding as on date of demand notice
1.	Sh Santosh Singh, S/o Sh Kameshwar Singh, A/C No. 7207008700000531, 720700SL00000041 & 7207008800001669 BO: Bhagwanpur (720700)	IP situated at: (i) Mauza Ghosa Thana No 765 Khata No 04 Plot No 15 Area 02 Acre 04 1/3 Decimal, Boundary: N-Nij S Rasta, E-Mahadeo Singh, W-Nakharu Singh (ii) Mauza - Ghosa, Thana No. 765, Khata No. 04, Plot No. 229, Area: 39 Decimal, Boundary: N-Gawahi, S-Bihar Sarkar, E - Mahangu Singh, W-Narad Singh, Total Area: 02 Acre 43 1/3 Decimal Mortgagor: Sh Santosh Singh, S/o Sh. Kameshwar Singh	01.07.2021	04.04.2022	Rs.10,87,989.24 +Interest due from 01.04.2022
2.	Sh Neeraj Kumar Pandey S/o Sh Shyama Kant Pandey, A/c No. - 7207008700000647 & 720700CF00000300 BO: Bhagwanpur (720700)	IP situated at: Mauza & Thana No 419, Dist- Kaimur, Khata No 219, Plot No 808, Area - 04 1/2 Decimal, Boundary: N - Rest P No 808 Paressh Narayan @ Chumun Lal, S - Rest P No 808 Vijay Shankar Pandey, E - Rest P No 808 Rang Narayan Pandey, W - Sarak. Mortgagor: Shyama Kant Pandey S/o Parshuram Pandey	29.06.2021	04.04.2022	Rs.5,14,753.04 +Interest due from 01.04.2021
3.	Sh. DEVENDRA KUMAR SINGH S/O PARASNATH SINGH A/C No. 237400NC00000065 & 23740088000015732 Bo: Kabilaspur (237400)	Mortgaged Properties situated at: Mauza Chhitpur Khas, Pargana Dehat Amanat Tehsil and Dist:Varanasi(U.P) Arazi No: 702 to the extent of 2549 Sqft. Boundary:- North: Bishwanath Mishra, South: Rasta 8 feet wide, East: Rasta 8 feet wide, West: Rest Arazi No: 702. Mortgagor: Sh Parasnath Singh S/O Late Shyam Narayan Singh, R/O VIII/PO-Masaurah, Dist: Kaimur	15.06.2021	30.03.2022	Rs.23,86,151.46/- +Interest due from 01.04.2021
4.	M/s. Navin Enterprises, Prop: Sri Hari Om Yadav, S/o Rajendra Singh A/C No. 2374008700000412, 237400CF00000120 & 237400IC00000015 Bo: Kabilaspur (237400)	IP Situated at: Sale Deed No.- 3923 Dt-20-07-2013, Mauza-Karmi, Thana no- 104, Khata No-02, Plot No- 62, Durgawati, kaimur, Area- 20 Decimal, Boundary: N- Nij, S- Chhawar, E- Niz, W- Nahar, Road, Mortgagor: Hari Om Yadav, S/o-Sh. Rajendra Singh	19.06.2021	30.03.2022	Rs.30,90,306.24 +Interest due from 01.04.2021
5.	M/s. Maa Vaishno Trading Company Prop Devmuni Sah A/C No. 30070087000005118 300700CF00000137 & 300700IL00000151 Bo: Ratwar (300700)	IP situated at: Mortgated Deed No 962 Dt 13-02-2019 Mauza Shivpur, Thana 529 PS Bhabua Khata No 33, 1. Tauzi 99/4 Khesra No 1082/811 Area 03 Decimal, Boundary: N Devmuni Sah, S Banshi Sah Lalal, E - Nij W - Rasta. 2. Tauzi 100/4 Khesra No 1082/811 Area 03 Decimal, Boundary: N-Koli, S- Lakhmina Kunwar, E - Nij, W - Rasta, Total Area: 06 Decimal. Mortgagor: Sh Devmuni Sah, S/o Suryanath Sah, Vikash Kumar, S/o Devmuni Sah & Lakshmina Kunwar, W/o Suryanath Sah	23.06.2021	02.04.2022	Rs.26,68,304.83 +Interest due from 01.04.2021
6.	M/s. SAROJ ENTERPRISES through its proprietor Smt. Saroj Singh, W/o Sh. Pramod Kumar Singh A/c No 27840087000002848, 278400IB00001971, 278400IC00000030 BO: Gorsara (278400)	IP Situated at: Sale Deed No- 2613, Dated 22.07.2017, Flat No.- A-4, 1st Floor, Sai Saroop Apartment, Araji No.- 219/1, Mauza- Newada, Ward - Nagwa, Pargana- Dehat Amaanat, Tehsil and Dist.- Varanasi, Super Built-up area- 109.3 Sq. meter i.e. 1176 sqft., Boundary:- East- Open land Tara Patel, West- Common passage after that flat no. A-3, North- Open land Tara Patel, South- Open Land Tara Patel. Mortgagor: Smt. Saroj Singh, W/o Sh. Pramod Kumar Singh	18.11.2021	05.04.2022	Rs.1,81,42,449.18 + Int. due from 01.10.2021

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6 IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"When we are in opposition we approve, and then when we are in 'position', our position on the matter also changes."

VENKAIHA NAIDU, Chairman, on MP Manoj Jha's demand of changing the nature of election manifestos.

5 QUESTIONS



PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA, RJD MP IN RAJYA SABHA, RAISED THE DEMAND FOR MAKING MANIFESTOS LEGALLY BINDING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES. HE SPEAKS TO ESHA ROY

What exactly is the demand you made in the House?

I used to teach a course on social policy in Delhi University, which included election manifestos. I have found that over time... political parties simply don't accord the kind of value to manifestos as they used to in the 1950s-60s... parties need to be held accountable for the promises that they have made. If it becomes legally binding, then the electorate will also have a legal recourse for promises not kept by a party. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had once suggested that party symbols should be removed if political parties don't keep their promises.

Why this demand?

The demand that I mooted today is how we can make election manifestos legally binding for political parties – or at least give them some quasi-legal value. I feel Parliament should sit down and all political parties should look at this seriously.

What are the court cases you pointed to during your speech?

In a case filed in 2015, Justices HL Dattu and Amitava Roy had refused to entertain the matter which had pertained to this very subject, saying there was no legal grounds or provisions in law binding political parties to take responsibility for what they promised in an election manifesto. In 2013, Justices Ranjan Gogoi and P Sathiasivam heard a similar matter on populism in elections and validity of election manifestos. What it clearly shows is there is an absence of law and that exonerates political parties.

Why are manifestos important?

An election manifesto is the most serious political document of a political party which elucidates their vision and mission – in the absence of this we see ailments in our democracy. It is a political party's vision of what people will receive if that party comes to power.

How have you seen election manifestos change over the years?

Earlier – in the 50s, 60s, 70s, manifestos would be published a month before the elections. Now things are such that an election manifesto is released a day before the first phase of an election – it doesn't even reach the people. They have become so trivial in value that there are no television debates, no analysis. The content has also shifted.



NAMASTE

Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader P Chidambaram greet each other in Parliament on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

In LS, MPs across party lines praise govt's Ukraine evacuation efforts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

LOK SABHA members, including those from the Opposition, on Tuesday heaped praise on the government's efforts to evacuate Indian students from Ukraine.

RSP member N K Premachandran opened the debate under Rule 193 on the situation in Ukraine and commended the government's efforts.

He also said the evacuation programme would have been better if "early cautious steps were taken" and that advisories issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on February 15 lacked clarity and direction.

"New Zealand and Australia issued advisories asking their citizens to leave immediately, as did many other countries such as the US, Britain, Japan, Norway, etc," he said. "Non-essential citizens may consider to leave temporarily" was the direction given by the MEA, which according to me was a strategic flaw on our part in the evacuation process."

Congress's Shashi Tharoor commended the government for both the success of Operation Ganga and sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine. However, he criticised the statements at the UN while abstaining from the vote against Russia.

"As I mentioned to the Foreign Minister, it was not just the abstention," he said. "As regards abstention, there are good reasons



BJP MP Ravi Shakar Prasad with Congress MP Manish Tewari at Parliament on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

why we wanted to signal a certain position, but the fact that in the initial statements at the UN we failed to mention any of the principles that we have stood for in the world for the last 75 years. We did not mention the UN Charter; we did not mention State's sovereignty; we did not mention the inviolability of borders, and we did not mention even the inadmissibility of the use of force when it comes to resolving international disputes."

Congress's Manish Tewari said a new Iron Curtain seems to be descending across the world. "But unlike the Iron Curtain which divided Europe between 1945 and 1989, this new Iron Curtain has the potential of dividing the world again. The recent joint statement on February 4 between China and

Russia expounding international relations entering a new era and global sustainable development may actually become the foundation of this unfortunate division which the world is witnessing today," Tewari said.

DMK's Dr Sumathy criticised India's medical education policy. Referring to PM Narendra Modi's statement urging state governments to allot land for medical infrastructure, she said, "it is not the question of just allotting land. It is the question of allowing opportunities for students from marginal and weaker sections to enter medical colleges. That is why Tamil Nadu strictly resists NEET." TMC's Sudip Bandhopadhyay said Modi had assured West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee that the Centre has decided to send these students back to Hungary, mainly to Budapest".

Responding to concerns on increase in oil prices due to the Ukraine crisis, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri said India's percentage increase is merely one-tenth of what it is elsewhere. "We have raised the price of petrol by Rs 9 over 12 or 13 days, whereas the international price has shot up. I have some figures, which show a comparison in prices of gasoline between April 2021 and March 2022. In USA, during that period the increase in prices of gasoline in terms of percentage is 51. In Canada, the increase is 52%; in Germany and the UK, it is 55%; in France, it is 50%; in Spain 58%; in Sri Lanka 55%. In India, it is just 5%," he said.

Jaishankar introduces Bill to ban funding of WMDs

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

FOREIGN MINISTERS Jaishankar introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday a Bill that seeks to prohibit funding of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and empowers the government to freeze or seize assets of those involved in such activities.

The Bill seeks to amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005, which does not cover the financial aspect of WMD delivery systems. Including the new provisions in the 2005 Act is essential to meet India's international obligations, the government has said.

The existing Act covers unlawful activities relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. It also provides for some integrated legal measures.

The Amendment Bill seeks to make an insertion: "No person shall finance any activity which is prohibited under this Act, or under the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1947 or any other relevant Act for the time being in force, or by an order issued under any such Act, in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems."

It also seeks to give the government the powers to "freeze, seize or attach funds or other financial assets or economic resources owned or controlled, wholly or jointly, directly or indirectly, by such person; or held by or on behalf of, or at the direction of, such person; or derived or generated from the funds or other assets owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such person".

It proposes to "prohibit any person from making funds, financial assets or economic resources or related services available for the benefit of persons related to any activity which is prohibited under this Act."

Opp raises fuel price pitch, disrupts LS

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

ON a day when the Opposition disrupted the Lok Sabha proceedings in protest against the fuel price increase, a TMC member sought an assurance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi that "the prices of fuel and other essential commodities will be brought down to a bearable level".

Raising the matter during the Zero Hour on Tuesday, TMC's Asit Kumar Mal, said: "People of this country are agitated very much at the price rise of daily commodities...it's going beyond limits...where will it stop? I appeal to the Prime Minister to kindly assure the countrymen on controlling the unbearable price rise."

The TMC MP's appeal came in the midst of the Opposition protests against the fuel price increase, leading to adjournment of proceedings for half an hour. Members belonging to the Congress, DMK, TMC, NCP, and Left resorted to sloganeering in the well of

RS passes MCD Bill, Shah says Parliament can legislate on any Delhi-related matter

Opposition says 'attack' on country's federal structure; AAP calls it outcome of 'Kejriwal phobia'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE BILL to merge the three municipal corporations of Delhi into a single entity was passed by Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah attributing the move to undo the trifurcation done in 2012 to "step-motherly treatment" of the AAP-led government in the national capital towards civic bodies.

The opposition parties, including the Congress, AAP, DMK, NCP, SP and the Left parties, opposed the Bill, terming it as an "attack on the federal structure" of the country. Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi called the Bill "constitutionally suspect, legally untenable, administratively blunderous and politically hypocritical" while AAP MP Sanjay Singh said it was an outcome of "Kejriwal phobia", referring to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Responding to the debate, during which 20 MPs spoke, Shah brushed aside the criticism, saying unlike in the case of other states, Parliament is empowered to legislate on any matter, including subjects on which the Assembly can make laws, pertaining to Delhi under provisions of Article 239AA of the Constitution.

Touching upon apprehensions of the Opposition that the Centre wants backdoor political control over Delhi's municipal structures through the legislation, Shah said the government will not appoint any political person as the administrator or special officer to run the civic affairs until the first meeting of the unified MCD takes place.

The Lok Sabha had cleared the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 last week.

"We had to bring this Bill due to the step-motherly treatment of the Delhi government with the three corporations. You may have enmity with us, but why are you harassing the people of Delhi? The fifth Delhi Finance Commission had recommended that Rs 40,561 crore be given to the corporations. They (Delhi government) settled on Rs 21,000 crore. But even that amount was not given in full without specifying any reason and other recommendations of the DFC were

not accepted," said Shah.

"Had they given that amount, the corporations would have been in profit today. The three corporations sent proposals to raise business tax, one time parking tax, which were not accepted... This is done to turn the public mood in favour of the AAP. Once delimitation is over, come to the electoral battle field, there is no fear or phobia."

Initiating the debate, Singhvi said while 239AA, which came into force in 1992, gives special powers to Parliament to legislate on matters related to Delhi, municipality is a subject created under 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, which became a law in 1993.

"Even though Parliament has overriding powers under 239AA which came in 1992, you overrode that by a subsequent Constitutional Amendment, the 74th amendment in 1993. You have a later Constitutional Amendment in 1993, which is a special Constitutional Amendment on municipalities. As even a first year student of law knows, a later and a special law overrides an earlier and a general law," Singhvi said.

Singhvi said through the Bill, the BJP was running away from facing the AAP in the polls. "If you want to run away from poll, then name it Kejriwal phobia Bill... This Bill will write the story of you trampling on the Constitution of India," he said.

The Opposition MPs also questioned the absence of a roadmap on putting the financial affairs of the proposed unified corporation in order. TMC's Jawhar Sircar and BSP's Ramji Gautam said the Bill does not deal with the scourge of manual scavenging which continues to claim lives.

While supporting the Bill, BJP's Prasanna Acharya said the Centre should not delay the municipal elections in Delhi on any pretext.

CPI(M)'s John Brittas said the Bill goes against the Centre's public pronouncements on federalism. "They have bypassed the state government," he said.

Countering the charges levelled by the Opposition, Shah said, "This Bill does not attack federal structure in any manner... If they (AAP) are not happy with the power they have, then they should not have contested. You cannot fight for government in an UT, and hold desire to have full powers of a state."



Opposition members protest in Lok Sabha on Tuesday. PTI

the House, holding placards in favour of a tax cut for diesel and petrol. Later, Shiv Sena members also joined them.

Speaker Om Birla tried to run the Question Hour amid the din before adjourning the proceedings for half an hour to meet again at 12 noon. When the House met again, the papers were laid, and the House could take up Zero Hour only for a few minutes. The proceedings were again adjourned till 2pm.

ON EVE OF PARTY'S 42ND FOUNDATION DAY

Dedicate yourselves to service: PM Modi to BJP MPs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked his party MPs to dedicate themselves to seva (service) as the BJP embarks on its 'Samajik Nyay Pakhwada' – or social justice fortnight – from April 7.

Asking the BJP MPs to participate in the party programmes during the two-week campaign, the Prime Minister listed some of the welfare schemes initiated by the central government and urged them to reach out to every section of society to spread awareness on them.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the BJP parliamentary meeting on Tuesday, a day before the BJP celebrates its 42nd foundation day.

At the meeting, there was a special mention of the party's growth in the Northeast and its increased size in the Rajya Sabha – the BJP now has 101 MPs in the Upper House. BJP president J P Nadda congratulated Modi for the achievement.



Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief J P Nadda, PM Narendra Modi and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari at the BJP parliamentary party meet, Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

According to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, the Prime Minister asked the MPs to actively participate in the party programmes. "They should dedicate themselves to service," Joshi quoted the Prime Minister as saying.

Modi also asked the MPs to visit schools

to motivate students to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

Each MP was given two orange caps, carrying the party's name or symbol, like the one the Prime Minister wore recently during his Gujarat visit. Some MPs also wore caps carrying Modi's photo on them.

On Monday, Nadda held a meeting of party general secretaries to give final touches to the party programmes during social justice fortnight.

On the first day, the party MPs and workers will highlight the impact of health insurance programme 'Ayushman Bharat' and 'Jan Aushadhi Kendra', under which medicines are sold at a subsidised rate.

Schemes to build houses for the poor and efforts for pipe-water supply to every household will be at the centre of the campaign on April 8 and April 9 respectively, Joshi said. On April 12, the BJP leaders and workers will highlight the Covid-19 vaccination programme, he said.

BJP workers will also dedicate one day each to spread awareness about the ongoing free food grain scheme, reach out to Scheduled Tribes, contact unorganised sector workers, highlight financial inclusion schemes and nutrition programmes.

The MPs are also expected to participate in cleaning up and reviving ponds in their areas as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

CA BILL PASSED IN RAJYA SABHA

Autonomy of audit bodies will not be diluted: Nirmala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE CHARTERED Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, will not dilute the autonomy of the audit and accountancy bodies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Tuesday, stressing that it will strengthen corporate governance.

The Bill, which amends the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, provides for the setting up of a coordination committee headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It has sparked a debate in and outside the Parliament.

Sitharaman said while a coordination committee already exists, as pointed out by certain Opposition MPs, "it has not even

taken off". "The proposed amendments are very much in line with the core principles which have been given by the independent audit regulators..." she said.

Sitharaman, who also holds the corporate affairs portfolio, said questions have been raised over transparency in auditing ever since the Satyam and the ILFS scandals broke. "We have repeatedly been questioned about the number of failings of the CAs.

"If the corporate governance structure has really got to be robust to meet with the global investment expectations about our standards of audit, our standards of investment policy, about how auditing certificates are being given, we need to have greater robustness and also a level of accountability brought in," she added.

Among Opposition MPs who questioned the clause on the coordination committee was Akali leader Naresh Gujral, who said the committee's chairperson should be someone who is proficient with the subject and has domain knowledge.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



HISTORY TIPS

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah surprised many, including some of his own party members, with the deep knowledge about Indian history at a special screening of television serial Vidrohi – based on the life of Odia freedom fighter Buxi Jagabandhu – at Mahadeva auditorium. At the screening on Monday, which Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan helped organise, Shah shared his knowledge about the Odia icon and said had he been consulted he could have given the serial-makers more information on Buxi Jagabandhu. Shah appeared to have enjoyed the show and even had some light moments with the cast and crew. When Hemal Ingle, one of the leading actresses in the tele-serial introduced herself, Shah asked her where was she from. When Ingle said Kolhapur, Shah said, “Mera sasural hai, Kolhapur.” Shah also lauded Pradhan and advised filmmakers that more such films and serials on the unsung heroes should be made

VOICE, VOTE

AS CLAUSE-WISE amendments during the passage of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 were being put to vote on Tuesday, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh's voice betrayed severe strain, prompting the members to urge him to sip water. It had much to do with a rare legislative rigour shown by the House while passing another Bill. While passing the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the House voted on 106 clauses and clause-wise amendments, which took more than 30 minutes. Even during that time, Harivansh was on the chair of the House.

LOCAL FIRST

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS'S Sukhendu Sekhar Roy on Tuesday raised an issue in Rajya Sabha that struck a chord with Chairperson Venkaiah Naidu. Speaking in Bengali, Roy pointed to the Bengali signage for Whitechapel station on the London tube that has now been installed, given the large Bengali population in the area. Roy said central institutions across the country have signage only in Hindi and English, and while this was fine, those in the local language must also be installed. Naidu marked it as an important issue, and brought up the need for signage in local language several times during the proceedings, even after Roy's short speech was long over. He asked the ministers present in the House, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Sarbananda Sonowal, to take note of the matter and inform their colleagues. “This (issue) is not limited to Kolkata, but for every state. First signs should be in the mother tongue, and then Hindi and English, otherwise the local people will not understand,” said Naidu. Congress MP Jai Ram Ramesh appealed to colleagues to “stop calling these languages regional languages”. He said these were national languages.

After ‘rebuke’, Jharkhand minister threatens to quit

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, APRIL 5

MORE THAN 30 Congress leaders from Jharkhand, including MLAs and ministers, met senior party leaders in Delhi for charting out a roadmap for strengthening the organisation at the grassroots-level in the state. However, during the meeting, a senior Congress leader, who is a minister in Jharkhand, threatened to resign when he was confronted for not doing enough on the organisational front.

Senior leaders KC Venugopal, Mukul Wasnik and party's in-charge for Jharkhand Avinash Pandey pointed out meagre memberships in the segments of four Cabinet ministers. State's Rural Development Minister Alamgir Alam threatened to resign when he was rebuked for giving little

time for the party-related work, it is learnt. However, Alam denied there was any talk of resignation. “Somebody has blown the issue out of proportion, but, yes, there was discussion on party work and I made my point clear.”

Pandey gave a presentation on constituency-wise party members in the state. As per sources, out of 81 constituencies, only Poreyahat Assembly segments has more than 10,000 members. As many as 22 other constituencies, including Pakur that Alam represents, have members between 5000 and 10,000.

“Until now, the Congress had largely been battling problems within... But things have begun to change slowly,” said a leader, who claimed that Tuesday's meeting in Delhi was aimed at improving party's weight in the state's politics.

The elusive poll strategist now behind Congress

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 5

IN THE run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, political strategist Sunil Kanugolu's company will be working from behind the scenes for the Congress in the Karnataka state elections and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in the Andhra Pradesh polls.

Kanugolu, who does not have any online presence and is believed to be in his late thirties or early forties, is an elusive figure unlike poll strategist Prashant Kishor, with whom he worked in 2014 before parting ways. Not only their public profiles, their modus operandi also differs considerably.

“He knows his limits, he never tries to patronise or over-

power his clients. Neither does he take credit nor does he flaunt his connections,” said a source who has known Kanugolu for five years.

A senior Congress leader told *The Indian Express*: “Even the photograph circulating on social media as that of his is of his brother. So, you can understand his style of functioning. He prefers to remain in the background. My impression is that he does not impose his views and ideas on the party. Every party has its strengths and weaknesses. Every party is different in the way it functions. He understands that and tries to work with the party.”

After striking out on his own, Kanugolu returned to the political mainstream by designing DMK chief and current Tamil

Haryana House rejects Punjab resolution on Chandigarh claim

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 5

DENOUNCING THE resolution by Punjab Vidhan Sabha staking claim over Chandigarh, the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, in a special one-day session, Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution seeking the completion of the SYL Canal and the transfer of Hindi-speaking areas from the neighbouring Aam Aadmi Party ruled state.

Termining the move by Punjab as “political gimmick”, “political conspiracy” and an “attempt to disturb the communal harmony between the two states”, the members of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, cutting across party lines voted in favour of the resolution moved by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

“This House notes with concern the resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly of Punjab on 1 April, 2022 recommending that the matter for transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab be taken up with the Central government. This is not acceptable to the people of Haryana,” read the resolution.

It added that Haryana continued to retain its right to the joint capital of the two states.

Participating in the discussion, former Leader of Opposition and former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda slammed the Punjab resolution. “Punjab's role as an elder



Haryana Congress leaders Raghuraj Singh Kadian and Bhupinder Hooda with Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh on Tuesday. Jasbir Malhi

brother is acceptable, but if it tries to play the role of the big brother, that is not acceptable to us,” the Congress leader said.

The tit-for-tat resolutions by the two states come after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the central service rules would now apply to the employees of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The AAP government in Punjab saw this as an attempt by the BJP-led Centre to diminish the state's say in the UT, coming as it did just days after Union government amended the rules for appointment of members of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

Like Punjab, the Haryana resolution too raised objections over changes in BBMB. “Under these circumstances, this House resolves to urge the central government not to take any steps that

would disturb the existing balance and to maintain harmony till all the issues emanating from the reorganisation of Punjab are settled,” read the resolution.

It urged the Centre to take measures for the construction of the SYL Canal in compliance with the directions of the SC. “The right of Haryana to share waters of Ravi and Beas rivers by the construction of the SYL Canal is historically, legally, judicially and constitutionally established... The august House has unanimously on at least seven occasions passed resolutions urging the early completion... Several agreements, accords, tribunal findings and judgments of highest judiciary... have all singularly upheld the claim of Haryana to the waters... In defiance... legislation's were enacted by Punjab to deny the rightful claims of the state of Haryana.”



Congress president Sonia Gandhi with party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in Parliament on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

Road ahead challenging, will do what's needed for unity: Sonia

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

DESCRIBING THE outcome of the recent Assembly elections as “shocking and painful”, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the road ahead for the party is “more challenging than ever before”, which will put to test the party leaders' dedication, determination and the spirit of resilience.

Sonia, without referring to the remarks of the G23 leaders or rumblings in several state units, said she was determined to ensure unity in the party.

“I am very well aware how disappointed you are at the recent election results. They have been both shocking and painful. The CWC has met once to review

our performance. I have met with other colleagues, too. I have received many suggestions on how to strengthen our organisation. Many are pertinent and I am working on them,” she told a meeting of the general body of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

Sonia said holding a ‘chintan shivir’ is also necessary as “that is where the views of a larger number of colleagues and party representatives will be heard”.

“They will contribute to put forward a clear roadmap on the urgent steps to be taken by our party on how best to meet the challenges we are confronted with. The road ahead is more challenging than ever before. Our dedication and determination, our spirit of resilience is under severe test. Unity at all levels of our vast organisation is of

paramount importance and speaking for myself, I am determined to do whatever is needed to ensure it,” she said.

She said the revival of the Congress is “not just a matter of importance to us alone—it is, in fact, essential for our democracy itself and indeed for our society as well”.

“We will not allow them to damage the bonds of amity and harmony that have sustained and enriched our diverse society for centuries,” she said.

“MSMEs are still in a most precarious condition. There is no sign that the commitments made to farmers are going to be fulfilled in any significant manner. Prices of gas and oil, petrol, diesel, fertilisers and other essentials have risen to an unbearable limit, and continue to rise,” Sonia said.

Haryana has rights on Chandigarh, will solve issue, says AAP MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, APRIL 5

AAM AADMI Party's Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Gupta on Tuesday said AAP will solve the issue of Satluj-Yamuna link (SYL) canal and Chandigarh in 2025.

“Chandigarh pe Haryana ka pooraa haqq hai. Aadhaa Chandigarh Haryana ka hai aur aadha Punjab ka [Haryana has full right over Chandigarh. Half of Chandigarh belongs to Haryana, the other half to Punjab],” Gupta, AAP's Haryana in-charge, said.

“The Centre should give half of each to both states along with Rs 20,000 crore for each. This should be the demand of the CM [M L Khattar]... so that separate capitals are formed,” he said. “If it is not possible, then in 2025 we will solve the SYL issue and the matter of Chandigarh as well, since we are in power in Punjab and we will win in Haryana (in 2024).”

Gupta was speaking to the media after a meeting with party representatives and volunteers of south Haryana zone in Gurgaon.

No encouragement from Cong leadership, options open: Ahmed Patel's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, APRIL 5

FAISAL PATEL, son of former political secretary to Sonia Gandhi late Ahmed Patel, expressed his displeasure with the Congress leadership through a tweet on Tuesday. “Tired of waiting around, No encouragement from the top brass. Keeping my options open,” Faisal wrote on Twitter.

The 41-year-old Harvard Business School alumnus told *The Indian Express*: “I have expressed my feelings and I don't want to add anything more or anything less. What I have said I have said, and nothing more... It could be anything like leaving the party, leaving politics and joining the business.”

This has come days after Patel shelved, apparently due to Ramzan, his plan to tour family's turf, Gujarat's Bharuch Lok Sabha segment, from April 1 elections in Gujarat are due this year.

On Tuesday, Faisal also

LS passes Bill to include some communities in Jharkhand ST list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

LOK SABHA Tuesday passed by a voice vote the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

The Bill, passed by Rajya Sabha on March 30, seeks to amend the Schedule to the ST Order to include certain communities – Deshwari, Ganjhu, Dautalbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut, Maajhia, Khairi (Kheri), Tamarai (Tamadia), and Puran – in the list of STs in Jharkhand.

The election strategist switched sides and advised the AIADMK but could not stop it from getting ousted from power. A person who knows Kanugolu said he was still in touch with former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami. “But I assume that his relationship with DMK is not great, may not even be in talking terms,” the source added.

Last year, Sonia and Rahul Gandhi met Kanugolu around the same time they reportedly held talks with Kishor. In the end, Congress gave Kanugolu's Hyderabad-based Mindshare Analytics the contract for the Karnataka campaign. According to sources, he could also be given the contract for Telangana.

—INPUTS FROM ENS DELHI
FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

‘Anti-India’ content: Centre blocks 22 YouTube channels

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE MINISTRY of Information & Broadcasting has blocked 22 YouTube channels for allegedly spreading disinformation related to India's national security and foreign relations. These include 18 Indian YouTube news channels that have been blocked for the first time under IT Rules, 2021, and four Pakistan-based YouTube news channels.

In an order issued on Monday, the ministry said these YouTube channels used logos of TV news channels and false thumbnails to mislead viewers. In addition, three Twitter accounts, one Facebook account, and one news website were also blocked.

“These channels were involved in spreading misinformation impacting India's sovereignty, national security & relations with other countries. They were spreading fake news about the pandemic & Russia-Ukraine crisis. We won't shy away from taking such action in future,” Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

“The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, utilizing the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021, has issued orders on 04.04.2022 for blocking of twenty-two (22) YouTube based news channels, three (3) Twitter accounts, one (1) Facebook account, and one (1) news website.



Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur

The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 260 crore, and were used to spread fake news, and coordinated disinformation... on subjects sensitive from the perspective of national security, India's foreign relations, and public order,” the ministry said in a statement.

The Twitter accounts blocked by the government are all Pakistan-based handles and associated with the same YouTube channels that were blocked, including ‘Ghulam Nabi Madni’, with 5,553 followers, ‘Dunya Mery Aagy’ with 4,063 followers (the channel's Facebook page too was banned) and ‘Haqeeqat TV’ with 3,23,800 followers. The ministry said multiple YouTube channels were used to post fake news on many subjects, including the Indian armed forces and J&K. It said content ordered to be blocked included certain “anti-India” content posted from multiple social media accounts operated in a coordinated manner from Pakistan.

Since December 2021, the Ministry has issued directions for blocking 78 YouTube-based news channels and several other accounts on grounds related to national security.



British PM Boris Johnson

UK PM may visit India towards end of April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, APRIL 5

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson is planning a visit to India towards the end of this month with a focus on strengthening bilateral ties against the backdrop of the ongoing India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations, according to official sources.

The visit, which is expected around April 22, is long overdue after Johnson was forced to cancel planned visits to India twice last year due to Covid-19.

While Downing Street is yet to confirm any details, an in-person meeting was discussed during a phone call between Johnson and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month.

“The leaders welcomed India and the UK's strong and prosperous relationship, and agreed to continue to build on trade, security and business ties in the coming weeks and months. They looked forward to meeting in-person at the earliest opportunity,” a Downing Street spokesperson said in a readout of the call on March 22.

Last week, Downing Street sources told PTI that Johnson was “very keen” to visit India for talks with his Indian counterpart Modi, though firm plans are yet to be fully drawn up.

The Roadmap, which aims to at least double bilateral trade between India and the UK by 2030, is part of Britain's so-called Indo-Pacific foreign policy tilt.

In response to NEP, TN forms panel to frame its own education policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, APRIL 5

THE TAMIL Nadu government Tuesday formed a 13-member panel to frame the state education policy, a promise made in the 2021-22 state Budget.

Headed by Delhi High Court retired Chief Justice D Murugesan, the panel members include former chess world champion Viswanathan Anand and prominent Carnatic musician T M Krishna, among others. While it had been announced

in the Budget, the idea of a new State Education Policy was mooted first in response to the ongoing move by the Centre to implement the National Education Policy. In December last year, the state school education minister had made it clear that the draft of the policy, to be prepared in a few months by the experts' panel, will be self-explanatory to Tamil Nadu's position towards NEP.

The panel members have been drawn from diverse sectors.

Tamil Nadu's opposition to the NEP is based on several

grounds: the NEP system of common entrance tests for UG programmes, introduction of a three-language formula when the state is following the two-language policy, and conducting common exams for classes III, V and VIII, among others. The state is also against the idea of a four-year degree programme with an option for multiple exits, fearing that it will increase dropouts and two types of graduates.

But the primary reason for the DMK's NEP opposition is its pothole the NEP intrudes into education, a crucial domain of the state.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,mayurakrashi Das,D/O kanai das R/O,f-171-C,Katwaria Sarai.110016,Have changed my name to mayurakshi Das. 0040608995-2

I,VINOD KUMAR,S/O Ranjit Singh,R/O B-36,F/F, B-Block, Mansa Ram-Park,Uttam Nagar, West-Delhi-110059,have changed my name VINOD KUMAR to VINOD KUMAR LAKRA,for all,future purpose. 0040608995-6

I,VIJAY KUMAR GOEL,S/O SAGWA MAL R/O S-32, PARAMPURI, STREET NO.6, UTTAM NAGAR,DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIJAY KUMAR. 0040608995-9

I,USHA RANI,W/O VINOD KUMAR LAKRA R/O B-36,F/F,B-Block, Mansa-Ram Park, Uttam-Nagar,West Delhi-110059,have changed my name USHA RANI to USHA LAKRA,for all,future purpose. 0040608995-7

I,Sunil Yadav S/o-Maha Singh, R/o-708, Manmohan-Marg Gali, Wazirabad(75), Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122003,have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Yadav. 0040608995-2

I,Sonia W/o-Sumeet Verma R/o-C-120 IInd Floor,Right Side Old Gupta Colony,Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Sonia Verma for future. 0040608995-1

I,Siddhartha Shankar Dey S/O R.K. Dey R/O J-503, Antriksh Golf View-2, Sector-78, Noida,(U.P.) have changed my name to Siddhartha Shankar Dey for all purposes. 0040608995-1

I,Shiela Devi W/o Ram Gopal R/O G-126, Sector-11,Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sheela Devi. 0040608995-9

I,Salim Ahmed S/O, Zameel Ahmed R/O, H.No- F-154,Gali No-8-9,Bhagirathi Vihar Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Saleem. 0040608995-4

I,SATISH CHAND JAIN S/O JINESHWAR KUMAR JAIN R/O C-4/85,LAWRANCE ROAD, KESHAV-PURAM,DELHI-110035,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATISH JAIN. 0040608995-8

I,Renu W/o Vinod Kumar R/o-F-259,J.Colony Wazirpur,Ashok, Vihar Delhi-110052,inform that my name wrongly, written Reenu in my Ration-Card but my actual name is Renu. 0040608995-7

I,Rakesh Kumar S/o Jagdish Prasad Sharma R/o-C-2/27, Swarn Park Nanngli Delhi-110041,declare that Rakesh Kumar/Rakesh Kumar Sharma/Rakesh Sharma, all are, names of, same and one person only. 0040608995-4

I,Rahees Ahmad S/O, Sagheer Ahmad R/O, A-3/494,Sultana Puri Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Rahees Ahmed. 0040608995-3

I,Pinky W/o Manish Bhatia R/O D-37, First Floor, Moti-Nagar, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Pinky Bhatia. 0040609018-2

I,Parmeshwar,S/O Shri Gopi Ram,R/O House No-A-31/1, Mohan Garden,A-Block Extn., Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059,Have Changed my Minor son's Name Harshit Meghwal to Harshit Lilar. 0040608995-5

I,PREMJEET GARG,W/O PARMOD AMBawat R/O-395/31,ONKAR NAGAR-B,TRINAGAR,DELHI-110035,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRITI,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040608995-4

I,Muskan Arora,W/o Akshay Dua,D/O Neeraj Kumar Arora, R/o-G/6/3,Nea Rajinder-Nagar, Delhi-110060,have changed my name to Muskan Dua after my-marriage,vide-Affidavit No.DL14487731604136U. 0040608995-8

I,Prem Sharma (earlier known as 'Prem Gopal'), S/o Amrit Dhar R/O G-108, Kalkaji Aali Ali, Delhi-110019 state that I have changed my name from 'Prem Gopal' to 'Prem Sharma' on 01.09.2017 for all purposes. Further, I have got my Government Identity documents such as 'PAN Card' and 'Aadhar Card' updated with my name as 'Prem Sharma'. 0040608996-1

I,Charanjeet Singh Bhardwaj S/o Late Sardar Partap Singh Bhardwaj R/O T-754/E, Prem Nagar Road, Community Centre, Baijeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Rangji Bhardwaj Charnjeet for all purposes. 0040608995-5

I,Kuldeep Kaur,D/O Tirlok singh chadha R/O,QP-13 T F Saraswati vihar pitampura North-West Delhi-110034,Have changed my name to BALVINDER KAUR. 40608995-3

I,Alka Rani W/o Ranvir Singh Kaushik R/O BG-3/52D, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Alka Kaushik. 0040608942-1

I,Ahmad Ali, S/o Ramzan Ali, R/O 29-1/43, Gali No.43, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Ahmad Ali. 0070779882-1

I,Sunil Kumar Rana, S/O Ram Chander, R/O Hno-358, Shahbad Daultapur, Delhi-42, Have changed my Name to Sunil Rana for all future purpose. 0040608949-1

I,Tumman D/o Tapas Roy R/o-16/345, Block-I,Gali-3,Pyare Lal Road,Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005,changed my name to Tumman Roy. 0040608986-8

I,NARESH KUMAR S/O. RAM KISHAN R/DD-20 KALKAJI EXTN, NEW DELHI-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NARESH KALSII. 0040607463-1

I,Kartik Aggarwal S/o Bajrang Lal Aggarwal R/O 69 Inder Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-87 have changed my name to Kartik Aggarwal. 0040608974-1

I,Jasmeet kaur chhatwal W/O Sharmeet Singh R/O H.No 50 East Avenue Road Panjabi Bagh Delhi-110026 have changed my name to Jasmeet kaur. 0040608986-3

I,Jasleen Kaur Bhatia,W/o Ashmeet Singh Khurana,R/o A-95,Second-floor Narang-Colony Janakpuri,Delhi-110058, changed my name to Jasleen Kaur Khurana. 0040608985-6

I,Hoshiyar Singh S/o Ram Singh R/o-1804,Sector-14,Hisar, Haryana-125001 inform that my name Hoshiyar Singh Bishnoi and Hoshiyar Singh is same, person. 0040608986-5

I,Hitherto known as Rattan Singh S/o shri.DEVI ram,R/o-40Mexmulle-marg new-Delhi-03,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RATTAN CHAND. 0040608985-5

I,GAURAV ANAND,S/O HARISH ANAND,R/O,FLAT.No 11090, TOWER-6,E,GH-7, CROSSING REPUBLIK,GHAZIABAD, UTTAR-PRADESH-201016, changed my name to GAURAV HARISH ANAND. 0040608995-10

I,Deepak Rai Devraj Kohli S/O Dev Raj kohli R/O D-29,First-Floor Block-D Sector-14,Rohini, Prashant,Vihar,North West, Delhi,Delhi-110085, changed my name to Deepak Rai Kohli 0040608986-6

I,Chauru Sapra,W/o Joginder Pal R/O E-125,Preet-Vihar,Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Charu Arora after my-marriage vide-Affidavit No. DL14487081092390U. 0040608985-7

I,Bajrang Lal Aggarwal S/O Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal R/o-69 Inder Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-87 have changed my name to Bajrang Lal Aggarwal. 0040608971-1

I,Atul Kumar S/o Satyapal Mahotra R/O-A-95,Double Storey, Kalkaji,New Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Ajay Mahotra for all future purpose. 0040609018-1

I,Ankit Sharma,S/o Late Sh.Rajesh Kumar Sharma, R/O A-144,Sector-55, Noida,have changed my Son's Name,from Viraj Sharma to Yugg Viraj Sharma,for all purposes. 0040609015-5

I,Amit Kumar Verma S/O Manphool Verma R/o Hno-324,Shahbad Dault Pur, Delhi-42, have changed my name Amit Verma for all future purposes. and my father correct name is Manphool Verma instead of Manphool Singh. 0040608948-1

I,Ajay Bhatt S/O,Banwari Lal BhattR/O, Plot.No-A-21/A, kh.No-2/7, Rajeev Nagar Extn, Begumpur, Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Ajay Kumar Bhatt. 0040608986-1

I,Agorie D/O Krishnendu Dasgupta,R/O A 2181 Green-Field Colony, Sector-43 Faridabad, Haryana,have changed my name to Agorie Dasgupta,for all purposes. 0040608985-1

I,ARUN KUMAR S/O DEV RAJ,R/O 678,A-BLOCK,SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110052,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARUN KUMAR PAPREJA. 0040609015-1

I,Ranvir Singh S/o Satnarain R/O BG-3/52D, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Ranvir Singh Kaushik. 0040608942-2

I,ANKIT, W/O,RAVI DADHICH, ADD.101-B, POCKET-A1/B KRISHNA APARTMENTS PASCHIM VIHAR WEST DELHI-110063,changed my name to ANKIT AGGARWAL, permanently. 0040608985-2

I,Shalu Mahor, D/O Pati Ram, R/O: A-100/G-3, Dilshad Colony, New Seemapuri, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Shalu for all future purposes. 0070779901-1

I,Saurabh Kumar Verma, S/o Ravindra Kumar Verma, R/O Flat No 1103, Star Court 5, Jaypee Green,s Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201308, have changed my name to Saurabh Verma. 0070779840-1

I,Rebanta Kumar Mistry S/o Surendra Nath Mistry R/O N-303 Supertech Ecocity Sector-137, Noida, U.P. Rebanta Kumar Mistry and Rebant Kumar Mistry are Same Person. 0070779860-1

I,Sondh Mohan Jeet Singh S/o S. Kirpal Singh R/o Plot No.246, 3rd Floor, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Mohan Jeet Singh for all purposes. 0040608935-6

I,Alok Kumar R/o 114c, Sultapur Colony, Sultapur, Mg Road, New Delhi 110030 have changed my minor son's name from Shaurya Singh to Saandhya Shrey for all purposes. 0040608993-1

I have changed my name Arsha to Arsha Singh Gupta henceforth it will be Known as Arsha Singh Gupta D/O Shish Pal Singh R/O 143, Jagriti Enclave Anand Vihar, Delhi. 0040608939-1

I,Pushpa, D/o Shiv Kumar Sharma, R/o House No 41, Bhواني Enclave, Near Balaji Hospital, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Pushpa Sharma. 70779836-1

I,Manoj Biduri, S/o Rajender Singh Bidhuri, R/O G-34, Senior Citizen Homr Complex, Sector P-4, Greater Noida, U.P., have change my name Manoj Biduri to Manoj Bidhuri for all purposes. 0070779859-1

I,GONPAL S/o Sh. Rattan Chand R/o RZ1-1/303, Street No.2, Mahavir Enclave Part-1, Palam, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name from GONPAL to GUNPAL JAIN for all future purposes. 40608932-1

I,Divya Batra Juneja, w/o Sahil Juneja, residing at 303 Mandakini Enclave, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name from Divya Batra to Divya Batra Juneja for future purposes. 0040608936-1

I,Devyani, R/o C/O Vikram Singh, Near Mandir, Kalsada, Palwal -121103, has changed my name to Devyani Sehrawat. 0070779850-1

I,Arun Sharma S/o Anup Sharma, R/O 355/4, Mehrauli New Delhi-110030 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Kashi Sharma to Charvi Sharma for all purposes. 0040609032-1

I,Arun Kumar Rana S/o Bhag Singh Rana R/O Hno-145, Shahbad Daultapur, Delhi-42. Have changed my name to Arun Rana for all future purposes. 0040608938-1

I,Samina Farooq Wani D/o Sh. Farooq Ahmed Wani R/O D-73, Third Floor, Defence Colony, Delhi-110024 have changed the name of my lqbal daughter Ariana Iqbal aged 5 yrs 06 months to Ariana Farooq Wani for all future purposes. 0040608945-1

I,Rima Kumari Chaurasia, W/o Hav. Arun Kumar Chaurasia (15700188Y), VIII., Tetaria, East Champaran, Bihar, have changed my name in Army record Rima Chaurasia to Rima Kumari Chaurasia my UID No.-655748044567. 0070779862-1

I,Arun Gauba Alias Arun S Oberoi S/O Mukund Lal Gauba R/O Apartment No.202, Tower-6, Emerald-Floor Premier, Near World Mark, Sector-65, South City-11, Gurgaon-Haryana-122018, have changed my name to Arun Oberoi. 0070779880-1

I>Anil Kumar Kaka S/o Gurmukh Dayanand Kaka R/O 25/26, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 have changed my name to Anil Kaka 0040608994-1

Anil Kapoor, S/o Bhagwan Dass Kapoor, R/O 2G/24, Ward No-11, N-H-2, Faridabad (NIT), Haryana, have changed my name Anil Kumar to Anil Kapoor, for all future purposes. 0070779863-1

I,YUVRAJ, S/O.BOM BAHADUR THAPA,ADD.H-17/399 SANGAM VIHAR NEW DELHI-110062, Changed my name to YUVRAJ THAPA, permanently 0040609015-2

I,Kumari Sunar Kaul spouse of Kulbhusan Kaul, resident of D-3/45, 2nd flr, gali no3, Vashist Park, Delhi-46 have changed my name from Kumari Sunar/ Kumari Kaul to Kumari Sunar Kaul as per affidavit dated 21.03.2022. 0070779877-1

I,Pupi Razdan alias Pupi Koul D/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Razdan W/O Dr. Vijay Koul R/O A-1/2, Shivaji Apartments, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Pupi Koul for all purposes. 0040608935-4

I,Rajni Rani alias Gurleen Kaur D/o Late Sh. Munshi Singh W/O Sh. Ramanjeet Singh Sodhi R/O G-552, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Gurleen Kaur for all purposes. 0040608935-3

LOST & FOUND

I,Mohd Asif, S/o Nizamuddin R/O 1436b, Galai Gondni Wali Kala Mahal 8 Dariya Ganj Central, Delhi-110002 Lost My Original DDA-Demand Letter-Water & Electricity-NOC Finder-Contact #8700602533. 0040608985-10

I,ARVIND KAPUR S/O LT. MR. H.K. KAPUR have lost the Original Relinquishment Deed dated 04.05.2017 qua A-2/12, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110029, in case found, please contact at above address. 0040608935-7

I,Gaffar Khan,S/o Islamuddin, R/o-2793,Gali-Jhott-Wali Pahari-Bhojia, Turkman-Gate, Delhi-6,Patner of M/s.G.K. Industries.(Application No. 27439, Plot.No.125 SC-15,DSIIDC Indl. Area,Bhorganh,Bawana-II,Delhi,have lost EMD Receipt & Allotment-Letter etc. 0040608985-11

Lost original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter,Membership letter.No.570,Cat.D of SIDCO Hsg.Complex,Flat.No.604, Block-D1,Sec.1,IMT Manesar,in the name of Prem Chand Original allottee, No.SIDCO. Finder contact:Suman,R/o VILL-VPO-FAZILPUR, P-S-BALDASHAPUR, GURUGRAM, HARYANA. 0040608986-10

SERVICES

Contact P.D.Kumar Astrologer for expert future guidelines and most accurate solution for health, marriage, career etc. Mail at astrologer_kumar@yahoo.com for complete details. Satisfaction assured. 0050194439-1

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal: Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC (Central) Delhi-110054. SC No.-207/2021 N.D.O.H. 13.04.2022 Mohit Gupta & Anr. Vs. The State To, Mohit Gupta S/o Late Sh. Rajender Kumar Gupta, R/O 53/33, GF, Ramjas Road, opp, Mother Dairy Karol Bagh, Delhi Central Delhi-110055 SIKHA GUPTA D/o Late Sh. Rajender Kumar Gupta, R/O M-40, Greater Kailash, Part 1, Market, Delhi-110048 Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs.21,49,679. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Mrs. Shobha Gupta deceased. Whereas the 13.04.2022 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned. Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 03.03.2022. (Seal)

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public at large that my client namely, Babita Devi, W/o Late Sh. Chand Sachdeva, R/O H. No. 1539, Ouram Line, Gurgaon, Haryana, has severed all her relationship and ties with her son namely (1) Sh. Sanah Kumar, (2) Her daughter-in-law, Pooja Sachdeva, W/o Sh. Suresh Kumar, (3) Her grand-daughter Ms. Gurjan Sachdeva, D/o Sh. Sanah Kumar and (4) Her grandson Sh. Jain Sachdeva, S/o Sh. Suresh Kumar and disbars them from all movable and immovable properties assets as they are not of legal heirs of my client. All the assets and whatever absolutely and forever as they are not of legal heirs of my client shall not be liable for any of their acts and deeds. (Seal) CH. NO. 18, Wazirpur, The Hazrat Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice is hereby issued at large that my said client Smt. Mandeeq Kaur D/o. Late Sh. Singh W/o Late Sardar Harbajan Singh R/O 15/559, Tikal Nagar, New Delhi-18, also at 4-1-1005, Flat no. 305, Majestic Apartment, Baggas Road, New Delhi-110029, Hyderabad, AP, having PAN No. AKLP3881E and Aashar no. 602119499, Passport No.01971095, is also known as Chandor Mohini before her marriage. After marriage my said client changed her name as Smt. Mandeeq Kaur. It is solemnly affirm and declare that Smt. Mandeeq Kaur and Smt. Mandeeq Kaur is one or the same person. Sd/- S. Satyanarayanan (Advocate) Enrl. No. D-396/98 S-129, Old Mahavir Nagar, New Delhi-110016

PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Shri Ramesh Chandra S/O Late Sh. Ram Asra and Mrs. Chanchal Luthra W/O Shri Ramesh Chandra R/O D-177, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi-85, do hereby disown/ debar their daughters Bharati Arora W/O Sh. Kamal Khosra Arora and Gayatri Manchanda W/O Sh. Pankaj Manchanda, their husbands and children from all their movable & immovable properties & severe their relation with them as they are not of their legal heirs. If anybody dealing with them, shall be doing at his/her own risk & responsibility. My clients shall not be responsible for pros & cons of the deed. S.P. Bansal (Advocate) Ch. No. 229 Rohini Court, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, Rohit Dharmashya S/O Shri Rajbir Singh R/O H. No. -104, Khampur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110036 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Rajbir Dharmashya in my Driving Licence No. DL0820160348005. The actual name of my father is Rajbir Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that my client VIVEK KUMAR DISHT S/O B.D. DISHT R/O DDA FLAT NO-9156, FIRST FLOOR, SEC-B, PTK-II, VASANT KUNI, NEW DELHI-110070, Allottee/Purchaser of DDA SFS FLAT NO-8156, FIRST FLOOR, SEC-B, PTK-I, VASANT KUNI, NEW DELHI-110070. The original possession Letter and NOC of Electricity and Water, has been lost misplaced. An F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi with LR No. 21202/2022 dated 01/04/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may writer contact with above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person(s) claiming any right, interest objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or writer to Deputy Director (LAB) (H) or Director SFS LAB (H), Vikas Sadan, INA Colony, Delhi-110023. D.D.A VIKAS SADAN, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE My client KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED, Ambadeap Building, 7th Floor, 14 KG Marg, New Delhi, is in the process of advancing a loan to M/s United Exim Pvt. Ltd. & M/s United Fashion, against mortgage of Industrial Plot No. 012, (1680 sq. mtrs.), Block-A, Sector-65, Noida, District-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., owned by M/s United Fashion (a partnership firm) which has represented that it is the sole & absolute owner of the said Property by virtue of Transfer Deed Cum Sale Deed dated 02.07.2021 (Doc. no. 3050) executed by M/s. Bimla Maru Fashions Private Limited through its Liquidator Mr. Satish Kumar Mathur appointed by Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Principal Bench, New Delhi. If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property or objection to its Sale & mortgage, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication of this notice, otherwise I shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim shall be entertained thereafter and my client shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property. Vishal Chopra, Advocate NARANG & Associates D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

IMPORTANT Whilst case is taken prior to the appearance of the undersigned copy, it is not possible to verify the correctness of the contents of the Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred by any such transactions with companies, individuals or persons who are advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We do not recommend that readers take any action on any notices before sending any notices or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

MAHARASHTRA
35% posts for healthcare workers in PHCs lying vacant, reveals RTI

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, PALGHAR, APRIL 5

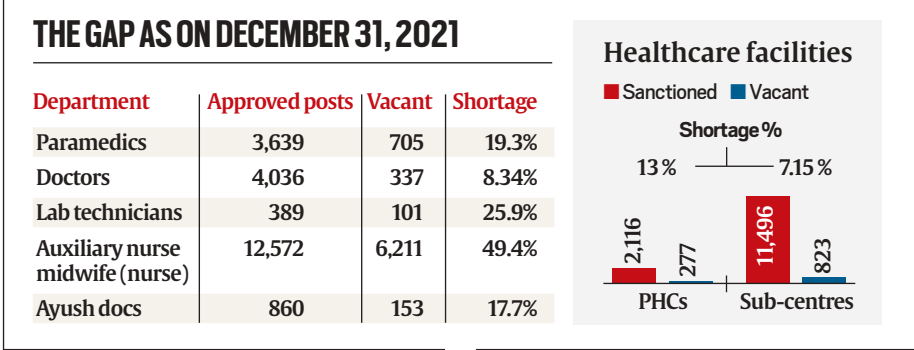
REKHA POTINDA (36), a resident of Kayri village in Palghar's Jawhar taluka, was pregnant with her fifth child. A few days before her delivery date, she started having labour pain in October 2021. Bleeding, she was rushed to Sakharshet Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC), about 10 to 12 km from her village. The PHC referred her to the Jawhar sub-district hospital, which, in turn, referred her to Nashik district hospital - 150 km away. By then, it was too late. "She bled for hours while we took her from one place to another. She died on her way to the district hospital...so did her baby," said Rekha's cousin Vishal Mangesh Dabre.

This is not an isolated incident in Maharashtra. A series of pleas filed by The Indian Express under the Right to Information Act has revealed that while the state has 1,839 functional PHCs, most do not have adequate staff -- one-third of the sanctioned posts in PHCs are vacant.

As on December 31, 2021, of the 21,496 sanctioned posts for healthcare workers in PHCs, 7,507 or 35 per cent were lying vacant. PHCs had a shortfall of 337 or 8.34 per cent doctors against the 4,036 sanctioned posts. This was in sharp contrast to 2005, when all the 3,157 doctor posts were filled. Consequently, the pressure on government hospitals in rural areas is high, leading to long waiting time, poor patient satisfaction, and an increase in dependence on private healthcare.

Also, most PHCs don't have specialist doctors. The medical officers in most of the centres are either brought on contracts for 9-10 months or are Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) doctors. As per the guidelines of the state public health department, a PHC should consist of 15 staffers, including cleaning and ambulance services which are contracted out.

According to a survey by NGO Jan Arogya Abhiyan (JAA) in 17



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

districts of the state last July, there was only one permanent medical officer in half (51 per cent) of the surveyed PHCs.

The RTIs filed by The Indian Express has further revealed that the state has a 13 per cent shortfall of sanctioned PHCs. Data showed that of the 2,116 sanctioned PHCs, 277 are yet to be constructed. Also, of the 11,496 sanctioned sub-centres that come under PHCs, 823 or 7.15 per cent are yet to be established.

In fact, many existing PHCs do not function due to a shortage of staff. For instance, Nandgaon T Manor PHC was established in 2006-07 with Rs 4.88 lakh. But it opens only twice a week to immunise newborn babies. Due to this, other patients are forced to travel 4-6 km in a medical emergency.

Forty-year-old Krishna Kura, a farmer, said they have to travel 4 km to Durvesh PHC even for a check-up. Likewise, 63-year-old Shidava Chintya Kadu has been fighting oral cancer since 2019. This resident from Barhanpur village in Palghar has already spent over Rs 2 lakh on his treatment in a private hospital in Nashik. But even for a regular check-up, the elderly couple, with no children of their own, has to plead to neighbours to accompany them to the Manor rural hospital, which is 18

km away. The Indian Express found that the Barhanpur PHC opposite Kadu's house had not been used for years. The centre was inaugurated in 2014-15 and Rs 5.18 lakh was spent on its construction. Kadu's wife, Mathura Shidava Chintya, said, "He has been in pain for two days. Due to unavailability of doctors, he is suffering and starving. The PHC doctor could have helped but it never opens."

Additional Chief Secretary Dr Pradeep Vyas, said that other than red-tapism, the Covid-19 pandemic stalled the recruitment process. "The maintenance of the PHCs comes under both the zilla parishad and health department. In 2017, hiring got disrupted as



At the dinner at NCP chief Sharad Pawar's residence in New Delhi on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

On day ED moved against him, Raut with Gadkari at Pawar dinner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

A DINNER hosted by NCP chief Sharad Pawar at his 6-Janpath residence on Tuesday saw senior leaders of the BJP and the Shiv Sena breaking bread together. The development came on a day the Enforcement Directorate attached properties of Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut.

The political temperature has

been rising in Maharashtra for some time, given the showdown between BJP and Sena, and it was seen to have escalated on Tuesday with the ED action on Raut, who has called it political vendetta.

The presence of Union minister and former BJP president Nitin Gadkari and Raut at Pawar's dinner, hosted for a group of visiting Maharashtra MLAs, has evoked much political interest. Also present was BJP

Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Dubey. The Maharashtra MLAs are in the national capital to attend a two-day orientation programme organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Earlier, the MLAs met Raut at his residence here over tea. While some of the leaders said no political meaning should be read into it, the presence of Gadkari and Raut at the dinner at Pawar's residence did not go unnoticed.

Andhra CM Jagan meets PM in Delhi, submits charter of requests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMARAVATI, APRIL 5

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to amend the credit limit to Andhra Pradesh as the state suffered huge revenue loss due to bifurcation and also Covid-19.

Reddy who met PM Modi in the national capital also requested the Centre to approve the revised estimates of Polavaram project which is pegged at over Rs 55,000 crore, an official release from the state government said.

According to the AP CM, the state suffered a revenue loss of Rs 33,478 crore due to Covid-19 and an additional Rs 7,130 crore

had to be spent on the infection prevention and treatment. He further said the procedure followed for identification of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act is flawed and unjust to the state.

While ration is being provided to 1.45 crore households in the state, only 89 lakh are getting it from the Centre, while the remaining 56 lakh families are being provided by the state government at its own expense, he said. "I urge you to correct this immediately," Reddy told the PM.

Stating that Telangana Discoms owe Rs 6,455.76 crore to AP Genco, Reddy sought the

Centre's intervention to ensure that the dues are paid by the neighbouring states as the AP power distribution companies are reeling under severe financial crunch.

Reddy sought immediate approval for setting up of 12 medical teaching hospitals in addition to the 14 existing ones.

He also requested Modi the site clearance approval for Bhogapuram International Airport near Visakhapatnam as it has expired.

Nadda to interact with 13 diplomats at launch of 'Know BJP' event today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

BJP PRESIDENT JP Nadda will launch the party's new initiative — Know BJP — on Wednesday wherein he will interact with a dozen envoys, including those of four Western neighbours of Ukraine.

The initiative, aimed at addressing the "global audience", is being organised by the BJP's foreign affairs cell. The programme coincides with the BJP's foundation day — April 6.

In the first interaction under the initiative, Nadda will meet 13 Heads of Missions from

France, Italy, Portugal, Vietnam, Switzerland, Poland, Romania, Bangladesh, Singapore, Slovakia, Hungary and Norway on Wednesday. Besides, Head of Missions from the European Union will also be there. India evacuated 22,500 of its citizens via Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary — the Western neighbours of Ukraine — after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Briefing the media about the initiative, Dr Vijay Chauthaiwale, in-charge of BJP's foreign affairs cell, said that besides Nadda, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, BJP national vice-president Bajajant Jay Panda and Rajya Sabha

member Sudhanshu Trivedi, BJP Mahila Morcha national president Vanathi Srinivasan, and BJP spokesperson Mmholimo Kikon (Nagaland) and some other leaders will also be present during the interaction with the foreign diplomats.

Chauthaiwale said that this event is first in the series wherein BJP leaders will share party's history, ideology, and structure with the diplomats. The party chief will also address queries from the distinguished guests, Chauthaiwale said.

During the interaction, a documentary depicting the journey of the Jan Sangh and the BJP will also be shown to the

foreign delegates. A special coffee-table book "Nation First" will also be distributed among the guests, he said.

Chauthaiwale further said that the exchange of delegations with political parties of friendly countries is also being planned in due course of time.

BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma said party's foreign affairs cell will invite small groups of ambassadors and heads of missions for interaction under the 'Know BJP' initiative.

The event comes days after Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba visited the BJP headquarters.

Kovind accorded ceremonial welcome

Amsterdam: President Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Savita Kovind were accorded a ceremonial welcome by King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands on Tuesday as they began their official engagements in the European country. President Kovind arrived in Amsterdam on Monday on the final leg of his two-nation visit — the first Presidential trip to the Netherlands after 34 years since the visit of President R Venkataraman in 1988 — during which he will hold discussions with the top leadership of the country.

President Kovind also laid a wreath at Dam Square, Amsterdam. PTI

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Announcement of Award Nos. 01/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022, 02/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022 & 03/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022 for Village Chhawala, Dichaon Kalan & Najafgarh respectively for acquisition of land for Development of 6 lane NH-344M (Package 3) in South-West Distt. in the state of Delhi for land owners/persons interested therein.

Kind attention of all land owners/interested persons is invited to the Notification dated 07.12.2020 under Section 3A of the NH Act, 1956 for acquisition of land for the building/construction of NH-344M and the Notification dated 20.09.2021 issued under Section 3D of the NH Act, 1956 and published in the following newspapers.

Sr. No.	Notification	Names of Newspapers in which published	Date of Newspapers in which published
1.	Section 3A	Hindustan Times and Navbharat Times	17.12.2020
2.	Section 3D	Hindustan Times and Navbharat Times	25.09.2021

It is informed that the undersigned has announced the Awards in respect of the said land under Section 3G of the NH Act, 1956 vide Award No. 01/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022, 02/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022 & 03/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022. The land acquiring agency NHA, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has placed the requisite amount of compensation at the disposal of the undersigned. Notices have also been issued to the concerned land owners/interested persons as required under section 3E of the NH Act, 1956.

Accordingly, all the concerned land owners/interested persons are hereby informed/notified through this additional Public Notice that the claimants entitled to receive the compensation amount may collect their amount of compensation from the office of the undersigned on any working day between **11 AM to 4 PM** within a period of 60 days from date of Publication of this Notice and surrender or deliver the possession of the subject land to the undersigned, failing which the possession of subject land will be taken with police assistance on expiry of the period of 60 days from date of Publication of this Notice.

Sd/-
Competent Authority for Land Acquisition,
ADM/CALA (South-West)

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Announcement of Award Nos. 04/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022 & 05/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022 for Village Dichaon Kalan & Jharoda Kalan respectively for acquisition of land for Development of 4 lane NH-344N in South-West Distt. in the state of Delhi for land owners/persons interested therein.

Kind attention of all land owners/interested persons is invited to the Notification dated 08.10.2021 under Section 3A of the NH Act, 1956 for acquisition of land for the building/construction of NH-344N and the Notification dated 07.01.2022 issued under Section 3D of the NH Act, 1956 and published in the following newspapers.

Sr. No.	Notification	Names of Newspapers in which published	Date of Newspapers in which published
1.	Section 3A	Times of India & Dainik Jagran	14.10.2021
2.	Section 3D	Times of India & Navbharat Time	15.01.2022

It is informed that the undersigned has announced the Awards in respect of the said land under Section 3G of the NH Act, 1956 vide Award Nos. 04/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022 & 05/2022/SW dated 16.03.2022. The land acquiring agency NHA, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has placed the requisite amount of compensation at the disposal of the undersigned. Notices have also been issued to the concerned landowners/interested persons as required under section 3E of the NH Act, 1956.

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Sd/-
Competent Authority for Land Acquisition,
ADM/CALA (South-West)

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Headquarters: New Delhi
16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi-110001,
Phone: 011-43527697, 43527698
HQRS Sports Promotion Committee
Office : 011-43527451

STIPEND FOR SPORTS PERSONS
FCI Headquarters Sports Promotion Committee invites application from bonafide student in the age group of 15 to 18 years and 18 to 24 years who have represented at various levels in preceding years for awarding Stipend in Cricket, Hockey, Football, Badminton, Table Tennis, Weight Lifting, Power Lifting, Athletics & Swimming for the year 2022-2023. Eligible sports persons may send their application to the "The Secretary (HQSPC), Food Corporation of India, HQRS, (13th Floor), 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi".
For details Login to FCI website : fci.gov.in

OFFICE OF SOLE ARBITRATOR
N.K. PURHIT (Former District Judge)
C-116, Savitri Path, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur-15
Nimit Kasineral-Claimant
Vs
MGM Stone Aggregates Pvt.Ltd. & Sons-
Respondents
To
1. Manoj Sinha S/o Mr. Shiv Kumar Sinha,
Resident of E-195/11, Block-E, Armer Colony, Lajpat
Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024. Respondent no.3
2. Vishal Tewaria S/o Mr. Devesh Singh Tewaria,
R/o A-63, Vidya Pradesh Lok, Transport Nagar,
Meerut-250001(U.P.). Respondent no.4

NOTICE
Whereas pursuant to Order dated 28th November 2021 passed by the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court Bench Jaipur in S.B.Arbitration Application No.62/2019, I have been appointed as Sole Arbitrator to arbitrate and resolve the dispute between the parties. You are hereby summoned to appear in the arbitral proceedings before me in person or through your representative or counsel duly instructed on 07.05.2022 at 4:30 PM, at my above mentioned office address for determining further course of proceedings so as to adjudicate this dispute. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day above-mentioned, the matter shall be proceeded further in your absence as per law, issued today on 05.04.2022 with my seal and signed.

Sd/- (N.K. PURHIT)
SOLE ARBITRATOR

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Ministry of Textiles
Government of India

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Event Programme
Date :- 31 March to 09 April 2022
Time: 11.00 am To 09.00 pm
Venue - Dilli Haat, Pitam Pura,
Netaji Subhash Palace, New Delhi - 110034

Organized By
Sri Mangal Mahila Aushiki Sahakar
Mahil Union, - Jaipur

Government Of Karnataka
DR. GANGUBAI HANGAL GURUKUL TRUST (R) UNKAL, HUBLI
Dist. Dharwad State, Karnataka (India)
(A centre for excellence in Hindustani Music)
E-mail: gangubaihangalgurukul@gmail.com Ph: +91-8277298496
No:DGHGT/Admission/2021-22 Date :17.03.2022

NOTIFICATION
Dr. Gangubai Hangal Gurukul Trust(R) Unkal, Hubli is a music institute run by the Karnataka State Government invites applications for the post of 'Tabala Guru' (Tabala instrument teacher) on a temporary basis. And invites applications from eligible and interested students to learn Violin, Sitar and Tabala instrument under "Guru-Shishya Parampara". Candidates wishing to apply must comply with the conditions stated below. The students willing to join Gurukul should have basic knowledge of Violin, Sitar and Tabala instrument.
Post: Tabala Guru' (Tabala instrument Teacher)

Terms and conditions:

- Nationality : The candidate must be citizen of India.
- Age : Minimum 25 years and maximum 50 years. And candidate should produce their healthy fitness certificate issued by the district government medical officer.
- Total vacancies : 01 - Tabala instrument teacher
- Eligibility : The candidate must be an 'Top' Grade artist of Akshavani and must be an outstanding international artist. Male and Female candidates can apply.
- Language : The candidate must know kannada language
- Honorarium : Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty thousand rupees) per month
- Accommodation : There is a 'guruhouse' for Gurujis in gurukul. Selected candidates must stay in gurukula.

Terms and conditions for students for violin, Sitar and Tabala instrument learning:

- The candidate must be citizen of India. And must have pass in PUC
- The Selection will be held at national level through audition test.
- The candidate must have completed a minimum of 18 years and should not have crossed 35 years as on 01.04.2022. And should be unmarried.
- The duration for learning in Gurukul is for a minimum 2 years maximum 4 years.
- Male or Female candidates may apply.
- Selected student will get free accommodation, food and Uniform from the Gurukul. Once they selected there will be no permission for other education.
- Eligibility test to Selected students.
- Interested candidates are requested to send their applications along with the required documents by post or through E-Mail

Mode of application : By post or E-mail
Last date to apply : 30.04.2022
Postal Address : Administrative Officer
Dr. Gangubai Hangal Gurukul Trust(R),
Unkal, Hubli-580032,
Dist-Dharwad, Karnataka.
E-mail: gangubaihangalgurukul@gmail.com

To get Application form log on to Gurukul website:-
www.drgangubaihangalgurukul.com. For any other information Contact No:
9483871222

Nishith Patil, IAS
Deputy Commissioner, Dharwad & Co-Chairperson,
Dr. Gangubai Hangal Gurukul Trust (R), Unkal, Hubli.

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

COMING TOGETHER

Merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank promises benefits to entities and consumers, could trigger consolidation in sector

THE MERGER BETWEEN the country's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, and leading mortgage firm, HDFC, announced on Monday, will create a financial behemoth with a market capitalisation of around Rs 14 lakh crore. With a combined loan book of nearly Rs 18 lakh crore, the merged entity will be twice the size of its nearest private sector rival. As a consequence, the bank's market share will rise to 15 per cent, up from 11 per cent currently, according to S&P Global Ratings. While such a move has been discussed for years, changes in the regulatory architecture — the central bank has moved to bring about harmonisation in the framework governing banks and non-banking financial companies — have narrowed the "regulatory arbitrage" and created a "conducive environment" for the merger. Stock prices of both HDFC and HDFC bank rose on Monday signalling approval from the investor community.

The benefits stemming from this unique merger could cut both ways. For one, the cost of funding is likely to drop, which can be passed on to mortgage consumers, further cementing the entity's position in the sector. The combine will also benefit from efficiency gains owing to streamlining of activities and rationalisation of costs. Further, considering that there is apparently very little customer overlap between the two — a significant share of HDFC's customers don't have bank accounts with HDFC Bank, and an equally high number of HDFC bank customers don't have mortgages from the group — the merger greatly widens the scope for cross selling, from mutual funds to insurance to loans. This presents a lucrative opportunity for the combined entity. Some analysts have, however, raised concerns that the Reserve Bank of India's norms on the statutory liquidity ratio, the cash reserve ratio and priority sector lending are likely to impinge upon the merged entity's profitability in the immediate term. In fact, according to a report by Macquarie Capital Securities, HDFC Bank will have a requirement of Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000 crore for meeting the SLR/CRR norms, and Rs 90,000 crore to meet the priority sector rules. However, as reported in this paper, the bank has asked the RBI for some leeway, proposing to meet the regulatory norms over three years. How the central bank responds to this request could thus have a bearing on the entity's near term prospects.

The merger is in line with the broader trend of consolidation in the financial industry. Public sector banks have already seen the first round of consolidation, driven in part by the need for building stronger balance sheets. Axis Bank has recently acquired Citibank's consumer business in India. Other banks, especially the private sector ones, and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) may now look for acquisitions to strengthen their balance sheets, and acquire scale. This could dramatically alter the country's financial landscape.

NO TIME TO LOSE

Latest IPCC report underlines why climate action can no longer be put off. Developed countries must step up to the challenge

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) usually does not lay out policy prescriptions. But the third part of its Sixth Assessment Report, released on Monday, is the closest that the consortium of climate experts has come to a comprehensive set of guidelines for global warming mitigation. The de-carbonisation pathway it suggests hinges on a shift from fossil fuels to cleaner sources of energy. The good news, the report points out, is that "there is growing evidence of climate action" in the energy sector. In the last decade, policies and regulatory measures in several parts of the world have enhanced the efficiency of green technologies. The cost of producing solar and wind energy, for instance, has come down by almost 85 per cent since 2010. The bad news, however, is that these efforts may not be enough to escape the ravages of a climate breakdown. Most projections, including the first part of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report released last year, show that the world is not on course to limit the temperature rise to the levels set in the Paris Climate Pact.

The Paris Agreement proposed to keep the increase in global average temperature to "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels" and intensify efforts to keep this threshold to 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, the Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce emissions, the core of the landmark pact, have been criticised as inadequate. Attempts by countries in the West to course-correct by setting ambitious decarbonisation targets for the middle of this century have been criticised as a ruse to postpone immediate action. The IPCC's latest findings add weight to these criticisms. "Limiting warming to around 1.5 degrees Celsius requires global GHGs to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43 per cent by 2030," it says.

The second part of the Sixth Assessment Report, released in February, was notable for its stress on climate justice. The authors of the report's latest edition affirm that "equitable action in mitigating... climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development". The thrust on equity vindicates the position of developing countries like India which have maintained that decisive climate action requires developed nations to be more forthcoming with technology transfers and less stingy with funds. It's increasingly becoming clear that developing countries, whose economy remains dependent on fossil fuels, will require untried technologies like carbon capture and storage to balance their growth-related imperatives with climate concerns. The message of the IPCC report is clear: Without a paradigm shift in climate cooperation, it will be very difficult to blunt global warming.

THOU SHALT NOT LAUGH

Denial of a book to Gautam Navlakha marks out bureaucratic brutishness of India's carceral system

COMEDY, THE CLICHÉ goes, is tragedy plus time. But the tragic absurdities that mark the Indian penal system have managed to show that the reverse too can be true. Gautam Navlakha — an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case — moved the Bombay High Court because of the alleged mistreatment he has faced in Talaja jail. Among other basic facilities, Navlakha was twice denied a copy of a book by 20th century English humourist PG Wodehouse: Jokes at the expense of English aristocracy, it seems, are a "security risk" in India. The high court called the prison's high-handedness "really comical", while pulling up the jail authorities for the many lapses in their treatment of Navlakha.

Unfortunately, it is no laughing matter. It is also part of a disturbing pattern. In 2020, Stan Swamy — also an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case — was denied a sipping cup. The elderly Swamy suffered from Parkinson's disease and could not grasp a glass. He died in custody, still an accused awaiting a verdict. Navlakha, in the same year, was not allowed to take possession of a pair of reading glasses for over three weeks.

Those who have read Wodehouse can attest to the joy he provides. Full of farce and silliness, the adventures at Blandings Castle, the hijinks of Jeeves and Wooster and the musings of Mr Mulliner are the perfect antidote to melancholy. The obvious criticism of jail authorities could be that they don't know what they seek to ban. Perhaps. But the more important question is why they sought to prevent a senior citizen from reading — the second time in almost as many years — while he is incarcerated. The likely answer to that question tells a sad tale about the Indian carceral system. And not even Wodehouse can make light of it.

Imran's no-ball

Khan's coup in National Assembly recalls actions of Trump after US polls. All eyes are on Supreme Court



MEHMALI SARFRAZ

ON SUNDAY, THE Pakistan National Assembly was to witness a vote of no-confidence against Prime Minister Imran Khan. There was enough evidence to know that the Opposition parties had the numbers to oust Khan. We had heard Khan say that he would not resign and would fight till the last ball. The ruling party had claimed that they had a "trump card", which people are now calling the "Donald Trump card". The "trump card" turned out to be the ruling party trampling on the constitution.

April 3, 2022 will be remembered as the day the Constitution of Pakistan was subverted by a civilian government on the floor of the House. First, the vote of no-confidence was disallowed using Article 5 of the Constitution as a crutch, with Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri ruling that "circumstances show that there is a nexus between the no-confidence motion, foreign intervention and the activities of that state's representatives deputed to Pakistan". Then, the prime minister addressed the nation, announcing that he had advised the president to dissolve the National Assembly. The president dissolved the Assembly subsequently. It all happened in such a short period of time that one is still grappling with the government's utter disregard for the rule of law in the face of an imminent defeat. And, instead of being embarrassed about doing something so atrocious, the ruling party is going to have a week-long celebration to mark that the vote of no-confidence could not take place and that it had played a "masterstroke".

In an ideal world, one would wonder why anyone would celebrate the end of their own government? The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seems to be thinking that by putting the blame on the Opposition for being part of some foreign plot to topple Khan's government, they will win the war of narratives. With the April 3 incident, it is evident that

the PTI craves power. These moves could have been dismissed as desperate had they not been unconstitutional.

What is dangerous is how the deputy speaker's ruling has tainted all 197 members of the Opposition, including the government's former allies who are with the Opposition now and those of the ruling party who jumped ship, as foreign agents. PM Khan has continuously said that people will not forgive or forget those who have "sold" their souls and their country. Such a dangerous narrative will definitely have consequences for an already polarised society.

The PPP's Bilawal Bhutto asked the military spokesman the other day to clarify if the National Security Committee meeting declared the "197 members of National Assembly as traitors and part of a foreign plot". Bhutto said Khan is using foreign conspiracy to justify his "coup". The PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif also mentioned in his press conference how Donald Lu, the US official named in the cable/memo sent by the Pakistan ambassador, was invited by the embassy just a week after the meeting that allegedly led to the "foreign conspiracy" and "threat letter". All these charges against the Opposition members are only being used to discredit them and at the same time, for stoking anti-Americanism.

There is no reason to label anyone a traitor, nor should these patriotism certificates be handed out by the premier — or anyone else for that matter. Nowhere in the statement after the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting was it mentioned that money was being given to the Opposition to oust PM Khan. Nowhere did it say that any country was involved in toppling the government. Nor did it mention any selling of souls or the existence of "handlers".

It is apparent that PM Khan knew he was not going to survive the vote of no-confidence on Sunday. That is why, instead of in-

trospecting why his government had become so unpopular that even his allies and party members did not want him to complete his full term, why his economic policies had failed and why he lost the majority in parliament despite censoring the media, he ended up making an unconstitutional move. These are questions he should answer instead of making a false narrative that his government is being toppled due to an international conspiracy. PM Khan claims he does not use religion for political reasons but that is exactly what he does in his speeches. His entire 2018 election campaign was about using religion against the PML-N.

I believe that all civilian governments should complete their five years but the Opposition chose a constitutional way to oust the PM. If what Suri did yesterday is not declared unconstitutional, then no Opposition would be able to bring in a vote of no-confidence against any premier — something that has been provided for in the constitution. We are supposed to be a democracy, not an autocracy.

Imran Khan tried to control the media when he came to power despite the fact that it was the very same media that gave him airtime to build a narrative as an Opposition leader. His government tried to amend the already draconian PECA law, a gift of the previous PML-N government, and make it much more draconian. Inflation is at an all-time high and the people of the country are facing a crippling financial challenge. In all this, perhaps the PTI could have at least acknowledged where it went wrong — instead of opting to create yet another crisis in the country.

All eyes are on the Supreme Court now as it has been hearing the arguments by the government and the Opposition.

The writer is a senior journalist based in Lahore

IT GOES BACK TO NATO

Ukraine conflict is rooted in the expansionary logic of the military alliance



D RAJA

THE WAR IN Ukraine has brought the spotlight on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). NATO was formed in the aftermath of the Second World War by the Western powers in response to the rise of the USSR. The rapid all-round progress made by the USSR, a planned socialist economy, made the capitalist economies uneasy and insecure. Thus, the capitalist West evolved a strategy to contain the spread of socialist ideology and NATO became its military instrument.

NATO began as a military partnership between the leading capitalist nations of the world, led by the United States of America, ostensibly for "collective security". But its real motive was to encircle the USSR and other socialist states in Eastern and Central Europe. The West made a narrative that Western Europe is facing a military threat from the Soviet Union. The USSR-led Warsaw Pact came into existence only after NATO integrated West Germany into the alliance and started weaponising the region. The USSR at that time was supporting national liberation movements in the Third World.

With the disintegration of the USSR in the early 1990s and the collapse of other socialist regimes in Eastern and Central Europe, NATO should have been dissolved. Instead, it was refashioned and expanded to realise the hegemonic ambitions of the US, which sought to build a unipolar world order. Ironically, NATO did not militarily intervene formally even once in the Cold War era; it started after the disintegration of the USSR! The leaders of Western powers had assured

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s that NATO would not expand into the East. But it kept expanding, and now has 30 member states in the place of the original 12 — all the Warsaw Pact allies except Russia are now NATO members.

Destruction and instability have marked NATO's footprints. NATO's involvement in Kosovo is well known. Over 500 civilians lost their lives due to NATO's indiscriminate bombing in that campaign. During the 11-week long bombing, the Chinese Embassy was destroyed causing an international furore. The Afghan war, according to the Costs of War Project led by Brown University, saw 1,76,000 deaths between 2001 and 2019. Over 46,000 of the dead were civilians. Similarly, the US-led intervention in Iraq resulted in over 1.5 lakh deaths from March 2003 to 2010 — 80 per cent of them civilians. NATO's intervention in Libya to enforce a no-fly zone is estimated to have killed more than 400 civilians. Close to a million people have died in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen etc. These numbers do not include indirect deaths nor do they reveal the havoc wreaked by forced migration, loss of property, psychological damage or geopolitical instability.

NATO has a state-of-the-art arsenal and a combined defence expenditure of \$1,036 trillion (2019) compared to Russia's \$60 billion defence budget. Moscow's apprehensions of NATO reaching its borders need to be considered in this backdrop. After the deterrence offered by the USSR ended, NATO has become an instrument to achieve the US' for-

eign and defence policy objectives in Europe and Asia. A body of the size and influence of NATO, with its 30 members accounting for close to 60 per cent of the global defence expenditure, enjoys a disproportionate advantage and mastery over the international scene by its mere existence.

The fact is that NATO's continuous expansion and involvement in world affairs is a threat to global peace and a just world order. Peace-loving people and states of the Global South should be opposed to the very idea of such a military alliance for it thoroughly distorts the level-playing field at the international level where every nation state is supposed to be equal.

As NATO's track record suggests, instead of the "collective security" it promised, it has only offered grave insecurity to nations opposed to US interests. Its needs have filled the coffers of the military-industrial complexes and monopolies, effectively diverting funds from vital programmes that could otherwise be deployed to improve the lives and livelihood of the people.

The current conflict between Russia and Ukraine is rooted in the expansionary logic of the military alliance. We oppose the ongoing war in no uncertain terms. It should be stopped immediately and the parties should engage in a dialogue. At the same time, questions must be asked about the cost of NATO to humanity. If peace is to prevail in the world, NATO should be disbanded.

The writer is General Secretary, CPI



APRIL 6, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

LIBERAL IMPORT POLICY

THE GOVERNMENT HAS announced a liberal import policy that seeks to put industrial exporters to an efficiency test. Many things have been made easier to get including raw materials and capital goods. Access to technology abroad has been given special attention. At the same time, the performance of industry will be judged by how well it will absorb these incentives and produce for export while competing with other countries. Abid Hussain, commerce secretary said emphasis will be placed on efficiency, competitiveness and productivity. Besides productivity, the other main aim of the policy is a quantum jump in

the production capacity of small-scale units. Among the major steps proposed in the policy to speed up production are facilities for the grant of automatic import licence and their extension even after one year.

BHOSALE VS ANTULAY

WHEN IT COMES to a signature campaign, Maharashtra Chief Minister Babasaheb Bhosale challenged A R Antulay saying that he could not gather even two signatures, including his own. Bhosale asserted that the party was solidly behind him but there could be some disgruntled elements. Asked what was Antulay's role in the dissident activity in

the state, the Maharashtra chief minister replied that he did not know. He, however, asserted there was no organised dissidence in the state.

UK MINISTERS RESIGN

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY Lord Carrington and two of his junior ministers Humphrey Atkins and Richard Luce resigned from the government in a sensational acceptance of bungling in the Falkland case. Defence Secretary John Nott, a major target of criticism, also offered his resignation but it was not accepted by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Ukraine and the culture war

Putin's Russia was a swing state in the 'clash of civilisations', keen to economically engage with Europe. West squandered an opportunity, pushing it into China's arms



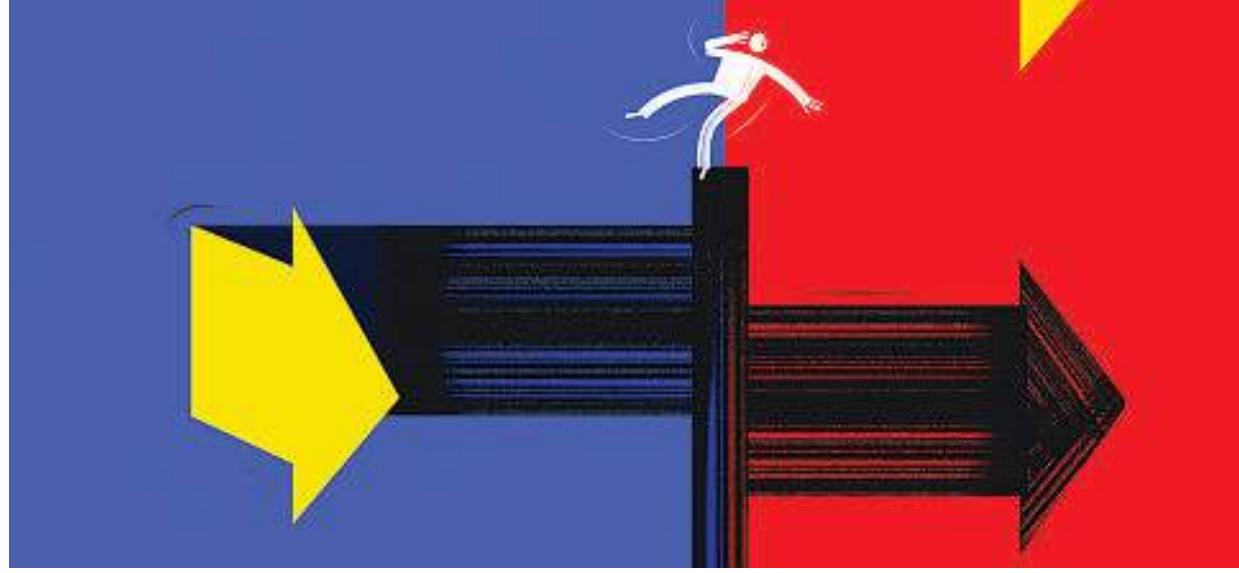
SARJAN SHAH

ONE OF THE world's most derided visions of international affairs is Samuel Huntington's infamous "Clash of Civilisations". Huntington saw the state of the post-Cold War conflict as chiefly being between civilisational complexes that had shared history, geographic contiguity and a common culture. He argued that the primary axis of future conflict would be cultural fault lines between civilisations rather than between political ideologies.

Huntington mapped civilisations largely in line with geographically clustered ethno-religious groupings. For example, he predicted (in 1993) that the Islamic world would be the Western culture's chief antagonist, the likelihood of a Sino-Islamic alliance, and positioned India ("Hindu" culture) and Russia ("Orthodox" culture) as "swing civilisations". It is particularly interesting to dust off Huntington's pages and revisit his predictions regarding Russia and India. Most importantly, he also identified Ukraine as a unique "cleft" between civilisations due to the linguistic and religious divide between western and eastern Ukraine.

Firstly, both the brewing of the conflict in Ukraine and the short one that Georgia already suffered have their roots in NATO's shock 2008 announcement in Bucharest regarding membership extension to Ukraine and Georgia. Russia under Vladimir Putin has been involved in four international conflicts — with Georgia in South Ossetia in 2008 (directly in response to the Bucharest announcement), the eastern troubles in Ukraine starting in 2014 (after the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich in 2013), intervention in Syria in support of Bashar al-Assad in 2015 and the more decisive move into Ukraine in 2022 that we are still witnessing. The Georgian conflict of August 2008 lasted 12 days and the casualties on both sides measured in hundreds, not thousands. The conflict ended with the Russian-speaking enclaves in Georgia becoming de facto Russian, and the chances of Georgia joining NATO disappearing. The Russian military intervention in Syria was a relatively minimalist operation designed to support ground combat being conducted by the Syrian regime's forces, often against ISIS-type elements. Even today, Russia's demands to end the war in Ukraine are limited to the recognition of Crimea as Russian (it is overwhelmingly a Russian population and has repeatedly voted for incorporation into Russia) territory, recognition of the two breakaway regions in the east (both overwhelmingly Russian-speaking) and a constitutional amendment to the effect that Ukraine would not pursue NATO membership. These are not revanchist objectives, but seemingly minimalist ones, especially in the context of the Russian interest in doing business with and in Europe.

Consider, therefore, what Russia has been up to in the economic sphere. It has been acting as a ready adjuster of the global oil supply as conflicts in the Middle East caused supply-side shocks, and a willing long-term supplier of critical natural gas to Europe via the jointly-built Nord Stream pipelines that run from Russia, across eastern Europe to Germany and the West (another pipeline running in the frigid waters of the north and skipping multiple countries along the way has recently



C R Sasikumar

been blocked by Germany). The construction of these pipelines was a signal of long-term Russian interest in economic integration with the West.

It is important to note the difference between a financing arrangement, free-market access or participation in a country's stock exchange on the one hand, and the construction of massive cross-continental infrastructure for the delivery of natural resources. The former are flexible, modular types of economic interaction, capable of being moulded according to evolving dynamics and vulnerable to actions like financial sanctions and embargoes. The latter, of which Nord Stream is an example, are much harder to wish away when circumstances change.

What should the existence of Nord Stream I and the construction of Nord Stream II signal to the world about Putin's Russia and its interests during the period 1997 to 2012 (when the project was first mooted and when it was inaugurated by German Chancellor Angela Merkel)? This is the same period during which Russian oligarchs' capital poured into Europe. To even an amateur observer, these Russian behaviours ought to have signalled a willingness, even a desire, for closer integration with Europe. One does not build deep economic relations with and invest in the assets of a region that one is planning to go to war with or even develop future adversarial relations with. Either Putin and the entire Russian establishment are fundamentally irrational or this is a war that they never wanted, but have felt compelled to undertake due to a hostile aversion to NATO expansion so close to Moscow.

To go back to Huntington's view of Russia as a "swing civilisation", it is possible to see this period from the late 1990s until quite recently as the West's best opportunity to move past its Cold War mentality, its insistence on shrill moralising and towards a pragmatic relationship with its old nemesis. This would have been the optimal strategy to ensure that in the face of the brewing rivalry between the US/Europe and a rising and intransigent China, Russia may have been peeled away from a Sino-alliance. Instead, the West's utter inability or unwillingness to accept Ukrainian neutrality and economic integration with both East and West (Russia had mooted a four-way economic partnership prior to its takeover of Crimea in 2014, consisting of Ukraine, the EU, Russia and the IMF, which the West rejected), and its continued encouragement of Ukrainian membership of a formal, Cold War-era, anti-Soviet security bloc has all but ensured that Russia now

It is possible to see this period from the late 1990s until quite recently as the West's best opportunity to move past its Cold War mentality, its insistence on shrill moralising and towards a pragmatic relationship with its old nemesis. This would have been the optimal strategy to ensure that in the face of the brewing rivalry between the US/Europe and a rising and intransigent China, Russia may have been peeled away from a Sino-alliance.

"swings" right into Xi Jinping's arms. This is a significant own-goal in terms of Western grand strategy. Crucially, overt Russian support for Chinese ambitions in Asia is a fundamental shift in geopolitics for India, which has always counted on Russian support.

India finds itself in an unenviable position, but has also proven itself to be an assertive, independent power with a subtle and sophisticated policy-response process. Unlike most western capitals today, the Indian government enjoys a degree of freedom in charting a path through this crisis, since domestic opinions are not strong either way. More importantly, India has correctly understood the strategic context, background and implications for the international order of these events, and will continue to move carefully, support dialogue towards an early end to the conflict and maintain a studious silence on the question of absolutist "moral" judgements.

India's position is economically vulnerable to an extended war in Ukraine through the weakness of the rupee, dependence on oil and other imports, and the secular flight to safety of global (western) capital. This means that India's self-interest lies in a rapid resolution of the military and economic warfare. It does not lie, however, in making any wild "swings" this way or that. Despite Huntington classifying us as a swing power, walking the path of independence and self-reliance while continuing to expand our burgeoning relationship with the West in the long-term is India's best strategic choice. However, India's relationship with the West will be based on mutual self-respect, rather than the traditional high-handedness that we have experienced hitherto.

This implies that any calls by commentators in India for India to "speak up" and condemn the Russian aggression in Ukraine are largely playing into the unidimensional and self-serving narrative of one side while paying scant attention to national interests. We have little to gain by jumping into the current shouting match, and much to gain by continuing to move steadily but carefully towards long-term partnerships with like-minded democracies, no matter their "culture", religious traditions or the colour of their skin. The question is: Will culture eat strategy for breakfast (a favourite line of MBA enthusiasts in the corporate world) or end up destroying us all in nuclear armageddon?

Shah is an alumnus of London School of Economics, Cambridge and Harvard, and lives and works in Mumbai

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Governments have hitherto been far too hesitant to take on vested interests and are all too ready to protect historic investments in fossil fuels." — THE GUARDIAN

Choice is yours

Individual action can help with climate change mitigation. It needs to be enabled and supported by larger structural and cultural changes



JOYASHREE ROY

A PARADIGM SHIFT in the way we think about climate action has been reported for the first time in the recent IPCC report through a chapter on "demand, services and social aspects of mitigation". This puts people and their well-being at the centre of climate change mitigation. The messages are from a global perspective but have relevance to the national context of every country.

The report shows how, through comprehensive demand-side strategies, carbon dioxide and non-carbon GHG emissions globally can be reduced by 40-70 per cent compared to the 2050 emissions projection. What this implies is that the burden on supply-side mitigation can be reduced by 40-70 per cent. This can be achieved through reduced food waste, following sustainable healthy dietary choices that acknowledge nutritional needs, adaptive heating and cooling choices for thermal comfort, climate-friendly dressing culture, integration of renewable energy in buildings, shifting to electric light-duty vehicles, and to walking, cycling, shared and public transit, sustainable consumption by intensive use of longer-lived repairable products, compact city design and efficient floor area use of buildings.

The IPCC report also shows that individuals with high socioeconomic status contribute disproportionately to emissions and have the highest potential for emissions reductions, as citizens, investors, consumers, role models, and professionals. Demand-side mitigation potential differs between and within regions, and some regions and populations require additional energy, capacity, and resources for human well-being. The lowest 25 per cent of the population faces shortfalls in housing, mobility and nutrition. Addressing inequality and reducing many forms of status-related consumption (consumption of goods and services for social prestige and not necessarily well-being) and focusing on well-being supports climate change mitigation efforts.

Of the 60 actions assessed in this report, on an individual level, the biggest contribution comes from walking and cycling wherever possible and using electricity-powered transport. To be effective, these shifts will need to be supported by systemic changes in some areas — for example, land use and urban planning policies to avoid urban sprawl, support for green spaces, reallocation of street spaces for walking and physical exercise, investment in public transport and infrastructure design for active and electric vehicles. Many services can be improved while reducing energy demand. Electrification and shifts to public transport also bring benefits in terms of enhancing health, employment, and equality.

Individual choice alone can make only a modest contribution to reducing GHG emis-

sions and this is insufficient unless it is linked to structural and cultural changes that make it easier for people to lead low-carbon lifestyles. Our assessment shows that if people get access to appropriate infrastructure and technology and are facilitated with policy support and information to make the right choices, then this mitigation potential can be realised through their actions. It provides a rich evidence base to show that a better life is possible for those with drastically lower GHG emissions. It shows that, so far, climate action has ignored what people need, demand, and aspire for and, instead, focused on what needs to be supplied to people. By assessing social science literature, we could clearly show in this report that people aspire for a healthy life, food for daily nutrition, a comfortable home, and transportation system, thermal comfort, communication, and participation in decision-making processes.

By providing user-level access to more efficient energy conversion technologies, the need for primary energy can be reduced by 45 per cent by 2050, compared to 2020. Lifestyle changes require targeted policy support and investment in appropriate infrastructure, and various user-centric technologies. Demand-side changes cannot deliver the net-zero goal on their own. But this requires investment in and transformation across every sector, along with policies and incentives that encourage people to make low-carbon choices in all aspects of their lives. In our cities, where more than half the world's population lives, packages of policies that design urban-scale changes that cascade across sectors can achieve greater emissions reductions than the sum of individual actions alone.

Lifestyle changes are so important because demand-side potential can partially be tapped in the short-term. This makes it an important category for immediate action, when energy prices are high and energy security is a critical issue. There is huge untapped potential in the near term through changes across transport, industry, buildings, and food that will take away the supply-side uncertainties and make it easier for people to lead low-carbon lifestyles and, at the same time, improve well-being.

The demand for fossil fuels is projected to reduce. The report is clear: To limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, coal use without carbon capture and storage would have to fall by about three quarters by 2030, although the world will continue to use oil and gas at least until the mid-century. The use of coal globally would have to fall by about 90 per cent by 2050, and gas and oil would need to decline by anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent or more to give us a chance to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius with no or limited overshoot. Further reductions would be required in gas and oil by 2100.

Ultimately, it is for the IPCC to provide the evidence and for policymakers, investors, and all other decision-makers to decide what needs to be done based on national contexts.

The writer is the coordinating lead author, Chapter 5, IPCC WGIII Sixth Assessment Report



ANIL BALUNI

Holding steady, moving ahead

The BJP's journey has been remarkable, it continues to grow

THE BHARATIYA JANATA Party is celebrating its 42nd Foundation Day on April 6. The journey from the Jana Sangh to the BJP has been a remarkable one, where the party and its leaders followed the line that defines nationalism, national integration, democratic values, non-partisanship, etc. Staying steadfast to its ideology and principles, the BJP has grown from strength to strength.

We draw our inspiration from Deendayal Upadhyay's philosophy and ideologies of "Integral Humanism" and "Antyodaya" (welfare of the poorest). Our philosophy is also based on the idea of "cultural nationalism" propagated by Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government and party are committed to "sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, sabka prayas".

All BJP governments work under the pledge to ensure the progress and well-being of all sections of society, with no discrimination or favouritism. The party's guiding principle is the upliftment and empowerment of the poor.

Post-Independence, the Congress governments, first under Jawaharlal Nehru and later other prime ministers, followed the policy of appeasement, besides madly racing to ape the West. It was the Jana Sangh that opposed this and propagated cultural nationalism and national integration. The nation also realised that the Jana Sangh truly represents the

"soul" of India.

The hard work, conviction and doggedness of our leaders helped us grow. From two MPs at one time, we now have over 300 MPs in the Lok Sabha. Today, the BJP has formed governments in 17 states and has over 1,300 MLAs and over 400 MPs. We have also crossed the 100 MPs mark in the Rajya Sabha, a commendable feat.

When Amit Shah took over as the party's president in August 2014, the BJP's membership was just 3.5 crore. Today, it has a record 18 crore members.

A canard was spread against the Jana Sangh and the BJP that they were right-wing political outfits. Then it was said that they were the parties of the rich and the capitalists. But in just four decades, the BJP became the party of every household, and the credit for this goes to our leaders — from Mookerjee to Upadhyay, Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Narendra Modi. People from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Kutch to Kamrup are bestowing their blessings upon the BJP. Today, in a real sense, the BJP is the only national party.

In 1972, Vajpayee made a clear point when he had said, "We are neither going left nor right; we are going straight. And we will continue to strive hard to give the nation a viable and strong political alternative." This is now well-established under the leadership of PM Modi.

The Congress and other Opposition parties repeatedly tried to spread the falsehood

that the BJP is the party of the forward castes. But the BJP, while following its ideology, won the support and love of all sections of our society. Today it has the maximum number of Dalit and OBC MLAs and MPs, while in the Modi government, the representation of Dalit and OBC ministers is the maximum.

The Congress and some other parties always opposed B R Ambedkar, although they never away shied away from using his work to gain political mileage. It is the BJP and PM Modi who, in a real sense, have given him his due recognition and acknowledgement. Under PM Modi, the BJP has successfully decimated the politics of casteism, appeasement, dynasty, nepotism and communalism. Uttar Pradesh is an excellent example of this.

Post-Independence, the Congress shunned the ideologies of our great leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak, Rabindranath Tagore and Sardar Patel. It also distanced itself from nationalist slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram". Chanting the name of Lord Ram became a crime. The Congress and its allies created havoc in the country by mindlessly promoting appeasement, which threatened our national integrity.

But the scenario changed rapidly when the BJP came to power. We re-established cultural nationalism, demolished the policy of appeasement and tackled terrorism and extremism with an iron fist. With this, we have

made an equitable society rooted in national integration besides boosting our national security. Some of our greatest achievements include the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya after the peaceful resolution of a decades-old dispute; the integration of Jammu and Kashmir which paved the way for its rapid development; and empowering Muslim women by freeing them from the curse of triple talaq.

PM Modi adopted the Gandhian way of living by making cleanliness an integral part of every Indian's life. He also realised Ambedkar's mission by successfully implementing pro-poor policies like Ujjwala Yojana, Awas Yojana, Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission. The Modi government empowered the poor and backward sections of our society by giving them electricity, water, gas connections, toilets and, above all, a powerful health insurance scheme. Farmers have been taken care of through schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi, while workers in the unorganised sector have also benefited from several schemes.

The credit for the great success of the party goes to PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda. The BJP is committed to the service of humanity and empowering India to the position of a global leader among nations.

The writer is an MP, national media head and chief spokesperson, BJP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RIGHTS ATTACKED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'No accountability Bill' (IE, April 5). The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill passed by Lok Sabha is yet another blow to fundamental rights. Apart from further restricting the rights of undertrials, the extraordinarily wide provisions of the Bill leave it vulnerable to misuse as a weapon to settle scores against dissidents. Incidences of leakage of Aadhaar numbers and the use of the Pegasus software have already established the government's mission by successfully implementing pro-poor policies like Ujjwala Yojana, Awas Yojana, Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission. The Modi government empowered the poor and backward sections of our society by giving them electricity, water, gas connections, toilets and, above all, a powerful health insurance scheme. Farmers have been taken care of through schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi, while workers in the unorganised sector have also benefited from several schemes.

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

YATI'S IMPUNITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Yati and sabka saath' (IE, April 5). Yati Narsinghanand's despicable utterances reflect the extent of polarisation in the country, where spewing hatred against the minority community is par for the course. Unfortunately, opposition parties do not take up these issues forcefully because of their deeply divisive nature, and the courts, when such matters are referred to them, seldom prioritise them. The result is that perpetrators get away lightly and become emboldened to act with greater impunity. The government has largely remained silent over these incidents which have been rising but it must realise that it is riding a tiger, and will find it difficult to control the situation if it does not act now.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

SOCIAL DEFICIT

This refers to the report, 'India Inc's biggest merger: HDFC Bank & HDFC Ltd will be one' (IE, April 5). This is surely the greatest of all the mergers that India has witnessed so far. The surprising move shall bring economies of scale in operations and thereby enhance the bottom line of the merged entity. As the share and role of public sector banks in the country is diminishing vis-a-vis private banks, the new HDFC behemoth shall further skew the playing field in favour of the latter. The Government of India ought to fast-track its plans for the merger of public sector banks. There is, however, an important unanswered question in all this: Why are private sector banking entities failing to discharge their social obligations, despite them being an outcome of the same banking ecosystem? India's hinterlands and rural areas appear to be dotted largely with public sector banks.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

A BETTER CAMPUS

This refers to the article, 'A campus for all' (IE, April 5). In the 21st century, at a time when we talk about equality for all people, transgender persons still require more space in society. Everyone has the right to education. There should be a hostel in all educational institutions for transgenders as well. This will help transgenders to grow, occupy the mainstream and gain respectability in society. Also, there is a need for people to change their mentality towards transgenders.

Harshita Sagar, Yamuna Nagar

**Directorate of Mines
Steel & Mines Department
Government of Odisha**
Email: directormines1@orissaminerals.gov.in

RFP No. 04/KALIMATI-EC/FDC/DM Date: 05.04.2022

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE PROPOSAL INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY AND ALL RELATED ACTIVITIES THEREOF LEADING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES FROM MOEF&CC, GOI AND OTHER STATUTORY CLEARANCES FROM STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA IN RESPECT OF KALIMATI MANGANESE BLOCK, KEONJHAR, ODISHA.

Directorate of Mines, Govt. of Odisha invites sealed Proposals from specialised Consultants/Agencies for "Undertaking complete assignment on turnkey basis to prepare Environmental Clearance proposal including Environmental Impact Assessment Study and all related activities thereof leading to Environmental Clearances from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Govt. of India and other statutory clearances from State Pollution Control Board, Odisha in respect of Kalimati Manganese Block, comprised in two villages (Balda & Badakalimati) under Barbil Tehsil of Keonjhar District, Odisha" through registered post/ courier service or in person.

The specialised Consultants/Agencies having NABET/MoEF & CC accreditation who have completed similar type of works in past 5 years, having experiences in successfully conducting Environment Impact Assessment Studies/ preparation of EIA and EMP reports/supporting technical reports etc. for obtaining EC/ amendment orders thereof of existing Environmental Clearances/ fresh clearances from MOEF&CC, GOI and other Statutory Clearances and amendments from OSPCB etc. need only to apply for the above services. The consultant/ agencies whose EMD has been forfeited for failure to complete the assignment in time or some other reasons, shall not apply.

The tender will have 2 (Two) parts- Technical Bid & Financial Bid. The tender document including addendum/corrigendum, if any, comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the Work etc. will be available at website www.orissaminerals.gov.in. Bidders may download the tender document from the website and the cost of tender document may be submitted along with the technical bid documents.

Interested firms who may like to visit the site may request the Director of Mines, Head of Department Building, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar - 751001. 2-part Bid for the above-mentioned work should be submitted to the Director of Mines, Odisha on or before **16:00 Hours of Dt. 20.04.2022**. The Technical Bid should consist of Conceptual Proposal, Credentials of the firm, Turnover, PAN, GST Registration Number and all other documents as mentioned in the bid document, Cost of Bid Document amounting to Rs. 3600/- (Rupees Three Thousand Six Hundred) only including GST @ 18%, Non- Refundable and EMD/ Bid Security amounting to Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) only in shape of Demand Drafts issued by any Nationalized Bank in favour of "The Director of Mines, Odisha" and payable at Bhubaneswar to be sent by registered post/courier services or in person only.

The Financial bid is to be kept in a separate sealed envelope. Both bids are to be sealed in a single outer envelope and addressed to "The Director of Mines, Odisha," clearly written on top as Bid Document for "Undertaking complete assignment on turnkey basis to prepare Environmental Clearance proposal including Environmental Impact Assessment Study and all related activities thereof leading to Environmental Clearances from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Govt. of India and other statutory clearances from State Pollution Control Board, Odisha in respect of Kalimati Manganese Block, comprised in two villages (Balda & Badakalimati) under Barbil Tehsil of Keonjhar District, Odisha" RFP No. -----dated ---- of the Directorate of Mines, Govt. of Odisha with name and address of the firm on the same envelope.

The **Technical Bid will be opened on Dt. 22.04.2022 at 11.30 Hours** at Directorate of Mines, Head of Department Building, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar 751001 in presence of the bidder or their authorized representative who choose to be present. After evaluation of the Technical Bids, the date of opening of the Financial Bid will be intimated to the agencies through Registered post/e-mail in due course.

The Director of Mines, Odisha has the right to accept or reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
(Director of Mines, Odisha)
OIPR-30004/11/0001/2223

Man carries ailing wife to hospital in handcart in UP, deputy CM orders probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, APRIL 5

AFTER A video of an old man carrying his ailing wife to a hospital in a handcart became viral on social media, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak on Tuesday ordered a departmental probe into the incident.

Pathak, who holds the health ministry portfolio, tweeted: "In a viral video from Ballia, an old

person is seen taking a patient to a hospital in a cart. After getting the information and taking cognisance of the viral video, Health Director General has been asked to probe and take strict action against those responsible."

Ballia Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Neeraj Pandey identified the man in the viral video as 58-year-old Sakul Prajapati, a resident of Andaur village in Chilkhar block of the district.

"The incident took place on

March 28. The woman had diabetes and her husband took her to a nearby Community Health Centre in a hand cart, covering a distance of three to four kilometres. He says he didn't call an ambulance. From the health centre, he took her to the district hospital in an autorickshaw," said the CMO.

According to the CMO, the woman died the same night during treatment. "The man had to hire a private van to take her

body to the village. He says that he had asked some people in the hospital for an ambulance or a vehicle to take back the body, but was refused. We are finding out if he spoke to an official or a private person at the hospital. He is not sure who he spoke to," added Pandey.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav targeted the BJP government over the "lack" of adequate health facilities in the state.

DETENTION IN FALSE ABKARI CASES

Kerala HC awards Rs 2.5-lakh aid each to two Kollam men

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 5

THE KERALA High Court on Tuesday ordered the state government to pay Rs 2.5 lakh each to two Kollam residents who were jailed after excise officials arrested them in false Abkari cases. The court also directed the state government to revisit the searches, seizures, arrests and investigations done in all the Abkari cases over the past five years and submit an action-taken report in six months.

The court also took note of the high percentage of independent witnesses turning hostile in Abkari cases. The bench of Justice P V Kunhikrishnan directed the Chief Secretary to appoint a suitable person for studying the Abkari cases and submit an action-taken report to the court within six months. The court was disposing of two pleas in which the petitioners were arrested by excise officials and confined to judicial custody.

The court also ordered the government to compensate the petitioners within two months and recover the said money from

the officials responsible for the illegal arrest and detention of the petitioners, after giving them an opportunity of hearing.

One of the petitioners, A B Anilkumar was arrested by the excise officials in 2004 and he stayed in jail for 55 days, while R Prakash was arrested in 2006 and spent 76 days in jail. They were subsequently found to be innocent. In 2010 and 2011, they moved the high court, seeking compensation from the state for the infringement of their fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution.

On high number of independent witnesses turning hostile, the court said: "There may be several reasons for the hostile attitude of the independent witnesses, but when the independent witnesses turn hostile in almost all cases, this is of serious concern." "Therefore, the manner in which the searches, seizures and investigations of Abkari cases are conducted in the state is to be revisited by the government/legislature by conducting an appropriate study or inquiry, and based on the same, if necessary, should make appropriate amendment in the Abkari Act," the court said.

Raju Shetti calls MVA govt anti-farmer, quits alliance

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, APRIL 5

DESCRIBING it as an "anti-farmer regime", the Raju Shetti-led Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana on Tuesday snapped ties with the MVA government, which it had supported since the alliance came to power in 2019.

Making the announcement at Sanghatana's state executive meeting in Kolhapur, Shetti said the MVA has let down farmers and ignored their demands. "Like the MVA government in Maharashtra, the Modi government has also ditched farmers. We are going to stay away from both of them," he said. "The MVA government was formed on the promise of implementing the common minimum programme, which envisaged providing justice to farmers. However, the MVA is busy making anti-farmer laws and taking anti-farmer decisions," Shetti told *The Indian Express*.

Bhupender Yadav welcomes IPCC report, says justifies India's stand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

MINISTER FOR Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday welcomed the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released on Monday and said that the report justifies India's emphasis on equity at all scales in climate action and sustainable development and reiterates India's view on the necessity of public finance for developing countries and the need for scale, scope and speed in Climate Finance.

The minister said the Summary of Policymakers (SPM) and the Working Group III (WG3) contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report report, dealing with climate change mitigation and international cooperation, is a major contribution of IPCC to the global fight against climate change.

"The IPCC report underlines the need for deep and urgent global emissions reduction and justifies India's emphasis on equity at all scales in climate action



Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at an event held by Central Pollution Control Board on Tuesday. *Gajendra Yadav*

and sustainable development. The report also fully supports India's view on the necessity of public finance for developing countries and the need for scale, scope and speed in Climate Finance," said Yadav on Tuesday.

Yadav pointed out that the report specifically notes that "Tracked financial flows fall short of the levels needed to achieve mitigation goals across all sectors and regions. The challenge of closing gaps is largest in developing countries as a whole." It also states that public finance falls short of the Copenhagen (reiterated when the Paris Agreement was signed) goal of USD 100 billion per year by 2020.

On climate finance, the report says, "Accelerated financial support for developing countries from developed countries and other sources is a critical enabler to enhance mitigation action and address inequities in access to finance, including its costs, terms and conditions and economic vulnerability to climate change for developing countries."

Among other important

things the Report has underlined the need for deep and urgent global emissions reduction mentioning that four-fifths of the total carbon budget for 1.5 deg C temperature increase and two-thirds of the total carbon budget for 2 deg C warming has been already consumed, said the minister.

Both cumulative and per capita annual emissions rose during the pre-2020 period. Pre-2020 emissions reduction in developed countries has been insufficient in comparison to the developing world's needs for sustainable development. Both historical cumulative emissions and per capita annual emissions show India's role, as part of South Asia, is minimal.

With a shrinking remaining carbon budget, the access to a fair share of this budget for developing countries has become an important question, he said adding that questions on changes in lifestyle brought up by the report, as instruments of mitigation, is a stand that India has already endorsed, particularly with the view of curbing "unsustainable consumption"

FIR filed after crowd climbs atop mosque, raises religious slogans

Lucknow: Ghazipur police Monday lodged an FIR against unidentified people for allegedly raising slogans after climbing atop a mosque in Gahmar village of the district. The incident occurred on April 2 while a group of local residents were taking out a procession, police said.

The accused have been charged with promoting enmity between two groups, said the police, adding that no arrests have been made in the case so far.

A purported video of the incident also went viral on social media. In the video, a group of youths are allegedly seen waving a flag after climbing on a mosque and raising

slogans 'Jai Shree Ram'.

SP, Ghazipur, Ram Badan Singh said the police were trying to identify the accused. Police, however, said the atmosphere in the village was peaceful.

According to police, residents of Gahmar village take out the 'Ram Kalash Yatra' at the start of every Hindu New year, in which both men and women participate.

With a population of around 1.25 lakh, Gahmar village is dominated by Hindus.

Station House Officer, Gahmar police station, T.L. Sen said, "On April 2, residents of the village took out the Ram Kalash Yatra. When the procession reached near a mosque in the village, a few youths climbed on it (mosque) and raised slogans of 'Jai Shree Ram'. When those present at the spot scolded them, the youths immediately came down." He added that someone in the crowd captured the incident on camera and later uploaded it on social media. **ENS**

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead Near, Pillar No. 545, Rohtak Road, Delhi on **06.02.2022** in the area of P.S. Mundka, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 73A dated 06.02.2022** at P.S. Mundka, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** About 50 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **ID Mark:** Tattoo mark of OM on right upper palm, **Wearing:** Blue colour T-shirt and underwear. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Mundka, Delhi
Ph: 011-28342010, 7065036126

DP/1679/OD/2022

**Directorate of Mines
Steel & Mines Department
Government of Odisha**
Email: directormines1@orissaminerals.gov.in

RFP NO. 03/KALIMATI-FC/ED/C/DM Date: 05.04.2022

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PREPARE FOREST DIVERSION PROPOSAL INCLUDING ALL RELATED ACTIVITIES THEREOF LEADING TO IN PRINCIPLE (STAGE-I) APPROVAL OF FOREST CLEARANCE UNDER SECTION-2 OF FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.

Directorate of Mines, Govt. of Odisha invites sealed Proposals from specialised Consultants/Agencies for "Undertaking complete assignment on turnkey basis to prepare the Forest Diversion Proposal including all related activities thereof leading to Forest Clearance & to facilitate obtaining in principle (Stage-I) approval of Forest land measuring 67.177 Ha. involved within Kalimati Manganese Block, comprised in two villages (Balada, Badakalimati) under Barbil Tehsil of Keonjhar District, Odisha from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Govt. of India, under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980" through registered post/ courier service or in person.

The specialised Consultants/Agencies having experience in similar works and having capability for providing such services need only to apply for the above services. The consultant/ agencies whose EMD has been forfeited for failure to complete the assignment in time or some other reasons, shall not apply.

The tender will have 2 (Two) parts- Technical Bid & Financial Bid. The tender document including addendum/corrigendum, if any, comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the Work etc. will be available at website www.orissaminerals.gov.in. Bidders may download the tender document from the website and the cost of tender document may be submitted along with the technical bid documents.

Interested firms who may like to visit the site may request the Director of Mines, Head of Department Building, Unit - V, Bhubaneswar- 751001.

2-part Bid for the above-mentioned work should be submitted to the Director of Mines, Odisha on or before **16:00 Hours of Dt. 24.04.2022**. The Technical Bid should consist of Conceptual Proposal, Credentials of the firm, Turnover, PAN, GST Registration Number and all other documents as mentioned in the bid document, Cost of Bid Document amounting to Rs. 3600/- (Rupees Three Thousand Six Hundred) only including GST @ 18%, Non-Refundable and EMD/ Bid Security amounting to Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) only in shape of Demand Drafts issued by any Nationalized Bank in favour of "The Director of Mines, Odisha" and payable at Bhubaneswar to be sent by registered post/courier services or in person only.

The Financial bid is to be kept in a separate sealed envelope. Both bids are to be sealed in a single outer envelope and addressed to "The Director of Mines, Odisha," clearly written on top as Bid Document for "Undertaking complete assignment on turnkey basis to prepare the Forest Diversion Proposal including all related activities thereof leading to Forest Clearance & to facilitate obtaining in principle (Stage-I) approval of Forest land measuring 67.177 Ha. involved within Kalimati Manganese Block, comprised in two villages (Balada & Badakalimati) under Barbil Tehsil of Keonjhar District, Odisha from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Govt. of India, under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980" RFP No. --- dated --- of the Directorate of Mines, Govt. of Odisha with name and address of the firm on the same envelope.

The **Technical Bid will be opened on Dt. 22.04.2022 at 11:30 Hours** at Directorate of Mines, Head of Department Building, Unit - V, Bhubaneswar 751001 in presence of the bidder or their authorized representative who choose to be present. After evaluation of the Technical Bids, the date of opening of the Financial Bid will be intimated to the agencies through Registered post/e-mail in due course.

The Director of Mines, Odisha has the right to accept or reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Director of Mines, Odisha
OIPR-30004/11/0002/2223

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Offers e-Auction of Residential and Commercial Properties in Rohtak and Hisar Zones

On 20th April, 2022

Residential Properties in Rohtak Zone			Commercial Properties in Rohtak Zone			Commercial Properties in Hisar Zone			Residential Properties in Hisar Zone		
Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	4, Rohtak	13	1	3, Rohtak	5	1	11-AB (Phase-3), Hisar	8	1	4 (P-II), Hisar	5
2	21-P, Rohtak	12	2	4, Rohtak	9	2	13-P, Hisar	2	2	5, Hisar	1
3	25, Rohtak	9	3	5, Rohtak	29	3	14 (PKT-A), Hisar	15	3	9-11, Hisar	29
4	27-28-26 (P-II), Rohtak	2	4	12, Bahadurgarh	4	4	Old Court, Hisar	2	4	16-17, Hisar	5
5	13, Bahadurgarh	4	5	6, Panipat	13	5	15-AP, Hisar	2	5	33 (P-I), Hisar	12
6	6, Jhajjar	7	6	12, Panipat	4	6	16-17, Hisar	20	6	6-II, Hansi	13
7	9 (Part-A), Jhajjar	1	7	13, Panipat	11	7	UE-IISCI, Hisar	24	7	23, Bhiwani	5
8	9 (Part-B), Jhajjar	3	8	25, Panipat	26	8	A-MKT, Hansi	13	8	19 (P-I), Sirsa	14
9	6, Panipat	1	9	29, Panipat	16	9	13, Bhiwani	7	9	20 (P-III), Sirsa	20
10	8, Panipat	2	10	7, Sonipat	14	10	23, Bhiwani	5	10	10, Jind	1
11	12, Panipat	1	11	15-I, Sonipat	5	11	C Centre, Bhiwani	25			
12	13, Panipat	5	12	23, Sonipat	7	12	19 (P-I), Sirsa	15			
13	17, Panipat	5				13	20 (P-III), Sirsa	15			
14	18, Panipat	3									
15	24, Panipat	3									
16	25 (P-II), Panipat	4									
17	7, Sonipat	5									
18	12, Sonipat	3									
19	15 (I, II, III & IV), Sonipat	9									
20	23, Sonipat	3									

Loan Facility From Leading Banks
*Terms And Conditions Applicable

Helpline Number: 8360516607 (9 AM to 5 PM), 1800-180-3030 (8AM TO 8 PM)

Registration will close one day before the scheduled date of e-Auction, at 5 pm.

e-Auction Portal <https://hsvphry.org.in>
e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM

*In continuation of advertisement dated 30.03.2022

EMD is calculated on base price, the first round of bidding will start from base price.

Reserve Price are fixed by HSVP above base price and same will not be disclosed.

The competent authority can withdraw any site from e-auction without any notice.

For any queries email us at eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com

Chief Administrator
Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
C-3, HSVP Complex, Sector 6, Panchsikha 104 108, Haryana
hsvphry.org.in | 1800-180-3030 | [hsvphry](https://www.facebook.com/hsvphry)

The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on <https://hsvphry.org.in>.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Transportation strike against gas prices in Lima, Tuesday. Reuters

PERU

Curfew imposed to quell protests over fuel costs

Lima: Peruvian President Pedro Castillo imposed a curfew in the capital, Lima, on Tuesday, banning people from leaving their homes in an attempt to curb protests against rising fuel and fertiliser costs that have spread throughout the country. "The cabinet has agreed to declare a ban on the mobility of citizens from 2 am through 11.59 pm of Tuesday April 5 to protect the fundamental rights of all people," Castillo said. On Monday, a wave of protests continued into their second week, while the government scrambled to bring prices down. The protests have become increasingly violent and at least four people have been killed, the government said. **REUTERS**

KUWAIT

Govt resigns as political crisis intensifies

Dubai: Kuwait's government resigned on Tuesday, just months after its formation, opening up new uncertainty as the tiny country grapples with a worsening political crisis that has blocked critical economic and social reforms. Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah submitted the cabinet's resignation to the crown prince, state-run KUNA news agency reported, ahead of a no-confidence vote in Parliament later this week that sought to remove him from office. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Missile upgrade pushed due to growing threats

Canberra: Australia has accelerated plans to buy long-range strike missiles years ahead of schedule because of growing threats posed by Russia and China. Defence Minister Peter Dutton said Tuesday the accelerated rearming of fighter jets and warships would cost 3.5 billion Australian dollars and increase Australia's deterrence to potential adversaries. "There was a working assumption that an act of aggression by China toward Taiwan might take place in 2040s. That timeline now has been compressed," he said. **AP**

ITALY, SPAIN, DENMARK

expel many Russian diplomats

UN SAYS 11 MILLION

fled homes in Ukraine

RUSSIA REJECTS

allegations of atrocities



In the courtyard of their house, Vlad Tanyuk, 6, stands near the grave of his mother Ira Tanyuk, who died on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday. AP

Bring Russians to justice for war crimes: Zelenskyy to UN

OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI
BUCHA, APRIL 5

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russian troops of gruesome atrocities in Ukraine and told the UN Security Council on Tuesday that those responsible should immediately be brought up on war crimes charges in front of a tribunal like the one set up at Nuremberg after World War II. Zelenskyy, appearing via video from Ukraine, told council members that civilians had been shot in the back of the head after being tortured, blown up with grenades in their apartments and crushed to death by tanks while in cars.

"They cut off limbs, cut their throats. Women were raped and killed in front of their children. Their tongues were pulled out because their aggressor did not hear what they wanted to hear from them," he said, recounting what he described as the worst atrocities since World War II.

Likening the troops' actions



Zelenskyy at UNSC said those responsible should be brought up on war crimes charges. Reuters

to those of Islamic State, Zelenskyy said: "The Russian military and those who gave them orders must be brought to justice immediately for war crimes in Ukraine."

"Anyone who has given criminal orders and carried them out by killing our people will be brought before the tribunal which should be similar to the Nuremberg tribunals," he said. Zelenskyy stressed that Bucha was only one place and that there are more with similar horrors.

The UN migration agency on Tuesday estimated that more

than 11 million people had fled their homes since invasion.

High-resolution satellite imagery from Maxar Technologies showed that many of the bodies had been lying in the open for weeks, during the time that Russian forces were in the town.

The head of NATO, meanwhile, warned that Russia is regrouping its forces in order to deploy them to eastern and southern Ukraine for a "crucial phase of the war," and said that more horrors may come to light as Russian troops continue to pull back in the north.

As Western leaders condemned the killings in Bucha, Italy, Spain and Denmark expelled dozens of Russian diplomats on Tuesday, following moves by Germany and France. Hundreds of Russian diplomats have been sent home since the start of the invasion, many accused of being spies.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the expulsions a "short-sighted" measure that would complicate communication and warned they would be met with "reciprocal steps."

Kremlin: Bucha a monstrous forgery aimed at smearing us

REUTERS
LONDON, APRIL 5

THE KREMLIN said on Tuesday that Western allegations Russian forces committed war crimes by executing civilians in the Ukrainian town of Bucha were a "monstrous forgery" aimed at denigrating the Russian army.

Since Russian troops withdrew from towns and villages around Kyiv, Ukrainian troops have been showing journalists corpses of what they say are civilians killed by Russian forces.

The West says the dead civilians are evidence of war crimes. "It is a simply a well-directed - but tragic - show," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "It is a forgery aimed at denigrating the Russian army - and it will not work."

"We once again urge the international community: detach yourself from such emotional perceptions and think with your head," Peskov said. "Compare the facts and understand what a monstrous forgery we are dealing with."

US and allies to impose fresh sanctions: No new investment

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON, APRIL 5

The US and its European allies will impose stiff new sanctions, including a ban on new investments in Russia on Wednesday, a US official said, in retaliation for Russia's "war crimes" in Ukraine.

The joint action will include a ban on new investment in Russia, toughened sanctions on its financial institutions and government-owned enterprises, and more sanctions on Russian government officials and their family members. The official said they would further Russia's economic, financial and technological "isolation" from the rest of the world as a penalty for its at-

EXPLAINED Why EU ban on coal matters

DUE TO high gas prices, many EU countries have been switching to coal from gas. If Russian coal imports are banned, several European countries could face even more severe energy crunches when heating demand increases next winter, as well as higher bills for consumers and industry.

tacks on civilians in Ukraine.

The EU's executive branch proposed Tuesday a ban on coal

imports from Russia in what would be the first EU sanctions targeting the country's lucrative energy industry over its war.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU needed to increase the pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin after "heinous crimes" carried out around Kyiv, with evidence that Russian troops may have deliberately killed Ukrainian civilians.

Von der Leyen said the ban on coal imports is worth 4 billion euros per year and that the EU has already started working on additional sanctions, including on oil imports. Until now, Europe had not been willing to target Russian energy over fears that it would plunge the European economy into recession.

MEANWHILE

JUPITER-LIKE ALIEN PLANET OBSERVED

Scientists have observed an enormous planet about nine times the mass of Jupiter at a remarkably early stage of formation - describing it as still in the womb - in a discovery that challenges the current understanding of planetary formation. Evidence suggests that this is the earliest stage of formation ever observed for a gas giant, scientists said.

NO-TRUST MOTION FOILED

Pak SC seeks records of House proceedings

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 5

PAKISTAN'S SUPREME Court on Tuesday sought the record of the proceedings of the National Assembly conducted on the no-confidence motion filed against Prime Minister Imran Khan as it adjourned till Wednesday the hearing of the high-profile case.

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri on Sunday ruled that the no-confidence motion was linked with a foreign conspiracy to topple the government and hence was not maintainable. Minutes later, President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly on advice of Prime Minister Khan.

The apex court within hours took suo motu notice of it and a five-member bench started hearing the case. The bench is headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and includes Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the court ordered the government to present minutes of the proceedings in the National Assembly after the no-confidence motion was presented.

Chief Justice Bandial said



The Pakistan Supreme Court adjourned the hearing of the high-profile case to Wednesday. AP

Ready to hold polls if required: Pak EC

Islamabad: Pakistan's election commission on Tuesday said it will fulfil its responsibility to hold general elections if required. "Election Commission will fulfil its responsibility. The meeting will review the preparation in the event of general elections," spokesperson of the commission said. **PTI**

the court only wanted to ascertain the constitutionality of the steps taken by the deputy speaker for the dismissal of the

no-confidence of motion and subsequent dissolution of the National Assembly.

"Our sole focus is on the ruling of the deputy speaker... it is our priority to decide on that particular issue," Chief Justice Bandial was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune newspaper.

PM Khan on Tuesday targeted his political opponents, accusing them of conspiring against his government at the best of their foreign masters. Addressing the party workers at the Governor's House, Khan also chided his own party, lawmakers who joined hands with the opposition for what he claimed after taking 'crores of rupees'. **PTI**

Pak Army finds no proof of US role, says report

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 5

PAKISTAN'S POWERFUL Army has contradicted Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks accusing the US of hatching a conspiracy to topple his government, saying there was no evidence of interference in the country's internal matters, as per a media report.

Prime Minister Khan had chaired a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) on March 27 to discuss the issue of a "threatening letter" to remove his government.

The NSC then decided to issue a demarche to the US. Khan peddled the narrative that Army top

leaders endorsed the letter and its threatening context was genuine. However, official sources told *The Express Tribune* on Monday that a wrong impression was given about the military leadership endorsing the view of government.

One source said the PM could make public minutes of the meeting because the NSC statement was only meant for the media. "Are there any minutes of the NSC meeting? Have all the participants signed on the minutes of the meeting," the source asked.

The source added that the US had not sent any letter to the government and it was the assessment of Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Masood Khan after his meeting with the US officials. **PTI**

Imran paying price for being 'disobedient' to US, says Russia

Moscow/Islamabad: Russia has criticised the US for making "another attempt of shameless interference" into the internal affairs of Pakistan and asserted that PM Imran Khan was paying the price for being "disobedient" to Washington and being punished for visiting Russia in February this year. On Monday, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said despite pressure from the US to cancel his visit, Khan went ahead with it.

"This is another attempt of interference by the US in the internal affairs of an independent state for its own selfish purposes," Zakharova said. **PTI**

NEW FINANCE MINISTER QUILTS WITHIN 24 HRS

Gotabaya revokes emergency order; 41 lawmakers walk out

UDITHA JAYASINGHE & DEVJYOT GHOSHAL
COLOMBO, APRIL 5

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa revoked a state of emergency late on Tuesday after dozens of lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition, leaving his government in a minority in parliament as it struggled to quell protests amid the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

In another setback for the administration, Finance Minister Ali Sabry resigned a day after his appointment and ahead of crucial talks scheduled with the IMF for a loan programme.

In a gazette issued late on Tuesday, Rajapaksa revoked the



Protests in Colombo demanding Gotabaya to resign on Tuesday. Reuters

emergency rule ordinance that went into effect last Friday. "I, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, hereby revoke the gazette with effect from midnight on April 5," the gazette said.

Politically, the possible next steps could include the appoint-

ment of a new Prime Minister replacing the President's elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, or snap Parliamentary elections ahead of a scheduled vote in 2025. There was no immediate indication of what was being planned.

The names of the 41 lawmakers to leave the coalition were announced by party leaders in Parliament. They have now become independent members, leaving Rajapaksa's government with fewer than the 113 members needed to maintain a majority.

In a further sign of a desperate shortage of funds, Sri Lanka announced the temporary closure of its embassies in Oslo and Baghdad, and the consulate general in Sydney, from April 30. **REUTERS**

With 13k new cases, Covid outbreak in Shanghai 'grim', lockdown extended

AP & REUTERS
BEIJING, APRIL 5

THE COVID-19 outbreak in China's largest metropolis of Shanghai remains "extremely grim" amid an ongoing lockdown confining around 26 million people to their homes, a city official said Tuesday.

The government widened the lockdown to eastern parts of the city and extended until further notice restrictions in western districts, which had been due to expire on Tuesday.

Director of Shanghai's working group on epidemic control, Gu Honghui, was quoted by state media as saying that the out-

break in the city was "still running at a high level." "The situation is extremely grim," Gu said.

China has sent more than 10,000 health workers from around the country to aid the city, including 2,000 from the military. Most of eastern Shanghai, which was supposed to reopen last Friday, remained locked down along with the western half of the city.

Shanghai recorded another 13,354 cases on Monday - the vast majority of them asymptomatic - bringing the city's total to over 73,000 since the latest wave of infections began last month. No deaths have been ascribed to the outbreak driven by the Omicron BA.2 variant.

NOTEBOOKS SET TO GO ON PUBLIC DISPLAY FROM JULY AS PART OF A DARWIN EXHIBITION

Darwin notebooks missing for 20 yrs returned to Cambridge

JILL LAWLESS
LONDON, APRIL 5

TWO OF naturalist Charles Darwin's notebooks that were reported stolen from Cambridge University's library have been returned, two decades after they disappeared.

The university said Tuesday that the manuscripts were left in the library inside a pink gift bag, along with a note wishing the librarian a Happy Easter.

The notebooks, which include the 19th-century scientist's famous 1837 "Tree of Life" sketch, went missing in 2001 after being removed for photo-

graphing, though at the time staff believed they might have been misplaced. After searches of the library's collection of 10 million books, maps and manuscripts failed to find them, they were reported stolen to police in October 2020.

Local detectives notified the global police organisation Interpol and launched an international hunt for the notebooks, valued at millions of pounds (dollars).

On March 9 the books reappeared, left in a public area of the building, outside the librarian's office, which is not covered by security cameras. The two notebooks were wrapped in clingfilm inside their archive box, and ap-



A view of the Tree of Life Sketch in one of naturalist Charles Darwin's notebooks. AP

peared undamaged. The accompanying note said: "Librarian Happy Easter X."

Darwin filled the notebooks with ideas shortly after returning from his voyage around the world on HMS Beagle, developing ideas that would bloom into his landmark work on evolution, "On the Origin of Species." As per media reports, it was in 2001 that the notebooks, which represent some of Darwin's first inklings of his radical theory of evolution by natural selection, were originally found to be missing.

The university's director of library services Jessica Gardner said her feeling of relief at the books' reappearance was "pro-

found and almost impossible to adequately express." "The notebooks can now retake their rightful place alongside the rest of the Darwin Archive at Cambridge, at the heart of the nation's cultural and scientific heritage, alongside the archives of Sir Isaac Newton and Professor Stephen Hawking," she said.

The notebooks are set to go on public display from July as part of a Darwin exhibition at the library. Cambridgeshire Police said its investigation was continuing, "and we are following up some lines of inquiry." "We also renew our appeal for anyone with information about the case to contact us," the force said. **AP**

BRIEFLY

RAJASTHAN
Mob violence
after murder of
history-sheeter

Jaipur: A day after a history-sheeter was killed in a suspected gang war in Chittorgarh district, a few villagers vandalised two state roadways bus in the neighbouring Kota district in protest, police said. "Gurjar was a history-sheeter of the Rawat Bhata police station in Chittorgarh...He had come to a hair cutting saloon [on Monday] when some people attacked him....," Chittorgarh SP Preeti Jain said. He died on the way to the hospital. Some locals set fire to a Rajasthan Roadways bus, jammed the road and also broke the glasses of another bus in Borabas, Gurjar's village, said Kota City Additional SP Rajesh Kumar Meel. **ENS**

KERALA

Solar scam rape
case: CBI raids
MLA's hostel

Thiruvananthapuram: CBI, which is probing into the alleged sexual exploitation of a woman involved in the solar scam, examined rooms at the accused Congress legislator Hibi Eden's hostel on Tuesday. Apart from Eden, former CM Oommen Chandy, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, Congress MP Adoor Prakash, BJP national vice-president A P Abdullakutty are among other alleged accused. The alleged incidents took place during 2012-13 when Congress was in power in the state. The woman allegedly cheated investors promising solar solutions and shares in solar energy projects. **ENS**

BIHAR

Independent
candidate
escapes attack

Patna: Independent candidate contesting MLC elections from Siwan narrowly escaped attack on him on Sunday night while one of his fellow villagers was killed, police said. MLC polls for 24 seats concluded on Monday. Siwan police said the incident took place under Hussaunganj police station area around 10 pm when Raees Khan had been travelling in his vehicle. One of his supporters Vinod Yadav (30) was killed in the attack. **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Bank employee
gets 7 years in
jail for fraud

Bengaluru: A special court in Bengaluru has convicted a head cashier for seven years of imprisonment for fraudulently exchanging demonetised currency with legal notes worth Rs 2.18 crore. The convicted officer, B Dinesh, worked as head cashier in State Bank of Mysore (presently merged with SBI) of Periyapatna branch in Mysore district. **ENS**

GORAKHNATH TEMPLE ATTACK

UP ATS says accused visited TN & Nepal,
was being watched for last few days

Probe team visits
Navi Mumbai flat
where Abbasi
stayed till 2020

MANISH SAHU &
MOHAMED THAYER
LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, APRIL 5

AHMED MURTAZA Abbasi, who was involved in the attack on PAC personnel at Gorakhnath temple gate Sunday night, visited Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and Lumbini in Nepal in the recent past, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh Police told a Gorakhpur court while seeking his custody.

The ATS, which is probing the attack, said it needs to question the 29-year-old IIT-Bombay graduate in connection with the trips. Abbasi, booked for attempt to murder, was sent to seven-day ATS custody on Monday night.

On Tuesday, a team of ATS visited Abbasi's Navi Mumbai apartment where he stayed till October 2020 before returning to his native home in Gorakhpur.

A senior police officer told *The Indian Express* that a team of ATS had been keeping a watch on Abbasi for past few days after they found his activities suspicious.

"The ATS had some doubts about his activities and started



Police officials at Taj Heights housing society in Navi Mumbai Tuesday. Ahmed Murtaza Abbasi, accused in the attack at Gorkhanath temple gate, lived here till October 2020. *Narendra Vaskar*

keeping a watch on him. His cell-phone and laptop have been sent for forensic tests. We hope to get more information about his movement," said the officer.

Two days before the incident, two plain-clothed policemen had visited his house, the officer said.

"We are trying to find out which all places he had visited in the past few months. We are trying to collect details of people who were in touch with him in the past two months," the officer said, adding that "Abbasi appeared to be radicalised".

On Monday, UP Police had said

the attack was "part of a serious conspiracy and could be called a terror incident". However, the police said they have not found any evidence so far suggesting Abbasi's association with any banned outfit. They also said the evidence so far suggested that no other person was involved in the incident.

A senior police officer involved in the probe said they have received information of Abbasi visiting abroad around 2014-15. "All the information coming up during the investigation needs to be verified. We also need to check if he was interested in joining any

terror outfit," said the officer.

The ATS on Monday also told the court that they have recovered "several" ATM and credit cards from his possession.

Meanwhile, a team of the ATS visited the Taj Heights building in Navi Mumbai's Seawood area, where Abbasi resided with his family till 2020. According to a Navi Mumbai police team, which accompanied the ATS team, Abbasi and family moved to Gorakhpur, their native home, in October 2020. Before moving to Seawood, the family lived in Sanpada area of Navi Mumbai.

"Till 2020, Abbasi resided in a residential society in Seawood. He would frequently visit Jamnagar in Gujarat, where he worked for some time before he quit the job. Later, the family moved to UP and put the house on rent," Ravindra Patil, a local senior inspector, said.

"Last week, Abbasi's father, Muneer, had come to sell the house as they found it difficult to travel from Gorakhpur to Navi Mumbai," he said.

The ATS team will also visit IIT-Bombay, where Abbasi studied chemical engineering, to collect background information on him. "Abbasi studied chemical engineering at IIT-Bombay and his father retired as an assistant general manager at a multinational conglomerate. His grandfather was a district judge in UP," Patil said.

According to him, neighbours described Abbasi as someone who would keep to himself. "Some said that he did not interact much and largely kept to himself," Patil said. "Abbasi often stayed in Jamnagar. He recently quit his job."

Aslam Shaikh, who lives in the adjacent building and helped in letting out the second floor flat, said: "Abbasi did not mingle with the residents much. Residents only saw him leaving for work and returning home."

Abbasi's family members have said his wife left him a few months ago and that he was suffering from depression since 2017.

SFJ chief used US telecom service provider
for threat calls to SC lawyers: Police probe

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

A US-BASED telecom service provider was used by Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, chief of banned pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), to make pre-recorded threat calls to several Supreme Court lawyers on the day the apex court was to hear the case related to the security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab on January 5, Delhi Police has found in its probe. The police are now procuring more details under a mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) with the US, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

"During investigation, we initially found that calls were made

using a US-based telecom service firm. We then approached them and they provided details of an account holder, who had booked the account to make all these calls. All the documents belonged to Pannu, but the account holder's name was not Pannu," a senior police officer said.

Later, after multiple communications with the service provider, the police were told that the account holder had changed his name to Pannu. It was found that the firm intimidated the account holder about the probe following which he changed his name.

"After establishing Pannu's role, the police are now procuring more details under MLAT and communicating with the concerned agency for further help," an officer said.

Although the Delhi Police had registered several FIRs against Pannu for sending threat messages, this is the first time they have found his "direct involvement".

The development comes months after the Delhi Police registered the first FIR in connection with the threat calls.

In January, shortly before the Supreme Court took up a petition seeking a probe into the breach of the Prime Minister's security, some lawyers of the top court complained of receiving pre-recorded messages from a number registered outside India. The messages accepted responsibility for blocking the PM's convoy in Punjab and warned the court against doing anything that will help the government.

Deepak Prakash, an advocate on record, also lodged a criminal complaint with Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana in this connection. In a communication, he said the "callers have claimed themselves to be a group from the United Kingdom and are calling from untraceable numbers..."

"All Advocates have been receiving such threatening calls, which indicate that they want to bring hatred, contempt and hostility to disrupt the government and public peace and tranquility if the Hon'ble Supreme Court hears the PM security breach case," he wrote.

Asthana asked the northern range of the Special Cell to investigate the matter following which it lodged an FIR.

Cong's Bhopal MLA slams
it over Ram Navami diktat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOHAL, APRIL 5

CONGRESS LEADER and Bhopal MLA Arif Masood has criticised his party for asking its cadres to celebrate the forthcoming Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti festivals, saying it set a "wrong precedent".

Masood said the Congress circular, which asked members to hold recitals of the Hanuman Chalisa and the Sundarkand during the festivals, was "unnecessary" for a political party.

The BJP has taken a jibe at both Masood and Congress, accusing the party of "using Muslims". In a move seen as the Congress' outreach to Hindu voters ahead of the Assembly elections next year, Congress's state vice-president Chandraprabhash Shekar last



Arif Masood
Photo: Facebook

week asked party workers to organise 'kathavachan' on the two festivals falling on April 10 and 16 respectively.

The letter, which was issued on April 2, said the instructions had come from Congress state president Kamal Nath, who will address the party cadre and take part in a puja.

Masood said Tuesday: "We take all religions along as a political party and if we issue a circular to celebrate Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti, then we must also issue one for celebrating Ramzan and festivals of other faiths."

Amid Azaan row, police issue
notices to 300 religious places

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, APRIL 5

THE CITY police on Tuesday issued notices to over 300 religious places across the city, registered cases and seized mics from several places of worship over allegedly defying the Karnataka High Court order over the prescribed decibel levels even as several Hindu outfits called for action against mosques for using loudspeakers during Azaan.

City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant Tuesday said 301 religious places, including temples, mosques and churches, have been issued notices in Bengaluru and instructed to follow guidelines under the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Mics were seized from several places which defied the court order, he said. The police will continue to monitor the pre-

scribed decibel levels, he said.

The High Court in September 2018 issued an order banning the use of loudspeakers between 10 pm and 6 am as per the guidelines laid by the Supreme Court.

The police action comes after a few Hindu groups launched campaigns against the use of loudspeakers during Azaan in mosques. Sri Rama Sene chief Pramod Muthalik on Tuesday warned that if the government failed to remove mics from all the city mosques, the outfit would intensify protests and sing bhajans using mics in temples during early morning to counter Azaan.

The police said the action was taken as part of the awareness drive against noise pollution. In February, the south division police had issued notices to 11 religious places and warned them against violating norms. The notices were later withdrawn.

Rajasthan violence:
Town still under
curfew, both sides
count their losses

HAMZA KHAN
KARAULI, APRIL 5

THREE DAYS after communal violence broke out in Karauli, smoke continues to rise from at least two burnt shops. All around are half-burnt lac bangles, new bangles still in their cases, a destroyed mini-safe, a shop with its entire first floor collapsed, and a large contingent of police. With curfew in place still, and Internet and SMS services restricted, it is quiet.

That was not the case on April 2 evening. As per the FIR lodged over the violence, by Karauli Police Station SHO Rameshwar Dayal Meena, starting 4 pm, a Shobha Yatra to mark Nav Samvatsar, or the Hindu New Year, was taken out through the town by "400-500 persons on 200-215 bikes", raising slogans such as Jai Shri Ram. A vehicle with a DJ system accompanied them playing songs "of Hindu organisations."

As they reached a Muslim locality near Masjid Maniharan, they were pelted with stones from rooftops, causing injuries to the people on the bikes and the policemen accompanying them, police said. The FIR says the stone-pelting appeared to be "planned conspiracy". Shops were burnt, and about two dozen persons were injured.

Local residents allege the crowd raised incendiary slogans such as "topi wala bhi jai Shri Ram bolega (one wearing the skull cap will also chant Jai Shri Ram)".

A shop owner, who does not want to be named, denies the allegation that the attack was planned from their side. "If we had done it, why would all of us be sitting with our shops open?"

Those injured say stones rained on them all of a sudden. "It led to a stampede, and a lot of us were injured," says Vipin Sharma.

The FIR names 37 people, including local councillor Matloob Ahmed, convener Neeraj Sharma who had applied for permission for the rally, Sahab

Singh Gurjar, state president of the Hindu Sena, and Rajaram Gurjar, former Chairman of the Municipal Council, Karauli.

Eyewitness and police officials told *The Indian Express* that the rally, which started from Karauli's Ramdwara Adarsh Vidyalaya, moved smoothly till about Photta Kot Chowraha. At Kharadian Mohalla, which also houses Masjid Maniharan, the stone-pelting started.

The FIR says stones were pelted from the mosque, as well as shops and homes, and that about 100-150 people gathered with sticks to confront the youth. The youth left their bikes, and gathered at the Photta Kot Chowraha, where they attacked shops, destroying and burning them. The bikes left behind were in turn burnt by the locals.

Around 35 shops were set on fire or vandalised, a police official said. These were mainly run by Muslims. So far, 20 people have been arrested while over 50 have been put under preventive arrest. The latter includes those found violating the curfew.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot accused the BJP of vitiating the atmosphere. Claiming that the BJP was "already in election mode in Rajasthan", and urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to condemn the violence, Gehlot asked why those taking out rallies in the name of religion needed to shout provocative slogans or use DJs. "If you want to take out a religious rally, you would have stopped you?"

Former CM Vasundhara Raje said that "to hide his failures, the CM is levelling allegations against top BJP leaders", adding that he should not "try to hide the crimes of the rioters".

A police official said: "Apparently, some muscle-flexing was going on from both sides for some time. Moreover, as per our initial feedback, there was some 'extra' preparation by some people on the rooftops. We are still investigating."



A damaged building in Karauli. *Hamza Khan*

No elections in sight, TN
CM hikes property tax

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 5

ALMOST A year into its tenure and with no elections scheduled till the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the DMK government in Tamil Nadu increased property tax in local body areas from April 1.

Though recommendations for the tax hike, including the ones proposed in 2013, were delayed over the years or stopped as previous governments refused to make a move that could be perceived as unpopular, the MK Stalin administration took the plunge with the aim of reviving the state's economy and fi-

nances. The official statement announcing the tax increase explained that it was necessary because of high inflation and a dip in civic bodies' revenue share.

Tamil Nadu's revised revenue deficit for 2021-22 was Rs 55,273 crore as against Rs 58,692.68 crore the previous fiscal. The latest Budget hopes to reduce it further to Rs 52,781.17 crore by increasing tax collection.

On Tuesday, the Opposition AIADMK hit the streets across the state, including in Chennai and Trichy, in protest. Party coordinator O Panneerselvam said at a rally in Chennai that the tax hike was a violation of the DMK's poll promises.

Concerns over Puri heritage project take political turn as BJP, BJD trade fireworks

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 5

THE CONCERNS over the impact of the ongoing Puri Heritage Corridor project on the structural safety of the 12th century Jagannath Temple seem to have turned into a political slugfest between the principal Opposition BJP and the ruling BJD in Odisha.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha recently, the BJP's Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi alleged illegality in the implementation of this ambitious project being undertaken by the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government. She also claimed that the

state government carried on with its construction work in prohibited areas near the Jagannath temple despite the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)'s letter asking the government to "stop" it.

On Monday, Sarangi, while referring to an ASI letter dated February 5, 2022, to the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC), which is undertaking the digging work close to the temple's boundary wall, tweeted: "Archaeological Survey of India has issued a letter to the concerned authorities of Puri for stopping work in the Prohibited area (100 metres) of Jagannath Temple, Puri. But work has not stopped by the State Govt till now.

Illegal this is! Isn't it time for all of us to SAVE OUR TEMPLE?"

However, during his visit to the holy town Monday, Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Mohapatra said, "The Srimandir Heritage Corridor (Puri Heritage Corridor) project is being undertaken for the benefit of lakhs of devotees. I don't think there is any threat to the temple."

The BJD has rejected Sarangi's claims, asserting that there has not been a violation of any law during the implementation of the Puri Heritage Corridor project. The ruling party has maintained that the project is being carried out in co-ordination with the ASI.

The BJD's Puri MP Pinaki Misra said, "The work is being carried



The project is envisaged to transform Puri into an international heritage site. *Photo: Twitter/@Susanta29604062*

out after getting an NOC from the NMA (National Monument Authority) and ASI is also a part of the project."

Taking a swipe at Sarangi,

Misra said, "Many people have a crab mentality. Neither will they do anything nor will they let anyone else do anything."

The rules under the Ancient

Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act stipulate that the area within 100 metres of a protected monument is prohibited for any new construction unless the ASI and the NMA give their clearance in special cases.

For the Puri Heritage Corridor project, the NMA has issued an NOC to the state government for the construction of a cloakroom, a shelter pavilion, three toilets, an electrical room and a pavement within the 75-metre radius of the temple. This is with regard to the point that public amenities do not come under the definition of construction as per the AMASR Act and that the NMA has no objec-

tion if the project is being carried out under the ASI's supervision.

Following its senior officials' recent visit to the project site for inspection, the ASI had shot off a letter to the state government on March 5, asking the authorities to submit revised proposals for the development of Heritage Parikrama Corridors around the temple. The ASI's letter stated that as per their discussions with the state officials over the heritage corridor project, "The concept plan of the state government aims to provide amenities and beautify the entire environs of the temple. The proposed amenities are required for the devotees, it was agreed that this may be allowed."

The ASI has decided to work on the project's design in coordination with the state government so that there is no visual impact on the main temple. "One point of discussion was the proposed reception centre which is at a distance of 75 metres from the temple (part falls under the prohibited area). The building is proposed to be used to hold devotees before they proceed to the main complex. Given that this would be essential, it was decided that the state government would consider options to slightly move the building beyond 100 metres," the letter said, adding that moving the building beyond 100 metres would be in the interest of the temple's safety.

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(भारत सरकार का उपकरण) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC New MDSP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Ind. Estate (Opp. Noida Metro Station), New Delhi-110029

TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)
Online open e-tender in Single Packet is invited for below work, only through e-tendering mode. The bid documents can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website: www.tenderwizard.com/CCL

Tender No.	CON/AREA-1/TKD/TECH/Transportation of materials/2021-22
Name of Work	Transportation of Materials/Consumables from C/D/TKD & C/D/DADRI to other terminals of CONCOR AREA-1 for a period of 02 YEARS.
Estimated Cost	Rs. 24,96,965.63/- (Inclusive of all)
Completion Period	24 Months (As per section-IV Clause-1)
Earnest Money Deposit	As per section-IV Clause-4.
Cost of Document*	Rs. 1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee*	Rs. 1473.20/- through e-payment which is Non-refundable
Date of Sale (On Line)	From 06.04.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. to 20.04.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of submission of Tender	21.04.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	22.04.2022 at 15:30 Hrs.

* Through e-payment
CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tender without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details login to www.tenderwizard.com/CCL
Group General Manager/Tech (Area-1)

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Pooja D/o Sh. Jai Prakash R/o H.No.365, Munirka Village, New Delhi Aged-22 Years has been reported missing since 18.03.2022 from her residence vide **DD No.90A Dated 19.03.2022** registered at Police Station Kishangarh, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Clothing:** Chocolate Coloured suit, Black coloured lower and slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Kishangarh, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-
Tel No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Kishangarh, Delhi
Tel. 011-26510075
DP/1096/SW/2022 Mob.: 7065032624



Pooja

Govt. of Jharkhand
Office of the Director
Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences
Kanke, Ranchi - 834006 (Ph.-2450303, 2450813)
www.rinpas.nic.in, Director-rinpas@jharkhandmall.gov.in & Directorrinpas@gmail.com

Letter no. 900 , date 05/04/2022

E-tender notice No. **DIR-01/04/2022-2023/Half-Way-Home** are invited in two bid system (Technical & Price Bid) through e-tendering process only, from competent and eligible agencies, for a period of minimum one year.

Date on publication on website	11/04/2022
Pre-Bid Conference	13/04/2022, 11.30 A.M.
Date of start of Online Bid Submission	16/04/2022
Last Date and time for submission of Bids	07/05/2022, 17.00 P.M.
Opening of bidding Technical Part "A"	12/05/2022, 11.30 A.M.

Note:- For further details, please visit website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Sd:-
Director,
PR 267639 RINPAS(22-23).D RINPAS, Kanke, Ranchi

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc. (A).

S. No.	Job no/Work name	AMOUNT
1	227/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21, D/o Park S/f Children Open Play Equipment Sector-48)	Cost Rs. 40.62 Lacs
2	39/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2021-22, D/o Green Belt in Sector-75 & 117 With Five Year maintenance,	Cost Rs. 56.01 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 13/04/2022 upto 5.00PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 18/04/2022 at 11.00A.M.

S. No.	Job no/Work name	AMOUNT
1	47/D(H)/DD(H)-III/20-21, M/o Park, Green Belt & RSP With 02 year maintenance in Sector-92, Central verge Exp>H. Ways to Metro Line Drain.	Cost Rs. 93.65 Lacs
2	48/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2021-22, M/o Park & Green Belt with 02 year maintenance in Sector-93.	Cost Rs. 93.47 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 20/04/2022 upto 5.00PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 21/04/2022 at 11.00A.M.

Office Director (Hort.)
Sector - 39 Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Garhwa.

e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
e-Tender Reference No. : RCD/GARHWA/425/22-23
Date:-02.04.2022

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Widening and Strengthening/Reconstruction of N.H.-75 Lagma to Hasandag Tular Road via Karkoma (Total Length-15.060 Km.)
1.	Name of the work	Widening and Strengthening/Reconstruction of N.H.-75 Lagma to Hasandag Tular Road via Karkoma (Total Length-15.060 Km.)
2a.	Approximate Value of Work	Rs. 45,77,88,000.00 (Rupees Forty Five crore Seventy Seven Lac Eighty Eight thousand) only.
b.	Bid Security*	Rs. 45,78,000.00 (Rupees Forty Five Lac Seventy Eight Thousand) only.
3.	Time of Completion	21 (Twenty One) Months.
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	02-05-2022, 12.00 Noon
5.	Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting	18.04.2022, 11.30 A.M. Office of the Chief Engineer (Comm.), R.C.D., 1st Floor, Engineering Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004
6.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	12-04-2022, 10.30 A.M
7.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Garhwa Pin Code - 822114
8.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	06561-223543
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Note :- The Bid Amount & Bid security will be decrease or increase.
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
UCAN registration is mandatory for the bidders who are already registered in appropriate class with road construction department Govt. of Jharkhand. **Executive Engineer,**
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Garhwa.
PR267600 (Road)22-23*D

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDING ORGANIZATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.W.D., BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, SALEM - 7.
PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND PRICE TENDER FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMP SUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
TENDER NOTICE No.01/2022-23/SE/B(C&M)/C/S/LM, Dated : 04.04.2022

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Salem - 7 invites tender for the following work, at his office upto 3.00 P.M. on 11.05.2022 in two sealed covers containing (i) Qualification details and EMD in a separate inner cover and (ii) Price Tender Schedule in another sealed cover and put into one common sealed cover from the experienced and competent contractors / firms as detailed below. The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the Govt. designated website (viz) <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>. The tender schedule will also be available in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem-7, from 07.04.2022 to 10.05.2022 upto 5.45 pm. The tenders received will be opened at 11.30 P.M. on 11.05.2022, in the presence of the tenders or their representatives who choose to be present at that time.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work including G.S.T. (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit in Rupees	Period of Completion
1.	Construction of Permanent buildings for Government Law College and Hostels in Master Plan Complex of Namakkal District.	8700.00	43,60,000	24 Months

Contractor class : Registered in Class I in State level / This Circle level (Above Rs.10.00 crore)
EMD to be credited : The Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Division, Namakkal
Cost of tender schedule : Document cost : Rs. 15000/- (+) G.S.T. 12%; Rs. 1800/-

Tender documents, are available in the following website and can also be downloaded at free of cost. www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Any other details can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Salem - 636 007, during working hours. Any changes in tender condition will also be published in website www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem - 7.
DIPR/ 1687 /TENDER/2022
"சேராதனை கட்டுத்து கைத்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரித்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

From 19
[Sub-rule (1) of rule 27]
Declaration By Appropriate Government/Collector
[Under Sub-Section (1) of Section 19 of the act]
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH
NOTIFICATION NO-1771
DATE- 16 March, 2022
Notification

No. 1771/VIII-S.L.A.O./Amroha/2022-Whereas Preliminary Notification No. 1193 dated 18.09.2021 was issued under sub section (1) of section 11 of the rule Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, in respect of 3.0420 Hectares of land in Village Funderi, Pargana Dhanaura, Tehsil Dhanaura, District Amroha, is required for public purpose, namely, project MGC Stage II Through Madhya Ganga Canal Construction Division-15, Moradabad (Name of Requiring body) published on dated December 04, 2021. The Deputy Collector/Assistant Collector Dhanaura was appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the project affected families. After considering the report of the Collector submitted in pursuance to provision under sub-section (2) of the Section 15 of the Act, the Governor is pleased to declare under Section 19(1) of the Act that he is satisfied that the area of the land mentioned in the given Schedule "A" is needed for public purpose and the land to the extent of 0.00 Hectares in Village Funderi, Pargana Dhanaura, District Amroha, as given in schedule "B" has been identified as the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Area for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the displaced families.

The Governor is future pleased under sub section (2) of section 19 of the Act, to direct the Collector of Amroha to publish a summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme with publication of the declaration to this effect. The summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme is attached herewith.

Schedule-A
(Land under proposed Acquisition)

District	Tehsil	Pargana	Village	Plot No.	Area (In hect.)
Amroha	Dhanaura	Dhanaura	Funderi	2	0.2155
				3	0.7817
				44	1.0000
				45	0.3360
				106	0.7088
				Total	3.0420

Schedule-B
(Land Identified as Settlement Area for Displaced Families)

District	Tehsil	Pargana	Village	Plot No.	Area Earmarked for Rehabilitation (In hect.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Nil					

Note:- A Plan of land may be inspected in the office of the Collector for the purpose of acquisition. UPID-174585 Dt. 04.04.2022 (Sd.) ILLEGIBLE, Collector, Amroha

उ. प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि०,
ई-निविदा सूचना, निम्नलिखित कार्य /
आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदाये दो भागों में
जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत, प्रतिष्ठित एवं
अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ऑन लाईन ई-
निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाइट
'http://etender.up.nic.in' पर
आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा मूल्य
जी.एस.टी. सहित तथा धरोहर राशि
आरटी.जी.एस./एन.ई.एफ.टी./बैंक गारण्टी
के माध्यम से अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत
पारेषण खण्ड, अमरोहा के भारतीय स्टेट
संचालित चालू खाता सं. (Current
Account)- 30723557626, IFSC
Code-SBIN0007413 MICR No.
244002026 में टेण्डर खुलने की दिनांक
10.05.2022, 1. ई-निविदा संख्या- 15 /
ई.टी.सी.डि./एम./2022, विद्युत पारेषण
खण्ड, धामपुर के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी.
नहटौर-मैटोर लाइन एवं 132 केवी
नहटौर-कालागढ़ लाइन की वार्षिक
पैट्रोलिंग एवं अनुरक्षण का कार्य। धरोहर
राशि रु. 13000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का
जी.एस.टी. सहित मूल्य रु. 1770/-, 2.
ई-निविदा संख्या-16/ई.टी.सी.डि./
एम./2022, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड धामपुर
के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र शेरकोट
पर (SAS Based) के वार्षिक परिचालन
एवं अनुरक्षण का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.
24000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी.एस.टी.
सहित मूल्य रु.01770/-, 3. ई-निविदा
संख्या-17/ई.टी.सी.डि./एम./2022, विद्युत
पारेषण खण्ड बिजनौर के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड
बिजनौर के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. लाइनों का
वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। धरोहर राशि
रु. 13000/- निविदा प्रपत्र का जी.एस.टी.
सहित मूल्य रु. 1770/-, 4. ई-निविदा
संख्या-18/ई.टी.सी.डि./एम./2022,
विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड अमरोहा के अन्तर्गत
220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र गजरोला पर स्थापित
इमल्सो फायर सिस्टम हेतु जॉकी पम्प मैन
पम्प, डीजल इंजन एयरकम्प्रेसर फुटवॉल्व,
एनआरवी वॉल्व एवं गेट वॉल्व के वार्षिक
अनुरक्षण का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.
2000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी.एस.टी.0
सहित मूल्य रु 590/- 5. ई-निविदा
संख्या-19/ई.टी.सी.डि./एम./
2022, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड धामपुर के
अन्तर्गत 220/132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर
36 केवी पोल यूनिट एसैबली की आपूर्ति।
धरोहर राशि रु 2000/-निविदा प्रपत्र का
जीएसटी सहित मूल्य रु 590/- "राष्ट्र
हित में बिजली बचाये" हस्ता/-
अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण
मंडल द्वितीय, उ०प्र० पावर ट्रांस०
कार्पो० लि० मुगदाबाद, पत्रांक 456-
वि०पा०मं०डि०मु०/ई-निविदा/2022
दिनांक 05.04.2022

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
No.-JHS/TD/Draw.Se./Tender/Notice/149 Date:02.04.2022

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of work	OHE Modification in connection of Proposed construction of new ROB in between 1221/40-42 in JHS-GWL section of Jhansi division.
E-Tender No.	JHS/TD/Tender/2022/01
Approx Cost	₹1976045.43
Earnest Money	₹39500.00
Date of closing Tender	27.04.2022 15:00 pm.
Date of completion/period from acceptance letter	06 Months

► Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 27.04.2022. ► For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.lreps.gov.in 379/2022 V
f North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Govt. of Jharkhand
URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GARHWA NAGAR PARISHAD
E-Procurement Notice
E-Tender Reference No. : GNP/SBD-01/2022-23

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Description of Work
1.	Development of Bus Stand Sonapurva Garhwa under Garhwa Nagar Parishad ward No. 06	
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	2,96,39,989.00 (Two Crore Ninety Six Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine Rupees) Only
3.	Tender Fee	Rs. 25000.00 (Twenty Five Thousand Only)
4.	Bid Security (Rs)	296500.00 (Two Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Rupees only)
5.	Time of Completion	18 Months
6.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	12.04.2022 up to 11:00 AM
7.	Last Date/Time for receipt of E-Tender on Website	30.04.2022 up to 5:00 PM
8.	Date of Opening E-Tender	05.05.2022, Time: 11:00 AM
9.	Name & Address of office Inviting Tender	Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Garhwa-822114
10.	Contact No of E-Procurement officer	7903796154, 9110993449
11.	Helpline Number of E-Procurement cell	9113726492
12.	Last Date of receipt of hard copy cost of bid document & EMD.	02.05.2022 Up to 05:00 PM

Note: 1. Only e-Tender will be accepted.
2. Any change in BOQ can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
3. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
4. निविदादाता को UCAN Registration (up to date) की छायाप्रति अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है।
5. संवेदक द्वारा 10% से कम दर देने पर एकरारनामा के समय अतिरिक्त जमानत की राशि देनी होगी।
(i) 10% से 20% Below की राशि का 20% तथा
(ii) 20% से अधिक Below की राशि का 30% अतिरिक्त जमानत का प्रावधान लागू रहेगा।
(iii) पथ निर्माण विभाग के संकल्प संख्या 2146(S) दिनांक 09.09.2020 के सभी प्रावधान लागू रहेंगे।
Executive Officer
PR 267590 Urban Development(22-23).D Nagar Parishad Garhwa

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India)
Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023.
www.jnarddc.gov.in (07104-220701)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना/Notice Inviting Tender - April 2022

निविदा/TENDER

Director, JNARDDC, Nagpur, invites online bids on E-Gem portal from reputed firms for the following items/services.

निवेदक, निम्नलिखित निविदा की आपूर्ति के लिए प्रतिष्ठित कम्पनियों से आनलाइन प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया है।

E-GEM BID	Description of Equipments/ Work	Refundable EMD (₹)	Tender Fees (₹)	Last date of tender submission	Date of tender opening	Date of downloading tender
GEM/2022/B/087200 Dated 04.04.2022	Outsourcing the Infrastructure for Crushing, Heat Treatment of SPL (Spent Pot Lining)	90,000/-	Nil	19.04.2022 (upto 1700 Hrs.)	19.04.2022 (1730 Hrs.)	06.04.2022

The details are available in the tender document which will be available for download from our office website www.jnarddc.gov.in or <https://mkp.gem.gov.in>
वार्षिक प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय
102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
दिनांक :- 05.04.2022
मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आईडेंटि फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1.	RWD/RANCHI/24/2021-22	आई0आई0सी0एम0 पूल से प्रेम नगर तक आर0सी0सी0 कलमट के साथ पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं- 1.690 कि०मी०)	2,20,33,500.00		दो करोड़ बीस लाख पैंतीस हजार पाँच सौ रु० मात्र	12 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 18.04.2022
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 28.04.2022 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4. (क) मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी, राँची जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, राँची से किसी भी कार्यालय में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किचे गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- 05.05.2022 पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 06.05.2022 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन- 834001
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०- 0651-2207818
8. निविदा शुल्क झारखण्ड राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक / अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम / अकाउंट से ही निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, राँची के पक्ष में एवं राँची में भुगताने होंगे जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
नोडल पदाधिकारी ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट सेल
PR 267682 Rural Work Department(22-23)HD

OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI
{ENGINEERING SECTION}
KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN - 834001
e-mail :- support@ranchimunicipal.com

LETTER No:-190/Eng **e-Procurement Notice** **DATED:-02-04-2022**

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	09/10	Construction of RCC Drain at Dhela tolli different road in ward no-09, Construction of drain near chesaire home road in sarojni garden and main road in ward no-09, Construction of RCC Drain with slab from sri lal ji house to sri R.N Sharma house at indraprasth colony behind hanuman mandir in ward no-09 and Construction of stone masonry drain & paver block in front of kokar post office under Ward No-10	1,10,90,064/-	2,22,000/-	10000/-	270 Days

1. As per guidelines issued by State Govt. of Jharkhand regarding MSY letter no 56, dt: 18/08/2020 for every schemes contractors have to work with enrolled registered labour of Ranchi Nagar Nigam, Ranchi (as per govt. norms minimum wages applied).
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PR 267624 (Ranchi Municipal Corporation) 22-23 (D) Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr of CISF on 06th April

SI/EXE KAPTAJ BOIPAI
CCL KARGALI
06-04-2007CT/GD HOSHIYAR SINGH
CCL KARGALI
06-04-2007

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

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना निविदा सं. 05/2022-23- विद्युत नगरीय वितरण खण्ड हाथरस के अन्तर्गत बिजनेस प्लान मद में प्रस्तावित कार्य को कराया जाना। (धरोहर राशि रु. 10000.00) निविदा सं. 06/2022-23- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड द्वितीय हाथरस के अन्तर्गत बिजनेस प्लान मद में प्रस्तावित कार्य को कराया जाना। (धरोहर राशि रु. 2000.00) निविदा सं. 07/2022-23- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड चतुर्थ सादाबाद के अन्तर्गत बिजनेस प्लान मद में प्रस्तावित कार्य को कराया जाना। (धरोहर राशि रु. 5000.00) निविदा विक्रय तिथि एवं खुलने की दिनांक 22.04.2022 अन्तर्गत सम्बन्धित जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हाथरस पत्र सं. 1414/वि.वि.म.हा.ए-1 दिनांक 05/4/2022

GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Chandkheda, Phone: 079-23267521/70
Ahmedabad - 382424, Gujarat.

Advertisement for Postdoctoral Fellowship-2022

Gujarat Technological University invites applications from motivated and potential candidates for one (1) postdoctoral position available in Biotechnology at School of Applied Sciences and Technology (SAST). Selected PDF will be eligible to draw a fellowship of INR 40000/- per month and annual contingency of INR 50000/-. Last date of receiving hard copies of the applications is 30/04/2022. For details please refer to the Guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellowship dated 04.04.2022 on the website <https://www.gtu.ac.in/Circular.aspx>

Place : Ahmedabad Sd/
Date : 04/04/2022 Registrar
No.INF/ABD/25/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU-Shed Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Tender for the under noted work.

Tender No.	GEM/2022/B/2079809, Date : 31.03.2022
Name of work	Hiring of 02 Nos. Vehicles (SUVS/Pickup van type for transportation of man power and materials) on monthly basis for DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti for a period of three years.
Approximate Cost	₹ 41,42,015.89 including GST @ 18%
Earnest Money	₹ 82,840/-
Completion period of the work	03 years
Cost of tender document	₹ 0.00 (Vide Rly. Bd. letter no. 2020/CE/ICT/3E/GCC/Policy/30.12.2020)
Bid End Date / Time	15.04.2022 13:00 hrs.
Bid Opening Date/Time	15.04.2022 13:30 hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on GeM (Government e Marketplace) website i.e. www.gem.gov.in w.e.f. 31.03.2022
No. : 258740DSLSB Dt. : 01.04.2022	739/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
Post: New Forest, Dehradun - 248006, Uttarakhand

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No. 36-484 & 37-164/2021-22/Head/Engineering Cell/Civil
The Head, Engineering Cell, FRI, Dehradun invites on behalf of Director, FRI Dehradun online item rate bids from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD, MES, Railways, P&T, State PWD & other Govt. and Semi-Govt. Department including local bodies etc.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Tender fee Including GST Rs.	Time of completion	Last date and time of online submission of the bid
1.	Civil repair works in Bungalow No. Type VI/14 Beeson Road at FRI. (New allotment). (Tender ID No. 2022_ICFRE_682172_1)	9,54,475/-	19,100/-	590/-	60 days	12.04.2022 up-to 3.00 PM
2.	electrical work in Bungalow No. Type VI/14 Beeson Road at FRI. (New allotment). (Tender ID No. 2022_ICFRE_682182_1)	3,22,000/-	6,500/-	590/-	30 days	12.04.2022 up-to 3.00 PM

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, and www.fri.res.in.

Head, Engineering Cell, Facilities & Services Division, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

Chhattisgarh Rural Roads Development Agency
VIKASH BHAVAN, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No. 736 /TC-T/CRRDA/2022, Dated 04/04/2022

Chief Engineer (Tender Cell), CGRRDA, Raipur on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites bids in electronic tendering system for Vendor for Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of GPS enabled Vehicle Tracking System in Key machinery and equipment engaged during execution of road works under PMGSY III and onwards project in CG State, for different districts of Chhattisgarh as per B.O.Q. from the eligible Suppliers / Firms registered with unified registration system (e-registration) for the works mentioned below. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:

S. No	NIT No	Work Name	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Districts	Rate invited
01	736	Vendor for Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of GPS enabled Vehicle Tracking System in Key machinery and equipment engaged during execution of road works under PMGSY III and onwards project in CG State.	Total Cost Rs. 221.00 Lakhs.	For all Districts of Chhattisgarh	Item rate Tender

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://eprocure.cgstate.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on our website <https://eprocure.cgstate.gov.in> from 07.04.2022 from 5:00 PM & onwards. In future any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of this website.

Sd/
Chief Engineer (Tender Cell)
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency
Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.)
E-mail : pmsyrc4@yahoo.co.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

In reference to tender notice no. 179-CIPCE/102/IR/Reserve Price dated 21.03.2022 regarding tender for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train from Sanehwal to Bhanga and back to Sanehwal on round trip, published in newspapers on 22.03.2022, following changes have been made:
Due to administrative reasons, the tender document is being withdrawn and revised tender document is being uploaded on official website for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
All the prospective bidders are advised to note accordingly and submit their bids as per revised tender document.

No. 179-C/PCET/102/IR/Reserve Price Dated : 05.04.2022 747/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
(through <https://ireps.gov.in>)

CAO (Construction), S.C.Railway, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following work

NIT No 26-CAO-C-SC- 2022
Date:01.04.2022 Name of work: SCR Construction Organization- Kazipet-Balharshah section- Proposed 3rd line between Balharshah and Kazipet stations- Supplying and Stacking of machine crushed clean, hard, angular and durable stone Ballast for Railway track along the side of proposed 3rd line alignment for the balance quantity from Bisugirsharif to Kazipet stations(excl. Bisugirsharif station) & at Cut and Connection locations between Potkapalli and Bisugirsharif stations. Details: Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,43,12,451.00 EMD: Rs. 3,71,600.00 Completion Period: 06 Months. Date of Opening: 25-04-2022 at 15.00 hrs.

NIT No 27-CAO-C-SC- 2022
Date:01.04.2022 Name of work: SCR Construction Organization- Guntur-Guntakal section- Proposed construction of Major Bridges with PSC Girders of Spans varying from 12.20m to 20.13 with Open foundations including Earthwork in approaches, Casting, Transportation of 9.15m and 6.10m PSC slabs with Ballast Retainers for Major and minor bridges, execution of bridge Protective works and Other Miscellaneous works from Km. 121.00 to Km. 216.00 i.e., between Donakonda and Diguvametta stations (Balance works). Estimated Cost: Rs. 32,43,56,280.65 EMD: Rs. 17,71,800.00 Completion Period: 12 Months. Date of Opening: 25-04-2022 at 15.00 hrs.

NIT No 28-CAO-C-SC- 2022
Date:01.04.2022 Name of work: SCR Construction Organization- SC-Mudkhed section- Proposed Construction of Road Over Bridge No. 483/C as 1 x 42.00m clear span bow string steel girder for 4 lane traffic (4 lane on cost sharing) and proposed limited height RUB No. 483/D of size 1 x 4.00m x 2.75m RCC Box for elimination of L.C.No. 193 at Km 465/5-6 between Dichpalli and Nizamabad stations. Details: Estimated Cost: Rs. 15,48,68,043.50 EMD: Rs. 9,24,400.00 Completion Period: 12 Months. Date of Opening: 25-04-2022 at 15.00 hrs.

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website <https://ireps.gov.in>.

ii) The above tenders are exempted from Earnest Money Deposit. Hence, bid documents to be submitted as per the format given in the documents of the schedule. It is mandatory of the bidder.

iii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iv) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.
Chief Administrative Officer/Const/A0436 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

J.P. STATE BRIDGE CORPORATION LIMITED

Letter No. 09/1271/MBC/2022-23 Date: 04-04-2022

E-Tender Notice

E-tenders are invited from the interested bidders for supply of Prestressing Materials (Anchors & Sheathing) on rate contract basis upto 31-07-2022. Online bid submission closing date : 18-04-2022 upto 5.00 PM. Online Technical-Commercial Bid (along with hard copy) opening date : 19-04-2022 at 01.00 PM onwards.

For more details of tender pl visit : <https://tender.up.nic.in> & www.bridgecorporationltd.com
Ravi, Dv. Project Manager (M)

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING
PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI 110001

Notice under Section 19 (4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the Matter of
O.A. No. 30/2021

Karnataka Bank Ltd. Applicant
vs
M/S NEW WORLD ENTERPRISES AND ORS Defendants

D-1. M/S New World Enterprises (Through Its Partners Mr. Mhd. Sami and Mr. Mhd. Sallaudin) D21/9, Gali No. 5, Vijay Colony, New Usmanpur, New Delhi-110053

D-2. Mr. Mohd. Sami s/o Mr. Mohd. Rafi, R/O House No. 1544, Gali Kotana, Suwalan Daryaganj, Delhi-110022

D-3. Mr. Mohd. Sallaudin s/o Late Mr. Mohd. Phool Hassan, R/O 33-A, Block-A-1, Gali No. 9, Chankiaya Place, Part-1, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059

Whereas the above named applicant has Instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 02.05.2022 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that Purpose: (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/ Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head. (iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Phone No. 23748469.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 21st day of March 2022.

By Order Of The Tribunal

UPSIDA
कार्यालय उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिखित), निमग्न खण्ड-प्रथम
उपरोध राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
गुलियारबाद। website: www.upsida.com

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एषाद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत विकास/अनुसंधान/उत्पत्ति कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में अर्ह Class-B & Above के पंजीकृत फर्मों/देवेदारों से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो दिनांक 06.04.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 13.04.2022 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक अपारख की जा सकती है, निम्न दिनांक 16.04.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाओं द्वारा ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त मूल प्रक्रिया दिनांक 16.04.2022 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त विवरण व शर्तें गुलियारबाद की वेबसाइट: www.upsida.com पर रिक्त ई-निविदा एवं गुलियारबाद की वेबसाइट: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।
उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिखित), निमग्न खण्ड-प्रथम, उपरोधराज्यऔद्योगिक, गुलियारबाद।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अंश/प्रतिशत
1.	Providing & Fixing Signage Board at I.A. Masoorie Gulawathi Road, Distt.-Hapur.	19,06
2.	Construction of Roads, Drain & Culvert at I.A. Loni Road Site-2 (Plot No. VL-3, VL-3/1 to VL-3/6), Distt.-Ghaziabad	12,46

नोट : निविदा दाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटी/टीडी सी सहित ई-निविदा कर अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त विवरण व शर्तें गुलियारबाद की वेबसाइट: www.upsida.com पर रिक्त ई-निविदा एवं गुलियारबाद की वेबसाइट: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।
उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिखित), निमग्न खण्ड-प्रथम, उपरोधराज्यऔद्योगिक, गुलियारबाद।

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one lady Name: Unknown, D/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 45 Yrs. (About), Height: 5', Sex: Female, Complexion: Shallow, Injury Marks: No external injury found, ID Marks: One chain type tattoo over the neck, Wearing: Light Colour Kurta & Pink Pajami, Place of Recovery: Found dead at Under flyover, red light Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi.

In this regard FIR/DD No. 47A, Dated: 29.03.2022 has been lodged at Police Station, Sun Light Colony, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Sun Light Colony, Delhi
Ph.: 011-26347482, 26348324
DP/72/SE/2022

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e-Procurement Cell
JHARKHAND STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD., RANCHI

Short Term e-Procurement Notice
Date : 05/04/2022

Sl. No	Tender Reference No.	Work Name	Amount in (Rs)	Completi on Time	Call No.	Advt. PR. No.
1	JSBCL/01/2022-23	Construction of 5000 MT Capacity Cold Storage at Ramgarh District	11,32,62,468/-	15 Months	2nd	264674
2	JSBCL/02/2022-23	Construction of Degree College at Gandeya, Giridih	12,48,83,823/-	12 Months	1st	
3	JSBCL/03/2022-23	Construction of Degree College at Jugalsalai, East Singhbhum District.	13,85,10,200/-	12 Months	1st	
4	JSBCL/04/2022-23	Construction of Degree College at Baratanr, Jama, Dumka District.	12,86,44,522/-	12 Months	1st	
5	JSBCL/05/2022-23	Infrastructure of State Pharmacy Institute, Baraiatnu, Ranchi	3,42,89,759/-	09 Months	1st	
6	JSBCL/06/2022-23	Proposed Beautification work of Giridih College, Giridih under Vinoba Bhawe University, Hazaribag	3,99,30,680/-	09 Months	1st	
7	Date of Publication of Tender on Website		19.04.2022 at 11:00 AM			
8	Start Date of Submission of Bids		19.04.2022 at 11:00 AM			
9	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids		10.05.2022 at 05:00 PM			
10	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee		10.05.2022 upto 11:30 AM			
11	Date/Time of opening of Bid		12.05.2022 at 12:00 PM			
12	Name & Address of office Inviting tender		e-Procurement Cell, Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.			
13	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell		0651-2446259			
14	e-mail ID		jsbcljharkhand@gmail.com			

Any change can be seen on Website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any other information can be seen on <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

Sd/
Nodal Officer
e-Procurement Cell
Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.

PR.NO.267604.Jharkhand State Building Construction Corp. Ltd.(22-23);D

HP STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)
5DA Commercial Complex, Block No. 16 & 17, Kasumpti, Shimla

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Women & Child Development Department, Himachal Pradesh, the HP State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited invites the online tender along with samples from the interested manufacturers and authorized distributors through online tender on the website <https://tenders.gov.in> on or before 27.04.2022 upto 04:00 P.M. for the procurement of Pre-School Kit Items for one year i.e. 2021-22 for the Anganwadi Centres running under the control of the Women & Child Development Department, Himachal Pradesh.

Name of Item	EMD	Tender Fee	Processing Fee
Pre-School Kit Items as per Annexure-I and as per Specification attached at Annexure-II	Rs.20,30,100/-	Rs.7,500/-	Rs.20,000/-

The tender form alongwith all details including schedule and terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website <https://tenders.gov.in>
Managing Director, HPSCSL Ltd.

PSPCL
Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, (Patiala)
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number: 0164-2756446)

Tender Enquiry No. 303/GHTP/C&M/I/M-112/Vol.1 Dated: 04.04.2022

Dy Chief Engineer/ C and I Circle, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tenders for the work of Routine/ Preventive, Breakdown and Shutdown Maintenance of C and I Equipments/Instruments, Measurement and Interlock System, Annunciation System, Flue Gas Analyzers, Steam and Water Analysis etc. installed at 2X210MW Stage-I and 2X250MW Stage-II, Guru Har Gobind Thermal Plant (GHTP), Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda, Punjab as per details in the tender specification for a period of one year.
For detailed NIT & Tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.04.2022 from 11.00 A.M. onward.
NOTE: Corrigendum(s) and/or addendum(s), if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
GHTP-1222 13312/PB

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

CORRIGENDUM-II SHORT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-NIT No.: 2908/BBMB Dated- 22.02.2022

Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Dehar Power House Circle, BBMB, (PW), Slapper.

Name of Work: Renewal and replacement of MS Pipe line 200 mm dia in between 1.80 lac gallon and 1.20 lac gallon tank for cooling water supply to Dehar Power House, Slapper. Estimated cost Rs.24,41,512/-

Document download start date & time:	22.02.2022 from 17.00 Hrs.
Last date & time for download tender documents:	19.04.2022 up to 15.00 Hrs.
Last date & time for submission of online bid:	19.04.2022 up to 15.00 Hrs.
Due date & time for opening online bid:	20.04.2022 up to 11.00 Hrs.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited, please visit BBMB website <http://www.punjab.gov.in> and www.bbmb.gov.in
870-PR-Generation-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A Joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
(Nagpur Metro Rail Project)
"Metro Bhavan", V/P Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspath,
Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrcl.tenders@gmail.com
Website : www.mahametro.org

Tender Notice No. NI-IT-07/2022 Dt. 04.04.2022

Name of work : Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing, Integration, Commissioning and Support of Integrated Real time Enterprise Asset Management System & Advance analytics for Operation & Maintenance of Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited projects.

Cost of Documents: INR 47,200/- (inclusive of GST).

Interested Bidders may visit MAHA-METRO Website: www.mahametro.org for NIT and download the bid documents for further details regarding the tender, from e-tender portal <https://mahametro.rail.tenders.in> from 16.00 Hrs on 12.04.2022 to 16.00 Hrs on 04.0



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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

The Rajapaksa clan in Sri Lanka politics

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE RAJAPAKSA family, whose members include Sri Lanka's Prime Minister and President, hails from Hambantota district in the south. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brothers Chamal, PM Mahinda, and Basil are third-generation politicians, while the fourth generation is represented by Mahinda and Chamal's sons Namal, Yositha and Shashindra.

In South Asia, no other political dynasty has been as confidently nepotistic. During Mahinda Rajapaksa's second term as President from 2010-15, there were said to be more than 40 Rajapaksa family members in government posts, apart from the PM and President's secretariat. At least one holds a diplomatic post as consul general in Los Angeles.

Under the leadership of Gotabaya and Mahinda, the Rajapaksa clan has taken charge of 11 ministries. Other family members have been accommodated in the PM and President's secretariat. At least one holds a diplomatic post as consul general in Los Angeles.

PRESIDENT, PM AND A FAMILY RULING FOR 2 DECADES



The beginnings

In the country's first parliament, to which elections were held in the months before Sri Lanka's independence in February 1948, there were two Rajapaksas. One of them was the father of the present President and Prime

Minister. A founding member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), Don Alwin Rajapaksa was a two-time parliamentarian. At the time, the party was in the hands of another founding member, the Oxford-educated S W R D Bandaranaike, scion of a wealthy family from the outskirts of Colombo. After his assassina-

tion in 1959, his wife Sirimavo took charge.

Mahinda & Gotabaya

When Chandrika Kumaratunga inherited the leadership of the SLFP from Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1994, Mahinda Rajapaksa had already spent over two decades in politics. But

he was no challenge to Kumaratunga's leadership, biding his time as a cabinet minister during her two terms as President. Other family members were in politics too, notably elder brother Chamal and cousin Nirupama.

His candidacy in the 2005 presidential election came after Kumaratunga stepped down from politics. Mahinda's determined bid for a military defeat of the LTTE was led by his defence secretary, Gotabaya. After the 2009 victory in which thousands of Tamil civilians were killed or went missing, there was no looking back for the Rajapaksas. Led by the brothers, Sri Lanka embarked on a militarisation of the Sinhalese-Buddhist majority. That was also when Mahinda inducted two score and more family members into various positions. There was large-scale corruption. Journalists began to fear for their lives after the killing of *Sunday Leader* editor Lasantha Wickrematunge.

That was also when the Rajapaksas embraced China — Beijing had been a friend from the days of Sirimavo — for a huge infrastructure push. The Hambantota port was inaugurated in 2011, the country was connected by new Chinese built expressways, and, in 2014, a Chinese submarine stopped over at Colombo

port, setting alarm bells ringing in New Delhi.

India's insistence on a political solution for the Tamils got little traction in Colombo, and the DMK's presence in the UPA meant the then government took an unfriendly stand at the UN Human Rights Council. When Mahinda was defeated in the 2015 presidential elections, he would blame it on India's R&AW. His bid to become PM failed when the fractured SLFP lost the parliamentary election.

The comeback & now

Mahinda began his comeback with local elections in 2018. President Maithripala Sirisena, fearful of Mahinda's return, sacked PM Ranil Wickremesinghe and appointed his old boss Mahinda as PM. The new arrangement did not last, but Wickremesinghe stepped down a few months after being reinstated. Mahinda formed a caretaker government.

Gotabaya won the 2019 presidential election hands down. Mahinda won the parliamentary election in mid-2020 with a two-thirds majority. But their government failed to anticipate the severity of the crisis. From the heights of popularity, the Rajapaksas are now staring at the nadir of their political careers.

The civilian massacre in Bucha

Following the withdrawal of Russian troops, more than 300 bodies have been found in a Kyiv suburb, some with their hands tied, flesh burned, and shot in the back of the head. There is global outrage.

MIRA PATEL
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYKY accused Russian troops of committing "the most terrible war crimes" since World War II in an address to the UN Security Council on Tuesday as outrage swept through Western capitals at what appeared to be incontrovertible evidence of grisly civilian massacres in Ukrainian areas vacated recently by Russian forces.

Until Tuesday, officials had counted bodies of at least 410 civilians in towns around Kyiv, where Russian and Ukrainian forces battled from February 27 until the beginning of April when, as the invaders withdrew, evidence of likely war crimes began to emerge.

The massacres in Bucha

The grimest discoveries have been made in a Kyiv suburb called Bucha, a town located about 25 km to the northwest of the capital, which had an estimated population of around 36,000 before the invasion began. More than 300 bodies have been found in the town, some with their hands bound, flesh burned, and shot in the back of the head.

Satellite images from mid-March that are now available show streets strewn with corpses, and many of the bodies seen by journalists in the past couple of days appear to have lain in the open for weeks. Corpses have been found in a shallow mass grave in a church compound, and officials have said five bodies with their hands tied lay in the basement of a children's sanatorium that was used by the occupiers as a "torture chamber" for civilians.

The discoveries have drawn comparisons with the killings of civilians in this area during World War II. Between the First Battle of Kyiv (part of Hitler's Operation Barbarossa that began in June 1941) and the Second Battle of Kyiv (end-1943) when the Red Army started to push back the Germans from Ukraine, the area around the Ukrainian capital, including Bucha, saw the "Holocaust by bullets" during which an estimated 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, were shot dead at close range.

Low-ranking Nazi *einsatzgruppen* paramilitaries roaming the occupied territory randomly murdered civilians in homes and streets — atrocities that were recalled in news reports 80 years later as bodies were found lying next to bicycles, on pavements,



Three bodies lie in the yard of a home in Bucha on Monday. Daniel Berehulak/The NYT

and in yards and gardens in Bucha. The first videos out of the town supported claims of mass casualties, and were subsequently backed by accounts of reporters on the ground. The reports and pictures of corpses wearing civilian clothes, some clutching shopping bags, suggest that ordinary citizens were murdered without provocation, as they went about their daily business.

A genocide or war crimes?

Both expressions have been used freely in outraged Ukrainian and Western descriptions of the atrocities in Bucha. Whether these incidents fit those definitions is important because of the international community's obligation to respond to them.

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of war crimes even earlier, alleging that it targeted civilians in the bombing of a maternity hospital in Mariupol and a theatre that announced it was sheltering children. President Joe Biden has called President Vladimir Putin a "war criminal".

War crimes are defined as "grave breaches" of the Geneva Conventions, agreements signed after World War II that laid down international humanitarian laws during war time. Deliberately targeting civilians

amounts to a war crime.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague has already opened an investigation into possible war crimes by Russia. The investigation could in theory target even Putin. But it will be difficult to bring Russian defendants to trial or to prove intent. Russia does not recognise the ICC and will likely not cooperate with the investigation.

Genocide, as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention of December 1948, includes acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group". Genocide is seen as the gravest of all crimes against humanity.

Alexander Hinton, director of the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University, told POLITICO that the perpetrators of genocide "want to destroy a people as opposed to defeat an army" and operate with "an intent of systematicity". Hinton said he did not believe Russia's actions as yet amounted to genocide, even though it did appear to be guilty of war crimes.

Gregory Stanton, chair of Genocide Watch, however, believes Russia has committed "crimes of genocide, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity". Stanton told POLITICO that genocide is a



group crime that can be committed by a state against its own people or the people of another state and, in this case, the Russians "have the intent to destroy, in part, a national group, and that's the Ukrainian group".

Differences of opinion on what constitutes genocide explains in part the reluctance of the international community to use the term frequently. Apart from the Holocaust in which more than 6 million Jews were exterminated, three other genocides are generally recognised as fitting the 1948 UN definition: the 1915-20 mass killings of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks, the killings of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994, and the Srebrenica massacre of 1995.

Global and Russian reactions

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko has said that "what happened in Bucha and other suburbs...can only be described as genocide". On Sunday, before the full scale of the horrors in Bucha were known, President Zelenskyy had said the Russian action was "genocide — the elimination of the whole nation and the people", and "the destruction and extermination" of more than 100 nationalities in Ukraine.

All of Ukraine's Western allies have strongly condemned the massacre in Bucha. Amid calls for more, stronger sanctions against Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, and Sweden have expelled dozens of Russian diplomats, and Swedish prosecutors have opened a preliminary investigation into possible war crimes in Ukraine.

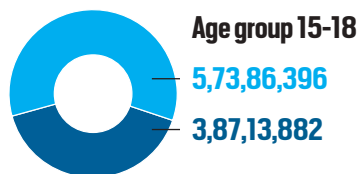
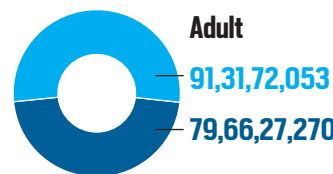
Russia has denied all accusations. The Kremlin has said the claims coming out of Bucha were a "well directed but tragic show", and a "monstrous forgery". It has called the diplomatic expulsions "short-sighted", and said that "reciprocal steps" would follow.

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DASHBOARD, As on APRIL 04

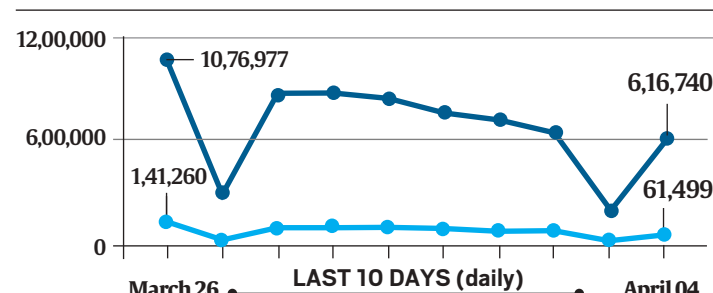
TOTAL DOSES 184,87,33,081

■ First dose ■ Second dose

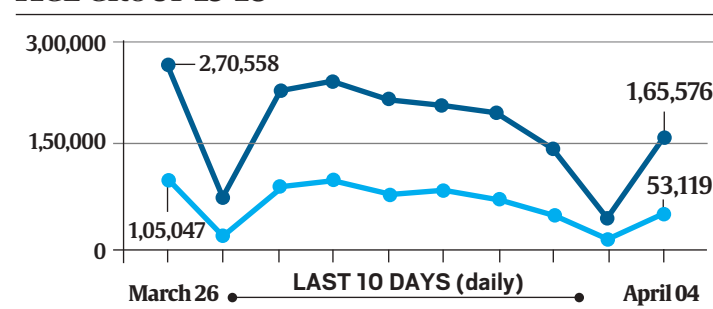


AGE GROUP 12-14 1st dose	1,92,18,099
PRECAUTIONARY doses	2,36,15,381
Doses On April 04	16,49,802

ADULTS



AGE GROUP 15-18



Emerging from pandemic, need to view viruses in perspective

EXPERT EXPLAINS

RAJESH M PARIKH

OVER THE past two years, viruses have been typecast as detrimental to our existence, and we have projected ourselves as innocent victims of their ruthlessness. If we could, we would confer a heap of Nobel Prizes on anyone who accomplishes the total annihilation of viruses. This, however, would be a fatal error — far more lethal than any potential variant of Sars-CoV2 or even Ebola.

Viruses everywhere

Earth has an estimated 10 nonillion (10 to the 31st power) viruses, enough to give one to every star in the universe 100 million times over. In comparison, there are less than 8 billion of us. We occupy microscopic space amid them; they generally tolerate our presence.

Viruses have existed for 3.5 billion years prior to humans. They permeate every part of the natural world, lurking in soil, seawater, and drifting through the atmosphere. Almost all of them are harmless to humans, and many perform important functions in our ecosystem's maintenance. Only 219 of the approximately 1.7 million viral species in mammals and birds infect humans. Others look after the health of specific organisms such as fungi, plants, insects, and even humans.

Bacteriophages, often known simply as phages, are viruses that infect and kill bacteria. In the ocean, phages are the most significant regulators of bacterial populations. They facilitate microbial creatures that produce half the oxygen in the world to survive in the ocean. Phages are present in our digestive, respiratory, and reproductive tracts' mucus membrane linings, and function as barriers against invading bacteria.

Viruses that help and protect

Phages have long been used to treat sepsis caused by lethal bacteria. These viruses were isolated from water bodies, dirt, air,

sewage, and the bodily fluids of patients. Today, there is a renewed interest in using genetically engineered phages, especially in the treatment of drug resistant infections.

Viruses such as the latent herpes virus and Pegivirus C, when present in our bodies, protect us from their harmful cousins. Antigens produced by the latent herpes virus assist the immune system in identifying and targeting cancer cells. Pegivirus C, often known as GBV-C, is a virus that does not cause any symptoms. Multiple studies have found that HIV and Ebola patients who are infected with GBV-C live longer than the ones who are not. By inhibiting the host receptors essential for cell entry, GBV-C slows disease and enhances the release of anti-viral interferons and cytokines.

Viruses have played an integral role in the evolution of our species. They have been infiltrating human genomes for hundreds of millions of years. Their genetic material accounts for roughly 8% of the human genome. Certain viral genes produce proteins such as Syntectin which enables the foetus to fuse with the mother through the placenta, but for which the embryo would

die. Besides, retroviruses played a role in the evolution of the mammalian placenta.

Three hundred and eighty trillion viruses reside on and inside the human body, which is more than 10 times the number of bacteria. They infiltrate every part of the body including blood, cerebrospinal fluid, organs and skin. While a minority of them can be harmful to us, many facilitate our survival.

When humans trigger viruses

Frequent contact between humans and animals usually by human intrusion into their habitats increases the risk of zoonotic viral transmission. Forest degradation for urban development, mineral extraction, hunting, slaughtering of animals, as well as worldwide animal trade have been important drivers of virus spillover.

A 2017 study published in the journal *Science* suggests that nearly half of the world's species are already on the move as a result of rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns. According to *The Lancet Countdown 2019 Report*, climate change has facilitated the spread of many diseases, plac-

ing a rising number of people at risk. Growing populations, climatic change, and high rates of greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase the number of Ebola-prone areas by 20% to 30%. Ebola could, on average, break out once every 10 years by 2070, dropping from the current average of 17 years.

When terrestrial animals migrate, they carry their viruses and transmit them. If humans invade their territories, new possibilities for pandemics emerge. If no action is taken to address climate change, about one billion people might be exposed to mosquito-borne diseases for the first time by 2080.

An outlook for the future

The Covid-19 pandemic is the result of the unfortunate but preventable confluence of ecological drivers of disease spillover. There is a reason why pandemics occur. The size of the host population and the degree to which it has disrupted the environment are major factors in the emergence of pandemics. Humans have significantly altered three-quarters of the Earth's land and two-thirds of its oceans, according to the Intergov-

ernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

As wildlife shifts its distribution in response to human activity disease spillovers will continue to occur across the planet. Two-thirds of human infectious diseases and three-quarters of newly emerging diseases are caused by animal spillovers. Wild mammals and birds have plenty of zoonotic viruses to transmit to us. We play a deadly game of viral roulette when we engage irresponsibly with other species.

Scientists have only recently begun to look at the ways in which viruses maintain all life. As we stagger out of the pandemic, we must ensure safe and sustainable coexistence with other species. The more we learn about viruses, the more prepared we will be to use some of them for our good. We will also brace ourselves against those that could lead to the next pandemic.

(Rajesh M. Parikh is Director Medical Research and Hon. Neuropsychiatrist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai)

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SENSEX: 60,176.50 ▼ 435.24 (0.72%) NIFTY: 17,957.40 ▼ 96 (0.53%) NIKKEI: 27,787.98 ▲ 51.51 HANG SENG: 22,502.31 ▲ 462.76 FTSE: 7,552.55 ▼ 6.37 DAX: 14,453.27 ▼ 64.89

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
SOCIAL COMMERCEWith Shopee exit,
Meesho sees 'space'
to grow, focus
on 'monetisation'SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE EXIT of Shopee — one of the fastest growing social commerce platforms in India — from the market is being viewed by its rivals as an opportunity to grow profitably. Softbank-backed Meesho is learnt to have told its employees that it is aiming to achieve profitability by December, as it expects a positive cash flow and unit economics.

During a call with employees last Friday, Meesho's management is learnt to have told staff that "the recent exit of Shopee from the market can be attributed to the current tightening environment and gives us more space." Shopee exited India late last month, less than six months after it launched in the country, citing "global market uncertainties".

According to a source, the company has told its employees that going forward, it would have "relentless focus on monetisation" and discover newer ways to increase monetisation. The company will also prioritise improving its capital consumption.

According to Meesho's annual financial statements, its expenses on IT services more than doubled in FY21 to Rs 89 crore from Rs 37.8 crore in FY20. In the same fiscal, the startup also wrote off loans it had given to vendors and suppliers worth Rs 7 crore. Meesho's losses ballooned by more than 60 per cent to close to Rs 500 crore in FY21 from Rs 307 crore in FY20.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that Meesho, which has typically so far sold unbranded goods, was looking to partner smaller brands to start offering branded products on its platform. The company has also shifted its focus away from its initial reseller-led model and has doubled down on selling directly to consumers, pitting it directly

MANAGEMENT'S
MESSAGE TO STAFF

■ During a call with employees last Friday, Meesho's management is learnt to have told employees that "the recent exit of Shopee from the market can be attributed to the current tightening environment..."

■ As per a source, the company has told its employees that going forward, it would have "relentless focus on monetisation"

against companies like Amazon and Flipkart. It is learnt that more than 60 per cent of the firm's transacting customers now come from its direct selling business.

As the company looks for newer streams of monetisation, one of the ways the company is looking to reduce its cash burn is by reducing internal costs. Meesho is learnt to have asked all its employees to practise financial prudence while using the firm's resources. "Meesho has also asked employees to optimise existing costs by revisiting negotiations with vendors and finding areas of underutilisation," another source said.

Meesho did not respond to a detailed questionnaire until publication. Flipkart's social commerce platform Shopsy also did not respond to a query asking how it was looking at the exit of Shopee from India. Meesho is finalising a location and building a compliance framework for its public offering planned in the first half of 2023, as The Indian Express had earlier reported. The Facebook and Softbank-backed firm is contemplating choosing from either a public listing in India or a SPAC-listing in the US.

₹0.52-0.6 RISE LIKELY FOR EVERY \$1/BBL JUMP IN CRUDE: EXPERTS

₹9.2 rise in 15 days: More auto fuel price 'hikes' on the cards

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

EVEN AFTER an around Rs 9.2-per-litre hike in petrol and diesel prices over the past 15 days, costs are expected to rise further as oil marketing companies (OMCs) revise rates in line with rising crude oil prices.

Expected rise in prices

Experts have said the retail prices of petrol and diesel need to be hiked by Rs 0.52-0.6 for every \$1 per barrel rise in the price of crude oil for OMCs to maintain normal marketing margins on the sale of auto fuels. Brent has risen by about \$28 per barrel since November 4 to around \$108 per barrel (as of 9:26 am ET), indicating that fuel prices could see further hikes of Rs 5.5-7.8 per litre each on petrol and diesel at Brent's



Petrol pump, Kolkata. OMCs are revising rates in line with rising crude prices. File

current price.

"For every \$1 increase in crude oil prices at current tax rates, the retail price of petrol and diesel should increase by 60 paise," said Prashant Vasishth, vice president & co-group head at Icra.

The Centre may, however,

choose to cut excise duties to reduce the impact of higher crude prices on consumers. Despite a Rs 5-per-litre cut in excise duty on petrol and a Rs 10 per litre in excise duty on diesel in November 2021, Central taxes are higher by Rs 8 per litre on petrol and Rs 6 per litre on diesel, compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Central and state taxes, currently, account for about 43 per cent of the retail price of petrol and about 37 per cent of the pump price of diesel in Delhi.

OMCs also hiked LPG price by Rs 50 last week, taking its price to Rs 949 per 14.2 kg cylinder in the capital. Analysts said OMCs are still making losses on LPG sales at current price levels due to the high crude costs.

Sudden rise

OMCs had held the prices of petrol and diesel constant for a pe-

riod of 137 days, starting November 4, after the Centre announced an excise duty cut of Rs 5 per litre on petrol and a cut of Rs 10 per litre on diesel.

The entire impact of the rise in international crude prices during the period is being passed onto consumers now as OMCs have restarted price revisions. The price of petrol has risen to Rs 104.6 per litre and that of diesel has increased to Rs 95.9 in the Capital after 13 price hikes in 15 days.

Ordinarily, the prices of petrol and diesel are revised daily, in line with a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international prices of petroleum products. The Russia-Ukraine conflict and attacks on oil and gas infrastructure in Saudi Arabia have led to further concerns about potential disruptions in crude oil supplies which have pushed up crude oil prices.

LIC ISSUE: EYE ON BOOSTING PARTICIPATION

Retail investors can bid up to ₹5 lakh for IPOs using UPI: Sebi

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

AHEAD OF the mega public offer of LIC, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has increased the size of bids that retail investors can submit in an initial public offer (IPO) using Unified Payments Interface (UPI). In a circular issued Tuesday, Sebi raised the limit from the current Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

The government's plan to sell about 31.6 crore shares, or 5 per cent stake, in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is estimated to fetch it around Rs 60,000 crore. It is pushing for maximum retail investor participation in the LIC IPO.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) enhanced the per transaction limit in UPI from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) in IPOs.

NPCI has reviewed the systemic readiness required at vari-



Sebi building, Mumbai. The markets regulator raised the investment limit from ₹2 lakh earlier. File

ous intermediaries to facilitate the processing of applications with increased UPI limit and confirmed that as on March 30, more than 80 per cent of SCSBs, sponsor banks and UPI apps have conducted the system changes and have complied with the NPCI provisions.

'Bank credit growth likely to be at 8.9-10.2% in FY23'

Banks' outlook is likely to be stable amid credit growth of 8.9-10.2% and fall in provisions this fiscal, Icra Ratings said

Banks' gross non-performing advances (GNPAs) likely to decline to 5.6-5.7% by March, 2023 as against an estimate of 6.2-6.3% by March, 2022



FY23 OUTLOOK FOR BANKS to be stable, based on continued improvement in earnings driven by:

■ Improved credit growth of 8.9-10.2% in FY23 — 8.3% for FY22 (expected) and 5.5% in FY21

■ Decline in credit provisions

Deposit growth likely to slow to 7.3-7.9% in FY23 as against 8.3% estimated in FY22

Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

'EU Commission plans big online firms to pay 0.1% supervisory fee'

REUTERS
BRUSSELS, APRIL 5

MAJOR ONLINE platforms face a yearly fee up to 0.1 per cent of annual net income to cover the costs of monitoring compliance with new European Union rules requiring them to do more to police their content, an EU document shows.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) rules are likely to be agreed between EU countries and lawmakers later this month. Levying such a fee would be a first for the

UK crypto rules

London: Britain has unveiled plans to regulate some cryptocurrencies as part of a broader plan to become a global hub for digital payments. AP

European Commission, which is the bloc's executive body.

"The overall amount of the annual supervisory fees shall be based on the estimated costs the

Commission incurs in relation to its supervisory tasks under this Regulation," the document, which was seen by Reuters, said.

The fee should be proportionate to the size of the service as reflected by the number of its recipients in the EU, it added.

EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager told lawmakers and member states last month that the fee could raise between 20 million euros (\$22 million) and 30 million euros annually, source said.

The Commission did not respond to a request for comment.

As Musk joins Twitter board, what changes can be expected?

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

A DAY after declaring that he had picked 9.2 per cent stake in Twitter, SpaceX and Tesla co-founder Elon Musk was on Tuesday appointed to the board of the social media company. The purchase comes only days after Musk had said on Twitter that he was "giving serious thought" to building a new social media platform.

What does the stake buy mean for Musk & his plans for a new social media platform?

The 9.2 per cent stake worth close to \$3 billion made Musk the biggest shareholder in Twitter, ahead of Vanguard Group with 8.8 per cent stake, Morgan Stanley with 8.4 per cent and far ahead of the company's co-founder Jack Dorsey with 2.2 per cent stake.

Musk's stake and a board seat on Twitter is also likely to give him more freedom to propose tweaks and changes to the platform. For example, on March 25, nearly ten days after he had already bought the \$3-billion worth stake, Musk



Tesla co-founder Elon Musk is the biggest shareholder in Twitter, with a 9.2% stake in the company. Reuters file

first tweeted out a poll asking his followers if Twitter rigorously adhered to the principles of free speech, which he said was essential to a functioning democracy.

He had then hinted people should "vote carefully" as the "consequences of the poll" could be important. After more than 70 per cent of the voters in the polls said that they did not believe that Twitter was rigorously implementing the principles of free speech, on March 26, Musk again tweeted out to Twitter seeking a solution as the platform which

"serves as the de-facto public town square" had failed to adhere to free speech principles which in turn undermined democracy.

In a subsequent tweet, he also asked his followers if a new platform was needed. On Tuesday, a day after the 9.2 per cent stake buy was revealed, Musk again sent out a poll for his followers, asking them to vote on whether they needed an edit button on Twitter.

Twitter's newly appointed CEO Parag Agrawal replied to the tweet asking people to vote carefully as the consequences of the poll would be important. Later in the day, he announced Musk's appointment to Twitter's board.

What does the stake buy mean for Twitter as a social media platform?

For Twitter, the stake buy comes at a time when its annual revenue, as of December 2021, stood at \$5 billion and has targeted achieving \$7.5 billion in revenues by 2023. With Musk formally being appointed on its board as the largest shareholder, it could give Twitter more financial muscle to take on competition from other platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

'Sebi chief meet'

New Delhi: Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch on Tuesday appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance and was questioned on the NSE issue, Sahara case and share offers of Paytm and Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali group's Ruchi Soya, sources said.

No CCyB for now

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Tuesday it has decided not to activate the countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) at this point in time as it is not required.

Charging infra

New Delhi: Jio-bp — the fuel retailing joint venture of Reliance Industries and British energy giant BP — along with TVS Motor Company will set up public charging infrastructure for electric 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers.

SBI Cards stake

New Delhi: US PE fund CA Rover Holdings, part of Carlyle Group, offloaded 2.6 crore shares of SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd for a over ₹2,229 crore via open market transaction. PTI

Project Kuiper

Bengaluru: Amazon.com Inc said it has secured 83 rocket launches over five years to put together a satellite constellation, called Project Kuiper, to beam broadband internet. REUTERS

End-to-end encryption: Meta says will step up transparency, screening

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

META HAS agreed to completely implement 34 of the 45 recommendations made by independent organisation Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) as a part of its Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) report on end-to-end encryption in messaging and social media platforms.

Responding to the report in which BSR has made 45 suggestions such as providing users the option to report problems in a more consistent, cohesive and accessible way, ensuring that these features are easy to find, Meta said that while 34 were being accepted by the company, it would partly implement four, while assessing the feasibility of another six.

THE SUGGESTIONS

■ Meta has agreed to implement 34 of the 45 recommendations made by Business for Social Responsibility

Meta said it would not take any action for now on one recommendation under which BSR had recommended that the company continue to evaluate client-side scanning as an approach to address the presence of child sexual abuse material on its platforms.

BSR suggested that Meta continue to look for ways in which it can scan for child sexual abuse material among messages transmitted on its platforms without breaking the

end-to-end encryption.

BSR said while end-to-end encryption was the only way to "truly protect the privacy of communications" and that it should not be banned or weakened in any manner, it must not restrict the rights of children to be protected from child sexual abuse content which is present on the various platforms. In its response on why Meta would take no action on the issue, the company said any form of client-side scanning of messages without consent and control of the user or sender was "fundamentally incompatible" with an end-to-end encryption messaging service.

"This would be the case even with theoretical approaches that could maintain 'cryptographic integrity' such as via a technology like homomorphic encryption—

which the HRIA rightly notes is a nascent technology whose feasibility in this context is still speculative," Meta said in its response.

The human rights impact assessment of extending end-to-end encryption across all Meta's messaging services was commissioned by the company in October 2019. The objective of the report was to identify and prioritise the potential impact of end-to-end encryption plan of Meta on human rights, and the possible risks and opportunities associated with it.

BSR was also asked to recommend an action plan that would minimise the risks, and build Meta staff capacity to help ensure that the end-to-end encryption was implemented in a manner that was consistent with human rights.

US stops Russian bond payments, raising default risk

REUTERS
NEW YORK, APRIL 5

THE US stopped the Russian government on Monday from paying holders of its sovereign debt more than \$600 million from reserves held at US banks, in a move meant to ratchet up pressure on Moscow and eat into its holdings of dollars.

Under sanctions put in place after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, foreign currency reserves held by the Russian central bank at US financial institutions were frozen. But the



State Emergency Service members collect ordnance after Russia's withdrawal in Bucha, Ukraine. Reuters

Treasury Department had been allowing the Russian government to use those funds to make

coupon payments on dollar-denominated sovereign debt on a case-by-case basis.

On Monday, as the largest of the payments came due, including a \$552.4 million principal

payment on a maturing bond, the US government decided to cut off Moscow's access to the frozen funds, according to a US Treasury spokesperson.

An \$84 million coupon payment was also due on Monday on a 2042 sovereign dollar bond.

The move was meant to force Moscow to make the diffi-

cult decision of whether it would use dollars that it has access to for payments on its debt

or for other purposes, including supporting its war effort.

The move was meant to force Moscow to make the difficult decision of whether it would use dollars that it has access to for payments on its debt or for other purposes, including supporting its war effort, the spokesperson said.



MPC meet: Analysts bet on rate retention, revision of forecasts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

THE MONETARY Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which begins its three-day meeting on Wednesday, is likely to keep the main policy rates unchanged in the first bi-monthly policy review this fiscal.

Analysts said the MPC is likely to revise the growth and inflation forecasts in the wake of the rise in crude oil and commodity prices. In the previous policy meeting on February 10, the RBI kept the repo rate — the rate at which it lends to banks — unchanged for the tenth time in a row at 4 per cent. The big question is whether or not the RBI will change its accommodative policy. The US Federal Reserve had raised interest rates last month to tackle high inflation.

"We expect the RBI MPC to stay on hold on all rates on April 8 while retaining their accommodative stance. We then see the MPC turning neutral in June alongside raising reverse repo rate by 40 bps, normalising the policy corridor. Thereafter, as favourable base effects fade and CPI inflation rises further, we see the RBI MPC delivering their first repo rate hike of 25 bps in August," said a Bank of America Securities report.

The RBI projected real (adjusted for inflation) gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection at 7.8 per cent for FY23 in the previous policy. Retail inflation was at 6.07 per cent in February.

"We believe that the RBI may maintain the status quo as far as



The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee will begin its three-day meet on Wednesday. File

rate actions are concerned. However, it may try to give some solution for generating demand for the higher-than-expected borrowing scheduled for FY23," said Prashant Pimple, MD & CIO-debt, JM Financial Asset Management. "The RBI would most probably revise the GDP estimates lower on the current disruptions and raise the inflation forecast," he said.

With the Russia-Ukraine war continuing, commodity prices remain elevated. Global markets are analysing the impact of this on global inflation and trajectory of growth. "The rise in Covid-19 cases in China have posed another downside risk to economic recovery. On the domestic front, Rs 6.4 per litre rise in retail fuel prices this month added to inflation burden on consumers. We expect RBI to take note of this and consider changing its accommodative stance in the upcoming meeting," said a Bank of Baroda report.

Analysts also expect the RBI to announce measures to ensure non-disruptive execution of government borrowing programme.

Women's cricket needs to press reset button

Archaic batting template, frequent chopping and changing of the playing XI, uninspiring captaincy, musical chair of coaches and lack of athleticism - are some of the reasons why India's campaign ended in heartbreak at the Women's World Cup

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

THE BCCI might have been blamed in the past for the lack of focus on women's cricket and they certainly need to walk the talk but the problem goes beyond them. India can blame the misfortune of a no-ball against South Africa for their ouster, but they also contributed to their own downfall.

Archaic batting templates, worrying number of dot balls, frequent changes in the playing XI, lack of athleticism and some uninspiring captaincy meant last edition's losing finalists failed to qualify for the semis.

Old template

Top teams like Australia, England and South Africa have moved on from the out-dated approach to white ball cricket. India have stepped on to that path, but are moving too slowly.

Sample their chase against New Zealand, who set a 261-run target. India played out 85 dot balls in the first 20 overs; all in all, they remained mute for 153 balls. Not that this is just a World-Cup aberration. Last June, they played out 181 dot balls in a game against England. The alarm bells were ringing but it appears no one was listening.

Former captain Anjum Chopra reckons India lacks the ammunition and the expertise in strike rotations. "Top teams have certainly moved on regarding big-hitting and strike rotations. In the case of India, my answer will be both Yes and No.

"Yes, because we are still trying to get into that template, where we can score 280 plus consistently or chase down big totals. We are still trying to figure out and be consistent about reaching these scores whether batting or chasing," Anjum Chopra told The Indian Express.

"No, because strike rotation and big-hitting has been the challenge for many years for India now. Big-hitting has slightly improved, but that power-hitting in the last five and seven overs is still missing. I guess we are still moving slowly and steadily towards the brand of cricket," she added of the glacial pace of upgrading.

Dot-ball problem

India's biggest nemesis at the World Cup was their sluggish approach. Overall, they played 1054 dot balls in the seven matches. In other words, they played almost three ODIs without scoring a single run. Australia, the most dominating side of the tournament, consumed 959 dot balls in the round-robin league, 95 fewer than India. Interestingly, when it comes to power-hitting, India leads the six-hitting chart. Their batters struck 15



India can blame the misfortune of a no-ball for their ouster, but they also contributed to their own downfall. File

sixes, the most in the tournament. But other scoring shots were found wanting.

Anjum, who was the commentator at the World Cup, feels that Indian batters need to update their skills.

"The approach is straightforward. Reduce the dot ball percentage. The Indian team plays a lot of dot balls, and there is too much reliance on dead defence shots. I guess the few aspects on which Team India must work are rotation of strike, playing with soft hands, improving the running between the wickets, dropping the ball, and running for a quick single. These skills have to be practiced and learned very seriously. The Indian team has stroke players, but they cannot rotate strike at will," said Anjum.

Lack of athleticism

India's ground fielding throughout the event was far from impressive. They fumbled and dropped regulation chances. There was room for improvement in running between the wicket too. Senior batters were struggling to run twos and threes. Shafali Verma's run out in the crucial match against South Africa highlighted the problem.

"The Indian team is obviously working on the fitness aspect. It is not that they are unfit players, but fitness and fielding are something you can always work on. Even if you are super fit and a gun fielder, there's always a scope for improvement, sky's the limit, and

there is no benchmark. Every player has to improve individually, and the results will be out there at the park," said Anjum.

Case of Jemimah, Pandey

The omission of Jemimah Rodrigues and pacer Shikha Pandey from the World Cup has raised eyebrows. But they were ignored due to their lack of form. Jemimah lost her place in the ODI side after a poor run in England in July, and while her stellar performance in the Hundred helped her make a comeback in the shortest format, it wasn't enough to book a place at the World Cup.

"I feel Jemi should have been here even if not in 15, then in 18 for sure, but having said that, I don't think she would have found a place in the playing eleven. Yastika Bhatia absolutely grabbed the opportunity while batting at 3. Same goes for Shikha. She would have been definitely a good addition if she had been in the best form, bowling alongside Jhulan Goswami. You never know, the experience of Jhulan, which was missing in the tournament and maybe the experience of Shikha could have come in. But for that, you have to drop Meghna Singh, who has done well in the last five - seven months," she said.

On Poonam Yadav's lack of game time, Anjum said: "The Indian team was happy with the three regular spinners (Sneh Rana, Deepti Sharma and Rajeshwari Gayakwad), and for Poonam Yadav to come in, they had

to drop a bowler or an all-rounder, but that would have changed India's balance."

Dropping Shafali

Before the tournament, Indian captain Mithali Raj was all praise for Verma. Although the flamboyant batter was going through a lean run, she is someone who can change the course of the game. Shafali was dropped for three straight games after her failure in the opening match against Pakistan. She showed a glimpse of her excellence against South Africa and how she toyed with Shabnim Ismail, the tournament's fastest bowler.

"Dropping Shafali Verma after the first match was absolutely not justified. It was a high-pressure game for a youngster coming in and playing her first World Cup. You can expect a false shot coming from a player but dropping Shafali and not backing her throughout the World Cup sends out a wrong signal. If team management is dropping any player, it gives you the signal that you are out of form and the team is looking beyond you," says Anjum.

Not using Harman's bowling

Harmanpreet scored 318 runs in the tournament and was the second-highest run-getter for India after opener Mandhana (327 runs). But surprisingly, she didn't bowl until the last game against South Africa. The India vice-captain provided India

with the much-needed breakthrough with the wicket of the tournament's leading run-scorer Laura Wolvaardt, and later she trapped South African skipper Sune Luus.

"Harmanpreet not bowling was another mystery. Why was Harmanpreet not used throughout the tournament? Even against South Africa, when all the resources were exhausted then, she was thrown the ball, and there again, she bowled eight overs. I wish she could have bowled her full quota," lamented Anjum.

The coach conundrum

It has been musical chairs when it comes to the coaches. Four coaches have been changed in the past five years.

Tushar Arothe, who led the team to the final in the 2017 World Cup, stepped down a year later, five months prior to the Women's World T20. One of the reasons for the alleged discord was Arothe's training methods.

BCCI received complaints from senior players, especially T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, about his training methods.

Ramesh Powar, the current coach of the Indian women's team, replaced Arothe in August 2018. A few months later, Powar was sacked from the same position following a fallout with Mithali.

In turn, Mithali had then accused the former India cricketer of bias after the Harmanpreet-led T20 team dropped the veteran batter for the all-important World Cup semi-final against England.

In December 2018, former India opener W V Raman was appointed head coach. During his stint, India finished runners-up at the T20 World Cup in 2020.

In May 2021, in a surprising move as the team seemingly did well under him, Raman was not retained as the head coach of the senior women's team by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which picked Ramesh Powar for the job.

Going forward

The World Cup exit may be a bitter pill to swallow, and there might be changes in the coaching staff with the T20 World Cup scheduled to be played in South Africa next year from February 9 to 26. A women's IPL from next year is a possibility, and it can lead to a radical shift in women's cricket.

However, Anjum sees it differently. For her, the present should be sorted first before thinking about the future. "The present is absolutely essential. There is a T20 World Cup scheduled to be played next year; I am eagerly looking to see how this Indian team will go forward with new support staff and coaches coming in," she signed off. If the present is neglected, what hope lies for the future?

Mumtaz scores hat-trick, India remain unbeaten

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POTCHEFSTROOM, APRIL 5

MUMTAZ KHAN scored a hat-trick as the Indian women's hockey team thrashed a lowly Malaysia 4-0 to end its pool engagements with an unbeaten record in the FIH Junior World Cup here on Tuesday.

Already assured of a quarter-final berth before Tuesday's tie, India scored four field goals - three by Mumtaz (10th, 26th, 59th minutes) and one by Sangita Kumari (11th).

India, thus, finished on top of Pool D with maximum nine points from three wins out of as many matches.

The Indian had earlier defeated Wales 5-1 before getting the better of formidable Germany 2-1 in their first two pool games.

Their confidence on a different level after ensuring a knock-out berth, the Indians completely dominated the proceedings and created a flurry of chances from the word go.

Their efforts bore

fruit in the 10th minute when an opportunist Mumtaz scored from close range after the ball fell before her sticks after ricocheting from a Malaysian defender. India doubled their lead a minute later when Sangita coolly deflected

home from a Lalrindiki cross. They continued to press hard and secured two penalty corners in quick succession but both the efforts went in vain. In the 26th minute, Mumtaz struck again to hand her team a 3-0 lead at half time.

The Indians secured a few more penalty corners in the third quarter but they lacked in final execution. With 10 minutes to go, Malaysia secured two penalty corners but India's second goalkeeper Khushboo came up with excellent saves to deny any inroads to their opponents. India earned their seventh penalty corner soon but this time Malaysian goalkeeper AB Mashitah made a fine save with her stick. They extended their lead a minute from the final hooter through Mumtaz, who deflected home a Beauty Dung Dung's pass. India will now face South Korea in the quarterfinals on Friday.

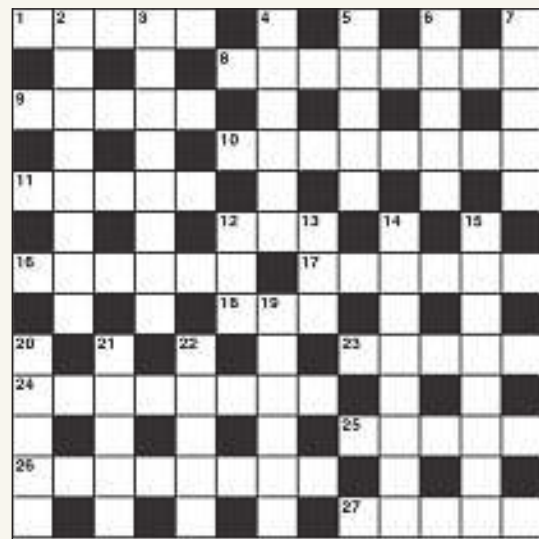
Star striker Rani Rampal on Tuesday returned to the national side after a lengthy injury lay-off as India on Tuesday named a 22-member women's hockey squad for the upcoming FIH Pro League tie against world no 1 Netherlands.

Finishing on top of the pool with 3 wins, India will now face South Korea in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Pro League: Rani returns

Star striker Rani Rampal on Tuesday returned to the national side after a lengthy injury lay-off as India on Tuesday named a 22-member women's hockey squad for the upcoming FIH Pro League tie against world no 1 Netherlands.

CROSSWORD 4707



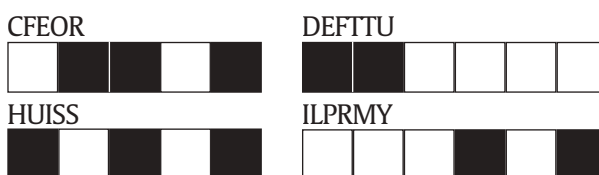
- ACROSS**
- A well-produced film (5)
 - Many stars appear the same in my system (5,3)
 - Cause of cracks that can bring down the house (5)
 - Arms can end or cause trouble (8)
 - Made into bread by a Western race? (5)
 - An old agreement (3)
 - Mountain retreat needs freezer for fish (6)
 - It may be pointed out in the desert (6)
 - Take the chair (3)
 - Pebble-strewn way round New York (5)
 - The takings to pass on to somebody else? (8)
 - Girl puts lad in turmoil (5)
 - Diana's bloomer will result in catastrophe (8)
 - He won't mind his own business (5)
- DOWN**
- Noose offering escape? (8)
 - A number claim it is changeable like the weather (8)
 - Go through a new recipe (6)
 - This clue's a real stinker! (5)
 - Kind of music popular with children? (5)
 - Wrote on a moving carriage (5)
 - No alternative (3)
 - Wild cat exploit (3)
 - Scornful little Catherine enters to raise her voice (8)
 - High noise coming from the radio? (6,2)
 - The evergreen trees that baffle exiles (6)
 - Key duet composition (5)
 - Get over being angry (5)
 - Silly creature goes around hungry (5)

Solutions Crossword 4706: Across: 1 Billet doux, 6 Scar, 10 Anvil, 11 Bad second, 12 Brunette, 13 Garbo, 15 Armband, 17 Set sail, 19 Denotes, 21 Amnesty, 22 Dwell, 24 Headrest, 27 Test pilot, 28 Leave, 29 Silt, 30 Eradicates. Down: 1 Beam, 2 Liverryan, 3 Ellen, 4 Debited, 5 Undress, 7 Choir, 8 Radio plays, 9 Heights, 14 Candidates, 16 Antelope, 18 Assistant, 20 Scholar, 21 Adapted, 23 Easel, 25 Relic, 26 Seas.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

Happy or unhappy, families are all ____ - Gloria Steinem (10)

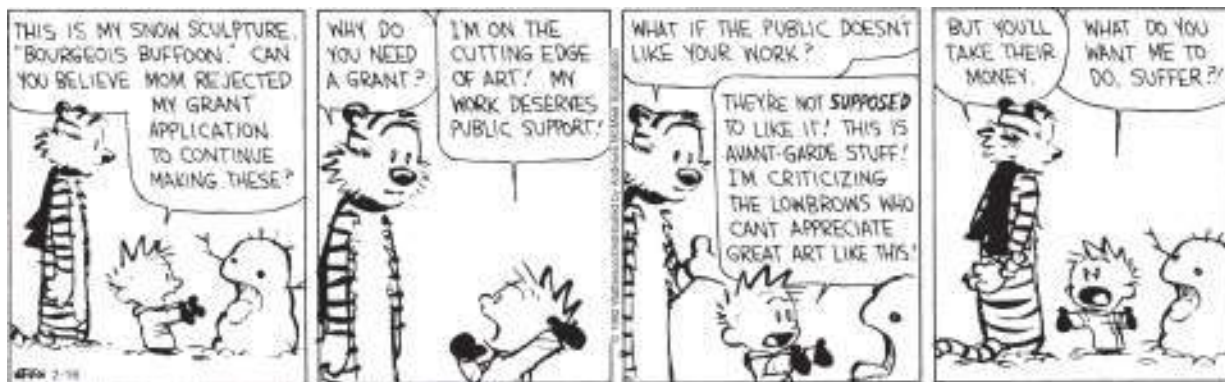


Answer: Happy or unhappy, families are all **mixed** - Gloria Steinem

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



Difficulty Level 5s

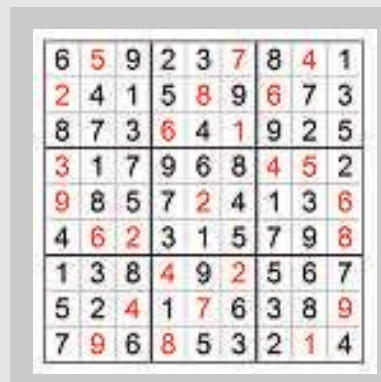
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4795



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Sun is now urging you to take a deeper and more thoughtful perspective on current developments. It would seem likely that before the week is out you will have decided upon a sudden change of plan. But, then, that's you all over, isn't it? You'll probably make another change next week.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There is too much at stake now for you to risk losing your head or giving up on a major objective. Press ahead with your present path and don't allow purely temporary delays to obstruct your progress. Even if you take two steps back, you'll soon be taking three steps forward.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Seeing as this is such a lively time of year, why don't you indulge your instincts and get away for a while? Even if nothing is planned, you can be sure that a change of scene will be deeply stimulating and highly enjoyable. There's still time for a sentimental journey.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You must expect to be the centre of attention over the next fortnight, not so much because of the Sun's influence in your sign as for the simple reason that partners, symbolised by the planet Uranus, are inspiring you to new and amazing heights of achievement.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There is now nothing to hold you back. Even at work, where you might be more than usually conscious of delays and obstacles, you may get around any problem with a little imagination and sensitivity. It's all a matter of explaining your feelings with an understanding of partners' needs and desires.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

In many ways, it is possible for you to become a law unto yourself. Not a bad thing, you might think. Yet there are times when you should listen carefully to the wishes of people around you who, it must be said, are more experienced: you still have a great deal to learn.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

For the next month you must put additional effort into your professional goals, or into any activity which holds out the promise of enhanced respect and prestige in your community. Within a few days, you may be forced to depart from previous practice.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You may be sure that whatever begins now will not be completed until next month. Certain important developments won't even come to your attention until after several days have passed, so don't judge the far-distant future by what happens today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Amongst the new developments in your life this week is an increasing desire for adventure. I would strongly advise that you set other considerations aside in order to allow time for a journey of exploration. But will you be embarking on a voyage of the body, or the spirit? This is your choice.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Social success and emotional happiness are very much questions of adopting the right attitude. If you are open and ready to accept partners on their own terms, they will respond with love and generosity. A legal or bureaucratic matter may be left hanging in the air, though.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You probably feel that you're about due for some recognition for all the hours of effort you've put in, often with little or no thanks. It's about time people in general paid you more attention and took better notice of your fine qualities. You're like a delicate flower and you need to be cared for.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Believe it or not, you are still in a privileged position and will be saved from some of the troubles besetting other people. Yet now you must reflect on your long-term ambitions and ask if these are really right for you. You'll benefit from bouncing ideas off an old friend.

Bangalore win battle Royal

Dinesh Karthik combines with Shahbaz Ahmed to help RCB chase down a tricky total against RR

SYNOPSIS: Yuzvendra Chahal's 2 for 15 in vain for RR as Dinesh Karthik takes RCB home in another tense chase.



Dinesh Karthik scored 44 off 23 balls, including seven fours and one six, during RCB's run chase on Tuesday. PTI

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

DINESH KARTHIK closed out successive tight chases for Royal Challengers Bangalore, with an unbeaten 44 off 22 bringing up a four-wicket win after Jos Buttler had fought through on a slow, seaming pitch to take Rajasthan Royals to 169.

RCB exploit sticky pitch

After 16 overs, RR had managed 107 for 3. A fresh Wankhede pitch expected to be hard and plentiful for batsmen had turned out to be slow and tacky. The ball had stuck into the surface when pounded in on the 'hard' pulled-back lengths. There had been swing and seam for a considerable period with the new ball.

Like Umesh Yadav at the same ground earlier, but on a different track, English left-armers David Willey exploited the conditions well, bowling four overs on the trot for 1 for 29.

Immediately after a powerplay that brought only 35, RCB put down Jos Buttler twice and Padikkal once in the space of nine deliveries. It made little difference to the tempo of the innings. Bats continued to be swished without timing, as the ball never seemed to arrive off the pitch.

Buttler breaks free finally

Heading into the last two overs, Buttler was on 43 off 40. As he'd say later during the innings break, "It was frustrating, but sometimes you have to suck it up and keep going." It was high time to go now, and Buttler did, sending the next four legal deliveries he faced over the boundary. In an indication that conditions were changing, the odd high full toss had started to appear. But Buttler had finally seen enough to send even the banged-in ones into the stands.

At the other end, Shimron Hetmyer had been going so hard after the ball he had ended up five pitches away on the farthest track on the square after muscling Hasaranga over extra cover. He joined in the late party too as Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep conceded a combined 42 in 19 and 20. Buttler took 27 off his last seven balls.

DK shifts momentum

RCB had lost their way after a powerplay of 48 for 0, courtesy the introduction of Yuzvendra Chahal. With the fielders starting to wipe the ball now, Chahal delivered a spell of 3-0-11-2. When R Ashwin came on for his last over, RCB needed 82 in seven with half the side gone; Dinesh Karthik had just come in. Two straight sixes and a couple of swept and reverse-swept fours followed from Karthik, as 21 came off the over. Samson brought back Chahal for the 17th, but by then, Karthik and Shahbaz Ahmed had taken the seamers for runs too and could afford to play the leg-spinner out.

BRIEF SCORES: RR 169/3 in 20 overs (Buttler 70 not out, Hetmyer 42 not out; Patel 1/18) lost to RCB 173/6 in 19.1 overs (Karthik 44 not out, Ahmed 45; Chahal 2/15) by 4 wickets

Life changes for Wankhede groundsmen: From fighting mosquitoes at stadium to five-star comfort

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, APRIL 5

IN THE past, whenever he crossed Marine Drive, Vasant Mohite, a 57-year-old groundsmen at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, would wonder what it was like to stay in one of the luxury hotels along the seaside promenade. It was a dream beyond his means.

But this IPL season, that dream has come true, with confectionery company Cadbury deciding to reward the unsung ground staff. They have also been given uniforms designed by celebrity designer Masaba, food, and a bus to ferry them from the hotel to the ground and back.

"A miracle," says Vasant. He says there were whispers before the start of the season that they would be put up in a five-star hotel, but he didn't quite believe it. "Then one day, MCA (Mumbai Cricket Association) told us that Cadbury would take care of our accommodation (for the season). They would give us clothes and food for the next two months of IPL," recalls Vasant, seated on a cushion with a view of the Arabian Sea hugging the Marine Drive.

He remembers how different, and often difficult, it was before. As the matches often end late — their shifts end much later — they couldn't return home. So they would spend the night in a small room below the Vittal Divecha Stand at the stadium, where mosquitoes made sleep difficult. "Machhar kaat ke deemag kharab kar deta hai (mosquitoes would drive us mad). After the match, we could not go anywhere as train services were shut. So we would sleep in



Wankhede Stadium groundsmen, like Vasant Mohite, have been provided five-star accommodation and Masaba-designed uniform this IPL season.

our office at the ground itself. If there is no game, we reach the stadium by 9 am and leave by 6 pm. But on match days, we come in early, and the MCA pays double if we work late," says Vasant, clad in khaki shorts and a crisp white shirt. In his new room, though, he has a different set of concerns. Locating the switch for the lamps was difficult, he says. So much so that he doesn't switch on the lamps at all. He gets good sleep, but the mattress is a little too soft, he says.

"Walking to the dressing room is different now. We have our own bus which drops us. We don't have words... the only thing we can say is thank you," says fellow groundsmen Nitin Mohite. Often, that is all they get from the players

too. A "thank you". But that's all they want.

Vasant recalls how former cricketer Mohammed Kaif walked in and hugged him two years ago. "Under-19 se yehi hum logon ke seva karte tha (he has been helping us since the U-19 days)," Kaif told his fellow commentators, he says. Vasant was overjoyed.

However, the new generation doesn't share the same warmth and seems busy in their own world, says Vasant, who has been a dressing-room attendant during match-days since the '90s, serving players and support staff, providing towels, soaps and ice.

He says he has been fortunate to have watched some legendary players from close quarters. From Sunil Gavaskar to Prithvi Shaw, his service cuts across generations. He has seen the rise of Sachin Tendulkar as well as the rise and fall of Vinod Kambli.

Needless to add, he has a special fondness for Mumbai players. "They have been the best for me. They come and ask about my haal-chaal (well being). Kambli, Tendulkar, Ajit Agarkar — they used to make sure I never felt uncomfortable inside the dressing room. I have seen how passionate Amol Muzumdar was about his game. He would get upset the most whenever he got out," he says.

But when he sees that someone is disappointed, Vasant quietly moves to another room. "Players need space, I have seen players getting angry and getting happy. I have seen how Tendulkar walked back crying. When he went and touched the pitch at the end of his retirement game, I couldn't control myself. For the next two days, my heart was full," he recalls. This IPL season, his heart is full once again.

Heptathlete Swapna resurfaces for a gold after four years in oblivion

ANDREW AMSAN
KOZHIKODE, APRIL 5

FRUSTRATED WITH nagging injuries, 2018 Asian Games champion heptathlete Swapna Barman had announced her retirement last September. Since the Asian triumph, she took part in the heptathlon competition just once until last week. Just when everyone thought Swapna's career was all but over, she made a surprise return at the Inter-Railway championships at Kolkata in March where she bagged a silver medal.

At the Federation Cup this week, her first major competition since 2019, Swapna marked her return with a gold, accumulating 5800 points. But even for Swapna, who is used to facing adversities on and off the track, this was one of the most challenging competitions of her career. It wasn't the competitors that were testing her but a draining bout with food poisoning.

During her high jumps event on Monday, Swapna threw up at least a couple of times at the ground and made quick sprints to the washroom almost half a dozen times between her attempts.

"I have gotten a good competition after such a long time, so quitting wasn't an option. I have been eating boiled food for a long time. The food here didn't suit my body. Even today my tummy is in such bad shape. I have taken so much medication for diarrhoea and vomiting in the last few days. It was jutting a lot at the start of my final event (800m)," says Swapna, who almost limped onto the field clenching her tummy ahead of the race.

Swapna, who has six toes on both her feet, came into the limelight after bagging gold at the 2018 Asian Games with a bandaged jaw due to a gum infection. Life turned around for Swapna and her family who come from a very humble background. "Becoming popular has caused me as much harm as it has done good to me," she says. Swapna was hinting at a raid by forest department officials conducted at Swapna's home in Jalpaiguri for alleged illegal possession of timber.

Preserving three pairs

The lull after the Asian high has taught Swapna tough life lessons. She was made big promises when she had retired with the gold around her neck from Jakarta but not many have kept their word. "Promises? That is the one word I don't like to hear," she says after a loud sarcastic laugh.

Swapna had often complained about pain in her foot as her sixth toe would push against generically designed spikes. But sporting giants Adidas flew her to Germany to design a customised shoe for her with enough breathing space for her toes. "My feet don't hurt anymore so that is a huge relief," she says. But since she is no more sponsored by them, she has just three pairs of non-replaceable customised spikes. She feels it's a blessing in disguise that she hasn't competed much in the last few years. "The shoes are still in good condition," she says.

Swapna says it was her coach Subhas Sarkar and Sports Authority of India officials



Swapna Barman retained heptathlon crown with 5,800 points. Andrew Amsan

22-year-old discus record broken

New Delhi: Kirpal Singh Bath broke the 22-year-old men's discus throw meet record with an effort of 61.83m at the 25th AFI National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships here on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old Bath, whose previous best of 59.74m was recorded nearly six years ago, produced a good string of throws at the C H Muhammed Koya Stadium.

Four of his attempts saw the discus soar past the 60m mark, two of them breaking 61m as well. His first and last throws were over 59m, giving him a series to remember.

His best effort, 61.83m, was just a bit short of making him only the third Indian male athlete to hurl the discus past 62m. Anil Kumar held the old record (59.55m).

The pole vault competition saw four athletes clearing 4.90m, with S Siva and Gokul Nath both being awarded a gold medal each, while A Gnana Sone bagged the bronze. Uttar Pradesh's Deepak Yadav took the fourth spot on countback.

PTI

Specialists that convinced her to give the sport another chance. "They told me that every athlete has to retire one day but why not retire on a high. So I am back and I want to take another shot at the Asian and Commonwealth Games. It is an important year for me," she says.

Chanda makes Asian cut

Chanda clocked her personal best of 2:02.11s in the 800m to make the cut for Asian Games as per AFI's qualification guidelines. The Delhi runner's effort also puts her among the top ten in the India all-time list.

BRIEFLY

Shooters compete amidst curfew

Lima: Indian shooters competing in the ISSF World Cup in Lima on Tuesday woke up to scenes of protests that caused roadblocks and "acts of violence" in Peru, leading to imposition of a curfew in the capital. Peruvian President Pedro Castillo imposed the curfew, banning people from leaving their homes in an attempt to curb protests against rising fuel prices amid inflation. The Indian men's skeet team of Parampal Singh Guron, Amrinder Cheema and Muneek Battula, along with coach Vikram Chopra, stayed back to participate in their event.

Sen, Bansod enter Round 2

Suncheon: World championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen and fast-rising Malvika Bansod progressed to the second round of the men's and women's singles competitions respectively after registering gruelling three-game wins at the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. While Sen staved off a spirited challenge from local hope Choi Ji Hoon 14-21 21-16 21-18 in just over an hour in his opening round match, Bansod rallied her way to notch up a stunning 20-22 22-20 21-10 win over world no 24 Han Yue of China.

Sumit storms into semifinals

New Delhi: Indian boxer Sumit (75kg) entered the semifinals of the Thailand Open with a comfortable win over Timur Nurseitov in Phuket, Thailand on Tuesday. He notched a 5-0 win against Kazakhstan's Nurseitov in the quarterfinal clash. Sumit became the fourth Indian to enter the last four stage. Monika (48kg), Ashish Kumar (81kg) and Manisha (57kg) are already through to the semifinals.

ARA FC qualify for IWL

New Delhi: ARA FC continued their winning streak in the ongoing Indian Women's League qualifiers, defeating YWC 4-3 in the final here on Tuesday to qualify for the main event. The IWL will be held in Bhubaneswar from April 15. The side from Gujarat needed a win from the final match to secure the IWL berth.

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