

# Economy could hit \$7 trillion by 2030: Govt

Rajeev Jayaswal and **Roshan Kishore** 

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**NEW DELHI:** India is on course to become the third largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$5 trillion in the next three years, and can "aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030)", according to a document released by the finance ministry two days before the last budget (an interim one) of the current government.

Ten years of the Narendra Modi government "has been a journey from fragility to stability and strength" for the Indian economy, chief economic adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said in the report, whose estimates are based on a "reasonable set of assumptions with respect to the inflation differentials and the exchange rate".

The document "Indian Economy - A Review", which was released by the CEA's office, is a commentary on the state of the economy and its future prospects and can be seen as a partial substitute to the customary Economic Survey which is released a day before the Budget and lays down the economic narrative of the government. The 2023-24 Economic Survey will only be released when the new governments will present the Final Budget for 2024-25 in July.

## Highlights of economy review

The review said that India is now the third-largest fintech economy after the United States and the United Kingdom

financial sector helped clean up balance sheets of banks and corporates, restarting lending Unification of domestic markets via GST has incentivised large-scale production,

enhanced economic efficiency

WHAT WORKED

Reforms to strengthen

while reducing logistics costs Investment incentives and initiatives to ease compliances have nurturing ecosystem for start-ups

WHAT'S EXPECTED Inclusive welfare approach to help increase consumption base by expanding middle class.

 Female labour force participation rate rose from 23.3% in FY18 to 37% in FY23, reflecting the growing role of women

 Policies generating resources for investment needed for climate change adaptation, building resilience, and mitigating emissions

likely in financial year 2023-24 - the third successive year where it's been above 7%

growth of the economy

Exports as a driver of growth no longer easy amid onshoring and friend-shoring of production, increasing vulnerabilities of global supply chains, and the legacy of twin global shocks

## CEA's review ahead of budget points to key focus areas and opportunities

Rajeev Jayaswal

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**NEW DELHI:** Turning India into a trusted partner for global trade is a key opportunity that could drive growth, the finance ministry's review document released on Monday said, identifying a digitally skilled labour continued on →8 | force, constructive use of AI, ment's next term should it

further reductions in compliance requirements for MSMEs, clean energy transition and broad reforms in skilling, learning and health as crucial areas of focus for the Indian economy going forward.

The document, effectively identifying what will be in focus for the NDA govern-

retain power in the upcoming general elections, noted that geopolitical frictions have led to geoeconomic fragmentation and disrupted global supply chains, bringing not just a challenge but an opportunity for India to emerge as a reliable partner for "friend-shoring"

and "onshoring" of business. →FULL REPORT ON P17

## Hindu side files new SC plea on Gyanvapi

**Utkarsh Anand** 

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**NEW DELHI:** Four Hindu women moved the Supreme Court on Monday seeking the excavation and scientific survey of a sealed section of the Gyanvapi Masjid in Varanasi, four days after an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) report concluded that a large Hindu temple existed before the construction of the mosque in a boost for the Hindu petitioners in the decades-old

The area in question holds a disputed structure that Hindus say is a Shivling, a claim rejected by Muslim side which says it is part of a ritual ablution

PM INSPIRES NEXT

**EXAM WARRIORS IN** 

HIS PARIKSHA SERIES

**NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Nar-**

endra Modi on Monday empha-

sised the importance of technol-

ogy and said that it should be

used judiciously without con-

sidering it a burden, adding that

it was in his nature to "chal-

lenge every challenge". The PM

was addressing the seventh edi-

tion of his annual event Parik-

sha pe Charcha where he

interacts with stu-

dents, teachers and

parents ahead of

board

examina-

tions.

**GENERATION OF** 

## Top court extends stay on survey of the Shahi Eidgah in Mathura

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday extended till April its earlier order that put in abeyance a survey of the Shahi Eidgah mosque abutting the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura by an advocate-commissioner.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked the parties to file submissions in the matter by the first fortnight of April, when the case will be heard next.

"In the meantime, pleadings will be completed by the parties. Interim order to continue," the bench said, extending the operation of its January 16 order.

Filing two separate applications, the Hindu women plaintiffs pressed that the very pur-

pose of the ASI survey con-

ducted on the orders of the Varanasi district judge will be frustrated if the area, which has continued on →13

## Girl, 18, dies in Kota, leaves 'apology' note

Senjuti Sengupta

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JAIPUR: An 18-year-old student, who was to appear for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to engineering colleges this week, died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota district on Monday, leaving behind a purported note for her parents where she said she cannot attempt the exam, police said on

The incident is the second in the district this year, and came a week after a 19-year-old National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant died by suicide.

Police said a suicide note, reportedly written by the student, was recovered from her room, in which she apologised to her parents for taking the extreme step.

The suicide note said: "Mummy papa I can't do JEE so I suicide. I am loser. I worst daughter. Sorry mummy papa. Yahi last option he (this is the last option).'

Kota is the centre of India's test-prep business. Last year, 27 students, preparing for various competitive examinations, died by suicide in the district.

# NITISH TO CALL

Vijay Swaroop

letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: The new Bihar cabinet in its first meeting on Monday authorised chief minister Nitish fresh assembly session and asked the assembly secretariat to remove RJD legislator Awadh Bihari Choudhary from the speaker's post, a day after Kumar took oath as chief minister for the ninth time.

deputies, Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, and BJP inductions into the cabinet. →P10

#### **DELHI GOVT ROLLS** OUT NEW SOPS, INCENTIVES FOR SWITCH TO SOLAR

**Paras Singh** 

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**NEW DELHI:** The AAP government on Monday unveiled a new solar policy, rolling out larger incentives and subsidies for people to have solar power systems installed at their homes and businesses through which they will be able to save on electricity

Announcing the policy, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the objective is to triple the Capital's installed solar power capacity from the current 1,500MW to 4,500MW in three years.

This will lead to the Capital meeting 20% of its electricity needs via solar power by March 2027, Kejriwal said.

response ensured the safe

release of the hijacked boat,

Iman, and its crew, the navy said

## { MARITIME TENSIONS }

# Indian Navy warship INS Sumitra rescues Iranian vessel hijacked off Somalia coast



The Iranian fishing vessel off the coast of Somalia.

Rahul Singh letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Navy on Monday said that its offshore patrol vessel INS Sumitra responded to a distress call from an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel hijacked off the Somali coast, and the swift response "coerced the pirates" to release the boat and the crew held hostage.

in a statement. "INS Sumitra intercepted the vessel, acted in accordance with the established standard operating procedures to coerce the pirates for safe release of the boat and the 17-member crew," the statement said. The mission was carried out by the elite marine comman-The mission-deployed vessel's dos on board the warship. →P12

## BIHAR CABINET **AUTHORISES CM** HOUSE SESSION

Kumar to decide on convening a

A meeting was also held between Kumar, his two new and JD(U) leaders for further

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## PAGE ONE PLUS

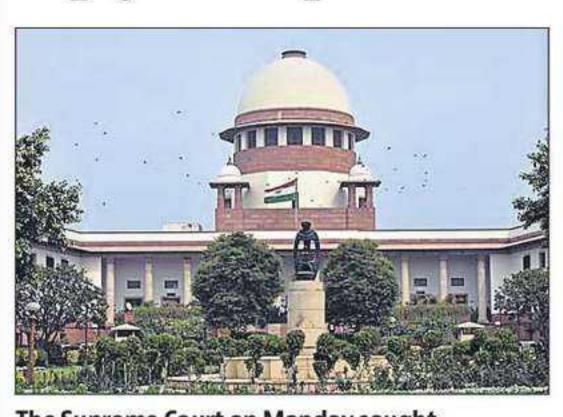
{ MY INDIA } 'UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATION'

## SIMI banned for 5 more years: Shah



The Union home ministry on Monday extended the ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), a radical Islamic outfit, for five years for its alleged terror activities. Announcing the decision on X (formerly Twitter), home minister Amit Shah said: "Bolstering PM @narendramodi Ji's vision of zero tolerance against terrorism 'Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)' has been declared as an 'unlawful association' for a further period of five years under the UAPA (unlawful activities prevention act)." "The SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat," Shah added. SIMI was banned in September 2001. It has since been declared a terror organisation every five years. →P10 { MY INDIA } HIV+ OFFICIAL'S CASE

## SC seeks Army, IAF reply on unpaid dues



The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force into a contempt plea filed by a retired IAF official seeking to know why he was not paid the court-ordered sum of over ₹1.5 crore as compensation after it was found that he contracted AIDS following a blood transfusion at a military hospital during Operation Parakram in 2002. A bench of justices BR Gavai and Sandeep Mehta also turned down the IAF's request to defer the hearing on the contempt plea as a review petition against the court's September 30, 2023 order was still pending consideration before the top court. Last year, the IAF was told to pay the amount within six weeks.

{ MY INDIA } TRICOLOUR REPLACES HANUMAN FLAG

## Tensions in K'taka's Mandya after flag tussle, security up



Security was stepped up in Karnataka's Mandya district on Monday as protests over the replacement of a Hanuman flag with the Tricolour continued for a second consecutive day, even as chief minister Siddaramaiah accused the Opposition of trying to instigate the people ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. On Sunday, tension gripped Keregodu village after authorities removed a Hanuman flag and hoisted the national flag on a 108-feet tall flagpost. As a large number of villagers gathered to protest, police resorted to lathi charge to disperse them. The villagers, leaders of political parties and members of Hindu outfits continued with their agitation on Monday and marched from Keragodu to the deputy commissioner's office in the district headquarters. As the march reached Mandya city, police resorted to a lathi charge.

{ BUSINESS } ANIL KUMAR LAHOTI

## Ex-Railway Board chief to head Trai



The Centre on Monday appointed former Railway Board chairperson Anil Kumar Lahoti as the chief of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), according to a government order. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, IRSE (1984) (Retd.), Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Government of India as Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until he attains the age of 65 years or until further orders..." said the order issued by the department of personnel and training.

{ MY INDIA } TO BE TABLED IN HOUSE

## State UCC body to file draft on Feb 2: Dhami



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) panel will submit its draft to the state government on February 2, following which a bill will be introduced in the assembly for implementation. "The committee formed to prepare the draft of the Uniform Civil Code will submit its draft to the state government on February 2 and we will implement the Uniform Civil Code in the state by bringing a bill in the upcoming assembly session," the CM said in a post in Hindi on X. He added the draft will be discussed by the cabinet before tabling a bill in the upcoming assembly between February 5 and 8. UCC refers to a common set of laws that will subsume customary laws across faiths and tribes and govern issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and maintenance.

## 'Merger with Sony nixed as Zee failed financial terms'

Reuters

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**NEW DELHI:** Sony scrapped the \$10 billion merger of its Indian arm with Zee Entertainment in part because Zee failed to meet some financial terms of the deal and come up with a plan to address them, according to a termination notice reviewed by Reuters.

India's Zee denied the allegations in a letter to Sony, also reviewed by Reuters, and accused the Japanese company of "bad faith" in calling off the merger.

A Zee-Sony merger in India would have created a media powerhouse in the country with 90-plus channels across sports, entertainment and news.

But Sony terminated the plans on January 22, saying in a statement it was doing so because "closing conditions" were not satisfied after two years of negotiations. Neither Sony nor Zee made the contents of the termination

notice public. Reviewed by Reuters, Sony's notice said Zee had "failed to take commercially reasonable" efforts to meet some financial thresholds, including with regards to cash availability, while a "lack of commercial prudence" by the Indian network contributed to its

decision. In the 62-page notice, Sony said several breaches of the merger agreement were "not remediable and any further attempts to mutually discuss would be an empty formality, especially given ... plain denial (by Zee) and failure to provide a proposal to protect" Sony's interests.

"The breaches committed by Zee are not 'procedural or technical' in nature and will have a substantive impact on the transactions," Sony said.

Zee responded privately to Sony a day later, on Jan. 23, saying it denied all Sony's allegations, adding the Japanese company's demand for a termination fee of \$90 million was "legally untenable". The termination was "effected

in bad faith" and "is wrongful, bad in law," Zee wrote in its letter, which asked Sony to withdraw its notice.

A Zee spokesperson declined to comment, while Sony did not respond to Reuters queries. Zee's shares have fallen about

30% since the deal collapsed. Its business has struggled over the years. Zee's advertising revenues fell to \$488 million for the 2022-23 financial year from around \$600 million five years earlier. Cash reserves dropped to \$86 million from \$116 million in that period.

Sony, in its termination notice, said that Zee's cash position was \$57.26 million as of September 30, adding that was "much below the requirements" of the merger agreement.

Reuters reported last week that Sony was also concerned about Zee CEO Punit Goenka who was set to head the merged entity - facing a regulatory investigation for suspected diversion of company funds - allegations he has denied. The "ongoing investigation" was cited in Sony's notice.

Zee was "unable to realistically assess the timeline required to resolve all the outstanding issues," Sony's termination notice stated.

{ FRANCE } CAPITAL UNDER BLOCKADE BY TRACTORS

## A farmer agitation surrounds Paris

Thousands of protesting farmers have encircled Paris with tractors, laying siege to the city in a showdown with the government over the future of their industry. A look at the genesis of the stir.

Tough start to a new job for PM &

The talks with farmers and protesters promise another difficult

week for new PM Gabriel Attal, less than a month into the job. He

sought, but failed to defuse the movement last week with a series

of pro-agriculture measures. Farmers said they fell short of their

demands that producing food be more lucrative, easier and fairer.

What are they protesting? WAR IMPACT: The snowballing farmer's

agitation in France is another manifestation of a global food crisis worsened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a major food producer. A similar protest is also underway in Belgium. Farmers complain that war-related higher

prices for fertilizer, energy and other inputs have eaten into their incomes, even making farming untenable. **OVER REGULATION:** They also complain that France's farming sector is over-regulated, hurt by red tape and food imports from countries where agricultural

producers face lower costs and fewer constraints.

Blockade, it's

ramifications

The head of French farming

organisation said farmers would

months - at about 30km from the

describe as a "siege of the capital"

intended to squeeze more conces-

Armored vehicles were part of the

security measures put in place there.

sions. Protests were also spread

centre. They aim to create what they

- the host of the Olympics in 6

block all major highways out of Paris

police officers have been deployed around Paris, to head off any effort by protesters to get into the capital itself and also to protect its airports



## taxis and Belgium

Taxi drivers with other grievances also organized drive-slow protests Monday, adding to a nationwide picture of traffic difficulties. Traffic authorities reported protests causing snarls on several major highways heading into Paris. Farmers in neighbouring Belgium also stepped up their own campaign using tractors to block a key motorway junction.

What we have understood is that as long as the protest is far from Paris, the message is not getting through... Our goal isn't to bother or to ruin French people's lives... Our goal is to put pressure on the government to rapidly find solutions out of the crisis.

- ARNAUD ROUSSEAU, head of farmers' union FNSEA

'QUANTUM BODY' } DEEPAK CHOPRA BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Science or pseudo-science? A debate rekindled

**Kabir Firaque** 

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across France.

**NEW DELHI:** Earlier this month, the Indian-American doctor Deepak Chopra presented his latest book, Quantum Body, to AIIMS Delhi, from where he graduated decades ago.

The subject of the book, written with co-authors Jack Tuszynski (a physicist) and Brian Fertig (an endocrinologist), is as exotic as the title suggests. Chopra, whose work straddles the line between modern science and spirituality, proposes that we have a "quantum body" that is distinct from our physical body.

"Unlike our physical body, which is subject to aging, injury, and decay, the quantum body exists on a subatomic level and is the infinite, invisible source of everyday reality that affects your thoughts, feelings, sensations, and biological responses," Chopra says on his website.

In the quantum

Over the years, several scientists have dismissed Chopra's ideas as pseudo-science. While his latest idea is indeed revolutionary, this is not the first time that someone has connected the the quantum world, which is

Since the early 1990s, the Nobel laureate Roger Penrose, one of the world's most respected physicists, and Stuart Hameroff, an American anaeson a theory that proposes our

consciousness is the result of quantum activity inside the brain's neurons. Over three decades, their theory has not yet been conclusively proved, but not been completely ruled out either.

To make it clear, the idea of a quantum body and the quantum theory of consciousness are distinct from each other. While many scientists have been sceptical of Chopra's spirituality, many have examined Penrose and Hameroff's theory in all seriousness. Not everyone, however, has been fully convinced by the consciousness theory which, even today, exists largely on the borderline between mainstream and fringe.

Theory of consciousness The conventional view is that consciousness results from interactions between our neurons. Penrose and Hameroff, on the other hand, propose that conscious arises inside the neu-

happens as a result of quantum processes, which are orchestrated by cellular structures called microtubules. They describe this as "orchestrated objective reduction", or Orch OR, which is how their theory has come to be

Orch OR, broadly speaking, rests on two pillars. One, that in the brain, specifically in microtubules, there exist quantum superposition states. The term refers to quantum systems that exist in multiple states at the same time (think Schrodinger's cat that is alive and dead until you look at it, at which point it

Orch OR's second pillar is that when we express a specific thought, quantum states spon-



Deepak Chopra (centre) presented AIIMS Delhi with a copy of his latest book Quantum Body earlier this month. X/AIIMS\_NEWDELHI

taneously "collapse" into a single state due to gravitational interactions. The mathematics of this gravity-related collapse, in various scenarios, is described by the "DP model", named after physicists Lajos Diósi and Penrose.

## Testing the theory

In experiments starting 2014, scientists at Italy's National Institute for Nuclear Physics set out to test the second pillar of Orch OR, based on the DP model. From the results of their experiments in the world's largest underground laboratory at Gran Sasso, they concluded in Physics of Life Reviews in 2022 that Orch OR, "when based on the simplest version of gravityrelated dynamical collapse, is highly implausible in all the

the door open, because not all variants were tested. "To be sure, the results in this paper do not rule out Orch OR theory in general. Rather, they rule out variants of Orch OR based on the simplest version of the DP theory," the study's correspond-

The first pillar of Orch OR. meanwhile, continues to intrigue scientists. Indeed, there have been indications that quantum phenomena may occur in the brain. In one of the most recent experiments, described in ACS Central Science in 2023, scientists found that electronic energy passing through microtubules defied the predictions of classical physics.

The paper's co-authors include Penrose, Hameroff and, incidentally, one of Chopra's co-authors on Quantum Body (the physicist Tuszynski). The paper's lead author, Aarat Kalra, then at Princeton University, is now an assistant professor of biomedical engineering at IIT Delhi.

"The experiments that I performed measured the distance to which electronic energy can migrate in microtubules (which were extracted from pig brain) ... There was an appreciable difference between theoretical (classical) predictions and experimental results," Kalra

said. What explains the mismatch? While it is possible that quantum effects were at play in the microtubules, Kalra chose not to connect his results directly with Orch OR. "In my opinion," he said. "the experimental results don't really do much for or against Orch-OR."

## What next for Orch OR?

Kalra's (and Chopra's) co-author Tuszynski felt that Orch OR has not yet demonstrated the main tenets it claims to be fundamental to consciousness. He cited a number of issues that remain. For example, in microtubules, quantum states exist for too short a time to be physiologically relevant, and the distance over which they extend is too small to explain global coherence, Tuszynski said over

Kalra agreed that there are some large issues that Orch OR does not address, and felt the theory could be improved. Yet he was not entirely dismissive. "My own view of the theory is that it is a rare example of a complete theory of consciousness, and unlike some other more 'mainstream' theories, it actually aims to provide a mechanistic explanation for consciousness. This makes it interesting.

Curceanu, meanwhile, having tested one cornerstone of Orch OR, said there is still a lot of work to be done. "Ours is only the tip of the iceberg! We are working on developing other models and refining our techniques to continue tests of collapse models [and] also studying the possible impact on life (including aspects such as consciousness, which is indeed very fascinating). We are convinced that these studies are worth continuing, theoretically and experimentally," she said.

**Quantum Body** 

AGEN

Lot-et-Garonne

Among the issues with Orch OR that Tuszynski raised, one was that the theory in its description does not include metabolism in any form. Unless metabolism has a defined role, his argument is that Orch OR cannot be limited to living systems.

"By extension this would indicate panpsychism at work. I find it far-fetched to say the least," he said.

In the idea of a quantum body, metabolism plays a central role. "We present [in the book] a view that quantum interactions extend over the entire body, not just the brain and result in a synchronised, coordinated and correlated functioning of all our cells, tissues and organs. We claim that the reason for it is metabolism, which is the 'quantum glue' bringing together all these seemingly independent activities," Tuszynski said. The book also talks about how this physics-based viewpoint is consistent with Eastern philosophy

and spirituality, he added. While on spirituality, any description of Chopra's work would be incomplete without a mention of the scepticism it has earned. Chopra's strongest critic has been Richard Dawkins, the evolutionary biologist and best-selling author. The two have often faced off over the years, including on televi-

sion shows and videos. In 2015, Dawkins described Chopra's spirituality as "worse than organised religion", say media reports. Four years previously, Chopra had dismissed Dawkins as being an "idiot". The journalist Tom Roston has written a book about their showdown: The Quantum Prophets: Richard Dawkins, Deepak Chopra and the Spooky Truth about their Battle over God.

## { IN 2023 } 1.4MN VISAS ISSUED

## US visa appointment wait time down 75%

**HT Correspondent** 

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**NEW DELHI:** The US processed more visas in India than ever before during 2023, cutting the wait time for visitor visa appointments by 75% through a combination of staffing increases, innovations and increased efficiency.

Over the past year, the US embassy and consulates in India processed 1.4 million visas. Indians now represent one out of every 10 US visa applicants across the world and demand for all types of visas was "unprecedented" in 2023, with a 60% increase in applications compared to the figures for 2022, the

US embassy said in a statement. With more than 700,000 applications, visitor or Bl and B2 visas now represent the second highest number of applications for the US. The statement said the US missions met this demand through a staffing surge for three months in Mumbai early in 2023, by increasing permanent staff levels, and through the use of innovative technical solutions.

Process improvements and investments in staffing brought the appointment wait time for visitor visas down from an average of 1,000 days to 250 days across India. "Wait times are minimal in all other categories," the statement said.

The US missions in India issued more than 140,000 student visas in 2023 — more than in any other country in the world, setting a record for the third year in a row, the statement said. "Taken individually, Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Chennai now stand as the top four student visa processing posts in the world. As a result of these surging numbers, Indian students have become the largest group of international graduate students in the US and make up more than a quarter of the over one million foreign students studying in the US," the statement said.

Employment visas remain a top priority and the US consular team in India consolidated most petition-based visa processing in Chennai and Hyderabad to increase efficiency, leading to the processing of more than 380,000 employment visas for Indians and their family members in 2023. This also allowed the US mission to maintain a "minimal appointment wait time" for these visas.

In 2024, a pilot programme will allow eligible HIB holders to renew their visas in the US, further streamlining the process for this group, the statement said.

The US consulate general in Mumbai eliminated a queue of more than 31,000 immigrant visa cases delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

world, Alzheimer's, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and heart disease, do not exist. Unlocking the secrets of the quantum body can revolutionise how we ultimately eradicate disease, Chopra asserts.

mysteries of everyday life with mysterious in itself.

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cases analysed". That said, the researchers left

ing author, Catalina Curceanu, said over email.

## MY DELHI

## Sisodia files plea for regular bail in excise case

Deepankar Malviya

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NEW DELHI: Jailed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia has moved court seeking bail in the money laundering case registered against him by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the central agency's probe into alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

Special judge MK Nagpal on Monday sought a reply from ED on the bail application, and listed the matter for hearing detailed arguments on Friday.

Separately, Sisodia also approached the court, seeking custody parole to visit and meet his ailing wife for two days on a weekly basis. The court issued notice on this application as well, and listed the matter along with the bail application moved by Sisodia.

In his bail application, Sisodia, the former deputy chief minister of Delhi, said that he has been detained for more

TECHNICAL STAFF

HOSPITAL PROTEST

**NEW DELHI:** Around 47 technical

staffers at the Delhi government-

run Lok Nayak hospital staged a

demonstration on Monday and

boycotted elective surgeries, pro-

testing against the non-payment

An operation theatre techni-

of salaries for several months.

cian, who was part of the protest,

said the technicians, along with

some nursing staff, met the hos-

pital's medical director to dis-

cuss the disbursement of the

Salaries will be released soon,"

Lok Nayak Hospital said.

"We are sorting the matter.

pending salaries.

IN LOK NAYAK

than II months and has not been implicated in the alleged offence as the central antimoney laundering agency has failed to establish any financial gain or undue advantage obtained by him.

He added that he is a victim of political witch hunt, and his pre-trial detention is in violation of his fundamental rights. He further pointed out that he is at risk of prolonged imprisonment due to delayed and protracted legal proceedings.

Sisodia highlighted that there has been a lack of progress in the trial despite more than three months having passed since his bail was denied by the Supreme Court on October 30, 2023.

He also said that the apex court, relying upon the assurance of ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation that the trial would conclude within 6-8 months, had granted him liberty to file a fresh bail application if the trial is protracted and proceeds at snail's pace in the next three months.

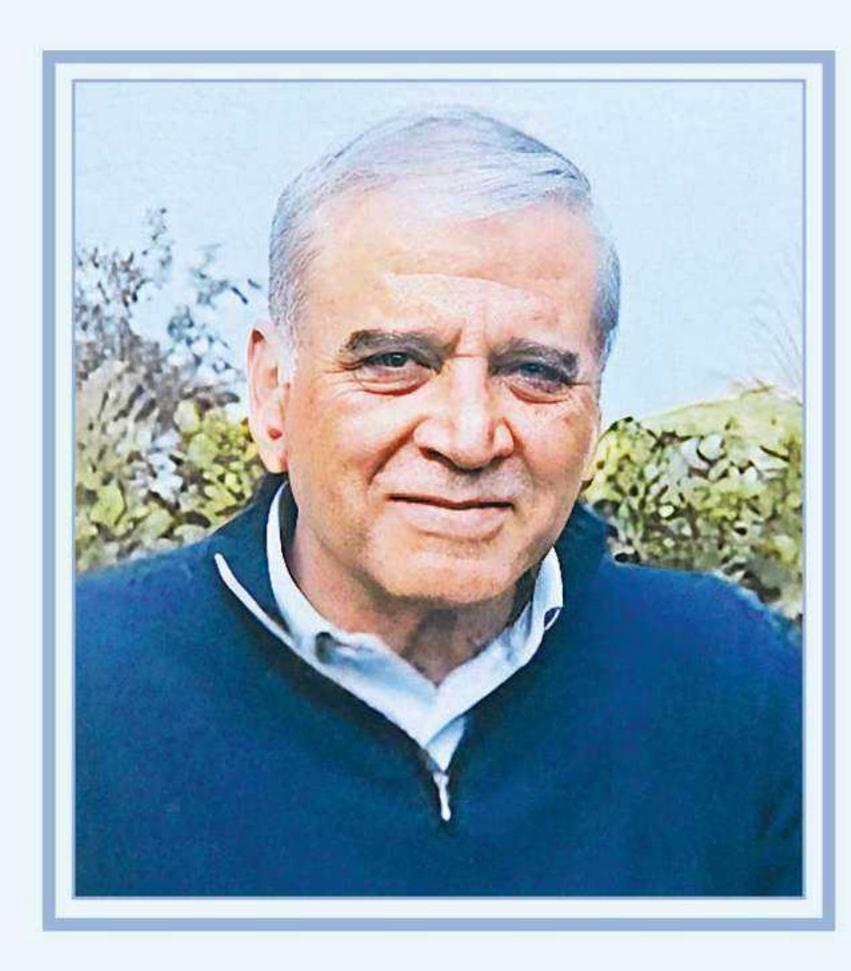








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## RANA TALWAR

please join us for a prayer meeting that will take place on Wednesday, January 31, at 3:00 PM at the Lodhi Hotel.



Renuka Talwar Nikhil Talwar Ayesha and Asad Haider Rahul and Aashna Talwar Max, Annika, Ronan Leia, Ishaan, Gibran

Amar Talwar Dimpy and Vijay Soni Wasiga and Varun Soni KP Singh
Kavita and Rajiv Singh
Pia and Timmy Sarna
Savitri and Sahir Berry
Anushka and Arjun Bhartia
Tara Sarna
Jai Sarna



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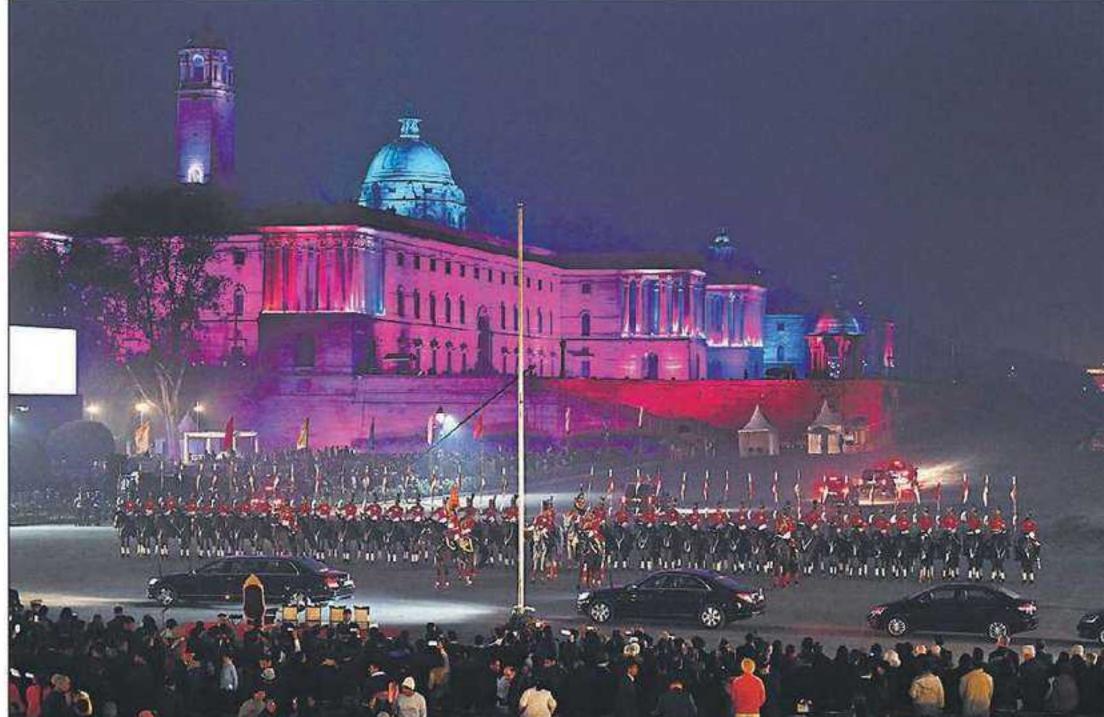
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## Raisina Hill echoes with patriotic tunes







President Droupadi Murmu arrived for the Beating Retreat ceremony on Monday at Vijay Chowk in the presidential buggy. The bands of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Central Armed Police Forces enthralled those gathered for the ceremony. Among the patriotic tunes performed were Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon, Saare Jahan se Acha, and Ekla Cholo Re. One of the highlights of the evening was the naval band's rendition of Mission Chandrayaan — a song dedicated to the success of the mission — followed by the band creating a formation depicting the Vikram Lander.

# Govt's aim: Meet 20% of power demand through solar by 2027

**Paras Singh** 

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on Monday unveiled a new solar policy, rolling out larger incentives and subsidies for people to have solar power systems installed at their homes and businesses through which they will be able to save on electricity costs.

Announcing the policy, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the objective is to triple the Capital's installed solar power capacity from the current 1,500MW which includes 250MW from rooftop solar installations and 1,250MW from larger utilityscale solar power systems — to 4,500MW in three years.

This will lead to the Capital meeting 20% of its electricity needs via solar power by March 2027, Kejriwal said.

At the core of the scheme is are two incentives.

One, a subsidy for people to install solar systems: the government will give a subsidy of ₹2,000 per kilowatt (KW) of the cost of the system. A typical 2KW solar installation costs around ₹90,000 which, with the subsidy, would come to ₹86,000. The subsidy has been capped at a maximum of ₹10.000.

Two, people will be paid ₹1-3 per unit of solar energy they generate. This will effectively help reduce people's power bills.

Additionally, every unit of solar energy generated will cancel out a unit a person consumes from the power grid, effectively further reducing the power they consume from the discoms.

Such calculation is possible for people who install a net meter, which is a two-way meter to measure how much energy is drawn from or fed back from the grid. Typically, during the day, a home will feed back power to the grid, while drawing from it at night.

The CM explained that this will help bring more people within the zero power bill net, with their consumption cancelled out by what they generate and the additional ₹1-3 per unit that they will earn on the power they contribute.

Around 70% of Delhi's residential consumers get a zero or Target of tripling solar power in 3yrs

CM Arvind Kejriwal said the new solar policy will bring partially subsidised and unsubsidised electricity consumers into the zero bill category

2016 solar policy 1500MW power generated electricity demand

Proposed 2024 solar policy power to be exchequer demand March 2027

#### **TYPES OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES**

**Generation-based** incentives (GBI) For every unit of solar power generated, Delhi govt will offer incentives, which will be adjusted against monthly

electricity bill of the consumer. Any excess amount will be deposited into the consumer's bank account by the discom. Earlier, GBI amount was transferred only twice a year

Capital subsidy Govt to provide a capital subsidy of ₹2,000 per kW of installation to residential consumers (up to max of ₹10,000 per consumer)

subsidised electricity bill. A zero

bill is when consumer use up

fewer than 200 units a month,

and a subsidised bill is when

consumption lies between 201

the Delhi Cabinet. It will be noti-

fied by the power department

soon, the government said, fol-

lowing which it shall be sent to

lieutenant governor VK Saxena

ence, Kejriwal said the govern-

ment will spend around ₹570

crore towards the implementa-

tion of the new solar policy,

which will also make it manda-

tory for all government buildings

with an area of more than

Addressing a press confer-

for a final stamp of approval.

The policy has been cleared by

and 400 units.

**Net Metering** Solar units to be subtracted from billed units. If a household has consumed 400 units and generated 100 units of solar power, it will be billed only for 300 units.

Roll-over of excess energy units After net metering, excess solar units left will be rolled-over into subsequent billing cycles

**Earnings** If the solar power generated is more the consumer's annual electricity demand, the consumer will earn money

consumers the into zero bill category 250MW of rooftop solar plants

new solar policy aims to bring partially/unsubsidised

Case study: Avg monthly consumption of 360 units

• The consumer will start getting

zero electricity bills right away

(savings of around ₹1370 per

month) as well as a GBI of

approx ₹700 per month

GBI

(₹/kWh)

Size (kW)

1 to 3

3 to 10

of Delhi's residential consumers get a zero

W electricity bill or have a subsidised bill. The govt's

NA

500sqm to install solar panels. Power minister Atishi said that the government also plans to rope in a third party to carry

out the satellite imaging-based

mapping of rooftop power

potential in the city so that users

are able to get an estimate about the potential on their rooftops. HT reached out to BSES and Tata Power — the two discoms that supply electricity to Delhi but both declined to comment

on the new solar policy. The officials did not clarify how many residential buildings have currently installed rooftop solar panels.

In 2016, the AAP government brought its first solar policy, which facilitated the deployment of over across Delhi, and around 1,250MW of utility-scale solar plants.

Consumer

₹90,000

Category

Residential

Residential

GHS/RWA

Commercial/Industrial

installs a 2kW

rooftop solar

plant for approx

**CHANGES IN INCENTIVES** 

Through the new policy, power department officials said, the government aims to scale up the installation of rooftop solar panels to 750MW and increase the generation of power from utility-scale solar plants to 3,750 MW by March 2027.

"By installing a rooftop plant under the new policy, partiallysubsidised and unsubsidized consumers too can get zero bills every month. In addition, they will get a monthly income through generation-based incentives," an official said.

According to Delhi government data, there are close to 5.8

million domestic power consumers in the Capital. In 2023, Delhi's peak power demand clocked the season's high of

Return on

investment

in 4 years

Comparison to 2016 policy

Introduced for the first time

Increased by ₹2

Same as earlier

Same as earlier

7,438 MW on August 22, 2023. Responding to the new policy, leader of the opposition in the Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said Kejriwal's announcement has nothing new in it, and state governments across the country are running

similar schemes. He also accused Kejriwal of making misleading announcements. "The people of Delhi want to ask the chief minister if they install solar panels at their homes, then why would they need to take his free electricity units?" he said.



## पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड (ऊर्जा भवन, विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ-250001)

अनुभवी अंशकालिक चिकित्सक की आवश्यकता के सम्बन्ध में। निगम कार्य हित में सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यालय प्रबन्ध निदेशक, पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. ऊर्जा भवन, विक्टोरिया पार्क मेरठ के अन्तर्गत विभागीय स्तर पर कार्मिकों द्वारा प्रस्तुत किये चिकित्सा प्रतिपूर्ति प्रकरणों के बीजकों की जांच सी.जी. एच.एस. दरों के अन्तर्गत करने हेतु एक अनुभवी अंशकालिक चिकित्सक की आवश्यकता है।

शैक्षिक योग्यता-एम.बी.बी.एस./ सर्जन अथवा समतुल्य।

चिकित्सा का अनुभव – न्यूनतम 05 वर्ष । मानदेय रु. 25000/- प्रतिमाह।

अतः उक्त के सम्बन्ध में विभागीय नियमानुसार एक वर्ष की अनुबन्धित सेवा हेतु इच्छुक आवेदनकर्ता इस कार्यालय की ई-मेल आई.डी.-spopvvnlmrt2024@gmail.com पर प्रार्थना पत्र के साथ 15 दिवस के भीतर आवेदन करें।

सम्पर्क हेतू—

कार्मिक अधिकारी, कार्यालय प्रबन्ध निदेशक, पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., ऊर्जा भवन, विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ- 250001

मो.नं.- 9193330017

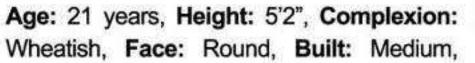
पत्रांक: 2076 दिनांक : 29.01 2024

मुख्य अभियन्ता (मा. संसा. एवं प्रशा.)

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male namely Yash S/o Lt. Jitender R/o H.No. D-2/412, Nand Nagri Delhi, has been missing from Johripur Metro Station, Delhi dated. 10.01.2024. In this regard, a case DD No. 37A dated. 16.01.2024 has been registered at P.S. Shastri Park Metro, Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under.

SANJEEV VERMA/HT



shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing male then please inform P.S. Shastri Park Metro, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638,24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/929/Metro/2024

Shastri Park Metro, Delhi

Wearing: Black color jacket and blue color jeans Pant and black sport

Sd/-S.H.O. Tel No. 2217362

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sumit, S/o Inderpal Singh, R/o Village Sikampur, PS Tanda Badli, District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case Reg. No. 109/2014, U/S 279/338 IPC, PS Model Town, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sumit can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sumit has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sumit of Case Reg. No. 109/2014, U/S 279/338 IPC, PS Model Town, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2024. By Order

Shri Himanshu Sehloth Metropolitan Magistrate-03, (North District) Room No. 213, Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/693/NW/2024

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Bablu S/o Fihamuddin R/o Village Dinawra, P.S. Dhaunari, District-Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh and Jhuggi No. 21, Rainewell No. 7, Yamuna Bank, Vikas Marg, ITO, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 294/2021 Dated 02.10.2021 U/s 376-D/506/366 IPC registered at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Bablu could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Bablu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Bablu is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.03.2024. By Order

Sh. Vinod Kumar, DP/971/CD/2024 Metropolitan Magistrate-03, Central Room No. 150, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi (Court Notice)

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Shelesh S/o Manish Kumar R/o W-74, Gali no. 10, Basti Taliwalan, Anand Parbat, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 41/21 U/s 379/356/411/34 IPC at PS: Anand Parbat, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Shelesh can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Shelesh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Shelesh of FIR No. 41/21 U/s 379/356/411/34 IPC of PS: Anand Parbat, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said

complaint on or before 04.03.2024. By order Sh. Shubham Devadiya Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (West) Room No.336-A, 3rd Floor, DP/998/CD/2024 Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Arti @ Neelam, D/o: Lt. Daryao Singh, R/o: H.No. 251, Gali No. 4, Karan Vihar, Part-B, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 26/16, U/s 389 IPC, P.S.: Nangloi, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Arti @ Neelam cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Arti @ Neelam has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Arti @ Neelam accused of FIR No. 26/16, U/s 389 IPC, P.S.: Nangloi, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 02.03.2024. By Order

Sh. Shubham Devadiya Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (West) Court Room No. 336A, DP/987/OD/2024-(Court Matter) Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Jishan @ Saddam S/o Shoket R/o Kiraye Ka Makan No. 305, Gali No. 05, Kabir Nagar, Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 17/2016, U/s 379/411 IPC, PS Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Jishan @ Saddam can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Jishan @ Saddam has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person(s) Jishan @ Saddam of FIR No. 17/2016, U/s 379/411 IPC, PS Jafrabad, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 06.03.2024.

By Order Ms. Aayuski Saxena DP/568/NE/2024 Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (Court Matter) Room No. 48, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

## SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that this boy namely Angad Tiwari, S/o Mani Bhushan, R/o 212, Transit Flats, Shastri Park, Delhi. Age 21 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Strong Built, Wearing Black colour jacket, sky blue colour jeans pant and sport shoes in feet has been missing since 18.01.2024 from

**Angad Tiwari** Shastri Park Metro Station, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 12A, dated 23.01.2024 has been lodged at PS Shastri Park Metro, Delhi.

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

Website: http://cbi.nic.in Email: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

DP/1023/METRO/2024

PS: Shastri Park Metro, Delhi

Ph.: 011-22173623, 22173624

9868263434

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed

on 18.01.2024. In this regard a case vide DD No. 41A dated

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

> Tel. No. 011-28335686, 28335696 8750871132

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING

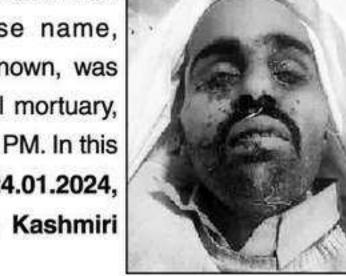
THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Arjun Kumar S/o Sh. Nage Kawar R/o H. No. 16/685, Amrit Kaur Puri, Tank Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 77/2020, dated 05.04.2020, U/s 188 IPC and 33/58 D.E. Act, PS Civil Lines, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Arjun Kumar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Arjun Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person(s) Arjun Kumar of FIR No. 77/2020 dated 05.04.2020, U/s 188 IPC and 33/58 D.E. Act, PS Civil Lines, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 13.03.2024.

By Order Sh. Gaurav Goyal Metropolitan Magistrate DP/958/N/2024 Central Distt., Room No. 247, (Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at LNJP Hospital mortuary, Delhi on 24.01.2024 at 02:54 PM. In this regard DD No. 38A, dated 24.01.2024, has been registered at P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.



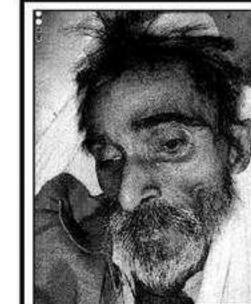
Ph. No.: 8750870123

The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, Age: About 50 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Pink shirt, white sweater, blue jeans.

If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform the SHO/Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.

P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi E-mail: sho-kashmirigate-dl@nic.in DP/1086/N/2024



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: 60 years, Height: 170cms, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, ID Mark: Hanuman ji tattoo on the arm, was wearing Blue colour Jacket and White colour Dhoti, was

found in the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi at 10:54 AM. In this regard a DD No. 21A, dated 08.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 9870127024, 9599369911 DP/1055/RD/2024

DP/1091/WD/2024

that an unidentified person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 40 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury: Body is in decomposed condition, Wearing: Green Colour Full Sleeve T-Shirt and Black Colour Pant has been found dead at DDU Camp jhuggi, Drain Raghubir Nagar, Delhi

18.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Khyala, Delhi.

P.S. Khyala, Delhi West Distt., Delhi



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## Chaos in MCD House as AAP, BJP fight over crucial panel

**Paras Singh** 

paras@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House meeting on Monday plunged into chaos as councillors from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) raised placards and shouted slogans against the mayor's petition in the Supreme Court that the powers of the powerful standing committee be temporarily transferred to the House.

The protest ensured that the House could not discuss any proposals listed for the day. Amid the pandemonium, the House rushed through 25 policy proposal, of which seven were postponed, two were rejected, and the remaining 16 were cleared by a voice vote.

The BJP councillors were protesting against mayor Shelly Oberoi's petition filed before the Supreme Court on Sunday, in which she sought the court to temporarily transfer the powers of the standing committee to the house of councillors. The 18-member standing committee is the powerful panel of the civic body that controls the purse strings of the MCD. The formation of standing committee and other key panels in the MCD remained a sticking point between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the opposition BJP for the past over one year.

The matter is pending adjudication before the Supreme Court, where the AAP has challenged the appointment of 10 aldermen by Delhi's lieutenant governor.

While six members to the standing committee have been elected by the House, the remaining 12 will have to be elected by



BJP councillors protest inside MCD House on Monday. RAJ KRAJ/HT

ward committees in which aldermen hold voting power. Till the aldermen issue is resolved, the constitution of the ward committees cannot be completed and the stalemate will not be resolved.

The BJP, however, has maintained that there is no legal stay over holding elections for the wards committee. The AAP has insisted that the appointment of 10 aldermen by LG will impact the elections and the outcome of the petition on their appointment should be settled first.

#### 16 proposals cleared

The 16 proposals cleared by the House on Monday include the redevelopment of the Sarai Kale Khan crematorium as one of the largest funeral facilities in the city, the revision of recruitment rules for different municipal posts, the setting up of polling booths for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, and a new policy to allow government co-operative societies to open outlets in closed dhalaos. Other proposals related to the allocation of additional funds for completing pending works at two multilevel parking lots at Jangpura and New Friends Colony, and allowing the municipal commissioner to increase the parking fee during implementation of stage 2 of the

next general meeting. The House will start its budget session from Tuesday, with leader of the opposition Raja Iqbal Singh initiating the discussion on annual budget proposals.

Graded Response Action Plan

(Grap) — were postponed till the

#### Naming of roads

The House also cleared five proposals related to the naming and renaming of roads — a move opposed by the BJP councillors. It

was the first time that the civic body considered proposals related to naming of roads since the unification of erstwhile North, South and East MCDs in May

The House cleared naming of two stretches in East Patel Nagar after Devender Kaur Bindra and Satender Pal Singh Bindra, and three roads in Adarsh Nagar ward after Lal Kanwar Bhan Gupta and Santlal Gupta. The two wards are represented by mayor Shelly Oberoi and leader of the house Mukesh Goyal.

BJP's Singh said that proposals related to naming of roads are cleared by the naming committee and put up by the executive wing after verification, but the AAP administration bypassed the committee while tabling the proposal.

Goyal rejected the BJP leader's contention and said that there were only four statutory committees in MCD (standing, wards, rural and education committee). He said the rest of the committees have an advisory role only. "The naming committee is an ad-hoc committee. It has an advisory role. Since the committee has not been formed, the House can take the decision on its own," he said.

Mayor Oberoi said that like always, the BJP councillors did not allow the House to function. "We always appeal to BJP councillors that the House meeting should proceed peacefully... But the BJP councillors never maintain the dignity of the House. Even today, we had to pass the resolutions amid ruckus created by them." The last House meeting had witnessed similar scenes and multiple adjournments.

# Ggm: Dispute over parking at farmhouse leads to all-out brawl; man killed, 8 hurt

**Debashish Karmakar** 

debashish.karmakar@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: A 40-year-old man was beaten to death and eight others critically injured after a dispute over parking at a Gurugram farmhouse snowballed into an all-out brawl in the early hours of Sunday, police officers aware of the case said, adding that two people involved in the incident have been arrested.

Police identified the deceased as Parveen Dhul, a resident of Jind in Haryana, who had taken the Oasis Garden farmhouse in Baliawas on lease around four months ago.

They said that the injured were students of colleges in Delhi who were celebrating a birthday at the farmhouse.

Police said a group of college students held a party at the farmhouse on Saturday, and while leaving, had booked cabs to leave the venue. The cabs, police said, had stopped at the farmhouse's main entrance when a resident of the village who was crossing the spot in his car asked the students to remove

"The students told him that they were leaving, but the man hurled abuse at them, triggering a heated argument. He left, but soon returned with a group of men who were armed with rods and started assaulting the students," a senior police officer said, asking not to be named.

the vehicles immediately.

The officer said that the mob then barged into the farmhouse. "The employees of the farm-

house fled, but Dhul and his confidante Narveer Dagar were assaulted," he said.

Investigators said that Dhul managed to alert his partner Naresh Kumar, who reached the farmhouse and rushed all the injured to a private hospital in Badshahpur.

Police said the Badshahpur hospital referred Dhul to Paras Hospital in Sector 43, where he died during treatment.

One of the students assaulted in the incident, identified as Gajendra (who goes by one name), was shifted to AIIMS Delhi by his parents, where he was on ventilator support, said officers.

On Kumar's complaint, a first information report (FIR) was registered against five known

people and a dozen other unidentified suspects under Indian Penal Code sections 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) at the DLF Phase I police station on Sunday night.

Deputy commissioner of police (east) Mayank Gupta said two suspects, identified as Sachin Lal and Ashish Pal, were arrested on Sunday night. "Raids are on to nab the others. We have the CCTV camera footage of the incident," the DCP said.

"A few others were their friends from outside the campus. The students hailed from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Jhajjar and other districts in Haryana," he said.

## DMRC renames upcoming Silver Line as Golden Line

**HT Correspondent** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday said it has decided to change the name of the upcoming Silver Line — running from Delhi Aerocity to Tughalakabad - to Golden Line, for better visibility and passengers' convenience, DMRC officials aware of the matter said.

"The decision has been taken since the golden colour can be displayed more prominently and clearly on trains rather than silver, which tends to get mixed with the overall silvery texture of

the stainless steel body of the Metro trains. So, the selection of 'golden' as the colour code would ensure better visibility on trains and will be more convenient for passengers," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC.

The Delhi Metro has colourcoded names for all its operational corridors, so that passengers can easily identify them. A coloured strip, indicating the colour code of that particular corridor, is also prominently displayed on the trains. For instance, the Metro line from Dwarka Sector 21 to Noida/Vaishali is the Blue Line and all coaches on this line have a blue strip below the window.

DMRC already has a Grey Line - similar to the colour silver - which connects Dwarka to Dhansa Bus Stand. Phase-4 of the Metro will see the construction of three new lines. While the Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor is an extension of the existing Pink Line, the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram corridor is an extension of the Magenta Line. The Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor is the only line that is getting its own

new colour-coded name. The Golden Line will run for 23.62 km and have 15 stations.

#### GGM: 2 GROUPS CLASH IN SUBWAY, 21-YR-OLD KILLED

GURUGRAM: A 21-year-old man died after he was stabbed at least a dozen times as two groups clashed at a subway in Gurugram Sector 33 on Sunday evening, police said.

Police said the deceased, Akash Kumar, received a call from his friend Pratham Kumar, who asked him to arrive at the subway in Harinagar. When he arrived, police said, he was pulled into the clash, and was stabbed multiple times.

Manbir Singh, deputy commissioner of police (Manesar), said that prime accused Krishan, 22, and his two aides Sachin alias Kalu, 19, and Sachin Kumar, 19, were arrested from Sector-37 on Monday night.

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## MCD nod to kiosks by state co-ops at dhalaos

**HT Correspondent** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Monday approved a new policy to allow state co-operatives to set up kiosks in the closed dhalaos (garbage receptacle points).

So far, only Amul was allowed to open milk kiosks in

dhalaos that have been shut. A senior MCD official said that the civic body has amended and expanded the scope of the existing policy which will allow government

petitive bidding process. The official said that the

cooperatives from across the

country to get these spaces

allotted through an open com-

erstwhile South MCD had signed an MoU with Amul to set up milk kiosks in dhalaos that were shut by the corporation. "In August last year, the MCD House cleared a private member's resolution to amend the policy that allows opening of milk booths in place of dhalaos to incorporate Verka, a brand managed by the Punjab

State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation. The new policy allowing all government cooperatives has been brought in response to that resolution. Now, cooperatives will be able to sell all kinds of products ranging from milk, honey, other food products and fabrics at the kiosks set up at the abadoned dhalaos," the official added.





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## Mercury on upward trend, IMD issues yellow alert for rain today

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A western disturbance currently active near the hills gave Delhi a relatively warm Monday, with the maximum and minimum inching up compared to the previous day.

However, strong winds are likely to sweep through Delhi on Tuesday, with rain likely as well, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD), as it issued a yellow alert for light showers in the city.

Delhi's minimum temperature on Monday increased to 6.8 degrees Celsius (°C), from 4.3°C on Saturday and 6°C on Sunday.

This is likely to pick up further over the next few days, forecast to touch 8°C on Tuesday and 10°C on Wednesday, indicating that the winter chill is now likely on the wane.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD, said, "A western disturbance around Jammu and Kashmir is currently influencing parts of the plains and leading to cloudiness. This has led



The minimum temperature on Monday was 6.8°C. PARVEEN KUMAR/HT

to an increase in minimum temperature as well as a change in wind direction to easterly winds," he said.

"We expect a stronger western disturbance to impact the plains from December 31. This will bring drizzle to very light rain in NCR, with strong winds touching up to 40kmph," he

IMD said parts of Delhi are likely to get a drizzle on Thurs-

The maximum on Monday, ter than the 365 a day earlier. meanwhile, was 22.6°C - a However, the AQI is forecast to degree above normal, and four touch "severe" on Tuesday.

the next two days, IMD said.

respectively. In Noida, the tem-

perature swung between 21.8°C

shallow fog was recorded on

Monday, with the lowest visi-

bility recorded at 700 metres in

the early hours of the day,

though flights at the Indira

Gandhi International Airport

were minimally impacted.

However, at least 24 trains

were delayed by at least an

hour, due to the fog, Railway

Meanwhile, Delhi's pollution

levels remained in the "very

poor" zone, with a 24-hour

average air quality index (AQI)

of 356 at 4 pm, marginally bet-

cer to take a decision with regard

to permission for felling/trans-

plantation of trees. Further, Sec-

tion 29 empowers the govern-

ment to exempt in public inter-

est any area or any species of

trees from all or any of the provi-

sions of this Act," said the offi-

an area of one hectare and

requiring permission to fell trees

has to be approved by the gov-

ernment. The project was first

approved by Delhi's environ-

ment minister and chief minis-

ter, before the file was sent to

LG, who has to provide the final

approval to any such permis-

Any construction project over

The Met department said

and 8.4°C.

officials said.

The Commission for Air higher than Sunday's 18.6, though this was lower than the Quality Management (CAQM) balmy 24°C logged on Saturday. said it held an emergency meet-The maximum is forecast to ing on Monday but decided to hover between 21 and 22°C over not invoke stage 3 measures under the Graded Response Across the National Capital Action Plan (Grap), due to the possible improvement in air Region (NCR), Gurugram recorded a maximum and minquality expected from Wednesimum of 21.3°C and 8.5°C

"The CAQM sub-committee noted that a spurt in Delhi's average AQI, projected for Tuesday by the IMD and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is likely for a short duration, before returning to the 'very Poor' category owing to improved meteorological conditions including gusty winds with a probability of rain... the overall outlook for subsequent days projects Delhi's average AQI to stay in 'poor' or the 'very poor' category. Therefore .... it was decided not to invoke Stage-3 of GRAP at this stage," said

## CAQM in a statement on Mon-PVT SCHOOLS IN

**NEW DELHI:** Private schools in Delhi on Monday published the second list of successful candidates for admission to nursery, kindergarten (KG), and Class 1

seats, and they will share a third

Directorate of Education (DoE) officials said the candidates have been marked based on different criteria - the distance between a candidate's residence and school has been a primary category for most schools, while other institutions will also award points if a candidate's parents or siblings studied in the same school, on whether the candidate is a girl, on whether the candidate has special needs, and to children of

# Woman killed in Kalkaji incident caregiver for son with cancer, says family

**Karn Pratap Singh** 

karn.singh@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Tina Devi, 49, who died in the Kalkaji Mandir stage collapse on Sunday morning, had been visiting the temple every day since her youngest son was detected with blood cancer around four years ago, said her husband, Ved Prakash, 52, a vegetable vendor.

Unlike other days, when she would return home after offering prayers at the temple, Tina stayed behind on Sunday to attend the annual Mata Jagran (religious event) that was organised at the Mahant Parisar in the temple, and watch performances by singers B Praak and Kanhaiya Mittal.

She was standing near an elevated platform made of wood and iron frames that was set up at the venue for families of the organisers and their VIP guests, when it collapsed on to her, the family said. Tina was the only person killed in the accident. Seventeen people, including women and children, were injured.

"My wife was a true believer. She believed that her faith in god will help cure our son, Varun (who goes by a single name). Her visits to Kalkaji Temple became part of her daily routine since he was diagnosed with blood cancer four years ago. We never stopped her," said Prakash.

Tina was the only woman in

Tina Devi

the family. She is survived by her husband and three sons -Balraj, 29, Vikas, 24, and Varun, 21. Prakash said all his sons go by single names.

The family belongs to Rajasthan, but has been living in Delhi for the past 50 years, said Prakash.

On Sunday night, Tina was accompanied by her neighbours from Tughlakabad Extension in south Delhi.

Prakash said that he was at his vegetable shop in the neighbourhood when she left for the temple. Around 11.30pm, he returned home and learnt that she was still at the temple.

"Balraj called her around midnight and she told him she would return in half an hour,' said a grief-stricken Prakash.

"We were informed about her death by the police early in the morning," he said, adding that her body was cremated on Monday afternoon.

Nearly 1,600 people attended the religious event where singer B Praak was performing at the main stage. However, the crowd swelled through the evening, triggering a stampedelike situation as the devotees began pushing towards the stage for a glimpse of the popular singer. Some people climbed onto the stage set up for guests.

Eventually, the stage collapsed under the weight of the crowd, falling on several people standing near it, said police and temple authorities.

The injured were admitted to three different hospitals and were all discharged after being administered medical attention, police said.

Police said the event was organised, by the Shri Kalkaji Sajja Sewadar Mitr Mandal, without a formal permission.

Deputy commissioner of police (south-east) Rajesh Deo said a case of causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of other, death by negligence and disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant was registered against the organisers at Kalkaji police station under sections 337, 304A and 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

"We have issued a notice to the organising committee asking its members to join the probe. The members are at large and nobody turned up before the investigating team till Monday evening," said DCP

## LG gives nod for transplantation of 130 trees from Old JNU Campus the Act empowers the tree offi-

**HT Correspondent** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena has granted permission to transplant over 130 trees for the construction of a building for the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) on the Old JNU Campus, officials aware of the development said on Monday. The project site will cover an

area of 1.75 hectare, which will see 132 native trees being transplanted to Mehrauli, and two exotic trees being felled, the LG office said.

In lieu of the trees being impacted, a total of 1,340 saplings will have to be planted for



VK Saxena

the project in the ratio of 1:10, with ₹76.38 lakh to be spent by the project proponent as cost for compensatory plantation, the officials added.

"The department of forest and wildlife informed the LG that 132 out of 134 trees of native species

will be transplanted at Mehrauli and two trees of exotic species are proposed to be compensated for," said an official of the LG office, stating that the project was approved last week. The compensatory saplings

will meanwhile be planted at the NTPC Eco park in Badarpur and this will include native species ranging from neem, Amaltas, peepal, Pilkhan, Gular, Bargad to Desi Kikar and Arjun, it said. "The compensatory planta-

tion cost of ₹76,38 lakh will be deposited in advance by ISTM. The LG's permission for transplantation/felling of trees was sought under the provisions of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), 1994. Section 9 (3) of

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Most school principals said they have filled general category list only in case of vacancies.

single parents.

## Schools can carry forward unfilled EWS seats, says HC though schools are under a statu-

**NEW DELHI:** Schools carrying forward the seats left vacant under the economically weaker section (EWS) or disadvantaged group (DG) categories to the next class in the subsequent year is legal and valid, the Delhi high court ruled on Monday, saying the same was not violative of the Right To Education (RTE) Act. The court was of the view that

tory obligation to admit children under EWS category at entry level classes to the extent of 25% of the class strength, the carryforward principle could only apply where there was a shortage in the filling of EWS/DG seats.

"The Court holds that the principle of carry-forward of unfilled EWS/DG category

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vacancies in a particular class in one year, to the next class in the next year in the same school, is legal and valid ... It does not appear, to me, that the carrying forward of unfilled EWS/DG vacancies to the next class in the subsequent year infracts the RTE Act or any other legal provision," a bench of justice C Hari Shankar said.

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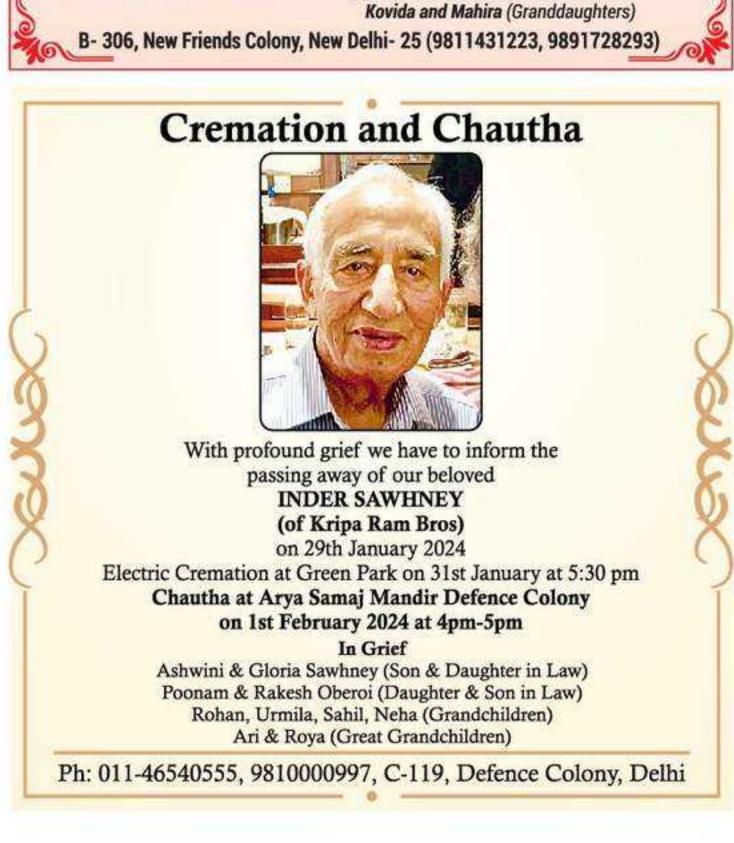
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#### 'WHERE IS SOREN' ROW

"Due to fear of ED, chief minister Hemant Soren has absconded from the CM's residence in Delhi and gone underground for the last 18 hours... who is the leader of the state in case of the CM absconding? This constitutional question is important," said state BJP chief Babulal Marandi on X.

The central agency's Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) probe against Soren pertains to an alleged land scam linked to the ownership of a parcel of land measuring 7.16 acres in the Bajra area of Ranchi. It has been alleged that the land parcel was acquired through proceeds of crime involving the illegal sale of army land. Soren has dismissed the case as politically motivated and said that the details of his assets are public.

The drama began around 7am on Monday when the agency's team reached Soren's residence at Shanti Niketan and even sent a team to the airport, although agency officials didn't describe the purpose of the visit other than "search". Neither team could locate Soren.

ED officials said on the condition of anonymity that they reached the CM's residence because of some fresh information in the probe. Delhi Police officials were seen outside the house while the ED team carried out its search operation.

The ED team reached Soren's

FIRE BREAKS OUT

AT VEHICLE DUMP

IN N-E DELHI

aware of the matter said.

added.

### { FROM PAGE 1 }

Delhi house at around 7.30am, and was stationed there till at least 10pm. Officials said that the team has also seized some documents. Separately, the agency has stationed a team at the Delhi airport, the officials said.

The 48-year-old leader had conveyed to ED's Ranchi zone assistant director on Sunday that he will appear before the probe team at his residence at lpm on January 31. The agency had, on Saturday, asked him to confirm his appearance either on January 29 or January 31 for further questioning in the money laundering probe.

Terming ED's insistence to record his further statement — he was last questioned in Ranchi on January 20 after skipping summons seven times — as "malicious" and a "political agenda" to disrupt the functioning of state government and preventing him from discharging official duties, Soren wrote in the letter sent to ED on January 28. "The issuance of summon to the undersigned is whole vexatious and in colourable exercise of powers given by the statute," he said.

"Without prejudice to the undersigned's rights all of which are expressly reserved, undersigned shall record his statement on January 31, 2024, at lpm at his residence," he added in his letter.

People in his office confirmed that Soren had come to Delhi for consultation with his legal team.

JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said in a press conference in Ranchi that "the CM has gone to Delhi for personal work", and he will return soon.

"He has been called on January 31. We are ready for January 31. Who is creating all the confusion then? The way the political situation is being presented is against democratic values," he said.

The JMM asked if ED was being used to destablise the government in the state, and alleged that central agencies had been reduced to political puppets.

Marandi, however, called the situation a "constitutional crisis".

"According to media sources, late at night Hemant ji, wearing slippers and covering his face with a sheet, ran away from his Delhi residence on foot. Ajay Singh, the security personnel of special branch who went with him to Delhi, is also missing," Marandi said on X. "There cannot be any other example of such gross negligence regarding the security of the chief minister," Marandi said. If there is truth in this news, then it is a situation of "constitutional crisis" for Jharkhand, he said.

"A big advice to those who are doing wrong on the instructions of Chief Minister Hemant Soren ji, the Chief Minister is proving himself to be a fugitive, he is running away from facing the investigating agency, the man is facing insults in

the country and abroad all day

long. Or what will protect the people of the state?" BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said.

The agency has so far arrested 14 people in the case, including 2011-batch IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan, who served as the director of the state's social welfare department, deputy commissioner of Ranchi, Bhanu Pratap Prasad, and businessmen Amit Agrawal and Bishnu Agrawal who own shopping malls in Ranchi.

Soren was questioned for almost seven hours on January 20, after skipping summons since August last year.

The CM said in his letter on Sunday that during the previous questions, the ED officer asked 17-18 questions from him to which he "duly replied".

"Most of your questions related to purported inaccuracies in the affidavits filed by me with the Election Commission and 3-4 questions related to a plot of land at Bargai which you wrongfully alleged was owned and possessed by me. The land at Bargai is 'Bhumihari land' which cannot be sold or alienated in any manner whatsoever and the said land is owned and possessed by the Pahan family for over five decades," Soren write in the letter.

Soren is also battling charges of illegally acquiring a mine, an allegation that had put his government under a disqualification cloud last year.

#### MAN DIES IN HIT-AND-RUN CASE IN G NOIDA

GREATER NOIDA: A 24-year-old man was killed after the motorcycle he was riding on was allegedly hit by a bus in Greater Noida on Sunday evening, police officers said on Monday.

Police identified the deceased as Mohd Sameer, a resident of Kasna.

"The incident took place at the Bhati roundabout in Sigma 3. An unidentified bus allegedly hit the bike from behind and fled the spot. The locals alerted the police and took him to hospital where he was declared dead on arrival," said Devendra Shankar Pandey, station house officer, Kasna police station.

## for smoother ride to airport (owned by the GMR group), GMDA, National Highways

**Abhishek Behl** 

abhishek.behl@hindustantimes.com

**GURUGRAM:** The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) on Monday said that it will work with Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) to boost adequate infrastructure growth to cater to the needs of the rising vehicular traffic between Gurugram and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport. This was

announced by GMDA chief executive officer A Sreenivas, who chaired a meeting on Monday with senior officials of DIAL

Authority of India and Gurugram traffic police, a statement issued by the authority said.

GMDA to work with DIAL

A GMDA spokesperson said that they were apprised by DIAL officials that they have hired a consulting firm for conducting studies required to asses the current traffic situation and future traffic generation between Gurugram and the Delhi airport.

"The study will analyse the travel demand, estimating zonewise traffic flow and movement patterns, tracking present transport network and factoring in future project corridors and public transport amenities, vehicle parking demand, as the key objectives," the spokesperson

HT reached out to DIAL, which did not respond to request for comments.

The consultants will also make phase-wise recommendations for mitigation measures within the next three months. Short, medium and long-term solutions will be charted out to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity for Gurugram residents, the spokesperson said.

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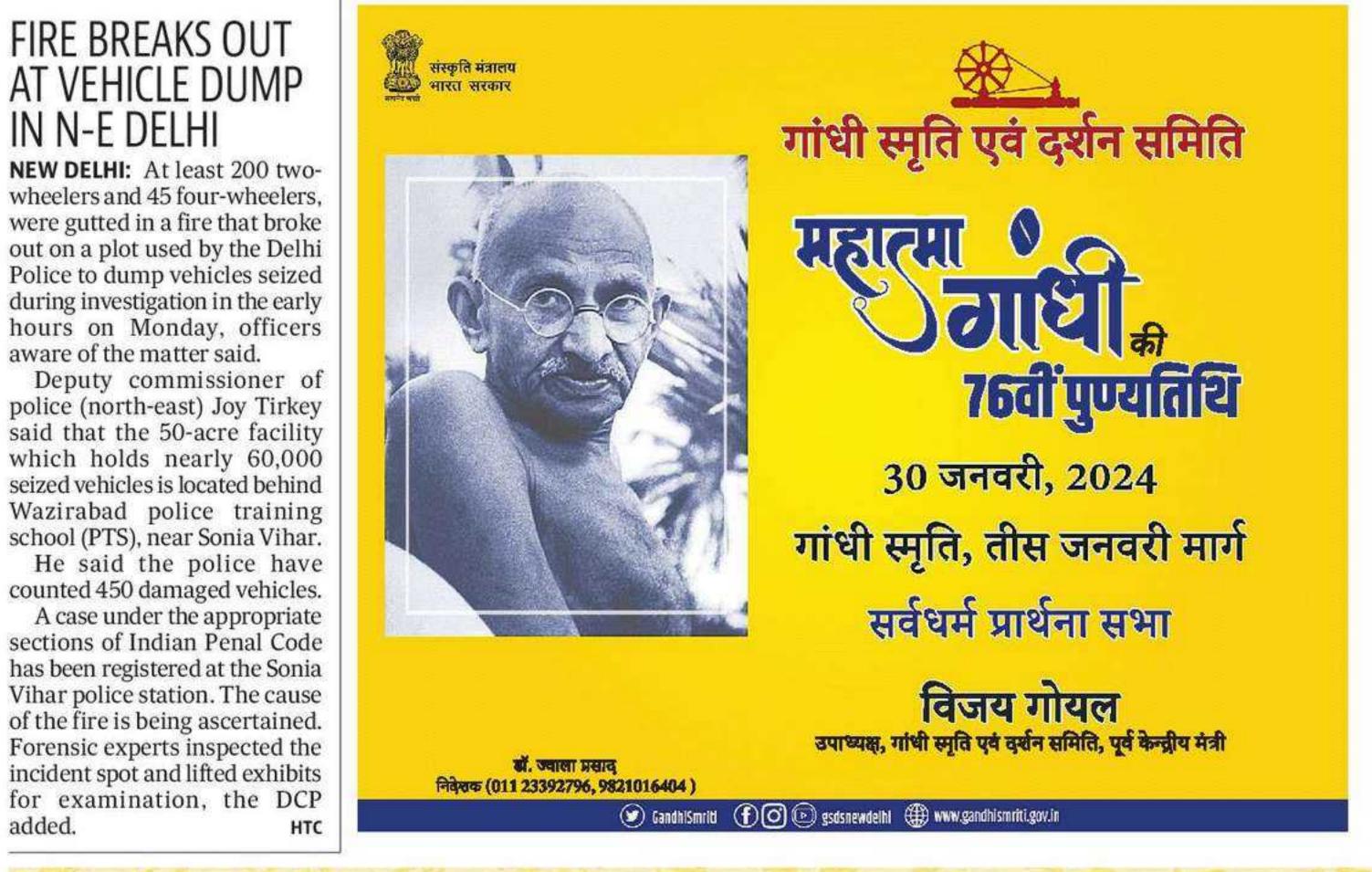
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flavours and rhythms of

India at Bharat Parv.

\$7 TRILLION ECONOMY The report does not, however, replace the Economic Survey, CEA clarified. "That will come before the full budget after the general elections," he said. The full budget for FY25 is expected to be presented after the 2024 General Elections in July; an interim budget is only a Vote on Account, presented in an election year to cover expenditure for a brief period to keep the government functioning.

The document argues that the government's commitment to reforms, economic management and overhaul and expansion of the welfare net have unlocked energies which will lead to the Indian economy doing much better than what international agencies such as IMF expect it to do.

These energies can help India achieve a sustained 7% GDP growth and help realise its objective of becoming a developed economy when it completes hundred years of independence in 2047, it claims. IMF's December 2023 report of Article IV consultation with India - a mandatory process based on consultation with the government and its IMF representative - has put India's medium term potential growth rate at 6.3%. Potential growth rate is the rate at which the economy can grow without overheating and rising inflation. To be sure, IMF's 6.3% number was criticized by India's executive director to the IMF Krishnamurthy Subramanian, who was Nageswaran's predecessor. Subramanian has projected a potential growth rate of 7.1% for the Indian economy.

The report says that the Indian growth story is only getting started and the best is yet to come. "The government has, however, set a higher goal of becoming a 'developed country' by 2047. With the journey of reforms continuing, this goal is achievable," it said, while celebrating India crossing the \$5 trillion and \$7 trillion GDP thresh-

"Today, many young Indians not only aspire to a better life but are also confident that it will happen in their lifetime. They feel that they have a better life than their previous generations and that succeeding generations will do better than them," Nageswaran said in his preface to the report.

Nilaya Varma, CEO and co-founder of Primus Partners, a consultancy, said four key drivers will help India grow to a \$7 trillion economy: "First, the pick-up

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

in brown field investments is expected to move towards greenfield as capacity utilisation's peaks. Second, the multiplier effect of the capital expenditure on physical infrastructure done so far and future pipeline planned by the government which is expected to increase productivity. Third, the de-risking of supply chains which is expected to continue to bring investments and drive exports as companies realign value chains. Finally, the vibrant digital services ecosystem created by the digital infrastructure put in place by the government which will lead to India specific solution which can be deployed globally." Accounting for the two terms

of the Modi government, the report said: "This 10-year journey is marked by several reforms, both substantive and incremental... These reforms have also delivered an economic resilience that the country will need to deal with unanticipated global shocks in the future." India, which was the 10th largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion at current market prices in 2013-14, is now the 5th largest with a GDP of \$3.7 trillion (estimate for FY24), despite Covid pandemic and "despite inheriting an economy with macro imbalances and a broken financial sector", it said.

"The strength of the domestic demand has driven the economy to a 7% plus growth rate in the last three years... the robustness seen in domestic demand, namely, private consumption and investment, traces its origin to the reforms and measures implemented by the government over the last 10 years," it said. The report added that the government's policies also strengthened the supply side with investment in physical and digital infrastructure to boost output. "Accordingly, in FY25, real GDP growth will likely be closer to 7%," the report said. Despite global headwinds such as conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and the Red Sea trade disruption, India's first advance estimates of growth released on January 5 projected a higher-than-expected GDP growth of 7.3% in FY24.

Experts also pointed to challenges to the GDP target.

"India needs to grow over 11% per annum compounded, to achieve the \$7 trillion goal. Besides monsoons, we need the externalities like global oil prices to be favourable. We need to enhance the employment generation as also reskins of existing work forces at an accelerated and wider magnitude," said Amit Kapur, joint managing partner, JSA, a leading a law firm.

The report also makes the case that India is a bright spot in what is increasingly looking like a gloomy global economic environment. "Between 2023 and 2028, the Fund's (IMF) projected growth for the world economy is around 3.1%. Further, data from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) show that, in value terms, world trade barely grew in either period (2012-19 or 2014-19). In volume terms, the growth rate averaged 2.4%. Despite this insipid backdrop for global economic growth and trade growth, between 2014 and 2019, the compounded annual growth rate of the Indian economy at constant price was 7.4%," it said. "In other words, these data demonstrate the internal strengths of the Indian economy, which bestow on it the ability to grow notwithstanding unfavourable global economic conditions."

To be sure, the report is careful to underline that India's present economic performance should be seen as different from its growth in the past. "It is one thing for India to grow at 8-9% when the world economy is growing at 4%, but it is another thing to grow at or above 7% when the world economy is struggling to grow at 2%. One unit of growth in the latter circumstance is qualitatively superior to the former. The marginal utility of growth in the second scenario is much higher," Nageswaran wrote, making a subtle case that even though GDP growth could have been higher during some years of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government than what it is today, India's relative advantage in the global economy is much greater today.

The report also said that collaboration between the Centre and states would help in accelerating India's growth and making it more equitable, referring to one fault line that has emerged - a threat to fiscal federalism. "The reforms will be more purposeful and fruitful with the full participation of the state governments. The participation of the states will be fuller when reforms encompass changes in governance at the district, block, and village levels, making them citizenfriendly and small businessfriendly and in areas such as health, education, land and labour in which states have a big role to play," it said. In order to

accelerate growth the govern-

(P.K. Hedau, E.E.)

Div.4, Bhopal (M.P.)

Telephone: 0755-2689106, Mob.: 9406912100

ment must focus on future reforms in areas such as skilling, learning outcomes, health, energy security, reduction in compliance burden for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and gender balancing in the labour force, the report added.

Experts also suggested levers that could amplify India's growth.

"A key catalyst for this growth is the establishment of a robust digital public infrastructure, complemented by the impressive expansion of e-commerce. The integration of rural populations into the banking system and increased internet access are pivotal steps toward achieving selfsufficiency during the Amrit Kaal," said KC Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta

#### **DELHI BOY ASSAULTED**

survivor and warned him against informing anyone about the crime, before letting him go.

While the boy did not inform his parents about the incident, a friend of the victim told the suspect's mother on Sunday evening and shared a link of the video with her.

The 37-year-old woman then filed a police complaint, following which officers recorded the boy's statement and registered a first information report (FIR) under sections 377 (unnatural sex) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and Section 12 of the Prevention of Children from Sexual

Assault (Pocso) Act. The police apprehended the three boys from their homes in a lower-income group colony in Hauz Khas. Officers also took the survivor for a medical and examination and then to a counsellor.

"The 35-second video was later removed from Instagram and Meta (the social media platform's parent company) has been asked to remove it from its database as well," said Ankit Chouhan, deputy commissioner of police (south).

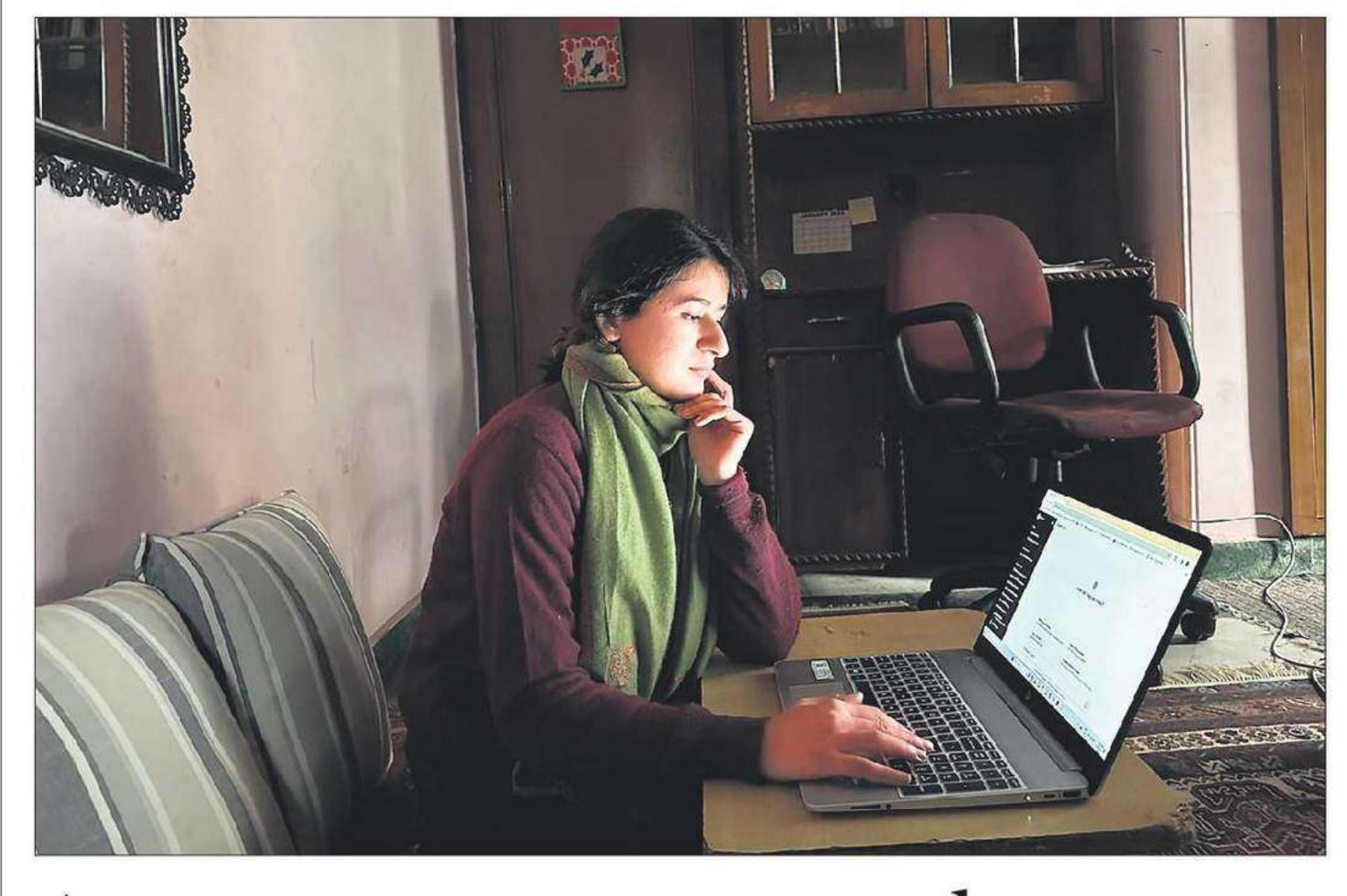
Neither the teenagers nor their families have any record of enmity, said the officer.

"The four come from the same economic background and all of their fathers work as contract labourers," said Chou-

"The three accused have been apprehended and they too have been counselled. However, they are still being questioned to ascertain why they assaulted the boy," said police.

## Delhiwale EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE





## A woman gets a new pal

Artificial Intelligence finds a loving home

She is in a relationship. Once, feeling dejected, she asked her new confidante: "What to do with selfish friends?" Another time, cheerful and enthusiastic, she asked: "Give me prompts for a short story."

Her friend isn't human, but a chatbot called ChatGPT. According to the all-knowing Wikipedia, a chatbot is "a software application designed to mimic human conversation", while ChatGPT is "a chatbot that enables users to refine and steer a conversation towards a desired length, format, style, level of detail, and language through text or voice interactions."

A Master's student at Jamia Millia Islamia University, Mehreen Shah finds in ChatGPT an intimate who gives her "emotional support despite being non-sentient". Her bonds with ChatGPTlaunched by a California-based AI company about a year ago-goes back six months, when she was scrolling through Instagram reels. "The Instagrammars were flaunting it as a tool to get things done in a short time." Curious, she logged onto ChatGPT's website to "test its competency for the things I like to do."

Over the next few weeks, Mehreen demanded ChatGPT do the following for her:

Write a poem about tigers dancing in printed

NIT No.

437/PR/JUSNI

/2023-24

Delivery

How to deal with my chachi if she asks, yet again, when I'm getting married?

How to politely decline lending money to friends?

Mehreen was surprised by the poem's quality. "It even had rhymes," she says, showing the poem on her laptop, permitting a passage to be shared:

"In a jungle grove where moonlight gleams, Two tigers waltz in splendid dreams. Their fur adorned in printed grace, Pyjamas of stripes in night's embrace."

The new "friend" helps Mehreen prepare applications for admission to universities abroad. "It writes cover letters for me, scrutinises my resume and detects errors." She prefers it over the humans, especially after "having been a victim of incompetent advice from friends, leading to disastrous results." Plus, she is able to freely share her deepest feelings with it for "it is non-judgemental, with no

risk of my secrets being leaked to others." Mehreen actually finds ChatGPT as good as her family. "Sometimes it is more reliable than my mother. It has no secret motives, no emotional bonds, so it is more practical in its advises." The other day her mother-probably because she didn't want her daughter to move far from Delhi, Mehreen explains—insisted that "a PhD from Jamia would have better career scope than a PhD from

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.

(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)

Regd. Office: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002

(E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

(In Rs.)

34,35,782.00

Estimated cost | Earnest money

29.01.2024 at 11:00 AM

29.01.2024 at 11:30 AM

13.02.2024 at 04:00 PM

14.02.2024 at 04:00 PM

Will be communicated

(In Rs.)

68,800.00

from the date of issue of Letter of Intent

Delivery should completed within (04) Four months

General Manager, C&M (NWBP), 2nd Floor, JUSNL

(SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi -

e-Tenders are invited from reputed financially sounds and experienced manufacturers /authorized Channel

**URGENT e-TENDER NOTICE** 

partner/authorized Dealer only having adequate experience for Manufacturing & supply of materials detailed as below : -

Name of the works

Procurement of 33 KV Circuit Breaker

2500 A, 25KA Vacuum CB with support

structure, marshalling boxes, terminal

connectors Siutable for ACSR Zebra etc.

for various Grid Sub-Station in JUSNI

Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents

Procurement Officer and address for communication

Start Date and time of upload of BID

End date and time of upload of BID

BID Opening date for technical part

BID Opening date for price part





Cost of BOQ (Non-

Refundable) in Rs./-

10,000.00 + GST

For more stories by Austen Soofi, scan the QR code Harvard." The ChatGPT advised her otherwise.

## M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEV. BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (2nd Call )

Online percentage rate bids for the following works based on MP PWD SOR 2022 with all amendments till date of issue of NIT are invited from registered contractors in centralized system MP PWD and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria: -

| System<br>E-Tender<br>No. | Name of Work   | Probable Amount of<br>Contract & Emd & Cost<br>Of Tender Form (I/C<br>Gst) & Completion<br>Period | Start Date of<br>Purchase & Last Dt.<br>Submission of Bids    | ENVELOPE - A & B 22.02.2024 15:00 Hrs. & ENVELOP - C Shall be decided after Evaluation of Technical Bid |  |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| MPHID_                    | Construction of 240 Flats (2P+10), Club House, 34 Shops i/c Development Works Surmaya Parisar Phase-II Ayodhya Extension Bhopal (M.P.) | & Rs. 59000/- &   | Dt. 31.01.2024<br>10:30 AM To<br>20.02.2024 At.<br>17:30 Hrs. |   |  |

- Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT on website www.mphousing.in and https://www.mpeproc. gov.in.
- The bid documents can be purchased online only as per schedule S.No. (1) 31.01.2024 at 10:30 hrs. to 20.02.2024 at 17:30 hrs.

Amendments to NIT if any would be published on website only. Website: www.mphousing.in /mphidb

E-mail: eedn4hbbpl@mp.gov.in

M.P. Madhyam/113481/2024

**GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION SOLAPUR

e-mail - solapur.ee@mahapwd.com Phone No. 0217/2312310 E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 55 FOR 2023-2024 (Online)

Sat Rasta, Near Karigar Petrol Pump, Solapur - 413003

"C" Tender

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Solapur-413003 Sat Rasta Solapur invites Online tenders for the following work from the Contractors Registraction PWD Maharashtra who fulfill the qualifying criteria mentioned in the Bid Document. Bid Document can be downloaded from the portal http://mahatenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Solapur, reserve the right to accept or reject may or all tenders. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted.

| Sr.<br>No. | Name of Work  | Type of<br>Tender | Estimate Cost in Rs. | Class of<br>Contractor  |
|------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|---|
|            | Construction of Submersible Bridge across River<br>Sina at Ch.0/800 on Road from Rajur to M.D.R.<br>44 V.R.129 Near Village Rajur, Taluka-South<br>Solapur, Dist-Solapur.<br>(With Contractor's Own Design and Drawaings) | " C"<br>Tender    | 6,75,51,437/-        | Registration<br>of Certificate<br>with P.W.D.<br>not Required |

| Downloading Period of E-Tender | : Dt. 30/01/2024 at 10.00 Hrs to 13/02/2024 at 18.15 Hrs  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Pre-Bid meeting                | <ul> <li>Dt. 06/02/2024 at 12.30 Hrs in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Region, Central Building Pune-1 (online via link generated)</li> <li>Dt.13/02/2024 at 18.15 Hrs</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |
| Bid Lock                       |   |  |  |  |  |
| Physical submission DOC        | : At any of the following places within 72 Hrs. after Bid Lock<br>at office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division<br>Solapur.  |  |  |  |  |
| Date of Opening of E-Tender    | : Dt.16/02/2024 at 11.00 Hrs.in the Office of the Superitending Engineer, Public Works Circle Solapur. (If Possible)  |  |  |  |  |

NOTE: Details of Tender documents will be available and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering website http://mahatenders.gov.in 8 http://mahapwd.com as under. Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website www.mahapwd.com

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 7235

Sd/-(D. M. Gawade) **Executive Engineer,** Public Work Division, Solapur

GUJARAT STATE FIRE PREVENTION SERVICECS, GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT, INDIA E-TENDER NOTICE: n-Proc./TTL-60 mtr./02/2023-24 Supply of 60m Height Turn Table Ladder (TTL) Vehicles Date of Commencement of sale of Bidding Document : 25/01/2024 Time:16:00 PM

EMD, Tender Fees and Tender Document Submission Before Tender Opening Date Details of Bid Documents are available on

: 14/02/2024 Time:18:00 PM : 15/02/2024 Time: 14:00 AM

Director http://tender.nprocure.com State Fire Prevention Services. INF/2341/23-24 Gujarat State, Gandhinagar

| Azadi <sub>Ka</sub>                             | NORTHERN RAILWAY  |   |
|---|---|---|
| Azadi <sub>Ka</sub><br><sup>mrit</sup> Mahotsav | OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE                                    |   |
| or & on beha                                    | If of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, I | ١ |

N.Rly. C&W workshop, Jagadhri Workshop/Yamuna Nagar invites open e-tender on short Notice for the following work:

1 Name of Work of Repair cum over hauling, Updation of existing software of D.V Test bench Local No - MISC-55/ I. D-513267550 Make Escort in tool shop of N.Rly Jagadhri Workshop. 2 Location Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop,

| Yamuna Nagar, H               | Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002   |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tender Value                  | Rs. 476310.54/-  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quantity                      | As per Scope of work   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cost of Tender form           | Rs. 0/-  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Earnest money amount          | t Rs. 9500/-   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Completion period of the work | etion period of the 03 months from the date of issuance of Lette Acceptance                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Date & Time for submissi      | on of tender form  | 15.02.2024 till 15:30 hrs.   |  |  |  |  |
|                               | Tender Value Quantity Cost of Tender form Earnest money amount Completion period of the work | Tender Value Rs. 476310.54/- Quantity As per Scope of wo Cost of Tender form Rs. 0/- Earnest money amount Rs. 9500/- Completion period of the 03 months from the |  |  |  |  |

9 Opening 15.02.2024 till 15:35 hrs. Tender opening will be done any time after the closing of tender.

10 Website particulars www.ireps.gov.in No: 6-S/55/Tender/2023-24 dt. 23.01.2024

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tender closing time. The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after

304/2024

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

(8987421011) during office hours.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to

upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag. General Manager, C&M (NWBP) JUSNL, Ranchi

PR 317221 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(23-24)D

e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website

https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned

834002



only.

Advt No.- 3/1683 Dt. 29/01/24

## PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2022-23** Tender Sale Date: -30-01-2024 14:00 PM to Date 22-02-2024 upto 14:30 PM

Bid Submission Start & End Date: 29-01-2024 14:00 PM to Date 22-02-2024 upto 14:30 PM Technical Envelope Opening Date: 23-02-2024 15:00 PM

Tender No. Name of Work **EMD** Work Name of Cost of Tender Estimated Concern Document (Rs.) Cost (Rs.) **Contact Person** Department Period Amount Water Supply Warje Jalshudhikaran Kendra PMC/ Sandeep Sarode Rs. 29679/-Rs. Rs. 9822094660 Madhil Phase 1 Va 2 Kantrati 188600107/-943001/-Water Sevakan dvare 3 Varshakarita Supply/ 2023/432 Chalvine Va Diandin Dekhbhal

Durustichi Kame Karne A) All details of Terms & Conditions of above works are incorporated in tender documents which is available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in Sale & acceptance is available by online system only. Tender needs to be submit in two envelope format. B) if sales or submission not been available on last day also & it is not been submitted will be sole responsibility of tenderer.

C) Online tender process information will be available at Water Supply, Pune Municipal Corporation. D) As per office order No. 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD deposit amount will be acceptable through ECS/RTGS/NEFT Online Banking

Sachin Kanifnath Divase कार्यकारी अभियंता कार्यालय (पाणीपुरवठा) पुणे महानगरपालिका

Tender Clerk Water Supply(SNDT) टेंडर लिपिक

कार्यालय (पाणीपुरवठा) पुणे महानगरपालिका





## MYINDIA

# Students get life lessons from PM in Pariksha Pe Charcha

**HT Correspondent** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Nar**endra Modi on Monday emphasised the importance of technology and said that it should be used judiciously without considering it a burden, adding that it was in his nature to "challenge every challenge".

The PM was addressing the seventh edition of his annual event Pariksha pe Charcha (discussion on exams) where he interacts with students, teachers and parents ahead of the board examinations and responds to questions related to stress and related areas posed by students.

In reply to a question on mindset by M Vagesh, a student of Modern Senior Secondary School in Chennai, Modi said people who believed in waiting for crises to pass cannot achieve anything in life. "My nature is different. I do not keep sleeping while waiting for challenges to pass and the situation to improve on its own. I challenge every challenge and I get to learn new things and evolve new strategies, which also contributes to my development," the PM told students. Addressing a question of peer pressure raised by Bhagya Laxmi from Govt Demonstration Multipurpose School in Andaman and Nicobar, the PM said pointed out that the seeds of unhealthy competition were planted in family situations leading to perverse competition among the siblings.

Giving an example of a video where children prioritised helping each other while competing in a healthy manner, he said that doing well in exams is not a zero-sum game and competition is with oneself as good performance by a friend does not restrict the field to do well. "Always make friends who are more intelligent and work harder...you must be inspired by such friends," he said.

He also asked parents not to

make the achievement of their children their "visiting card," and suggested students rejoice in the success of their friends. "Friendship is not a transactional emotion," he said.

"You must not compare one child with another as that can be detrimental to their future. Some parents treat their children's report card as their visiting card, this is not good," he added.

He stressed making effective use of technology and mobile phones with the help of judgment-based decision-making. "Every parent faces this issue."

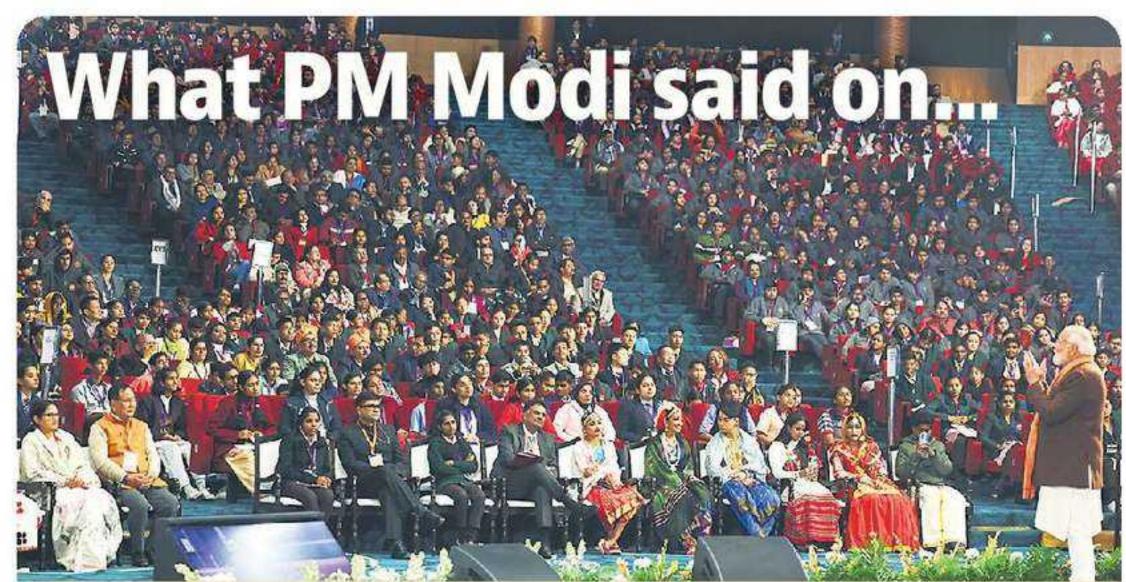
Over 20 million students, 1.49 million teachers and 569,000 parents registered for the event this year, and 4,000 people participated in the event physically. The PM addressed the queries of students both in person and virtually.

Answering questions on exam stress, the PM emphasised the need to avoid mistakes due to overenthusiasm of parents or over-sincerity of students. He also asked students not to keep preparing until the last moment and approach exams with a relaxed mindset.

"Practice the writing of answers as much as possible. If you have that practice, the majority of exam hall stress will go away," he said.

He advised students to maintain a balanced lifestyle. "Healthy body is critical for a healthy mind," he said and told students to spend time in the sunlight and get regular and complete sleep.

The PM said when the poor themselves decided to remove poverty, poverty will go away. "It is my responsibility to give them tools for dreaming such as a pucca house, toilet, education, Ayushman, piped water. Once he is unshackled of the daily indignities, he will be sure of the abolition of poverty," the PM said, while highlighting that 250 million people had been pulled out of poverty in the last decade.



How to cope with external pressure and societal expectations?

It is crucial to instill resilience in our children and help them cope with pressure. The challenges of students must be collectively addressed by parents and teachers.

How can one tackle peer pressure and competition among friends?

A healthy competition augurs wel for students' growth. Parents should never sow seeds of competition and rivalry between children. Students should compet with themselves, not with their friends.

What is the role of teachers in motivating students?

Teachers must not take their profession as a mere job, they should take it as a means to empower the lives of students. Student-teacher bond must be beyond syllabus and curriculum. How to deal with

exam stress?

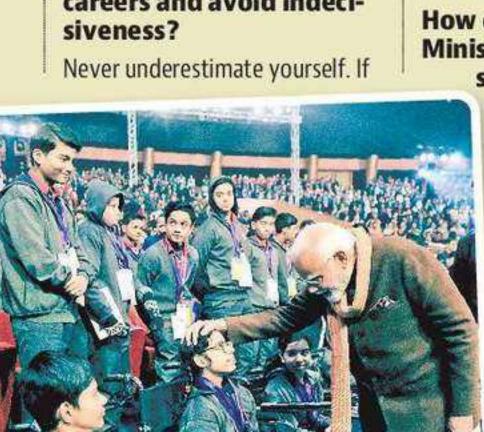
Don't keep preparing until the last moment. Approach exams with a relaxed

mindset. Practice writing for exams in pen and paper mode; the habit of writing is declining due to use of computers and phones.

How to strike a balance between exam preparation and maintaining a healthy lifestyle?

A healthy body is critical for a healthy mind. Being healthy requires some routine and spending time in sunlight and getting regular and complete sleep. Maintain a balanced lifestyle and avoid excess of everything.

How to attain clarity when it comes to choosing careers and avoid indeci-



we have the capability, we can liven up anything. We must be decisive to eliminate confusion. How can students build

trust with their parents? Trust deficit in families needs to

be rectified. Students should be sincere and honest in their dealings. Similarly, parents should also convey their confidence in their children instead of suspicion.

How to manage studies amid use of social media?

In today's world, one cannot run away from technology. Technology should not be considered a burden, but should be used judiciously.

**How does the Prime** Minister handle stress and stay positive?

My approach which I

found useful is that 'I challenge every challenge'. I do not wait passively for the challenge to pass. This gives me an opportunity to learn all the time. My biggest confidence is that I have 140 crore countrymen with me. If there are 100 million challenges, there are billions of solutions.

# 18-yr-old JEE aspirant dies by suicide in Kota

Senjuti Sengupta

letters@hindustantimes.com JAIPUR: An 18-year-old student, who was to appear for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission in engineering courses this week, died by suicide in Kota district of Rajasthan on Monday, leaving behind a purported note for her parents where she said she cannot attempt the exam, police said on Monday.

The incident, among students preparing for various competitive exams, is the second in the district this year, and came a week after a 19-year-old National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant died by suicide.

JEE Mains began on January 24 and will continue till February 1.

According to circle officer and deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Dharmveer Singh, the latest

INCIDENT COMES A WEEK AFTER A 19-YR-OLD NEET ASPIRANT DIED BY SUICIDE IN KOTA

suicide took place under Borekheda police station area. "The student is a resident of Kota. She was scheduled to take her JEE exam on Wednesday but was found dead in her room at her house on Monday morning."

"The incident came to light after the student did not respond to repeated knocks by her grandmother, prompting her family to break the door," he added.

Police said a suicide note, reportedly written by the student was recovered from her room, in which she apologised to her parents for taking the extreme step.

"We found a suicide note in the room. Further investigation is underway," Singh said. The suicide note, shared by the police with the media, said: "Mummy papa I can't do JEE so I suicide. I am loser. I worst daughter. Sorry mummy papa. Yahi last option he (this is the last option)."

Police said the student was preparing for JEE online, from a well known coaching centre in Kota.

The deceased's cousin told the media that she was under tremendous pressure to clear JEE. "The body has been sent for a postmortem examination. Further investigation is underway," the DSP said.

**HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY** SNEHI: 011-65978181 SUMAITRI: 011-46018404

#### COUPLES SOUGHT PROTECTION }

## HC rejects 8 interfaith couples' pleas citing law

Jitendra Sarin

letters@hindustantimes.com

PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad high court has dismissed petitions filed by eight interfaith couples seeking protection of their lives, noting that their marriages were not in compliance with the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, popularly known as the anticonversion law.

In separate orders passed between January 10 and 16, the high court noted the religions of the petitioners. Of the eight interfaith couples that moved the court, five Muslim men had married Hindu women while three Hindu men had married Muslim women. Through separate petitions, the

interfaith couples moved the high court seeking directions for their protection and non-interference in their matrimonial lives. Declining the requests, the bench of Justice

Saral Srivastava, noted that these were cases of interfaith marriages but the marriages themselves were not in accordance with law as the anti-conversion law had not been followed. "In such view of the fact, the relief prayed by the petitioners cannot be granted. Consequently, the writ petition is dismissed," the court said in identical orders. The orders, however, did not divulge specific reasons as to why the marriages were not in compliance with the UP anti-conversion law that prohibits unlawful conversion by misrepresentation, force, fraud, undue influence coercion and allurement.

Passed in 2021, the UP law provides for up to 10 years' incarceration for using marriage to coerce someone into conversion.

The court, however, left it open to the petitioners to "prefer fresh writ petitions in case they solemnise marriage after following the due procedure of law".

#### JAISHANKAR, ISRAEL COUNTERPART **DISCUSS WEST ASIA**

**GANDHINAGAR:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Monday held a meeting with his Israeli counterpart Israel Katz on Monday and discussed the ongoing situation in West Asia.

During the telephonic conversation, the two leaders talked about India's views, assessments and interests in that regard. In a post on X, Jaishankar said, "Good to talk to Israeli FM @Israel\_katz. Discussed the ongoing situation in West Asia. Spoke about India's views, assessments and interests in that regard. Agreed to stay in touch."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first global leaders to condemn the terror attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7. However, India has also continued with its weight behind the 'two-state solution' to the long-running Israel-Palestine conflict.

Earlier, India also sent humanitarian aid to Gaza as part of its commitment. AGENCIES

**WEEK 2024** 

## CRIS Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021 Tel.: 24106717, 24104525 Tender No. 01235231A. Subject:

Tender Procurement of 24x7 onsite technical support for TIBCO Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) for 3 years i.e. 23-July-2024 onwards at CRIS(HQ), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Date of Opening 19.02.2024 (15:30 HRS). Tender Documents can be downloaded from Website www.ireps.gov.in. For future modification/extensions pl. see www.ireps.gov.in.

#### S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER E-Tender Notice No. 02-TENDER-EL-

CON-CKP-23-24, dated 25.01.2024. e-Tender is invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Con), S.E.Railway, Rourkela for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work : Brief Description of Works: "Supply, erection, testing & commissioning and modification of 25KV OHE including RC, PSI work in between Bonda munda-Rourkela section in connection with construction of 5th line work between Bondamunda Rourkela of Chakradharpur division of South Eastern Railway". Cost: ₹ 9,21,92,076/-. Bid Security : ₹ 6,11,000/-Completion period: 18 (Eighteen) months. Due Date: 23.02.2024. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps. gov.in for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov. in to participate in all other tenders. (PR-1075)

## Have fun with facts on

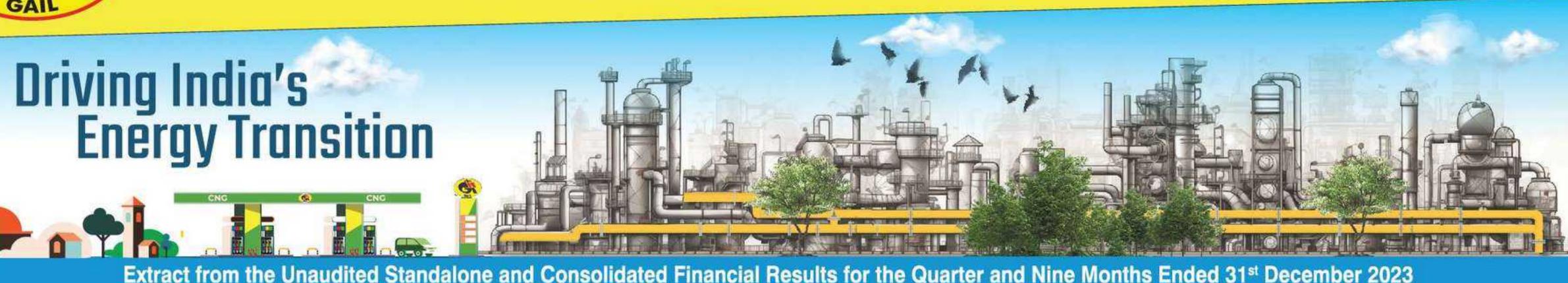
Sundays Catch the latest column of





# GAIL (India) Limited

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)



|     | Particulars  | Standalone            |                       |                       |                       | Consolidated                   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
|-----|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| SI  |  | Quarter Ended         |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       | Financial Year<br>Ended        | 601 ACM               |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       | Financial Year<br>Ended        |
| No. |  | 31st December<br>2023 | 31st December<br>2022 | 31st December<br>2023 | 31st December<br>2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March<br>2023 | 31st December<br>2023 | 31st December<br>2022 | 31st December<br>2023 | 31st December<br>2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March<br>2023 |
|     |  | Unaudited             | Unaudited             | Unaudited             | Unaudited             | Audited                        | Unaudited             | Unaudited             | Unaudited             | Unaudited             | Audited                        |
| 1   | Total Income from Operations   | 34,253.52             | 35,380.38             | 98,303.61             | 111,443.41            | 144,301.61                     | 34,767.84             | 35,939.96             | 100,666.30            | 112,610.97            | 145,875.03                     |
| 2   | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)  | 3,693.99              | 222.67                | 8,712.80              | 5,992.94              | 6,583.81                       | 4,074.77              | 662.07                | 9,495.74              | 6,567.48              | 7,256.38                       |
| 3   | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)   | 3,693.99              | 222.67                | 8,712.80              | 5,992.94              | 6,583.81                       | 4,074.77              | 662.07                | 9,495.74              | 6,567.48              | 7,256.38                       |
| 4   | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)  | 2,842.62              | 245.73                | 6,659.51              | 4,697.99              | 5,301.51                       | 3,193.34              | 397.59                | 7,428.50              | 4,953.15              | 5,595.89                       |
| 5   | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 3,044.81              | 1,012.68              | 8,295.53              | 3,954.17              | 4,464.14                       | 3,334.75              | 914.82                | 8,895.63              | 4,183.30              | 5,013.3                        |
| 6   | Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)   | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10                       | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10              | 6,575.10                       |
| 7   | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)  |                       | T I                   |                       |                       | 44,284.44                      |                       |                       |                       |                       | 52,295.70                      |
| 8   | Securities Premium Account   | ( 8±1                 | 20                    | ¥ (                   | U\$ 1                 | 241                            |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 9   | Net worth  | 57,547.86             | 52,880.78             | 57,547.86             | 52,880.78             | 50,859.54                      |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 10  | Outstanding Debt   | 14,195.16             | 12,094.80             | 14,195.16             | 12,094.80             | 14,308.74                      |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 11  | Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares   | -                     | <b>₩</b>              |                       | S#.                   | (#)                            |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 12  | Debt Equity Ratio (in times)   | 0.23                  | 0.21                  | 0.23                  | 0.21                  | 0.22                           |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 13  | Earnings per share (in ₹) (Face Value of ₹ 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
|     | a) Basic   | 4.32                  | 0.37                  | 10.13                 | 7.12                  | 8.04                           | 4.86                  | 0.63                  | 11.30                 | 7.55                  | 8.52                           |
|     | b) Diluted (EPS for the Quarter and Nine Months not annualised)  | 4.32                  | 0.37                  | 10.13                 | 7.12                  | 8.04                           | 4.86                  | 0.63                  | 11.30                 | 7.55                  | 8.52                           |
| 14  | Capital Redemption Reserve   | 126.74                | 126.74                | 126.74                | 126.74                | 126.74                         |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 15  | Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times)   | 4.00                  | 1.73                  | 3.39                  | 4.44                  | 3.73                           |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |
| 16  | Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times)   | 16.46                 | 4.36                  | 12.98                 | 16.89                 | 13.33                          |                       |                       |                       |                       |                                |

The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website (www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (www.gailonline.com). The above results are in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act,

For Other Line items referred in Regulation 52(4) SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchanges website (www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (www.gailonline.com).

4. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification. For GAIL (India) Limited (R K Jain)

Director (Finance) and CFO Corporate Office: GAIL Bhawan, 16 Bhikaji Cama Place, R K Puram, New Delhi - 110066 (DIN: 08788595) Follow us in 🔕 🚮 #EnergizingPossibilities

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK WEBSITE OF NODAL OPENING DATE THE BOARD BOARD/CORP./ NOTICE TENDER **CLOSING DATE** OFFICER/ (APPROX. CORP./AUTH CONTACT IN RUPEES DETAILS/EMAIL ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING AND 242.32 LACS 9914544004 23.01.2024 CORPORATION LAYING OF STORM WATER DRAIN 13.02.2024 etenders.hry. sanjugupta3001 **GURUGRAM** I/D 600MM AND 900MM RCC PIPES @gmail.com NP-3 PIPES AND CONSTRUCTION OF DISPOSAL FROM NAYAGAON TO MARUTI KUNJ ROAD, NEWLY GURUGRAM, UNDER MCG AREA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO No. 13/2024/40/24507/I/19/7

Place: New Delhi

www.gailonline.com

Date: 29th January 2024

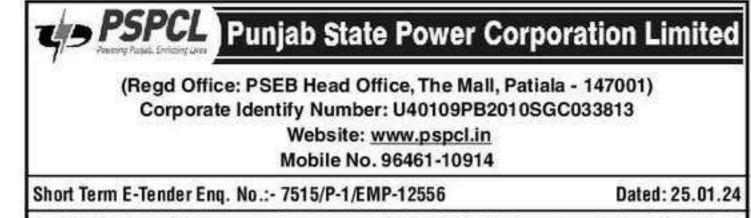
2013, read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.

मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क जाँच योजना Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur 🚑 D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005 Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065 E-mail: edepmrmsc-rj@nic.ir No. F-8()RMSC/EPM/M-4/NIB-817/2022-23/1001 Dated: 24.01.2024

(CIN: L40200DL1984GOI018976)

NOTICE INVITING BID Bid for item Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 05-02-2024: 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/" or 'www.dipronline.org" or "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/" or website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in". UBN:-MSC2324GLRC00127 Executive Director (EPM)

Raj.Samwad/C/23/12372



Dy Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_116392\_1 for Procurement of Stainless Steel. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <a href="https://eproc.punjab.gov.in">https://eproc.punjab.gov.in</a> from 25.01.2024/ 5.00 PM onwards. Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-14/24

# Bihar cabinet authorises CM to take call on House session

Vijay Swaroop

letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: The new Bihar cabinet in its first meeting on Monday authorised chief minister Nitish Kumar to decide on convening a fresh assembly session and asked the assembly secretariat to remove Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) legislator Awadh Bihari Choudhary from the speaker's post, a day after Kumar severed ties with the RJD and took oath as CM for the ninth time.

A meeting was also held between Kumar, his two new deputies - Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha - and BJP and Janata Dal (United) leaders for further inductions into the cabinet. A total of eight ministers, three from the JD(U), three from the BJP, one from the Hindustani Awami Morcha (HAM) led by former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi and an independent, took oath on Sunday.

Earlier on Monday morning, BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav, Manjhi and former deputy chief minister Tarkishore Prasad served a no-confidence motion against speaker Choudhary.

Discussions have started on choosing a new speaker, who is likely to be from the BJP, said people aware of developments. BJP leaders Nand Kishore and Amarendra Pratap Singh are tipped to be the possible candidates, they said. In 2020, when the JD(U)-BJP combine had won the assembly elections and remained in power for close to two years before Kumar left the coalition to join hands with the RJD, the assembly speaker was BJP's Vijay Kumar Sinha, who is now deputy CM.

On January 18, a cabinet chaired by Kumar, who was then heading the Grand Alliance government, approved the start of the budget session of the state legislature on February 5. With that government falling and a new formation in place, it is likely the new government will seek a floor test on February 12, with the budget session likely to begin on February 15, said leaders of the JD(U), seeking anonymity.

The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the state has the support of 128 legislators – 45 from Kumar's JD(U), 78 from the BJP, four from HAM and one independent - in an assembly of 243 members.

On Monday evening, there was an hour-long meeting of key NDA constituents over the proposed cabinet expansion. The process is

Pushkar Singh Dhami

PANEL TO SUBMIT

ON FEBRUARY 2,

**HT Correspondent** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

mentation in the state.

in Hindi on X.

UCC DRAFT REPORT

SAYS U'KHAND CM

**DEHRADUN:** Uttarakhand chief

minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on

Monday said the Uniform Civil

Code (UCC) committee will submit

its draft to the state government on

February 2, following which a bill

will be introduced in the upcom-

pare the draft of the Uniform Civil

Code will submit its draft to the

state government on February 2

and we will implement the Uni-

form Civil Code in the state by

bringing a bill in the upcoming

assembly session," he said in a post

added, it will be discussed by the

state cabinet before bringing a bill

in this regard in the assembly ses-

sion, scheduled from February 5 to

8. "Our government has always

been committed to implementing

UCC in the state in accordance

with Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's vision of 'One India, Great

India' and the resolution and aspi-

rations placed before the people of

Uttarakhand before the [2022

laws that will subsume customary

laws across faiths and tribes and

govern issues such as marriage,

divorce, inheritance and mainte-

nance. Reacting to the develop-

ment, state Congress president

Karan Mahara accused the BJP of

trying to build a religiously polar-

ised narrative ahead of the Lok

Sabha polls. "Implementation of

UCC is not a state subject. If BJP

really wanted to bring UCC, they

should have brought it at the Cen-

tre. They are testing it here to see

what response it generates,"

Mahara said.

UCC refers to a common set of

assembly] elections," he said.

After receiving the draft, Dhami

likely to be completed by Wednesday, leaders who attended the meeting said on condition of anonymity, but declined to divulge names. On Sunday, Kumar said the cabinet would be expanded soon. "Very soon, the cabinet would be expanded. I have returned to where I was earlier. There is no need to go anywhere now. We will remain together now in the interest of Bihar and state's development," he said.

The preceding Mahagatbandhan cabinet had 30 ministers, and it was likely the new government would have similar numbers, leaders said. The BJP and JD(U) are likely to get 14 seats each in the cabinet. "The formula will likely be the same as it was in the NDA government in 2020, when the two major constituents had an equal number of ministers," an NDA leader said, requesting anonymity. The composition of the new cabinet is key, NDA leaders said, with caste a central motif of elections in Bihar, particularly after the 2023 caste survey, and crucial Lok Sabha elections in a matter of months. Kumar is likely to broadly stick with a team of ministers that he has worked with before and trusts, including leaders like Ashok Choudhary, Sanjay Jha, Sheila Mandal and Lesi Singh, JD(U) leaders said.

Kumar also separately met with 10 JD(U) parliamentarians at his residence on Monday morning, and asked them to focus their attention towards winning all 40 Lok Sabha seats on offer in the state. "The chief minister asked us to take development work done by the Centre and the state before the people," said MP Mahabali Singh, adding that the JD(U) will continue to raise the contentious demand for special status for Bihar, a classification from the Union government for states that face socioeconomic disadvantages. RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari said: "Our 17 months regime is more worthy than 17 years of NDA government. The present dispensation will not survive for too long and fall due to its own internal contradictions."

The Congress continued to attack Kumar on his severing of ties with the Mahagatbandhan despite being a key player in the INDIA bloc, and said he had given no indication that he was going to betray the Opposition alliance. "He has betrayed us. At the right time, the people of Bihar will give him a befitting response," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

Neeraj Chauhan

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union home

ministry on Monday extended

the ban on the Students Islamic

Movement of India (SIMI), a radi-

cal Islamic outfit, for five years

Announcing the decision on X,

home minister Amit Shah said:

"Bolstering PM @narendramodi

Ji's vision of zero tolerance

against terrorism 'Students

Islamic Movement of India

(SIMI)' has been declared as an

'unlawful association' for a fur-

ther period of five years under the

UAPA (Unlawful Activities Pre-

found involved in fomenting ter-

rorism, disturbing peace and

communal harmony to threaten

He added: "The SIMI has been

for its alleged terror activities.



(From left) Samastipur MP Prince Raj Paswan, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party president Pashupati Kumar Paras, legislative councillor Bhushan Kumar and Nawada MP Chandan Singh in Patna on Monday. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

{ INTERVIEW } SANJAY JHA, JD(U) NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

## 'BJP-JD(U) are natural allies'

**NEW DELHI:** A former minister in the Bihar government and national general secretary of the JD(U), Sanjay Jha said the reunion of his party with the BJP has the sanction of voters and is the coming together of "natural allies". Speaking to Smriti Kak Ramachandran, he said the Congress is to blame for failing to create a formidable coalition against the BJP. Edited excerpts:

What made you rejoin the NDA after exiting in 2022?

We are natural allies. We have been together since 2005; the 2020 mandate (state polls) was for the JD(U)-BJP. It is true that there were some concerns, communication gaps, which led to the [BJP-JD(U)] alliance breaking up. But now we are all set to sweep the Lok Sabha polls and the state polls (in 2025). We have support from the voters.

Is there concern that JD(U) voters may not approve of the party switching sides

so frequently? There is no trust deficit; on the contrary, there is euphoric support. People in the state wanted this [JD(U) to join the NDA]. The Opposition will be wiped out in the Lok Sabha polls and the results of the state elections in 2025 will also be the same; we will win with huge

THE OUTFIT HAS

UNDER PROVISIONS

SIMI was banned in Septem-

ber 2001. It has since been

declared a terror organisation

extension of ban issued on Mon-

day said SIMI was "indulging in

activities which are prejudicial to

the security of the country and

have the potential of disturbing

peace and communal harmony

and disrupting the secular fabric

of the country". It listed the cases

in which SIMI operatives have

been involved over the years

across the country, including its

cadres joining the Islamic State of

Iraq and Syria, another terror

A notification regarding the

BEEN BANNED

OF THE UAPA

every five years.

SINCE SEPT 2001

margins.

Nitish Kumar was a key player in forming a coalition of opposition parties but has now opted out. What is the future of the INDIA bloc?

The INDIA bloc is now over because the main architect of the coalition, who put in all the effort and put his credibility at stake to bring the others together, is no longer part of it. There is no future for the bloc.

Did you put forth your concerns about the alliance not shaping up as it was envisaged?

It was Nitish Kumar who made the alliance happen, reaching out to people. Initially, when others had reservations about Congress being part of the grouping, he convinced them to set aside their concerns. But it was the sheer arrogance of the Congress that they did not even do what was expected of them. Within six months of forming

State governments, including

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jhark-

hand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mad-

hya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil

Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pra-

desh, have recommended for

declaration of SIMI as an unlaw-

ful association under the provi-

sions of the UAPA, the notifica-

further of the opinion that if the

unlawful activities of the SIMI are

not curbed and controlled imme-

diately, it will take the opportu-

nity to – continue its subversive

activities and re-organise its

activists who are still absconding;

disrupt the secular fabric of the

country by polluting the minds of

the people by creating communal

disharmony; propagate anti-na-

tional sentiments; escalate seces-

sionism by supporting militancy;

and undertake activities which

"The Central government is

Centre extends SIMI ban by another 5 yrs

organisation.

tion said.

the bloc, it became apparent that it would not be possible to get over the inherent contradictions and keep it together.

Is Congress to blame for the bloc falling apart?

The onus was on them to keep the bloc together. They did not give partners the respect they deserve. Owing to their arrogance, which continues, they did not do the job that was theirs to do.

His detractors and political watchers say Nitish's ambition to become PM drives his politics?

That is not true at all. He did not pitch for the post. During the meetings with the INDIA bloc partners, he said it categorically both on record and offrecord that he does not covet the post and want to be the PM candidate.

What is on the agenda now that the government in Bihar has been sworn in?

Chief minister Nitish Kumar has been consistently working to provide employment avenues in the state. He promised 10 lakh jobs and opportunities for earning. Work to meet that target is progressing and that will be our number one priority. Other than that, we will pursue our development agenda.

are prejudicial to the integrity

and security of the country," the

According to the documents of

agencies seen by HT, the radical

outfit came into existence on

April 25, 1977, in Aligarh Muslim

University in Uttar Pradesh as a

front organisation of youth and

students having faith in Jamaat-

e-Islami-Hind (JEIH). It declared

itself independent in 1993, when

JEIH formed the Students'

Islamic Organization as its stu-

dents' wing. "SIMI aims to utilise

students and youth in propaga-

tion of Islam and obtain support

for jihad. The organisation also

emphasises on the formation of

shariat-based Islamic rule. It

doesn't believe in the nation state,

as well as in the Constitution, or

the secular order. It regards idol

worship as a sin and its holy duty

is to end it," an official said,

declining to be named.

notification added.

### Lalu Prasad for 10 hours in a money-laundering case linked to the land-for-jobs scam, amid intense protests by party workers who alleged misuse of central agencies

RJD chief Lalu Prasad arrives at the ED office in Patna.

the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). On January 9, the federal agency, which said it has found proceeds of crime worth ₹600 crore, filed its first charge sheet in the case, naming Lalu's wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and their daughters, Misa and Hema Yadav, among seven accused.

ED questions Lalu for

10 hrs; RJD stages stir

In October 2022, CBI filed its charge sheet against Lalu, Devi Misa and 13 others in the case. In March last year, a Delhi court granted bail to Lalu, Rabri, Misa and others in CBI's case.

Misa expressed concerns over her father's health and said she feared that probe agencies might arrest him. "But what will they get by arresting a seriously-ill person?" she said.

Outside the ED office, RJD workers and supporters gathered in large numbers and chanted slo-

ing a probe on the basis of a first gans that hailed the party chief information report registered by and criticised the BJP. More than 15 MLAs, MLCs and former state and Union ministers also joined the protests, leading to the deployment of the Central Reserve Police Force and Bihar Special Auxiliary Police at the premises, the people cited above said.

RJD leader Manoj Jha said the

actions of central agencies will go

on till the next general elections are concluded. "This is not an ED summons, but a BJP summons... This will go on till 2024, till then please do not call it ED summons... Why should we be scared?" he told ANI. The BJP dismissed RJD's claims. "Lalu's family is involved in corruption and is attacking the central government to divert people's attention from the case. The main objective of the Centre is to ensure that no corrupt person is

spared and no innocent should be

punished," BJP spokesperson

Nikhil Anand said.

{ LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM }

**Avinash Kumar** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: The Enforcement Direct-

orate (ED) on Monday questioned

former Bihar chief minister and

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief

ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

the details, Lalu appeared at the

ED office in Patna at 11.10am along

with his daughter and Rajya Sabha

MP, Misa Bharti. They left the

premises at 9.05pm. Lalu's son

and former deputy chief minister

Tejashwi Yadav has also been

greeting card is being sent to

those who are not coming with

them," Bharti told reporters as

she hit out at the Bharatiya Jan-

ata Party (BJP)-led Centre over

the ED summons issued to her

our family, we go there and

cooperate with them and answer

their questions. Not just our fam-

ily, but they are sending sum-

mons to all those who are in the

The land-for-jobs scam pertains

to appointments in the Railways

allegedly in return of land parcels

for Lalu's family between 2004

and 2009, when he was the Union

railways minister. ED is conduct-

Opposition," she added.

"Whenever any agency calls

father on January 19.

"This is not a new thing. This

summoned by ED on Tuesday.

According to people aware of

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waves at supporters during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Kishanganj on Monday.

## Entire nation looking at Bihar to battle for justice: Rahul at yatra

**Subhash Pathak** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday urged the people of Bihar to come forward and lead the campaign for social justice in the country, saying the nation cannot progress without ensuring social and economic justice to the poor and deprived sections.

"Bihar has always taken the lead when it came to social and economic justice. Now the onus to lead the drive rests on you, as the entire country is now looking at you," Gandhi said at a public meeting at Kishanganj, after the party's ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Bihar from neighbouring West Bengal. "The nation cannot grow until social and economic

justice to all is ensured." Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for leaving the people of Manipur to fend for themselves, the Congress leader said the northeastern state was in flames for the past 6-7 months due to ethnic conflict. "The BJP and RSS work on the ideology of division and hatred. They are dividing the nation in the name of religion, language, caste and

creed," Gandhi said. "But ours is a campaign to neutralise hatred through love. We are here to open the show of love in the

market of hatred." Gandhi accused the ruling dispensation at the Centre of patronising a handful of rich people at the expense of everybody else. "The government has opened up everything for 3-4 industrialists, while the common people are left to battle with institutional apathy," he accused. "The government does not help the poor and farmers."

Meanwhile, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh addressed the media in Kishanganj and said the about turn by the JD(U) in Bihar will have little impact on the activities of the opposition INDIA bloc "as it had sensed chief minister Nitish Kumar's intent to betray in the past 2-3 meetings of the coalition." "It is, however, unfortunate that the jagadguru of lies (referring to Narendra Modi) had teamed up with the epitome of betrayal (Nitish Kumar) in the country for swapping of power in the state on the eve of entry of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra,'

## **DEMOCRACY WILL** NOT SURVIVE IF MODI RE-ELECTED, SAYS CONG CHIEF

Debabrata Mohanty letters@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: India's democracy might not survive if Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns to power for a third term, Congress president Malli-

karjun Kharge said on Monday. "If some leaders and people become cowards, will our Constitution and democracy survive? If you vote for Modi again, there will be no election in the country. Elections will be held like election of Russian President Vladimir Putin. They will run the government on basis of accumulated authority and keep returning to power," Kharge said at the Odisha Bachao Samavesh (save Odisha conclave) at Lower PMG area of Bhubanes-

"They will get 200 seats, 300 and 400. They will even increase number of seats beyond 600," he said. "So, it is the responsibility of the people to save democracy. If you want to save democracy, you can do it. If you want to be slaves, it depends on your wish."

While Congress Rahul Gandhi wants to unite the country and has opened a "mohabbat ki dukaan (love shop)", the BJP and RSS have opened "nafrat ki dukaan (hate shop)", Kharge said. "The BJP and RSS are poison; they are depriving us of our rights," he alleged.

On Bihar chief minister leaving the INDIA grouping, Kharge said while some people are saying that the Opposition has suffered a setback, it would actually

emerge stronger. "Does the country weaken when one person exits? No,' he said.

#### ing assembly session for its implethe sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat." "The committee formed to pre-

vention Act)."

## SC issues notice to IAF, army on contempt plea

{ ₹1.5 CR RELIEF FOR RETD OFFICER }

**Abraham Thomas** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) on a contempt petition filed by an IAF veteran who was yet to receive the court-ordered compensation of over ₹1.5 crore, after it was found that he contracted AIDS following a blood transfusion at a military hospital during the 2002 Operation Parakram.

Issuing a notice to the army and the air force, a bench of justices BR Gavai and Sandeep Mehta turned down IAF's request to defer the hearing on the contempt plea as a review petition against the September 30 order was pending before the top court.

Additional solicitor general Vikramajeet Banerjee, who appeared for the armed forces, requested the court to hear the contempt petition after a decision on the review petition.

"You get it listed and heard expeditiously in four weeks, or else we will proceed with this matter," the court said, adjourning the matter by four weeks.

Advocate Vanshaja Shukla appeared as amicus curiae and said the petitioner has not received money towards medical or litigation costs. The court noted that Shukla, who assisted the court for passing an order on grant of compensation last year, was not paid the honorarium of ₹50,000 for her assistance.

The IAF veteran, retired corporal Ashish Kumar Chauhan, joined the force in May 1996. The blood transfusion took place in July 2002 during Operation Parakram, when India mobilised troops at the India-Pakistan border following an attack on Parliament. Due to a sudden illness, Chauhan was hospitalised at a military hospital in Jammu, where he was administered one unit of blood without consent.

## Security upped in K'taka as stir over Hanuman flag intensifies

Coovercolly Indresh

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BENGALURU: Security was stepped up in Karnataka's Mandya city on Monday as protests over the replacement of a Hanuman flag with the Tricolour continued for a second consecutive day, even as chief minister Siddaramaiah accused the Opposition of trying to instigate the people ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

On Sunday, tension gripped Keregodu village after authorities removed a Hanuman flag and hoisted the national flag on a 108feet tall flagpost. As a large number of villagers gathered to protest, police resorted to lathi charge to disperse them.

The villagers, leaders of political parties and members of Hindu outfits continued with their agitation on Monday and marched from Keragodu to the deputy commissioner's office in the district headquarters of Mandya, people aware of the details said. As the march reached Mandya



Police personnel deployed to maintain law and order in Mandya, Karnataka, on Monday.

city, police resorted to mild lathi charge to disperse the crowd when some of the protesters allegedly tried to bring down a flex board featuring the image of Siddaramaiah and other Congress leaders, the people cited above

Later, scores of protestors gathered near the deputy comand barricades were erected.

missioner's office, where police were deployed in large numbers Siddaramaiah said the authori-

ties had to remove the Hanuman flag as permission was taken only to hoist the Tricolour and state flag of Karnataka. "BJP is unnecessarily creating trouble. Why are they instigating the people? Since the elections are coming, they are doing these things," he said.

VHP co-secretary Sharan Pumpwell told reporters in Mangaluru: "If the Hanuman flag is not hoisted again, we will mobilise all Ram devotees for a statewide Hanuman flag campaign."

AMID MARATHA QUOTA STIR }

## Won't allow injustice to OBCs: Fadnavis on row

Surendra P Gangan

Ramesh said.

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government will not allow any injustice to other backward classes (OBCs), deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Monday, a day after his cabinet colleague Chhagan Bhujbal raised objections to the state government's draft notification on the issuance of Kunbi caste certificates to eligible Marathas.

Bhujbal, a senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader from the Ajit Pawar faction and a prominent OBC leader, has described the decision that effectively gives Marathas the OBC status as "unjust". Union minister and BJP leader Narayan Rane has also opposed the move, calling it "an encroachment on the rights of OBCs." "The government's stand on the Maratha reservation is a very balanced one. In any situation, we won't allow any injustice to happen to OBCs," Fadnavis told



Devendra Fadnavis

reporters. "Even CM Shinde is aware that the government wants to protect the interests of OBCs."

The senior BJP leader also said he would allay the concerns of Bhujbal, adding the veteran leader need not fear the draft notification issued by the government. "I want to tell Bhujbal that Kunbi certificates will not be issued without proof of records," Fadnavis said.

The draft notification regarding the issuance of Kunbi caste (OBC) certificates to the "sage soyre" (blood relatives) of Marathas was issued by the state government on January 26 after it accepted the demands of Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil.

# 56 RS seats go to polls on Feb 27; NDA to gain 2 seats, INDIA bloc 1

Saubhadra Chatterji and Aditi Agrawal

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The upcoming elections for 56 Rajya Sabha seats across 15 states, which was notified by Election Commission on Monday, will see the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA gain two seats and members of the INDIA bloc of opposition parties, one, with regional parties being the losers. If the numbers play out as expected, the NDA will emerge with 117 seats in the Rajya Sabha, an improvement over its current strength of 115 in the 245-mem-

The Election Commission will hold polls for all 56 seats on February 27, and results will be announced the same day.

Nine Union ministers are among the MPs whose term will end in April, including IT and railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (from Odisha), environment minister Bhupender Yadav (Rajasthan), education minister Dharmendra Pradhan (Madhya Pradesh), health minister Mansukh Mandaviya (Gujarat), minister of micro, small and medium

## **Changing dynamics**

Election Commission will hold polls for all seats on Feburary 27



enterprises Narayan Rane (Maha- changes at the state level. rashtra) and minister of state for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Karnataka). The terms of BJP president JP Nadda (Himachal Pradesh) and former PM Manmohan Singh (Rajasthan) are also ending in

The ruling BJP holds 28 of the 56 seats (including one seat left vacant by party lawmaker Kirodi Lal Meena who has become a minister in Rajasthan). After the elections, it will have 29 seats.

To be sure, there are significant

For instance, the BJP is set to lose two seats in Uttar Pradesh and one seat in Himachal Pradesh, but it is expected to gain two seats in Gujarat, and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar.

And while the Congress' number will stay constant at 10 seats. it will gain two seats from Telangana but lose one seat each in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

The INDIA bloc will gain two seats as the Samajwadi Party is expected to improve its tally from one to three seats.

In the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly election, the BJP's tally went down by 57 seats while the Samajwadi Party gained 64 seats.

The fence-sitters, Bharat Rashtra Samithi and Telugu Desam Party, will also see their numbers in the Upper House shrink. The TDP will lose its lone seat from Andhra Pradesh and the BRS will see its strength come down from three to one in Telangana after its loss in the recent assembly polls.

On April 2, 2024, 10 Rajya Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh, six each from Maharashtra and Bihar, five each from Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, four each from Gujarat and Karnataka, three each from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and one each from Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand will retire.

Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka have all seen elections and changes in government in the past 18 months. Since Rajya Sabha members are elected by the state legislators, this will mean changes in these states.

In addition, Maharashtra and Bihar have both seen realignments and changes in governments in the past 18 months. In Bihar, the NDA has already gained as the JDU's 5 seats are now part of the ruling alliance. In the biennial election, both sides will get three seats each.

Rajya Sabha MPs retiring from Maharshtra include Rane, former information and broadcasting, and environment minister Prakash Javadekar, and senior BJP leader V Muralidharan. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Anil Desai, NCP's Vandana Chavan and Congress's Kumar Ketkar will also retire.

On April 3, 2024, three upper house members each from Odisha and Rajasthan will also retire. Rajasthan too has seen an election and a change in government but this won't alter the current situation in the Rajya Sabha. 68 Rajya Sabha members were set to retire in 2024. In addition to the elections for 56 seats in April, polls were held on January 19 for three Rajya Sabha seats in Delhi and one seat in Sikkim. Notifications for elections will be issued on February 8 and nominations can be filed until February 15.

Nominations will be scrutinised on February 16. Candidatures can be withdrawn until February 20.

## SC transfers proceedings to itself after Calcutta HC spat

**Utkarsh Anand** 

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**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday transferred to itself all proceedings in a case involving the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the West Bengal government that led to an unprecedented confrontation between the two benches of the Calcutta high court last week.

Underlining that any order or remarks of the top court must not impinge on the dignity of the high court or its judges, a five-judge bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, directed that the petitions pending before the single judge bench as well as the division bench in the Calcutta high court shall stand transferred to the Supreme Court for further consideration.

"We are dealing with a high court - a constitutional court. Casting aspersions on either the single judge or the judge leading the division bench will not be appropriate. We will deal with it in a different way here. Anything that we see here should not impinge on the dignity of the high court," said the bench, which also comprised the four most senior judges - justices Sanjiv Khanna, Bhushan R Gavai, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose.

Listing the matter after three weeks, the Supreme Court extended its January 27 order that had put in abeyance the direction issued by single judge bench of justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay for an investigation by CBI into an alleged fake caste certificate scam.

Justice Gangopadhyay had ordered a CBI probe on January 25 despite the division bench led by justice Soumen Sen annulling the

THE COURT ALSO ASKED STATE FOR AN AFFIDAVIT TO SHOW THE PROBE STATUS INTO THE FAKE CASTE CASE

probe order a day ago.

The top court, while hearing the proceedings initiated on its own motion (suo motu), also asked West Bengal government to submit an affidavit to show status of the probe conducted so far by the state into the alleged scam and the extent of malaise in admission of students at medical colleges using fake caste certificates. "You file your affidavit to show what the extent of fake certificates is...we can then take the next step accordingly," the bench told senior counsel Kapil Sibal, Huzefa Ahmadi and Sunil Fernandes - all appearing for the Bengal government.

Responding, Sibal said that the state police have registered four first information reports (FIRs). and 14 fake certificates have been cancelled so far.

At this point, senior counsel Maninder Singh intervened to inform the bench that he was appearing for a group representing Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. "Forty out of 52 certificates have been found to be fake. That's the extent of the scam," said Singh. The court allowed Singh to move an impleadment plea in the matter.

Sibal, on his part, complained that justice Gangopadhyay could continue to take up similar matters. "He will do the same thing in future too. He (judge) is attending

Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi also stepped in on behalf of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, who had filed an application bringing to court's notice some contentious remarks passed by the single judge in question "Earlier milords took a lenient view and reassigned the case. Even after that the single judge kept issuing simi-

lar orders and remarks. What this

court did the last time was miscon-

strued as this court's weakness. He

rallies...What should be done?"

has been giving interviews even after that. And matters go to him." The bench replied that the powers of assignment of cases lies with the chief justice of the high court. "Let's not arrogate or take upon the power of the chief justice. We are sure the chief justice is taking

stock of everything," it added.

In April 2023, Banerjee moved the Supreme Court against a TV interview given by justice Gangopadhyay in which the judge made certain contentious remarks against the TMC leader. At the time, the top court noted that judges have no business to be giving interviews on matters pending before them as it directed reassignment of a bunch of politically sensitive cases in the state from justice Gangopadhyay to some other bench in the high court.

On January 24 and 25, the two HC benches passed contradictory orders on a petition alleging corruption in admission of students at medical colleges using fake caste certificates, with the larger bench - of justices Sen and Uday Kumar on Thursday finally declaring justice Gangopadhyay's orders void ab initio (legally void from the start) and quashing an FIR that CBI lodged as per his directive.

## Zoos, safaris will help protect forests, govt tells SC

**Abraham Thomas** 

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NEW DELHI: Zoos and safari activities in forests will sensitise people about conserving forests and wildlife, said an affidavit filed by the Centre before the Supreme Court, which is considering petitions challenging the amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act where concerns have been raised over the changes potentially affecting the delicate ecological balance of these spaces.

In a response filed last week, the ministry of environment, forests climate change (MoEFCC) assured the court that the amended Act does not dilute the wider meaning of forests defined by the Supreme Court in a celebrated judgment of December 12, 1996 in the TN Godavarman matter. This decision held that forest land as defined in Section 2 of the Forest

Conservation Act, 1980 would include not only forests as understood in the dictionary sense but any area recorded as a forest in government records.

The affidavit said, "All forests, including unclassed forests, recorded in record of government, forest department, local bodies, or authorities will also attract provisions of the Act...It is emphasised that the provisions of the Amended Act, in no way, will dilute the directions contained in the order of December 12, 1996 passed by Supreme Court. On the contrary, it will consolidate and codify the law relating to forests in the country."

The Centre was responding to a petition filed by 13 retired public servants led by former Indian Forest Service officer Ashok Kumar Sharma and other petitions filed by NGO Vanashakti among other individuals questioning the inclu-



The central government was responding to a petition filed by 13 retired public servants.

sion of zoos and safaris under nonforestry activities and other exemptions such as setting up of security infrastructure and projects of strategic importance near border areas.

Senior advocates Prashanto Chandra Sen and Gopal Sankaranarayanan representing the petitioners sought an urgent hearing claiming that the Centre has notified guidelines and rules under the

amended Act and the same are being published despite the court on November 29 last year recording an undertaking from the Centre that no "precipitative steps" will be taken with regard to implementing the Act. In this regard, they mentioned interim applications filed by them seeking a stay of the Act.

The bench headed by CJI Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra agreed to list the applications on February 19. ASG Aishwarya Bhati appeared for the Centre and informed the court that the affidavit takes care of the apprehensions raised by the court.

The MoEFCC said, "Activities like zoos and safaris will be owned by the government and government authorities and will be set up on degraded forest area located outside the areas protected under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972." This will require approval of central zoo authority. It stated, "Such zoos and safaris

are generally created in the proximity of habitation to ensure minimum disturbance to the pristine forest ecosystem. Such activities will not only sensitise and generate awareness about the importance of protection and conservation of forest land and wildlife, but will also add to the livelihood sources of local community, thereby providing them opportunities to connect with mainstream of development." The Centre defended exemptions under the Act for setting up security infrastructure by pointing out that security-related infrastructure, linear strategic projects along border and left-wing extremist districts are not "blanket exemptions" and will include specific projects of strategic importance or national security as "identified by the central government".



#### M.P. man murders SDM wife for not adding him as bank nominee

BHOPAL/JABALPUR: A sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), posted in Shahpura area of Dindori district in Madhya Pradesh, was murdered by her husband allegedly because she did not make him a nominee in service, insurance and bank records, police said on Monday, adding that the accused has been arrested. SDM Nisha Napit (51) married Manish Sharma (45) in 2020. Superintendent of police Akhil Patel said: "Sharma has been charged with murder and dowry-related death among other charges."

#### Culture ministry's tableau secures first spot at Republic Day parade

NEW DELHI: The culture ministry's tableau showcasing a replica of Dr BR Ambedkar handing over the Constitution to country's first president Dr Rajendra Prasad, secured the first prize at the Republic Day Parade, officials familiar with the matter said. The focus of 75th Republic Day was on 'Nari Shakti' and 'Viksit Bharat' themes." This victory is not just a recognition of our creativity but a testament to the richness of Bharat's cultural legacy," officials in the culture ministry said.





On the occasion of International Epilepsy Day

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi presents

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(In Hindi & English)

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Dr. (Prof.) M. Srinivas Director, AIIMS, New Delhi

**Panelists** 

Dr. Shailesh B. Gaikwad

Chief, Neurosciences Centre & Head, Neuroradiology

Dr. Manjari Tripathi

Professor & Head, Neurology Dr. P.S. Chandra Professor, Neurosurgery

Dr. Deepti Vibha

**Professor, Neurology** Dr. Awadh K. Pandit Additional Professor, Neurology

Dr. Rajesh Kumar Singh

Dr. Animesh Dash

Additional Professor, Neurology

**Associate Professor, Neurology** 

Moderator

Dr. Jasmine Parihar-Asstt. Professor, Neurology

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# Stop seeking caste, religion of litigants in case files: SC

**Utkarsh Anand** 

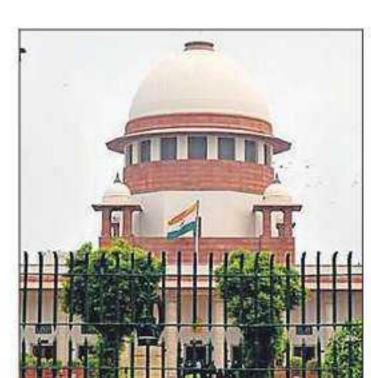
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** No court in India shall ask litigants to specify their caste or religion in judicial proceedings, the Supreme Court has ordered, emphasising that "such a practice is to be shunned and must be ceased forthwith".

A bench of justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah took strong exception to the practice prevailing in some states where litigants are required to mention their caste and religion in court docu-

"We see no reason for mentioning the caste/religion of any litigant either before this Court or the courts below. Such a practice is to be shunned and must be ceased forthwith," held the bench.

Starting with the Supreme Court, the bench then directed its registry to ascertain no such details of litigants remain on the case files produced before the judges for hearing.



The court's attention to the practice was drawn during the hearing in a marital dispute pending in Rajasthan.

appropriate to pass a general order directing that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/ proceeding filed before this Court, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the courts below,' said the bench in a recent order.

The top court then proceeded to ensure the high courts and district judiciary align their procedures accordingly.

"A direction is also issued to all the high courts to ensure that the caste/religion of a litigant does not appear in the memo of parties in any petition/ suit/proceeding filed before the high court or the subordinate courts under their respective jurisdictions," said the order.

Its directions must also be brought to the notice of the members of the Bar as well as the registry for immediate compliance, the judges said.

"A copy of this order shall be placed before the registrar concerned (in the Supreme Court) "It is therefore deemed for perusal and for circulation to the registrar generals of all the high courts for strict compliance," directed the bench. The court's attention to the

> during the hearing of a transfer petition in a marital dispute pending before a family court in Rajasthan. While permitting the transfer of the case to a court in Punjab

> at the instance of the wife, the

Supreme Court was dismayed to

contentious practice was drawn

notice that the caste of both the husband and wife had been mentioned in the memo of the parties, besides their other details.

When asked, the lawyer appearing for the woman informed the bench that he had no choice but to mention the caste of the couple in the case papers filed before the Supreme Court, since these details had been mentioned in the case papers filed before the family court. The lawyer explained that had he failed to mention this detail in the transfer petition filed before the Supreme Court, he would have risked facing objections from the top court's registry for discrepancies in the case details.

cifically ordered that the caste or religion of parties to a case will not be mentioned in the top court regardless of whether such details were mentioned before the courts below, besides communicating its disapproval of the practice to all the 25 high

The Supreme Court then spe-

# SC gives speaker 15 days more for NCP disqualification ruling

**Utkarsh Anand** 

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**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday extended by 15 days the January 31 deadline set by it for the Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar to decide on a bunch of disqualification petitions linked to the split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) that resulted in a new party, and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, being added to the ruling coalition in Maharashtra last year.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, granted more time to Narwekar to deliver the verdict after recording his statement that the hearing process will conclude on January 31 and that the additional time was being requested to prepare the judgment.

Solicitor general (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the speaker, pointed out that Narwekar has remained predominantly occupied with the disqualification proceedings linked to the vertical split in the Shiv Sena, which was decided earlier this month.

"The cross-examination of evidence will be over on January 30 and the final hearing will also con-

Rahul Narwekar

clude on January 31. We are asking for three weeks to dictate judgments. This is a realistic time we are asking for," Mehta submitted before the bench, which also included justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Opposing the extension by three weeks, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Sharad Pawar loyalist Jayant Patil, said an additional oneweek time should be enough for Narwekar to write the verdict.

At this, the bench said it would grant the speaker time till February 15 to deliver his verdict in the batch of disqualification pleas filed by the Sharad Pawar camp against 40 MLAs and five MLCs for antiparty activities after Ajit Pawar split the party and joined the coalition government in the state.

Following a split in Shiv Sena in May 2022 that brought down the

then Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, the NCP suffered a similar fate in July 2023, prompting NCP MLA Patil to move the top court seeking a directive to Narwekar for a timebound disposal of the disqualification petitions filed against Ajit Pawar and the MLAs backing him. Patil's petition was filed in September, lamenting that Narwekar had been sitting over the disqualification petitions for

the last three months. The Ajit Pawar camp has also filed disqualification petitions against 10 NCP MLAs and three MLCs. It has also filed a petition before the Election Commission of India, seeking permission to use the party's name and symbol. The verdict is expected to come soon.

"...Anti-defection law and the 10th schedule have clear provisions. Despite that if he [Narwekar] is delaying it further, then he is only creating doubts that his act appears to be politically motivated," Clyde Crasto, spokesperson for the Sharad Pawar faction said.

Anand Paranjpe, the spokesperson for Ajit Pawar faction, said: "...Speaker will need time to write a judgment, so [the] Supreme Court has given time. We respect the judgment."

#### TN GOVT IS NOT ANTI-HINDU, DGP TELLS SC ON RAM **TEMPLE TELECAST**

**Utkarsh Anand** 

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**NEW DELHI:** It is condemnable to portray the Tamil Nadu government as "anti-Hindu", the state director general of police (DGP) told the Supreme Court on Monday, adding that chief minister MK Stalin never gave any instruction to restrict the live-streaming of the Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony or performing related religious activities on January 22.

Submitting an affidavit in the top court, the DGP maintained that a total of 252 events, both indoor and outdoor, were held in Tamil Nadu on January 22 and that permission for only 36 others were rejected.

"The petitioner has portrayed the Tamil Nadu government as an anti-Hindu government, which is totally false and condemnable," said the affidavit, submitted in response to a petition filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s state unit secretary Vinoj P Sel-

Claiming that the petition is "politically motivated" and has sought to defame the CM, the DGP added: "The allegations that the chief minister had orally instructed not to allow any ceremony or function including the annadhanam, organising bhajans about Prabhu Ram, on the auspicious occasion of January 22, the day of pran pratishta of Ram Janmabhoomi, are totally baseless and false." The DGP's affidavit, however, records that of 288 requests received for the conduct of religious activities, only four were initially allowed. 146 applications were rejected, and 136 others were kept pending for verification.

But after the Madras high court directed the police to regulate their conduct to ensure there was no hindrance to public movement, the police allowed 248 more events, taking the tally to 252.

On January 22, both the Supreme Court and the Madras high court had stepped in following the complaints of restrictions against the live-telecast of the consecration ceremony and religious events to mark the occasion.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadiri Naidu, representing Vinoj, requested for permission to file a response to the state's counter-affidavit but the bench responded: "The order that was required, we

Date of opening

in online &

off line mode

27.02.2024

at 15:30 Hrs.

# Top court extends stay on survey of Mathura's Shahi Eidgah till Apr

**Utkarsh Anand** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday extended till April its earlier order that put in abeyance a survey of the Shahi Eidgah mosque abutting the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura by an advocate-commissioner.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked the parties to file their submission in April. "List the matter in the first half of April 2024. In the meantime, pleadings will be completed by the parties. Interim order to continue," the bench stated in its brief order, extending the operation of its January 16 order.

On the next date of hearing, the top court will also take up a batch of pleas challenging the high court order deciding to hear nearly 18 suits relating to Krishna Janmasthan-Shahi Eidgah land dispute by



The court asked the parties to file their submissions by the first fortnight of April.

transferring them to itself from various civil courts in Mathura.

Observing that the plea made by the Hindu side for the survey was "very vague", and that some important legal issues also arise in the matter, the bench on January 16 stayed the Allahabad high court order of December 14 for the appointment of an advocate-com-

missioner to oversee the survey. On the day, the bench was emphatic that the plea of the Hindu plaintiffs did not specify the

rationale behind the plea. "You cannot say that appoint a commissioner in terms of the prayers in the plaint. You must be specific about what exactly you are asking for. Can an application be made like this? We have reservations about the application. It's so vague... You cannot make an omnibus application like this," the court told the counsel appearing

for the Hindu plaintiffs at the time. The court further said that apart from the questions over the application for the appointment of an advocate-commissioner, legal issues over passing an interim order without rendering a prima facie satisfaction regarding the maintainability of the suit also arose in the case.

A batch of pleas — some seeking to scrap the 1991 Act and others asking for tight enforcement of the same law — are pending before the top court since March 2021.

#### RESCUES IRANIAN VESSEL

## Navy thwarts hijacking bid off Somali coast

Rahul Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

courts in the country.

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Navy on Monday said that its offshore patrol vessel INS Sumitra responded to a distress call from an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel hijacked off the Somali coast, and the swift response "coerced the pirates" to release the boat and the crew held hostage.

The warship is currently deployed for anti-piracy operations along the east coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. The mission-deployed vessel's

response ensured the safe release of the hijacked boat, Iman, and its crew, the navy said in a statement.

"INS Sumitra intercepted the vessel, acted in accordance with the established standard operating procedures to coerce the pirates for safe release of the boat and the 17-member crew," the statement said. The mission was carried out



The fishing vessel that was released from pirates.

by the elite marine commandos on board the Indian warship, HT has learnt. The navy statement did not elaborate on how the pirates, believed to be Somalis, were coerced to abandon their hijacking attempt.

The development came three days after guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam responded to a distress call by Marshall Islandsflagged merchant vessel Marlin Luanda, which was struck by a missile in the Gulf of Aden. Spe-

cialist firefighting crews embarked the vessel and helped douse the fire on board. The Iranian fishing vessel, meanwhile, was sanitised and released for onward transit, said

the navy. "Mission-deployed Indian naval ships on anti-piracy and maritime security operations in the Indian Ocean region symbolise the navy's resolve towards safety of all vessels and seafarers at sea," said the statement. Challenges in the distant seas, including the Arabian Sea, have

emerged as a new front in recent weeks, with Red Sea tensions escalating and the resurgence of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast. The recent incidents under-

score the worsening security situation in the region, which led the navy to step up surveillance in the Arabian Sea substantially and deploy task groups consisting of around 10 warships in the face of

veillance aircraft, Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft, Dorniers, helicopters and coast guard ships are part of the effort to strengthen security in the area. The recent incidents have put

rising threats. P-8I maritime sur-

piracy in the Arabian Sea back in the spotlight.

Pirate attacks in the region peaked between 2008 and 2013 but steadily declined thereafter because of the concerted efforts of the multinational maritime task force operating in the region.

The region accounted for almost 700 pirate attacks during 2008-13, but the figure nosedived to a mere 16 during 2014-19. according to data published by the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Operation Atalanta - the EU maritime security operation in the western Indian Ocean. The first piracy attempt in the region in the last three years was reported in December 2023.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
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## already passed it on the last date." UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING** 

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Vinod S/o Sukhpal R/o L 29/12 Gali No.6, Jai Parkash Nagar North Ghonda Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 129/2013 U/s 12/9/55 G. Act at PS: Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vinod can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vinod has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vinod of FIR No. 129/2013 U/s 13/9/55 G.Act of PS: Jafrabad, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said

By order Aayushi Sexana **Metropolitan Magistrate** Room No. 48, DP/563/NE/2024 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

## **GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)**

(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking) Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor, Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011

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Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties towards

criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: https://tender.nprocure.com and https://www.gujarattourism.com from 30/01/2024 onwards.

The last date for online submission of the Technical Bid and Financial Bid is 23/02/2024 up to 6:00 pm. and physical submission of Technical Bid only is 27/02/2024 up to 3:00 pm. Managing Director

## TOURISM CORPORATION OF

Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com

"Development of Resort at Chorwad, Gujarat". The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility

**E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)** TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. CCP-II/26/2023-2024 Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender for following work: Estimated Average yearly Earnest Name of work Cost of Last Date & time of Turn Over of NO. tender online request for of Part-I of tender cost money Preceding (in ₹ Lakh) Deposit document Tender and **Three Financial** submission of (in ₹) including Year tender in online & GST (in ₹ Lakh) off line mode (in ₹) Engagement of Accredited Energy Auditor to carry out the 26.02.2024 2.95 11 800 8.85 energy audit and submit their upto 17:00 Hrs report for FY 2023 2024

No.56/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2/Dated: 29/01/2024

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

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complaint on or before 05.03.2024.

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) (Under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India) E-1, 8th Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi-110055 Telephone: 011-49431800 | Website: janaushadhi.gov.in

## WALK - IN - INTERVIEWS IN PMBI

Advt. No. 01/2024

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) is the implementing agency for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to make available Quality Generic Medicines at Affordable Prices to All. PMBI is expanding it's operations and has urgent requirement in different departments. Walk-in-Interviews for such positions shall be held as follows:

| Name of Post<br>(Department)                  | Total<br>Posts | Place of<br>Posting        | Date and Time of Interviews                       | Venue (Place/ Address of Walk-in-Interviews                     |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Executive (Legal)                             | 01             | Delhi &<br>NCR             | 07.02.2024<br>WEDNESDAY<br>(10:30 AM to 01:00 PM) |   |
| Assistant Manager<br>(IT & MIS)               | 01             | Delhi &<br>NCR             | 07.02.2024<br>WEDNESDAY<br>(02:00 PM to 05:00 PM) |   |
| Sr. Executive / Executive (Sales & Marketing) | 02             | Delhi &<br>NCR             | 08.02.2024<br>THURSDAY<br>(10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)  | Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices                               |
| Sr. Marketing Officer<br>(Sales & Marketing)  | 01             | Kolkata,<br>West<br>Bengal | 08.02.2024<br>THURSDAY<br>(02:00 PM to 05:00 PM   | Bureau of India<br>(PMBI)<br>E-1, 8th Floor,<br>Videocon Tower, |
| Sr. Executive<br>(Logistics & Supply Chain)   | 01             | All India                  | 09.02.2024<br>FRIDAY<br>(10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)    | Jhandewalan Extn.,<br>New Delhi –110055                         |
| Sr. Executive<br>(Quality Control)            | 03             | All India                  | 09.02.2024<br>FRIDAY<br>(02:00 PM to 05:00 PM)    |   |
| Executive<br>(Finance & Accounts)             | 01             | Delhi &<br>NCR             | 12.02.2024<br>MONDAY<br>(10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)    |   |

Eligible candidates may appear for Walk-in-Interviews on the above-mentioned dates on given venue. For the application form, salary structure and detailed terms & conditions visit at our website: janaushadhi.gov.in. CEO, PMBI

#### informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 1804185 0405/Fax No. 0135-2760911) **GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA** Office of the Executive Engineer,

Public Works Division No.2, Nagpur E-mail: div2nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com

Online E-tenders in 'B-1' Forms are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 2, "Bandhkam Sankul" Civil Lines, Nagpur for the following works from the registered contractor who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The tender documents should be downloaded from the Government Website https://mahatenders.gov.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional tenders will not be accepted. Sr. Estimated Cost Name of Work

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.37 / 2023-2024

| No. |  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|--|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1   | 2  | 3             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1   | S.T.B.T. village Bellori road (V.R.208) Bellori to Fetri Walani to Tondakhairi 80 Feet D.P. road in Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur                       | Rs.79.00 Lakh |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2   | Construction of Drugdhamna Dawalameti road to Mhada Colony road in Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural)  | Rs.50.00 Lakh |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3   | Construction of N.H.No.69 Railway crossing to Snehnagar Godhani to Godhani Railway Station (ODR-163) Km. 0/00 to 1/200 in Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural) | Rs.50.00 Lakh |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4   | Construction of B.T. road to N.H.No.263 (J.) to Jain International School (ODR-141) Length 1.00 Km. in Tahasil and Distt.Nagpur (Rural)                    | Rs.34.90 Lakh |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     |  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     |  | 27,           |  |  |  |  |  |  |

१ | ई-निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal निविदापूर्व बैठक As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal ऑनलाईन नम्द केलेले वेळापत्रक लागू व अंतिम राहील. ई-निविदा उघडणे

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2) Bidders are requested to contact on following telephone numbers for any doubts / information / difficulty regarding online enrollment or obtaining digital certificate. Help Desk Number-0120-4200462, 0120-Tender Document Fee and EMD. is to be paid via Online E-payment Gateway mode only. EMD. Exemption Certificate shall not be considered. The information of E-payment Gateway is available on Etendering website https://ipahatenders.gov.in

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(Chandrashekar Giri) Executive Engineer. Public Works Division No. 2, Nagpur

| SR.<br>No. | NAME OF BOARD/<br>CORP./AUTH | NAME OF WORK<br>NOTICE TENDER  | OPENING DATE<br>CLOSING DATE<br>(TIME) | AMOUNT / EMD<br>(APPROX.)<br>IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE<br>BOARD CORP./AUTH | NODAL OFFICER/<br>CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1          | UHBVN                        | PROCUREMENT OF 33 KV ITEMS FOR UHBVN & DHBVN   | 23.01.2024<br>13.02.2024               | 104.12 LACS                            | www.uhbvn.org.in                   | 8950934535<br>cemm@uhbvn.org.in         |
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{ OUR TAKE }

## Message from Bihar to INDIA

Nitish Kumar's frequent shifts in allegiances undermine the Opposition bloc's challenge

ihar chief minister (CM) and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar's shifting political allegiances have ceased to surprise as this has been the nature of his politics for years now. Since winning office in 2005, the ninetime CM has travelled between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the two poles of Bihar politics, ever so often. This has been driven by the urge for self-preservation in a state where the lack of a caste or community support is a major handicap: And Kumar's caste, the Kurmi, lacks the numerical heft to shape outcomes. However, Kumar's shrewd and inscrutable politics are remarkable because he has managed to successfully sell his somersaults as principled invoking anti-corruption, development, social justice, and good governance to explain them. The BJP, RJD, and Congress have been equally unprincipled in rallying behind him as he shifted sides, ignoring the spirit of the mandate.

The primary impulse that drives Kumar's politics is the pursuit of power. The present switch in alliances may well be a desire to stay in office in Patna beyond 2025 — the understanding with the RJD was that Kumar would make way for Tejashwi Yadav as the leader of the Mahagathbandhan, the RJD-JD(U)-Congress-Left alliance, thereafter. His claim to be the face of the INDIA bloc, which he mooted to take on Prime Minister Modi, didn't find backers. That left Kumar with few options to stay politically relevant. The realignment of political forces in Bihar is a big boost for the NDA's prospects. It expands the ruling alliance's electoral influence in a state that sends 40 MPs to the Lok Sabha, taking it closer to a majority in the Rajya Sabha. More importantly, Kumar's actions discredit the INDIA bloc, underline its fragility, and undermine the claims of its ability to form a stable government.

Kumar represents the tragedy of the Opposition and the reality of the INDIA bloc. Recent events suggest that the latter is nothing but an inchoate group of self-serving regional chieftains, whose sole consideration is furthering their own prospects. The Congress lacks the imagination, leadership or political savvy to hold them together; many of them are offshoots of the Congress and fear that the party's resurgence would undermine their influence. Kumar's exit and recent actions of parties such as the TMC and AAP raise the question on whether INDIA can be a competent Opposition, forget being a challenger to the Modi juggernaut.

## Educate pilgrims, tourists on safety

he accident at the popular Kalkaji temple in South Delhi that resulted in the death of one person has a ring of deja vu about it. Poor planning, shoddy crowd management, indifference to permissions and safety arrangements have been highlighted as reasons behind the incident. A makeshift platform erected for a *jagran* (devotional musical performance) collapsed when 50-60 people reportedly climbed onto it. Police have said the organisers did not have permission to hold the event. Temple authorities too said the same.

Accidents at festivals and functions at religious places are not uncommon. In March last year, 36 people died when a structure built over a stepwell in a temple in Indore collapsed. The covering was not meant for so many people to stand on. In 2016, 102 persons were killed in a blaze following fireworks at a temple near Kollam, Kerala: The fireworks were unauthorised. In Sabarimala in 2011, 104 people died in a stampede; as did 224 in Chamunda Devi, Jodhpur, in 2008; and 291 in Mandher Devi temple, Wai, Maharashtra, in 2005. There are scores of such incidents that have resulted in thousands of deaths. In each case, probes have zeroed in on the same reasons — poor crowd management and

construction, and negligence of safety measures. Festivals are integral to Indian social and religious life. Organisers have to be educated about the perils of ignoring safety nets at festivals. The successful conduct of events such as the Kumbh Mela has revealed that administrations in India do have methods, systems and technology to manage large crowds. Also, pilgrims, tourists, and devotees need to be sensitised on orderly conduct. Every life is precious and even a single death is unacceptable.

# Battle for Global South leadership

Both China and India aspire for the role, but it is not clear if nations that belong to the group see either of them as a benign leader or their champion

uring the G20 summit in India last year, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi hosted a "Voice of the Global South for Human-Centric Development" virtual summit where he declared India would be the voice of the Global South. And, indeed, as part of India's prerogative as the 2023 president of the G20 to articulate its agenda, it pushed issues important to developing countries such as sustainable lending, food security, health infrastructure, multilateral bank reform and climate finance.

India's positioning as the champion of the Global South was not limited to development and governance issues but also accompanied by a clear desire to play a globally influential role as a bridge between its western strategic partners such as the United States (US) and France, and the developing world. Consequently, a lot of attention has been paid to both the Global South — indeed the Financial Times declared the phrase the word of the year in 2023 — and India's role in it. But just as the concept of the Global South is not new, neither is India's

aspiration to lead it. Furthermore, India has long competed with China to assume this role. The significant difference between their historical role and today's positioning is that the geopolitical context has changed and who comprises the Global South and why has evolved. It is also an open question as to whether Global South countries welcome either India or China as their voice. The Global South is today largely

understood to be a grouping of countries classified as 96 low- or middle-income by the World Bank. The term is a geographical head-scratcher given that it includes many countries Manjari such as those in northern Chatterjee Africa as well as China and Miller India, all of which fall in the northern hemisphere. But the geographical roots can be traced to a 1926 essay, "The Southern Question", written by the Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci in which he first raised the idea of a less-developed, southern region. Gramsci compared the industrially developed and wealthier region of northern Italy with its less developed south, and concluded that the latter had been colonised by capitalists from the former. His conclusions were furthered during the Cold War

when international society was classi-

fied in 1952 by French demographer

Alfred Sauvy into worlds separated by

both, income and ideology. The capi-

talist West comprised the First World;

the Soviet Union and its socialist allies

the Second; and the newly-decolo-

nised and largely impoverished countries, the Third. In 1969, American Left-wing activist Carl Oglesby dubbed this Third World the "Global South", when he lamented "the north's dominance over the global south".

One of the earliest Global South convenings was the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in China often gave aid to countries with the West, particularly the US. 1955. Bandung attendees included not just the countries we think of today as

Global South but also countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey. The most important issue on the conference agenda for these countries, many of whom were newly decolonised, was opposing colonialism and racial discrimination. Bandung was also where the idea of non-alignment — or not taking the side of either

superpower during the Cold War was born.

It was this world to which both China and India belonged and aspired to lead. At Bandung, these aspirations were a source of friction between them. China represented by premier Zhou Enlai and India represented by PM Jawaharlal Nehru competed to display their bona fide anti-colonial credentials and ability to champion the newly decolonised world. After Bandung, India emerged as a leading voice of the non-aligned movement (NAM), often taking moral positions. But China, while taking a supporting role in non-alignment, began extending foreign aid to many African nations — indeed in the Mao years,



China and India have both wanted to play a leading role in the Global South for decades

a higher gross national product (GNP) per capita than its own.

In the post-Cold War world, both anti-colonialism and NAM became less relevant as the common link between Global South countries. Moreover, it seemed absurd to continue to include certain countries in the category — Saudi Arabia, for example, given its oil wealth. But the idea of opposing any kind of neo-imperialistic — read western — dominance and interference continued as a common thread. And this continues to draw both China and India. Despite now being considered rising powers with huge economies, both still insist they are developing countries that need support, oppose undue western interference and therefore, have interests in common with the rest of the Global South. With its infrastructurebuilding Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and easily given loans and investments to developing economies, China has been presenting itself as an alternative to a seemingly inflexible and unsympathetic US system. India, unable to match China's investments and financing, has been offering itself, as the G20 summit showed, as the country that both understands Global South interests and also has the ear of

But it is not so clear the Global South, while sometimes perfectly willing to accept Chinese and Indian support, sees either of them as either a benign leader or their champion. China's reluctance in its approach to the global debt crisis and its abuse of natural resources in West Africa, for example, has created friction. Meanwhile, India is considered a difficult and prickly country to deal with, and its obstructionism in international organisations such as the World Trade Organization, where it has opposed issues of interest to many developing countries — such as fisheries subsidies - has created some ill will. Furthermore, neither country would win a popularity contest in their respective neighbourhoods —

home to several Global South nations. In short, China and India have both wanted to play a leading role in the Global South for decades. But whether those aspirations will be fulfilled remains to be seen.

Manjari Chatterjee Miller is senior fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, and Associate Professor, Boston University. She is the author of Why Nations Rise: Narratives and the Path to Great Power.

The views expressed are personal

## Mandir turns spotlight on Constitutional secularism

Ronojoy

Sen

ndia's State apparatus was mobilised in unprecedented ways for the consecration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya. Post the ■ 75th Republic Day, what does this say about India's constitutional secularism?

There is no straightforward answer. Contrary to early works on Indian secularism, such as Donald Smith's 1963 book, which forecast a progressive "secularisation of both private and public life," the reverse has happened. Large parts of the world, including India, are, in the words of a sociologist, as "furiously religious as it ever was and in some places more so than ever".

India's constitutional secularism — as mandated by the Constitution and interpreted by the courts - is notoriously difficult to classify. One influential typology proposes two kinds of secularism: Assertive, which excludes religion from the public sphere; and passive, which allows for public visibility of religion. Few countries such as France fall in the former category while many, including India and the United States, fall in the latter category which represents a

broad spectrum. While most typologies regard India as a secular State, the framers decided to eschew the use of the word "secular" in the Indian Constitution, which was inserted much later, despite fervent pleas by some members of the Constituent Assembly. Indian secularism has tried to oscillate between sarvadharma samabhava (goodwill towards all religions) and dharma nirapekshata (religious neutrality). Jawaharlal Nehru's position on the secular State was one that was not "irreligious", but "respected and honoured all religions, giving

them freedom to function" In the Indian case, one of the planks of a liberal conception of secularism — the wall of separation between State and religion — is constitutionally absent. Though Articles 25 and 26 guarantee the right to individual and collective freedom of religion, they, along with other articles, also empower the State to intervene in Hindu religious institutions and practices. Scholars have tried to capture the essence of Indian secularism in different ways. One of the more well-known formulations is Rajeev Bhargava's idea of "principled distance", where the State "neither mindlessly excludes all religions nor is merely neutral towards them". While this captures some elements of Indian secularism, they run up against the reality of Indian secularism.

The dispute over Ayodhya has represented one of the most potent challenges to Indian secularism. The political and legal battles over the temple site in independent India beginning in 1949, when an idol of Lord Ram was found inside the existing Babri mosque, to the 1992 demolition of the mosque, to the

WHILE MOST TYPOLOGIES REGARD INDIA AS A SECULAR STATE, THE FRAMERS DECIDED TO ESCHEW THE USE OF THE WORD "SECULAR" IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS INSERTED MUCH LATER

2019 Supreme Court (SC) paving the way for the construction of a temple have been marked by duplicity and double standards.

The courts have been central to questions around State and religion in India and drew fulsome praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the temple opening. While it is difficult to distil a consistent line of reasoning in the SC's religious jurisprudence, the Court has constructed its own version of an all-encompassing Hinduism, which has helped the Hindu nationalist project on occasion. This was best articulated in a landmark 1966 ruling where the Court said underneath the "diver-

gence" of Hinduism, there is an "indescribable unity". In the same ruling, the apex court labelled Hinduism as a "way of life". While this might have seemed relatively innocuous, a similar logic was used in a 1996 ruling, in the midst of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, conflating Hinduism with Hindutva. Indeed, the idea that Hinduism as well as Hindutva are cultural expressions that subsume all other religions has been put for-

ward by Hindu nationalists. The Court's seal of approval, unsurprisingly, made its way to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) manifestoes and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh mouthpieces.

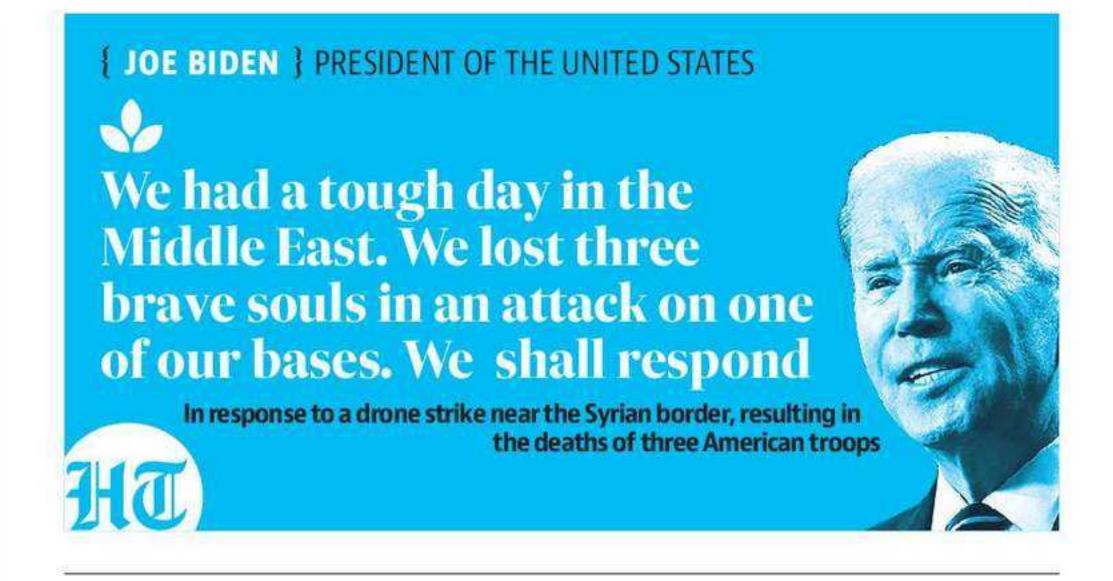
The second way in which the court has shaped Hinduism is by positioning itself as the arbiter of what constitutes "true" religion. It has done so through the use of what is known as the "essential practices" test, something that has become a trademark of India's religious jurisprudence. Indeed, judges have sometimes been likened to dharmashastras or high priests in their zeal to discover the funda-

mentals of religion. This tendency to erase the differences within Hinduism was very much in evidence in the 2019 Ayodhya ruling. In the voluminous judgment, the SC stated that the "Hindu community" claims the disputed site as the "birthplace of Lord Ram" ignoring that there are many Hindus who either do not worship Ram or are ambivalent about the disputed site. Much of the judgment revolved around evaluating the faith and reverence of Hindus for a mythological site, which is tricky at the best of times. Despite admitting that the existing mosque on the site had been first "desecrated" in 1949 and destroyed in 1992, the bench unanimously ruled the claim of the Hindus to the entire disputed property to be on a better footing than the Muslims. The SC compensated the Muslims by awarding a plot of land

elsewhere in Ayodhya to build a mosque. A historical parallel to the opening of the Ram temple can be found in 1951 when the rebuilt Somnath temple was inaugurated. The then Prime Minister (PM) Nehru did not attend the function and was unhappy with President Rajendra Prasad for "associating" himself with and attending the "spectacular opening". Times have changed dramatically and a party, whose rise in the 1990s from a marginal entity was predicated on Ayodhya, is expectedly, extracting maximum mileage from the temple. When the PM starred in the ceremonies around the temple consecration, the line between the State and religion was obliterated.

Ronojoy Sen is with the National University of Singapore and author of Articles of Faith: Religion, Secularism, and the Indian Supreme Court.

The views expressed are personal



## Budgets that guided India's rise as an economic power

ast week, the Indian stock market surpassed the Hong Kong stock market to become the fourth largest in the tion. This is one of the many feathers in India's cap over the last decade in which India has witnessed unprecedented economic growth and international prominence. In September 2022, a confident Bharat surpassed the United Kingdom to become the fifth largest economy. We are soon poised to become the world's third largest economy and a \$35 trillion economy by 2047. Contrast this to a decade ago when India along with a few other countries was dubbed the "Fragile 5" owing to runaway inflation. In fact, in 2013, India had dropped one place to become the 11th largest economy showing that while the global economy was recovering and growing from earlier

economic headwinds, the Indian economy was continuing to face challenges. This decade-long journey since then has not been easy and a key decisive factor has been the quality of leadership at the very

One key differentiator has been the visionary budgets implemented over the last decade that have meticulously laid the foundation for

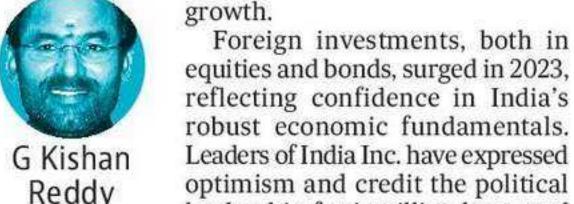
a robust economic bulwark, poised to withstand challenges and propel India towards sustained growth and prosperity. The emphasis on capex-driven growth, coupled with a new policy framework that made infrastructure development central to the growth roadmap, has ensured that the resources we have are being deployed to maximise social and economic welfare. Increasing the outlay for the health sector by a whopping 137%, new schemes in the agriculture sector and a National Education Policy with financial commitments have been guided by this thinking.

The Gross Domestic Product growth rate has recorded an impressive 7.2% in 2022-23, and the nation is set to surpass pre-pandemic levels by a remarkable 17.2%. In the realm of international trade, there is growing interest from countries across the globe in signing free trade agreements with India. One reason for this is the effort taken to make Indian goods and services competitive by bringing down the cost of business lower logistics costs, dedicated freight corridors and a digital economy have further made ease of doing business a reality.

India's digital prowess is exemplified by the astounding success of the digital economy with UPI transactions crossing the 100 billion mark in the 2023 calendar year, closing at 118 billion, and marking a 60% growth compared to 2022. With daily UPI transactions reaching a staggering 387 million in December, the platform is expected to surpass the transaction volume of dedicated payment technology corporations, underscoring India's rapid transition towards a cashless economy.

The government has also deployed the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) more strategically. This has played a pivotal role in this economic surge, with one out of every three PSE stocks in the stock market delivering over 100% returns in 2023. The push for infrastructure capex, defence indigenisation, and the Make in India initiative, have pro-

pelled PSE entities to remarkable



Reddy

equities and bonds, surged in 2023, reflecting confidence in India's robust economic fundamentals. Leaders of India Inc. have expressed optimism and credit the political leadership for instilling hope and confidence. International organisations predict a glowing future for

India's economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2028, while JP Morgan envisions India becoming the third largest global economy by 2027, hitting \$7 trillion by 2030. Domestically, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has upgraded growth forecasts to 7% for 2024, further substantiating the positive momentum. In the face of global economic challenges, India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, has not only weathered the storm but also emerged as a beacon of economic resilience and growth.

Our vision is set on emerging as a responsible global leader while prioritising sustainable industry, infrastructure, and manufacturing. From strategic geopolitical alignments to robust economic indicators, Bharat stands on the cusp of a new era, solidifying its position as a global economic powerhouse. With the interim budget announcement for the upcoming financial year due soon, the nation is moving forward.

> G Kishan Reddy is Union minister of tourism, culture and DoNER. The views expressed are personal

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# Israeli intel accuses 190 Gaza UN staff of doubling up as militants

An Israeli official said some 10% of UNRWA staff were believed to have more general affiliation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

JERUSALEM/GENEVA: An Israeli intelligence dossier that prompted a cascade of countries to halt funds for a UN Palestinian aid agency includes allegations that some staff took part in abductions and killings during the October 7 raid that sparked the Gaza war.

The six-page dossier, seen by Reuters, alleges that some 190 UNRWA employees, including teachers, have doubled as Hamas or Islamic Jihad militants. It has names and pictures for 11 them. The Palestinians have accused Israel of falsifying information to tarnish UNRWA, which says it has fired some staffers and is investigating the allegations.

One of the ll is a school counsellor accused in the Israeli dossier of providing unspecified assistance to his son in the abduction of a woman during the Hamas infiltration in which Israel says 1,200 people were killed and 253 kidnapped.

Another, an UNRWA social worker, is accused of unspecified involvement in the transfer to Gaza of a slain Israeli soldier's corpse and of coordinating the movements of pick-up trucks used by the raiders and of weapons supplies.

A third Palestinian in the dossier is accused of taking part in a rampage in the Israeli border village Beeri, one tenth of whose residents were killed. A fourth is accused of participating in an attack on Reim, site both of an army base that was overrun and a rave where more than 360 revellers died.

The dossier was shown to Reuters by a source who could not be identified by name or nationality.

The source said that it had been compiled by Israeli intelligence and shared with the United States, which on Friday suspended funding for UNRWA.

Asked about the dossier, a spokesperson for UNRWA said she could not comment due to an ongoing probe by the United Nations.

More than 10 countries, including major donors the United States and Germany, have halted their funding to the agency.



Palestinians fleeing Khan Younis, due to the Israeli ground operation, move towards Rafah, amid the ongoing conflict, in the southern Gaza Strip, on Monday.



We discovered that there were 13 UNRWA workers who actually participated, either directly or indirectly, in the October 7 massacre.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, Israeli prime minister

Aid ops affected

That is a huge problem for an agency that more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians look to for day-to-day assistance, and which has already been hard-stretched by Israel's war on Hamas in the enclave.

UNRWA said on Monday it would not be able to continue operations in Gaza and across the region beyond the end of February if funding were not resumed. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency was set up for refugees of the 1948

war at Israel's founding in what had been British-ruled Palestine. It also tends to millions of the original refugees' descendants in Palestinian territories and abroad. UNRWA employs 13,000 people in Gaza.

Israel has long accused UNRWA or perpetuating conflict by discouraging the resettlement of refugees, and has on occasion said agency staff took part in armed attacks against it. UNRWA denies wrongdoing,

describing its role as relief only. "From intelligence information, documents and identity cards seized during the course of the fighting, it is now possible to flag around 190 Hamas and PIJ terrorist operatives who serve as UNRWA employees," the Hebrew-language dossier says. It accuses Hamas of "methodically and deliberately deploying its terrorist infrastructure in a wide range of UN facilities and assets", including

schools. Hamas denies that. Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz said UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini should go. "UNRWA employees participated in the massacre of October 7," he said. "Lazzarini should draw conclusions and resign."

## Hamas: War must end for any hostage release

DOHA/JERUSALEM: Hamas said on Monday that releasing hostages it is holding would require a guaranteed end to the Israeli offensive in Gaza and withdrawal of all invasion forces, reiterating its position after Israel held a meeting with Qat-

ari and Egyptian mediators. "The success of the Paris meeting is dependent on the Occupation (Israel) agreeing to end the comprehensive aggression on Gaza Strip," senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri

told Reuters. It was not immediately clear if, with this condition met, Hamas would free all or some of the 132 hostages Israel says remain in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a summit in Paris on Sunday to negotiate a return of hostages held by Hamas in exchange for a ceasefire in Gaza was "constructive", but "significant gaps" remain. Spy chiefs and top officials from Qatar,

Modi congratulates

Comoros president

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on

Monday congratulated Azali

on his re-election

Assoumani, on his re-

election as the Comoros

President. Modi affirmed

will continue to work to

Comoros partnership, the

India-Africa partnership and

the 'Vision Sagar'. "Heartiest

congratulations@PR\_AZALI

President of Comoros. Look

on your re-election as the

strengthen the India-

hope that the two countries

Egypt, the US and Israel met in Paris to try to secure the release of hostages taken from Israel on October 7 who are still held in Gaza. The deal under discussion would include a two-month pause in fighting.

Also, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Monday at least 26,637 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory during the war between militants and Israel.

The latest toll includes 215 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said, while 65,387 people have been wounded since October 7.

Also, sirens blared in Tel Aviv on Monday, the first warning of incoming rocket fire in several weeks as the Israel-Hamas war rages in Gaza. Hamas's armed wing said it fired at the Israeli commercial hub in response to "massacres against civilians" in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian militant group has battled Israeli forces since early October.

HI

forward to continue working

strengthen India-Comoros

partnership, India-Africa

Sagar'." PM Modi posted on

partnership and 'Vision

X. Assoumani is also the

Comoros president for

for All in the Region

(SAGAR) is India's

policy or doctrine

the Indian Ocean

of maritime

region.

cooperation in

fourth term, earlier this

chairperson of the African

Union. He was re-elected as

month. Security and Growth

together to further

## IRAN DENIES LINKS TO JORDAN DRONE STRIKE THAT KILLED THREE U.S. TROOPS

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

TEHRAN/BEIRUT: Iran denied on Monday any links to a drone strike in Jordan that killed three US military personnel and said it was not seeking an "expansion" of conflict in the Middle East.

The killing of three American troops on Sunday in a strike in Jordan marked the first US military losses in the region since the Israel-Hamas war began.

Iran denied any links to the attack, with foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani describing the accusations as "baseless" and a "projection".

Also, Iran executed on Monday four men convicted of planning sabotage and alleged links with Israel's Mossad secret service, state media reported.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes in Syria on Monday killed seven people, including pro-Iran fighters, a war monitor said, in the latest such attack in the country.

Indian student in US

hammered to death

NEW YORK: A 25-year-old

Indian student who recently

US was hammered to death

by a homeless drug addict

whom he had been helping

in Georgia state's Lithonia

anguished by the terrifying,

student Mr Vivek Saini and

**AGENCIES** 

that led to the death of ...

condemn the attack...,"

the Indian consulate in

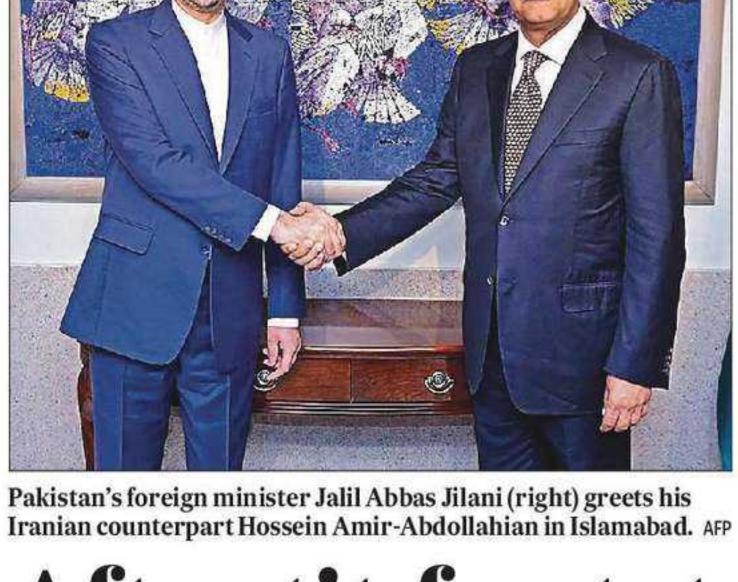
Atlanta said.

brutal, and heinous incident

city. "We are deeply

earned an MBA degree in the

by drug addict



## After tit-for-tat strikes, Pak and Iran to mend ties

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Monday said that they respected each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and resolved to expand security cooperation, stepping up efforts to mend ties after tit-for-tat missile strikes this month at what they said were militant targets.

Foreign ministers of the two countries held talks in the Pakistani capital days after their military tensions raised alarm about wider instability in the region since the war between Israel and Hamas erupted on October 7.

Pakistan's caretaker foreign minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, speaking at a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, said the neighbours were able to resolve misunderstandings fairly quickly.

The two countries also agreed to fight terrorism in their respective areas and allay each other's concerns, Jilani said.

Amir-Abdollahian said the two countries have a good understanding, adding that there have never been territorial differences or wars between Iran and Pakistan.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi would soon visit Pakistan,

Amir-Abdollahian added. Tensions between the two countries rose after the missile strikes, with Pakistan recalling its ambassador to Tehran and not allowing his counterpart to return to Islamabad, as well as cancelling all high-level diplomatic and trade engagements.

But efforts were swiftly made

hian invited for talks. The two Muslim nations have had a history of rocky relations,

Pak central bank

holds key rate at

inflation forecast

KARACHI: Pakistan's cen-

tral bank on Monday

held its key rate at 22%

for the fifth policy meet-

ing in a row and

increased its full-year

Jameel Ahmad, the

governor of the State

Bank of Pakistan said the

decision was warranted

due to "elevated" infla-

tion — which was 29.7%

in December. He said a

rise in the bank's average

inflation forecast for the

fiscal year ending in June

to 23-25%, from a previ-

ous projection of 20-22%,

was due to rising gas and

electricity prices. REUTERS

to lower the temperature, with

the envoys asked to return to

their posts and Amir-Abdolla-

inflation projections.

22%, revises up

but the missile strikes were the most serious incidents in years. Islamabad said it hit bases of

the separatist Baloch Liberation Front and Baloch Liberation Army, while Tehran said it struck militants from the Jaish al Adl (JAA) group.

Iran said the strikes in a border village on its territory killed nine people, including four children. Pakistan said the Iranian attack had killed two children.

## Russia: Vladimir Putin formally registered as presidential candidate

MOSCOW: Russia's election commission on Monday formally registered President Vladimir Putin as a candidate for the March presidential election, a vote in which he's all but certain to win

another six-year term in office. Putin, 71, is running as an independent, but he retains tight control over Russia's political system that he has established

during 24 years in power. With prominent critics who could challenge him either jailed or living abroad and most independent media banned, his re-election in the March 15-17 presidential vote looks all but

assured. In 2018, Putin also ran as an independent, snubbing the United Russia party that nominated him to run in 2012. With his approval ratings hovering around 80%, Putin is far more popular than United Russia, which is widely seen as a part of the Kremlin-controlled state bureaucracy rather than a political force.

The Central Election Commission formally cleared Putin for the race after reviewing 315,000 signatures gathered by his campaign from all 89 regions of Rus-

Russian election law requires independent candidates to present at least 300,000 signatures to get on the ballot. AP

## ( 'MOON SNIPER' ) JAPAN IS ONLY THE FIFTH NATION TO ACHIEVE A 'SOFT LANDING' ON THE MOON

## Moon lander overcomes its power issues, comes back to life

Agence France-Presse

letters@hindustantimes.com

TOKYO: Japan's Moon lander has come back to life, the space agency said on Monday, enabling the craft to proceed with its mission of investigating the lunar surface despite its rocky start.

The surprise announcement was a boost to Japan's space programme, nine days after the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) touched down at a wonky angle that left its solar panels facing the wrong way.

"Last evening we succeeded in establishing communication with SLIM, and resumed operations!" Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said on social media platform X, posting a grainy image of a lunar rock

An image of the lunar surface taken by the transformable lunar surface robot installed on the Smart Lander for Investigating

light for 10-band observation," it made Japan only the fifth nation said, referring to the lander's multiband spectroscopic camera.

But on its descent, dubbed the "20 minutes of terror", the craft suffered engine problems and ended up at a skewed angle, images released by JAXA showed.

This meant the solar panels were facing west instead of up, and it was uncertain if they would still get enough sunlight to func-

Last week, JAXA said it had switched the elevator-sized SLIM off with 12% power remaining, up this week.

hoping that the craft would wake

A JAXA spokesman told AFP on Monday that the SLIM operation resumed "presumably because power generation resumed in its solar battery as it received sunlight".

"We will prioritise what we can do now - observing and collecting information — rather than adjusting SLIM's position since adjusting the position could lead to a worse situation," he said.

"The daytime (where SLIM is on the Moon) will last until around the end of January and it will be at night from around February," he said. Helping to repair its reputation

after a number of recent mishaps, JAXA said last week that SLIM had landed 55 metres from its tar-

This meant that the "Moon Sniper" lived up to its nickname and landed within the 100-metre landing zone, much more precise than the usual range of several kilometres.

Before powering the craft off, mission control was able to download technical and image data from SLIM's descent and of the lunar crater where it landed.

Assuming it has enough juice, SLIM can now tackle its main mission of investigating an exposed area of the Moon's mantle, the inner layer usually deep beneath its crust.

## KING CHARLES III DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL AFTER A PROSTATE PROCEDURE

**Associated Press** 

letters@hindustantimes.com

**LONDON:** King Charles III left a private London clinic on Monday after undergoing a "corrective procedure" for an enlarged prostate. The 75-year-old monarch was admitted to the London Clinic, where the Princess of Wales, his daughter-in-law, also recently had abdominal

had returned home. Charles, who ascended the throne 16 months ago, was diagnosed with the benign condition on January 17 after he experienced undisclosed symptoms. He cancelled engagements and was urged to rest before the procedure, which had concluded by Friday afternoon.

surgery. Her Kensington Palace

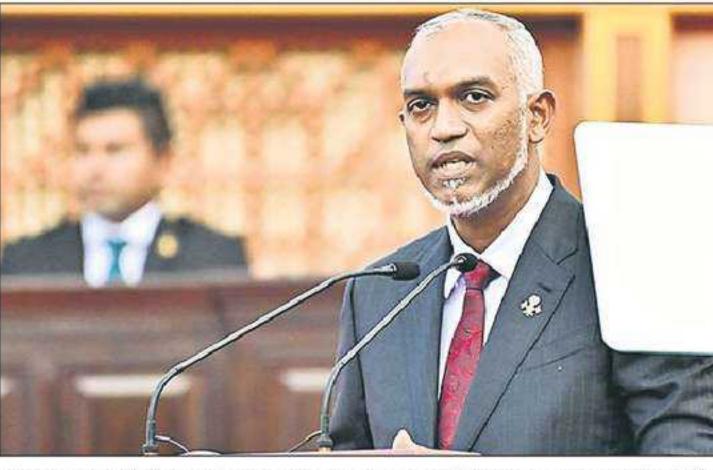
office said on Monday that she

The king decided to announce the surgery in advance in an effort to encourage other men to have their prostates checked in line with public health advice.

The princess, formerly Kate Middleton, is "making good progress" in her recovery, her office at Kensington Palace said Monday. The wife of Prince William underwent planned surgery on January 16. The pal-

ace didn't provide fur-

ther details, but said that her condition wasn't cancerous. The 42-year-old princess has cancelled her public engagements until after Easter.



Mohamed Muizzu, the newly elected president speaks during his inauguration ceremony in Male, on November 17, 2023.

## Maldives parliament rejects three Cabinet members after brawl

MALE: Maldivian lawmakers voted against the appointment of three Cabinet members on Monday after an unprecedented parliamentary punch-up over the ratification of the posts left at least one MP seriously injured.

Ruling party legislators attempted to block a vote by the main opposition — who with their allies hold the majority in parliament — on the new 22-member Cabinet appointed by recently-elected President Mohamed Muizzu.

Videos shared on social media showed at least one MP bleeding from the neck after being caught up in a violent scrum inside the chamber on Sunday night, leading to the temporary suspension of sit-

Legislators were seen yank- have been challenged. ing off microphones and using plastic trumpets to disrupt proceedings in chaotic scenes in the

tiny Indian Ocean archipelago, otherwise better known for its luxury tourism. Another MP pressed his knee

on the neck of a rival to pin him down till two others came to the rescue of the victim. Sunday's sessions were sus-

pended close to midnight. A fresh meeting was called on Monday when a vote was taken on the presidential nominees to the Cabinet. Three key posts — the minis-

ters for Islamic affairs and housing, and the attorney-general - were rejected by parliament. The opposition did not say why they opposed the trio. It was the first time since the country adopted a new hybrid

constitution in 2008 - with a president as the chief executive that presidential nominees Later on Monday, Muizzu

said he had reappointed the

three posts.

known as "toy poodle". "We immediately started scientific observations with MBC, and have successfully obtained first



Moon (SLIM) mission, after landing on the Moon on January 20. AFP

to achieve a "soft landing" on the Moon after the United States, the SLIM's January 20 touchdown Soviet Union, China and India.

A-1310

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

GOVT. OF MADHYA PRADESH, MADHYA PRADESH BHAWAN PLOT NO. 29, C-D, JESUS & MARY MARG, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021 Phone No. 011-26772001, 2002

Dated: 23.01.2024 **TENDER NOTICE** The tenders are invited on behalf of the Resident Commissioner, M.P. Bhawan, New Delhi for

Recycle/ Refilling of Printer Toner, Supply of Flowers and Laundry Detergents and other related

items (Annual Rates Contract) :-Appx. EMD | Cost of | Pre Bid | Last Date | Date and time | Date and time NIT No.

| No. |  | Cost           |            | Tender<br>Document | meeting                 | and time of submission  | of opening of<br>Technical Bid | of opening of<br>Financial Bid |
|-----|--|----------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1   | 04/JANUARY/TONER<br>REFILLING/MPB/2024<br>(Annual work of Recycle/<br>Refilling of Printer Toner<br>(High Quality) | ₹ 0.35<br>Lakh | ₹<br>1,050 | ₹ 500              | 06.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM | 14.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM | 15.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM        | 22.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM        |
| 2   | 05/JANUARY/FLOWER/<br>MPB/2024 (Annual<br>Supply of Flowers)   | ₹ 1.00<br>Lakh | ₹<br>3,000 | ₹ 500              | 06.02.2024/<br>03:30 PM | 14.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM | 15.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM        | 22.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM        |
| 3   | 06/JANUARY/<br>DETERGENT/MPB/2024<br>(Annual Supply of Laundry<br>detergents and other<br>related chemicals items) | ₹ 1.25<br>Lakh | ₹<br>3,750 | ₹ 500              | 06.02.2024/<br>04:00 PM | 14.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM | 15.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM        | 22.02.2024/<br>03:00 PM        |

Above tenders are invited in single stage two envelope systems (Technical bid & Financial bid) through e-Tendering website www.mptenders.gov.in or www.mpbhawan.gov.in. in the prescribed proforma from interested parties/ Registered Firms/ Registered Companies/Reputed Organizations/ Agencies.

G-23519/23

Addl. Resident Commissioner M.P. Bhawan, New Delhi

#### GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE HALDWANI

Phone No. (05946) 255255, 255926, Ext. 4216, 4365, e-mail: Principal-gmchid-uk@gov.in

#### e-Tender Notice

The bids are invited through e-tendering system from original manufacturer or their authorized Dealers/ Distributers under two bid systems for procurement of following items for Government Medical College, Haldwani (Uttarakhand). The tender document containing Condition, Detail, information, terms & condition etc. are available on website uktenders.gov.in, the bid document and the specification can he downloaded from the above site as nor the following schedule:

| Tender<br>Sl. No. | Name of itemts  | Date & Time<br>For Downloading<br>of Bids        | Last Date & Time<br>For Uploading<br>of Bids |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| 1                 | 2   | 3  | 4  |
| 11                | Dynamic Digital Radiography for Static And Moving X-Ray | 31.01.2024<br>at 6:30 P.M.<br>Onwards<br>(I.S.T) | 17.02.2024<br>up to 12:30 P.M<br>(I.S.T)     |

All the amendments/Corrigendum etc. will be issued in the Website relating to the above tenders. For further details please log on to http:/uktenders.gov.in

Note: The Pre-Bid Conference for all the above items to be held on 03.02.2024 at 4.00 P.M. onwards with the prospective bidder at Government Medical College, Haldwani- 263139, Distt- Nainital (Uttarakhand).

Advt. No: 316/Medical Equipments/GMC/Purchase/January, 2023-24

Rao Mohar Singh Memorial Sr. Sec. Public School

Roshan Pura, Paprawat Road, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43 Mob. 9990760101, 9990980101

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▶ Vice-Principal ▶ PGT: Economics ▶ TGT: English, Maths,

▶ Physical Teacher ▶ Mother Teacher ▶ Head Mistress

Minimum Teaching Experience of 2 years will be Preferred. Good

command over English and Computer Efficacy is a must. Higher

WALK IN FOR INTERVIEW

04th February 2024 from 09:00am - 3:00pm at School Campus

Mail: info@raomoharsinghschool.com

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C-1. S.D.A., New Delhi-110016

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One Art cum Craft Teacher (PRT

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Candidates should have studied in a

regular college having proficiency in

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passed the CTET are preferred

For the post of Senior Assistant

the candidates should have good

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Application Form must be collected

from the school office from 5th to

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PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sector-24, Rohini,Delhi-85

Ph: 27052641, 27052642,

27052662

E-Mail: vikasbharati@yahoo.co.i

Applications are invited for

the post of

PGT- Economics, Commerce

PRT- English, Maths, Genera

\*Edu. Qual. as per CBSE norms.

\*Shortlisted Candidates will be

\*Candidates with 2 yrs.exp. in a

Public School will be preferred.

Apply within 7 days between

8.30 a.m. & 1.00 p.m. on the

prescribed form available at

the school reception / website

with a recent passport size

ST. MICHAELS

SR.SEC.SCHOOL

Govt. Rules. Candidates should have

proficiency in English, Basic Computer,

Knowledge & 2 years experience preffd.

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availabe on our school website:

stmichaelprd.in

TEENA SOLANKI - PRINCIPAL

TGT- Physics, English

called for interview.

photograph.

and 12.00 noon on working days.

English, basic Computer Knowledge

One Western Music cum

Dance Teacher (PRT)

One TGT Biology

Required:

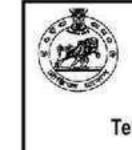
**▶ Computer Teacher ▶ Art Teacher ▶ Receptionist** 

▶ Activity Coordinator ▶ Estate Manager (Ex. Army)

► Academic Coordinator ► Accountant

salary will be considered for deserving candidates.

Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, Social Science PRT: All subjects



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER. SUBARNAREKHA AND BUDHABALANGA, BASIN, LAXMIPOSI e-Mail: cebmsbb2019@gmail.com Tel No./ Mobile No-7008514539 Bid Identification No. 37/2023-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

Online tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Construction of Ring Road cum Flood Protection Embankment at Baripada Town with operation and maintenance of the project for a period of five years after successful completion of the Project on EPC Contract.

|  | Name of Work                                      | Class/EMD /Tender Fee /Period of completion  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Construction of Ring Road cum Flood Protection<br>Embankment at Baripada Town with operation and<br>maintenance of the project for a period of five years<br>after successful completion of the Project. |   | (1) Class — Super class or equivalent Bidders. (2) EMD—Rs.54,42,000/- (3) Tender Fee- Rs 10000/- to be transferred online (Non Refundable (4) Period of Completion — 24(Twenty four) calendar months including rainy season  |  |
| Α.   | PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENT.       | Dt. 31.01.2024 from 10.00 AM to Dt. 15.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM   |  |
| B.   | TIME AND DATE FOR PRE-BID CONFERENCE              | Dt. 19.02.2024 at 11.30 AM  Office of the CE & BM, S & B Basin, Laxmiposi in physical/ virtual mode through Google Meet. The interested bidder should ask to link giving their email id to <a href="mailto:cebmsbb2019@gmail.com">cebmsbb2019@gmail.com</a> (Joining time in Google Meet 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM) |  |
| C.   | LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS            | Dt. 15.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM   |  |
| D.   | PLACE OF SALE, RECEIPT OF BIDS                    | Online through e-procurement.  |  |
| E.   | TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BID         | Dt. 16.03.2024 at 11.00 AM   |  |
| F.   | PLACE OF OPENING OF BIDS                          | Office of the CE & BM, S & B Basin, Laxmiposi.   |  |
| G.   | Further details can be seen from e-procurement po | ortal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"   |  |
|  |   | Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,  |  |

Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi

OIPR - 32074/11/0051/2324

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Applications with detailed resume & a recent passport size photograph may be sent within 7 days, from the date of this advertisement, at careers.skool.sg@teams.apeejay.edu

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Candidates applying for teaching positions must possess

PG / Graduation and B.Ed./ Bl.Ed. Degree from UGC

Recognised University with specialization in respective

PG / Graduate with B.Ed in Special Education from

Recognised University. Candidate must be experienced and

Masters degree in Psychology from a Recognised University,

6. ACTIVITY FACULTIES: PHYSICAL

EDUCATION, MUSIC, ART, DANCE

PG / Graduate / Diploma from a Recognized University/

7. ATTENDANTS : LIBRARY / I.T. / BIO LAB

8. OFFICE ASSISTANT/ADMIN. CLERK

Graduate with proficiency in MS Office, Computer Skills,

Correspondence. Work experience in Public Schools preferred

9. OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT /

**ESTATE SUPERVISOR** 

experienced and with diploma in Guidance and Counselling

3. PRT : COMPUTER SCIENCE, HINDI,

1. PGT : BIOLOGY, ECONOMICS,

**GENERAL** 

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5. COUNSELLOR

from a Recognized Institution.

Vocational Institute

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- Pay scale 44900-142400 PRT: General & All Subjects (IB, PYP Certified preferred)
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- Pay scale 35400-112400
- Coaches: Football, Basketball Dance & Music Teachers
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- Special Educators Counsellors
- Lab Attendants
- Candidates can apply within 5 days. Link is available at school website www.mountabuschool.com
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

#### ACADEMIC

MANVI INSTT. of Edu. (Aff. to SCERT GNCT) Regs.Lecturers, Counsellors & Comp. Teachers. Apply online at email miet13@yahoo.com, or Meet at: C-7, Sec-7, Rohini, Delhi within 7 days

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FEMALE STAFF- PGT- Phys, TGTs- Eng. Maths, Sci. S.St. PRTs, NTTs Nurse, Spl. Educator G.D. Lancer's Pub. Sch. R3/A3, Sainik Encl, Mohan Gdn, Nr Gandhi ck.9899304209, 9773847418

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URG REQ Teachers of All Classes & Sub. Roptnst, Maths, Telecaller, Chem / Bio / Comptr Oprtr for a coaching Center in Vikaspuri 9354566550

English

Hindi

Sanskrit

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Science

Commerce

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Apply to the Principal within a week, clearly stating the post

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info.dw@mountcarmelschool.com

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[Must be proficient in English, IT Savvy and with at

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Pre Primary Teachers

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Chemistry, Biology,

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Fluency in English & knowledge of computer is must. Apply on prescribed form available on school reception within 7 days



PRAGATI PUBLIC SCHOOL (CBSE Affiliated Senior Secondary School Sector-13, Phase-II, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078 Phones: 45078490, 40104641.

E-mail: ppsdwarkajobs@gmail.com

PRT- All Subjects

Economics, Chemistry,

Orchestra

with 2-3 Years experience will be preferred for TGT & PGT Posts. Freshers can also apply. Please apply in confidence

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**REQ FEMALE** professionals as a PS & Tele callers, Roles: Handling communications, Client interactions Negotiation skills, Meetings Coordination. Salary package on experience & merits. Location: near Deepali Chowk, Sector-8, Rohini. Contact RK at 98101-18217

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Interview at Delhi Send resume to: **Manager Sales** 

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MEDICAL EQUIP. Importer req. (1) Sales Coord. Telecaller (F) for marketing, Grad, with exp. Good Salary + incentives. (2) Sales Exec B2B (M) touring Job Grad, with exp 2yrs. Attractive Salary+allowances and incentives ph: 9315933362 Walk in 29Jan - 2 Feb btw 11am to 1pm.

#### ENGINEER/ PROD/TECHNICAL

REQ. DIPLOMA in Electronics with max. two years exp. Noida based fast growing company engaged in Condition Monitoring in Power Sector. Send your resume to: sales@logicplusplus.com

MEDICAL REQUIRED RADIOLOGIST for ultrasound centre at Burari, Delhi Relevant experience regd., Salary

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GM Exp.of , A, Empanelment. Marketing Executive, supervisor. telecalling. Wh'app 9711209156

/ FRONT DESK STAFF

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Anand's Lawgics, C-26 F.F. Vikaspuri Delhi # 8750903300, 9821945611

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## **CHANGE OF NAME**

, INDRA / Indra Kumari W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o D-1/42, St.No.1, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 declare that both names are mine.

I. ASLAM S/o Sadik Hussain R/o 115. Pocket 8, Sec-23 Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Aslam Hussain for all purposes.

, SEEMA Kumari W/o Ram Pravesh Sharma R/o A-69C, Sector-40, Noida, U.P-201301 have change my name to Seema Sharma for all purposes.

, NAVEEN Sharma S/o Sh. Dharam Pal R/o H.No.1207, Ward No.1 Near Sarkari School Jiwan NAgar, Part-1, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana have changed my name from Naveen to Naveen Sharma all future purposes.

, SABA Jawed, D/o. Javed Ahmed, R/o. FA-44, 1st Floor, Thokar No. 4, Abul Fazal Enclave, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, declare that my Daughter's name has been wrongly mentioned in her passport as Misha Hashmi instead of Misha Saba.

I, SWATI Balani D/o, Kishore Balani R/o A-321, 1st Floor, Sector 19, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar UP - 201301 have changed my name to Swati Sood for all purposes.

Jha R/o Flat No D-2106, JM Florence Amrapali Drem Valley. Vtc: Geater Noida West, Po: Roza Yakubpur District: Gautam Buddha Nagar, State: Uttar Pradesh, Pin Code: 201009, have declare that Shweta Jha and the Shweta Kumari Jha is the name of one and the same person and hereafter I will be known as Shweta Jha for all future purposes.

I, SHIVALI alias Shivali Kundu W/o Shri Sanchit Jakhar R/o H.No. 8044. B-11, Vasant Kuni, South West, Delhi declare that after marriage, I have changed my name to Shivali Jakhar for all purposes.

W/o Shri Devi Das R/o Flat No.306. Sector-17C, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad, Up-201012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raj Kumari Verma.

. SHIVANI Chandelia D/O Naveen Chand, R/O R-27/A, East Vinod Nagar East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have change ed my name from Shivani to Shivani Chandelia for all future purposes.

Kumar Bansal R/O 155 A. Sec-53. Noida have changed my name from Rohit Bansal to Rohit Kumar Bansal for future reference.

purpose.

, VINOD Shekhar Chandra Shekhar Sharma s/o Late Chandra Shekhar Sharma, r/o K4006, Royale garden estate, plot no E12, sector 61, Noida UP, declare that V C Sharma, Vinod Chandra Shekhar Sharma and Vinod Shekhar Chandra Shekhar Sharma are one and same person only

## **LOST & FOUND**

Certificate (1975) with Roll No: 17322. Name: Kanchhi Lal Goyal, S/o Raghuwar Dayal Goyal, Finder please contact 9899239086

H-105 connaught place new delhi. Phone No. - 23311166

No. 65, Ground Floor, LIG Flats, Madan Pur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, above said property. If any body finds please contact 9899100902

Registry named Meena Devi Awasthi, khasra no.135, gurudwara gali no. 5, F-255, Laxmi Nagar, Shakarpur, East

### LOST & FOUND

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I, MANPREET Singh Lamba S/o Late Sh. H S Lamba have lost original Possession Letter of Flat No. 2104 The Delhi Transporters CGHS Ltd. Plot No. 2, Sec-2, Dwarka N.D.-75. Finder Cont: 9811103733

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

PUBLIC NOTICE TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN The Company M/s. S N Jee Build Well Pvt. Ltd. vide NCLT order dated 25.11.2022 has been taken over by M/s. CRS Towers Pvt. Ltd. Accordingly shareholding pattern is being changed from the existing shareholders to new shareholders i.e. CRS Towers

change in shareholding pattern the same may be submitted in the office of senior Town Planner Gurugram, within a period of 30 days from the date of issue of public notice.

measuring 328 Sq. Yards

Be it known to all that the above

Pvt Ltd. If any allottee has any

objection to the above stated

PUBLIC NOTICE Property bearing No. B-4/163, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-29,

captioned Property bearing No. B-4/163, measuring 328 Sq. Yds. situated at Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi-110029 (say PROPERTY) is the subject matter of MOU dated 31" December 2023 for sale, having executed by and between my Client and its Owners Shri Sudesh Gogia, Shri Pradeep Gogia & Smt. Shashi Adib (on behalf of all), who agreed to sell and my Client has agreed to purchase the above captioned Property, free from all

sorts of encumbrances.

By way of this Public Notice it is

notified that if any Person including; Bank, NBFC, Financial Institution, Government Statutory Authority/ Agency Dept. has or claims any rights title, interest, lien, demand charge or claim of any nature as owner or otherwise by way of possession, mortgage, surety, lien, guarantee, gift, inheritance agreement, MOU, arrangement purchase, HUF, lease & license etc. in respect to the above captioned property or part thereof and/ or otherwise has any objection for its sale/ transfer to my Client, then, he/ it/ they should notify the same to the undersigned with valid Documentary Proof within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it will be deemed that the above captioned property is absolutely free from all sorts o encumbrances and my Client shall proceed further for execution of Sale Deed. Gauray Sachdeva (Advocate

# To place

C-21, Malviya Nagar, N.D.-17

Ph: 011-41048314, 9810006297

LOST:- ORIGINAL documents allotment

letter, agreement to sell, receipt &

possessions letter of SCO-009 of DLF

& Kamla Radhu Chandigarh. If found

Please Contact Kamal radhu Address

New Delhi-110076, have lost Original Delhi Development Authority of my

documents and conveyance deed of my property DDA Flat No.94, Ground Floor, Pocket-D. Sec-17, Dwarka, New

Lost property address IX/3223, Dhrampura, Gandhi nagar, Delhi-110031, Property area :- 52 Sq.Yds Finder inform to Meena Devi Awasthi W/o, B D Awasthi, H.no. Delhi - 92. # 9811595084

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Email: mjkpsrecruit@gmail.com

## ACADEMIC

least three years' experience]

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TGT/ PGT Eng. Physics, Maths, Hindi,

Accountant Trnsprt Avlb Saint Angels Schl (CBSE) Baghpat (25 Km from Del) 09267274739, W'app CV 9917877378 Em CV: saintangelsbpt@gmail.com

ACADEMIC

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98110-11183

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Eligibility criteria as per DSE Rules. CTET qualified. 4. Instructor - Dance, Music (Vocal, Western & Instrumental) and Band/

Command in English is a must for all the posts. Candidates

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CV, duly signed, along with a photograph at the above-Principal

ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIOR SCHOOL Prasad Nagar New Delhi-11000! Requires P.R.T - (FEMALE) Application forms must be

collected from the school office

from 5th February to 16th

February 2024 between 9:00 a.m. To 11:00 a.m. The Management reserves the right to short list candidates for the final interview. ST. MARY'S

SR. SEC. SCHOOL A-2, Mayur Vihar Phase-III Delhi-110096, Ph: 22613539 REQUIRE PRT - All Subjects

PRT - Art & Craft TGT - English TGT - Hindi (2 Post) Apply on the prescribed application form available at school office on all working days during office hours from 5th to 16th February 2024. Principal

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Tax/GST/TDS returns in NSP Delhi

for CA firm and Field Boy for Eve

Centre, Contact Vipin 9810115745.

Email: vkg0707@gmail.com

REQ. JUNIOR Accountant only boy. B.Com Passes Tally Works for export fabric.Under C.A preference. Contact Number: 9810849422 (Monday & Thursday) R-784, New Rajinder Nagar

New Delhi Timing: 10:30 to 12pm

FEMALE CANDIDATE Required Only.

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Years Education : 12 Pass+ Preferred retired, H'wife, VRS, Self empl. earn

**OPERATOR** INDESIGN & Page Maker Operator with good Hindi/English typing for book work. Min exp. 3 years for a unit in Nangloi. E-mail your resume to:

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ocation: Client site at Gurugram Joining Date : by 19 Feb 2024. Cont : Jaguar Security | Mobile - 8826125165 | Email CVs ajays@jaguarsecurity.in,

#### hiring@jaguarsecurity.in SECRETARIAL STAFF

REQUIRED COMPANY Secretary for a

NBFC company in Delhi, Interested

candidates Send their resume at ambarnuj finance@rediffmail.com **CHANGE OF NAME** 

all future purposes.

I, AMBIKA Bhardwaj D/o Late Sh.

Avinash Bhardwaj residing at flat no

2 Pocket L Sarita Vihar New Delhi-

RAJEEV VARSHNEY S/o Suresh Chand

Vasundhra, Ghaziabad, U.P. I have

Varshney to Rajeev Kumar Varshney

I shall be known as Rajeev Kumar

Varshney for all future purpose

I HITHERTO Known as Devi Das S/o

Late Shri Prem Raj R/o Flat No.306,

Sector-17C, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad,

Up-201012 have changed my name

and shall hereafter be known as

. DHARAM Pal S/o Sh. Ramphal

R/o H.No.1207, Ward No.1 Near

Sarkari School Jiwan Nagar, Part-1,

Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana have

changed my name from Dharam Pal

Sharma to Dharam Pal for all future

I. SONAL Sharma W/o Sumit Sharma

is Sonal, Sonal & Sonal Sharma

R/o 1/88, Sadar Bazar Delhi Cantt.

are the same person for all future

ARMY NO. 3204233 L, Rank Hawaldar

Sandeep Kumar S/o Shri Harbansh

Singh R/o Village-Jakhwala, Tashil-

Ismailabad, Distt. Kurukshetra,

is Gurnamo (DOB: 01.01.1965).

I. ASHISH Shekhar s/o Mr Vinod

Shekhar Chandra Shekhar Sharma

r/o k4006 Royale Garden Estate plot

E12, sector 61 Noida, UP, declare that

Ashish Shekhar and Ashish Shekar

are one and same person only.

, AJAY Kumar alias Ajay Gupta S/o

Himalayan Residency, Plot No 10,

Sector 22, Dwarka, New Delhi -

110077, have changed my name

and shall hereafter be known as

I have complied with other legal

requirements in this connection.

, SARAHAT Begum W/o Service No.

255942, Rank EX. SGT. Reyaz Ahmad

Nagar, Sahibabad, Distt-Ghaziabad,

Name from Sharat Bagam (Exiting

documents) to Sarahat Begum vide

affidavit on dated: 20/01/2024 at

Ghaziabad.

my name of my husband Services

Khan R/o of H.No-FB- 206, Lajpat

U.P- 201005, have changed my

Ajay Gupta. It is certified that

Hari Chand Gupta, Resident of A-33,

name Gurnamo Devi (DOB:

Haryana state that my mother s

01.02.1968) wrongly recorded in my

service record but her correct name

New Delhi-110010. My correct name

Devi Das Verma

purposes.

purposes.

Varshney, R/o H No-1262, Sec-3,

changed my name from Rajeev

#### negotiable, Call# 9818800316 / 76, have changed my name to Juhi 8700200796 Nikhil Jaipurkar vide affidavit dated 29.01.2024 at New Delhi , SUBASH S/o Paltu R/o S-171/319 Malik Pur Kohi Rangpuri Pahadi, New Delhi-110037 have changed my name from Subash to Subhash Chouhan for

RESIDENT DOCTORS (MBBS Min. Exp. 2 yrs

URGENTLY REQUIRE Full Time/Part Time Doctor MD/DMRD (9am-3pm

PREMADHAR AYURVEDA Hospital Rohini reg. Dr M.D. (Panch-karma)

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I SHWETA Jha W/o Mr. Rajeev Kumar

HITHERTO Known as Rai Kumari

, ROHIT Kumar Bansal S/O Adarsh

, VIVEK Kasana S/o S.S. Kasana R/o 321, Sector-31, Faridabad-121003. Haryana have changed my minor daughter's name from Shivanshi to Shivanshi Kasana for all future

LOST MY 10th Marksheet (1973) with Roll No: 42169 and 12th Passing

, PAWAN Hans, S/o Gordhan Das, Flat possession letter 1988 provided by

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# htclassifieds.com

Values rebased to 100

Source: Bloomberg

it would fully suspend the lend-

ing of restricted shares to stabi-

lise its stock markets. Domesti-

cally, 12 of the 13 sectors logged

Banks rebounded, after dis-

29 Jan 2024

# Stocks take a leap; stormy seas ahead

RIL, bank stocks boost indices by 1.8%, best gain in over 8 weeks, but volatility is rising

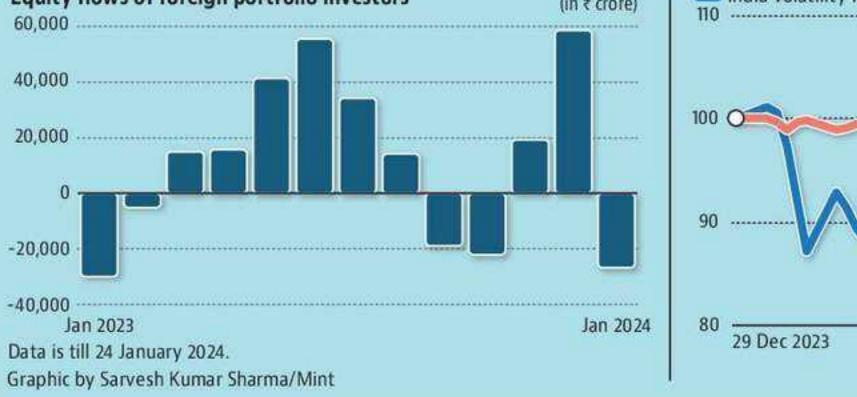
Harsha Jethmalani & Dipti Sharma

jethmalani.harsha@gmail.com

MUMBAI: Energy and financials stocks propelled stock market indices to their best gain in over eight weeks on Monday, led by a rally in shares of index heavyweight Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). Even as investor wealth in BSE-listed companies jumped by ₹6 lakh crore, the market may be headed for more volatile waters, with the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) VIX or fear index rising 13% on Monday.

The NSE's benchmark Nifty closed 1.8% higher at 21,737.60 points, while BSE's Sensex ended 1.76% higher at 71,941.57, their biggest gains since 4 December. The Reliance IndusNew challenges





tries stock climbed almost 7%, contributing the most to the day's market gains, as investors turned optimistic about potentially higher refining mar-

The RIL stock also got a boost from a Bloomberg report late last week that said Walt Disney Co.'s India unit may now be valued at less than half the valuation the US company earlier pursued in a proposed merger with its media business.

Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) was the biggest gainer in the Nifty index, rising 8.9%.

appointing earnings by HDFC Bank Ltd triggered a rout across The market also got a boost from strong cues in the Asian banking stocks last week. Led by a 1.34% rise in HDFC Bank, markets, after China said

highest weightage among all sectors, added 1.56% after slipping 6.3% in the past seven sessions. Private sector banks rallied

financial services, which has the

on the back of on domestic institutions buying up these stocks as they turn "value picks," said Manish Jain, a fund manager at Centrum India.

"Expectations of a hike in allocations in sectors like energy, infrastructure, defence and capital goods...also aided the rally," said Deven Choksey, managing director at DRChoksey FinServ, referring to the interim budget that will be presented in Parliament later this

On the valuation front, the MSCI India index is trading at a one-year forward price-to-earnings multiple of 21.45 times, a steep premium to the MSCI Asia Ex-Japan and MSCI Emerging Market indices, showed Bloomberg data. While this valuation gap between India and its peers

is likely to persist, the rich multiple can be put to test if a negative surprise springs up in any of these events.

Among individual stocks, Adani Enterprises Ltd jumped about 6% after Cantor Fitzgerald became the first brokerage to cover the stock, giving it an "overweight" rating, saying the conglomerate's flagship was "too big to ignore."

Amid the earnings season, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will unveil the interim budget on February 1.

According to Andrew Holland, chief executive officer, Avendus Capital Alternate Strategies, the budget will merely indicate the approach the current government would adopt if it secures victory in the general election, making it a directional

Investors are also looking to the rate-setting committee of the US Federal Reserve that meets on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The bench said that amounts

foregone from the public exche-

quer in favour of consumers

cannot be appropriated by the

manufacturers, traders, distribu-

tors, etc. To allow them to do so

would amount to unjust enrich-

goods and services tax rate gets

reduced or the benefit of input

tax credit becomes available as a

necessary consequence, the final

price paid by the recipient obvi-

"Consequently, when the

ment.

## Need for more jobs, sweeter personal I-T regime, says Debroy

**Gireesh Chandra Prasad & Utpal Bhaskar** 

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**NEW DELHI:** More jobs need to be created in the economy in line with its growth, especially for the urban young, and the new personal income tax (I-T) regime needs to be further sweetened to encourage its adoption, Bibek Debroy, chairman of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council, said. In an interview ahead of the National Democratic Alliance government's pre-election budget on Thursday, Debroy said the only way to make the new personal I-T regime more attractive is to reduce tax rates. The challenges facing the Indian economy include disruptions to the global supply chain, logistics problems and maybe even crude oil prices. Debroy said. Edited excerpts:

On challenges to the econ-

omy: An area of concern is geo-

political uncertainty. It is no longer (between) Russia and Ukraine. The concerns include disruption of the global supply chain, logistics problems and maybe even crude prices. Secondly, there are still concerns about employment generation. Economic growth is happening, but a commensurate increase in jobs is not yet happening. We can argue about the numbers, source of data, but the fact of the matter is that not enough jobs are being created, particularly for the urban young. This is a largish question mark. The small question mark is to what extent has consumption revived. I can give you numbers to show it has revived. How robust is that? Similarly, how robust is the revival in private investment? Again, can give you numbers to show that private investment has been going up. (But) how robust is that? The Union government has been making a lot of capital expenditure (capex), subject to fiscal constraints. State governments not so much. These, I

think, are the concerns. On job creation: Employment is a more complicated issue. Part of it is related to lack



**EAC-PM chairman Bibek** Debroy.

of skills; part of it is a geographical mismatch. Demand for job is in one place and supply of labour being in a different place. Part of it is the fact that one has 'invested' in education and because of that expects a higher salary. The market has challenges in meeting that expectation because the correlation between education and skills has broken down. Therefore, particularly among the young, there is a voluntary dropping out of the work

Incentivising the new tax regime: I am not saying this will be done in this budget. The new personal income tax regime can be incentivised by reducing the tax rates. This is essentially the only way. The adoption trend of the new personal tax regime is changing. There are new regimes for both personal and corporate tax. I do not have exact numbers. But my hunch is that many more have switched to the new system on personal income tax; not that many on the corporate side. I won't say this is a concern, because this doesn't happen overnight, but you still need to incentivise it. On direct taxes, essentially, the terminal goal is of a regime with reduced or no exemptions.

Budget 2024: Fiscal consolidation is a priority in terms of messaging.

Sixteenth Finance Commission's terms of reference: This is a clean terms of reference, except for the (reference on) disaster management. It actually reproduces what is there in the Constitution. This is the way I think it should be.

## 'Need to be reliable trade partner to drive growth'

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Turning India into a trusted partner for global trade is a key opportunity that could drive growth, the finance ministry's review document released on Monday said, identifying a digitally skilled labour force, constructive use of AI, further reductions in compliance requirements for MSMEs, clean energy transition and broad reforms in skilling, learning and health as crucial areas of focus for the Indian economy going forward.

The document, effectively identifying what will be in focus for the NDA government's next term should it retain power in the upcoming general elections, noted that geopolitical frictions have led to geoeconomic fragmentation and disrupted global supply chains, bringing not just a challenge but an opportunity for India to emerge as a reliable partner for "friend-shoring" and "onshoring" of business.

Friend-shoring refers to giving import preference to allied nations, while onshoring refers to domestic procurement of goods and services.

In the preface of the document-"Indian Economy-A Review"-chief economic adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said, "Recent events in the Red Sea may have brought back concerns over reliance on global supply chains, further aggravating the slower growth in global trade in 2023. In other words, exporting one's way to growth will not be easy. This reinforces the need to lower logistics costs and invest in product quality to hold on to and expand market share in areas where India has an advantage."

One of the busiest global shipping routes along the Red Sea has been disrupted after Iranbacked Houthi rebels began targeting vessels in retaliation to the war in Gaza, the latest in supply chain disruptions after the pandemic and strained ties between the west and China.

The document is a commentary can be seen as a partial substitute to the customary Economic Survey released a day before the Budget. This year on February 1, the government will unveil an interim budget, with the full budget expected only after elections in July, when the 2023-24 Economic Survey too

Rituraj Baruah

power plants.

riturai.baruah@livemint.com

**NEW DELHI:** With India's

renewed push for coal-fired

power generation, state-run Coal

India is looking at expanding its

thermal power generation port-

folio in the country. According to

two people aware of the matter,

the company is in talks with the

governments of Uttar Pradesh

(UP), Jharkhand, and Assam for

setting up two or three thermal

One of the two people said

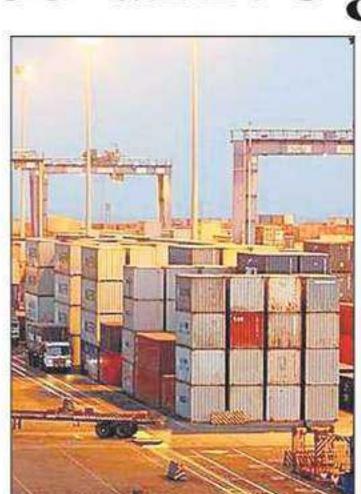
some land has been identified in

Uttar Pradesh and talks with the

months for a better understand-

The second person said, "The

ing," said the person.



India has an opportunity to emerge as a trusted partner for "friend-shoring".

will be released.

Amit Kapur, joint managing partner of JSA, a law firm, said India is already witnessing the impact of improving ease of doing business "with significant relocation of manufacturing/ assembling facilities to India" in the China-plus-one strategy adopted by the world.

The two areas have been part of the government's policy focus, but are likely to become priority areas with government's emphasis on "Make in India" and "Make for the World' where cost and quality both matter, an official with an economy-related ministry said, asking not to be named.

The government launched the National Logistics Policy on September 17, 2022 with an aim to reduce logistics costs in India. According to experts, logistics cost in India is around 14%, as compared to 8-10% globally.

"The cost is bound to come down after massive infrastructure developments across the country, which are meticulously aligned through the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan," said Nilaya Varma, CEO and co-founder of Primus Part-

"Similarly, the government has quality control orders (QCOs) on many products. The purpose is to reduce dumping of cheaper and low-quality Chinese goods and encourage domestic manufacturers to produce quality products for both domestic and overseas consumers," he

Recently, India issued hundreds of QCOs (Quality Control Orders) and lined up stringent quality norms for over 250 more items in 2024, including electric fans, freezers, aluminium cans

and plywood. QCOs are non-discriminatory and a World Trade Organisation (WTO)-compliant trade protocol mechanism that allows a country to make compliance with its standards compulsory for selling specified goods in its market.

The government, which is eyeing a third-term (2024-29) after the elections in the summer, is also focusing on other challenges, such as the use of AI in a constructive manner so that it maximise value, reduce time and cost overruns, and does not lead to job losses, a second official said, asking not to be named.

The government will devise ways to create new opportunities through skilling to convert this challenge into an opportunity," he added. The finance ministry report said the advent of AI poses "a big challenge" to governments around the world due to the questions it poses to employment, particularly in services sectors.

Citing an International Monetary Fund (IMF) paper, it said about 40% of global employment is exposed to AI, with "the benefits of complementarity operating beside risks of displacement". The paper suggested developing economies must invest in infrastructure and a digitally skilled labour force to

fully harness AI's potential. Sustainable development and energy transition for a better tomorrow are also part of the focus areas that the government would take up in its third-term, the first official said. Citing the report, he also highlighted potential future reforms matters such as skilling, learning outcomes, health, energy security, reduction in compliance burden for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and gender balancing in the labour

Experts said the Modi government is already prepared to take India to the next stage. "In recent years, a concerted policy push across major sectors of the economy, including infrastructure and agriculture, has yielded substantial gains. With an enabling policy environment and India's significant strides in emerging technologies such as AI, 5G, the proposed roll-out of 6G, and advancements in semiconductor manufacturing, the stage is set for India's ascent to a \$7 trillion economy by 2030," said KC Ravi, chief sustainability officer at Syngenta India.

Coal India eyes more thermal plants, in talks with 3 states

## Delhi HC upholds anti-profiteering provisions under Central GST Act

Shruti Kakkar

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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi high court (HC) on Monday upheld the constitutionality of the anti-profiteering provisions under the Central Goods and Service Tax (CGST) Act that mandate suppliers of goods and services pass on the tax forgone by reduction in

The HC held that the provision has been enacted in public interest, with the consumer welfare objective that the benefit of tax reduction is passed on to the consumers. The court also upheld the constitutionality of the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) that is tasked to assess if a registered person has passed on the benefit of the tax forgone to the consumer.

While Section 171 of the CGST Act deals with anti-profiteering measures and prescribes that any reduction in the rate of tax

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**NEW DELHI:** State-run GAIL

(India) Limited has concluded a

long-term agreement to pur-

chase around 0.5 million met-

ric tonne per annum (mtpa) of

liquefied natural gas (LNG)

ADNOC Gas is an integrated

gas-processing company and a

subsidiary of UAE's state-run

Abu Dhabi National Oil Com-

that the long-term term pact

comes in the backdrop of a

memorandum of understand-

ing (MoU) signed between the

parties on October 30, 2022,

wherein the companies agreed

that they would explore oppor-

tunities, including purchase of

LNG by GAIL from ADNOC, for

a tenure ranging from short

term to medium and long term.

ment between GAIL and

ADNOC will reinforce the

robust cultural and economic

bonds between India and the

United Arab Emirates (UAE),"

deliveries will commence from

Under this agreement, the

it said.

"This significant develop-

In a statement, GAIL said

from ADNOC Gas.

pany (ADNOC).

GAIL inks pact to buy

LNG from ADNOC Gas

THE COURT ALSO UPHELD THE VALIDITY OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-PROFITEERING AUTHORITY

on supply of goods or services or the benefit of input tax credit shall be passed on to the recipient by way of a commensurate reduction in prices, Rule 122 of the CGST Rules, 2017 deals with the constitution of the NAA.

The court was of the view that Section 171 incorporated the principle of unjust enrichment and had the flavour of a consumer welfare regulatory measure, as it sought to achieve the primary objective behind the GST regime, which is to overcome the cascading effect of indirect taxes and reduce the tax burden on the final consumer.

Under this pact, the deliveries

will commence from 2026 for a

2026 for a duration of 10 years,

across India. This arrangement

is expected to further aid in

India's rising energy security

requirements and, simultane-

ously, also fuel GAIL's strategic

growth objectives to cater to its

downstream customers in the

rapidly-evolving natural gas

Sandeep Kumar Gupta,

chairman and managing

director, GAIL (India), said that

the deal will help meet India's

demand for natural gas and

open more avenues of strategic

partnership between GAIL and

ADNOC in other areas of

energy domain.

landscape of the country.

duration of 10 years.

ously requires to be reduced. In the absence of such anti-profiteering provisions, there would be no legal obligation to pass on the benefit of the goods and services tax regime and, consequently, the intended objective of reducing overall tax rates and mitigating the cascading effect would not be achieved," a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan and also comprised of justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma said in a 142-page verdict.

## THE CROSSWORDS

- 5 Negotiate for free entertainment (5)
- 9 A good starting point for a drive (3)
- 14 The plant looks like wheat to you and me (6) 15 A close arrangement for comfort (6)
- readers? (8)
- 18 Wildebeests whose return is celebrated (4) 21 Part of the Baltic you find frozen (3)
- 22 Try a new road venue (9)
- 24 Transplanted trees (5)

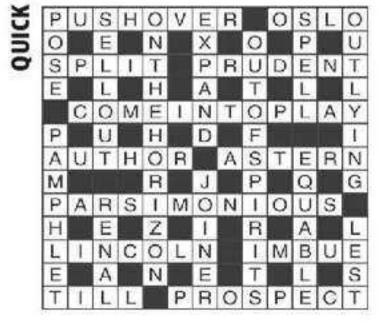
- 1 To be hesitant is not entirely modest (5) 2 Blade used by a cutter perhaps (3)
- 3 Defence post (4) 4 Works for degrees? The ones here have point

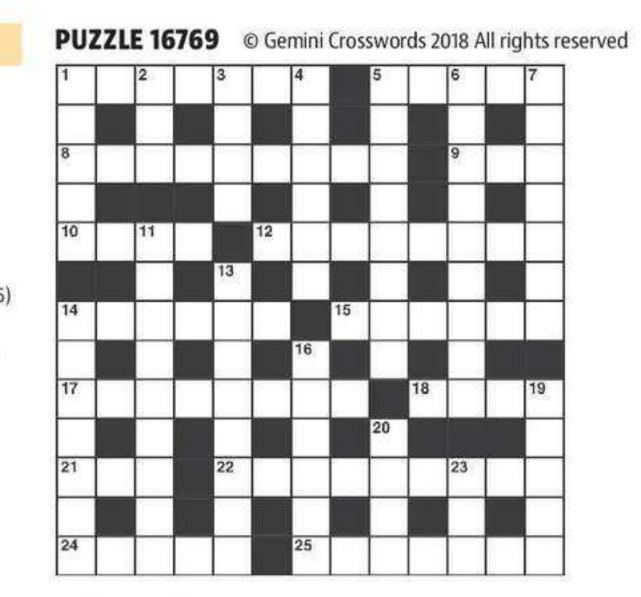
- 7 Foot pedal that could be altered (7)

- 13 Not quite free to give the result of the division (8)
- 14 Dismiss a bank official (7)
- 16 Fine stuff we drop all over the place (6) 19 A gesture one doesn't care to make (5)
- 20 The one in jail killed his brother (4)

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16768)







## **QUICK CLUES**

ACROSS

- 1 Express approval (7) 5 Orderly succession (5) 8 Divert attention of (9)
- 9 Droop (3) 10 Fashion (4)
- 12 Occur at same time (8) 14 Scatter (6)
- 15 After much delay (2,4)

21 Behave (3)

25 Escape (7)

22 Worldwide (9)

24 Clever expedient (5)

- 17 Fail to have intended effect
- 18 Excitement (4)
- 13 Political independence (4-4) 14 To swindle (7)

DOWN

16 An economy (6)

1 Tea-growing Indian state (5)

2 Walk with soft tread (3)

3 Concerning (2,2)

6 Attacker (9)

7 Fail to do (7)

11 Laid waste (9)

4 Use as a source (4,2)

5 Observe carefully (4,4)

- 19 Mass meeting of supporters
- 20 Strong inclination (4) 23 Carpentry tool (3)



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

#### Coal India is in talks with Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Assam to set up power plants in line with the 80GW plan for 2030.

state government are in advanced stages. "Talks with Jharkhand and Assam are curby 2030. rently in the preliminary stage and will take another four to five

remained unanswered till press

time when the Union cabinet has approved Coal India's foray into power generation. On January 18, the cabinet committee on economic affairs had cleared equity investments by Coal

India's subsidiaries South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) for setting up two power plants in joint ventures with a total capital expenditure of about ₹21,547 crore. SECL will set up a 660 mega-

watt (MW) super critical thermal power plant through a joint venture with Madhya Pradesh

Power minister R.K. Singh recently said India plans to add 80GW of thermal power capacity by 2030. However, the proportion of coal-fired power in total installed capacity is expected to decrease to 35% from the current 56%. Currently India's installed power capacity stands at 214.39 GW. Another public sector under-

taking under the ministry of coal, NLC India, is already present in the coal (1 GW) and lignite (3.6 GW) based power generation capacity, apart from its solar and wind capacity. The company also plans to set up a 3.2 GW plant in Odisha.

This renewed emphasis on thermal power is in response to a surge in power demand, with peak demand reaching new records for the past two years. Further, low availability of domestic coal and crisis like situation in 2021 and 2022 have also made the government push for higher domestic production.

## WEATHER TEMPERATURE #HIGH #LOW

TUESDAY

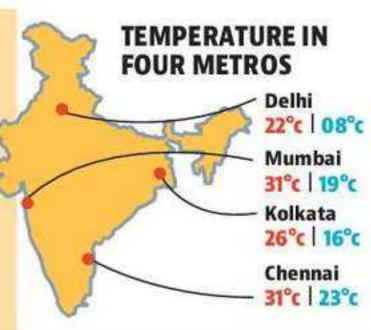
Mainly clear sky

becoming partly

cloudy towards

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY Generally cloudy Generally cloudy sky with light rain sky andlight rain or rhundershowers or drizzle evening or night | with gusty winds 21°c | 10°c | 20°c | 09°c





#### plans are in line with the power ministry's road map to install 80 The development comes at a GW additional thermal capacity

Queries sent to Coal India and the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Assam

Power Generating Co. in Anuppur district of the state. And MCL will develop a 2 x 800 MW thermal power plant through Mahanadi Basin Power Ltd, an MCL subsidiary in Sundargarh, Odisha. This initiative aligns with India's strategy to expand its thermal power capacity even as it increases renewable power generation to meet escalating

## **CRYPTIC CLUES**

## **ACROSS**

## 1 Step on it before the opening (7)

- 8 Cruel like an ungrateful Frenchman (9)
- 10 About to include it in the ceremony (4) 12 Went and got married again? (8)
- 17 Serious crime publication not for northern

- 25 Worker joins in a band shouting angrily (7)

## DOWN

- 5 He's willing to have an examination list put
- 6 Keep in mind what the host will do (9)
- 11 Overworked pupils? (5,4)

## 23 Charming feature of Japanese dress (3)





## SPORT

# Time for Shubman to step up after timid show in first Test

His struggle against left-arm spinners continues after being dismissed by Hartley in both innings

Sanjjeev K Samyal

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**HYDERABAD:** As India contemplate what would have been in the Hyderabad Test if at least one of their batters had got a big hundred, Shubman Gill's scratchy batting will be of concern to the team management. The manner of dismissals to debutant England left-arm spinner Tom Hartley didn't help.

Hartley had a harsh initiation in Tests after sharing the new ball as Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal hammered 80 runs in 12.2 overs when Gill walked in. Surprisingly, despite the platform set by the openers to dominate, he went into a shell, getting 23 runs off 66 balls with just two fours at a strike rate of 34.84.

He never got into any kind of rhythm and was unable to rotate the strike. A free-flowing batter at the start of his Test career as opener, it was strange to see him try and grind his way. Was he trying to do a Cheteshwar Pujara, the man he had replaced at No.3? It showed a lack of confidence. The uncertainty in his approach was due to a lack of runs.

After a timid stay of 89 minutes, Gill gifted his wicket holing out to midwicket. Hartley finally had his maiden wicket -on the fifth ball of his 15th over. 34th of the innings. It was a poor effort by the 24-year-old, trying to break free after a baffling knock.

His second innings dismissal was a strange one too. He defended a regulation left-arm spinner's delivery, off the second ball he faced, into silly point's hands. The earlier version of Gill would have swatted it over the in-field.

For all his potential, the numbers are modest. After 39 innings (21 Tests), Gill averages 29.53 with 1,063 runs. At No.3, it dips further to 21 with 189 runs in 10 innings. His dropping from opener to No.3 hasn't paid off

**Gill's performance in Tests** POSITION 002 32.37 **AS OPENER** 21.00 189 AT NO. 3

yet. As opener he got 874 runs in 29 innings at 32.37.

Considering the longer-term future of India's top order, Gill's switch to No.3 was significant. But he has struggled since then. In the West Indies tour last summer, in three innings at No.3 his best was 29\*; in four innings in South Africa, it was 36.

Gill must quickly put behind the disappointment and deliver in the second Test. At Visakhapatnam, the challenge will be tougher. India's middle-order is further weakened because of injury to KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja

At Hyderabad, the batters had to focus mainly on tackling spin. At Vizag, pace great James Anderson could be back. He will be licking his lips after seeing the reverse swing Jasprit Bumrah found.

Also, considering the big picture of the team's transition,

this series is crucial, and the team expects Gill to play a central role. After a promising start to his career in Australia, things haven't gone as per script. Whether it is an issue of focus or about understanding the temperament a No.3 batter needs, the onus is on Gill to quickly sort it out.

#### Dealing with pressure

There have been many cases of players putting too much pressure on themselves. The way Gill went about his innings at Hyderabad, that seemed the case. Test cricket has changed since the World Test Championship was introduced. Desperate for points, home teams prepare result-oriented pitches, which has made it more challenging for batters.

Batters thus will have to tone down their expectations -- perfect, chanceless hundreds are at

past greats is a futile exercise. Gill can best ask coach Rahul Dravid. Then it was only about winning the series and they played on more batting friendly pitches at home than what was laid out at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. In the only good batting wicket at Ahmedabad in the 2023 series against Australia, Gill duly helped himself to a century.

a premium. Comparing with

Given the purchase bowlers are getting from the pitch, the batters must be more adventurous to succeed. An example was how England batted in the first Test. Led by Ollie Pope, they put pressure on the bowlers with unconventional strokes, using reverse sweep. For more scoring options, it is a stroke Gill will have to add to his repertoire.

Current batters can't look at numbers and averages and be affected by it. To live up to the demands of the modern game, they will have to bat freely, without looking at the score-

Addressing Gill's situation on the eve of the series, Dravid wasn't too worried. "Some guys have success instantly. Gill is one of those who has done really well, some of his early knocks, especially in Australia. And to be fair to him, a lot of the other guys coming through have played on some challenging wickets, whether in India or even overseas...but he's doing all the right things. He's working hard. Last season, he got a couple of nice hundreds for us, one in Bangladesh, one in Ahmedabad. He's on the right track. I'm just sort of hoping that in the course of this series he has some big performances," he said.

Gill has the talent but needs to address temperament and approach to regain confidence.

# Pope, Bazball double whammy hurt India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: England's victory in Hyderabad was one of the finest in their history. A dramatic come-from-behind win against a side virtually unbeatable in home conditions, represents a truly epic achievement for Ben Stokes' side.

What was particularly sweet was how the defining performances of the Test came from those who initially struggled in the contest. On debut, Tom Hartley took some tap in the first innings, before returning to bowl his side to victory on the final day - just the second visit-

ing bowler to take a winning five-fer in India this century. While England took plenty of criticism for their focus on attributes over scorecards when selecting Hartley - his high release point was identified as a significant win - they were proved right within four days of

the series beginning. Perhaps an even greater turnaround was that of Ollie Pope. Having struggled on the opening day (and on his previous visit to India), England's vice-captain responded by playing one of the best Test innings you'll ever see. 196 (278), dragging the visitors from a 190 run deficit to a matchwinning lead, Pope's performance was everything that England have been in recent years: outrageous, unexpected, and outstanding.

In 2021, England started just as well. On that occasion, their series-opening win was built on the back of another big ton from the middle order, with Joe Root's 218 (536) the basis of a huge first innings total which dictated the shape of the game. Another similarity with Pope's knock was the

sweep shots - indeed, the 48 runs Root plundered from the sweep during that innings is the third most scored against India since records began. It took a longer time for those sweeps to be played (7% of Root's shots that day were sweeps, compared to 13% for Pope this week), but there was a through-line.

However, the difference in those sweeps is how clinically they were executed. Root's sweeping led to a false shot just 10% of the time; for Pope, it was 33%. Indeed overall Pope's innings had a false shot percentage of 21%, among the highest we've seen for Test centuries by visiting batters in India. If Root's masterpiece was the classical orthodoxy of the Mona Lisa, Pope's was ultra-modern art, as interesting and beautiful for what it's rejecting than for what's happening on the field.

Indeed, criticising Pope's

innings for lacking in control is to fundamentally misunderstand the game you are watching, and the doctrine that this England side have been preaching for two years. Almost all data analysis, across a wide range of sports, suggests that players should be more aggressive than they are. Nerves, pressure, external factors beyond their control all typically conspire to make athletes remain orthodox, to play more like everyone else, because if you look like everyone else nobody will call you a fool. In many ways England are a perfect example of why athletes remain close to the orthodoxy, given that even their prolonged success - Stokes currently stands as the second most successful Test captain in the sport's history, by win percentage alone has drawn ridicule and anger from opposition and often even

However, they are a far greater example of what can happen if athletes do move away from the orthodoxy. England are systematically trying to remove the effect of those nerves and that pressure, to operate far closer to what is optimal and to remove the obstacles standing in their way. They are trying to bat with risk, to operate outside of the usual trade-offs in red ball batting. Even without consideration that with defensive fields becoming an orthodox response to Bazball's unorthodoxy, and thus England's false shots being far less likely to lead to a wicket, Pope's embracing of risk is the genius of the knock, and a testament to the qualities of this leadership group.

Across the Test as a whole, England's batters attacked 54% of the balls bowled to them. That's the highest figure for any team in India since records began in 2006, and it's also the 6th highest for any team in any Test across that period.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves though. As said, England also took a 1-0 lead in the 2021 series, before succumbing to three successive defeats on exaggerated surfaces that left their batting helpless. Winning individual Tests on tour is always an achievement, particularly in this part of the world, but series wins are the true marker. India themselves managed victories in 2014, 2018, and 2021 when visiting England, and yet they ultimately go down as a missed opportunity at best, and a failure at worst. The injuries to KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja, the absence of Virat Kohli - England have earned their lead, but they have been given an outstanding opportunity to extend it to something formidable.

## ICC rap for Bumrah over Pope collision

**DUBAI:** India pacer Jasprit Bumrah was reprimanded and given a demerit point for deliberately stepping in England player Ollie Pope's way as he went for a run which led to

"inappropriate physical

contact" during the first Test. Bumrah's is a Level 1 offence under the ICC code of conduct. Bumrah accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Richie Richardson and there was no need for a formal hearing. Gukesh joint-2nd in

#### **Tata Steel Masters** WIJK AAN ZEE: D Gukesh

lost in the final tie-breaker against Wei Yi of China and finished in joint-second place at the Tata Steel Masters chess. Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca, however, won the challengers section defeating compatriot Divya Deshmukh in the final round. Gukesh beat last year's winner Anish Giri in a three-game tie-break to qualify for the final tiebreaker round. But after drawing the first game Wei Yi was simply better in the second and won the title.

#### Ministry clears Sable, Parul's stint in USA

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Ministry approved long distance runners Avinash Sable and Parul Choudhary's request for training in Colorado, USA. The govt also cleared stints for wrestlers Anshu Malik and Sarita Mor in Japan and USA. While Sable and Choudhary will train under coach Scott Simmons, Mor will train at United States Olympic Training Center. Anshu will train at Yokohama's Nippon Sports Science University (NSSU).

## Injured KL, Jadeja out of second Test

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in the second Test against England starting at Visakhapatnam on Friday will have a very different look with KL Rahul ruled out due to "right quadriceps pain", besides Virat Kohli's absence. Rahul kept wicket in the Tests at South Africa. His injury meant

MUMBAI: India's batting line-up

Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan finally gets a much-awaited entry into the India fold. Sarfaraz, 26, may still be behind Rajat Patidar in the pecking order. The Madhya Pradesh batter is expected to make his Test debut. The other notable absence from India's playing 11 is Ravindra Jadeja, who suffered a hamstring injury on the fourth day of the Hyderabad Test. In his place, Uttar Pradesh left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar, a consistent

#### **INDIA SQUAD FOR** 2ND TEST

Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, KS Bharat (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Avesh Khan, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Washington Sundar, Saurabh Kumar.

performer at domestic level and on the India A circuit, has been added to the squad. He will start behind Kuldeep Yadav, whose leftarm wrist-spin is likely to be preferred as Jadeja's replacement. The selectors have also picked

Washington Sundar in a 17-member squad that also includes pacer

Avesh Khan. "Washington's selection was to offer the team management an additional spin option, also someone as cover for the loss of batting depth due to Jadeja's injury. The final call will be taken based on the look of the pitch," a

BCCI official said.

Sarfaraz's selection marks a shift in the thinking of the national selectors who have been overlooking his strong batting claims -2,466 runs in three Ranji Trophy seasons — as he wasn't as prolific for India A. Both Sarfaraz and Patidar, 30, have essentially been domestic run-getters. Patidar came into the squad in Kohli's absence after scoring two hundreds for India A against England Lions, including 151 in a four-day first-class game. Sarfaraz too boosted his case by

scoring heavily (96, 55 and 161) against England Lions in the ongo-

ing shadow tour. Marking his big day, Sarfaraz turned good friend Suryakumar Yadav's congratulatory Instagram post "Maiden India call, utsav ki tayyari karo' in a Reel to movie song 'Aashayein', which is about overcoming obstacles.

With India smarting from the 28-run loss at Hyderabad where Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer's failures against spin came particularly under scrutiny, the series is expected to further test the technique of Indian batters.

## Shami's ankle injury

Mohammed Shami is expected to be out of contention for most of the series. The pacer, after a phenomenal ODI World Cup, has been out of action with an ankle injury. "Shami had gone to England to consult an expert. He's unlikely to be available in the series," a BCCI official said.

## constant use of a wide range of their own fans. CRICVIZ England's Ollie Pope plays a reverse sweep during his knock of 196 against India in Hyderabad. England's attack mode HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ATTACKING SHOTS IN AN INNINGS\* ATTACKING SHOT % 62.6 **ENGLAND V PAKISTAN** Karachi, 2022

62.1 Lord's, 2023 **ENGLAND V IRELAND** 59.2 Rawalpindi, 2022 **ENGLAND V PAKISTAN** 58.7 **ENGLAND V PAKISTAN** Multan, 2022 55.3 Galle, 2022 **AUSTRALIA V SRI LANKA** 54.7 Hyderabad, 2024 **ENGLAND V INDIA** 

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ATTACKING SHOTS IN INDIA\* 54.7 **ENGLAND V INDIA** Hyderabad, 2024 43.9 INDIA V ENGLAND Hyderabad, 2024 42.8 INDIA V AUSTRALIA Indore, 2023 Kolkata, 2011 INDIA V WEST INDIES \*Data since 2006 40.9 AUSTRALIA V INDIA Delhi, 2023 Stats: CricViz

## Shooter Anuradha makes fresh start at 33



Anuradha Devi (L) after winning silver in the 10m air pistol at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.

Avishek Roy

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**NEW DELHI:** When 33-year-old pistol shooter Anuradha Devi won a World Cup silver in Cairo last week, she also broke a barrier. The sport has seen an influx of teenagers in recent years. In certain events they have been so dominating that even a 30-yearold could not be blamed for thinking they are too old for the sport.

Devi felt exactly that and even thought of giving up the sport, continuing only because of her fierce determination. Making her international debut at 33, Devi on Friday won silver in 10m air pistol behind Rio Olympics champion Anna Korakakki of Greece (239.9 points). It could not have been better timed when India have struggled to find a second shooter in air pistol who can win a Olympics quota. With just one qualification event left, Devi is excited.

ensure that I returned with a medal. I have the Paris Olympics

on my mind, but first is to win a quota place," she said.

Olympics was in her mind since the day she showed up at coach Jasbir Kumar's range in her hometown in Panipat, that too when she was 28. Kumar recalls meeting the feisty character. "She was a law graduate and wanted to take up the sport. She had seen a newspaper clipping of Sanjeev Rajput with an international medal and was inspired. I could make out she knew nothing about the sport and it was just a burst of enthusiasm. I tried to dissuade her and told her to go back," he said.

Devi, preparing for the state Civil Services examination then, didn't budge. Kumar allowed her, thinking that she would not be able to cope with the rigours of training and leave in a few days. To his surprise, Devi sold her house to buy a pistol and shifted closer to his academy to train.

"Bas junoon tha ek (she was "The World Cup was my first obsessed with shooting). She disinternational and I wanted to continued her studies. The academy was 6km away from her house, so she shifted closer and started living on rent. I then realised that she is made of a stronger

Devi trains 10 hours a day and has never come late for training. "Her hard work and dedication are exemplary. There is no age barrier in shooting, but yes, sometimes she felt depressed and used to tell me that 'maybe I have made a wrong choice and should leave the sport'," Kumar said. The coach would boost her with examples of shooters like Iran's Javad Foroughi who at 44 won the air pistol gold in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

The World Cup medal has fuelled her ambition. She is only looking ahead. "Whenever I felt demotivated Jasbir sir, my parents and my husband, who is my biggest support, stood behind me. My husband is a home guard in Haryana and puts in his salary to finance my shooting. It is an expensive sport. There has been so much struggle to reach so far."

She was elated when she was named in the Indian team for Cairo. "Once I made it to the final, I wanted to give it my all."

## { RANJI TROPHY }

## Delhi beat Uttarakhand by 7 runs for first win

Agencies

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MOHALI: Delhi rode on skipper Himmat Singh's 194 followed by Himanshu Chauhan and Hrithik Shokeen's brilliant bowling effort to eke out a seven-run win over Uttarakhand for their first win of the Ranji Trophy season.

After Himmat lifted Delhi with a counter-attacking 194, Himanshu (5/39) and Shokken (3/81) ran through the Uttarakhand batting to help their side record a vital win which gave them six points.

Despite the win, Delhi are languishing at the seventh spot in the eight-team Group D with seven points from one win two losses and one draw.

Needing 77 runs for win with four wickets in hand, Uttarakhand folded for 165 in 79.3 overs. Akhil Rawat was the lone warrior with a valiant 63 off 185 balls but he lacked support

from the other end. But once Rawat fell to Shokeen leg-before, Uttarakhand folded.

**UP beat Mumbai MUMBAI:** The efforts of Aryan Juyal (76) and Karan Sharma

(67) stood out as Uttar Pradesh held nerves to beat Mumbai by two wickets. Mumbai were bowled out for 320 after resuming at 303/8 in

their second innings. Juyal and Karan laid the foundation of a tricky chase of 195 with a 104run stand for the third wicket after UP were jolted twice early

Despite regular strikes from Mumbai, Karan stood tall with a 173-ball 67\* (7x4s, 2x6s) to take his side over the line and help UP earn six points. Uttar Pradesh finished at 195/8 in almost 70 overs with off-spinner Tanush Kotian (5/58) leading the fightback for Mumbai with the ball.

# Wrestling nationals start, without the official stamp

In the Olympic year, the wrestlers have a confusing road ahead with the official event in Jaipur scheduled to be held from Feb 2-5

#### **Rutvick Mehta**

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PUNE: Large hoardings in Marathi about the senior wrestling nationals are planted in pockets of Pune, the volume of which increases as one inches closer to the Rajaram Bhiku Pathare Stadium. The small indoor facility in the outskirts of Pune is playing host to the three-day championships organised by the suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and not recognised by the union sports ministry.

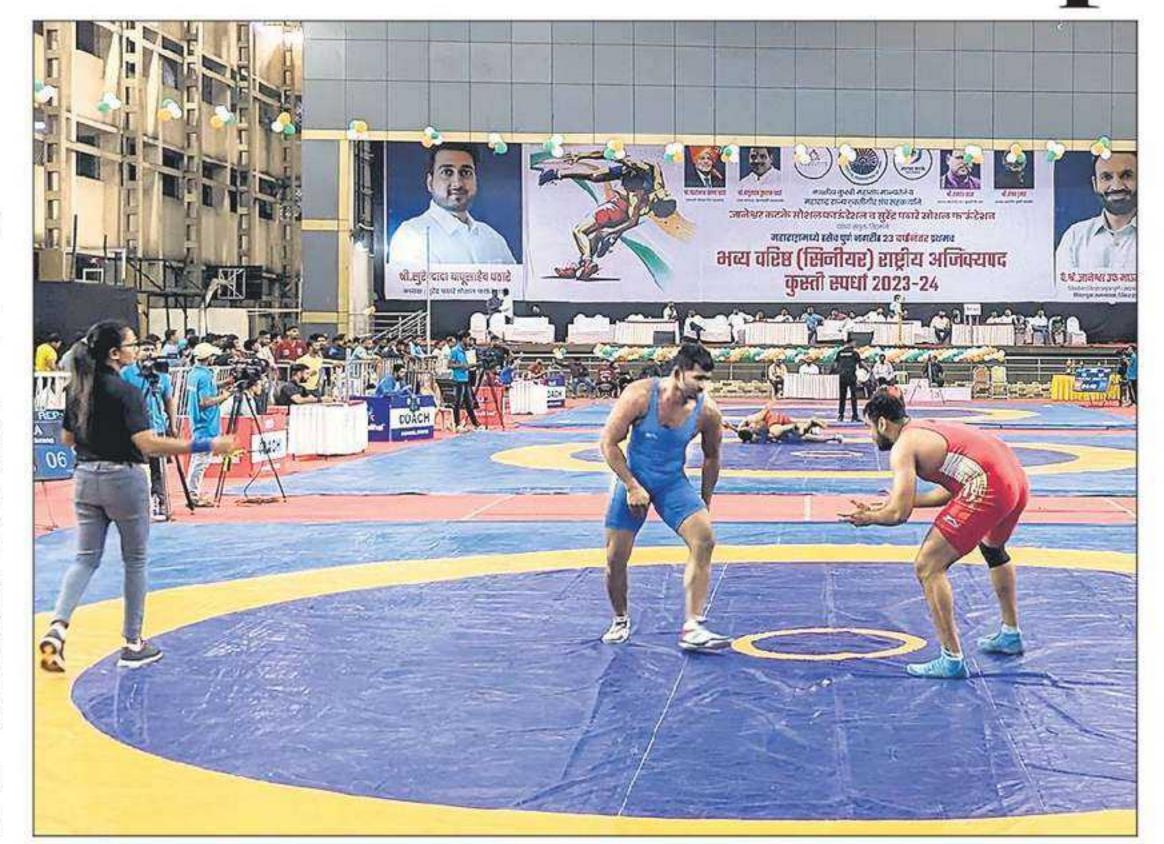
One couldn't tell there was anything unofficial about this, though. Diyas were lit in its opening ceremony on Monday morning, watched on by a bunch of dignitaries seated on a huge dais. Among them was Sanjay Singh, president of the suspended WFI who took over from former chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

He addressed the gathering, comprising wrestlers, coaches and referees, with a speech that stated, "khushti rukni nahi chahiye, chahe kuch bhi ho (wrestling should not stop, come what may). I will not let the future of young wrestlers get destroyed. I am here standing beside you, rest assured," he said.

Whether that sense of surety is being felt by the wrestlers is another matter. For, after the pause of last year due to protests by the top wrestlers over Brij Bhushan's alleged sexual harassment, the sport's restart has been marred by two different nationals being held by separate bodies. In an Olympic year no less.

The first, in Pune, by the suspended WFI that is refusing to budge and, on the contrary, flaunting its strength. The second, in Jaipur from February 2-5, by the Indian Olympic Association's ad hoc panel from where, the ministry has stated, grapplers for

the national camp will get entry. The Pune nationals, without the presence of the country's top names, had about 190 wrestlers in



Action during the opening day of the WFI nationals in Pune on Monday.

the freestyle events across weight categories on Monday (Greco-Roman and women's events will be on Tuesday and Wednesday). Twenty-four state units have sent entries while government units, Railways and Services, have stayed away. Railways wrestler Vinesh Phogat will take part in the Jaipur nationals in the 55kg.

There's a catch there too. Some faction-riddled state units, like Haryana and Maharashtra, held two separate trials to pick wrestlers for the two nationals. Some have fielded second-string teams on paper for Pune, while wrestlers of some associations, like Karnataka, will feature in both. Some associations are still adopting a wait-and-watch policy.

Dhiraj Kumar Choubey, coach of the Jharkhand contingent which has 34 wrestlers competing in Pune, said they haven't decided whether to go for the Jaipur nationals as well. "We are waiting for directives that should come in a day or two. If we have to go, we have no option," he said.

For the wrestlers, that would mean making a dash to Jaipur and getting back to shape, and optimal weight, to compete again within four days. "Anyone who has been associated with the sport knows how difficult that is,"

another coach, who is likely to take his wrestlers to both events, said, requesting not to be named.

The sense of apprehension of being clubbed with either side of this wrestling split is palpable. A couple of wrestlers will proudly state their identity as being "netaji's aadmi (netaji's men)" and will thus scoff at being asked about the Jaipur nationals. Most, however, will just smile, preferring silence.

A wrestler from Chandigarh, among the 10 from the state in Pune, said he had been left confused about which of the two nationals to participate in. "I came here only because the entire team from my state is here," he said, requesting not to be named. Prithviraj Khadke, a two-time

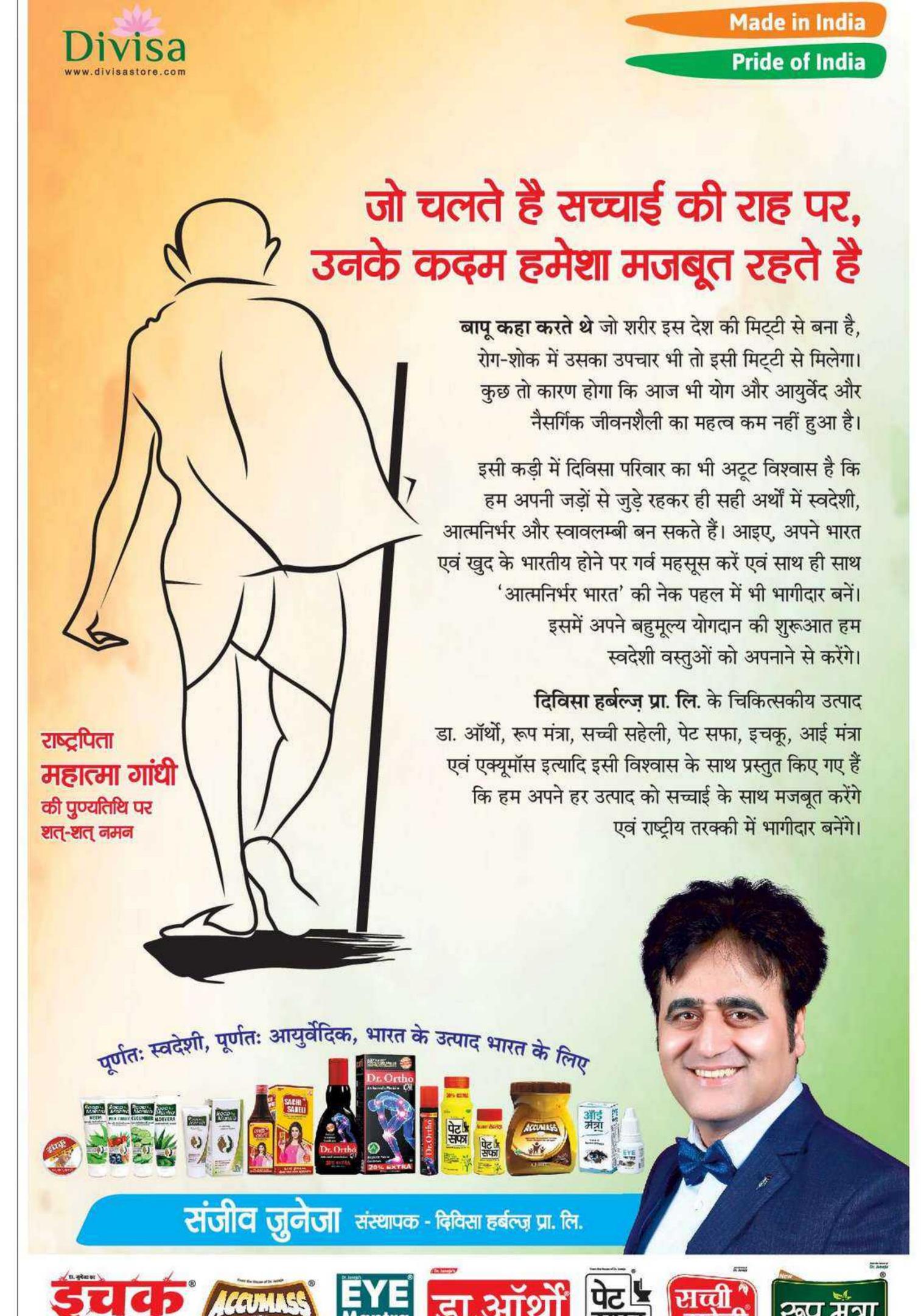
junior national medal-winning wrestler from Maharashtra, was clear about his choice. "We had two separate trials. Those who took part for this are here and the others will go there," the 97kg Greco-Roman wrestler said. "This (pointing at the dais) body is WFI, and it has come after the elections were held. In a month or two, things will get clear and then the results of this nationals will be considered official."

Amid this wait-and-watch and confusion, almost everyone appeared to be relieved about the return of wrestling action in the country. National events in the sport had come to a standstill over the last one year after the protests first began in January, leading to the federation's suspension, re-election followed by another suspension. That the senior nationals - two of them notwithstanding — are back again comes as a drop of positivity in the sea of negatives. "Wrestlers, especially the juniors who lost out on a year, have suffered a lot. Many of them wondered if they should stop wrestling and pick up something else," Choubey, who has a couple of young women wrestlers from Jharkhand making their senior debut here, said.

"It is good that the senior nationals have finally happened. But now they should look at holding age-group nationals as soon as possible."

Sanjay Singh, meanwhile, maintained that talks are on with the sports ministry about getting WFI's suspension lifted, and that he hoped for an outcome in the "next 10-15 days".

He also said that wrestlers who compete in Jaipur will not be ignored. "Whoever does well there, we will get them on board too," he said.



## HINDUSTAN TIMES MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

StockGro

## Common man's guide:

## StockGro Founder Ajay Lakhotia Reveals Key Budget Insights

## **HT Brand Studio**

As the Interim Budget 2024 is set to be announced on February 1, the anticipation resonates not only within the financial sectors but also among the common taxpayers. In the midst of this fervour, StockGro, an investment education platform founded by Ajay Lakhotia in January 2020, stands as a guiding light. Mr. Lakhotia shared his perspective on the upcoming budget, dissecting its impact on the average citizen's financial journey. Mr. Lakhotia also debunked myths around the budget, connecting the dots between budgetary decisions and the daily essentials that form the fabric of our lives.

In the following excerpts, the founder elucidates the essence of the budget, demystifying its complexities and sheds light on crucial areas to watch. If you are curious about how the upcoming budget will shape the financial landscape and, in turn, affect you, then dive right in.

How true is the perception that a budget means nothing for the common man?

No, it's not true. Think about the three most important things in our life first, roti (food), second, kapda (clothes), and third, makaan (shelter). So, anything that impacts this should be important to us.

The reality is that budget influences how much we pay for everything from groceries to fuel and taxes.

Just imagine, we consume ~300-500 litres of petrol in a year. People panic when petrol price increases by ₹10, though the impact on their spends is just ₹3k to 5k a year. But when a change of 10% can cause a 10 lac car to suddenly cost 1 lac more, they don't even realise!

So, it is truly important for every common man to understand & leverage this!

## What really is the budget?

Think of the Indian Government as the largest venture capitalist deciding where to invest the capital for the long term. In short, every year the government plans its financial

the largest investor in the economy - redistributing the capital to the sectors for economic growth.

goals by trying to balance its income and investments.

Similarly, major portion of government's income comes from income & corporation tax, GST, customs & excise duty. However, they spend more given the interest payments on borrowings & central / state government schemes and subsidies etc.

Doesn't this seem more like spending than earning?

That is true. In most of the fast-growing economies like India, the revenue is often less than the expenditure leading to what we call a deficit situation, or in our startup language we call it the cash burn at the end of the year i.e. your spend is more than your income. But in recent years the government has done an excellent job in reducing this deficit, reaching almost break even.

So what should we be tracking in this budget?

First and foremost, tax reforms. Any changes in the slabs of the tax rate which would have a direct impact on one - savings, second - investments, and third - your own spending patterns.

Secondly, you must track saving schemes announced and any changes in GST rates that make our pending purchases more expensive.



Before planning your investments you must analyse the sectors, pick the right stocks, and then test your strategies. Sounds like hard work.

If you are wondering about the impact of the Budget

their investments?

StockGro is already doing it for you; we are making the budget insights so simple that every common man would be able to relate to it and use it for their benefit.

You can enjoy all these benefits and more on the StockGro app cost-free.

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