

The intelligence office in Mohali that was attacked. *File*

Punjab RPG attack: Probe zeroes in on 2 'paid' men

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, MAY 23

TWO WEEKS after a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the state police intelligence headquarters in Mohali, two men, one from Jhajjar in Haryana and the other from Faizabad in UP, have been identified as those who carried out the attack and were likely paid to do it, top sources in Punjab Police told *The Indian Express*.

While Mohali SSP Vivek Sheel Soni remained tightlipped, at least two senior police officers said the two men attacked the Mohali building with Charat Singh, a Tarn Taran resident who first reced the area and accompanied them later. The three men remain at large, the officers said.

A senior Punjab police officer said the two men are "gangsters and have criminal antecedents". This, the officer said, points to "a dangerous cocktail of terror operatives-gangster-drug smugglers" trying to destabilise Punjab. According to the officer, the "perpetrators carried out the attack for the sake of money" and were likely paid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Gyanvapi: District court will decide today on course of action

Decide suit maintainability: mosque panel; Hindu applicants flag survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MAY 23

DIRECTED BY the Supreme Court to decide "on priority" pending proceedings related to the Gyanvapi-Kashi Vishwanath row, the Varanasi District Judge, who heard the matter Monday, will decide Tuesday the future course of action and the question of maintainability of the suit.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court said the application filed by the Committee of Management of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Varanasi, challenging the maintainability of the suit by five Hindu women, seeking the right to worship at Maa Shringar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In Kerala, a father's 17-year wait for missing son ends in suicide

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 23

MAY 18 marked 17 years since his seven-year-old son went missing from a playground near his home in Alappuzha. It was among the most sensational unsolved mysteries in Kerala, with the CBI called in to crack the case but finally submitting a closure report in court after hitting one dead end after another.

On May 22, A R Raju ended

COURT ALLOWS PLEA ON OWNERSHIP OF IDGAH LAND [PAGE 5](#)

Rahul Raju went missing on May 18, 2005

his life — the quest for his son, Rahul, an unfulfilled dream. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

MODI-BIDEN BILATERAL TODAY

India joins Indo-Pacific economic bloc led by US to counter China

Will strengthen supply chain pillars — trust, transparency & timeliness: PM

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

MOVING TO provide an economic alternative to China's strategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific, India and 12 countries led by the US Monday launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sat alongside US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and US Secretary of State Antony

PM Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden and Japan PM Fumio Kishida in Tokyo on Monday. *Reuters*

Blinken at the launch of the IPEF — New Delhi's participation at the highest level displayed its commitment to join forces to take on Beijing's growing assertiveness in the region and beyond.

This economic initiative came a day before the summit of the Quad leaders in Tokyo — the second in-person meeting after the summit in Washington DC last September.

Leaders and officials joined in virtually from Australia, [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

EXPLAINED
A coalition rises

WITH CHINA weaponising its economic heft in the Indo-Pacific, the US has now put together what is being seen as a "coalition of the willing" to take on Beijing and provide alternatives.

Flagging 'forced' service charge, Govt calls restaurant owners for meeting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

STATING THAT consumers are being "forced to pay service charge, often fixed at arbitrarily high rates", the Department of Consumer Affairs has called a

meeting with restaurant owners on June 2.

This comes days after Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh raised the issue in a letter to the National Restaurant Association of India. He told them that restaurants and eateries are collecting serv-

ice charges from consumers by default, although it is supposed to be voluntary and at the discretion of consumers.

"It has been pointed out in the letter that consumers are forced to pay service charge, often fixed at arbitrarily high rates [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

Vinai Saxena, Khadi panel chief, is new L-G of Delhi



Succeeds Anil Bajjal at Delhi Raj Niwas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD, MAY 23

VINAI KUMAR Saxena, who is currently serving as chairperson of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has been appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi by the President who also accepted the resignation of former L-G Anil Bajjal.

"The President of India has been pleased to appoint Vinai Kumar Saxena to be the Lt Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," read a note released by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal welcomed the new appointment and assured the "full support" of his government.

"The former L-G Anil Bajjal and I worked together in Delhi on several projects and tried to solve many issues. He is a very good man. I wish him the best for the future and wish him good health and a long life. I welcome the newly appointed L-G, Vinai Kumar Saxena, on behalf of the people of Delhi. He will get the full support of the cabinet for Delhi's betterment," Kejriwal posted on Twitter.

In Delhi, which is a Union Territory with an assembly, law and order, land, police and services come under the control of [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

Dieting and diet restrictions lead to Malnutrition in Diabetic patients

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[FOUNDATION COURSES]

UPCOMING BATCHES	LIVE - (●)NLINE BATCHES	OFFLINE BATCHES (Sanitized classrooms with Covid safety protocols)
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4 THE CITY



CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

**VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS**
4,892



PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 122
OXYGEN SUPPORT 37
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 4

**DELHI TOTAL
CASES**
19,03,822

HOSPITAL BEDS 9,611
ICU BEDS 2,222

**Total active cases in Delhi*

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,611	9,490
ICU BEDS	2,222	2,189
Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
530	1	18,543
421	0	9,976
18.75.802	26.201	3.83.73.595

	May 22	May 23
Cases	34	24
Deaths	0	0
	Cases	Deaths
GURGAON	120	113
Deaths	0	0

When it rains, it pours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

WITH RAINFALL and a thunderstorm that broke a long, mostly dry spell, the temperature plummeted in Delhi-NCR on Monday. The maximum temperature was 31.5 degrees Celsius, eight degrees below the normal for this time of the year.

The minimum temperature recorded early on Monday was 17.2 degrees Celsius, nine degrees below normal, and the lowest for the month of May since 2004, when a minimum temperature of 16.7 degrees was recorded in May. The lowest minimum temperature recorded in May 2021 was 18 degrees Celsius, while it was 20 degrees in May 2020.

The temperature began to dip on Monday morning, when it fell from 29 degrees to 18 degrees between 5.40 am and 7 am. Strong winds of around 80 kmph were recorded over Delhi-NCR on Monday morning.

According to IMD scientists, this was the first storm of 'moderate intensity' this season. The Safdarjung weather observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded 12.3 mm of rainfall between 5.30 am and 8.30 am. This has helped lower the season's deficit, said R K Jenamani, scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD). From February 25-May 20, the Safdarjung station recorded only 1.7 mm of rainfall, which is the lowest for this period since 1945, Jenamani said. In 1945, the same period recorded no rainfall at all, he added.

The normal amount of rainfall for the season at Safdarjung is 41.6 mm. So far, the city has recorded 15.6 mm, which is a deficit of around 63%. From March to May, the normal occurrence of thunderstorms in Delhi is for around 12-14 days, but this season recorded only four-five such days till Monday, and these were mostly dry, Jenamani said.

The maximum temperature at the Gurgaon weather observatory fell below 30 degrees Celsius and settled at 29.4 degrees Celsius. The minimum

Dry spell broken



Credit: Prem Nath Pandey

WEEK'S FORECAST (IN °C)

DATE	MAX TEMP	MIN TEMP	WEATHER FORECAST
May 24	34	19	Light rain, thundershowers, strong winds
May 25	38	21	Partly cloudy skies
May 26	39	21	Partly cloudy skies
May 27	40	23	Partly cloudy sky, possibility of thundery development
May 28	41	25	Mainly clear sky
May 29	41	26	Mainly clear sky

MERCURY PLUMMETS

■ Minimum temp recorded early on Monday was 17.2 degrees Celsius — lowest in May since 2004, when a minimum temp of 16.7 degrees was recorded

■ Safdarjung weather observatory recorded 12.3 mm of rainfall between 5.30 am and 8.30 am on Monday. This helped lower season's deficit. Aya Nagar weather

station recorded the highest amount of 52.2 mm, while Palam recorded 27.6 mm

■ Gurgaon recorded around 73.4 mm of rainfall

■ Normal amount of rainfall for the season at Safdarjung is 41.6 mm

■ The city so far has

30-35
WATERLOGGING, TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

44 (approx)
LOCATIONS WHERE TREES WERE UPROOTED

20
FLIGHTS DIVERTED, MANY DELAYED IN THE MORNING

recorded 15.6 mm — a deficit of around 63%

■ From March to May, the normal occurrence of thunderstorms in Delhi is for around 12 to 14 days, but this season recorded only four to five such days till Monday, and these were mostly dry, said R K Jenamani, scientist at IMD

temperature was also low at Gurgaon, settling at 16.5 degrees Celsius on Monday. Southern Haryana, particularly Faridabad and Gurgaon, recorded heavy rainfall on Monday, Jenamani said. Gurgaon recorded around 73.4 mm of rainfall. In Delhi, the Aya Nagar weather station recorded the highest amount of 52.2 mm on Monday, while Palam recorded 27.6 mm.

The rainfall was brought by an active western disturbance that began to affect parts of Punjab on Sunday night, then the clouds moved towards Haryana and Delhi, before moving eastwards to Uttar Pradesh, Jenamani said. The peak of the thunderstorm and rainfall activity was seen on Monday morning, but cloudy conditions would persist till Monday evening or

Tuesday morning, Jenamani said. He added that the impact of the thunderstorm could mean that heat wave conditions are likely to remain suppressed till around May 29 or 30.

In Delhi, the maximum temperature is likely to remain below 40 degrees Celsius till May 26, the forecast indicates. Cloudy skies and light rainfall are on the forecast for Tuesday as well.

BRIEFLY

Man held over death of Zepto delivery staffer in accident

New Delhi: Days after a 19-year-old Zepto delivery executive died in a hit-and-run incident in Dwarka, police arrested a 32-year-old man and seized his car. Police said, the accused, Sudhakar Yadav, has been booked under sections of rash driving and causing death by negligence. Police said he fled after the accident and was "hiding". "We arrested him from a workshop on Sunday. He was there to get his car repaired to hide evidence," said a police officer. Last Monday, the victim, Karan, was on his bike when a car hit him near DnD restaurant in Dwarka Sector 10. He was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

Scientist jumps to death

New Delhi: A 55-year-old scientist working with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the Shastri Bhawan building. Police said the deceased lived with his family in Peeragarhi. DCP (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said, "The incident took place at 3 pm Monday. We received a call from the Shastri Bhawan control room stating that a man was found lying dead in front of Gate no. 2. We found that the man had jumped from the seventh floor." During enquiry, no suicide note was found. **ENS**

UMAR KHALID TO DELHI HC

‘Court should not fall into trap of interpreting everything as terror’

SOFIAHSAN

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

ACTIVIST Umar Khalid, who is in custody as an accused in Delhi Police's case of larger conspiracy behind the Northeast Delhi riots, Monday contended that the court should not fall into the "trap" of interpreting everything as a terrorist activity, after the bench asked if protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act instilled a sense of fear and insecurity among the public.

The submission was made before the Delhi High Court, in context of reference to a Supreme Court ruling wherein it has been stated that an activity which creates "a sense of fear and insecurity" among people can be called a terrorist act. The court is hearing arguments in Khalid's plea for bail and will continue on Tuesday.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais, representing Khalid, contended that the trial court in its order



Khalid is an accused in the Delhi Police case of larger conspiracy behind the riots

denying him bail has "escalated" chakka jam "without any basis" to a "terrorist act", and merely reproduced witness statements without any discussion.

Pais further argued that protests were against "an unjust law" and were not targeting or perpetrating violence in the manner in which Section 15 of UAPA contemplates. Section 15 defines a terrorist act under the UAPA, the provisions of which have been in-

voked against Khalid. "Several of the acts or instances cited against me (Khalid) were not even qualifying (as) terror. They were just either protests or meetings. They did not qualify even as terror or conspiracy. I did not take part in any violent protest, nor is there any material to show my participation in the violent protest," submitted Pais.

The division bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul earlier asked if a sense of fear and insecurity was created during and in the aftermath of the protest or not. "Is it the case of the prosecution that as a consequence of a protest, the atmosphere in those targeted areas was vitiated to such an extent that a sense of fear was instilled in the people who reside in the area," asked Justice Mridul.

Pais responded that the chargesheet does not reflect that. He added, "If that is the case, every criminal act will become terror."

Customers can choose not to pay service charge: Restaurant owners to inform Centre at meeting

DIVYA A

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

THE CENTRE has called a meeting of restaurant owners over the issue of service charges levied by eateries on customers. The meeting, called by the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, will be held on June 2, 2022, with the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). As per a statement issued by the department, "issues pertaining to service charges levied by restaurants" will be discussed.

The meeting comes days after Consumer Affairs secretary

Rohit Kumar Singh wrote to NRAI, saying restaurants are collecting service charges from consumers by default, even though its collection is voluntary and at the discretion of consumers and not mandatory as per law.

Kabir Suri, co-founder and director, Azure Hospitality, and president of NRAI, told *The Indian Express* they have received the communication from the ministry and are deliberating on a formal response. He said, "The service charge was always discretionary, the menu of all restaurants mentions it clearly. This is what we are going to tell them at the June 2 meeting."

Suri added, "A major chunk of the service charge goes di-

rectly to the staff, while the rest goes towards a welfare fund to help them during good and bad times. It's a default billing option, even as customers can choose not to pay if they don't want to."

Sharad Madan, owner & co-founder of Khubani restaurant at Delhi's Aerocity, said, "Service charge is for the staff on the floor who work really hard for customer satisfaction and deserve the tip as a token of appreciation. They are paid salaries but the service charge works as an incentive, so we are looking forward to this meeting."

Suri said, "Patrons can decide not to pay and tip the server directly, but in this case, backroom staff doesn't get anything. A serv-

Man shot in face while trying to stop robbery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

A 35-YEAR-OLD businessman was shot in the face by four unknown men while trying to stop a robbery at a market in West Delhi's Hari Nagar on Sunday night. The victim, Pradeep Singh Sandhu, went to buy ice-cream with his 10-year-old son and brother-in-law when the incident took place around 11.20 pm.

DCP (West) Ghanshyam Bansal said: "Sandhu was having ice cream with his brother-in-law Simarjeet near Hari Nagar clock tower around 11.20 pm when four men in a car tried to snatch his (brother-in-law's) gold chain and bracelet. They fired at Sandhu and a bullet hit his cheek."

Locals immediately gathered as Sandhu fell to the ground and the accused fled. His family said he was rushed to a hospital and is in the ICU.

Sandhu and his family live in Hari Nagar. They run a salon close to their house in C-block.

His wife Amanpreet said the family is in shock. "My brother Simarjeet and our relatives had come for dinner. Pradeep offered to get ice cream for everyone, and left with Simarjeet and our son, Arnav... The shop is hardly 2 km from our house. We were waiting for them... we didn't know this would happen in our locality."

The family said Sandhu was trying to stop the men when they fired twice at him and one of the bullets hit him. "Arnav is scarred. His father was shot in the face in front of him. He was crying and screaming. Simarjeet took Arnav into his arms to save him. They somehow managed to go to the hospital..." said Amanpreet.

Her sister Jagpreet claimed the family has approached police several times, but no arrests have been made so far. The DCP said: "Multiple teams are checking CCTV's. Dump data is also being scrutinised. We have deployed informers as well."

Police filed a case under IPC sections of robbery, assault, Arms Act against unknown persons.

Punjab Police goes to Delhi HC to seek custody of Bagga

SOFIAHSAN

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

ALLEGED THAT Delhi Police misused entire legal machinery and statutory powers only to protect and shield an accused, the Punjab Police has approached the Delhi High Court seeking restoration of BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga's custody and quashing of the kidnapping FIR, which had become the basis for his release earlier this month.

Bagga is accused by Punjab Police of fuelling disharmony, unrest and ill will against different religious groups. On May 6, a Punjab Police team took him into custody from his Janakpuri residence but were stopped by police in Haryana on the way back, following receipt of information from Delhi Police regarding a search warrant. Haryana Police later handed over Bagga's custody to Delhi Police, which released him during the night on the basis of a court order.

The case titled 'State of Punjab versus State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) & Ors' is listed for hearing before the bench of Justice Anu Malhotra Tuesday. Punjab has also sought setting aside of the search warrants and release order issued by metropolitan magistrate of the Dwarka court in the case filed by Bagga's father at Janakpuri police station.

Punjab Police has accused Delhi and Haryana Police of acting "at the behest of the political leadership" and of using a "false and fabricated" FIR to protect Bagga. Allowing the court orders and FIR to continue will lead to abuse of process of law and harassment of authorised police officials, the Punjab Police has argued before Delhi HC.

Punjab Police in the petition also alleged that when its team



BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga. Archive

reached Janakpuri police station to intimate local police officials, Delhi Police illegally detained them till 6 pm and even senior officers visited the room where they were detained but refused to inform the reason of "illegal detention". The *munshi* was also commanded to delete the information given by Punjab Police officials, alleges the plea.

It has alleged that Delhi Police registered the kidnapping FIR at Janakpuri police station only to "set to naught the arrest and investigation" being carried out against Bagga. Delhi Police officials also obtained a search warrant on the basis of the FIR by "concealing relevant and material facts of the lawful arrest of the said accused," Punjab Police alleged.

"The Delhi Police conduct is totally dubious, illegal, unwarranted, mala fide, unauthorised, who not only misled the Hon'ble Court by assisting the accused but also concealed the factum that the person whom they are presenting as victim in the same FIR is the accused and had been arrested by Punjab Police," reads the Punjab Police plea.

Both Haryana Police and Delhi Police earlier denied the allegations regarding illegal detention of police personnel of Punjab Police.

5 GOVT & POLITICS



A LONG MEETING

A high-level meeting of top BJP leaders at party chief JP Nadda's residence on Monday has triggered a fresh round of speculation, even as the party remained tight-lipped on the agenda. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santosh met Nadda for more than four hours. While some sources in the party indicated that the discussions revolved around candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections, slated for June 10, others said the talks were on the NDA candidate for the President's election, coming up in July. A few others said the discussions included party affairs in Karnataka, too — although the last day of filing nominations for elections to Karnataka Legislative Council is Tuesday, the uncertainty seems to be continuing until the last minute. The nomination process for election to 57 Rajya Sabha seats also begins Tuesday.

TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah visited the Prime Minister's Museum on Monday and praised the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in honouring the contribution of all his predecessors. Shah said the museum is above political ideologies and called it a praiseworthy effort in documenting the achievements of all PMs over the years. Shah shared on social media his pictures clicked with the portraits of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Morarji Desai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

REGAINING THE TOUCH

As the pandemic situation seems to ease across the country, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat will start the biometric attendance system after a gap of more than two years. The Aadhaar-enabled biometric attendance system was suspended in March 2020 as the first wave of coronavirus was spreading. The system, introduced in August 2018, will resume on a trial basis for the next 10 days and, starting June 1, will be fully reintroduced. All personnel have been asked to register on the Rajya Sabha Secretariat's web portal so that their attendance can be marked through the biometric system starting June.

MAHARASHTRA POLL PANEL ORDER

Reservation lottery in 14 civic bodies minus OBCs

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, MAY 23

IN A major setback to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) on Monday issued orders to 14 municipal corporations, including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), to hold the reservation lottery on May 31, without OBC seats. This comes even as the MVA government has been pushing to ensure reservation for other backward classes (OBC) in local body elections.

The SEC's latest order follows the Supreme Court's directive on May 4, which said that reservation lottery should be held on May 31 without OBC quota.

"The SC had also mentioned in the order that till the state government fulfills the triple tests, OBC seats cannot be reserved in the local bodies' elections. Since the process of ward boundaries of these municipal corporations has been completed, it is mandatory to give a programme for reservation lottery as per the law and SC order," said the SEC in its orders issued on Monday.

The SEC, in two separate or-

ders, issued directions to the BMC, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Vasai-Virar, Kalyan-Dombivali, Ulhasnagar, Nashik, Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Kolhapur, Solapur, Amaravati, Akola and Nagpur municipal corporations.

As per the SEC order, a public notice should be issued on May 27 to hold the reservation lottery for ST (Scheduled Tribe), SC (Scheduled Caste) and general category women. While the lottery should be held on May 31, the draft of the ward-wise reservation should be published on June 1, the orders added. Suggestions and objections can be raised between June 1 and 6 and the ward-wise final reservation should be published on June 13 in the state gazette, according to the orders.

On May 4, the Apex court said that the SEC must proceed with the election programme of the local bodies, which had become due on the expiry of five-year term, adding the SEC is obliged to notify the election programme within two weeks. The SEC also told the Supreme Court that it is not possible to hold the elections in the monsoon and further said that elections of the urban local bodies will be held in September and of rural local bodies in October.

After Nano, farming hopes dry up in Singur, a plan for fish ponds

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
& ATRIMITRA
SINGUR, MAY 23

UNABLE TO resume farming even seven years after land was returned to them, farmers in Singur are now enrolling themselves for a government scheme to set up water bodies on their plots, to move from agriculture to fisheries.

Four such proposed water bodies have already come up in the former Nano project area, on one to three acres of land. On other plots, off the Durgapur Expressway (National Highway No. 2), work is on, with earth-moving machines removing mounds of soil and concrete, overgrown with bushes and grass.

The ponds are being developed under the Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation

Scheme of the state Water Resource Investigation and Development Department (WRIDD).

The Trinamool Congress had climbed to power in 2011 on the strength of its anti-land acquisition movement in Singur, thus stalling the Tata Nano project, and in Nandigram. In a vindication of TMC leader Mamata Banerjee's stand, the Supreme Court on August 31, 2016, ordered the return of 997.5 acres acquired for the Nano project to the farmers.

Singur has now entered the school curriculum in Bengal. However, at ground zero, time stands still, with farming taking off only in patches as vast tracts of land remain unused or unusable. The state government continues to give Rs 2,000 and 16 kg of rice each to 3,611 people in Singur identified as connected to

PM Modi in Tokyo, urges diaspora to be part of India's development journey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi told the Indian community members in Tokyo on Monday that the goals set up by his government for celebrating 100 years of India's Independence are ambitious and challenging but the teachings and values he has received have helped him develop a habit to face challenges with great courage.

As per a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, over 700 members of Indian diaspora participated in the event on the first day of his two-day visit. There are over 40,000 Indians in Japan, it said.

Modi said India is on its way to preparing a roadmap to achieve the ambitious goals as the country enters into the 'amrit kaal'.

"*Mujhe makkhan par lakeer karne mein maza nahi aata hain, main patthar par lakeer karta hoon* (I do not enjoy drawing a line on butter, I enjoy drawing a line on stone)," he told the cheering crowd.

Observing that India and Japan are natural partners, Modi said, "Japan has played an important role in India's development journey...our relationship with Japan is of spirituality, of cooperation, of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Indian expatriates in Tokyo on Monday. *PTI*

belongingness."

Stating that India's focus on creation of infrastructure and institutional capacity building is "unprecedented", Modi said, "I am happy that Japan is an important partner in our capacity building. Be it Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail; be it Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor; be it Dedicated Freight Corridor — these are big examples of cooperation between India and Japan."

Modi highlighted that women voters' turnout has been

more than their men counterparts in elections in India during recent years. "Today, 'people led governance' is working in true sense in India. This model of governance is making the delivery efficient. This is the biggest reason for the ever-increasing faith in democracy," Modi said, adding, "we have created the identity of a strong, resilient, responsible democracy in India".

Highlighting the WHO has honoured India's ASHA sisters with the Director General's Global

Health Leaders Award, the PM said "millions of ASHA sisters of India are giving impetus to the country's health programme from maternal care to vaccination; from nutrition to cleanliness".

"Prime Minister also met Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees in Japan," a statement from the PMO said. "He appreciated the Indian community members and invited them to join and take forward the campaign of 'Bharat Chalo, Bharat se Judo'."

(WITHPTIINPUTS)

AAP dissolves Goa working committee

Panaji: The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday dissolved its Goa working committee with expansion in mind, the party said.

AAP Delhi MLA and AAP Goa Unit incharge Atishi announced the party's decision, saying the new state working committee for Goa will be "reorganised soon".

The AAP secured two seats in the legislative assembly election in February and made its debut in the Goa assembly. This was the second time the party contested assembly election in Goa. In 2017 it had drawn a blank.

"With expansion of the party in mind... we will constitute a new committee to bring well-meaning and like-minded people into the party's fold," said Atishi.

In March, days after the election results were declared, the party's state convenor Rahul Mhambre had quit citing "personal reasons". His resignation came on the day that the party appointed him national spokesperson.

ENS

All-party meet before caste census: Nitish

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, MAY 23

IN WHAT can be a deft counter-posturing by JD(U), Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said the government will soon call an all-party meeting to pave way for the state to have its own caste census and the proposal will then be routed through the state cabinet.

Talking to reporters here, the CM said: "We are trying to hold an all-party meet on the caste census. Some political parties have given their nod for the meeting. Once we hear views of all political parties, it will be put up before the state cabinet." Nitish had long been hinting at Bihar having its own caste census even as the Central government remains non-committed on it.

Nitish's plan has put the Bihar BJP in a piquant situation vis-a-vis ambivalence of the Central BJP on the matter. The state unit of the BJP, however, had been part of an unanimous resolution passed in the state legislature and was also part of an all-party delegation from the state to take up the matter with the Centre last year.

Though BJP is a key partner in the JD(U)-led NDA alliance, it will now be difficult for it to oppose Nitish's idea of caste census, especially when the latter

EXPLAINED
The number game

BIHAR CM Nitish Kumar has played the master-stroke by deciding to conduct caste census. Having meticulously cultivated a base among non-Yadav OBCs and SCs, he is taking the caste census bid to further broaden base his constituency. As per 2011 Census, Bihar has 10.04 crore population of which 13% belong to upper castes, 17% are Muslims, and rest are OBCs, EBCs, SCs and STs. The Mandal Commission had assessed OBCs at 54%, but many Bihar politicians, including Nitish, claim it can be higher if counted afresh.

has the backing of Opposition RJD on the issue.

The CM had recently had one-on-one meeting with Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

The caste census move is being seen as Nitish's 'political masterstroke'. JD(U) insiders say the idea is make ally BJP "commit to caste census and not just talk of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'".



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspects construction of the Loknayak Ganga Path in Patna on Monday. *PTI*

3 DAYS AFTER ACCIDENT CLAIM

YSRCP MLC arrested for ex-driver's murder

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MAY 23

THREE DAYS after a Member of Legislative Council (MLC) of ruling YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh handed the body of his former driver to the latter's family, claiming that he had died in an accident, Kakinada district police on Monday arrested the legislator, Ananta Uday Bhaskar, in connection with the death.

After Bhaskar was taken into custody on Monday morning, Kakinada Range I-G, Pala Raju, questioned him, during which the MLC confessed that he had beaten Subramanyam, the police said.

Kakinada district SP, Ravindra Babu, said that after postmortem concluded that the victim, T Subramanyam, did not die in an accident but was beaten, leading to his death, the FIR was revised from IPC 174 (accidental death) to Section 302 (murder), and Bhaskar was initially detained for interrogation.

Police have also added SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against Bhaskar.

The postmortem report indicates 27 injuries on the head, chest, abdomen, hands, and legs, police sources said. While only Bhaskar has been arrested as of now, his associates are also being questioned, sources said.

Sources said Subramanyam was taken to a beach in Kakinada on the night of May 19 and assaulted, with his held down in sand. Bhaskar was sent by a local court to 15-day judicial custody.

According to police, Bhaskar drove to Subramanyam's home around 2 am on April 20, with the latter's body in the backseat. He reportedly told the family that he had sent Subramanyam to fetch food the previous evening, when he met with a fa-



Ananta Uday Bhaskar

tal accident. Confronted by irate family members, Bhaskar fled the scene, the police said.

Bhaskar, sources said, told police that he had sacked Subramanyam from his job about five months ago and the latter subsequently started making allegations against him. Bhaskar told police that Subramanyam was allegedly trying to blackmail him by saying that he would disclose his personal and financial affairs in public.

The MLC has told police that he called Subramanyam on the evening of May 19 to talk, but after some time he and his associates assaulted him. Subramanyam died as a result of the assault. "He is in our custody. Investigation is going on," DIG Raju said, without elaborating further.

The victim's mother, T Ratnam, said Subramanyam had worked for Bhaskar for five years and was fired nearly five months ago. She also alleged that the MLC was lying that Subramanyam was blackmailing him. "He held a grudge against my son for some reason. We believe he worked for him (Bhaskar) for five years, and knew a lot about his activities. He (Bhaskar) was probably afraid that he (her son) would reveal those...that is why he killed him," she alleged.

A real estate businessman, Bhaskar was nominated to the Legislative Council last year under the elected members' quota from East Godavari district.



Four water bodies have already come up; work is on at the other sites. *Partha Paul*

the land, including owners, sharecroppers and farm labourers.

Singur MLA and West Bengal Labour Minister Becharam Manna said the ponds would help the farmers. "There were ponds here before land was forcibly taken for the Tata plant," he said.

Singur Block Development Officer Parthasarathi Banerjee said they had very little role to play in the matter. "The project is being directly done by the WRIDD. Eighteen have been sanctioned for the district (Hooghly) and I believe four or

five for Singur," he said.

A senior official involved with the WRIDD project said: "After three years of helping ready the ponds, the government will hand it over to villagers' societies, which will further maintain them."

Three of the ponds have come up in Khaserbheri, Singherbheri and Gopalnagar areas.

Dilip Samanta said he and five others, including his brothers, have formed a society for a pond on 4 bighas of his 9 bigha land. The 63-year-old had been part of the anti-land acquisition agitation.

"After land was returned to us following the Supreme Court order, we could not return to agriculture," he said. "There was concrete, iron and stones in the soil. Three months back, my brothers and I got a proposal through local TMC and panchayat leaders

for the project... There is no harm in trying something new."

Local TMC leader panchayat samiti member Dudhkumar Dhara said more farmers are eager to enrol for the scheme, adding that of his own 5 bighas land, only 3 bighas were cultivable now.

Across board, whether they can use their land for cultivation or not, farmers say they were never opposed to industry, but the "forcible land acquisition" for the Nano project in 2006.

Shailen Malik, 60, resting on abandoned concrete pipes inside what was a project area, is one of them. "The government should have talked to us first. I have two sons, one is a carpenter and another, a daily labourer. They would have got jobs. They are not interested in farming," he said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

EXPRESS NETWORK

Kerala dowry death: Court covicts husband

Thiruvananthapuram: An additional sessions court in Kollam on Monday held a former state employee guilty for causing the dowry death of his wife, in a sensational case that shook the state and sparked an anti-dowry campaign.

Kiran Kumar was convicted under various sections of the IPC including 304-B, which deals with dowry deaths.

The quantum of the sentence will be pronounced Tuesday.

Kumar's wife, Vismaya V Nair, an ayurvedic medical student, was found dead under mysterious circumstances at their home in Kollam in June last year. She was 22. Following the incident, Kumar was dismissed from his job in the state motor department as an additional vehicle inspector.

The death had triggered a campaign against dowry that saw Governor Arif Mohammed Khan sit on a day-long fast.

Khan also instructed universities to make students file an undertaking declaring they would not seek or give dowry; and cancel their degrees if they are ever convicted in a dowry case. Sources said Kumar was harassing Vismaya as he was unhappy with a Rs 11-lakh car gifted by Vismaya's father. **ENS**

WIFE, MINOR CHILD AMONG 6 HELD FOR ARSON; COPS SUSPECT TERROR LINK

Assam: 'Custody death' victim's wife among five booked under UAPA

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, MAY 23

ASSAM POLICE on Monday said it would book five of the six people accused of setting fire to a police station in Nagaon district under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for their suspected terror links.

Among those arrested in the arson case are the wife and minor daughter of Safikul Islam, a fish trader whose alleged custodial death had led to protests, and a mob torching Batadrava police station in Nagaon on Saturday.

"In the video footage, both the wife and the daughter can be seen setting fire to the police station. The others arrested are also relatives (of the deceased)," Nagaon SP Leena Doley told *The Indian Express*. Doley said the minor has been apprehended as per juvenile Justice rules. "We are treating her as a child in conflict with the law," she said.

Doley said three cases were



The Batadrava police station was set on fire, Saturday. PTI File

registered following the incident: a case of unnatural death in connection with Safikul's death in custody; an arson case related to torching of the police station; and a UAPA case, since police suspect the accused have "terror links".

While the first two have been registered at Batadrava police station, the UAPA case was registered

under Dhing police station, which has jurisdiction over the village of the accused people.

"We have been informed about many criminal activities of the accused persons... we suspect (they have) terror links, too, and have got in touch with the police in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts to confirm whether any of

them are linked to the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT)," Doley said.

The ABT is a proscribed terrorist organisation in Bangladesh. Since March, Assam Police has arrested at least 10 people in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts with alleged links to ABT.

The NIA is also probing the case. On Saturday, Doley said, the mob had come "prepared" to attack the police station. "While there was an element of reactive response following the death, there is more to it, considering the intensity and force of the attack. There were several instigators and we are identifying them all," she said. The SP said the forensic report on Safikul's death is not ready yet. "We are probing his death, too," she said.

Safikul was arrested on Friday night after police found him allegedly inebriated. Police claim he died since he was unwell. Safikul's family has alleged that police demanded Rs 10,000 and a duck as bribe to release him, and beat him up in custody, leading to his death.

Meanwhile, leaders from the opposition AIUDF and Congress visited the village on Monday and criticised the BJP-led government in the state.

AIUDF MLA Ashrafal Hussain said the incident reflects "failure" of the police and demanded a judicial inquiry. "We demand that every perpetrator of this incident be brought to book and punished following due process of law," he said. "What's the court and the Constitution for if police are allowed to abuse the law with such impunity?" Trinamool Congress state president Ripun Bora said: "Why is the law not allowed to take its own course? Is it BJP Raj or Hitler Raj?"

Following Saturday's mob violence and arson, the authorities on Sunday demolished homes of those who had allegedly set fire to the police station. This included Safikul's home. According to police, the accused were "encroachers" and were staying on government land with "forged" documents.

POLICE EXAM SCAM Court rejects pre-arrest bail plea of 2 toppers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MAY 23

A SESSIONS court in Bengaluru has rejected the anticipatory bail plea of two candidates accused of indulging in malpractices to obtain high marks in an examination conducted to recruit police sub-inspectors for the Karnataka police department.

The court rejected the pleas of Jagrut S, the fourth rank winner among male candidates, and Rachana H, the first rank winner among women, on the basis of prima facie evidence placed in the court by the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The two candidates have also moved the Karnataka High Court against the CID probe where they are among 22 named in an FIR for alleged involvement in fraudulent practices to score high marks in the police exam to recruit 545 sub-inspectors in October 2021.

The two candidates argued in the HC that they had been named in the FIR on the basis of a complaint lodged by a CID official without evidence of their involvement in the exam scam. In the court hearing where orders were passed on May 20, the CID said there was prima facie evidence to show the involvement of the two candidates. The state prosecutor argued that the accused candidates colluded with others to secure selection through the police recruitment exam and that sanction of bail would send a wrong message.

A senior police officer said Kevin was arrested from his house in Chennai early on Sunday and remanded in judicial custody. He said key evidence in the case include audio tapes involving Kevin — and an

Tamil magazine, activist, YouTuber face blackmail charge over article

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MAY 23

A DAY after the arrest of a man for allegedly making extortion calls to a prominent real estate company in Tamil Nadu over a purported article linking the firm to Chief Minister M K Stalin's son-in-law, Chennai Police have named a popular Tamil magazine, a former Vigilance employee who is now known as a whistleblower and a YouTuber in the case.

Biweekly magazine *Junior Vikatan*, Savukku Shankar and Maridhass were booked by the police after the main accused, identified as Kevin, was arrested for allegedly making "threatening phone calls... on behalf of Junior Vikatan and the others", based on a complaint filed by Purushotham Kumar, Chief Compliance Officer of G Square Realtors.

The complaint alleged that Kevin demanded Rs 50 lakh to prevent the publication of an article in the magazine in January, alleging links between Stalin's son-in-law Sabareesan and the firm. It stated that the article was published in *Junior Vikatan* after the firm refused to pay the bribe.

The DMK leadership has repeatedly denied any links with G Square Realtors, which is known to be an influential player in the state's real estate sector with several showpiece projects.

Representatives of *Junior Vikatan* were not available for comment. But on Monday evening, Kalaiselvan, editor and publisher of the magazine, filed a police complaint against Kevin and the real estate firm's founder Ramajayam seeking action for levelling a "false charge" and "fabricating false evidence".

Shankar, a former Vigilance employee who is known to have been the whistleblower in several cases of alleged corruption in the past, claimed that the latest case was a "conspiracy" against him hatched by a lobbyist and a DMK MP. He had levelled allegations earlier against the DMK leadership and G Square Realtors.

Maridhass, a controversial YouTuber backed by BJP and Hindutva outfits, was not available for comment.

Opposition leader and AIADMK chief E K Palaniswami condemned the police move "against media and journalists". The Chennai Press Club said in a statement that it "did not expect this from the DMK government".

A senior police officer said Kevin was arrested from his house in Chennai early on Sunday and remanded in judicial custody. He said key evidence in the case include audio tapes involving Kevin — and an

image of the purported article that he had allegedly sent to Ramajayam.

"Kevin has a shady past and had faced similar charges earlier too. He is known for dropping names and claiming VIP contacts in threat calls. There is no evidence yet of Shankar or Maridhass being part of this crime except Kevin mentioning their names in a phone call," the officer said.

According to the complaint, *Junior Vikatan* and its online editions have allegedly been publishing "false, baseless, defamatory articles" about the real estate firm and its founder.

G Square Realtors was incorporated in 2012 and has been in the news, especially after the DMK came to power, for big-ticket projects across the state. Its complaint said that it "has grown from scratch to a company with a turnover of about Rs 1,000 crore, providing employment to about 600 people".

Some of the big projects being promoted by the firm in Tamil Nadu are G Square Industrial Estate, "an affordable industrial park bang on Chennai-Arakkonam Highway", and G Square City in Coimbatore, which is touted as the state's first integrated smart city with over 1,663 plots for sale.

According to the FIR filed on May 21, Kevin allegedly contacted Ramajayam on January 18, claiming he was calling on behalf of *Junior Vikatan*'s directors. It said Kevin threatened the real estate firm's founder and demanded Rs 50 lakh to prevent the publication of stories against the company in the magazine.

To substantiate the threat, the FIR said, Kevin also sent an image of an article that was purportedly to be published the next day in the magazine. The complaint said that Ramajayam refused to pay the bribe, and the article was published the next day.

According to portions of the article quoted in the FIR, it alleged that G Square Realtors "had been carrying out construction work using the name of the Chief Minister's son-in-law" — and that it allegedly arm-twisted competitors with the threat of delayed government approvals.

According to the complaint, Kevin allegedly called Ramajayam again and threatened that more damaging articles would be published in *Junior Vikatan* as well as through the social media handles of Maridhass and Shankar.

The complaint also alleged that Kevin had sent an unidentified person to the real estate firm's office on May 9 with similar threats and demanding money.

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

India expresses 'dismay, concern' over WHO's Covid mortality report

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

INDIA EXPRESSED "dismay and concern" over the World Health Organisation not using statutory data from the country for its report on excess mortality during the two pandemic years at the ongoing World Health Assembly.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said: "It is with a sense of dismay and concern that India notes WHO's recent exercise on all-cause excess mortality where our country-specific authentic data published by the statutory authority has not been taken into account."

He said: "The Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, a constitutional body having representatives of the health ministers from all states, passed a resolution asking me to convey their collective disappointment and concern in this regard."

The WHO report, which was released earlier this month, said 47.4 lakh people in India died in 2020 and 2021 either directly due to the infection or through its indirect impacts. This is nearly ten times the official Covid-19 toll of 4.81 lakh at the end of 2021. India's annual data from the civil registration system (CRS) for the year 2020 showed that there had been 4.75 lakh more deaths than in the previous year.

To compare, the number of registered deaths increased by 6.9 lakh between 2018 and 2019 and by 4.86 lakh between 2017 and 2018. The CRS data alone, in the absence of the Sample Registration System data that estimates the total deaths in a year based off a survey, cannot estimate excess deaths.

However, NTI Aayog member Dr VK Paul at the time told *The Indian Express* that any estimate of excess mortality would have to be within the envelope of these 4.75 lakh additional deaths registered and not in some "exorbitant multiples".

Mandaviya also called for a global resilient supply chain and equitable access to medicines and vaccines. With most Covid-19 vaccine doses going to the global north at the height of the pandemic, India sought waiver of intellectual property rights at the World Trade Organisation.

"India would like to highlight that besides equitable access to medical countermeasures, including aspects related to intellectual property, need for cost-effective research, technology transfer and regional manufacturing capacities must remain an important focus area," Mandaviya said.

He added: "PM Narendra Modi has highlighted the need for building a resilient global supply chain to enable equitable access to vaccines and medicines."

Navy issues RFI to get 250-bed hospital ship in the high seas

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

THE GOVERNMENT has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for a national hospital ship (NHS) for the Navy that will act as a floating 250-bed hospital in the high seas.

According to the RFI, issued on May 18, the hospital ship — the first such for Indian Navy — will have aerial evacuation and boat ambulance facilities and should have the capacity to carry 600 personnel on board, including the crew, doctors and patients.

It will have one helicopter for evacuation and bringing people to the hospital ship.

According to RFI, the ship "should have a capability for operating independently as a 250-bedded hospital providing primary and secondary health care" and have two patient reception areas to facilitate easy reception and transfer of casualties. One of these will be closer to the chopper deck.

The ship will also need to have at least two major operation theatres (OTs), and two minor OTs "with a pre-Operative Room and a Post-Operative Room attached to each". Each OT would have attached facilities, including air handling units.

Based on the responses to the RFI, Navy will issue Request for Proposals to eligible Original Equipment Manufacturers through an Indian vendor. Once the contract is signed, the Navy wants the ship to be delivered in four years after that.



US hospital ship USNS Mercy in the Pacific Ocean in November 2021. US Navy photo

A FIRST FOR INDIAN NAVY — FLOATING HOSPITAL

- 1 ICU ward with 12 beds
- 1 High Dependency Unit for slightly less severe cases with 14 beds
- 12 regular wards for patients, with 14 beds in each ward
- 2 wards with 12 beds each for isolation of men and women each
- 1 burn ward with the

capacity to care for 8 patients

- Labour room, dental care facility, blood bank, telemedicine room, its own oxygen plant, and an aero-medical evacuation centre or flight deck emergency room
- 2 land-based ambulances, and two ambulance boats.

600 total capacity | **117** hospital staff | **250** maximum number of patients | **15** officers | **120** sailors

Source: Request for Information issued by Govt

WHAT IS A HOSPITAL SHIP?

- Built, converted, or equipped to assist, treat, transport the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked.
- It may not be attacked or captured.
- Distinctive sign for protection is the emblem of the red cross, red crescent or red crystal on a white ground.

Source: International Committee of the Red Cross

Inter-State Council redrawn; Shah to head standing panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

THE CENTRE has reconstituted the Inter-State Council, which works to promote cooperative federalism, a notification issued by the government Monday said.

Headed by the PM, the Council will comprise six Union ministers, besides the Chief Ministers of the 28 states and UTs with a legislature, and administrators of UTs without a legislature. It will also have 10 Union

ministers as permanent invitees. The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Council, with Home Minister Amit Shah its chairman.

Mandated with creating a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism, the Council helps the Centre and states iron out differences on policy and governance.

The standing committee will have continuous consultation and process matters pertaining to the Centre-state relations before they are taken up in Inter-State Council.

Declared dead, newborn found alive at graveyard in J&K's Ramban district

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, MAY 23

A NEWBORN girl, who after being declared dead by hospital staff in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district was buried in the graveyard of a neighbouring village on Monday, turned out to be alive after her grieving relatives had to exhumate her body in view of objections by local villagers.

"Two persons — a junior staff nurse and her helper — who de-

clared the newborn dead without informing the gynaecologist have been suspended," said Ramban Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Fareed Bhat. A three-member team led by Deputy CMO has also been set up to probe the matter.

Sources said the staff of government-run sub-district hospital at Banihal declared the baby of Shameema Begum of Gujjar Basti Bankoot dead soon after the delivery and the family buried the child in nearby Hollan village. However, local villagers ob-

jected to the burial of an outsider. "As the family exhumed the body, the child started crying," said Gujjar leader Choudhary Mansoor.

The CMO said Shameema was six-month pregnant and as she had a premature delivery, she was straightaway taken to the labour room by a junior staff nurse and her helper. "However, instead of calling the gynaecologist, they declared the baby dead on their own. By the time the gynaecologist reached the labour room, the family had left," the CMO said.

an official of the Education Department said. "We have transferred the employees from far-off places, which are vulnerable from security point of view, to safer places. The aim is to lessen the commuting time and distance."

Another official said that over 50 teachers and other staffers have already been shifted.

The Rural Development Department has also ordered shifting of 20 employees to relatively secure places. In some of the cases, the government has shifted the employees from south Kashmir to Srinagar and

Budgam districts.

"This is a welcome step," said a Pandit employee residing in Sheikhpora transit accommodation. "But how will the government guarantee us that we are safe at these places. Rahul [Bhat] ji was also posted at a so-called safe place. The government must shift us out of the Valley," he added.

In a recent meeting with the leaders of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Alliance (PAGD), Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had ruled out transferring the employees out of Valley. Sources in the government say while there is no

such provision, it will also defeat the purpose and objective of the Prime Minister's package that is aimed at bringing the Kashmiri Pandits back to Valley.

On May 12, Bhat, a revenue clerk, was shot dead by militants inside his office at the tehsil office in Chadoora, Budgam. Bhat's killing triggered massive protests from the Kashmiri Hindus, locally known as Pandits. The killing of Bhat and subsequent tear smoke shelling on protesters caused massive outrage, forcing the government to order a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by the Deputy

Inspector General (DIG) of police for Central Kashmir.

Around 4,000 Kashmiri Hindus have taken jobs in the Valley under the Prime Minister's Relief and Rehabilitation Package. Most of these employees are appointed in Education, Revenue and the Rural Development departments.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited residents of the Sheikhpora Colony in Budgam that houses employees working under the Prime Minister's Employment Package in

Kashmir.

Residents of the colony working in various government department have not returned to work since May 12 when one of the residents of the colony, Rahul Bhat, was killed in his office at Chadoora, Budgam.

"Your concerns have been brought to us. Instructions have been issued to move you to safer locations. I have appointed an officer in my office to keep us informed of the progress on this on a weekly basis. Divisional Commissioner is also looking at this personally," Sinha told the community members.



Goa CM Pramod Sawant

Goa demands zero export duty on low-grade iron ore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, MAY 23

TWO DAYS after the Central government levied 50 per cent duty on the exports of all grades of iron ore, a delegation led by Goa CM Pramod Sawant met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman requesting for 'nil' export duty on the low-grade iron ore, as was done since 2016.

"This is necessary for sustainable mining in the state," the Goa CM's office said on Monday. Sawant and Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho met Sitharaman in Delhi on Monday.

"Goa's ores largely being low grade (below 58% iron) and not processed for steel-making in the country, the government has requested the Ministry of Finance to consider 'nil' export duty," the statement read. The Goa government is in the process of restarting mining in the state.

KERALA

PFI leaders booked after minor raises hate slogans during rally

Congress, BJP and Kerala Catholic Bishops Council accuse Left government of going soft on extremist elements

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 23

THE KERALA police on Monday registered a case over the highly provocative slogans raised by a minor boy during a rally of the Popular Front of India (PFI).

The Muslim outfit organised a rally at Alappuzha as part of its "Save the Republic" campaign on May 21.

A video of the rally, which has gone viral on social media, showed the boy, perched on the shoulders of an adult, shouting provocative slogans as others repeated in chorus.

On Monday after the video evoked protest from various quarters, pro-Popular Front of India social media groups splashed the photo of the boy, praising him.

Alappuzha police said the case was registered based on a complaint from advocate Vijayakumar of Bharatiya Abhishashaka Parishad.

The case was registered under various sections including Indian Penal Code 153-A (indulge in wanton vilification or attacks upon the religion).

The FIR has listed PFI district

leaders Vandanam Nawas, Mujeeb and others as the alleged accused. The boy is not among those booked.

While the ruling CPI(M) did not comment on the incident, the Congress, BJP and the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) accused the government of going soft on extremist elements to protect their vote bank.

Congress legislator and Opposition Leader V D Satheesan said "extremist elements" have got the courage to make such provocative slogans from the "political tactics" played by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. "He is appealing majority fundamentalism as well as minority fundamentalism. Kerala is now facing the fallout of that politics known as social engineering. Those who have worked behind the slogans raised by the boy, should be brought to book," Satheesan said.

Taking to Twitter, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor wrote: "The video of this event & media reports have shocked Kerala. Hate speech & intimidating slogans are deplorable irrespective of the politics behind them or the religion of those using them. Opposing communalism means

opposing the communalism of all sides. I unequivocally condemn the threatening and communally charged slogans...I urge the state government to take strong action against such miscreants."

BJP state president K Surendran said Vijayan Government has "let loose the extremists eyeing their votes" at Thrikkakara by-election.

KCBC spokesperson Fr Jacob Palackappilly said the state is shocked over the slogans raised by the boy. "Government reluctance to take suo motu action on the issue is disturbing. Such communal appeasement does not augur well for the security of the country and future of the state, he said.

The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), the youth wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), in a statement said that the slogans raised by the boy were part of PFI agenda to communally divide Kerala.

"It is disturbing and serious that the mind of a minor boy has become a factory of hate campaigns against other religions. Kerala society should maintain vigil against such divisive forces," it said.

RULES RELAXED

‘Kin of missing Central govt employee can avail pension’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

FAMILY PENSION rules for missing central government employees have been relaxed to give pension to the family when a serving government employee goes missing, in what could be a major relief for kin of those serving in militancy-affected areas such as Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast as well as Naxalism-hit regions, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

In all the cases where a government employee covered by the National Pension System (NPS) goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family and in case he reappears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the

intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary, as per a latest order of the government.

Earlier, the family pension would not be paid till the missing government employee was declared dead in accordance with the law or till seven years had passed since he went missing, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

"This is going to provide a huge relief, particularly in those regions where instances of government employees going missing are reported more frequently," Singh said, the Minister of State for Personnel, said.

He said cases of abduction of central government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instil confidence and to protect them and their family in-

terests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about.

The minister informed that if a government servant covered by the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, goes missing, the benefits of arrears of salary, family pension, retirement gratuity, leave encashment, etc. are paid to the families of the missing employees in accordance with the instructions issued dated 25.06.2013.

He said the matter has been examined in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training, Department of Financial Services and Department of Expenditure and considering the hardship faced by the family of such government servants, it has been decided to extend the same benefits (as applicable to those under the CCS (Pension) rules) to the families of government servants covered by NPS.

Nine years after they were booked, court clears two in IPL betting case

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, MAY 23

A SESSIONS court discharged two men booked in the 2013 IPL alleged betting racket case for lack of evidence. The two were booked on the suspicion that they were running the betting racket from a hotel on May 14-15, 2013.

Mumbai police had also claimed that they were involved in fixing the match along with the other accused, including international umpire Asad Rauf, with whom they were allegedly in touch with. Businessmen Sanjay Chhabra and Sandeep Chhabra's appeal against a lower court or-

der refusing to discharge them from the case was allowed by the sessions court on Thursday.

Among the grounds for their discharge, the court observed that a few conversations between the accused on alleged match fixing were not intercepted as per the procedure laid down for such cases, and hence could not be used. On an alleged conversation between Rauf and the two accused, the court said that no document was submitted to show what the conversation was between them. It said a text conversation between Rauf and a co-accused nowhere showed that any amount for betting was fixed.

"On 12/05/2013, there is con-

versation between the applicants and umpire Asad Rauf, but no document before me to show what was the conversation between applicant and umpire Asad Rauf," additional sessions judge A C Daga said.

In their criminal revision application, the Chhabras submitted that while the police claimed they were operating a racket from a room of a Mumbai hotel on two days, they had proof that they were staying at another hotel in that period and were not running any betting racket. They also submitted that on May 15, betting was done on a team that lost the match and hence, the allegations of wrongful gain were baseless.

Data entry Ponzi scamster held for duping investors of Rs 50 cr: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MAY 23

AN OWNER of two Nadiad-based technology firms has been arrested for allegedly duping over 20,000 investors across the state to the tune of over Rs 50 crore through a dubious "data entry investment" scheme.

According to police, the accused Rahul Vaghela, a Nadiad resident, was arrested by a team of Local Crime Branch (LCB) of Banaskantha Police from Dhanera border taluka Sunday night when he was allegedly trying to flee to Rajasthan.

Vaghela, the owner of Master Digital and Master Solution Technology Private Limited companies in Nadiad, has been accused of duping the investors by luring them to invest sums of money in the two companies in exchange of higher returns over a data entry job scheme in the past one year.

Nadiad Police said preliminary investigation has revealed that Vaghela took small sums of money from over 22,000 investors to the tune of Rs 50 crore after which the accused fled with their money.

According to victims of the ponzi scheme, Vaghela's companies offered higher returns on investment in the guise of a data entry job.

Strong winds, don't venture into sea, fishermen told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, MAY 23

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday issued a warning of strong winds and rough sea along the coast from Kutch to Porbandar and advised fishermen not to venture into the sea till Tuesday.

In a bulletin issued on Monday, the IMD stated that due to a steep pressure gradient, strong surface winds are likely to blow along and off north Gujarat coast.

"Strong winds with speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph very likely to prevail from south-westerly to westerly direction along and off North Gujarat coast. Wind speed in gust may temporarily reach 60 kmph. Sea will be moderate to rough... Fishermen are advised not to venture along and off north Gujarat coast from till May 24," advised the bulletin.



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Clouds over the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad on Monday morning. Nirmal Harindran

IE Thinc to look at upskilling of women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23



BETWEEN 40 million and 160 million women globally may need to transition between occupations by 2030, often into higher-skilled roles and gear themselves up for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The age of automation and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies offers new job opportunities and avenues for economic advancement but women will have it harder as they are already battling challenges of marginalisation in traditional disciplines. To weather this disruption, women have to be skilled, mobile and tech-savvy and will need targeted support to move forward.

The second edition of the IE Thinc series on gender focusses on future-proofing the women workforce through its session, "Women, the Future of Work: Upskilling for a post-pandemic world."

Women's jobs may be more prone to partial automation than being entirely displaced by automation. By 2030, women could gain 20 per cent more jobs compared with present levels and the opportunities are likely to surface in new sectors: healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, retail, scientific and technical services. Women are already well-represented in the fast-growing healthcare sector, which could account for 25 per cent of potential jobs gained for them.

Technology adoption should

ACCUSED OF RAPE

Lookout circular against minister's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

DELHI POLICE have opened a look-out-circular (LOC) against Rajasthan Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Minister Mahesh Joshi's son, Rohit Joshi, who is absconding.

12 booked for raising pro-Pak slogans in Hazaribagh

Ranchi: Jharkhand Police have booked 12 people allegedly for raising 'pro-Pakistan slogans' during a victory procession of a Panchayat Samiti member in Hazaribagh. Police said the incident occurred on May 19 when supporters of a Panchayat Samiti member raised the slogans, after he won from Siladah panchayat.

An FIR was registered after the video of the purported incident went viral on social media. Police said they are investigating the case and have sent the video for a forensic test to ascertain the authenticity. Although police have booked them under various IPC sections, they are yet to make any arrest. This is the second such incident in the last one month during the panchayat polls.

On April 20, 'pro-Pakistan' slogans were raised in Giridih district of Jharkhand once Shakir Hussain filed his nomination. A government employee, Wasim Akram, of Giridih was the complainant. Eight people were arrested. **ENS**

On May 9, a team of 15-20 police personnel, headed by an ACP rank officer, reached Joshi's residence in Jaipur, but they found the house demolished. They later searched another house in the Civil Lines area but Rohit was absconding. His father had gone to Udaipur to attend Congress Chintan Shivir. "Police have in-

formed his family members about the case, and asked them to inform him of his whereabouts," a senior police officer said.

Police also served notice, under Section 91/160 of CrPC to his family members. "You are directed to appear before the investigation officer by May 18 at 1 pm," said the IO Sharmila Yadav.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING:
ASSAM: CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3
No. CS/TB-I/84/2022/ 2

PRESS NOTICE

In cancellation of the earliar press notice published vide letter No. CS/TB-I/84/2022/01 dtd. 30/03/2022 the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode-I of contract (Single stage two part bidding system) for the work detailed in the table below, from eligible contractors having experience in similar nature of works. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in

SI No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in lakh)	Bid Security /EMD	Cost of Bid document	Completion period	Defect liability period
1.	Construction of New Conference Hall cum convention centre in P.T.C. Dergaon	₹ 1733.77	Rs. 34,67,600.00 (2% for General category) OR Rs. 17,33,800.00 (1% for reserved Category)	Rs. 20,000.00	12 (twelve) month	01 (one year)

Note :-
1. NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
2. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in
3. The Work Order will be issued after receipt of Administrative Approval from concerned authority.

Janasanyog/C/3017/22

Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

EXPRESS Careers

State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427; Fax: 022-22820411

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers On Regular Basis

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for the following posts on regular basis:

Sr. No.	Post	Grade/ Scale	Vacancy
1	AGM (IT- Tech Operations)	SMGS-V	01
2	AGM (IT-Inbound Engineer)		01
3	AGM (IT-Outbound Engineer)		01
4	AGM (IT Security Expert)		01
5	Manager (IT Security Expert)	MMGS-III	02
6	Deputy Manager (Network Engineer)	MMGS-II	10
7	Deputy Manager (Site Engineer Command Centre)		10
8	Deputy Manager (Statistician)		06

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification, experience, job profile etc.), requisite fees and other details are available under the detailed Advertisement No. CRPD/SCO/2022-23/08 on Bank's website <https://bank.sbi/web/careers> OR <https://www.sbi.co.in/web/careers> along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement, ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.
DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: 21.05.2022 TO 12.06.2022
For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website.
Place: Mumbai
Date 21.05.2022 General Manager

K. J. SOMAIYA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous Institute permanently affiliated to University of Mumbai
Somaiya Ayurvinah Complex, Eastern Express Highway, Sion (E), Mumbai – 400 022. Telephone: 022-24061300
Email: principal.tech@somaiya.edu • Web: <https://kjsiet.somaiya.edu>

MINORITY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

UN-AIDED				
Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Posts	OPEN
1.	Professor	Computer Engineering	01	01
2.	Associate Professor	Computer Engineering Information Technology	04 01	04 01
3.	Assistant Professor	Computer Engineering	06	06
M.E. (Artificial Intelligence)				
1.	Professor	M. Tech. (Artificial Intelligence)	01	01
2.	Assistant Professor	M. Tech. (Artificial Intelligence)	02	02

The above post are open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post.
Reservation for women will be as per University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998 & persons with disability will be as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019.
Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.
The Educational Qualification, Experience and pay- scale for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor are as prescribed by the University of Mumbai, AICTE & DTE from time to time.
Please refer University Circular No. मॉरिमाक/विश्विमाक/नंरविमाक/११/२०२०-२०२१ दिनांक ११ जानेवारी, २०२१ for qualifications and experience at the time of interview.
Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.
Accommodation will be provided to most deserving candidates from outside.
Application with full details should reach the **PRINCIPAL, K.J.SOMAIYA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**, Somaiya Ayurvinah Complex, Eastern Express Highway, Sion, Mumbai 400 022 within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PILAR'S FR. CONCEICAO RODRIGUES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
(Affiliated to the University of Mumbai & approved by AICTE)
Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (W), Mumbai-400 050
(MINORITY)

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

UN-AIDED				
Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Posts	Post Reserved for
1	Professor	Computer Engineering	01	01 – OPEN
2	Associate Professor	Computer Engineering	02	02 – OPEN
		Artificial Intelligence & Data Science	01	01 – OPEN
3	Assistant Professor	Computer Engineering	02	02 – OPEN
		Artificial Intelligence & Data Science	01	01 – OPEN
		Applied Mathematics	02	02 – OPEN
		Communication Skills	01	01 – OPEN

The above posts are open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post.
Reservation for women will be as per University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 5th July 2019.
Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.
The Educational Qualification, Experience and pay-scale for the post of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor are as prescribed by the University of Mumbai, AICTE & DTE from time to time.
Please refer University Circular No. मॉरिमाक/विश्विमाक/नंरविमाक/११/२०२०-२०२१ dated 11th January 2021 for qualifications and experience at the time of interview.
Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.
Applications with full details should reach to **PRINCIPAL, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PILAR'S FR. CONCEICAO RODRIGUES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050 within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

Applications are invited for filling up the two posts of Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade) (General Central Services, Group C, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial) in the Pay Matrix Level 2 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 19900-63200/-) as per 7th CPC in the Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi on Deputation/Absorption basis from amongst the Dispatch Rider (Group 'C') and Group 'C' employees in level-1 in pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who possess valid Driving License for Motor Cars on the basis of a Driving Test to assess the competence to drive Motor Cars failing which from officials holding the post of Dispatch Rider on regular basis or regular Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in the pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in other Ministries of the Central Government.

Note : The detailed advertisement including application format and essential qualifications have been published in the Employment News dated 07-13 May 2022 and is also available on the CIP website, i.e., www.cipranchi.nic.in.

Sd/- Director

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, Mahadevapura Zone, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011.

No.EE/SWD/MDP/TEND/01/2022-23Date: 23.05.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Zone invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Excavation of earthen drain for vulnerable length of storm water drains in K.R. Pura Constituency of Mahadevapura Zone.	89.10	90,000/-
2	Excavation of earthen drain for vulnerable length of storm water drains in Mahadevapura Constituency of Mahadevapura Zone.	108.54	2,00,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal. 2) Pre-bid Meeting : 26.05.2022 at 16.00 Hrs. 3) Last date for receipt of tenders: 31.05.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.3) Opening of Technical Bids : 02.06.2022 at 16.30 Hrs. Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or e-Procurement Helpdesk at 080-22371090 / 22340060 / 22340948 or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Zone.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask

Follow Physical Distancing

Maintain Hand Hygiene

SBI State Bank of India

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001

Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 29.06.2022 (Wednesday) for recovery of ₹18,71,214.00 (Rupees Eighteen lac seventy one thousand two hundred fourteen only) as on 07/06/2021 with further Interest, Cost, Charges & Other miscellaneous expenses etc, less deposit/recovery made thereafter, if any, due to the secured creditor from Borrower, M/s Pradeep Dresses, Prop. Mr. Pradeep Kumar; Mr. Pradeep Kumar; S/o Shri Rameshwar Singh & Guarantor-Smt. Meera Devi W/o Shri Rameshwar Singh.

Sl. No.	Description of the property (Property ID for e-auction: SBIN32088311246)	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Increment Amt
1.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: Land & Building in the name of Smt. Meera Devi W/o Shri Rameshwar Singh vide Sale Deed No. 2362 dated 22/02/2011 located at Mouza-Dhanpurwa, Ward No.-34(New), Thana-Sasaram, Thana No.-137, Nagar Palika-Sasaram, District-Rohtas, Bihar corresponding to Khata No.76 (MS Khata No.380), Plot No.-924 & 925 (MS Plot No.-429,430,422,416 & 417), Area-1½ Decimal bounded by North-Surekha Devi, South-Chinta Devi, East-Rasta 7 ft & West-Rasta & Bhajan Singh.	₹12,50,000.00	₹1,25,000.00	₹10,000.00

e-Auction Terms and Condition

1. Date of e-auction: 29.06.2022 (Wednesday), Time: 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.

2. Website/portal for e-auction-<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.

3. The General Terms & Conditions are available on - <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>. This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

Date : 20.05.2022

Place : Patna

AUTHORISED OFFICER

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

SBI State Bank of India

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001

Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

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Sl. No.	Description of the property (Property ID for e-auction: SBIN32088311246)	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Increment Amt
1.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: Land & Building in the name of Smt. Meera Devi W/o Shri Rameshwar Singh vide Sale Deed No. 2362 dated 22/02/2011 located at Mouza-Dhanpurwa, Ward No.-34(New), Thana-Sasaram, Thana No.-137, Nagar Palika-Sasaram, District-Rohtas, Bihar corresponding to Khata No.76 (MS Khata No.380), Plot No.-924 & 925 (MS Plot No.-429,430,422,416 & 417), Area-1½ Decimal bounded by North-Surekha Devi, South-Chinta Devi, East-Rasta 7 ft & West-Rasta & Bhajan Singh.	₹12,50,000.00	₹1,25,000.00	₹10,000.00

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1. Date of e-auction: 29.06.2022 (Wednesday), Time: 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.

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3. The General Terms & Conditions are available on - <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>. This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

Date : 20.05.2022

Place : Patna

AUTHORISED OFFICER

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

varthana

Varthana Finance Private Limited

(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)

Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777.

Branch Office : No. 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram - 122018.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is here by given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd, Gurugram, (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd), will be sold on 28-06-2022 (Tuesday) between 1-00 p.m to 2-00 p.m., "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of dues of below mentioned Loan Account. The details of the Borrower(s) Mortgagor(s) Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ Auction date & time, EMD & Bid increase amount are mentioned below.

Name of The Borrowers/Mortgagors : 1). M/s. Swami Vivekanand Public School, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory, 2). M/s. Swami Vivekanand Charitable Trust, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory, 3). Rohtash Sharma, S/o. Ramesh Chand Sharma, 4). Rajni, W/o. Rohtash Sharma, Loan A/c No.'s. K19GUR-GUR-010289, S19GUR-GUR-010172, Q18GUR-GUR-002525, U21GUR-GUR-016632, U20GUR-GUR-015005 and U20GUR-GUR-014611.

Details of Total Outstanding Amount in Rupees : Rs. 52,22,776/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six Only) as on 14.05.2022, together with future agreed contractual interest plus legal costs/ charges, till realisation of entire amount.

Details of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khatta No. 382, Khasra No. 720, Area measuring about 0.201125 Hect. Situated at Village Karanpur Jaat, Pargana Dasna Tehsil Dholana District Hapur and bounded as under, East By : 15 Feet Road, West By : Khait Omvati Devi, North By : Khait Mahaveer Sharma, South By : Khait Mahaveer Sharma.

The Reserve Price will be Rs.66,22,200/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be (EMD 10% of Reserve Price) Rs.6,62,220/- Known Encumbrances, if any : Nil.

Intending bidders should submit their EMD amount along with KYC documents (PAN Card and Aadhaar/Voters ID/Driving Licence) and Rs. 1,00,00/- being Non-refundable Tender fee by way of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn on a Scheduled Bank, favouring "M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited", payable at Gurugram before 5.00 p.m. on or before 27-06-2022 (Monday).

The Auction will be held at : M/s. Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd., No. 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram - 122018, on 28-06-2022 (Tuesday) between 1-00 p.m to 2-00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in Company's website i.e. : www.varthana.com

The prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer Mr. Mittin Kakkar - Phone No.8685050505 and Mr. Raman Arora - Phone No. 7827926395 for further details/information.

Date : 24-05-2022, Place : Bangalore

Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

varthana

Varthana Finance Private Limited

(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)

Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777.

Branch Office : No. 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram - 122018.

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Name of The Borrowers/Mortgagors : 1). M/s. Vidya Deep Public School, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory, 2). M/s. Vidaya Deep Shiksha Samiti, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory, 3). Girish Bansal, S/o. Dhyan Chand, 4). Usha, W/o. Girish Bansal, Loan A/c No.'s. K19GUR-GUR-009873 and S19GUR-GUR-009575.

Details of Total Outstanding Amount in Rupees : Rs. 81,84,195/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand One Hundred Ninety Five Only) as on 14-05-2022, together with future agreed contractual interest plus legal costs/ charges, till realisation of entire amount.

Details of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.-C400, part of Khasra No 362, Bhajanapura, Village, Abadi Known as Main Market Ghonda Gujaran Khadar, Ilaga, Shahdara, delhi 110053, admeasuring 120 Sq Yds, bounded as under, East: Property of others, West: By Road, North: Property of others, South: Property of others

The Reserve Price will be of Rs.78,84,750/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be (EMD 10% of Reserve Price) Rs.7,88,475/- Known Encumbrances, if any : Nil.

Intending bidders should submit their EMD amount along with KYC documents (PAN Card and Aadhaar/Voters ID/Driving Licence) and Rs. 1,00,00/- being Non-refundable Tender fee by way of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn on a Scheduled Bank, favouring "M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited", payable at Gurugram before 5.00 p.m. on or before 27-06-2022 (Monday).

The Auction will be held at : M/s. Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd., No. 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram - 122018, on 28-06-2022 (Tuesday) between 3-00 p.m to 4-00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in Company's website i.e. : www.varthana.com

The prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer Mr. Mittin Kakkar - Phone No.8685050505 and Mr. Raman Arora - Phone No. 7827926395 for further details/information.

Date : 24-05-2022, Place : Bangalore

Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ

punjab national bank

(Govt. Of India Undertaking)

Oriental

United

ZONAL SASTRA, KOLKATA, United Tower, 3rd floor, 11, Hemanta Basu Sarani, Kolkata 700001, Email : zs8350@pnb.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

The under mentioned party is hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against you under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and the notice under section 13(2) of the Act sent to you by courier which seems to be not delivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice to pay the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the bank will proceed against the below mentioned property to realize its dues with interest and costs as contemplated under the act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the bank.

Your attention is hereby drawn to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Guarantor, Amount Outstanding	Description of the Immovable Property
1. Sh Rajeev Agarwal (Guarantor of NPA A/C M/S Indian Pulp & Paper Pvt.Ltd.(Borrower)) Address: House K-5/10, Model Town, Phase - III, Adarsh Nagar, North West Delhi for New VTC, Delhi 110009 Amount Outstanding as on 17.05.2021 ₹ 56,58,18,359.58 (Rs Fifty Six crores fifty eight lacs eighteen thousand three hundred fifty nine and fifty eight paise only) under consortium arrangement with further interest plus incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. excluding recovery thereafter until payment in full in the NPA A/C M/s Indian Pulp & Paper P. Ltd.	2BHK residential flat no 501 on 5 th floor ,measuring 814 sqft carpet area equivalent to 75.62 sqmtrs, C Wing in the buidng known as "Kaatyani Residency", in the society known as Kaatyani Cooperative Housing Society Ltd * constructed on land bearing Plot bearing CTS No 83 A & 62A/1, Village-Mulgaon at off Mahakali Caves Road Andheri (East) Mumbai 400093, Taluka Andheri, MSD and still car parking no 25, building structure consisting of RCC still+ground and 7 upper floors and have elevators, standing in the name of Sh Rajeev Agarwal, bounded : on the East by : D Wing/Open plot, West by : Road/Atma Darshan Centre, North by : Soverdia House, South by : Road No 11/Katyani Business Centre.

Date of Demand Notice : 18.05.2021

Date : 21.05.2022

Place : New Delhi

Authorised Officer

Punjab National Bank

“IMPORTANT”

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SBI

STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800001

Ph. No. (Office) : 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail : sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 08.06.2022 (Wednesday) for recovery of Rs. 1,32,58,083.00 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Two Lacs Fifty Eight Thousand & Eighty Three only) as on 21.09.2020 with further interest, cost, charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc, less deposit / recovery made thereafter, if any, due to the secured creditor from Borrower M/s Dr. A.B. Mishra Diagnostic Centre, Prop. Dr. Satyendra Nath Mishra S/o Late Dr. A.B. Mishra & Guarantor, Dr. Mrs. Urmila Mishra W/o Dr. Satyendra Nath Mishra.

Sl. No.	Description of the property (Property Id for e-auction : SBIN89616565586)	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Increment Amt
1.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: All that part and parcel of the land/building in the name of Dr. Smt. Urmila Mishra W/o Dr. Satyendra Nath Mishra vide Sale deed No - 1757 dated 14/02/2012 located at Mouza - Baijla, Sasaram - Ara Road within Halka No - 05, Thana - Sasaram, Thana No - 162, Registration sub-District- Sasaram, Distt - Rohtas, Bihar, Chak Khata No - 44, Chak Plot No - 289, Area - 7 Kattha (21.875 Decimal). Boundaries of the land are:- North- Shri Pramod Dubey, South- Aniruddha Dubey, East- Ganga Deyal Dubey, West- Bihar Sarkar.	₹ 99,00,000.00		₹ 9,90,000.00
				₹ 20,000.00

e-Auction Terms And Condition

1. Date of e-auction: 08.06.2022 (Wednesday), Time: 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.

2. Website/podal for e-auction - <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.

3. The General Terms & Conditions are available on - <https://sbi.co.in/hnbv/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>. This publication is also a 15 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

NB: 15 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice, this E-auction Sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.

Date : 20.05.2022

Place : Sasaram

AUTHORISED OFFICER

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

SBI State Bank of India

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001

Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable/Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable/immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the CONSTRUCTIVE/PHYSICAL POSSESSION of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 28.06.2022 (Tuesday). Other details of the e-auction are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Description of the property	Name of Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date of 13(2) Date of 13(4) under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold	EMD	Bid Increment Amount
1.	M/s United Polymers (Proprietor: Sri Mukesh Kumar, Sri Bhola Nath Mahto, Sri Rakesh Raushan)	Rs. 27,90,963.40/- as on 30.05.2020 with further Interest from 31.05.2020 plus other charges, costs etc.	Movable Property: Plat & Machinery situated at Factory of M/s United Polymers located at Mouza-Mannipur, Khata No.-55, Khesra No.795, Thana No.59, Halka No.08, Anchal Vaishali, Registry Office-Lalganj, Distt.- Hajipur, Vaishali described as under: Extdr Machine (1Pcs) Plastic Bag Cutting & Sealing Machine 28" with conveyor (1Pcs), Machinery Parts with Blade Set (2 Pcs) Machines Electric Parts (1 Pcs) Carring Bagpunching Machines with Punch Set + White Shirt (1 Pcs).	M/s United Polymers (Proprietor: Sri Mukesh Kumar, Sri Bhola Nath Mahto, Sri Rakesh Raushan)	03.06.2020	₹23,00,000/-		₹23,000/-
					26.02.2021 (Constructive Possession)	₹10,000/-		
						₹19,56,000/-		
						₹1,95,600/-		
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THE IDEAS PAGE

India & Quad’s technopolitik

The US is eager to strengthen India’s technological capabilities for defence and security. Delhi needs to move quickly to create internal environment for such partnerships with Quad members



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN’S decision to begin his first visit to Asia at a semiconductor facility in South Korea underlines the role of critical technologies in his Indo-Pacific strategy. Calling his visit to the Samsung plant an “auspicious start”, Biden noted that the chips produced at the plant “are the key to propelling us into the next era of humanity’s technological development — artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, 5G, and so very much more”.

Referring to the impact of Covid-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the global economy, Biden emphasised the importance of reorienting technology supply chains away from countries that don’t share common values. The way forward, according to Biden, is to procure “more of what we need from our allies and partners and bolster our supply chain resilience”.

For Prime Minister Narendra Modi — who is participating in today’s summit of the Quadrilateral Forum that brings together Delhi, Canberra, Tokyo, and Washington — this is a major opportunity to enhance India’s national technological capabilities that can be the source of robust security and economic policies.

But is Delhi ready to go beyond its cautious and incremental approach to the Quad? Can it turn the Quad into an instrument to realise India’s significant potential as a technological power? Can India join its Quad partners in drawing up new rules to govern critical technologies that are rapidly transforming the global economic order and international security politics?

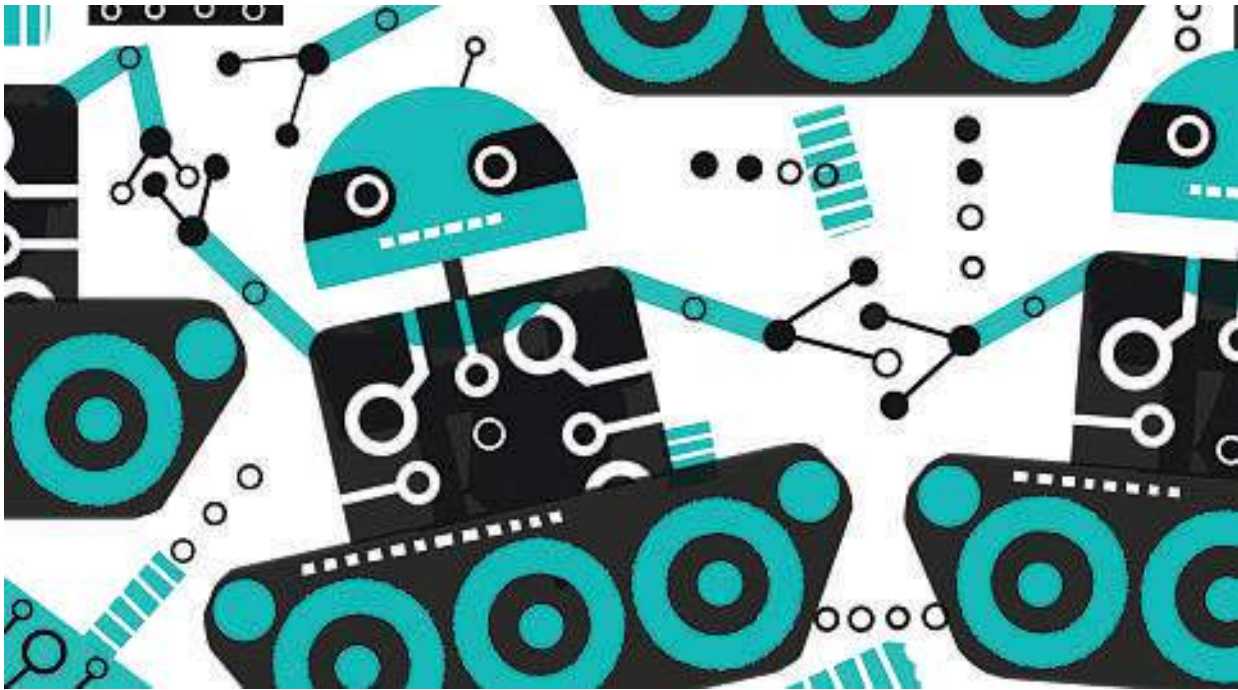
Reports from Tokyo say India will combine its space and maritime resources with those of the Quad partners to counter the growing problem of illegal and unregulated fishing in their vast exclusive economic zones. The possibilities for pooling India’s technological resources with its Quad partners to promote peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific are immense.

The question of peace today is not limited to Europe amid the war in Ukraine. The impact of the Ukraine war on the Asian economy and security is coming into sharp view in this week’s high-powered diplomacy in Asia. Although Biden is unlikely to mention Beijing by name, there is no question that China’s muscular assertiveness is the driving force behind the Administration’s Indo-Pacific strategy.

One of the main objectives of Biden’s visit is to demonstrate that the US can simultaneously handle the Russian aggression in Europe and the Chinese challenge in Asia.

While the Russian invasion of Ukraine is an urgent priority, the Biden Administration is insisting that China remains the more demanding and longer-term challenge for the US. In a counter-intuitive turn, the Ukraine crisis has improved US prospects in the Indo-Pacific. Xi Jinping’s all-out support for Vladimir Putin has not panned out well and has helped Washington rustle up support for its Indo-Pacific initiatives.

If many in the Indo-Pacific scoffed at the idea of a “rules-based order”, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the first principles of such an order — respect for territorial



C R Sasikumar

integrity, peaceful resolution of disputes, and no violent change in national borders. For the first time since the Second World War, the Ukraine war has reversed the positions of the West and China on the question of territorial sovereignty so deeply valued by the Asian nations. It is the US and the West that are defending the sovereignty of states in Europe and Asia, while Russia and China are grabbing the territory of other states by force. As Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida affirmed, Russia’s Ukraine invasion “shakes the very foundation of the international order” and that such “unilateral attempts to alter the status quo cannot be tolerated anywhere in the world.”

India might not say this directly about Russia’s invasion, but it has underlined the principles of territorial sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes in its response to the war in Ukraine. After all, India faces enduring threats to its territorial integrity from China.

Fear of Ukraine-like military aggression by China against Taiwan and in the disputed islands of the Western Pacific has pushed Japan and South Korea to take bolder steps in building national defence capabilities, strengthening the alliance with the US, and taking a larger regional role. Greater technological collaboration between the US and its northeast Asian allies is emerging as a major pillar of Indo-Pacific security. The US is also eager to strengthen India’s technological capabilities for defence and security. Techno-military cooperation figured prominently in the 2+2 dialogue of defence and foreign ministers last month in Washington and is expected to be an important part of the conversation between Biden and Modi.

These developments follow the pattern set by the AUKUS alliance, under which London and Washington plan to help Australia build nuclear-powered submarines and acquire other advanced military technologies.

The question of technology is also at the core of the new Indo Pacific Economic Framework launched in Tokyo on Monday. The IPEF visualises cooperation across the region on fair trade, digital commerce, resilient supply chains, and clean energy among other issues. Progress on many of these fronts depends on technological collaboration between like-minded partners. For India, which is not part of any region-wide trade agreement, the

Fear of Ukraine-like military aggression by China against Taiwan and in the disputed islands of the Western Pacific has pushed Japan and South Korea to take bolder steps in building national defence capabilities, strengthening the alliance with the US, and taking a larger regional role. Greater technological collaboration between the US and its northeast Asian allies is emerging as a major pillar of Indo-Pacific security. The US is also eager to strengthen India’s technological capabilities for defence and security. Techno-military cooperation figured prominently in the 2+2 dialogue of defence and foreign ministers last month in Washington and is expected to be an important part of the conversation between Biden and Modi.

IPEF opens the door for economic reengagement with Asia. IPEF offers a very different setting than the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) that binds 15 Asian nations in a trade liberalisation agreement. India had walked out of the RCEP, just before it was finalised in November 2019, citing the economic threat from China as the main reason. While India might have reservations, Delhi has been right in deciding to join the consultations on IPEF.

If the IPEF is about recasting the techno-economic relations of Asia and the AUKUS is a techno-military alliance, the Quad has become the vehicle to shape the techno-politics of the Indo-Pacific. The Tokyo summit will review the range of decisions taken at last year’s Washington condave on advancing technological collaboration in a wide range of areas. These include vaccine production, clean energy, biotechnology, cybersecurity, and outer space to name a few. While the ambition is impressive, the Quad needs to demonstrate effective implementation and tangible benefits to the Indo-Pacific states.

In the end, the Quad’s technopolitik is about boosting the national capabilities of its members. In his remarks at the South Korean semiconductor plant, Biden pointed out that Samsung is only one of the three companies in the world making advanced chips. He thanked Samsung for deciding to invest \$17 billion to build a similar semiconductor plant in Texas.

Biden also underlined his Administration’s efforts to revitalise the US semiconductor industry that once dominated the world. He also pointed to the plans to significantly raise research and development funding in the US. The idea is to facilitate technological innovation at home and build resilient supply chains with trusted partners to cope with multiple domestic and global challenges at hand.

This is an even more urgent strategic imperative for India’s security and economic policies. Delhi needs to move quickly and boldly to create the right internal environment for technological leapfrogging and seize the emerging external opportunities for deeper technological partnerships with the US and the Quad.

The writer is Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Blaming the nebulous ‘foreign hand’ for creating trouble within our borders is an age-old method used by the security agencies to shift the responsibility, often for their own lapses, elsewhere.” —DAWN, PAKISTAN

Idea of India, before and beyond

Its roots precede 1947, and celebrate diversity, dissent and democracy



SANTISHREE
DHULIPUDI PANDIT

REDUCING INDIA TO a civic nation bound only by the Constitution disregards its history, ancient heritage, culture and civilisation. I would describe India as a “civilisation state”. There have been writings since time immemorial, where you have this concept. It predates the freedom struggle and the arrival of those who eventually made India their homeland. There is a challenge of distorted history. E H Carr’s dictum, “Facts are sacred, interpretations vary”, has unfortunately been overturned in independent India: “Interpretations are sacred, facts can vary”. This is dangerous. Indian civilisation preached “ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti”, the truth may be one but there are different parts to it. This is the basic essence of the celebration of diversity, dissent, difference, as well as democracy.

Why are we today trying to re-emphasise this point? It’s because we are made to imagine our history with self-loathing and self-hatred. There is a huge bias, agenda-setting as well as gatekeeping. And it is extremely important that we revisit these ideas and look into the gaps.

The idea of India is not a post-independence idea. The Rig Veda defined the geographical existence of Bharatavarsha as well as the Sapta Sindhu, a land encompassing seven principal rivers. The Vishnu Purana described the geographical location of Bharatavarsha. Composed in the 2nd century BC, it says that the land that lies to the north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains is called Bharat. The word “rashtra” was used in the Rig Veda, Yajur Veda and the Atharva Veda. Rashtra is not only a merely geopolitical concept, it is also a civilisational concept, and “rashtra bhakti” is the subconscious feeling of being an Indian or a person belonging to this great civilisation.

I would like to talk about some of the thinkers who, I think, are less discussed. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first to say, “Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it”. To inject the spirit of nationalism and awareness among the people, he started the Ganesh festival and Shivaji Mahotsav. Another person I’d like to talk about is Gopal Krishna Gokhale, who said politics should be a service and not a profession. Young scholars must use these narratives which are available in the writings of many of the Indian freedom fighters. Unfortunately, we have forgotten all these great nationalists.

There was also Subramania Bharati, known as Mahakavi Bharati to Tamil speakers for his outstanding contributions to nationalism and to Tamil literature. In his writings, he talked about the intangible cultural heritage of India and the unity of this culture. He thought that all languages and literatures of India have a single origin. Bharati was ahead of his time. He also spoke about

women’s liberation. Many people believe that feminism or women’s rights movements began only with Marx and ended there. The first feminists are Draupadi and Sita. Who could be a greater feminist than Draupadi, or Sita, who is the first single mother? These concepts were not invented by the West. I’d also like to mention Subramaniya Siva, and two Telugu writers called Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya, who said the nation is not its sand and mud but its people, and Kandukuri Veeresalingam, who was like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, a great reformer from the south.

The great writer, Ananda K Coomaraswamy said the highlight of Indian civilisation is the dance of Lord Shiva. The images of Lord Shiva in his Nataraja avatar vary amongst themselves in minor details, but all express one fundamental conception: our Lord is the dancer who, like the heat latent in firewood, diffuses his power into the mind and matter and makes them dance. Cosmic activity is the central motif of the dance. Creation arises from the drum, protection proceeds from the hand of hope, destruction comes from fire and the foot held afloat gives release. You see this argument about Lord Shiva’s dance as the highlight of the Indian civilisational trait in the Cholas, who occupied the Indo Pacific regions called the Sriwijaya and Suvarnabhumi. The image of Lord Shiva was their ruling symbol.

When you’re a civilisational state, it is expected that we build narratives which can become norms in international relations, in all aspects of life. The Cholas did not conquer by genocide, rape or loot, but by culture, trade and commerce. If you look for an alternative paradigm, you have this. When we talk of cultural nationalism, it should help us to define certain very important identifying characteristics that India needs in order to be a norm builder, a shared value system which includes the acceptance of international norms.

India’s contribution to multiculturalism and cultural pluralism is extraordinarily important. And it is here that we also have the world-centric paradigm of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam against the state-centric paradigm. And we also believe in a nature-centric paradigm, not an anthropocentric paradigm. We believe that human beings are a part of the cosmos, where every other living and non-living thing has equal space, and a function that has been created for them. Lord Gautama, the Buddha, was the first dissenter and we celebrate dissent.

At one point, 2,000 years ago, Tamil was the lingua franca of traders across Southeast Asia. These were not Indian colonies, but proto-states that took on the Hindu apparatus of religion, and concepts of kingship to enhance their position and status. While communities of Indian traders settled in important ports along Southeast Asia, they never crossed the line into becoming colonisers. This is our civilisation, we never colonised anybody: Indian civilisation is something that celebrates development, democracy, diversity, difference, and dissent.

Dhulipudi Pandit is vice-chancellor, JNU, Delhi. Edited excerpted from a speech delivered at the seminar, “Revisiting the ideas of India from ‘Swaraj’ to ‘New India’” at the University of Delhi, on May 20



JAYNA KOTHARI

No case for exception

Marital rape provision must go, it violates right to equality in marriage, family

THE SPLIT VERDICT of the Delhi High Court in the challenge to the marital rape exception has brought to light deeply divided notions of equality within marriage. This question will now have to be addressed by the Supreme Court but this judgment reveals how hard it is to abolish the idea of women’s subordinate status within marriage. While our courts have upheld gender equality at the workplace, affirmed transgender rights and protected against sexual-orientation discrimination, when it comes to equality within marriage and the family, the status quo remains.

Out of the two opinions, the judgment by Justice Shakti Chandra clearly holds that the marital rape exception in Section 375 of the IPC is violative of women’s fundamental rights under Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(a) and 21 and that it should be removed.

The judgment by Justice Hari Shankar held that the marital rape exception in Section 375 does not violate the right to equality of married women and this is the opinion that I am going to discuss. The Court holds that: “She has, nonetheless, by her decision to marry the man, given, to him, the right to expect meaningful conjugal relations with her. If the wife refuses, and the husband, nonetheless, has sex with her, howsoever one may disapprove (of) the act, it cannot be equated with the act of ravishing by a stranger... Disagreements, in married life, are but natural and on occasion, may even lend strength to the marital bond. These disagreements could also extend to the

bedroom. A husband may, on occasion, compel his wife to have sex with him, though she may not be inclined.” Thus, the refusal of a woman to have sex with her husband is seen as a mere disagreement in the bedroom which need not be taken seriously.

The dominant manner in which our courts have been framing theories of equality and equal protection of the laws under the Constitution has been inadequate, and this has muted the force of the constitutional challenges to the marital rape exception. As argued by Robin West in her 1990 article on marital rape exceptions in the US, formal equality theories have skewed and limited our understanding of how we should make the promise of equal protection of the laws a reality.

Article 14 of the Constitution states that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. A test of Article 14 has been that any classification in legislation must be based on some “intelligible differentia”, which must have a rational nexus with the object sought to be achieved by the legislation. This test of “intelligible differentia” is based on the formal theory of equality that likes must be treated alike and unequals should not be treated similarly. By relying on this test, Justice Shankar held that the distinction between married and unmarried women was a reasonable classification and hence, the exception to treat married women differently within rape law was valid

as the aim of the legislation was the protection of the institution of marriage.

Relying on such a test takes no account of the unequal impact of this legislation on married women. It is for this reason that the formal theory of equality has been rejected and courts have evolved a framework of substantive equality. Where a distinction is created for any class of persons, it would amount to discrimination if it perpetuates prejudice or stereotyping, which leads to disadvantages. By making an exception to sexual assault within marriage, the role of women within marriage is based on stereotypes that subordinate women into specific sex roles at home, thereby denying them any individual freedom or dignity. In the Joseph Shine case, which was a challenge to the criminal offence of adultery, the Supreme Court held that Section 497 was a provision steeped in stereotypes about women and their subordinate role in marriage. A reliance on substantive equality would, therefore, require us to ask whether making an exception for such a separate class of women who are married furthers the subordination of women vis-à-vis men. Asking such a question would reveal that the marital rape exception would amount to discrimination and a violation of the right to equality.

One of the grounds for justifying the exception by the court was that marriage is an institution which “reflects complete emotional and psychological unity between the man and the woman”. The reality is far from

this. The National Family Health Survey-5 states that 29.3 per cent married women experience spousal physical and sexual violence. This shows that a third of the marriages in our country are structures of violence for women. Further, a claim that non-consensual sexual intercourse by a husband would cause less anguish to women than by total strangers is a myth. Almost 90 per cent of cases of sexual assault faced by women are by known persons and the impact of known persons committing sexual violence is far more than a crime committed by a stranger.

Finally, does the exception give married women “equal protection of the laws”, which the right to equality promises? Does not the “equal protection of the law” under Article 14 minimally guarantee equal protection to women under the Indian Penal Code against sexual assault, regardless of their marital status? By denying such equal protection, solely on the ground of gender and marital status, women are not recognised as rights-bearing persons within the marriage who have equal protection of laws against violent sexual assault.

The object of the State in enacting Section 375 is not to protect marriages, but to protect all women against violent sexual assault. This constitutional fight must lead to the abolishment of all remnants of the marital exemption if we want full equality for women.

The writer is executive director, Centre for Law & Policy Research, Bengaluru

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DANGEROUS PATH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Balance and check’ (IE, May 23). The way the Gyanvapi-Kashi Vishwanath case progresses will have a bearing on the secular future of India, which seems to be under increasing pressure of late. Securing the shivling site while allowing namaz to continue is the best the apex court could have done in the present circumstances, but the moot question remains: Where do we go from here? Will the political fundamentalists rest in peace till the upheavals start? In cases like this, going by facts alone is fraught with dangerous consequences. The focus should be to arrive at a harmonious conclusion, which must unequivocally state that “digging into the past” and “correcting historical mistakes” is like opening a can of worms. Should we take one step forward and two steps back? It is for the honourable judges to decide.

Vijai Pant, Tempur

NO REVENGE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A civilisational question at Gyanvapi’ (IE, May 23). The question that needs to be asked is: Where should we stop in reclaiming mosque sites for rebuilding temples? And, should the same logic should apply to other religious sites allegedly destroyed for building temples. Correcting the past is a perilous path and can easily shatter unity and peace. The way forward should be based on harmony and concord, not on retribution and punishment. This is what our civilisation

teaches us.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

TIMELY CUT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Welcome relief’ (IE, May 23). One has to infer that two reasons could have prompted the government to make its sudden announcement of duty cuts on petroleum products. They are: The common man’s resentment over galloping prices of essential commodities and state assembly elections. However, the reduction in taxes cannot be called significant as piecemeal increases have already been made. It is for the Centre to ensure that the benefits are delivered to consumers.

SS Paul, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Welcome relief’ (IE, May 23). High fuel taxes have worsened the economic pain brought on by domestic and global factors. Just the central excise revenue from petrol and diesel has more than doubled over the last four years. States have tended to tax even more. The net result is filling up the tank has become nightmarish. Businesses and consumers have something to lift their spirits with cut in central excise duty. With the Centre suggesting that state governments match the its price cut, the lowering of fuel prices by even few rupees would be a significant boost for the public. Kerala has responded by reducing state taxes on fuels. Other states should do the same.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Anil**, S/o Kamal Singh, R/o 130/67, Patel Chest Dhakka Gaon, Mukherji Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 29/19 u/s 135 Electricity Act** registered at **PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi**, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person Anil, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Anil, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Anil, of case **FIR No. 29/19 u/s 135 Electricity Act PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi**, is required to appear before this court or me to answer the said complaint on or before **23.08.2022**.

By order
Sh. Arul Varma,
Special Judge,
Electricity Court-02, Central Room No. 314,
Tis Hazari Courts,
New Delhi

DP/2314/N/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE**SHABNAM**

General public is here by informed that this female namely Shabnam D/o Ikram Khuresi R/o E-70, Manglapuri, Palam, New Delhi **Age : 23 years, Face: Round, Height : 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Build: Medium**, wearing light green colour kurta, blue colour lehagi and clothes shoes in feet, has been missing since 30.04.2022 from the area of P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 61-A dated 02.05.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing female may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO : P.S. Palam Village,**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **New Delhi**
Fax: 24368639, **Tel. No. : 011-25365980,**
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 **25365981**

DP/1191/SW/22

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was admitted due to illness in LNJP Hospital, Delh. During the treatment declared brought dead by doctor dated 11.05.2022 at about 05.00 PM. In this regard DD No. 100A dated 11.05.2022 has been lodged in P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at MAMC Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Vinod, S/o:Unknown, R/o-Unknown, Age: 50 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Dark, Face-Long, Built-Thin, Wearing: Green and white shirt and red colour shorts.

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

SHO
P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23230623, 8750870424

DP/1464/CD/2022

UT ADMINSTARATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL & HEALTH SERVICES, SILVASSA
No. DMHS/EST/NAMOMERI/Advt/Dean/2022/89/3049 Date: 19/05/2022



For details please scan QR code
dnh.gov.in
medical.cooperation.dnh@gmail.com
Tel: 0260 - 2642940

ADVERTISEMENT
Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu invites application from eligible candidates for the post of Dean on Short term contract basis under NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute, DNH&DD, Silvassa

Last date of receiving application is 29/05/2022

O/o Director, Medical & Health Department, Shri Vinoba Bhawe Civil Hospital, Silvassa, DNH
No.IP/DMNN/25/2022-23/579 Dt. 23/05/2022

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur Dt., West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.:03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Tenders under Two Part bidding system are invited for the following:-

1. REPAIR AND INTERNAL RE-PAINTING OF B & C TYPE RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 008/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2022-23. [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 95 LAKH]
2. CONSTRUCTION OF LIBRARY BUILDING IN SALBONI, TENDER NO. 01/SAL/CSR/2022-23. [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 53.10 LAKH]
3. SUPPLY OF HDPE BAG (TYPE - A & B) AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 009/SAL/PUR/2022-23. [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 48.52 LAKH]
4. SUPPLY OF PVC BANDING FILM – 20 MM & 40 MM AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 010/SAL/PUR/2022-23. [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 43 LAKH]

Last date of submission of all the above tenders is **24.06.2022 by 11:30 Hrs.** For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further extension or amendment/s, if any will be uploaded on our website only.

General Manager

प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान
Institute for Plasma Research
Bhat, Gandhinagar – 382 428 Gujarat (India)
भाट, गांधीनगर – ३८२ ४२८ गुजरात, (भारत)

TENDER NOTICE

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-निविदा मांड के माध्यम से योग्य बोलीकर्ताओं से दो भागों में ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।
Online tenders are invited in **Two Parts** THROUGH e-tendering mode from and Eligible Bidders for the following works.

1. कार्य का नाम:	TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL/01/2022 (Two Bid System) आईपीआर कैम्पस, प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान, भाट, गांधीनगर-382428, गुजरात में मौजूदा कार्यशाला भवन का मरम्मत और नवीनीकरण।
Name of Work :	Repairing and Renovation of existing workshop Building at Institute for Plasma Research Campus, Bhat, Gandhinagar. (IPR)-382428, Gujarat.
2. कार्य का नाम:	TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL/02/2022 (Two Bid System) आईपीआर कैम्पस, प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान, भाट, गांधीनगर-382428, गुजरात में बोलीबॉल कोर्ट, बैडमिंटन कोर्ट और क्रिकेट पिच सहित मैदानों का निर्माण और उन्नयन।
Name of Work :	Construction and up gradation of Playgrounds including volleyball court, badminton court and cricket pitch at Institute for Plasma Research Campus, Bhat, Gandhinagar. (IPR)-382428, Gujarat.
3. कार्य का नाम:	TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL/03/2022 (Two Bid System) एफसीआईडीपी परिसर, प्लॉट नंबर ४/10/बी, जीआईडीसी, सेक्टर-25, गांधीनगर-382016 गुजरात में विविध सिलिल रखखा और निर्माण कार्य।
Name of Work :	Miscellaneous Civil Maintenance and Construction works at FCIPPT campus, Plot No. A/10/B, GIDC, Sector – 25, Gandhinagar.–382016, Gujarat.

निविदा दस्तावेज विस्तृत निविदा सूचना के साथ <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> पर नि:शुल्क देखने तथा डाउनलोड करने के लिए उपलब्ध है।

Detailed tender notice and Tender Document for the respective work is available on website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for free view and downloading.

इस निविदा सूचना की प्रति देखने के लिए संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर भी उपलब्ध है।

A copy of this tender notice is also available on the Institute's website for viewing only <http://www.ipr.res.in/documents/tenders.html>

support.civiltenders@ipr.res.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT/PO- NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK-753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email- serw_kpd@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online RCK - 15/22 Letter No.- 1171 Date:- 19.05.2022

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work : Periodical Maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY road in the District of Kendrapara
2. Class of Contractor : Special Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- c) Estimated cost more then Rs. 6.00 Crore & upto Rs. 15.00 Crore : A & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- c) Estimated cost more then Rs. 3.00 Crore & upto Rs. 6.00 Crore : B & A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- c) Estimated cost more then Rs. 40.00 Lakh & upto Rs. 3.00 Crore : As specified in the column-8 of the Annexure.
3. Time for Completion : As per Annexure attached
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK - 15/22	27.05.2022 at 11.00 AM	10.06.2022 to 5.00 PM	09.06.2022 up to 1.00 PM	13.06.2022 at 11.30 AM	Will be Intimated Later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
OIPR-25129/11/0014/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
O-310

No.-Tender Online RWC 10/22 Letter No.-1875 Date:- 19.05.2022

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work : Bridge Works under Biju Setu Yojana for the year 2021-22 under Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.
2. Class of Contractor : Special Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- a) Estimated cost more then Rs. 6.00 Crore & upto Rs. 15.00 Crore : A & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- b) Estimated cost more then Rs. 3.00 Crore & upto Rs. 6.00 Crore : B & A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- c) Estimated cost more then Rs. 40.00 Lakh & upto Rs. 3.00 Crore : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure.
3. Time for Completion : As per Annexure attached
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RCK - 10/22	27.05.2022 at 11.00 AM	16.06.2022 to 5.00 PM	16.06.2022 up to 2.00 PM	17.06.2022 at 11.30 AM	Will be Intimated Later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR-25097/11/0013/2223

यू०पी० प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि०
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम)
CIN:U15209UP1976SGC004285

पंजाक- 213/पीसीएल/जी.एम./जोन-2/बरेली/प्रकाशन दिनांक : 23.05.2022

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा-सूचना

इस कार्यालय के निम्नलिखित निविदा सूचना संख्या द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उनका ई-निविदा <http://etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 24.05.2022 से 07.06.2022 के अग्रहण 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है।

क्रसं.	निविदा सूचना संख्या	कार्य का नाम
1	06/पीसीएल/जीएम/जोन-2/बरेली/2022-23 दिनांक 23.05.2022	राजकीय इस्टर कॉलेज, बिचपुरी, जनपद रामपुर का निर्माण कार्य
2	07/पीसीएल/जीएम/जोन-2/बरेली/2022-23 दिनांक 23.05.2022	जनपद शाहजहांपुर में कनूरवा गांधी बालिका विद्यालय-लिलर में हॉस्टल बिल्डिंग का निर्माण कार्य
3	08/पीसीएल/जीएम/जोन-2/बरेली/2022-23 दिनांक 23.05.2022	राजकीय आईटीआईआई, जलालाबाद जनपद शाहजहांपुर में टाइप-3 एवं टाइप-1 आवासों का निर्माण कार्य

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर भी दिनांक 24.05.2022 से देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक
जोन-2, बरेली

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
FBI DivisionTangmarg
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh e-NIT No.19 OF 2022-23 Dated:-21-05-2022
JJM

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

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

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

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

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	21-05-2022
ii	Document Download Start Date	21-05-2022
iii	Clarification Start date	22-05-2022 from 10:AM
iv	Clarification End date	22-05-2022 up to 6 :P.M
v	Bid sub mission Start date	23-05-2022from 10:AM
V	Bid submission End date	28-05-2022at 4:00 P.M.
vi	Date of Bid opening	30-05-2022 at 3:00 P.M.

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

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

3. The E-Challan/Treasury Challan of provisions E-Nits will be accepted in the fresh Nit.

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

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

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

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

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

8. Queries by email if any should be made at kmrphleba@gmail.com.

ANNEXURE I
SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (FBI) Division	Estimat ed cost (in Lacs)	Time of completion (Days)	Class of Contractor
1.	WSS Hajibal Shalgam	Retrofitting of WSS Hajibal Shalgam by way of laying Raw Water Main/Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of chain link fencing around various structures construction of Sluice Chamber revamping of SSFP, Construction of Saddle Blocks/supporting pillars to RWM , repair/renovation to existing Chowkidar Quarter under JJM		144.94	90 days	AAY
2.	WSS Hariwatno oKilwara	Retrofitting of WSS Hariwatnoo Kilwara by way of laying Raw Water Main/Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of chain link fencing around various structures construction of Sluice Chamber revamping of SSFP, Construction of Saddle Blocks/supporting pillars to RWM , repair/renovation to existing Chowkidar Quarter under JJM	Tangmarg	131.74	90 days	AAY

No. FBID/CC/1316-26 Date: 21.05.2022 DIPK-2450

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
FBI Division Tangmarg

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
(JAL SHAKTI) PHE, GROUND WATER DIVISION, NOWSHERA, SGR.
GIST OF E-TENDER.
e-N.I.T. No: PHE/GWDS/ 06 of 05/2022

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system with 50 meters depth from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Prog.	Technical Sanction
01	Construction of (07 No) 125 mm dia machine drilled hand pump wells in District Kupwara.	Rs.18.50 Lacs	Rs. 37,000/-	Rs. 1000/-	30 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	B2V Phase -3 rd	PHE/GWD/ 08 of 05/2022

AAA Accredited Order No.: 317-DDCK of 2020 Dated: 02-11-2020

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	21-05-2022 (04:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	21-05-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 30-05-2022 (02.00 P.M)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	21-05-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 30-05-2022 (02.00 P.M)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	31-05-2022 at (02:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar/Kashmir-190011	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	
9.	The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who possess valid registration certificate of construction of 125mm dia machine drilled Hand pump wells.	

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division, Srinagar.

No: PHE/GWDS/720.
Dated: 21-05-2022.
DIPK-2467

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
e-TENDER NOTICE
THE NOTICE OF DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, GHOD PROJECT DIVISION, JUNNAR
Near Tahasil Office, Junnar, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune, PIN-410502
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 11/2022-2023

Deputy Conservator of Forest, Ghod Project Forest Division, Junnar invites the Tender from the Consultancy who are registered with Government of Maharashtra. To view the Tender Notice, detailed Time Schedule pre-qualification criteria for this Tender and subsequently to download pre-qualification document kindly visit e-Tendering website of Government of Maharashtra is <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason is reserved by Deputy Conservator of Forest, Ghod Project Forest Division, Junnar. The tender with the condition will not be accepted.

Notice No. : NOTICE No.12
Tender ID : 2022_HFFN_797299_1
Work Name : Request for Proposals for Project Management Consultancy for Construction of Leopard Safari, Walking Trail and Ancillary Works.
Amount : 00.00
Work Place : At- Ambegavhan/ Kuran, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune
Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time : Dt. 20/05/2022, Time: 12.00 PM
Close for Price Bid Date & Time : Dt. 25/05/2022, Time: 11.00 AM

All information of e-Tendering is available on the following website:
1) <http://mahatender.gov.in> (If there are any changes in this Tender Notice, the information will be communicated on the website)
2) Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest, ghod Project Forest Division, Junnar Information Panel.

Outward No. B/(D-1)/Plan/e-Tender/65/2022-2023 (Sd/-)
Junnar-410502. Date 11/05/2022 - Deputy Conservator of Forest
(dgipr/2022-2023/804) Ghod Project Forest Division, Junnar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No.22 OF 2022-23 Dated:-21-05-2022
JJM

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

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

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

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

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	21-05-2022
ii	Document Download Start Date	21-05-2022
iii	Clarification Start date	22-05-2022 from 10:AM
iv	Clarification End date	22-05-2022 up to 6 :P.M
v	Bid sub mission Start date	23-05-2022from 10:AM
V	Bid submission End date	28-05-2022at 4:00 P.M.
vi	Date of Bid opening	30-05-2022 at 3:00 P.M.

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

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

3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Superintending Engineer Hyd.CircleSopore. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table.

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

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

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

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

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

ANNEXURE I
SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (FBI) Division	Estima- ted cost (in Lacs)	Time of comple- tion (Days)	Class of Contractor
1.	WSS Lalpora	WSS Lalpora by way of laying Fitting of Raw Water Main/Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of Anchor blocks/Saddle Blocks at spots under JJM		217.25	120 days	AAY
2.	WSS BatporaChichlora	WSS BatporaChichlora by way of laying Fitting of Raw Water Main, Supply Main, Sub main & distribution system at various spots including Construction of Anchor blocks/Saddle Blocks at spots under JJM	Tangmarg			



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

Floods, landslides: behind the pre-monsoon destruction in Assam

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, MAY 23

THE MONSOON brings destruction to Assam almost every year. This year, even before the monsoon's arrival, the state has already been beset by floods and landslides that have left 25 people dead and more than 7 lakh affected. The hill district of Dima Hasao has been hit particularly severely, with connectivity to the rest of the state snapped.

What is behind this unprecedented devastation?

Experts cite a combination of factors. First, extraordinarily acute pre-monsoon rains. As against the average rainfall of 461.5 mm for the period between March 1-May 23 in Assam, the corresponding amount for this year has been 737.9 mm, or an excess of 60%. That is "large excess", according to the Indian Meteorological Department. Neighbouring Meghalaya has recorded an even greater excess, at 130%.

"Normally we have rains coming in June and July when we experience big floods," said Dr D C Goswami, an eminent environmentalist and a retired professor of hydrology from Gauhati University. "This time it has come with a bang. The difference is the timing and scale." Goswami attributed the changes in "rainfall intensity, arrival and departure times" to climate change.

Partha Jyoti Das, who heads the Water, Climate and Hazard Division of the Guwahati-based environment non-profit Aaranyak, agreed. "Because of climate change, there are more and more concentrated rain and heavy rainfall episodes," he said.

It is not the rains alone; there have also been several landslides, especially in south Assam's Dima Hasao and Cachar. At least three people have been buried alive in Dima Hasao's Haflong. In one incident, mudslides washed away a portion of the rail tracks that connect the south of Assam with the rest of the country. The New Haflong railway station was severely damaged with bogeys of a



A train buried under debris following rain at New Haflong Railway station, Dima Hasao.
Debolal Gorlosa/Facebook

train overturning under the force of landslide-induced debris. Portions of the road connecting Guwahati to Dima Hasao, and to Barak Valley districts, have caved in.

But what is causing these landslides?

For one, the incessant rains in Assam since March. "Rains for a longer period of time, even if low-intensity, prepares the grounds for landslides," said Mirza Zulfikar Rahman, an independent researcher based in Guwahati.

While landslides do happen in that part of the state, the scale and the intensity have been higher than usual, Das noted. Apart from the rain, Das blamed this on the "undesirable, unpragmatic, unplanned structural intervention on the fragile landscape of hills".

A case in point is the Lumding-Badarpur railway line. Connecting Lumding in central Assam to Badarpur in south Assam and passing through Dima Hasao, it was converted into broad gauge in 2015. The work had be-

gun in 1997, but the tricky landscape and insurgency of the time delayed its progress. Besides, the project was marred by several red flags and even after its inauguration, there have been accusations about it having flouted safety norms. The current spate of landslides have affected the line at least ten spots, said railways officials.

Das said the damage suggested what many had been saying for years: that corners may have been cut in carrying out the construction.

Apart from the railway line, residents of Dima Hasao said the district itself has in recent times seen hectic construction, both of public infrastructure like roads and of private property. "Over the years, there has not only been massive deforestation for the extension of the railway line and the four-line highway, there has also been rampant riverbed mining often done in collusion with the district authorities," said Uttam Bathari, a historian and professor at Gauhati University, who hails from Haflong.

There are also allegations of roads having

been built over streams and spring water sources – the reason, many say, so many roads have caved in.

Rahman said similar hastily carried out infrastructure developmental work in Arunachal Pradesh had led to an increase in landslides in the state in recent years. This month itself, five people have been killed. "Construction is sped up in the name of national security in Arunachal and improving connectivity elsewhere in Northeast India," alleged Rahman.

What is the way forward for preventing or limiting such destruction?

Das of Aaranyak said that construction needed to be "tuned to the ecological fragility of the region". Goswami too spoke of "conscious construction" and an "integrated holistic approach across state boundaries".

Rahman suggested keeping "traditional knowledge systems in mind" and involving the local community to build "sustainable infrastructure". Blaming climate change for everything was not enough, he said.

THIS WORD MEANS

BMP-T TERMINATOR

A Russian tank support system, now deployed in Ukraine. What are its capabilities and features?



BMP-T Terminator tank support system.
Wikimedia Commons

WESTERN INTELLIGENCE inputs suggest that Russia has deployed in Ukraine the tank support system BMP-T, better known as BMP-T 'Terminator', and its new version BMP-T-72.

WHAT: The BMP-T (full form Boyevaya Mashina Podderzhki Tankov) is a fighting vehicle designed to protect Russian tanks from enemy infantry, a replacement for motorised/mechanised infantry in urban battlefields that are usually dangerous for tanks. Western military analysts believe Russia developed it after recognising the need for dedicated protection to main battle tanks it used during the Afghan and Chechen wars. In the Ukraine war, Russia appears to have inducted the Terminator due to attrition suffered by Russian tanks against anti-tank weapons provided by Western countries.

WHERE: According to the latest intelligence bulletin released by the British Ministry of Defence, Russia's only operational company of BMP-T Terminators has likely been deployed to the Severodonetsk axis of the Donbas offensive.

According to intelligence inputs with the British and several independent sightings, the presence of Terminators suggests the involvement of the Central Grouping of Forces (CGF), the only Russian Army formation fielding this vehicle. As per the bulletin, the CGF

previously suffered heavy losses while failing to break through to eastern Kyiv in the first phase of the invasion.

WEAPONRY: The list of potent weaponry that the Terminator is equipped with includes four 130 mm Ataka-T GWS launchers, two 30mm 2A42 autocannons (850 rounds), two 30mm AG-17D or two AGS-30 grenade launchers (600 rounds), one 7.62 mm PKTM machine gun (2,000 rounds). These weapons are capable of firing in multiple directions in rapid succession, thus suppressing firepower to prevent any attempt to take out the tank columns being protected.

The BMP-T destroys anti-tank targets such as infantry personnel carrying anti-tank weapons, as well as lightly and heavily armoured targets, such as tanks. The BMP-T can also be put to alternative uses and provide protection to infantry or to convoys.

The Terminator is produced by the Russian company Uralvagonzavod. Its latest upgrade is equipped with fragmenting ammunition that is essential to target enemy infantry lying in wait to destroy tanks. According to open source information, the increased gun elevation provides for engaging top floors of buildings in urban environments and also low-flying aircraft/drones.

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, MAY 23

AS THE leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue grouping of Australia, Japan, India and the United States — also known as the Quad — meet in Tokyo Tuesday for their second in-person summit, after the last one in Washington in September 2021 (they had met once in a virtual summit in March 2021), here is a look at three major themes that present challenges and opportunities for the grouping.

Distraction of Europe

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shaken up the old world order, reshaping geopolitics across the world.

As the leader of the Western alliance against Russia, the US is now deeply engaged with the war. It has already committed \$54 billion to the war effort. From February 24, the day of the invasion to now, the nature of US involvement has undergone a change, and so have its objectives. "We don't know how the rest of this war will unfold, but we do know that a sovereign, independent Ukraine will be around a lot longer than Vladimir Putin is on the scene," US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said recently.

The reinvigoration of Europe and NATO in the wake of Putin's aggression in Ukraine has made new demands on US attention and resources, prompting questions about American appetite to take on two rivals — Russia and China — at the same time, and how this might adversely impact US commitment to the Quad and the Indo-Pacific.

US President Joe Biden seemed to be responding to the sceptics with his reply to a question from a reporter in Tokyo who asked if the US would defend Taiwan militarily if it were attacked by China. "Yes," he said, "that's the commitment we made... We agree with a one-China policy. We've signed on to it and all the intended agreements made from there. But the idea that it can be taken by force, just taken by force, is just not, is just not appropriate."

Those who fear that the Biden Administration may lose focus on China, the "real" threat to the US, have been making the case for Europe strategic autonomy and security self-reliance. But there is also a growing view that this is not an "either-or" choice for the US, and that what happens in Europe is not insulated from Asia or the Indo-Pacific.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden (left) and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida (centre) in Tokyo on Monday. Reuters

The war in Ukraine also poses an internal challenge in the Quad. Three members — US, Japan and Australia — have taken an unequivocal stand against Russia's aggression, while India's position has been one of studied neutrality that calls for respect of territorial sovereignty and integrity and the UN charter, but does not criticise Russia. On Monday, India's separateness on the issue was apparent in the joint statement by Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, affirming that "the rules-based international order is indivisible; threats to international law and the free and fair economic order anywhere constitute a challenge to our values and interests everywhere... the greatest immediate challenge to this order is Russia's brutal, unprovoked, and unjustified aggression against Ukraine".

The threat of China

While China does not find mention in any official statements of the Quad by name, the four nations are joined by the shared interest of creating a strategic balance of power in the region to protect their interests in the Indo-Pacific region from what they see as China's subversion of the international order and a bid to establish its own set of rules. Every Quad statement has proxy references to China — in the repeated emphasis on a "rules based international order" and a "free and open" Indo-Pacific.

But Beijing has not been shy of branding

Quad as an "anti-China alliance". On Sunday Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called the US Indo-Pacific strategy "concocted... under the banner of 'freedom and openness'" by Washington, which was "keen to gang up with 'small circles' and change China's neighbourhood environment".

In 2008, Australia pulled out of the Quad because it did not wish to antagonise China, with which it has deep economic ties, with membership of a group seen as a mechanism to counter China. But China's militarisation, aggressive foreign policy and determined push on its territorial claims, from the Ladakh frontier with India to the seas in East Asia, had the effect of bringing the four together again in 2017, in what was called Quad 2.0. The pandemic, its controversial origins in China, and the resulting disruption of the global supply chain have also been instrumental in bringing the four closer.

However, each Quad member views the Chinese threat differently. For the US, it is about trade and Taiwan. For Australia too, trade was the biggest issue until the recent establishment of a Chinese military base in the Solomon Islands brought a new dimension. Japan and India are closest to China, and both face belligerent Chinese claims to territory.

India is the only one with a long "hot" land border with China, full of contested territorial claims, and the only one to have been

in a recent military encounter with the People's Liberation Army, in eastern Ladakh. It also faces challenges from China's inroads in its neighbours Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. While the Ladakh incursions were one reason for New Delhi to shed its earlier diffidence on Quad, it has hardly wished to provoke Beijing, whose "iron-clad" friendship with Pakistan has additionally brought home the threat of a two-front war.

How to deal with China thus remains the central question for Quad. The grouping has maintained it is not a security alliance, or an "Asian NATO" as some have termed it. In recent months however, the clamour has grown, including from India's strategic community, for injecting a security component in the grouping. One of the arguments is that this is required to deter Beijing from following friend Putin's example and pulling a Ukraine on Taiwan or elsewhere, although a case could be equally made that China, with an economy 10 times the size of Russia's, would be more cautious.

Non-security initiatives

Cutting-edge technology, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure have been described as "key battlegrounds" in the contest with China. The last Quad summit threw up an array of proposals intended to leverage the economic, scientific and technological capabilities of the four countries.

Covid vaccine manufacture; climate change initiatives, a Quad infrastructure group, cooperation in cyber-security, use of satellites for information sharing were all listed. An ambitious initiative involves critical technologies, with a working group focusing on technical standards, 5G diversification and deployment, and resilient technology supply chains.

However, over the last year, the procedural difficulties of pulling together on these initiatives have become apparent, and progress has been scant.

The Biden Administration's new trade policy, launched in Tokyo and known as the Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership, appears streamlined with these Quad initiatives. It aims to offer an alternative model to the China-dominated Trans Pacific Partnership, but how it can counter Chinese economic clout and rope in prospective partners without offering guarantees on market access remains to be seen.

ASHA: Successful public health experiment rooted in village community

EXPERT EXPLAINS

AMARJEET SINHA



THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) has recognised the contribution of India's 1 million Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is acknowledged that ASHAs facilitate linking households to health facilities, and play pivotal roles in house-to-house surveys, vaccination, public health and Reproductive and Child Health measures.

In many states, ASHAs are involved in national health programmes, and in the response to a range of communicable and non-communicable diseases. They get performance-based payments, not a fixed salary. There have been agitations demanding employee status for ASHA workers. The idea of performance-based payments was never to pay them a paltry sum — the compensa-

tion was expected to be substantial.

Genesis & evolution

The ASHA programme was based on Chhattisgarh's successful Mitani programme, in which a Community Worker looks after 50 households. The ASHA was to be a local resident, looking after 200 households. The programme had a robust thrust on the stage-wise development of capacity in selected areas of public health. Dr T Sundaraman and Dr Rajani Ved among others provided a lot of support to this process. Many states tried to incrementally develop the ASHA from a Community Worker to a Community Health Worker, and even to an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM)/General Nurse and Midwife (GNM), or a Public Health Nurse.

Important public policy and public management lessons emerge out of the successful experiment with Community Workers who were not the last rung of the government system — rather, they were of the community, and were paid for the services they rendered. The idea was to make her a part of the village community rather than a government employee.

Over 98% ASHAs belong to the village where they reside, and know every household. Their selection involved the community and key resource persons. Educational qualification was a consideration. With newly acquired skills in health care and the ability to connect households to health facilities, she was able to secure benefits for households. She was like a demand-side functionary, reaching patients to facilities, providing health services nearer home.

Building of a cadre

It is a programme that has done well across the country. As skill sets improved, recognition and respect for the ASHA went up. In a way, it became a programme that allowed a local woman to develop into a skilled health worker.

The ASHAs faced a range of challenges: Where to stay in a hospital? How to manage mobility? How to tackle safety issues? The solutions were found in a partnership among frontline workers, panchayat functionaries, and community workers. This process, along with strengthening of the public infrastructure for health with flexible financing and in-

novations under the Health Mission and Health and Wellness Centres, led to increased footfall in government facilities. Accountability increased; there would be protests if a facility did not extend quality services.

The Community Worker added value to this process. Incentives for institutional deliveries and the setting up of emergency ambulance services like 108, 102, etc. across most states built pressure on public institutions and improved the mobility of ASHAs. It created a new cadre of incrementally skilled local workers who were paid based on performance. The ASHAs brought basic health services to the doorstep of households.

Issue of compensation

There have been challenges with regard to the performance-based compensation. In many states, the payout is low, and often delayed. The original idea was never to deny the ASHA a compensation that could be even better than a salary — it was only to prevent "governmentalisation", and promote "communitisation" by making her accountable to the people she served.

There were serious debates in the Mission

Steering Group, and the late Raghuvansh Prasad Singh made a very passionate plea for a fixed honorarium to ASHAs. Dr Abhay Bang and others wanted the community character to remain, and made an equally strong plea for skill and capacity development of Community Workers. Some states incentivised ASHAs to move up the human resource/skilling ladder by becoming ANMs/GNMs and even Staff Nurses after preferential admission to such courses.

The important public policy lessons are the need to incrementally develop a local worker keeping accountability with the community, make performance-based payments, and provide a demand-side push with simultaneous augmentation of services in public systems. The system can sustain and grow only if the compensation is adequate, and the ASHA continues to enjoy the confidence of the community.

Debate over status

There is a strong argument to grant permanence to some of these positions with a reasonable compensation as sustaining motivation. The incremental development of a

local resident woman is an important factor in human resource engagement in community-linked sectors. This should apply to other field functionaries such as ANMs, GNMs, Public Health Nurses as well.

It is equally important to ensure that compensation for performance is timely and adequate. Ideally, an ASHA should be able to make more than the salary of a government employee, with opportunities for moving up the skill ladder in the formal primary health care system as an ANM/ GNM or a Public Health Nurse. Upgrading skill sets and providing easy access to credit and finance will ensure a sustainable opportunity to earn a respectable living while serving the community. Strengthening access to health insurance, credit for consumption and livelihood needs at reasonable rates, and coverage under poor-poor public welfare programmes will contribute to ASHAs emerging as even stronger agents of change.

Amarjeet Sinha is a retired civil servant who was associated with the design and capacity-building thrust of the ASHA programme for more than five years.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY 75
जानकी नगर
अजमेर महाराष्ट्र

Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/MI/OT/AMS/2022-23/04 Dtd. 20-05-2022

E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender in Two Packet System for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. (Works)

Tender No. & Name of the work	Estt.Tender Value	Bid Security
RWF/MI/OT/AMS/2022-23/04 dtd. 20/05/2022	Rs.13,53,95,918/-	Rs.8,27,000/-

Outsourcing of Machining of 4900 BOXN Axles

Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid : 20-06-2022 at 15.00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid : To be notified later.
Completion Period : 07 Months
This tender notice & Eligibility Criteria can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Dy.Chief Mechanical Engineer/AP

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/ contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow 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://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

- (A) 1. **03/GM/S.M.-WC-6/2022-23**, Name of Work :- D/o Village Parthla Khanjapur (M/o Sabji Mandi (C.C.Road, Shed, Platform, Boundary wall etc.), Noida, Cost- Rs.62.50 Lacs
2. **09/PGM/SM(WC-3)/2021-22**, Name of Work :- M/o Road (C/o Central verge of 30.00mtr wide road between Sec-43 & 44, 45) Noida, Cost- Rs.63.87 Lacs.
3. **36/Noida/PGM/SM-WC-03/2021-22**, Name of Work :- M/o Road (P/L Interlocking paver block, side drain repainting and SFRC Cover in Sector-39) Noida, Cost- Rs.53.37 Lacs.
4. **01/SM(Jal)-II/ET/22-23**, Name of Work :- Strengthening of W/s (Re-development of Tube Wells and Cleaning of OHT/UGR in different network sector-20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 70, 73, 71, 72 Village Basal and Surfabad, Noida. (For Two Years). Cost- Rs.69.12 Lacs
5. **06/SM(Jal)-II/ET/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o W/s (Repairing, Finishing and Misc. Work for T.Wells and R.Well at Network Sector-86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 140A, 107, 150 & 168), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost- Rs.62.06 Lacs
6. **05/SM-Ja-II/ET/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Sewerage (Annual Maintenance R/o Non Clog Submersible motor pump and other electrical work & R/o Sluice Valve & Reflex Valve for Network at SPS Sector-80, SPS Sector-85, SPS Phase-II & SPS-43), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost- Rs.82.45 Lacs
7. **06/SM-Jal-II/ET/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o W/s (Annual Maintenance of Booster Motor & Other Electrical work at UGR Nagla, UGR-47, Ilabans & Sector-80 & R/o V.T. Motor & Allied work at Network-80, 81, Phase-II & Various Sectors) Noida, Cost- Rs.81.57 Lacs
8. **07/SM-Ja-II/ET/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Sewerage (Repair & Raising of Manhole Cover Frame due to C.C. Road in Service Road Shanti Mandir Village-Gejha to Silver City Sector-93 & Internal different Gali Village-Gejha & C/o Manholes in Village-Gejha, Raising Manhole Cover Frame and Cleaning of Sewer Manhole in Sector-82, 92, 93, 93A, 93B, Vill-Gejha) (For Two Year) Noida., Cost- Rs. 50.90 Lacs
9. **08/SM-Ja-II/ET/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o W/s (Two Years Annual Cleaning & Repairing of OHT & UGR in Sector-45, 50(B), 142 & 144) Noida, Cost- Rs.61.76 Lacs
10. **02/NOIDA/GM/SM-WC-09/ET/2022-23**, Name of Work :- D/o Village (C/o Open Kitchen Hall & Maintenance of Community Center of Village Rohlapur), Noida, Cost- Rs.36.42 Lacs
11. **04/GM/SM-WC-04/ET/2022-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Drain (Providing and Placing of SFRC Cover on Drain in Sector-64), Noida., Cost- Rs.92.31 Lacs
12. **10/SM(Jal)-II/ET/2022-23**, Name of Work :- M/o W/s (R/o PVC Water Line in Sector-71 and 72), Noida (for Two Years). Cost- Rs.32.32 Lacs
13. **01/GM/SM(WC-8)/ET/2022-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Road (C/o Bus Shelter at infront of ATS Village & Supertech Emerald Court in Sector-93A), Noida, Cost- Rs.42.07 Lacs
14. **03/GM/SM(WC-2)/2022-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Road (Beautification and Improvement of footpath, central verge, drain near Entry Gate, Kalindikunj), Noida, Cost- Rs.73.24 Lacs.
15. **07/SM(JAL)-I/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Sewerage (Two Year Repair of Non-Clog Motor Pump (Submersible) and 250 KVA Transformer Starter and Lighting work, Repair of Sluice Valve and Reflex Valve in Network Sector-I to 7, SPS 2/5 and Sumpwell) Noida., Cost- Rs.46.88 Lacs
16. **08/SM(JAL)-I/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o W/s (Cleaning of UGR/OHT, Painting and Renovation work, R/o fire fighting, Motor Guage filling of pea-gravel and P/L interlocking tiles in Network Sector-1 to 7) Noida, Cost- Rs.43.83 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date **06.06.2022** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **07.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.**

- (B) 1. **29/SM(Jal)-II/ET/21-22**, Name of Work :- Development of Stadium (Electrical work and pumping plant at UGR stadium sector-21A), Noida., Cost- Rs.57.12 Lacs
2. **46/GM/SM(WC-6)/ET/2021-22**, Name of Work :- Resurfacing of Road (Resurfacing of roads in 5% abadi Pocket Sector-122 (DBM and BC), Noida, Cost- Rs.70.77 Lacs
3. **18/NOIDA/GM/SM-WC-09/ET/2021-22**, Name of Work :- D/o Village (C/o Chaupal in Village Raipur Sector-126), Noida., Cost- Rs.54.73 Lacs
4. **31/NOIDA/GM/SM-WC-03/2021-22**, Name of Work :- M/o Drain (C/o Drain and culvert in Block-C Sector-40) Noida., Cost- Rs.88.39 Lacs
5. **81/SM-Ja-I-III/ET/20-21**, Name of Work :- Strengthening of W/s (2000 KL Capacity) near Sarkari Pashu Hospital in Village-Barola, Providing/Fixing Booster Pump in place of V.T. Pump and Construction of Pump Room, Noida., Cost- Rs.55.98 Lacs
6. **33/SM-Jal-II/ET/21-22**, Name of Work :- M/o W/s (S/F of Line Shaft for UGR and TWs in Sector-33, 34, 35, 116, 117), Noida (For Two Year). Cost- Rs.76.51 Lacs
7. **02/SM(JAL)-I/22-23**, Name of Work :- Strengthening of Sewerage (Shifting of 600 mm dia Sewer Rising Main of SPS-115 due to Construction of Slip Road for Bistrakh Road) Noida., Cost- Rs.78.92 Lacs
8. **06/SM(JAL)-I/22-23**, Name of Work :- M/o Sewerage (Two Years Cleaning, Repairing of Sewer Manhole, P/F Manhole Cover Frame and Cleaning of Sewer Line by Portable Re-cycle Jetting Cum Section machine in Village-Harola and Network Sector-1 to 7) Noida, Cost- Rs.31.77 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date **30.05.2022** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **31.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.**

General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-31/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028.
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG1958GOI001674

CORRIGENDUM Dated : 24-05-2022

PC DEPARTMENT

Ref : (1) Tender Enquiry No: HO(PC)/DNM/KIOM/HEMM/21MT, Dated : 14-01-2022
(2) MSTC Ref. No. : NMDC/HO/78/21-22/ET/380

Name of the work : "Hiring of Plant & Mining Machineries for excavation of 210 LT (+/- 20%) of ROM and 48LT (+/- 20%) of waste / low grade iron ore in three years at the rate of 70LT (+/- 20%) of ROM and 16 LT (+/- 20%) of waste / low grade iron ore per year in KIOM and extendable by one more year with mutual consent of Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine.

Corrigendum : Corrigendum for revised NIT and Tender Documents can be viewed / Downloaded till **14-06-2022** from NMDC tenders site / MSTC website. The last date and time for submission of Tenders is extended up to 15:30 hrs on 14-06-2022.

For above tender Corrigendum including the revised Tender Documents with attachments can be viewed / Downloaded from <https://www.nmdc.co.in> website. New Users accessing the Corrigendum and Tender Documents have to register as 'New User' in Tender section at NMDC's website link <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdtender/default.aspx>. Bidders can access Corrigendum and revised Tender Documents from MSTC portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/home/nmcd/buyer_login.jsp search MSTC Ref.No. NMDC/HO/78/21-22/ET/380.

The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / MSTC websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted :
General Manager (Elect) (PC), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Tel No. +91-040-23538765, email : hopc@nmdc.co.in

Executive Director (PC)

Notice Inviting e- Tender (NIT)
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

Dated 19.05.2022

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender are invited by AIG, State Crime Records Bureau, Police Head Quarters, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item :-

No.	Name of Work	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD will be submitted through website
1.	Selection of Service Provider for Digitization of various Records under CCTNS OF MP Police Department	10,000/- (Ten Thousand only)	2,10,000/- (Two lakh ten Thousand only)

1. Tenderer has to submit their proposal online on website- <https://mptenders.gov.in>
2. Bidders must have to submit the tender fee and EMD.
3. Tender fee must be submitted online on e-tender website - <https://mptenders.gov.in> Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is not refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition.

Schedule:

Date of issue of tender on MP e procurement portal https://www.mptenders.gov.in	19.05.2022 18:00 PM
Pre Bid meeting	26.05.2022 11:30 AM
Last Date for online Submission of e-Tender	11.06.2022 up to 18:00 PM.
Date of opening of Pre-qualification and technical	13.06.2022 up to 11:00 AM.
Date of Commercial Bid Opening "Envelope B"	Will be informed to Firm qualifying Technical Bid
Place of Opening of online Bids	SCRB, PHQ, Jehangirabad, Bhopal

Sd/- AIG(SCRB)
For: ADGP
SCRB, PHQ
Bhopal

कोरेवा से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अलगाव से गन की दूरी।

G-13200/22

DELHI JAL BOARD : DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-10
TENDERING DIVISION (M)-10, ROOM No. 103, 1st FLOOR, ENGINEERS BHAWAN,
NEAR MOOL CHAND CROSSING, ANDREWS GANJ, NEW DELHI-110049
Mail: estm10.djb@gmail.com Mob.- 9650291341

NIT No. 18/EE (T) M-10/2022-23
Press Tender

S. No.	Name of work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e procurement solution
1	Dredging of balance quantity of silt from River Yamuna near intake at Wazirabad water works. (Re-invite)	Item rate	2022_DJB_222669_1 20.5.2022	4.6.2022 upto 2.00 PM

NIT No. 19/EE (T) M-10/2022-23
Press Tender

S. No.	Name of work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e procurement solution
1	Construction of CEO, DJB Camp Office at Jal Vihar under ETE(M)-41 (AC-41 Jangpura)	4791316/-	2022_DJB_222668_1 20.5.2022	3.6.2022 upto 2.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 131 (2022-23)

Sd/- (B.N. Gupta)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T) M-10

STOP CORONAVIRUS
"WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FBI DIVISION TANGMARG
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh e-NIT No. 18 OF 2022-23 Dated: 21.05.2022
JJM

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

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

Sr. No.	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost in Lacs	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Validity Period	Time of Completion of Work (in Days)
1.	Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bore along with pipe fittings and control valves. Construction of Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants. Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc. at various Water Supply schemes of FBI Division Tangmarg of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	As per ANNEXURE-I to this Bid Document	500/-	02% of the Estimated Cost	90 Days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this Bid Document

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

CRITICAL DATES:

i	Publish Date	21-05-2022
ii	Document Download Start Date	21-05-2022
iii	Clarification Start date	22-05-2022 from 10:00 AM
iv	Clarification End date	22-05-2022 up to 6 :00 P.M
iv	Bids submission Start date	23-05-2022 from 10:00 AM
v	Bid submission End date	28-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M.
vi	Date of Bid opening	30-05-2022 at 3:00 P.M.

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

ANNEXURE I SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS						
S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (FBI) Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Time of completion (Days)	Class of Contractor
1.	WSS Chandil Wanigam	Retrofitting of WSS Chandil Wanigam by way of laying Raw Water Main Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of chain link fencing around various structures construction of Sluice Chamber revamping of SSFP, Construction of Saddle Blocks/Anchor Blocks/supporting pillars to RWM , repair/renovation to existing Chowkidar Quarter under JJM	Tangmarg	128.45	90 days	AAY
2.	WSS Branner Khaipora	Retrofitting of WSS Branner Khaipora by way of laying Raw Water Main Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of chain link fencing around various structures construction of Sluice Chamber revamping of SSFP, Construction of Saddle Blocks/supporting pillars to RWM, repair/ renovation to existing Chowkidar Quarter under JJM		119.68	90 days	AAY
3.	WSS Walloo Kralpora	Retrofitting of WSS Walloo Kralpora by way of laying Raw Water Main Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of chain link fencing around various structures construction of Sluice Chamber revamping of SSFP, Construction of Saddle Blocks/supporting pillars to RWM, repair/ renovation to existing Chowkidar Quarter under JJM		101.78	90 days	AAY
4.	WSS Kungamdari Nawari	Retrofitting of WSS Kungamdari Nawari by way of laying Raw Water Main Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction of chain link fencing around various structures construction RCC Jacketing to existing SR & Construction of Saddle Block for RWM (For providing 100% FHTC) under JJM	Tangmarg	81.63	70 days	AAY
5.	WSS Rarem Boni Bani	Retrofitting of WSS Rarem Boni Bani by way of laying Raw Water Main Supply Main Sub main and distribution system at various spots including Construction RCC Jacketing to existing PST/SSFP & Construction of Head Works at head site & construction of catch water drain/wash put drain under & Construction of saddle blocks/crate protection work at spots for RWM For Providing 100%(FHTC) under JJM		81.07	60 days	AAY

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
FBI DIVISION TANGMARG

No: FBID/CC/1305-1315
Date: 21.05.2022

DIPK-2452

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is hereby informed that this Person **Namely: Rakesh, S/o Shathu, R/o: Khasra No. 259, Gali 18 Guru Dey Colony, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi, Age: 22 Years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Color Jeans**, has been missing since 10.03.2022 from his house.

In this regard a **DD No. 61-A, dated 16.03.2022** has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Person but no clue has come to light so far. If any Person having any information or clue about this Person kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph. 011-27811932, 7065036328
DP/1823/ON/2022

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL MATHURA CANTT

Invites quotations from reputed vendors/ firms for Purchase of E-Rickshaw Loader, Purchase of Playway Equip, Upgradation of Library, Purchase of Sofa Set, Repair/ Service of Air Conditioner and Renovation of Basketball Court at APS Mathura Cantt. Desirous vendors/firms to send/drop their quotations in a sealed envelope properly labeled by 30 May 2022 at APS Mathura, Near Shakti Dwar Dholipau Mathura Cantt. Vendors are requested to visit in school before sending/dropping of their quotations. For more details please visit our school website www.apsmathuracantt.edu.in

Principal, APS Mathura Cantt

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 08 UBL 2022-23
Dated: 19.05.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

- | Sl. | Name of Works | Approx. Value |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Hubballi Division: Bellari junction - Replacement/extension of RPF barrack at Ballari (10 beds). | Rs. 53,87,014/- |
| 2 | Hubballi Division: Gadag - construction of new RPF barrack at Gadag (16 beds). | Rs. 76,32,429/- |
| 3 | Hubballi Division: Annual track maintenance in SSE/P.Way/Hospale (ML) jurisdiction for a period of one year. | Rs. 3,52,03,121/- |
| 4 | Hubballi Division: Annual track maintenance in SSE/P.Way/Ballari jurisdiction for a period of one year. | Rs. 4,87,97,046/- |
| 5 | Hubballi Division: Sub Work-I: Tomagallu - Repairs to flooring, Bathroom Doors, W/C pans and backside of kitchen etc. at Running Room. Sub Work-II: Replacement/ Extension of Store/Records room of SSE/Works's office at Ballari and Hospale. | Rs. 72,32,523/- |

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 16.06.2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ord
Hubballi

PUB/103/AAV/PBB/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown**, Age 28 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing Blue colour T-shirt, Jeans pant and bare footed was found dead at Shastri Park Red Light, Delhi on 22.05.2022. In this regard a DD No. 21-A date 22.05.2022 has been lodged at PS Shastri Park, Delhi. The dead body of deceased has been preserved in GTB Hospital for identification.

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

SHO
PS: Shastri Park, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22172410

DP/1647/NE/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Parvati Devi W/o Nand Lal R/o House No. 206, Gali No. 3, Near Shani Mandir, Punjabi Colony, Narela, Delhi** has been missing since 02.04.2022 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 56A dated 03.04.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Narela, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

SHO

Age: 60 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Colour Saree & Yellow Colour Blouse.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Narela, Delhi at E-mail Id-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/1841/ON/2022
Ph. No. 011-27280435, 27282350

SCRAP FOR SALE (E-AUCTION)

E-Auction forms are invited from intending buyers for disposal, strictly on "As is Where is" basis, on lot basis of around 90 MT damaged/flood effected- 135 Mtr. Span Suspension Pedestrian Steel Bridge material- taxes extra.

Salvage belonging to M/s Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd. 4th & 5th Floor, Kanika Centre, 2/1, Russel Street, Kolkata-700071. Material can be inspected at 135 Mtr. Span Suspension Pedestrian Steel Bridge on Govindghat to Ghangaria at KM 10 in Chamtal District Uttarakhand site between 25.05.2022 to 04.06.2022 after taking prior appointment from Mr. Yogesh Gangwar (AGM-Mktg, North)- 8639062367/Mr. Manish Kumar (Construction Manager)- 7466907962

E-Auction date/time-07.06.2022 between 03:00 PM to 04:30 PM

Interested buyers/bidders have to deposit an EMD (D.D.) of Rs. 2 Lacs in favour of "Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd." payable at Kolkata to participate in the e-auction.

One or all bids/offers can be cancelled without assigning any reason.

E-Auction forms can be obtained from the Auctioneers Silver Sellers Pvt. Ltd., 101 & 106, 1st Floor, Gupta Tower, Azadpur Commercial Complex, Near Akash Cinema, New Delhi-110033, Contact Mr. Jitendra Thakur: 8746013058, 9634772277

B.S. CHAWLA & Co.
(SURVEYORS & VALUERS) Delhi/Allahabad
Mob. 09415218645, 09810108428
e-mail : bschawla.ce@gmail.com

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं: 240 दिनांक : 23 / 05 / 2022

Date Extension Notice



Associate Partner



Scan the QR code to watch eAdda



Prashant Kishor in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, *The Indian Express*, and Vandita Mishra, National Opinion Editor, *The Indian Express*, at the Express eAdda *Abhinav Saha*

‘In the next 20-30 years, Indian politics will revolve around the BJP — you are with it or opposed to it’

At the latest edition of Express eAdda, election strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor spoke on why the BJP will remain a formidable electoral force in the coming decades, how the Congress needs to learn to be in Opposition and on taking the political plunge from Bihar



MEENAKSHI GOPINATH
CHAIRPERSON, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

Are you now moving away from an election-centric philosophy to something that is about politics as the art of the possible? How will you prepare to transmit your vision to the people?

What I was doing till now was more as a professional. It was a task I had to complete within a defined timeframe. When I was working with somebody, it did not mean that I was completely aligned to their thought process, ideology and what they promised to do. It was a defined task in a defined timeframe and I was doing the job. What I am trying to do now is probably what I will do for the rest of my life, which is why I took one year to think what to do, and how. I went out in public, spent time with people, tried to understand the problems they are facing and get their feedback about me. It was a longer affair than it used to be with a party or a leader.



RAJ NAIR
CHAIRMAN, AVALON CONSULTING

I really liked the lucid 4M formula that you talked about. The BJP seems to have got all the four Ms right. The Opposition has not been able to get more than two right. Is it because the Opposition lacks the fifth M, which is the money or resources required to fight these elections? If so, when you are going to get into politics, will you be able to manage the M the way you explained to all of us?

The role of money in politics is important but is overplayed sometimes. My own feeling and assessment is if you have popular support of the people, society finds ways to support you on the money front. BJP has got most money today, and that's not why they are winning, it's the other way round — because they are winning or likely to win, that's why they get more money. If you have the four Ms right, invariably you will find people who would support you with money.

On stringing together an Opposition

A lot of people put this on me that I'm out there to stitch a coalition or bring together people who can possibly challenge the existing political setup. But in my own head, I'm not driven by this idea of 'defeating someone or containing someone'. I do what I think seems right to me at that point in time.

I think like any other person, I would like to be successful. And success, the way I define it in my head, is your ability to influence people's lives. The more successful you are, the more is your ability to influence that many lives. It's very easy to say that I'm here to change mankind. I mean no disrespect but in a beauty contest, when people ask why are you contesting, many contestants say some lofty things. Ultimately, they want to find a place in modelling or in Bollywood. I don't want to fall into that category. Success varies from person to person.

On whether the BJP will come down on its own

Actually not. Because all those who think that what goes up will come down, it may be true to say so in the medium to long run. There are two parts to it. The BJP as a formidable electoral party is going to stay in India for many decades to come. Once you secure more than 30 per cent of votes at the India level, nobody can wish you away. It's not something which will come down on its own. That said, it doesn't mean that they will continue to win every election. What it means is that for the first 40-50 years, the politics in India was around the Congress — either you were with Congress or opposed to it. In the next 20-30 years, I see Indian politics will revolve around the BJP — you are with the BJP, or you are opposed to it. Those who think that they will come down on their own, it's probably not the right assessment.

That doesn't mean that it cannot happen five years later or two years later. But it is quite possible that it might take 20-30 years as well. This desperation that just because there is a BJP, there has to be an Opposition and, hence, some Opposition will emerge, is wishful thinking. With the right approach, it could, maybe, emerge in two years. But if you do not do the right things, you might have a situation where a political outfit or a formation with a pan-India influence and electoral reach may or may not be there for many years to come.

On what caused the decline of the Congress

Congress in the present form, which is the Indira Congress, came out after 1967. They have been in a decline as a political outfit since 1985. The last time they won India was in 1984. A lot of people do not pay attention to this, that since 1984, the Congress has not won India on its own. In the interim, they have ruled the country for about 15 years. Once, as a minority government, when Narasimha Rao was the prime minister, and twice as a coalition government. All of us accept that in 1989, the Congress lost the elec-

“

QUICK QUESTIONS

AAP or Flipkart, India's most successful startup?
Flipkart.

AAP or Congress, the bigger threat to the BJP?
Anyday, the Congress.

BJP's biggest asset today?
Organisation.

And their biggest weakness?
Too much dependence on Narendra Modi.

Politics or policy, what does Prashant Kishor like more?
Policy. Politics is the means to that.

The Congress' biggest strength?
Their legacy.

Their biggest weakness?
Their inertia.

Welfarism or identity, which is the stronger election weapon?

Welfarism.

In 2024, which party is better-suited to lead India?
Let the people decide.

One political strategist, alive or dead, anywhere in the world, who you were inspired by?
I don't know about any of them. I haven't read or heard about this whole idea of a political strategist. In India, we didn't have anyone. Even outside of India, I don't know of any one.

One politician in India, alive or dead, you admire most?
Mahatma Gandhi.

And alive?
LK Advani.

Why?
Because he probably created this party that has become a pan-India party, which we see in the BJP.

tion. But Congress as a party won 198 MPs, if I recall correctly. In 2004, we think the Congress won and UPA-I was formed. But Congress is a party of 145 MPs. As a political party, the Congress' decline literally started from 1984-85 onwards.

No party gets more than 40 per cent votes at the India level. That tells you that even on your good day, when you won India, there were more people opposed to you than those who were convinced by you. That's why, in India, you must not ever underestimate the Opposition. However, having an Opposition doesn't necessarily mean that the Opposition parties are strong, and they are able to translate that voice of dissent or opposition into electoral gain or success.

The Congress, which is the principal Opposition party in this country, has been the ruling party for decades. Somehow they need to learn how to be in Opposition, and how to behave like an Opposition party. When the Congress goes on the street today, and they do something, they don't get similar media attention or traction (like they would, when they were in the government). Their natural reaction or response is, how do we do anything because the media doesn't cover us, they completely blank us out. This shows the mindset, the DNA of a ruling party, which is yet to come to terms with being an Opposition party. That's the fundamental problem I see in the thought process of the way the Congress responds to this situation. And this leads to a type of thinking that we have ruled the country for very long, and we

know sooner or later people will get angry. And when they get angry or upset, if we are there, they will vote for us.

On the importance of the face vs the narrative

A message that is part of the narrative, when delivered through a credible messenger, makes sense. These are what I call 'the four Ms' to win elections. You need the right message to be delivered by a face or a messenger or a leader, who is trusted. And then you need the machinery, the party to convert that kind of support into vote. What you call 'Coffee with Captain' or hologram are the mechanics of the campaign. That's the way to reach out. That's the way to take the leader to the masses in a much more interesting and engaging manner. But if you don't have three out of the four Ms right, you're less likely to win.

If you put too many faces (on the poster), if you put too many messages, it just gets cluttered. It's just an idea to clear the clutter. You're probably giving me too much credit for this. It's a simple thing of having your poster less cluttered, with the one message which you wanted to deliver, one face, who you want people to trust, and one symbol, which they have to go and press the button on.

It's basic common sense. I will show you some posters which I have with me from the 1960s when the Congress used to have their campaign. Just one symbol, one face of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and 'Vote for Congress'. That's it. This is not an invention of Prashant Kishor.

On becoming a politician

You call me a political activist. I have ceased to be what I was when I announced last May — after Bengal and Tamil Nadu assembly elections — that I would not do this work any longer in the form and manner in which I used to do.

I'm going to Bihar as I have announced, to go consult, meet people and see what could be done to change the situation in Bihar. In the first 15 years of Lalu Prasad Yadav's government, one can say that something has been done on the *samajik nyaya* (social justice) front. Even he or his supporters will claim that they might have not progressed economically but they did give a voice to the oppressed.

Nitish Kumar will say that we brought economic development, made roads, and got electricity. The fact of the matter is, while their claims are true to some extent, after these 30 years, Bihar is one of the poorest and most backward states. Bihar ranks low in all the developmental parameters.

Yes, I agree with what Yadav and Kumar have done. But in the next 10-15 years, if Bihar wants to rank among the developed states, it has to take a different path — what I call as '*nayi soch aur naya prayas*'. The new thought or new effort cannot be of Prashant Kishor, of just one individual. So my role is to go there and meet people because I believe there are enough people in Bihar who understand the state. They know what could be done to solve some of the complex issues. And above all, they have the intent to do something to change the present situation.

My job is to go meet them, impress upon them, plead with them to come together, to commit to this. If all of them come together and they decide to form a political party, so be it. But that political party would not be the political party of Prashant Kishor. It will be the political party of all those who would agree to be the co-founders. Me included.

I'm the catalyst who is trying to bring together all those who think this is doable and should be done. I don't know whether I will be the leader or somebody else will be the leader; let the process unfold. My hope and belief are that I would be democratic and transparent enough in the process of formation of this party, proving many of the critics wrong, that this is doable, and we will be able to do it the way it should be done in a democratic way.

Some 18,000 people from different fields — teachers, former bureaucrats, doctors, farmers and social workers — have expressed interest or we would have reached out to them, asking if they want to join such a mission. Now, the challenge for me or the task for me is, in the next few months, to go meet them individually or in groups and see how many of them are willing to become part of this as co-founders. I cannot give you the number of how many people will come together unless I undertake this exercise. You won't see me alone.

AYAZ MEMON
SENIOR JOURNALIST

Do you also map what is happening in the environment in Asia — for instance, in Pakistan or in Sri Lanka — and whether it has any impact on the politics that will be played out in India during the 2024 elections?

Not really, what happens in the neighbourhood would probably seep into the discussions in the living rooms, as part of chatter, but I don't see these events having any meaningful impact on elections in India, at the state or the federal level.

JAGDISH WALAWALKAR
CMD, IDEAL EDUCATION

When a political party gives you an assignment, do they specify the expected outcome? Has any party retained you for a second time?

If there is alignment and agreement on both sides, you decide to work together and do everything required for that party or leader to be on the winning side. The election cycle is five years, so you have to wait to see if people repeat us or not. In 2015, we worked with Nitish Kumar. He is no longer in that formation, he is now with BJP, so the question of repeating doesn't arise. I-PAC is doing the work where they have worked earlier, be it West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. If that amounts to repeat, they are being repeated.

UDAY BHENDE
MD, KIRLOSKAR SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

Where do you see the current political scenario going?

The present situation continues as it is, with BJP as one of the predominant political forces, while the Opposition will probably continue to evolve. Maybe they will get their act right in a couple of years or longer.

Also in the room: Venkataraman R, Dean, ICFAI Business School; Khozem Merchant, India Head, Brunswick Group; Dilip Chenoy, Founder, DC Skills; Sunil Arora, Managing Director, Abilities India Pistons & Rings; Ajit Shriram, Joint Managing Director, DCM Shriram; Krishna Kejriwal, Managing Director, Remsons Industries; Vasanth Kini, Managing Director, Titanium Industries India; Prakash Kalothia, CEO & Managing Director, Lapis India Capital; Atul Choksey, Chairman, Apcotex Industries; NP Singh, VP, Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sangh; Kiran Khalap, Co-founder & Managing Director, Chlorophyll; Shankar Garigiparthi, CEO & Country Manager, Lloyd's India; Hemant Amin, CEO, Asianam Capital Advisors; KK Rathi, Managing Director, First Bridge Fund Managers; John Dayal, Columnist; Urvashi Butalia, Director, Zubaan Books; Shyam Bagri, Founder, Bagri's India; Gurdeep Singh, Chairman, Kloeckner Pentaplast India; Dorab Sopariwala, Editorial Adviser, NDTV; Pradyumna Dalmia, CEO, Triton Investment Advisors; Gautam Trivedi, Co-founder & Managing Partner, Nepean Capital LLP; Mahesh Thakkar, Director General, Finance Industry Development Council; Vivek Jain, Managing Director, DCW; Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADE; Nisha Agrawal, Former CEO, Oxfam India; Sunil Alagh, Managing Director, SKA Advisors

CMYK color bars

CMYK color bars

CMYK color bars

New Delhi

CMYK color bars

CMYK color bars

TOP OF THE WORLD



Boris Johnson raising a glass at a party in Downing Street. *Reuters*

UK

Photos of Boris drinking reignite 'Partygate' row

London: New photographs of PM Boris Johnson drinking at a leaving party at his Downing Street residence have been published, reigniting opposition accusations that he breached his own Covid-19 lockdown rules. The photographs, obtained by ITV News, were taken at a gathering in honour of Downing Street's outgoing director of communications Lee Cain in 2020, an event previously investigated by police for potential breaches. Monday's photographs show Johnson making a speech and raising a toast. The Cabinet Office, which has been handling a separate government investigation into the parties, declined to comment. **REUTERS**

USA

Pfizer: 3 Covid shots protect children under 5

THREE DOSES of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine offer strong protection for children younger than 5, the company said on Monday. Pfizer plans to give the data to US regulators later this week in a step toward letting the kids get the shots. The FDA has begun evaluating data from Moderna, which hopes to begin offering two kid-sized shots by summer. Pfizer and its partner BioNTech said the extra shot did the trick, revving up tots' levels of virus-fighting antibodies enough to meet FDA criteria for emergency use of vaccine with no safety problems. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

7 dead, over 100 rescued in ferry fire

Manila: At least seven people were killed and over a hundred plucked out of the sea on Monday after a passenger ferry caught fire in the Philippines. The Mercraft 2 was carrying 124 passengers and 10 crew members when it set off from Polillo Island at dawn for the port of Realin Quezon Province when the accident occurred, the Coast Guard said. The fire engulfed the ferry, forcing passengers to jump into the sea, officials said. "Rescue operations are continuing." **NYT**

INVITES GLOBAL BUSINESSES TO UKRAINE

In Davos talks, Zelenskyy urges maximum sanctions on Russia

Seeks safe corridors for Ukrainian grain exports

AGENCIES
DAVOS, MAY 23

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for "maximum" sanctions against Russia during a virtual speech Monday to corporate executives, government officials and other elites on the first day of the World Economic Forum gathering in Davos. He said sanctions need to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil embargo, blocking all its banks and cutting off trade with Russia completely.

"This is what sanctions should be: They should be maximum, so that Russia and every other potential aggressor that wants to wage a war against its neighbour would clearly know the immediate consequences of their actions," Zelenskyy said.

He also pushed for the complete withdrawal of foreign companies from Russia to prevent supporting its war and said Ukraine needs at least \$5 billion in funding per month.

Zelenskyy also called on world powers to help Ukraine get its grain out to the global market to avert a food crisis, and warned that Russia was smuggling wheat and other foodstuff out of the country. A failure to unblock Ukrainian ports and grain out would be felt around the world. "I wish every one of you wakes up in the morning with this on their mind: 'What have I done for Ukraine today?'" he added.



Zelenskyy delivers an address to the delegates of WEF. *Reuters*

NUMBER OF DISPLACED TOPS 100 MILLION: UNHCR

Russian forces step up shelling in the East

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, MAY 23

RUSSIAN FORCES have stepped up shelling in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland as they press their offensive in the region that is now the focus of fighting in the 3-month-old war.

Meanwhile, a Russian soldier who pleaded guilty to killing a Ukrainian civilian was sentenced to life in prison on Monday in the first war crimes trial since Moscow invaded Ukraine.

Grinding battles in the Donbas, where Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting town by town, have forced many civilians to flee their homes.

"We haven't been able to see the sun for three months. We are almost blind because we were in darkness for three months," said Rayisa Rybalko, who hid with her family first in their basement and then in a bomb shelter at the local school before fleeing their village of Novomykhailivka. "The world should have seen that." Her son-in-law Dmytro Khaliapin said heavy artillery pounded the village. "Houses are being ruined," he said. "It's a horror."

Western support — both financial and military — has been key to Ukraine's defense, helping their outgunned and outnumbered forces to repel Russia's attempt to take the capital of Kyiv and fight them to a

EXPLAINED
E Global recession unlikely: IMF

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva she does not expect a recession for the world's major economies but also cannot rule one out. The global economic outlook has darkened in the month since the IMF downgraded its 2022 growth outlook because of the war, China's slowdown and global price shocks, she said. "In a short period of time...the horizon has darkened."



People wait in a line to buy domestic gas tanks near a distributor in Colombo on Monday. *Reuters*

INDIA SENDS 40,000 MT OF PETROL

Gotabaya swears in 8 more ministers, yet to pick finance minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, MAY 23

SRI LANKAN President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday expanded the Cabinet with the induction of eight more ministers but he did not appoint a finance minister once again to handle the worst economic crisis.

The new ministers belong to the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and its allies — the SLFP and the EPDP, a Tamil minority party in the north.

Rajapaksa, since the public protests began to rage against him for his resignation, has now reshuffled his Cabinet five times. The ministers will serve in the interim Cabinet of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe set up with the objective of handling the ongoing economic crisis.

The new ministers who were sworn in include Douglas Devananda - Minister of Fisheries; Keheliya Rambukwella - Minister

of Health, Water Supply; Ramesh Pathirana - Minister of Industries; and Mahinda Amaraweera - Minister of Agriculture, Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation, the Economy Next portal tweeted. Sri Lanka's new foreign secretary Aruni Wijewardane assumed duties at Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday. She was appointed to the post on May 20.

India on Monday said it has delivered around 40,000 metric tonnes of petrol to Sri Lanka, days after supplying 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel under the Indian credit line.

Meanwhile, the proposal for the 21st Amendment to the Constitution to curb the powers of President scheduled to be referred to the Cabinet on Monday was not presented before it. As per sources, the proposal was not presented in the Cabinet after SLPP objected to it. They demanded the proposed legislation be approved by the Attorney General before referring it to the Cabinet.

Pak examining possibility of reduced working days to conserve fuel

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MAY 23

THE CASH-STRAPPED Pakistan government is examining the possibility of conserving fuel by reducing the number of working days, a move by which it is hoping to save an estimated \$2.7 billion in foreign exchange, a media report said on Monday.

The estimates are based on three different scenarios in terms of working days and fuel conservation prepared by the State Bank of Pakistan for foreign exchange savings of \$1.5 billion to \$2.7 billion, the Dawn reported.

Pakistan's total oil imports for the first 10 months (July-April) of the current fiscal year (FY22) has surged beyond \$17 billion, displaying a massive 96 per cent growth compared to the same period in the last fiscal year, the report said.

This includes imports of petroleum products worth \$8.5 billion and petroleum crude worth \$4.2 billion, showing a 121 per cent and 75 per cent jump, respectively, it said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said on Monday that the government will not remove subsidies on power and fuel as per the commitment made by the previous government with the IMF to secure a \$6 billion loan for the cash-starved country.

Ismail was talking to the media in Karachi ahead of leaving for Doha to join talks with IMF officials for the restoration of a \$6 billion loan programme that has been in limbo since April. He said that under the deal made by former finance minister Shaukat Tarin, Pakistan would have to raise the price of diesel by over Rs 150 and petrol by Rs 100. **PTI**

Australian PM looks to SE Asia as it deals with 'difficult' China ties

KIRSTY NEEDHAM
SYDNEY, MAY 23

AUSTRALIA'S NEW Labour government will put greater focus on relations with Southeast Asia and climate change, an issue crucial to its Pacific neighbours, as it navigates ties with a more assertive China.

Relations between Canberra and Beijing have deteriorated in recent years, with China imposing trade sanctions on Australian products in response to policies and decisions such as Australia's call for a probe into the origins of Covid and its 5G network ban on Huawei. The new PM Anthony Albanese has pledged there will be no major change in China policy under his government.

On Monday, Albanese said the relationship with China "will remain a difficult one", while Australia's alliance with the US was "our most important along with our relationships in the region and multilateral commitments". Albanese and new Foreign Minister Penny Wong will face an early test of diplomacy as they fly to Tokyo for a meeting of the Quad grouping of the US, India and Japan on Tuesday.



Anthony Albanese was sworn in as PM in Australia on Monday ahead of Tokyo summit. *Reuters*

Australia will be taking new commitments on Southeast Asia and the Pacific to the Quad meeting, Wong said in emailed comments on Monday.

"We have always understood the importance of Southeast Asia. We know that while we are all very different, our countries face many shared challenges," she said. Labour says it also wants to work with the ASEAN.

China's state-owned *Global Times* said on Monday Albanese's attendance at the Quad was a test, "especially on whether it could get rid of the shadow of previous [Prime Minister] Scott Morrison's anti-China strategy". **REUTERS**

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms very similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. It occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and is occasionally found in other regions.



WHO

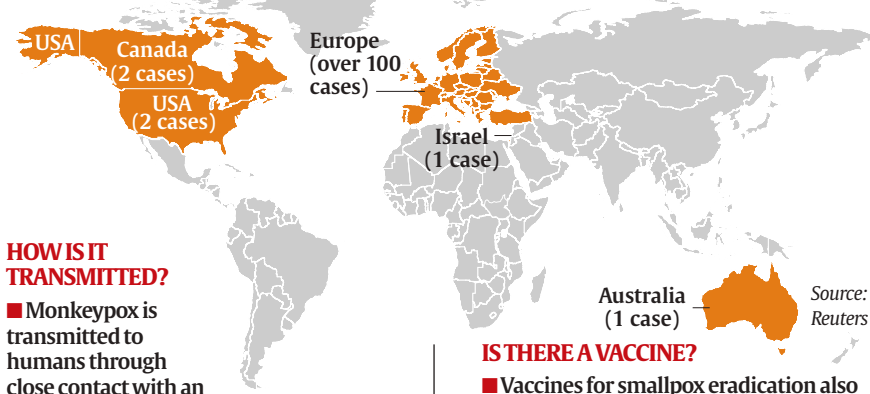
SYMPTOMS

- Patients typically contract fever and also get rash and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications.
- It is usually a self-limited disease with the symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks.

DIAGNOSIS

- The clinical differential diagnosis that must be considered includes other rash illnesses, such as chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, scabies, syphilis, and medication-associated allergies.

OUTBREAK ACROSS THE WORLD



HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

- Monkeypox is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal, or with material contaminated with the virus.
- The virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials, such as bedding.

IS THERE A VACCINE?

- Vaccines for smallpox eradication also provide protection against monkeypox.
- Newer vaccines have been developed of which one has been approved for monkeypox.
- An antiviral agent developed for the treatment for smallpox has also been licensed monkeypox.

KAITLIN MARIE ARMSTRONG IS BEING SOUGHT IN THE KILLING OF ANNA MORIAH WILSON: COPS

Mystery of star cyclist's murder deepens as police seek suspect

AMANDA HOLPUCH
MAY 23

A RISING cycling star who was visiting Texas for a competition was found shot dead in Austin this month, rattling the tight-knit community of off-road biking and racing.

Investigators began to piece together a narrative of that night with surveillance video, a remorseful interview with another professional cyclist she had been seeing, and eventually ballistics. Now, US Marshals are helping police look for a woman who has been identified as a suspect in the death of Anna Moriah Wilson, 25.

The suspect, Kaitlin Marie Armstrong, 34, was dating Colin Strickland, 35, another star

gravel cyclist, a discipline that blends mountain biking and road cycling. Police said Wilson had also been romantically involved with Strickland.

On the night of May 11, a friend returned to her home in Austin where Wilson had been staying, found Wilson bleeding and unconscious and called 911, police said. Wilson, who was known as Mo, was pronounced dead shortly after, police said. An initial probe revealed that someone had shot Wilson multiple times inside the home and that the shooting did not appear to be random.

On the night she was killed, Wilson and Strickland had together visited the Deep Eddy pool in Austin, according to a police affidavit posted by The Austin American-Statesman.



Anna Moriah Wilson was a rising talent in off-road and gravel biking. *NYT*

In an interview with the police, Strickland said he had dropped Wilson off at her friend's house and did not go inside. He told the police that he

had been in a romantic relationship with Wilson in October during a one- or two-week break from his roughly three-year relationship with Armstrong, according to the affidavit.

In December or January, Strickland purchased two 9-millimeter handguns, one for himself and one for Armstrong, the affidavit said. A police analysis of Armstrong's gun, which was recovered at Strickland's home, revealed it had "significant" potential to be the same as the one used to kill Wilson, the affidavit said.

A vehicle similar to Armstrong's, a Jeep Grand Cherokee, was seen in front of the Austin home where Wilson was staying an hour before the police responded to her friend's 911 call, the affidavit said. Armstrong did

not explain why her vehicle was seen near the scene of the shooting, the police said.

The day after Wilson was found dead, the police took Armstrong into custody on an unspecified misdemeanor warrant but were then informed that the warrant was not valid and told Armstrong she could leave if she wanted to, the affidavit said.

The Austin police did not immediately respond to messages seeking further comment. Strickland and his sponsor, Red Bull, did not respond to email requests for comment. Armstrong could not be reached.

The affidavit said the police had received a tip from an anonymous caller. The caller said Armstrong had said in January that she wanted to kill Wilson af-

ter learning that Strickland was in a relationship with Wilson while he was dating Armstrong. Strickland said he had not been in contact with Armstrong since May 13, according to the affidavit.

"There is no way to adequately express the regret and torture I feel about my proximity to this horrible crime," Strickland said to The American-Statesman. "I am sorry, and I cannot make sense of this unfathomable tragedy."

Strickland said he had a brief relationship with Wilson in the fall "that spanned a week or so," then reconciled with Armstrong. He said that he and Wilson had not been in a romantic relationship after that, but were in a platonic and professional relationship and would often see each other at cycling events. **NYT**



EXPRESS IN CANNES

SHUBHRA GUPTA
MAY 23

BASED ON the real-life story of an Iranian serial killer, Ali Abbasi's Cannes competition entry "Holy Spider" is immediately arresting, holding our attention successfully for its two-hour length. There's no mystery about who the killer is. And we are left in no doubt why he kills. The conflict between religious belief and the rights of human, morality and conviction, are at play here: if snuffing out a life is wrong, how can you defend the killing of a killer?

Within the span of a year, 2000-2001, a construction worker in Mashhad killed 16 women who worked the streets at night. His modus operandi was simple. He would cruise the streets on his motorcycle (the sound design em-



Mehdi Bajestani (from left) Zahra Amir Ebrahimi, and director of the film 'Holy Ali Spider' Ali Abbasi. *AP*

phasises the noise, and the backfire sounds like a gun), pick up women one by one, lure them into a safe space, and choke them with their chador.

Censorship fears kept the filmmaking crew from shooting in Iran, with Amman, Jordan turning out to be a good stand-in. The Iran-born director, who now lives in Denmark, was in his home country when the killings took place, and they left a deep impact on him. In this "Persian noir", as he termed it at its Cannes premiere, we see the attempts he has made at humanising the victims.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



GOLD

₹50,926



RUPEE

77.55/USD



OIL

\$109.55



SILVER

₹61,792

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of May 20

WON'T ALLOW RUNAWAY DEPRECIATION OF RUPEE, SAYS SHAKTIKANTA DAS

Rate hike expectations in next MPC meet a no-brainer: RBI Guv

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 23

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday indicated that the central bank would continue to hike policy interest rates to bring down inflation but refused to say whether it will be raised to the pre-pandemic level.

“Expectation of a rate hike is a no-brainer. There will be some increase in the repo rate. By how much, I will not be able to tell now but to say that (it will be hiked) to 5.15 percent now will not be accurate,” Das said in an interview to *CNBC-TV18*.

He also said the RBI will not allow a runaway depreciation of the rupee, adding that the currency has performed better than many other emerging market

currencies. The Indian currency has depreciated over 6 per cent in the last one year.

On May 4, the MPC surprised everyone by hiking the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.4 per cent, citing inflationary pressures. Repo is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to banks. The RBI also increased the cash reserve ratio by 50 basis points to 4.50 per cent to suck out liquidity.

He said the market was “right in thinking” that the MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) wants to raise rates in the next meeting on June 8. The central bank also wants to remove the overhang of liquidity in the system over two-to-three years, he said.

“One of the reasons for ‘out of turn’ action was to avoid a steep hike in June. Broadly, the

EXPLAINED
Tackling inflation

IN APRIL, retail inflation surged to 7.79 per cent, highest since May 2014. The print was 84 basis points higher than the March number of 6.95 per cent.

RBI wants to raise rates in the next few meetings, at least in the next meeting,” Das said.

In April, the retail inflation surged to 7.79 per cent, the highest since May 2014. At 7.79 per cent, the Consumer Price Index inflation print for April was 84 basis points higher than the March number of 6.95 percent,

data released on May 12 by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation showed.

On May 21, the government cut the central excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 a litre and on diesel by Rs 6. It also waived customs duty on the import of some raw materials, including coking coal and ferronickel, used by the steel industry.

Das said that India has entered into another phase of co-ordinated fiscal and monetary action to quell inflation. The recently announced fiscal measures will have a “sobering impact” on inflation going forward, Das said.

“We will be able to manage the current account deficit very comfortably this year,” he said. “We don’t expect a big jump in the current account deficit,” he

said, adding that the rising imports point to the revival in domestic demand. “I have a sense that government will maintain the fiscal deficit target” this year,” Das said.

The RBI move to hike Repo rate is expected to push up interest rates in the banking system. Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, vehicle and other personal and corporate loans are likely to go up. Deposit rates, mainly fixed term rates, are also set to rise. By hiking the Repo rate and CRR, the RBI is aiming to keep inflation — which is already close to 7 per cent — at its desired level and control and monitor money flow into the banking system. Banks have already increased the MCLR and repo-linked lending rates, passing on the RBI repo hike to the customers.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

WITH THE launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), partner countries are likely to commence discussions focussed on strengthening the broader mandate of “economic cooperation” and “achieving shared goals” in the coming weeks.

In comparison to trade blocs, it is unlikely that IPEF members would attempt negotiation on tariffs or market access, instead focussing initially on improving synergies in four specific areas: digital economy, supply chains, clean energy infrastructure, and anti-corruption measures.

Experts noted that the framework might emerge as an eventual alternative to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which notably includes China. In 2019, India had pulled out of the RCEP, citing concerns about a potential surge in imports from China under the re-

Apart from India and the US, all the other 11 members of IPEF are members of RCEP

gional pact. Apart from India and the US, all the 11 other members of IPEF are members of RCEP.

While the IPEF does not currently address increased market access for trade between member countries, it is aimed at increasing regulatory coherence between these nations, an expert said. The framework is aimed at enhancing cooperation between these countries to strengthen supply chains, increase regulatory coherence, and improve coordination on climate action and anti-corruption efforts. US President Joe Biden had first mentioned the IPEF at the October 2021 East Asia Summit and Washington is projecting the platform as the new US vehicle for re-engagement with East Asia and Southeast Asia.

This also comes in the back-

drop of Indian exporters having benefited from a move by the US and the EU to de-risk supply chains by reducing their reliance on China for essential imports. India may, however, have to diplomatically navigate key issues that the US is aiming to address through the IPEF, according to experts.

“In terms of specific commitments which could be brought in, it is clearly US-led and is going to be shepherded by the US,” said Biswajit Dhar, professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He added India would need to look at its stance on discussing issues such as e-commerce and data localisation, which the US is aiming to address through the framework. India has so far declined to enter discussions on multilateral rules for e-commerce and its data localisation requirements have been criticised by the US as barriers to digital trade.

Dhar added while the US has also previously spoken about reducing reliance on China, not much has changed on the ground.

SECTOR WATCH
MUTUAL FUNDS

Sebi unveils new framework for ETFs, index funds

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 23

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) announced a new framework for managing passive funds — exchange traded funds (ETFs) and index funds — amid growing popularity of such funds as an investment product for retail investors.

It has also allowed mutual funds to launch passively managed equity-linked savings schemes (ELSS) to save taxes under Section 80C of the Income-tax Act.

Under the framework, Sebi has laid down norms for debt ETFs and index funds, its constitution, market making framework for ETFs, investor education and awareness charges, disclosure guidelines and other provisions.

The total assets under management (AUM) of index funds, ETFs and fund of funds investing overseas were Rs 5.27 lakh crore as of this April.

The regulator said the norms for debt ETFs or index funds could be based on indices comprising corporate debt securities or government securities (G-sec), T-bills and/or state development loans (SDLs) or a combination of corporate debt securities and G-secs, T-bills and SDLs. The new framework will come into effect from July 1 and will be applicable to all existing ETFs and index funds, it added.

For an index with at least 80 per cent weight of corporate debt securities, a single issuer should not have more than 15 per cent weight in the index in respect of AAA securities, not more than 12.5

The regulator also allowed mutual funds to launch passively managed equity-linked savings schemes

per cent in case of AA securities and not more than 10 per cent in case of A and below rated securities, it said.

In case of a hybrid index — comprising both corporate debt securities and G-sec/SDL — with up to 80 per cent weight of corporate debt securities, a single issuer should not have more than 15 per cent weight in the index in respect of AAA-rated securities. However, for AAA-rated securities of PSUs and AAA-rated securities of PFI (public financial institution) issuers the limit will be 15 per cent.

Further, for AA-rated securities, a single issuer should not have more than 8 per cent weight in the index and not more than 6 per cent in respect of A and below rated securities. “For an index based on G-Sec and SDLs, single issuer limit shall not be applicable,” Sebi said, adding such an index should not have more than 25 per cent weight in a particular group, excluding securities issued by PSUs, PFIs and PSBs.

With regard to norms for market making framework for ETFs, Sebi said asset management companies need to appoint at least two market makers, who are members of stock exchanges, for ETFs to provide continuous liquidity on the exchange platform.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

PROFITING AMID PANDEMIC

‘New billionaire every 30 hrs; 1 mn in extreme poverty every 33 hrs’

The pandemic saw a new billionaire emerging every 30 hours, while nearly 1 million may be pushed into extreme poverty every 33 hours this year, an Oxfam report said

60% of low-income countries are on the brink of debt distress 573 people became new billionaires during the pandemic

Billionaires’ wealth rose more in first 24 months of Covid than in 23 years combined

263 million more people will crash into extreme poverty in 2022

Source: Oxfam/PTI

Billionaires’ total wealth now equivalent to 13.9% of global GDP, marking a three-fold rise from 4.4% in 2000



Inflation and price rise everywhere are devastating for low-wage workers who were already most vulnerable to Covid

As losses mount, Zomato turns focus to conserving cash

Won’t make fresh investments in q-comm segment

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

ZOMATO CEO Deepinder Goyal has said the company is being “aggressive” about conserving cash amid widening losses and will not make any more fresh investments in the quick commerce space, for which it had earlier earmarked \$400 million. The company acknowledged a shortage of delivery workers, saying many professionals, who left for their villages during the first Covid-induced lockdown in 2020, have not returned yet.

Zomato’s expenses nearly doubled as its consolidated net loss for the March quarter widened to about Rs 360 crore,



A Zomato delivery executive, Mumbai. File

compared to Rs 134.2 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. The company posted revenue from operations of Rs 1211.8 crore, up 75 per cent compared to last year.

According to a letter shared by the company with its shareholders on Monday evening, Zomato has about Rs 12,200 crore unrestricted cash at this point and it said the capital needs are currently limited.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Duty impact, downgrades: Metal scrips hit

Mumbai: Metal stocks dove as brokerages downgraded the sector after the Centre levied export duties on iron ore and some steel intermediaries and cut import duty on some steel products.

Jindal Steel & Power slid 17.50 per cent, the most since January 2008. Tata Steel fell 12.53 per cent, most since August 2015. JSW Steel fell 13.20 per cent, the biggest since May 2020 and SAIL by 10.96 per cent. NMDC fell 12.33 per cent, Vedanta by 2.77 per cent and Hindalco Industries by 3.65 per cent. The BSE metal index was down 8.33 per cent. The Sensex fell 38 points to 54,288.61. The rupee rose to 77.55 against the US dollar. **ENS**

MEETS EXECUTIVES OF 34 FIRMS; ‘INDIA, JAPAN NATURAL PARTNERS’

PM pitches India story to Japan Inc: PLI, record FDI, emerging technology

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

IN A bid to woo Japanese investors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met top business leaders from the Asian country, including Masayoshi Son of SoftBank, Osamu Suzuki of Suzuki Motor Corp and Uniqlo CEO Tadashi Yanai, to discuss investment opportunities India offers in sectors ranging from textiles, automobiles to emerging technologies and startups.

Modi, who reached Tokyo on a two-day visit to attend a summit of Quad leaders at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, held separate bilateral meetings with Japanese business leaders.

He also met top executives and CEOs of 34 Japanese companies at the business roundtable. Majority of these companies have investments and operations in India and these companies represent diverse sectors, including automobiles, electronics, semiconductors, steel, technology, trading and banking & finance. Key business bodies and organisations from India and Japan such as Keidanren, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan-India Business Consultative Committee (JBCC) and Invest India also participated. Stressing that India and Japan



(left) Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Suzuki Motor Chairman Osamu Suzuki; and (right) Softbank president and CEO Masayoshi Son, in Tokyo. PTI

are natural partners, Modi lauded the business community as “brand ambassadors of the immense potential of India-Japan ties”. According to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs, Modi said during the visit of Kishida to India in March 2022, both countries had set an ambitious target of investment of Japanese Yen 5 trillion over the next 5 years. “Prime Minister highlighted recent developments in economic ties, such as India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (JIICP) and Clean Energy Partnership, among others. He talked about initiatives such as the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and semiconductor policy and highlighted the robust

startup ecosystem of India,” the MEA statement said.

Modi noted that despite the slowdown in global FDI, India has attracted record FDI of \$84 billion in the previous financial year.

Modi appreciated Softbank Corporation’s role in India’s startup sector during his meeting with Son, founder and CEO of the Japanese investment major.

“They discussed Softbank’s future participation in India in key areas such as technology, energy and finance,” the official statement said. Further, various reforms being undertaken to enable ease of doing business in India were also discussed and “specific proposals were shared with Softbank where it could enhance its investments in India”, it

added. During his meeting with Suzuki, the Prime Minister recalled the veteran Japanese industry leader’s association with and contribution to India.

“They discussed further investment opportunities in India, including setting up of production facilities for electric vehicles and batteries as well as recycling centres, for realising the goal of sustainable growth,” the official statement said.

Suzuki Motor Corp president Toshihiro Suzuki described Modi’s visit to Japan as “an important milestone in the 70th year of the anniversary of Indo-Japanese diplomatic relations”.

(with PTI inputs from Tokyo)
Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

FY22 FDI

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows fell 1% to \$58.77 billion in FY22, showed official data.

IMF on crypto

Davos: IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva cautioned against confusing crypto products with currencies, saying Bitcoin cannot be ‘money’ just because it has got ‘coin’ in its name. **PTI**

Puri on crude

New Delhi: Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said prices staying at \$110 may pose bigger threats than inflation to global economy. **REUTERS**

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No.	Tender Id	Items
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2.	2022_KMML_491295_1	For fabrication & supply of Recycle Gas Cooler

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Online Single Percentage Rate Bid(s) / Offer(s) in two part bid system are invited from Reputed, Resourceful and Experienced Parties meeting prescribed QUALIFYING CRITERIA for the following work under ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF ODISHA:

Sl. No.	Description of Work & Notice Inviting e-Tender [e-NIT] No.	Date of Availability of Tender Document in Website as well as CPP Portal	Last Date of Bid Submission (ON-LINE)
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF 100 BEDDED BOYS' HOSTEL, 100 BEDDED GIRLS' HOSTEL AND EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT WORK UNDER ANWESHA SCHEME AT DEHURIPOLI, GHATAON TAHASIL IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT OF ODISHA UNDER ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF ODISHA. [e-NIT No. B&R / HO / HOSTEL-ANWESHA/51065 / DEHURIPOLI / NIT / CW / 01]	24.05.2022	14.06.2022

Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's Website: www.bridgeroof.co.in and CPP portal : <https://eprocure.gov.in> only.

IMMIGRANT’S JOURNEY: ISTANBUL-GELSENKIRCHEN-DORTMUND-MANCHESTER

From rejection to redemption

Off-loaded by club during junior days, Gundogan overcomes trauma to be the hero of City’s folklore

SANDIP G
MAY 23

SIX YEARS ago, during a tense duel between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, Ilkay Gundogan was waiting in the tunnel for the second half to start. Just then Pep Guardiola, then Bayern’s manager, nudged him with his arm, as he went past him. Gundogan stood awestruck, like a fanboy meeting his hero. “I was just like, what the hell was that? It was a casual thing, but why? Surely you would only do that if you liked someone a little bit, right?” He recalls that moment in a piece for *The Player’s Tribune*.

All his adult life, Gundogan grew up idolising Guardiola — whose Barcelona batch Gundogan considers the best in club football history. But playing for Barcelona or under the Catalan manager was a dream he had never dreamt. For, he was afflicted with self-doubt. For he was often seized by a fear of rejection. Every time he begins to dream, memories of an unpleasant evening roll back into his mind.

He was just eight and had just been acquired by FC Schalke, his hometown club. But after an injury-ridden season, he was asked to go.

“They literally threw me out. The incident left me scarred forever. Just imagine a child being woken up in the middle of a dream. After that incident, I became scared to dream, I would always keep a window open for disappointment,” he told bundesliga.com.

He returned to his childhood club SV Gelsenkirchen-Hessler 06, who play in the lower divisions of German amateur football in his hometown Gelsenkirchen, the largest and most populous urban area in Germany, known for coal mining. It’s coal that brought his family from a suburb in Istanbul to Gelsenkirchen in the early 1990s. First arrived his grandfather before the entire family relocated to Germany. His mother became a cook in a swimming-hall restaurant, while his father, Irfan, was a truck driver for a beer company.

The family loved its football — Gundogan’s first footballing memory is watching a UEFA Super Cup game between Arsenal and Galatasaray in 2000 on TV and his uncle Ilhan crying when the Turkish giants won the match on penalties. But the dreams of an aspirational migrant family centred so much on education that he had to focus on academics as well. “They just wanted me to do well at school. Like really wanted me to do well. I still have nightmares about school. I’m not joking. I can wake up in a cold sweat from thinking about old exam papers,” he wrote in The Players’ Tribune.



Ilkay Gundogan’s father, Irfan, was a truck driver for a beer company. Reuters

Start of the journey

Three years later, Schalke wanted him back. He refused. The pain was still too raw. But upon his uncle’s insistence, he joined Bochum FC, in the neighbourhood but a semi-professional team. Then at 17, an age when the best of footballers make their first-team debuts, Gundogan realised that he had the quality to play elite-level football. The scars of the Schalke snub had begun to heal. “I was like, huh, I could do something here.”

Six months later, Gundogan made his first foray into Bundesliga football, when FC Nürnberg acquired him. But harsher realities were to strike. He felt terribly lonely — he missed the quaintness of his hometown in a bustling city, the senior players bullied and ragged him, he got injured, and struggled to find an apartment as migrant-phobia festered in Germany. Even Turkish migrants used to refuse, until he became a first-team regular and they started seeing him more on TV. He suddenly remembered Schalke. It

gave him strength. “I actually remember being grateful that Schalke had rejected me. I had already faced this huge disappointment, so I was kind of prepared for another struggle. In the end, that’s what helped me break through at Nürnberg and have two successful seasons there. The longer you go in life before suffering a setback, I think the harder it is to handle,” he told bundesliga.com.

Then came Jurgen Klopp’s Liverpool and the heady Dortmund days, when he became a target for most top clubs in Europe. Guardiola was among his admirers, and a few months after the tunnel nudge, he was sitting face to face with his idol, who had joined City and wanted Gundogan to be his first acquisition. He just had one question in mind to ask him. “Do you really want me? Like, really, really?” The City manager laughed and said a “yes.”

Guardiola laughed and said a “yes.” Gundogan met his benediction. The vindication of his choices. At Etihad, he was immediately slotted in as a defensive midfielder, chiefly because the regular No 6,

Fernandinho, was injured. Adept at functioning in a variety of roles — he began as a classical No. 10 before Klopp repositioned him to the base of the midfield, interchanging between a defensive screen and a deep-lying playmaker — he frictionlessly slipped into the role. But when City brought Rodri in 2019 and veered away from the double-defensive midfield gameplan, his appearances began to dwindle. A spate of ill-timed injuries did not help.

Pep’s favourite

But Guardiola transforms players; few languish under him. David Silva’s departure had left a midfield vacuum. Gundogan is not a creator or a trickster like Silva, but has an impeccable passing range, a playmaker’s intuition and a striker’s nose for goal. Midway through last season, he was repurposed as a box-to-box midfielder with the licence to thrust forward and drift into the space created by the conventional forwards. Goals began to fly off his boots — goals with a poacher’s instinct and midfielder’s finesse. Gundogan netted 22 in the first four seasons; in the next two, he blasted 25. He was City’s highest goal-scorer the previous season (17) while the returns dwindled this edition because he had to juggle with defensive-midfield duties. There were goals of all sorts — headers, toe-pokes, tap-ins, grass-trimmers, snap-shots and pile-drivers.

Two of those goals arrived in a manic five-and-a-half minutes that changed City’s night from prospective mourning to utter jubilation. Both were from the striker’s book — the first a header at the far post and the winner a tap-in after an unmarked gallop from midfield. Guardiola perhaps knew this before, as last year, he extolled the virtues of Gundogan: “He is a guy who has an incredible sense of goal. It is not just knowing the right time to arrive at the box, it is the right second. This is the most difficult thing. Not to arrive one metre before, or one metre later, but at exactly the right time, and Gundo has this sense.”

Not just his anticipation but Guardiola praised his finishing skills too. “And it’s not just that — with his finishing too he has this way to control the ball, slow down and take a second to compose himself and see what happens, and be clinical.” As if Guardiola had watched those two goals a year ago.

At the post-match interview, Gundogan had just the energy to put together. “These are the days you look back to.” Just like that night in Dortmund, where he got a nudge of appreciation from Guardiola, or the evening in Schalke, where it all ended and began for the grandson of a Turkish migrant from the mining town of Gelsenkirchen.



Rafael Nadal in action during the match against Jordan Thompson. Reuters

Nadal off and running in characteristic fashion

Spaniard scores his 299th win at a major, having never lost in the first round in French Open

REUTERS
PARIS, MAY 23

RAFAEL NADAL showed no signs of pain as the 13-time French Open champion marched into the second round at Roland Garros with clinical 6-2 6-2 6-2 demolition of Australian Jordan Thompson on Monday. The Spaniard, who had never arrived in Paris as unprepared as this year after a rib injury and a chronic foot problem hampered the build-up to his beloved Grand Slam tournament, was never bothered on a chilly Court Philippe Chatrier. “It’s incredible for me to play here again on Chatrier. I’m happy with this win. First round is always special,” said Nadal. The 35-year-old, who has a record 21 men’s Grand Slam titles to his name, played down the chances of adding to his tally but his display was reminiscent of those of previous years. Nadal broke for 2-1 with a backhand volley winner and his massive forehand helped him quickly move 4-1 up against an overwhelmed opponent. The fifth seed looked to finish off some points quickly and made several unusual unforced errors, but they were of little consequence as he breezed through the opening set.

Nadal broke serve in the first game of the second set and again in the fifth and seventh as he started to play more neatly, bagging it with a service winner. Thompson, who pulled a break back, looked completely worn out by then but managed to hold it together until 2-2, when Nadal

broke with a forehand volley and won all the rest of the games for his 299th victory at a major, having never lost in the first round here in 18 entries.

Champ dethroned

Barbora Krejickikova’s title defence ended in the opening round as local hope Diane Parry was roared to a 1-6 6-2 6-3 victory against the second-seeded Czech.

Krejickikova, who defeated Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the 2021 final to win her maiden Grand Slam title, arrived at Roland Garros without any competitive matches under her belt since February due to an elbow injury.

But she breezed through the opening set against the 97th-ranked Parry, who was facing a top-10 opponent for the first time in her career, in 34 minutes before her rustiness showed.

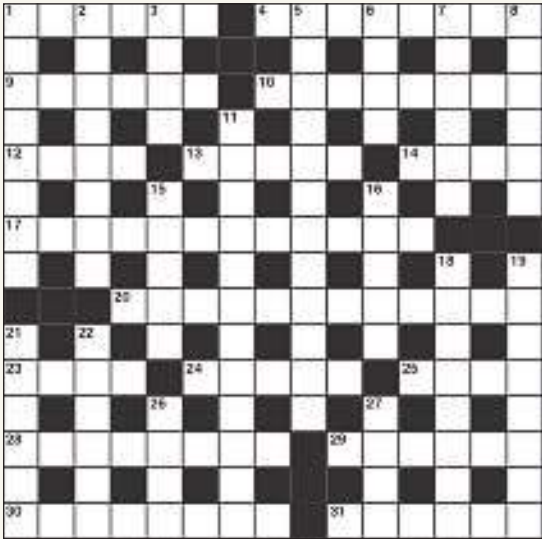
The 19-year-old Parry turned the match on its head by winning the second set as errors and double faults began to creep into Krejickikova’s game.

Krejickikova took a lengthy break after losing the second set and was booed by the partisan French crowd at the Court Philippe Chatrier on her return.

The 26-year-old Czech got an early break in the deciding set but Parry, urged on by the crowd, levelled things at 2-2 and then got the decisive break in the eighth game.

Krejickikova found the net on match point for her 45th unforced error as Parry completed a remarkable victory with the crowd chanting ‘Parry, Parry’ throughout the contest. She will play Colombian Camila Osorio for a place in the third round.

CROSSWORD 4748



- ACROSS**
1 Able to make the top ten? (6)
4 Worn thin perhaps so it’s included free (6,2)
9 Eat out on a badly run vessel (3,3)
10 Loans made by suitors (8)
12 A verbal comeback (4)
13 A bench to put in the sun (5)
14 A major land mass though it could be minor (4)
17 Interpretation which requires some building up (12)
20 Exalted status of one on a rostrum? (4,8)
23 Dance and swim (4)
24 This may light up the game (5)
25 Request to remain true to type? (4)
28 An outrage otherwise concealed by ill will (8)
29 Where the Ark went fast (6)
30 Get hard ideas changed or reject them? (3,5)
31 He helps to make fitted wardrobes (6)
- DOWN**
1 Gilbertian virtue (8)
2 It is involved with change in education (8)
3 A Roman emperor in a manner of speaking (4)
5 Not a dry subject but dictators shy from it (12)
6 Shape of eggs at first light (4)
7 Most delightful form of insect (6)
8 As a sun resort it’s capital (6)
11 Resolute due to threats perhaps (12)
15 Most airlines provide this flight (5)
16 Beat the weight (5)
18 State carriage? (8)
19 Shaken and upset (8)
21 Arranges books (6)
22 News of an explosion (6)
26 Novelist makes friends in France (4)
27 A free description of desert (4)

Solutions Crossword 4747: Across: 1 Class, 4 Time lag, 8 Moo, 9 Landscape, 10 Artist, 11 Ovals, 13 Doubts, 15 Stupor, 18 Banjo, 19 Pickles, 21 Stepped on, 23 Ire, 24 Extorts, 25 Digit. Down: 1 Command, 2 About turn, 3 Sales, 4 Tanker, 5 Miss out, 6 Lea, 7 Guess, 12 Appalling, 14 Trooper, 16 Respect, 17 Spades, 18 Baste, 20 Caned, 22 Eat.

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.

_____ is when life’s alive in everything - Christina Rossetti (6)

SUVIR



APRONS



ORWNS



AADEMG



SOLUTION: SUVIR: VIRIOS, SWORN, DAMNAGE
Answer: Spring is when life’s alive in everything - Christina Rossetti

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4844

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 4843



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Financial risks continue, but there is scope to sidestep difficult issues and put arduous tasks to one side. You may emphasise sheer fun, pleasure and relaxation. Creative and competitive Arians will benefit, especially from new friends and associations.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
For all your energy and determination, you appear to be confused and misguided in several important respects. The point is that just as your good qualities are being emphasised at the moment, so are your bad ones. And that is why you should avoid extremes, and extremists.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Whatever disturbs or distresses your peace of mind must be dealt with, if only because stressful planetary aspects are due to carry on until next week. The last thing you want to do is prolong the agony. In fact, what seems gloomy now is in fact moving towards a positive outcome.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Sun is exerting a deep influence over the financial sectors of your life. This is neither a good thing nor is it bad. It does, however, reinforce the suspicion that you really must get money matters sorted out. You see, if you don't do it, someone else will.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Colleagues and co-workers are bound to want more than you are prepared to give, but this will probably be the least of your problems. If you are able, turn your serious attention to financial and spending plans. That way you'll be prepared for developments due in one month's time.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
The positive aspect of current obstacles, hurdles and challenges is that you may become more experienced, self-confident and astute. Those stars which may be awkward for others, are actually quite favourable for you, and your good fortune sometimes comes in mysterious ways.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Your last word over family or domestic affairs has not been uttered. However, although underlying contradictions or complications may remain, the pressure to do something about them will be eased considerably. Particular problems can be put off until another day.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Today's lunar alignments are about the most intriguing that there have been for a long time. The news will be exciting, even if you are enjoying placid times. It's significant for all new relationships, so go forward with hope.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
I suspect that you may be slightly confused, and with good reason. One planetary force is drawing you towards everything that is routine, ordinary and mundane, while another is urging you to be profound and spiritual. You need a reminder, though, that this is still a lively moment, with much to gain.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Creative aspirations and social passions seem to be at the centre of this week's stresses and strains. You may have strong feelings about certain people, and might do better not to get too closely involved; I have a feeling that they could have expectations which can't be fulfilled.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
What magnificent times these are. Any adverse or challenging planetary influences signify that you are now presented with a remarkable opportunity to break the patterns and habits of a lifetime. If you're stuck in a negative frame of mind, you absolutely have to start looking on the bright side.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Creative activities are signified by the peculiar line-up of planets in four sectors of your chart. Bring your own unique talents to every area of your existence, both personal and professional. Employers who fail to recognise your special abilities will be wasting their money, but then, that's their problem.

PLAYING TODAY

Indian Premier League

GT vs RR

Live on Star Sports Network, 7.30pm

French Open

Live on Sony Sports Network, 2.30pm

Stormy Eden ready for IPL playoffs

Curator manages to keep pitch & outfield safe amid gusty rain, expects sporting surface for business end

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, MAY 23

THE NOR'WESTER on Saturday made the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) officials nervy. Thankfully, damage was restricted to the front window of the Eden Gardens press box giving in to a 90km per hour storm. A quick repair job has fixed the damage. And Suján Mukherjee's presence of mind kept the pitch and outfield safe.

The Eden curator acted in advance. "As dark clouds gathered, we covered the pitch and outfield and put large stone chunks on the cover, heavy enough to withstand the gust. It did the trick," Mukherjee told *The Indian Express*.

A day before the Indian Premier League Qualifier 1 between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals, both pitch and outfield looked first-class. Mukherjee spoke about how the surface would assist everyone: "Batsmen will be able to play on the up, fast bowlers will get purchase upfront and spinners will come into play later. There will be good bounce." The curator has stuck to his template of preparing sporting pitches. Over the last seven years under his charge, the Eden surface has hardly ever proved to be a let-down.

Around 5.15 pm on Monday, the Royals team bus hauled up in front of Eden. The Titans coach came a few minutes later. Fans in front of the stadium, oblivious to the identity of the team members, started chanting, 'RCB, RCB'. A Kohli ditty followed. Around that time, Royal Challengers Bangalore's flight was landing in Kolkata. Going by the reaction, the Eliminator on Wednesday is going to be box office. Virat Kohli offering stardust. But make no mistake, it will be a full house for Qualifier 1 on Tuesday also, with the authorities allowing 100 per cent turnout. The IPL needed this change of scenery. Monotony was creeping in towards the end of the group phase. Familiarity, to an extent, had started to breed contempt.

Both teams boast of quality fast bowlers. Titans have Mohammed Shami, Alzarri Joseph and Lockie Ferguson. The Eden pitch should excite them to bend their backs. Royals' counter



A day before the Indian Premier League Qualifier 1 between GT and RR, both pitch and outfield looked first-class.

is Trent Boult, Prasidh Krishna and Kuldeep Sen (if he plays). As for batting, Titans would like to see consistency from Shubman Gill, while three successive single-digit scores notwithstanding, Jos Buttler remains Royals' talisman with 629 runs from 14 matches. As regards spin, Royals hold a slight edge with the Chahal-Ashwin combo versus Rashid Khan. Wriddhiman Saha playing on home patch, with relationship strained with the CAB, offers an interesting sub-plot.

But there's a bigger picture – Hardik Pandya and Ravichandran Ashwin, the two biggest takeaways for Titans and Royals respectively in this IPL.

Hardik came to this IPL caught in the fitness quagmire. He had lost his place in the Indian team, with chief selector Chetan Sharma sending out the message – bowl-or-bust. Hardik has bowled 24.3 overs in the lead-up to the playoffs. He has bowled with the new ball and operated with the older one, and irrespective of just four wickets, he has thrived on a very decent economy rate, 7.79. The Titans skipper has also scored 413 runs. His selection

in India's T20I squad for the home series against South Africa was a formality.

Ashwin would rue the fact that white-ball cricket at international level probably has passed him by.

At the same time, nobody used him in this format the way the Royals team management has done this season. Kumar Sangakkara (Royals' head coach) and company have optimised Ashwin's batting potential, using him as a floater in the batting order. Confidence begets confidence and the 35-year-old has flourished in his new role. His match-winning 40 not out off 23 balls against Chennai Super Kings only three days ago was a testament to his ability as a batsman in the shortest format and how innovative and enterprising he can be, when he has the licence to express himself.

At the post-match presentation, Ashwin spoke about clear communication. "The communication was clear before the season on what I needed to work on. The management had ensured my role was well-defined."

About his batting, he had said: "I have understood the game well and am innovative. I

don't have enough power; credit has to go to Rajamani (Prabhu, strength coach) and Zubin Bharucha (head of cricket). They have understood my nature and that I don't bat the same every game. They have given me encouragement and I have practised a lot. I want to play my A-game for all franchises I play for. It's a mark of respect."

Ashwin has scored 183 impactful runs and taken 11 wickets (economy 7.14) in 14 games. Yuzvendra Chahal tops the wicket-taking charts with 26 scalps.

Coming back to the Eden pitch, Mukherjee doesn't want to change the strip for the Eliminator between RCB and Lucknow Super Giants. "One pitch should be good enough for 80 overs. In a first-class game, 90 overs are played per day."

The curator praised his ground staff, spending sleepless nights to fight against the elements as thunderstorms are predicted for the next few days.

"They deserve heavy sleep for 10 days after the IPL matches are over," Mukherjee said on a lighter note.

Sarfaraz & I had one dream — play for India, make dad happy: Musheer

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, MAY 23

BROTHERS SARFARAZ and Musheer Khan will be representing the Mumbai Ranji Trophy team in the knockouts after the selectors picked the 18-year-old Musheer in the team led by Prithvi Shaw. Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun wasn't selected for the game against Uttarakhand in Bangalore while Ajinkya Rahane is yet to recover from his hamstring injury.

The rookie Musheer, an opener and left-arm spinner, had tallied 670 runs in nine games with an average of 67 in the under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy, with two hundreds and five fifties. Last year, he was the man of the tournament in the A division Police Shield and the Madhav Mantri one-day tournament.

It's as much the story of father and coach Naushad as it's about the sons. The seed for making his children professional cricketers was planted in the father's mind when he fell out with a cricketer he had coached. Naushad had once shared that trigger moment with this newspaper. "The player spoke those unforgettable words, Mere mein kabiliyat thi, main khela. Tumhaare mein talent hai toh apne bachchon ko khilaake dikhaon na. (I had the ability, so I played. If you have the talent, then make your sons play and show the world)," Naushad had said. Now, both his sons are on their way.

Musheer's elder brother Sarfaraz recalled how he had requested the team manager for an extra Panama hat for his brother during the last leg of the Ranji tournament.

"I had requested the manager for one extra Mumbai cap for my brother Musheer whenever he plays for Mumbai in future. God has been kind. It's his (Musheer) and my father's hard work. Lot of sacrifices have gone into making us cricketers," Sarfaraz told *The Indian Express*.

Musheer is currently training in Surat after being selected for the National Cricket Academy zonal camp.

Big aspirations

Musheer says he just did what his father said. "My brother Sarfaraz Khan and I had only one dream – to play for India and make



Father Naushad Khan with sons Sarfaraz (left) and Musheer.

my father happy. This news has certainly made me happy and I am thankful to selectors and MCA. I still have a long way to go and there is still plenty to do," the youngster said.

Sarfaraz is part of the Delhi Capitals team in the Indian Premier League and has become Mumbai's mainstay in the longer form of the game with the red ball.

Naushad recalled Musheer's cricketing journey. "It all began when his club Payyade SC decided to make him an opener at the age of 15 against senior players. His confidence grew from there. I tried not to commit the same mistakes that I did with Sarfaraz. Like, the timing of the practice sessions. With Sarfaraz, we used to train in the evening at the nets and found that he struggled a bit with the red ball in the morning conditions when he turned out for Mumbai. I realised the error. So now we practise in the mornings when there is dew on the pitch. That is why Musheer plays fast bowlers with ease," Khan explained.

The father has been the central figure in the rise of his two sons as cricketers, doing odd jobs to support their passion for the game. The father had once told this newspaper how the family has kept their sanity in trying times.

"We came from the slums, used to stand in queues for the toilet where my sons would be slapped and overtaken. We came from nothing and will go back to nothing. Sarfaraz told me once, 'Abbu, so what if this doesn't happen. We can always go back to selling track-pants.'"

BRIEFLY

Jyothi rewrites own 100m hurdles NR

Leicester: Jyothi Yarraji smashed the women's 100m hurdles national record for the second time in less than two weeks while winning the event at the Loughborough International Athletics Meet in the UK. The 22-year-old from Andhra Pradesh on Sunday clocked 13.11 seconds under permissible wind speed of +0.3m/s to better her own earlier national record of 13.23 that she had clocked on May 10 during the Cyprus International Meet in Limassol. Jyothi had bettered Anuradha Biswal's national mark of 13.38 which had stood since 2002.

PTI

Trailblazers no match for Supernovas

Pune: Supernovas beat Trailblazers by 49 runs in Women's T20 Challenge opening match Pune, May 23 (PTI) Pooja Vastrakar picked up four wickets for just 12 runs in a brilliant pace-bowling display as Supernovas notched up an easy 49-run win over Trailblazers in a record-breaking opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Monday. The 22-year-old Vastrakar claimed the wickets of Trailblazers' captain Smriti Mandhana (34), her opening partner Hayley Matthews (18), No. 4 Sophia Dunkley (1) and Salma Khatun (0) in two separate spells to tear apart the batting line-up of the defending champions.

PTI

Brief scores: Supernovas 163 (Harmanpreet 37, Dottin 32, Matthews 3-29, Khatun 2-30) beat Trailblazers 114 for 9 (Mandhana 34, Rodrigues 24, Vastrakar 4-12, Ecclestone 2-19, King 2-30) by 49 runs

Justin Thomas scripts sensational comeback

Tulsa (USA): Justin Thomas wrapped his arms around the 27-pound Wanamaker Trophy after winning his second PGA Championship, and thousands of fans ringing the 18th green amid the setting sun. Good thing they woke up in time for his Sunday charge. For nearly four full days, the year's second major had been a major snooze, the cast atop the leaderboard a list mostly made up of also-rans searching for a moment stardom. The golf itself was unspectacular, too, as everyone from Abraham Ancer to Tiger Woods ground their way around a Perry Maxwell classic that was both forbidding and unforgiving.

AP

India and Pakistan share honours in Asia Cup opener

TUSHAR BHADURI
MAY 23

INDIA-PAKISTAN hockey matches are always robust encounters, full of adrenalin, eye-catching individual skill and end-to-end action. But given the generally callow nature of both teams at the Asia Cup and lack of coordination among the two units, it had to be expected that the marquee contest wouldn't rise to any great heights.

It didn't look like a high-voltage fixture between two teams who have won the continental title six times between them.

India has had the upper hand in almost all the recent encounters. In that context, a 1-1 result against the traditional rivals would have been considered a bit of a disappointment. But with nothing tangible riding on the tournament for the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists (spots are up for grabs for the next World Cup, but India qualify automatically as hosts), they can afford to look at the bigger picture.

SV Sunil and Birendra Lakra were the tenuous links with Indian teams of the recent past with the rest almost exclusively made up of Junior World Cup winners and second-string reserves. Most of India's best chances came from penalty corners, but they had only one conversion to show for them – Karti Selvam's drag flick getting a deflection off Pakistan defender Muhammad Abdullah's stick, thus wrong-footing custodian Akmal Hussain in the first quarter.

It was the only time Hussain was beaten in the game, and was rightly adjudged player of the match as he kept his team in the contest before they snatched a point at the very end.

Pakistan hockey, which has been in the doldrums for the last several years after not making a few major events in succession amidst a financial crunch, would dearly love to be at the World Cup but are taking a pragmatic view and treating the Asia Cup as part of a rebuilding phase.

They looked the more dominant team from open play and had their forwards been more clinical and accurate in front of goal, they wouldn't have had to wait till the penultimate minute of the game for their equaliser – which came when Abdul Rana found the target from close range after the initial drag-flick had been blocked on the line.

Lot to work on

It is former captain Sardar Singh's first formal coaching assignment as he assists BJ Kariappa in the dugout. They will need to refine co-ordination as well as enhance composure and clinical finishing before facing reigning Asian Games gold medallists Japan on Tuesday.



For India, a 1-1 result against traditional rivals is a bit of a disappointment.

HI

"It's a young team and they need to improve in penalty corner conversion and capitalisation of chances," Lakra, who was appointed captain after original skipper Rupinder Pal Singh pulled out due to injury, said after the game. "In a high-intensity match, one has to make use of the opportunities."

As far as match statistics are concerned, both teams were evenly matched on shots on goal (11) and circle penetrations (9). India enjoyed a slight upper hand in ball possession (55 percent). But for a team which has been traditionally very strong in penalty corners, India will be disappointed in converting only one of eight such opportunities, double of what Pakistan earned. In the bigger picture, for India this tournament could be a stepping stone towards the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games (regardless of when the latter is held and the players selected for the two events). Simranjeet Singh, one of the heroes for India in the bronze medal playoff against Germany at the Tokyo Olympics, made his much-awaited return from injury and could have won it for India with just a few seconds left if he had hit the target.

He was not alone in his profligacy. There were several occasions when a calm head and a stick in the right place would have resulted in an Indian goal and three points from the opening encounter.

At the other end, Suraj Karkera in goal had to be alert on several occasions to deny Pakistan when they got hold of the ball in front of the cage. India may have reason to be satisfied with their last-ditch tackling, which often denied opposition forwards who got flustered and failed to hit the target.

Given that Korea, Japan and Malaysia began their respective campaigns with convincing wins, India will need to raise their game if they are to match them in games to come.



In association with



A discussion on



Ketan Mehta, Director

in conversation with

Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, The Indian Express

Webinar Discussion

Date: 30 May 2022 | Time: 6:30 PM

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