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EXPRESS NETWORK
KERALA BJP LEADER'S MURDER: 15 PFI MEN GET DEATH PENALTY P7



REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA
President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary at Rajghat on Tuesday. *Renuka Puri*

8 AAP-CONG VOTES INVALIDATED
BJP takes post of Chandigarh Mayor, AAP and Cong say fraud

Denied win, alliance candidate moves HC to set aside election, hearing today

HINA ROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 30

THE KEENLY contested election for the post of Mayor in the Union Territory of Chandigarh descended into chaos Tuesday with the AAP-Congress combine questioning the manner in which eight of its votes were declared invalid by the presiding officer, tipping the scales in favour of BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar who was declared the winner.

As the angry AAP-Congress alliance, the first tie-up among the INDIA bloc constituents, alleged fraud and boycotted the electoral process for the remaining posts, the BJP also walked away with the seats of Senior Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor.



BJP's Manoj Sonkar after he won the post of Chandigarh Mayor on Tuesday. *Jasbir Malhi*

Hyderabadzi haar gaye

Amul Attack it at breakfast!

Budget Session begins today, suspension of 14 Opposition MPs revoked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

ON THE eve of Parliament's Budget Session, the suspension of 14 Opposition MPs — 11 from Rajya Sabha and three from Lok Sabha — was revoked Tuesday to enable them to attend the customary President's address to both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday.

The decision came hours before senior ministers met Opposition leaders and floor leaders and sought their cooperation for conduct of a smooth session. A record 146 Opposition MPs, from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, were suspended during the Winter Session for disrupting proceedings to press their demand for a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Polls on hold, Mumbai civic body gave Rs 500 crore for city upgrade — all to ruling BJP-Sena MLAs, none to Opp

Under BMC policy, up to Rs 35 crore can be given to every MLA. Of Mumbai's 36 MLAs, 21 from ruling alliance got funds; 11 of 15 Opp MLAs ask and wait

PRATIP ACHARYA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

IN MUMBAI, the country's financial capital, with the civic elections on hold for two years now, the quality of infrastructure in your neighbourhood could very well depend on which party your MLA is from. For, the purse-strings have been opened when the MLA is from the ruling party and closed when they are from the Opposition, an investigation by *The Indian Express* has revealed.

Mumbai has 36 MLAs: 21 of the ruling BJP-Shinde Shiv Sena alliance; and 15 of the Opposition. Under a February 2023 policy that allows MLAs to seek funds from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for civic works, each of the 21 ruling al-

WHO GOT HOW MUCH IN MUMBAI

| Party | No. of MLAs | Funds sought | Funds disbursed |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| BJP | 16 | ₹462 cr | ₹374.58 cr |
| Sena (Shinde) | 5 | ₹191.1 cr | ₹126 cr |
| Congress | 4 | ₹26.51 cr | Zero |
| Sena (UBT) | 9 | ₹84.75 cr | Zero |
| NCP | 1 | NA* | Zero |
| SP | 1 | ₹25 cr | Zero |

Source: RTI; *NCP's Nawab Malik was in jail from Feb 2022 to Aug 2023

liance MLAs sought, and promptly got, funds till December 2023, show official records obtained under the Right to Information Act and investigated by *The Indian Express*.

In stark contrast, not one of the 15 Opposition MLAs (of the

Uddhav Bal Thackeray Shiv Sena and Congress) got any money even though as many as 11 of them had asked for funds. *The Indian Express* spoke to each of these Opposition MLAs to independently verify if they applied for funds, and if the Guardian

Ministers approved it. Incidentally, the Opposition MLAs applied for funds around the same time as those from the ruling party, February to December 2023.

The money, if sanctioned, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Chhattisgarh: 3 CRPF men killed, at least 14 injured in Naxal attack

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
RAIPUR, JANUARY 30

THREE PERSONNEL of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), including two from the specialised Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), were killed and at least 14 others injured in an encounter with Naxals on the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Tuesday.

The encounter took place in Tekulagudem village, which was the site of another encounter in

2021 that left 23 security personnel dead.

Officials said Tuesday's incident took place hours after a new security camp was established in the village, which is 616 kilometres from state capital Raipur. After setting up the camp, a joint team of the CoBRA, Special Task Force and District Reserve Guard was conducting anti-Naxal operations in Jonaguda-Aliguda area when, at about 2 pm, Naxals opened fire at them, taking advantage of the forest cover.

The security personnel fired **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Soren back in Ranchi, meets MLAs with wife; ED seizes cash, SUV

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JANUARY 30

THE WHEREABOUTS of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was at the centre of a fierce war of words in the state, with the opposition BJP saying he had gone "missing" and putting up posters to that effect, and the ruling JMM hitting back sharply. It was around 2 pm that Soren emerged and attended a meeting with his MLAs in Ranchi. Also present at the meeting was his wife Kalpana Soren.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren leaves for a meeting with MLAs in Ranchi. *PTI*

The drama unfolded a day after a team of the Enforcement Directorate visited Soren's South **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Killing in US, village grieves in India: He was kind... So distressing we deleted video

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SAURABH PARASHAR
BHAGWANPUR (PANCHKULA), JANUARY 30


VIVEK SAINI was supposed to fly home from the US on January 25 — his first visit since 2022. The 25-year-old had made elaborate plans with his elder sister, who is



A road leading to Saini's house in Bhagwanpur. *Saurabh Parashar*



Vivek Saini, 25, was killed by a homeless man whom he helped settled in New Zealand. The siblings were to meet at the Delhi airport before heading home to their native village in Haryana. Vivek did come home on that **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



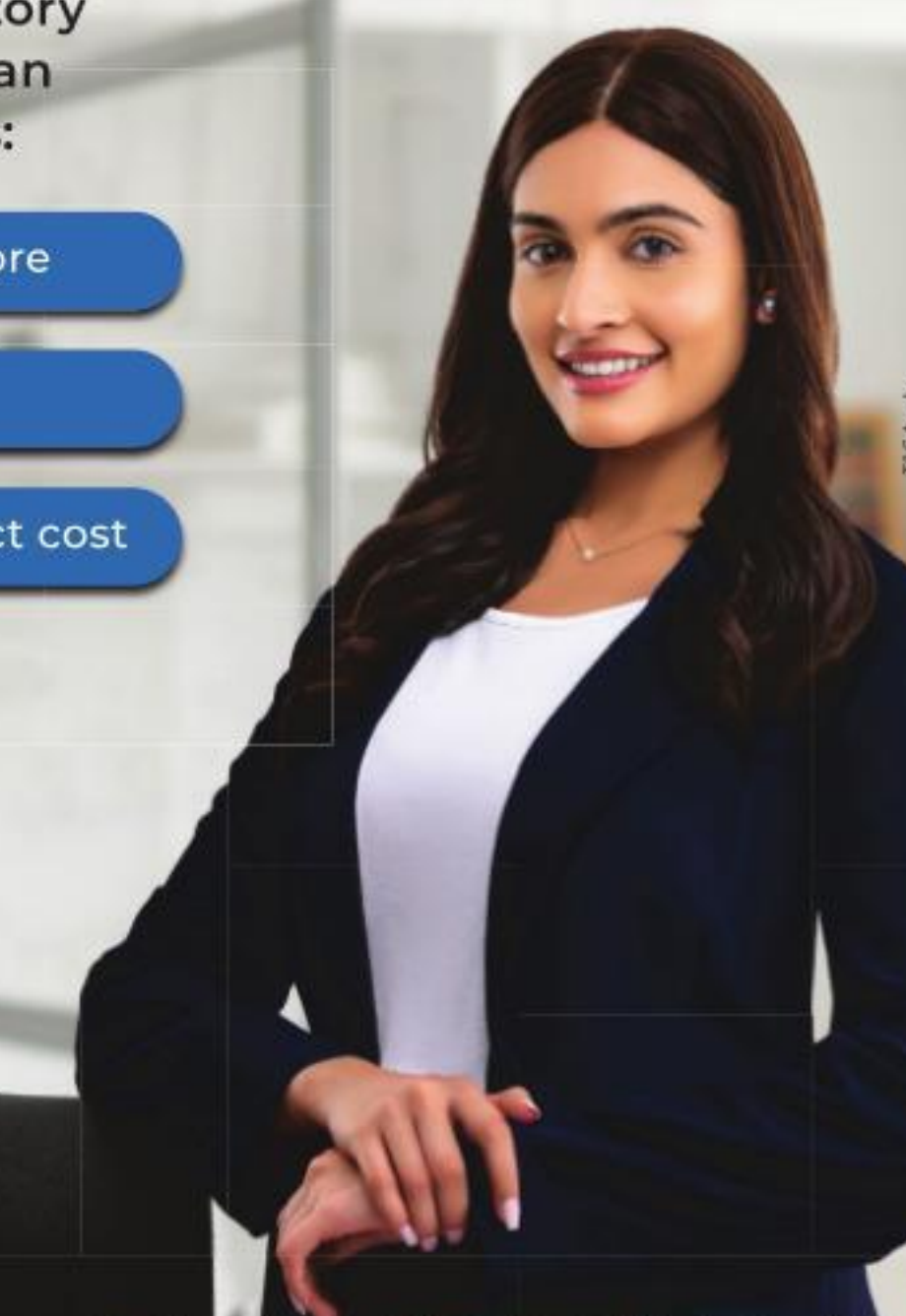
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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BJP takes post of Chandigarh Mayor

Haryana High Court, urging it to set aside the election which he called a "complete fraud". His petition will be heard Wednesday.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann slammed the manner in which the elections were conducted, and called it "the death of democracy".

AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who called it "a black day for democracy", said, "Gandhiji was assassinated on this date and after 76 years, they have murdered democracy... Anyone can win or lose elections, but the country should not lose... The issue is that they have won the Chandigarh Mayoral elections with open fraud."

Pawan Kumar Bansal, former Congress MP from Chandigarh and a Minister in the erstwhile UPA government, alleged that election agents of neither the AAP nor Congress were allowed to see the ballot papers.

"The presiding officer announced the rejection of eight votes, declared the BJP candidate the winner and went away. BJP members rushed to the table and tore the ballot papers," Bansal said.

Incidentally, in a first, the media was kept away from the House and the poll proceedings were beamed on a screen outside the Municipal House.

Elected for a year, the Mayor's powers are limited to calling meetings and deciding the agenda. This year, the three mayoral posts were reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates.

On the face of it, the scales seemed tipped in favour of the alliance which had 20 votes with

13 AAP and 7 Congress councillors up against 14 BJP councillors. BJP MP Kirron Kher too had a vote. There was one councillor representing the SAD.

With 36 votes at stake, the AAP-Congress combine was confident of a victory. But eight of its votes were declared invalid and it managed only 12 in favour of its candidate. Sonkar, the BJP candidate, was declared the winner with 16 votes in his favour.

The AAP alleged that the presiding officer, Anil Masih, a nominated councillor who is the general secretary of the BJP minority cell, had himself scratched the ballot papers in a bid to invalidate them — a charge he rejected.

Masih said, "I invited polling agents of the two parties to come forward to check the ballot papers. Instead, two AAP councillors... attempted to seize the ballot papers, which got slightly torn. Fortunately, Chandigarh Police intervened, and marshals sealed the ballot papers. Everything has been videotaped."

The voting began at 11.13 am, after almost an hour's delay. Deputy Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh said that voting would take place ward-wise. The lone SAD councillor asked if there was a provision for NOTA, but the DC said no.

Soon after the counting began, Congress and AAP councillors alleged that Masih was scribbling on ballot papers, and that led to 8 votes being declared invalid.

The moment Masih declared BJP's Sonkar the winner with 16 votes, there was a ruckus in the House and marshals were called to restore order.

The alliance stayed away as the polls for Senior Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor were held and the two posts too went to the BJP.

The BJP alleged that the moment Sonkar rose to take the Mayor's seat, AAP councillors tried to come near the dais and tear the ballot papers, a charge that the AAP rejected. The AAP instead accused the BJP of tearing the ballot papers.

Arun Sood, BJP in-charge for Chandigarh and a former Mayor, told The Indian Express that the AAP and Congress did not manage to keep their flock together.

"The alliance was not between the two parties but between Pawan Bansal and (AAP Rajya Sabha MP) Raghav Chadha for personal objectives. They did not trust their own councillors who were kept hostage for days before this election," Sood alleged.

"The councillors were asked not to bolt the door even while going to the washroom. This mistrust led to gaps and eventually to this result. All our 16 votes remained intact," he said.

The elections, which were earlier scheduled for January 18, were deferred at the last minute when the presiding officer reported ill. Masih said he had a backache and was admitted to the government hospital in Sector 16.

This was a day after Raghav Chadha called the alliance the beginning of the end of BJP rule in the face of Opposition unity.

Thereafter, there was a move to defer the polls to February 6, but AAP approached the High Court which scheduled the polls for January 30.

• Suspension of 14 Opposition MPs revoked

on the Parliament security breach on December 13. While the other MPs were suspended for the remainder of the Winter Session, the suspension of 14 MPs was referred to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha privileges committees.

The 14 MPs included 11 from the Rajya Sabha: Congress's Jebi Mather Hisham, I Hanumanthaiah, Neeraj Dangi, Rajmani Patel, Kumar Ketkar and G C Chandrashekhar; CPI's Binoy Viswam and Sandosh Kumar P; DMK's M Mohamad Abdulla and CPM's John Brittas and A A Rahim. The remaining three from the Lok Sabha are: Congress's K Jayakumar, Abdul Khaleque and Vijay Vasanth.

Earlier in the day, the government said it had asked the presiding officers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to revoke the suspension. "Everybody's suspension will be withdrawn. We have requested the Speaker and the Chairperson on behalf of the government, and they have agreed," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said.

Setting the stage, the Rajya Sabha privileges committee met and adopted a resolution recommending withdrawal of the suspension. Two weeks ago, the Lok Sabha privileges committee had adopted a similar resolution for revoking the suspension of the three Congress members.

Opposition sources said the MPs had written letters to the privileges committees expressing regret for their action, arguing that the disruptions were not intentional or personal indiscipline.

At the all-party meeting, the

government told the Opposition floor leaders that they should implement the decision on barring MPs from bringing placards or similar materials inside the chambers.

Opposition leaders are learnt to have sought discussions on a range of issues, including what they called misuse of the investigative agencies, attack on the federal structure and "over-reach" by Governors.

Left MPs Elamaram Kareem and P Sandosh Kumar expressed concern over attempts to "communalise" the polity. Kareem also sought a clarification from the government over remarks by ministers that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which was passed by Parliament in December 2019 but whose rules are still to be framed, would be implemented across the country soon.

The meeting, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was attended by Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joshi and his deputies Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan. In attendance from the Opposition were Congress's Pramod Tiwari and Kodikkunil Suresh, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay, DMK's T R Baalu, Shiv Sena's Rahul Shewale, Samajwadi Party's S T Hasan, JD(U)'s Ram Nath Thakur and TDP's Jayadev Galla.

Tiwari said he raised the issue of the "violent attack" on the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam and the state government's curbs on it. An "unwritten dictatorship" prevails in the country, he said, and accused the central government

of misusing probe agencies such as the CBI and ED to target Opposition leaders like Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad.

Suresh said the Congress would try to raise the issue of unemployment, price rise, agrarian distress and the Manipur situation during the session. TMC's Bandyopadhyay said the Finance Minister should include the pending dues to West Bengal on account of various central schemes in the interim Budget.

SP's S T Hassan demanded steps to strengthen the Places of Worship Act, 1991, that freezes the status of religious places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947, and prohibits their conversion while ensuring the maintenance of their religious character. His demand comes in the wake of demands to hand over the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi to the Hindu community.

The session, the last before the Lok Sabha elections, will be a short one. It begins on Wednesday with President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both Houses — her first in the new Parliament building — and ends on February 9. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the interim Budget on Thursday, after which both the Houses will take up discussions on the motion of thanks to the President's address.

"They have given suggestions, but since this is the last session of the present Lok Sabha, we have said we will give them an opportunity in the next session," Joshi said.

• Soren back in Ranchi, meets MLAs with wife; ED seizes cash, SUV

Delhi residence to question him in an alleged money laundering case, but he was not present there. The ED claims to have seized Rs 36 lakh in cash, a BMW SUV "registered under a benami name", and documents from the premises. Its team camped there for almost 13 hours.

The ED has issued 10 summonses to Soren so far — the latest asked him to appear for questioning on January 29 or January 31. He was also questioned on January 20 at his Ranchi residence for seven hours.

Soren also chaired another meeting with JMM and ally Congress legislators in the evening. Sources said 35 MLAs attended the meeting. A legislator who was present said, "All MLAs entrusted their faith in the CM and said they will stand by whatever decisions he takes."

Those who were present also said they discussed what could happen in case Soren is arrested. According to sources, there was no consensus on whether his wife should step into his shoes since other members of his family could object. "We discussed several permutations and combinations," said an MLA.

In an email to the agency on Sunday, Soren agreed to record his statement on January 31 at 1 pm at his residence. He had said the agency's insistence on recording a statement on or before January 31 "reveals political agenda" to disrupt the functioning of the state government and prevent an elected representative from discharging his official duties. He wrote that most of the questions the ED had were "inaccuracies" in affidavits filed by him with the Election Commission and only three or

four questions were related to the plot of land in Bargai area "wrongfully alleged to be owned" by him.

Sources in the government said Soren had returned to Jharkhand via road late Monday night.

On Tuesday, hitting out at the BJP, the JMM said the CM had some work in Delhi following which he returned. "The CM is an institution, not a person. BJP has maligned him. He has been defamed. We will file a criminal case against the BJP chief and MPs who tweeted photos of Hemant Soren with Rs 11,000 prize money. My party will spend Rs 11 lakh on a psychiatrist who will find out what is happening with BJP's Babul Marandi."

Marandi had led the attack on Soren through the day. "The Chief Minister of our state has been missing for the last 40 hours due to fear of the central agencies and has again run away, hiding his face," he had posted on X.

Asked about the ED claiming it found cash at Soren's Delhi residence, JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said, "ED reaches before time at the CM's residence... Has the money been planted by Marandi? Openly, hooliganism is being promoted."

After a brief meeting with the MLAs in the afternoon, Soren paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi. Asked by reporters on his whereabouts, he said: "I was in your hearts."

Meanwhile, the Ranchi district administration issued prohibitory orders around 100 metres of Soren's residence, the Raj Bhavan and the office of the Enforcement Directorate.

• Chhattisgarh: 3 CRPF men killed

back, following which the Naxals ran away and took cover in the forests, said officials. The injured personnel have been airlifted to Raipur for treatment.

"We have received information that at least six Naxals were also killed in the encounter. Unfortunately, we lost three of our men in the attack," said Inspector General of Police for Bastar range, Sundarraj P.

"The Naxals suffered heavy casualties too. Video feed which we have received shows Naxals carrying bodies," said Chhattisgarh Director General of Police (DGP) Ashok Juneja, adding, "our jawans have suffered bullet or splinter injuries".

"Our strategy is to go into the core areas (of Naxals). The anti-Naxal operations will be intensified further. We will set up more camps in core areas and provide government schemes so that they (local people) break away from Naxals and connect with our government," said Juneja.

Asked about reports of Naxals using a tunnel to attack security forces, Juneja said: "Let the video feed come. We will decide accordingly."

Speaking to reporters, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said "over 500" Naxals were involved in the attack. "Our jawans fought with great valour. The Naxals were in a big number and made use of home-made bombs. The police camps are set up to provide government schemes. The Naxals are shocked by the formation of the BJP's double-engine government, and are carrying out such cowardly attacks. Naxalism is nearing its end. Our double-engine government will end it completely," he said.

This is the first major Naxal

attack under the new BJP government in the state. Sai and his deputy, Vijay Sharma, also visited the injured men at the hospital.

The three CRPF personnel who were killed have been identified as constables Deven C and Pawan Kumar from CoBRA 201, and constable Lambdhar Sinha from CRPF battalion 150. The CoBRA is a specialised force under the CRPF to combat extremists and insurgents in guerrilla/ jungle warfare operations.

Earlier this month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had chaired a review meeting with stakeholders in Raipur on Left Wing Extremism, where he said the Naxal menace should end in the next three years.

January has also seen five alleged Naxals, including two women, being killed in encounters in the state. A six-month-old girl had also died in cross-firing during an anti-Naxal operation.

Since November last year, nine new police camps have come up in Sukma and Bijapur districts. This Republic Day, the Tricolour was hoisted for the first time in two police camps in remote Chintagufa area, on the Sukma-Bijapur border.

During the state's two-phase polls in November, members of the banned CPI(Maoist) had killed two security personnel and injured another in three separate attacks using IEDs.

In 2022, 10 security personnel, 33 civilians and 32 Naxals were killed in Chhattisgarh. But the election year, 2023, saw a sharp rise in the deaths of security personnel, with 24 casualties in the state. Further, 31 civilians and 23 alleged Naxals were killed last year.

• Polls on hold, Mumbai civic body gave Rs 500 crore for city upgrade — all to ruling BJP-Sena MLAs, none to Opp

would have been used for various development works in their areas — from the repair of a drain in Dharavi to the beautification of a park in Sewri to the installation of paver blocks in Satyanarayan Chawl.

Despite repeated attempts, BMC Commissioner IS Chahal was not available for comment.

These are works that the 227 elected BMC corporators would have ordinarily undertaken. But with the country's richest civic body functioning without an elected body for close to two years now, on February 16, 2023, days after the Budget was presented on February 4, the BMC passed a resolution saying funds to run the city would be routed through Mumbai's 36 MLAs.

The approval note that followed said: "A large number of letters have been received from MLAs/MPs for providing funds for various development works, infrastructural works, beautification work etc within their respective constituencies. Therefore, an approval was given for this new provision by the administrator on February 16, 2023."

As per this provision, the civic body set aside Rs 1,260 crore — around 2.5 per cent of the Rs 52,619 crore BMC budget — for civic works to be carried out in the constituencies of the 36 MLAs. Each MLA was entitled to seek a maximum of Rs 35 crore.

However, in the 10 months between February 2023 and December 31, 2023, Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Chahal disbursed Rs 500.58 crore, all to 21 MLAs belonging to the BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, while the Opposition MLAs drew a blank.

The process and how it was selective

The region that falls under the BMC's jurisdiction has 36 MLAs in the current Maharashtra Assembly, of which

15 belong to the BJP, six of the Eknath Shinde-Shiv Sena, nine of the UBT Shiv Sena, four of the Congress and one each of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Samajwadi Party (SP).

Under the BMC's special policy, Guardian Ministers — Maharashtra has Guardian Ministers for each of the 36 districts who oversee its planning and development; Mumbai has two — are authorised to clear proposals from MLAs seeking funds for development work in their constituencies, and forward the cleared proposals to the BMC, which would then disburse the funds. Until this policy came into place, there was no provision for legislators to withdraw money from the civic body's corpus.

Following the BMC resolution, funding requests by MLAs were cleared by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the two Guardian Ministers of Mumbai: Mangal Prabhat Lodha (Mumbai Suburbs — 26 Assembly seats) and Deepak Kesarkar (Mumbai City — 10 Assembly seats). Following the approval of the CM and the Ministers, the BMC started disbursing the funds.

Documents accessed by *The Indian Express* show that in 11 cases, fund requests from Opposition MLAs to Guardian Ministers were yet to be cleared and forwarded to the BMC. Letters written by Opposition MLAs reveal that in some cases, the requests for funds were sent to the ministers as early as March 2023.

On the other hand, records show, requests from MLAs belonging to the BJP and Shiv Sena were cleared by the Chief Minister and the two Guardian Ministers, with some being forwarded to the BMC in a little over a week. Four MLAs — three Sena and one BJP — wrote directly to the Chief Minister, while the others wrote to the Guardian Ministers.

And when it came to his own

EXPLAINED Funding process, its flaws

WHILE ELECTIONS to the BMC have not been held because of a pending case in the Supreme Court on OBC reservation in local bodies, the civic body's process to approve disbursement of funds to MLAs for development work in their areas raises two critical issues. One, if Guardian Ministers of ruling alliance do not clear proposals by Opposition MLAs, then the upgrade of civic infrastructure in key areas like Dharavi

(Congress MLA Varsha Gaikwad) or Jogeshwari (Shiv Sena Uddhav B Thackeray MLA Ravindra Waikar) suffers. Two, at a time when political lines are blurred in the state with both Shiv Sena and NCP witnessing a split, and nearly 80 MLAs switching sides over the last 18 months, there exists the possibility of the ruling alliance dangling the carrot of funds to lure legislators towards its side.

constituency, Guardian Minister Lodha went directly to the BMC and got funds. On June 23, 2023, Lodha, the BJP MLA from Malabar Hill, sent a letter to Chahal seeking Rs 30 crore. In less than a week, on June 28, the civic body cleared an initial disbursement of Rs 24 crore (80 per cent of funds sought).

The 21 ruling MLAs who got funds promptly cleared

Among the other cases where members of the ruling alliance sought and got funds include:

■ On May 11, 2023, BJP's Mulund MLA, Mihir Kotecha, wrote to Guardian Minister Lodha seeking Rs 26.34 crore for carrying out civic works. On May 22, Lodha wrote to Administrator Chahal directing him to immediately disburse Rs 26 crore to the MLA. The BMC approved the funds, saying the remaining 20 per cent would be given once the work began.

■ On May 9, Atul Bhatkalkar, BJP's Kandivali MLA, wrote to CM Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and minister Lodha, seeking Rs 24.27 crore. On May 26, Lodha

wrote to Chahal and asked him to immediately make the funds available. On June 2, the BMC wrote to the local ward office, giving a go-ahead for the fund.

■ On July 18, Sena's Dadar MLA Sada Sarvankar wrote to minister Kesarkar seeking Rs 35 crore. On August 7, the BMC approved Rs 28 crore and said the remaining amount would be sent in due time.

■ On July 18, Kesarkar cleared a proposal by Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, seeking Rs 35.85 crore. The BMC approved the transfer of Rs 28 crore on August 7.

The RTI documents showed that minister Kesarkar cleared the proposals almost the same day MLAs wrote to him.

Opposition MLAs, meanwhile, continue to wait

Over the past two months, *The Indian Express* reached out to each of the 15 Opposition MLAs; as many as 11 have confirmed they had written to their respective Guardian Minister seeking funds from the BMC, but haven't received thus far.

Of the remaining four MLAs, the sole NCP MLA, Nawab Malik,

Orders to review curbs on Internet in J&K not meant for cupboard: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday told the Jammu and Kashmir administration that review orders of the special committee under the Union Home Secretary on restoration of Internet services in the Union Territory are "not meant to be kept in the cupboard" but must be published.

Hearing a plea by NGO Foundation for Media Professionals, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sanjay Karol gave the UT administration two weeks' time to appraise it whether the orders have been published or not.

In January 2020, the Supreme Court on a plea by journalist Anuradha Basin had ordered a review of the restrictions

placed in J&K in the wake of abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019.

Subsequently, on a plea by the NGO, the court had in May 2020 directed the J&K administration to constitute a special committee headed by the Union Home Secretary to "immediately determine the necessity of the continuation of" limiting mobile internet to 2G speed in the region... and allowing faster internet (3G or 4G) on a trial basis in certain geographical areas.."

On Tuesday, advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Foundation for Media Professionals, submitted that as per the Anuradha Basin judgment and the Indian Telegraph Act, the administration is required to publish the review orders and the mother order on internet restrictions in the UT.

• Killing in US, village grieves in India: He was kind... So distressing we deleted the video

day, but in a body bag.

A management graduate, Vivek was hammered to death, allegedly by a homeless drug addict, at a department store in Lithonia city, Georgia, where he worked part-time, on January 16. The assailant, identified as Julian Faulkner, 53, was arrested.

According to local media reports, Faulkner, who was given refuge at the store by the store employees, including Vivek, and given food and water got enraged when asked to leave.

In Bhagwanpur, Vivek's family members and others who knew him described him as an affable young man who would help others and harboured no ill feeling towards anyone. His family suspects his killing to be a hate crime.

"We are anguished to learn that no one came to the rescue

of my brother when the assailant was hitting him repeatedly like a wild animal. I believe the killing of my brother was a hate crime," said Vivek's sister, who did not want any of the family members named in the report.

Detective Andre Campbell from the Homicide Department of Lithonia, when contacted by *The Indian Express*, said, "An arrest was made the very same night, and the culprit is in custody." When asked about the allegations of hate crime made by the family members, he said, "We are not allowed to release any further details."

Vivek was the second of three siblings, the sister being the eldest. The youngest brother, 22, said, "He called me a day before the incident on January 15. He said he had bought gifts for

us and had also spoken to our sister in New Zealand."

"I was the first to receive information about the brutal killing. One of his roommates called me and conveyed the news, followed by the disturbing CCTV footage of the incident. The video clip is so distressing that all of us who received it chose to delete it," the grieving brother said.

"Is there any rule that allows us to bring the assailant of my brother to India and prosecute him here," he asked.

Saini's co-workers were quoted by local news outlet, *WSB-TV Atlanta*, as saying that they allowed a homeless man, identified by police as Faulkner, into the store on January 15 evening. "He asked us for chips, and Coke. We gave him everything, including water," said an

employee at the Chevron Food Mart, where Vivek worked.

"He asked if I could get a blanket, and I said we don't have blankets so I gave him a jacket," said the employee. "He was sitting here all the time and we never asked him to get out because we know that it's cold."

But on January 16 night, Saini told Faulkner it was time to go. Police were quoted as saying that as Saini was leaving for home, Faulkner attacked him. Vivek was hit with a hammer — around 50 times on the head and face.

"We are deeply anguished by the terrifying, brutal, & heinous incident that led to the death of Indian national/student Mr Vivek Saini & condemn the attack in the strongest terms. It is understood that the US authorities have arrested the accused

& are investigating the case," said India's Consulate General in Atlanta on X.

Vivek's body was brought home by a cousin who also stayed in Lithonia and cremated the same day. "I met Vivek on the morning of January 16. When I reached the spot, the police had taken away the body and the assailant," said the cousin.

Another family member said, "We regret sending him to the US. Initially, there was a plan for Vivek to join his sister in New Zealand, but he later changed his mind and pursued MBA at Alabama University in 2022."

After finishing class 10 at DAV Public School, Derabassi, Vivek completed senior secondary education at a private institute in Sector 34, Chandigarh. Then he did B.Tech in Computer Science from Chandigarh

University.

People in Bhagwanpur fondly remember Vivek. "You will not find a single person in the entire village who will speak bad of him. He was a loving young man. Apart from excelling in studies, he would assist his family with agricultural work," said Sanjeev Kumar, a villager.

Vivek's father owns 25 acres of agricultural land. A distant relative said, "His parents were in the process of choosing a match for him."

Bhagwanpur sarpanch Charan Singh said the village has nearly 230 houses and 1,100 registered voters. "In recent times, around a dozen people from our community have gone abroad to countries such as Canada, Australia, Dubai, and the UK for study and work purposes," he said.

PROCEDURE AT DEVIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE: COURT HC grants relief to two SAU students, sets aside expulsion over indiscipline

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

NOTING THAT the procedure followed by South Asian University (SAU) to expel two students was "at deviance with the principles of natural justice", the Delhi High Court Tuesday set aside orders passed by the varsity against two PhD scholars over alleged acts of indiscipline.

Petitioners Umesh Joshi and Bhim Raj had moved a petition challenging orders issued by the varsity on November 25, 2022 "expelling" them and "declaring them out of bounds with immediate effect". The action against the two was with respect to participating in a protest regarding stipends for students.

A single-judge bench of Justice Ch Hari Shankar observed



In 2022, the SUA had expelled the two students for taking part in a protest regarding stipends for varsity scholars. Archive

that the facts of the case and issues involved were "largely identical" to those which were considered by the court in a plea moved by another SAU student, Apoorva YK.

In that case, Justice Shankar had quashed two orders, observ-

with the principles of natural justice and rules, regulations, by laws governing SAU than the procedure which was followed by SAU in Apoorva YK (case)," Justice Shankar said Tuesday.

The court further said while in Apoorva's case, the university had at least issued a show-cause notice to her, no such notice was sent out before the expulsion decision was issued to Joshi and Raj. The court said the decision in Apoorva's case would apply in the present case as well.

Raj, a Dalit PhD student, later bagged a scholarship to pursue an MPhil in Law at Oxford University. Joshi, meanwhile, was supposed to submit his thesis by June, 2023, but was expelled before that, following which he approached the HC against the decision.

Justice Shankar said that as per the principle of "audi alteram

partem", a party has to be given an opportunity of hearing before a decision against it is taken.

"It is fundamental to principles of natural justice, that before the decision to punish the student was taken, the student ought to have been given an opportunity to represent against the proposed decision. Taking a decision to expel the student first and thereafter, inviting the student to represent against the decision is as good as presenting the student with a fait accompli..." the HC said, after noting that following the expulsion, the varsity constituted a High-Powered Committee which is stated to have granted an opportunity of hearing to the petitioners.

After receiving recommendations from the committee, the varsity rejected representations made by petitioners against the expulsion orders.

Thieves break into ex-UP DGP's Noida home, steal locker full of jewellery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, JANUARY 30

THIEVES IN Noida allegedly broke into the home of a former DGP-rank officer in the Uttar Pradesh police, Vibhuti Narain Rai, and stole a locker full of jewellery, said officers Tuesday. Police said an FIR has been registered based on his complaint and the matter is being investigated.

Rai, a former Director General of UP Police, said that he was in Singapore when the incident took place at his home in Calypso Court in Jaypee Wishtown, Sector 128.

"I went to Singapore to be with my son on December 7, 2023, and returned on January

29, 2024. My help, Santosh, lives with me; he too had gone to his village on December 7. Santosh had returned a day before I did and found that a few things had been tampered with in the house. He called me in Singapore..." said Rai in his complaint.

"On coming back, I found that an attempt had been made to break into a locker in my son's room... it appears they were unsuccessful in breaking into it, and took away the locker. My daughter-in-law's jewellery was inside it," added the former UP DGP.

Police said that an FIR under IPC Section 380 (theft) has been registered at Sector 126 police station and a search is on to trace and arrest the accused.

WHAT POLICE PROBE FOUND

Woman who 'duped' 5-star hotel had lone bank account, with Rs 41

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

TWO WEEKS ago, a 37-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly cheating a five-star hotel in Aerocity. It was alleged that the Delhi Police, the woman had cheated the hotel of Rs 5-7 lakh by staying on the premises around the New Year and not paying bills. She had also used the spa and other facilities at the hotel, costing Rs 2.11 lakh.

During investigation, though, the Delhi Police have found that the woman has only Rs 41 in her bank account. Officials have found only one bank account in her name and it has no money, said police.

The woman, Jhansi Rani

Samuel, hails from Andhra Pradesh and had come to Delhi alone to celebrate New Year. On January 13, she was about to leave the premises of Pullman Hotel when she was stopped by the staff after they found that she had given false information for the bills, police said.

According to police, they are yet to confirm if she is a lawyer or posed as one.

"She has been changing her statements. She also told one of the investigators that she is a doctor. She then said she has lived in New York. We don't know what to believe. We have asked local staff at her hometown to approach her family and provide us details of her job and parents/spouse," said an officer. Samuel told police that she

was married a few years ago but has been divorced for a while now.

Police said Samuel stayed at the hotel for 15 days without paying bills and even manhandled staffers when they tried to stop her from leaving the premises. The hotel then called the police to "control" the situation.

Police found she used a fake identity card under the name Isha Dave, said officers.

The hotel staff also alleged that the accused used a bank's UPI app to show transactions which never took place. Police suspect she used a fake mobile application or forged the bills.

Samuel has been booked under sections of cheating, cheating by impersonation, and forgery.

CM's 'MLA poaching' claim: Delhi BJP files complaint

New Delhi: A BJP delegation on Tuesday filed a formal complaint against CM Arvind Kejriwal following his allegations last week that the "BJP was trying to poach AAP MLAs". AAP is yet to issue a response on the matter.

On Saturday, Kejriwal had alleged he was on the "brink of be-

ing arrested in the liquor policy case as part of a BJP conspiracy to topple the AAP government in Delhi", and that the "BJP was also attempting to contact AAP MLAs, urging them to switch sides in lieu of cash of up to Rs 25 crore".

Terming the allegations frivolous, the BJP delegation de-

manded legal action against Kejriwal, AAP minister Atishi, and MLAs Durgesh Pathak and Dilip Pandey. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "... this time we have decided that we will expose his lies; that is why we have submitted a complaint to the police commissioner." ENS

UTTAR PRADESH UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
SAIFAI, ETAWAH - 206130 (U.P.)

Computer Based Test (CBT)- 2024 for Recruitment of Nursing Officer

Advt. No.: 36/UPUMS/CBT/2023-24 **RECRUITMENT NOTICE** Date: 30/01/2024

Online applications are invited for the online Computer Based Test (CBT) 2024 for the recruitment of Nursing Officer at Level- 07 in the Pay Matrix (Rs. 44900-142400).

| Sl. No. | Name of the Post | No. of Posts | Essential Eligibility Criteria |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1. | Nursing Officer | 35 (Backlog) + 500 (Fresh) | Qualification: 1. (a) B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing / B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc. (Post- Certificate)/Post-Basic B.Sc. Nursing from an Institute or University recognized by Indian Nursing Council/ State Nursing Council. OR (b) Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery from an Institute/college recognized by Indian Nursing Council/ State Nursing Council with Two Years' Experience in a minimum 50 bedded Hospital (registered with competent district medical authority). 2. Registered as Nurse & Midwife in State/Indian Nursing Council. |

Note:- 1. The detailed Advertisement is available at University website <https://www.upums.ac.in>
 2. Number of posts may increase/decrease at the discretion of competent authority.
 3. Vertical reservation shall be applicable as per prevailing rules of Government of Uttar Pradesh. Horizontal reservation shall be applicable as per prevailing Government rules.
 4. The application should be submitted online only. Application sent through post/ courier/by hand will not be entertained.

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EMPAANELMENT OF GUEST STAFF UNDER SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND RESEARCH STAFF UNDER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
WALK-IN-SELECTIONS ON 05.02.2024

Applications are invited for empanelment of guest staff as per the details given below:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Program/Research project | Name of the guest staff position | Place of Work | Rate of honorarium per session |
|---------|---|---|--|---|
| 1. | Skill Development program | Vocational Instructor (in different trades- 35 positions such as Assistant Plant Caretaker, Food & Beverage, Hospitality Associate, Domestic Data Entry Training and Sewing machine operator) | NIEPID, Secunderabad, its RCs at Noida, Navi Mumbai and Kolkata and its CRCs at Davangere, Nellore and Rajnandgaon | Rs. 390/- per session (maximum of 4 sessions a day) (34,000/- Approx) |
| 2. | Exact causes / reasons for high number of Divyangjans having Intellectual and Development Infirmities | Research Officer (02 Positions) | NIEPID, Secunderabad | Rs. 550/- per session (maximum of 4 sessions a day) (48,000/- Approx) |
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FOR COMPLETE DETAILS about the qualifications, experience, remuneration, terms & conditions and to download application forms, LOG ON TO www.niepid.nic.in. For any other information, please contact at Ph.No.040-27751741-45 Extn. 209.

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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister






A great nation One grand celebration

BHARAT 20 PARV 24

23rd - 31st January 2024

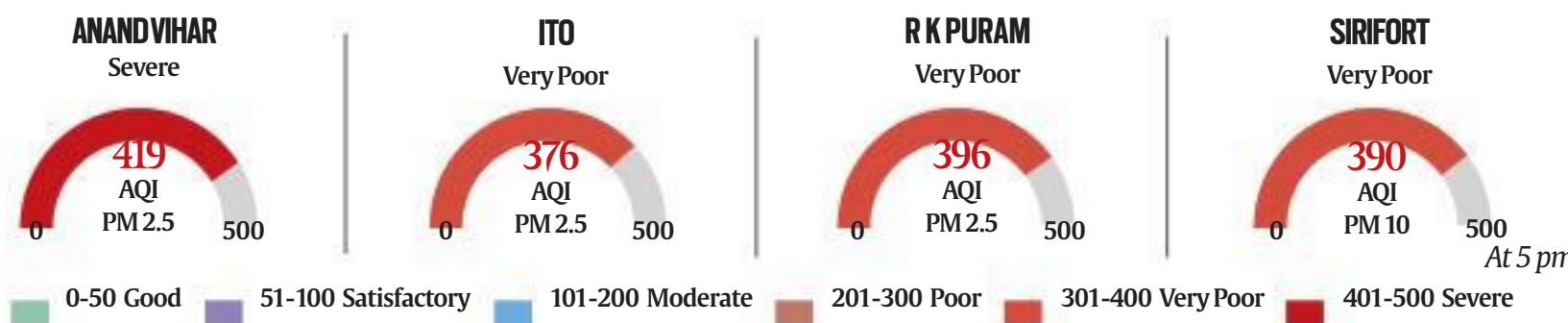
Enjoy the many colours, flavours and rhythms of India at Bharat Parv.

Venue: Red Fort, Delhi
Date: Till 31st January 2024, 12 noon - 9 pm
Entry free. Please carry your identity proof.

Republic Day Parade Tableaux | Folk Dance | Crafts Bazaar | Armed Forces Bands
Studio Kitchen | Multi-cuisine Food Court | Cultural and Musical Programs







SKYWATCH
FORECAST: January 31
 Generally cloudy sky. Light rain/thundershowers accompanied with gusty winds likely.
MAX: 20 (2.3°C below normal)
MIN: 10 (1.6°C above normal)

BRIEFLY

MCD extends date to geotag properties

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has extended the last date of geotagging of properties till February 29. On December 5, MCD had announced that residents of the national capital will have to compulsorily geotag their properties if they wish to apply for tax exemptions. It had earlier announced that all 1.5 million property owners will have to geotag their assets by January 31.

Delhi to get 5th old age home in Paschim Vihar

New Delhi: Destitute senior citizens in the Capital will soon have another roof over their heads as the construction of a fifth old age home in West Delhi's Paschim Vihar is almost complete and will soon be operational. CM Arvind Kejriwal has granted formal approval to the old age home, named 'Savitribai Phule Senior Citizen Home', and the file has been sent to the Lieutenant Governor for notification. Currently, the city's four old-age homes accommodate around 505 elderly citizens.

Kalkaji stage collapse: Two organisers held

New Delhi: Police Tuesday arrested two event organisers for their "negligence", which led to the death of a 45-year-old woman after a makeshift stage at a jagran collapsed in Southeast Delhi's Kalkaji Mandir on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. The two organisers — Satish Kumar (38) and Anuj Mittal (48) — have been arrested, said DCP (Southeast) Rajesh Deo. **ENS**

MOST POLLUTED JANUARY SINCE 2018

Delhi's January weather report card: Unusually cold and highly polluted

MALLICA JOSHI
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

UNUSUALLY COLD and polluted — this is what January was for Delhiites this year. According to data on the national capital's air quality, this January has been the most polluted since 2018, with an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of around 354.

The city has also seen the coldest January days in at least 13 years, where the average maximum temperature was 17.7 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature, meanwhile, was the second lowest in as many years, with an average morning temperature of 6.2 degrees Celsius.

According to the AQI data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), before this year, the January of 2021 was the most polluted since 2018, with an average AQI of 324. This January has been significantly more polluted than the previous years (see box).

The city saw a total of three severely polluted days, with the highest AQI — 447 — being recorded on January 14. The number of very poor days was 26 while only one poor air qual-

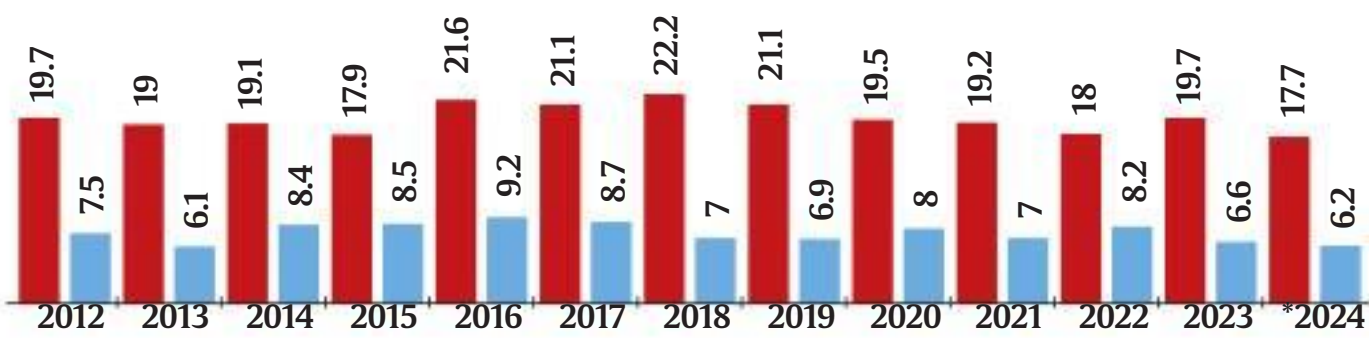


Praveen Khanna

AQI LEVELS FOR JAN OVER 7 YEARS

| YEAR | JAN |
|------|-----|
| 2018 | 328 |
| 2019 | 328 |
| 2020 | 286 |
| 2021 | 324 |
| 2022 | 279 |
| 2023 | 311 |
| 2024 | 354 |

AVERAGE TEMP FOR THE MONTH IN PAST 13 YEARS



Average max temperature in 2024 is lowest in at least 13 years
 Average min temperature in 2024 is second lowest in at least 13 years
 *data till January 30

ity day was recorded.

According to CPCB's parameters, AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and

401 and 500 "severe".

It is not a coincidence that pollution has been high in a month where temperatures have been low. According to experts, there is a direct relationship between the two, because

colder days have a tendency to be more polluted.

"This is because with a dip in temperature, the mixing height drops. Mixing height can be described as the height above the surface of the earth, where pol-

lutants, such as particulate matter, can be dispersed. Higher mixing height means the concentration of pollutants in air decreases since there is more space for dispersion," a senior official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The second reason for the high AQI is lack of rain. The city has not experienced a single day with recorded rain, with only a few parts of the city seeing traces.

This is the second consecutive month that Delhi has had a 100% rain deficit. The city usually receives around 8 mm of rain in December and around 20 mm in January. "Delhi, alongside the rest of north and northwest India, has been under a long dry spell with many parts of the country still waiting for snow. Wind speed has also been low, even as fog has persisted for long hours. The meteorological conditions have been very unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants," a Delhi environment department official said.

Tuesday's AQI was recorded as 357 (very poor); not much improvement is expected on Wednesday either. Although, light rain on Wednesday night and Thursday is likely to bring an improvement in air quality.



Renovation project delayed due to disruptions in the supply of raw material, say officials. Archive

Delhi airport's key runway to remain closed until Feb 2

UPASIKA SINGHAL
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

DELHI AIRPORT'S second runway — runway 28/10 — will remain closed till February 2, officials said.

Under renovation since September last year, the runway was due to be reopened on December 15. After a series of postponements, it was supposed to open on January 30.

However, DIAL said that several hurdles came in the way of finishing the project on time. Sources said the airport had a compressed timeline to finish the project after the G-20 Summit in September and before Low Visibility Procedure kicked in on December 15.

However, due to pollution concerns, the Delhi government implemented the GRAP-IV norms which disrupted the raw material supply chain for civil works. The Indian Express had reported earlier this month. There was also a delay in supply of runway lights due to supply chain complexities. Additionally, National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) cranes operating on the Dwarka Expressway on the Gurgaon side of Runway 3 (29R11L) presented a risk to low-flying aircrafts, especially in low-visibility conditions, said sources.

This caused further delays because even as take-offs could still take place in low-visibility conditions, it was near impossible to land due to the danger the cranes presented, the sources added.

According to DIAL sources, the cranes were removed a few days after the airport authority sent a letter to the NHAI reminding its actions that "compelled Delhi airport to down-

grade runway 3 from CAT III compliant to CAT I compliant".

The Delhi airport has four runways.

Dense fog impacts visibility, flight ops

On Tuesday morning, dense fog descended upon Delhi's Palam and Safdarjung stations, severely impacting visibility and disrupting flight operations.

At 5:30 am, visibility plummeted to a mere 50 meters, causing significant delays and cancellations. Two flights were diverted to Jaipur between 2:30 am and 5:30 am, airport authorities said.

The dense fog resulted in the delay of 82 flights and cancellation of five at arrivals, noted Flightradar24. Departures were also significantly affected, with 222 flights delayed and nine cancellations reported.

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) posted on X saying, "While landings and take-offs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected."

However, complaints against delays and cancellations have significantly dropped after January 14 and 15, when the airport reported 1,762 delayed flights and 288 cancelled flights across two days, officials said.

According to DIAL sources, this could be because the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) levied fines on Air India and SpiceJet airlines for not rostering trained pilots during heavy fog hours.

It then issued a directive to airlines that all CAT III trained pilots must be rostered during fog conditions, especially during early morning hours when the fog is at its heaviest.

'New age' cyber crimes: HC seeks Centre, RBI stand on PIL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday issued notice on a plea highlighting problems related to "new age" cyber crimes, such as "digital arrest" scams and "forging of court orders" including those of the Supreme Court as well as FIRs and arrest warrants, to extort "settlement money" from people.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora sought the stand of the respondents — the Centre, and RBI among others — in the matter, and kept the next hearing on

March 19. The public interest litigation (PIL) has sought directions to the authorities to frame guidelines for better coordination between the agencies and "swifter investigation" of cyber-crimes. The petitioners' advocates Akshya and Urvashi Bhatia have sought that the authorities in whose names the scams are being run should conduct an "awareness campaign". It has also sought directions for simplification of procedures to file complaints against cyber crimes.

In the previous hearing, the HC had observed that cyber-crime is a "genuine problem" and that the "whole policing system has to be reformed..."



REMEMBERING THE MARTYRS

Shots being fired from a cannon to mark Martyrs Day, at Connaught Place in New Delhi on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

SEDITION CASE

Decide Sharjeel Imam's bail plea in February, HC tells trial court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30



Imam was booked in 2022. File

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday directed the trial court to decide by next month Sharjeel Imam's bail plea relating to the 2020 riots case involving allegations of sedition.

Imam, who was booked in 2020 under sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and sedition among other offences, had moved the trial court last year seeking statutory bail for completing half of the maximum sentence of seven years for the offences allegedly committed by him. Imam's plea before the trial court is next listed on February 7.

A division bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Manoj Jain said, "...We direct the trial court to decide the applica-

tion within 10 days from the next date of hearing (in the trial court)."

The bench said in case Imam is denied bail by the trial court, he has the right to file an appeal on the grounds already mentioned in his appeal before the HC or on any other ground. Appearing for Imam, advocate Talib Mustafa submitted before the bench that out of "43 witnesses, 22 have been examined". He submitted that "four years out of a maximum sentence of seven years, if convicted," had been served by Imam, which is "over half of the sentence".

The HC was informed that although the trial court had reserved the order in September last year, the then presiding officer had been transferred and the matter was now before a new presiding officer.

Imam was booked for sedition for allegedly making inflammatory speeches at AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia with respect to the Citizenship Amendment Act. Later, Section 13 of the UAPA was invoked against him. He has been in judicial custody since January 28, 2020.

Imam had sought bail before the trial court under CrP Section 436A. The provision says a person can be released if they have spent more than half of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence. He argued he is entitled to be released on statutory bail as per CrP Section 436A as he had undergone over half (four years) of the maximum 7-year punishment under UAPA Section 13.

IN GREATER NOIDA

Secret meth lab running from house busted, 4 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

LAST YEAR, four men rented a "luxurious and lonely private" house at Alestonia Estate in Greater Noida's Chaii-3 and set about "cooking". The fact that the area was isolated meant no one got a whiff of what they were up to. Until this month, when police arrested them and busted their "secret meth lab".

The four men — Eze Uchenna James (49), Alitumofedi Shadrack (28), Ezelbe Emeka Chibuzo from Nigeria, and Ivo Osita from Kenya — were arrested for allegedly manufacturing and supplying

fine-quality Methamphetamine, senior officers said. DCP (Dwarka) Ankit Kumar said raw material amounting to 20.5 kg, including 1 kg of pseudoephedrine, was recovered. Describing the 'lab', officers said it had three rooms filled with gas cylinders and other cooking items. Sophisticated equipment, including a heating mantle machine and high-quality face masks, was also recovered.

According to police, it was a tip-off on November 27 last year, received by the Dwarka unit's anti-narcotics cell, that alerted them about Uchenna's involvement in a drug syndicate. Accordingly, a trap was laid and he was arrested; almost 70 grams of



The men had rented a house to run their ops: Police. Express

fine-quality Methamphetamine was also recovered.

Officers said Uchenna had

been previously arrested in a commercial drug case by the Narcotics Control Bureau of Punjab and had been convicted for 10 years by a court. He was later granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana HC.

Said the DCP, "During investigation, we found that Shadrack, an accomplice of Uchenna, was... the one who supplied Methamphetamine to the latter to sell in the market." He was arrested on January 11; police recovered 100 grams of the drug from him. "He had been previously arrested in a commercial drug case by the Punjab NCB and had been convicted for 10 years... He was out on bail," added the DCP. Chibuzo and Osita were later arrested.

An officer said, "They used to make the drug late at night... We are trying to trace their bank transactions to ascertain how much money they have made so far... We have sent their phones for forensics to trace numbers of those they supplied the drug to."

Officers said the drugs were to be distributed by the accused to their potential customers, mostly in Delhi-NCR. "If a high-profile customer was involved, they used to directly supply the drug to them or they had several middlemen to do the job," said an officer.

In May last year, police had busted two meth labs operating in a similar fashion in Greater Noida.

PROJECT PLANNED NEAR UPCOMING NOIDA AIRPORT IN JEWAR

Boney Kapoor-backed firm beats T-Series, Akshay to win bid for Film City

DHEERAJ MISHRA
 NOIDA, JANUARY 30

A FIRM backed by producer Boney Kapoor along with construction giant Bhutani Group have won the bid for the development of International Film City near the upcoming Noida Airport in Jewar, leaving behind a company backed by actor Akshay Kumar and production company T-Series.

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) on Tuesday said out of the four shortlisted companies for the final round, Bayview Projects LLP has been selected as the winner on the basis of highest gross rev-

enue share to the authority. YEIDA said that the company will provide it with 18% gross revenue share, which was the highest offer in the financial bid among the four companies.

Boney Kapoor is one of the designated partners of Bayview Projects LLP, which had submitted the bid along with the consortium of two other firms — Parmesh Construction Company Limited (Bhutani Group) and Noida Cyberpark Private Limited.

Besides, a company backed by Kumar — Supersonic Technobuild Private Limited, 04 Lions Films Private Limited (KC Bokadia), and Super Cassettes Industries Private Limited (T-Series) were among the finalists for the project.

However, Supersonic Technobuild could offer a gross revenue share of only 10.80% while T-series offered 5.27% and 04 Lions Films offered 15.12% to the authority.

Officials said that now the financial bid will be presented before the committee of secretaries following which it will be sent to the UP cabinet for final approval. After this, the Letter of Award will be issued to the highest bidder.

The Film City will come up in YEIDA's Sector-21, which is beside the Yamuna Expressway and around 4 km from the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar. Under the Phase-1 of the project, a total of 230 acres will be developed, which will include 75



Out of the 4 shortlisted firms for the final round, Bayview Projects LLP, has been selected as the winner on the basis of highest gross revenue share to the authority: YEIDA. Express

acres (33%) of commercial and 155 acres (67%) of industrial area. The estimated project cost is Rs 1,510 crore and the construction

period has been set at three years. A total of 1,000 acres have been identified for the complete project, out of which 220 acres is

WHAT THE FILM CITY WILL HAVE

- Filming facilities, including those for dubbing, editing, VFX, and hosting film festivals and premieres
- Film institute
- Amusement park/family recreation centre
- Hotels and restaurants
- Shopping mall
- Serviced residences
- Commercial offices

for commercial use while 780 acres is for industrial use.

In a meeting held at the higher level in Lucknow in August 2023, it was decided that the Film City will be developed in a phased manner instead of the entire 1,000-acre area being developed in one go. Besides, the concession period, i.e. lease of the land, has been increased to 90 years. Earlier, it was 60 years with an option to renew it for another 30 years.

The project is set to have filming facilities, studios, a film institute, an amusement park/family recreation centre, hotels and restaurants, retail shops, a shopping mall, serviced residences and commercial offices besides other filming and supporting assets. The

Film City will also have facilities for music production, dubbing, editing, VFX and special effects, film festival and premiere arenas.

On September 29, 2023, the authority had issued a global e-tender for the third time to develop the Film City on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

The first global tender for the Film City was floated in November, 2021. But due to no response from the bidders, the authority issued a second tender in October, 2022.

The deadline for this was extended up to February 14, 2023, followed by February 28, 2023, and then again to March 31, 2023, but no bid was received.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



ATTIRE, SATIRE

ACTOR-TURNED-POLITICIAN AND BJP's Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan found himself in a tricky situation on Sunday. Commenting on the actor at a public gathering in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said that when Kishan was well-dressed on screen "he looked like a hero to the people, but what will happen if he acts in tattered clothes?" This triggered a roar of laughter from the audience. The actor too was seen laughing with Adityanath, who then went on to praise him for entertaining the audience with his speeches and for working hard for the development of Gorakhpur in coordination with the MLAs. The CM then quipped that he had advised the MP to act alone in movies and not take any MLA with him.

QUOTA QUANDARY

TWO DAYS after the University Grants Commission's draft guidelines on implementing reservation in higher education went viral on social media and caused an outcry, the document was taken down from UGC's official website. Although there's no official word on whether the draft has been withdrawn, sources said it has been taken down since the deadline for public feedback ended Monday. The draft had led to an uproar over its chapter on deservingly reserved job positions in universities in exceptional cases. The government and the UGC later clarified that no quota posts in higher education would be opened to candidates from general category.

Chandigarh University Chancellor Satnam Sandhu nominated to RS

Mohali: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday nominated Chandigarh University Chancellor Satnam Singh Sandhu for the Rajya Sabha. Sandhu, who started his career as a reporter with vernacular news daily, entered the education sector in the 2000s and opened an engineering college named Chandigarh Group of Colleges in Landran on the outskirts of Mohali in 2001 and founded Chandigarh University in 2012. The son of a farmer, Sandhu struggled to attain education but became one of India's leading educationists, a Union Home Ministry notification said. He is actively involved in large-scale community efforts to improve health and wellness. **ENS**

'Neighbours need each other': EAM amid strained ties with Maldives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

AMID THE recent tension between India and the Maldives, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said "at the end of the day, neighbours need each other".

Speaking at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai on 'India's role in the global stage' and on his recently published book — *Why Bharat Matters* — Jaishankar said, "Every country has problems in the neighbourhood... eventually they reach an understanding... It is in the nature of politics that we take strong stands, but diplomacy works differently."

To a question on the 'India Out' campaign in the Maldives, Jaishankar urged the audience to "trust" Indian diplomacy.

On the crisis in the Red Sea, the minister said that the Indian Navy has deployed 10 ships in that region. Sharing how INS



Foreign Minister S Jaishankar at IIM Mumbai, Tuesday. Express

Visakhapatnam extinguished a fire onboard a commercial oil tanker, the Union minister added that the Indian Navy rescued Pakistani and Iranian fishermen. "We will not be considered a responsible country when bad things are happening in the surrounding country and we say I have got nothing to do with this," he said.

Jaishankar spoke about how his new book connects various diplomacy lessons with the

Ramayana and urged the youth to take an interest in foreign policy. "In today's globalised world, foreign policy matters to all of you," he said.

When a student asked how an MBA-degree holder can really matter when it comes to foreign policy, Jaishankar said, "A large part of how the international economy will work is on how you build connections, businesses, logistics and supply chain management — how they work in real life, which is the

forte of your institute."

He also spoke about how the perception of India in the world is based on their experiences. Sharing how Indians heading global tech giants, banks etc will make the world think about it, he said, "Branding of the country is really important in geopolitics and networking."

Talking about the Israel-Gaza situation, the minister said, "What happened on October 7 was a terrorist attack (by Hamas against Israel). As a country which has experienced so much terrorism, it is important that we recognise and accept it." Adding that there are various aspects to this crisis and a viable solution should be found, Jaishankar also acknowledged the civilian casualties and said, "There has to be a sustainable humanitarian corridor."

Speaking about the common victim bonding among colonised countries in the global south, he said that India is looked at as one of these countries that shows strong development.

Capital, tech boost from US can help India achieve goal of developed nation: Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE "CAPITAL and technological know-how" from the US can help India to achieve its goal of becoming a developed country by 2047 and investments here can give American companies high returns and an avenue of de-risking, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

He was addressing a conference on 'Strengthening Indo-US Relationship in Amrit Kaal - Atmanirbhar Bharat' organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) here.

The minister said the government has laid the groundwork for a strong and self-reliant new India, and the American investments can play a vital role in realising



Rajnath Singh at IACC meet in New Delhi, Tuesday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Calling it a win-win situation for both the countries, he noted that India's fast-growing economy, its demographic dividend, skilled workforce and huge domestic market guarantee high returns to American companies.

He said to deal with the challenges faced by the rules-based

international order and maintain strategic autonomy, it will be necessary for American businesses to de-risk by investing in India.

The conference was attended by US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti and representatives of IACC, and was aimed at exploring ways to enhance bilateral trade, investments and collaboration in the context of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, which emphasises promoting domestic manufacturing.

Calling India and the US "natural partners", Singh said "we must move forward together in both business and strategic sectors amidst the current global geopolitical scenario". "India and the US support a free, open and rules-based international order. Due to this, there is a lot of alignment in our strategic interests," he said.

Two killed in heavy firing in Imphal West

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, JANUARY 30

AT LEAST two persons from the Meitei community were killed and three injured on Tuesday in heavy firing in the Kadangband and Koutruk areas of Manipur's Imphal West district, close to the border with the Kuki-Zomi dominated Kangpokpi district. Sources said the gunfire started around 2.30 pm and lasted several hours.

The two deceased were identified as 25-year-old Meishnam Khaba from Bishnupur district, and 33-year-old Nongthombam Michael from Imphal East district. Of the three injured, one is reportedly BJP's former Manipur youth president Barish Sharma.

Muizzu should apologise to India, PM Modi: Maldives opposition party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALE, JANUARY 30

GASUJIM IBRAHIM, leader of the opposition Jumhoori Party, has urged Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu to formally apologise to India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and seek "diplomatic reconciliation" to mend bilateral relations.

Ibrahim's demand referred to remarks by Muizzu — regarded as pro-China — earlier in the month referring to India as a bully without naming the country.

Amid a diplomatic row with India that erupted after derogatory social media posts by three of his ministers against Prime Minister Modi, President Muizzu on his return home after a five-day high-profile state visit to China on January 13 said, "We may be small but this doesn't give them the licence to bully us."

Incidentally, the demand comes a day after the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) on Monday said it plans to submit a motion to impeach Muizzu.

Muizzu, 45, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held last September.

Gasuim, while speaking with media after a meeting of the Jumhoori Party (JP), called on President Muizzu to formally apologise to India and Prime Minister Modi for the recent controversial remarks made during an interview, the Voice of Maldives portal said.

Expressing concern over the comments, Gasuim urged President Muizzu to seek forgiveness from India for the indirect attacks made in the interview, the digital platform said.

Gasuim attributed those unwarranted remarks to former President Abdulla Yameen, who initiated the "India Out" cam-

IMPEACHMENT RULES: GOVT MOVES COURT

Male: Even as the main opposition announced its plan to impeach Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, the government has approached the Supreme Court over the recent amendment to Parliament's standing orders which makes the process of impeachment easier, according to media reports.

The Attorney General's Office filed the case on Sunday, the same day when clashes broke out in the House between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers following differences over the approval of four members of cabinet.

The main opposition MDP, which holds a majority in Parliament, amended Parliament's standing orders so that vacated seats aren't counted when determining the total number of MPs.

Parliament currently requires 54 votes to impeach President Muizzu, instead of the previous 58, as, according to the amendment, the total number of MPs is now 80, instead of 87. **PTI**

campaign leading to tensions between Maldives and India, and pointed out that former President Ibrahim Solih, who was the president at that time, "delayed in opposing the campaign".

After his return from China, Muizzu also suggested reducing dependence on India in various areas, including medical services and medicines. Gasuim said Muizzu proposed ending the import of general medicines from India and exploring alternatives from Europe, America, or countries of origin for the medicine

UCWL: Pioneering efforts for building a sustainable tomorrow

ADVERTORIAL

UDAIPUR Cement Works Ltd. (UCWL) is a part of JK Organisation, which embodies a perfect blend of a rich legacy of over 100 years and a modern work culture. JK Organisation is contributing to national growth with its presence in the sectors — tyre, paper, cement, automotive transmission system, agri-genetics, dairy products and education, etc. It has been in the cement business for over four decades and distinguishes itself based on its innovative practices and initiatives aimed at customer satisfaction.

The well-known brand continues to push the boundaries and tap the immense potential for development in the country's infrastructure and construction sectors while continuing to be a resilient performer despite the constantly evolving challenges of the cement sector.

The Company has integrated cement manufacturing unit with an installed cement production capacity of 2.2 million tons per annum (MTPA) and with the ongoing expansion plan, it will ramp up to 4.7 million tons per annum (MTPA). UCWL manufactures world-class cement under the brand name — Platinum Heavy Duty Cement, which is made using the latest superior PSD Technology & Platinum Supremo cement which is known as a roof specialist. It provides several benefits to consumers, including 10% more volume, high initial strength, superior workability and fast setting. Furthermore, UCWL has a strong network of about 650 cement dealers spread in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

UCWL upholds the highest levels of system standards such as ISO Certification for Environment (14001), Occupational Health and Safety (45001), Energy (50001) and Quality Management (9001) Systems. Going beyond the general industry practice, the Company has also inventoried its carbon and water footprint as per ISO 14064-1 and ISO 14046.

Led by the Integrated Sustainable Development Policy for its system structures, UCWL has ingrained "Sustainable Development" as one of the key ethos of its daily business activities. The Company's working principles have been aligned to contribute to the Nation's commitment to meet the United Nations — Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs). Some of the key sustainability initiatives of



Aggressively pushing for green energy, UCWL has attained 48% total renewable energy consumption of total electrical energy requirement in FY 22-23.

Mr. Shrivats Singhania
Director and CEO,
Udaipur Cement Works
Limited

the Company have been highlighted below. **Product decarbonization and reducing carbon footprint**

The transportation of raw materials and finished goods and cement production, are the main sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from UCWL's activities. Hence, its primary focus is to produce goods with minimal carbon footprint. Differentiating the Company's offering with low-carbon products is a major pillar of its decarbonization roadmap. Its climate change opportunities assessment has highlighted products and services as the most significant opportunity. The Company's cement product portfolio includes low-clinker content products, prepared using materials like flyash, slag, limestone, chemical gypsum and pozzolana. These products reduce carbon footprint and minimize energy and raw material consumption in cement manufacturing. The Company has a product-mix of 73% blended cement against total cement production.



To understand its emissions and develop effective mitigation strategies, the Company conducts comprehensive assessments based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

By addressing prioritized areas, the Company aims to proactively reduce its environmental impact and contribute to a sustainable and resilient future.

The installation of a 6-kilometer-long Over the Land Belt Conveyor (OLBC) helps offset the carbon footprint by reducing the usage of natural fuel and replacing the local transportation (Dumper movement). The Company's plant has implemented on-site solar power facilities for captive use to reduce carbon impact. With trees being known for their effective GHG emissions reduction, the organisation has distributed free trees and plants along with tree guards in nearby residences, schools, and villages under its plantation drive. Udaipur Cement Works aligns its goals and commitments with the pledges made

by the country at COP26 in 2021 and actively participates in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Voluntary Carbon Standards (VCS), now Verra program, registered under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Climate change

The Company embraces a resource utilization philosophy focused on maximizing efficiency — getting more out of less. UCWL has minimized energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through improved processes and fuel usage. It has a commitment to achieving zero waste to landfill, zero effluent discharge, and reduced water usage, which aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals while encompassing the promotion of labour rights, human rights, and fighting corruption. To combat climate change, the Company is transitioning to alternative fuels and raw materials. It is also implementing solar and waste heat recovery systems (WHRS). UCWL has a 6 MW Waste Heat Recovery Power Plant and 15.5

MW Solar Power Plants (incl. Floating Solar). Through co-processing, the Company utilizes various industrial wastes as direct replacements for virgin raw materials, minimizing environmental risks. 27% of its sourced raw materials (Flyash, Gypsum, and Slag) are industrial waste materials and effectively replace the need for an equivalent amount of virgin natural resources in cement production.

Circular economy

The Company is committed to the principles of the circular economy by minimizing, reusing, recycling, and recovering materials and energy. It has taken initiatives to conserve natural resources, reduce CO2 emissions, and effectively manage waste. All hazardous waste generated from auxiliary processes, such as used oil and grease, are recycled by recyclers approved by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. Furthermore, the Company has also obtained authorization to co-process the waste and by-products of other industries to minimize potentially unscientific disposal. Solid organic waste is transformed into compost and vermicompost, which are high in nutrients and utilized in horticulture as manure. Domestic wastewater is treated in the Company's Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), and the treated water is utilized for plantation and greenbelt creation.

Water positivity

Being a resource-responsible corporate, the Company has done considerable work in water conservation and stands almost 3.6 times water positive, wherein it has saved about 4.11 lakh tons of virgin natural resources by replacing them with other industrial waste-derived raw materials in the process.

Corporate Social Responsibility and strengthening engagement with customers and supply chain

UCWL proactively invests in nurturing its social and relationship capital, which is deeply ingrained in the way it conducts its business by fostering trust and goodwill and creating opportunities for all stakeholders.

The Company's approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is based on designing and delivering stakeholder-specific need-based projects, tracking of impact through project-based key performance indicators (KPIs) and partnering with like-minded organizations for resource leveraging and knowledge sharing.



Alongside prioritizing product quality, customer satisfaction and innovation, UCWL emphasizes sustainable growth and a developmental framework for creating a better tomorrow.

Mr. Naveen Sharma
Whole Time Director, Udaipur
Cement Works Limited.

With a total of over 70,000 CSR beneficiaries, UCWL's CSR projects are creating opportunities, promoting sustainable development, and uplifting the quality of life for individuals and families through multiple projects in the thematic areas of Education, Health and Sanitation, Livelihoods and Skilling, Rural Infrastructure Development and Environmental Conservations.

Strong ethical and responsible governance

UCWL governance performance is grounded in an effective board composition, transparent ownership structure and a commitment to regulatory disclosures. The comprehensive code of conduct policy extends to suppliers, reinforcing ethical practices throughout the supply chain. Additionally, the Company has robust policies addressing biodiversity, sustainable sourcing, water management, climate impact management and a host of other issues related to ESG and Sustainability.

6 GOVT & POLITICS

OPPOSITION ALLIANCE PUTS UP A BIG SHOW IN BIHAR

Rahul breaks silence, says Nitish went to BJP as he was against caste survey



Prashant Kishor: 'Will quit politics if JDU gets more seats'

PK predicts less than 20 seats for JDU in Assembly polls next year

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JANUARY 30

REACTING TO the latest power-shift in Bihar, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who previously planned CM Nitish Kumar's election campaign, Tuesday predicted that Kumar's JDU won't be able to win more than 20 seats in the next Assembly election as people in the state were "full of anger".

He said Kumar's decision to side with the BJP was driven by fear that JDU's tally of seats won't cross five if it remained in Mahagathbandhan with the Congress, Left parties and RJD.

"Today, I am making another prediction — if his party is not reduced to less than 20 seats in 2025 polls in any alliance, I will quit politics," Kishor, colloquially known as PK, told reporters during his padyatra in Begusarai.

Kishor, who heads the Jan Suraj campaign, was Kumar's strategist in 2015 when the Mahagathbandhan won 178 seats in the 243-seat House. In 2018, he joined JDU and became its vice-president only to be expelled shortly after he criticised the party's decision to back the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Commenting on the JDU chief's U-turn, Kishor said it had angered the people of Bihar who would "avenge it".

"If there is one leader against whom people are full of anger, it is Nitish Kumar... Nitish Kumar might well be thinking that he was very smart, but the truth remains that he was full of guile. He had been trying to befool the 13 crore people of Bihar who would avenge this in the next Assembly elections," he said.

Asked to comment on Kishor's remarks, JDU spokesperson Neeraj Kumar told *The Indian Express*: "We can understand his desperation after we came back to NDA. Let him first prove himself in politics."

ATRI MITRA PURNEA, JANUARY 30

ON THE second day of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Bihar, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi broke his silence on JDU's supremo Nitish Kumar, saying that his return to the BJP-led NDA was prompted by the fact that he did not want to carry out a caste survey. Claiming that as allies, they had forced the Chief Minister's hand, Rahul said "we don't need Nitish Kumar".

Two days after Nitish's U-turn to the NDA on Sunday dealt a body blow to the Opposition's INDIA alliance, Rahul said at the Mahagathbandhan mega rally here in Bihar: "Hum apko samjhaate hain Nitishji kahan farse (I will explain to you how Nitishji got trapped). We told him that you have to do a caste survey, we can't let you off on that. He was forced to do the caste survey. Then he came under pressure from the other side because the BJP did not want a caste count. Nitishji beech mein fars gaye (Nitishji got caught in the middle). Then the BJP showed him a way and he went there. This (a caste census) is our responsibility, and we will im-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Purnea, Bihar. Partha Paul

plement it."

The Congress leader added that it was clear now that, apply a little pressure, and "Nitish makes a U-turn". The caste survey confirmed the Yadavs as the largest single group in Bihar, and EBCs as the largest social constituency, in what was seen as a boost to both the RJD and JDU's political planks.

The Congress, RJD and Left put up a show of strength at

Purnea, which was held as part of Rahul's Yatra.

While Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was expected to attend, he could not make it in time and a recorded speech of his was played. Apart from Rahul, the Congress leaders present included former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, Jairam Ramesh, Kanhaiya Kumar, Imran Pratapgarhi, as well as state unit

leaders Akhilesh Singh, Tariq Anwar, Shakeel Ahmed and Ranjita Ranjan.

Among the Left leaders, CPI (M-L) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, whose party has a good presence in Bihar, was among the senior-most names.

"Every day, our Constitution is being attacked. We have to stay together and fight against this," he said.

As ED questions Tejashwi, top RJD leaders skip Cong rally

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JANUARY 30

FORMER BIHAR deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday for questioning in connection with the central agency's money laundering probe into the alleged land-for-jobs scam.

Tejashwi arrived at the ED office in Patna on Tuesday morning, a day after his father, former CM Lalu Prasad, was questioned for over nine hours in connection with the same case.

The RJD said the case was part of the Centre's "sustained political vendetta" against Opposition parties, and also questioned the timing of the ED's move, as it came amid Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's yatra, which is currently in its Bihar leg.

Top RJD leaders decided to stay put in Patna in view of the ED's questioning of Lalu and Tejashwi, and skipped Rahul's rally in Purnea. At the rally, the RJD was represented by its MP Ashfaq Karim.

RJD's Rajya Sabha MPs Misa Bharati and Manoj Kumar Jha, as well as its former ministers Sameer Kumar Mahaseth and Ramanand Yadav, were at the ED office amid Tejashwi's questioning. They were also joined there by several RJD workers. "The ED's questioning is nothing but an act of political vendetta. There has been a lack of transparency in the ED's questioning method, as we are not getting information on the duration of questioning. But one can see the overwhelming public reaction against it. The NDA government has started the political vendetta onslaught, and someone will end it," Jha told reporters.

SP blindsides Cong, names 16 candidates for Lok Sabha polls

| FIRST LIST, SECOND SURPRISE | |
|--|--|
| DIMPLE YADAV MAINPURI Akhilesh Yadav's wife, she won the bypoll from here in 2022 after the death of party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. | RAJA RAM PAL AKBARPUR A former BSP MP. |
| AKSHAY YADAV FIROZABAD Son of the SP chief's uncle and RS MP Ram Gopal Yadav. | LALJI VERMA AMBEDKAR NAGAR A top Kurmi leader who left BSP for SP in 2022. |
| DHARMENDRA YADAV BADAUN A cousin of Akhilesh's, he lost Azamgarh in 2022. | Gorakhpur (Bhojpur actor Kaajal Nishad); Banda (Shivshankar Singh Patel); Farukhabad (Naval Kishore Shukla); Kheri (Utkarsh Verma); Faizabad (Awadhesh Prasad); Basti (Ram Prasad Chaudhary); Etah (Devesh Shukla); Sambhal (Shafiqur Rahman Barq); Lucknow (Ravidas Mehrotra); Dhaurahra (Anand Bhaduria) |
| ANU TANDON UNNAO Former Congress MP from Unnao. | |

Cong leader says 'cheated', SP leader responds: 'No one was kept in dark'

ASAD REHMAN & LALMANI VERMA LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, JAN 30

THREE DAYS after the Samajwadi Party (SP) announced that it had allotted 11 seats in Uttar Pradesh to the Congress for the Lok Sabha elections, the Akhilesh Yadav-led party on Tuesday announced candidates for 16 Lok Sabha seats, taking the Congress by surprise. With this, the SP became the first major political party to announce candidates for the parliamentary elections.

Many state Congress leaders said this was the SP's "pressure tactic" to get their party to agree to its seat-sharing offer and that the announcement made without informing their leadership had blindsided it. While SP leaders insist that Akhilesh has already "finalised" seat-sharing, the Congress claims talks are still on.

Responding to the SP move, a senior Congress leader said, "At least four of these seats were supposed to go to us and the SP has blindsided us by announcing candidates without keeping

us in the loop. The SP doesn't seem interested in defeating the BJP. Our central leadership will decide what will be done next."

The Congress functionary said Kheri, Ayodhya, Lucknow, and Farukhabad for which the SP announced candidates were supposed to go to his party. "You should ask the SP leadership why they have cheated us like this," said the leader.

"I would not like to comment on the decision of the SP to announce seats. It is up to the central leadership to comment on it," AICC general secretary Avinash Pande, the UP in-charge, told *The Indian Express*.

Defending his party's decision, SP national spokesperson Rajendra Choudhary said that "no one has been kept in the dark".

He said, "The announcement has been done because the party's candidates will need time to prepare for the elections." Former SP MLC and national spokesperson Udaiveer Singh told, "Seat-sharing talks with the Congress are still ongoing and if they can give us candidates who can win seats in the state, we will give it to them."

As Mamata intensifies attack on Congress, Adhir fires fresh salvo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, JANUARY 30

SIGNALLING THE widening rift with INDIA bloc partners — Congress and CPI(M) — West Bengal CM on Tuesday urged people to unite under her party, the TMC, banner to defeat what she called the Congress-CPI(M)-BJP nexus in the state.

Banerjee, who held a padyatra in Chopra and Islampur, days after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's yatra passed through the same towns of West Bengal, said: "It is the TMC that is fighting for the rights of the people of



Mamata Banerjee in South Dinajpur on Tuesday. PTI

the state. We must unite to defeat the Congress-CPI(M)-BJP nexus in Bengal."

Banerjee's remarks against

Congress and CPI(M) came on a day when West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury fired a fresh salvo at the TMC accusing it of "creating hurdles" in the Yatra's way in Bengal and vowing to continue raising corruption issues.

Rahul's Yatra is set to reenter West Bengal on Wednesday via Malda. "If there is theft in West Bengal, shall I say it is not happening?... Can't we call people involved in corruption corrupt," Chowdhury, who has been accused by the TMC of straining the ties between the two parties, told mediapersons in Murshidabad.

Nitish-BJP govt to seek trust vote on Feb 10

Patna: The new NDA government in Bihar led by CM Nitish Kumar will seek a trust vote in the assembly on February 10, according to a notification issued on Tuesday.

The government will seek the trust vote on the first day of the Budget session after the customary address by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to both Houses of the legislature, the notification said.

Kumar took oath as chief minister of Bihar for a record ninth time on Sunday after a dramatic volte-face, ditching the INDIA grouping, and forming the new government with BJP. PTI

Foreign Secy calls on Bhutan King, PM; talks on boosting 'unique ties'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FOREIGN SECRETARY Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Tuesday called on Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and discussed ways to further deepen the "unique ties of friendship" between the two nations.

Kwatra is on a three-day trip since Monday, in the first high-level visit from India after the formation of a new government under People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Tshering Tobgay.

"An honour to receive the audience from His Majesty the King of Bhutan and benefit from his guidance on ways to further deepen the India-Bhutan unique ties of friendship," he posted on X.

On Monday, Kwatra called on PM Tobgay at his office. During the meeting, they discussed various areas of cooperation between Bhutan and India.



Foreign Secy Vinay Mohan Kwatra with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. X/@indiaibhutan

Tobgay also hosted a dinner for the Foreign Secretary and his delegation at his residence.

Kwatra's visit comes against the backdrop of China and Bhutan looking at an expeditious resolution of their festering boundary row that could have implications for India's security interests.

Corruption perceptions index: India at 93 among 180 countries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDIA ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index (CPI) for 2023, according to the latest report released by Transparency International.

The index, which lists countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, ranked Denmark at the top, followed by Finland, New Zealand and Norway.

The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. In 2023, India's overall score was 39 while in 2022, it was 40. India's rank in 2022 was 85. In the Asian region, Singapore ranked at the top, scoring 83 and occupying the fifth slot.

"India (39) shows score fluctuations small enough that no firm conclusions can be drawn on any significant change. However, ahead of the elections,

... [A]head of elections, India sees further narrowing of civic space, including through the passage of a (telecom) Bill that could be a 'grave threat' to fundamental rights..."

REPORT BY TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

India sees further narrowing of civic space, including through the passage of a (telecommunication) Bill that could be a 'grave threat' to fundamental rights," the report said.

While western Europe and the European Union remained the top-scoring regions, its regional average score dropped to 65 this year, as checks and balances weakened and political integrity eroded, the report said.

In South Asia, both Pakistan (rank 133) and Sri Lanka (rank 115) are grappling with their re-

spective debt burdens and ensuing political instability, it said.

"However, the two countries have strong judicial oversight, which is helping to keep the government in check. The Supreme Court of Pakistan strengthened citizens' right to information by expanding this right under Article 19A of its Constitution to previously restricted institutions," it said.

Noting that China (rank 76) has made headlines with its aggressive anti-corruption crackdown by punishing more than 3.7 million public officials for graft over the last decade, the report said the country's heavy reliance on punishment rather than institutional checks on power raises doubts over the long-term effectiveness of such anti-corruption measures.

The bottom of the index included Myanmar (162), Afghanistan (162) and North Korea (172). At rank 180 was Somalia with the lowest score of 11.

ROW OVER CHANDIGARH MAYORAL ELECTION

Opp slams BJP win: 'Imagine what they can do for LS polls'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

OPPOSITION parties on Tuesday attacked the BJP over the controversial Chandigarh mayoral election results and expressed apprehension that the party may go to any extent to win the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Alleging brazen misuse of electoral machinery at the behest of the BJP in the Chandigarh mayoral polls, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said it will further erode the confidence of people in free and fair elections. "As I said yesterday, 2024 is the last chance for us to save democracy. If we do not come together to save it from the BJP, our future generations shall repent. On Gandhi-jis Martyrs' Day, Godse worshipper BJP has murdered democracy and all ethos of the Constitution," Kharge said.



Gandhi said it was beyond imagination what the BJP, "which can kill democracy in front of the whole world in the mayor elections", will do to remain in power in Delhi (Lok Sabha elections). "Years ago, on this day, Godse assassinated Gandhi-ji and today Godseists sacrificed his ideals and constitutional values," Rahul said.

CPI general secretary D Raja said "BJP's lust for power" was most evident in Chandigarh. He said rejecting eight votes of councillors belonging to the INDIA bloc shows their desperation. "People should see that if BJP can stoop this low for a mayoralship, what extent can they go to in Parliament elections," Raja said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav said the manner in which the BJP "misused its power and rigged the elections to win by putting pressure on the officials despite not having majority in the Chandigarh mayor elections, the Election Commission and the Supreme Court should immediately take cognizance of the same, should cancel these results, conduct elections under their supervision, declare rational results and take punitive action against those guilty of this democratic crime".

"The BJP is swallowing democracy. Such brutality of power will prove to be very dangerous for the country," he said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and TMC MP and national spokesperson Saket Gokhale also condemned what they described as the manipulated of the Chandigarh mayor elections.

Tamil star 'Thalapathy' Vijay set to launch party, eye on 2026 TN Assembly polls

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, JANUARY 30

TAMIL FILM superstar Vijay is poised to take the plunge into politics, becoming the latest addition to Tamil Nadu's cinema-politics landscape, sources indicated on Tuesday. The actor plans to register his yet-unnamed political party in New Delhi in the first week of February.

Sources close to the actor said the party's registration was imminent, setting the stage for Vijay's potential debut in the 2026 Assembly polls, rather than contesting the coming Lok Sabha

elections. Sources said the actor's registered fan group Vijay Makkal Iyakkam, which engages in many social welfare activities, is being converted into a full-fledged political party. The reach of the party, according to people close to the actor, is expected to extend beyond Tamil Nadu given his strong and organised fan base in Kerala and Karnataka.

Insiders said the party's formation was in a phase of meticulous preparation at the moment. "More administrative work is happening now, collecting Aadhar cards, voter IDs, and affidavits from over 100 people declaring they are not associated

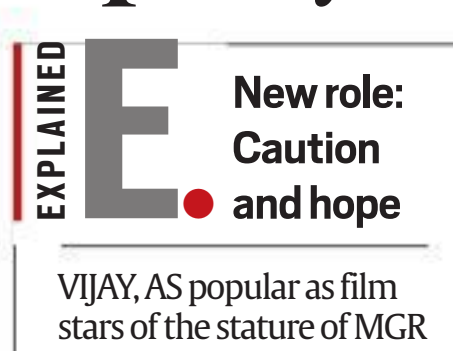
with any other political outfits, to be submitted to the Election Commission in Delhi sometime around next week," said a source close to the actor.

In the Tamil film industry, Vijay, popularly referred to by his fans as Thalapathy (Commander), is often regarded as second only to Rajinikanth in terms of his mass appeal and has long been perceived as a shy figure, an image at odds with his on-screen action-hero persona. His imminent foray into politics is a significant departure from his characteristic reticence, signalling a new chapter in his career. Vijay will join a long list of



Superstar Vijay. Instagram/@actorvijay

actor-turned-politicians in Tamil Nadu that includes M G Ramachandran, popularly known as MGR, Sivaji Ganesan, Jayalalitha, the late Captain Vijayakanth, and Kamal Haasan.



VIJAY, AS popular as film stars of the stature of MGR or Rajinikanth, commands a fandom much above Kamal Hassan's or even the late Captain Vijayakanth's. Many politicians, thus, are cautious of his foray into politics, although others anticipate it to boost alternative voices in the state.

The 49-year-old actor is notably younger than the average politician in the state. He will be among a group of young politicians such as DMK's Udhayanidhi Stalin (46) and state BJP president K Annamalai (38). In this group, film director-turned-aggressive Tamil nationalist Seeman, the 57-year-old leader of the Naam Tamilar Katchi, is the eldest.

Vijay's decision to enter politics has always been linked to his ambitious father and film director S A Chandrasekhar. A direct indication of his plans first surfaced last June, many months after he distanced himself from his

father, when he attended a student rally in Chennai. There, he urged school students to ask their parents not to accept cash for votes from politicians and to educate themselves about leaders such as BR Ambedkar, Periyar EV Ramasamy, and K Kamaraj, sparking broad discussion.

Given that he is younger and as popular as film stars of the stature of MGR or Rajinikanth, and commands a fandom much above Kamal Hassan or even the late Captain Vijayakanth, top politicians have been cautious in responding to rumours about his political entry when the reports surfaced. Figures from AIADMK

leader Edappadi Palaniswami to Udhayanidhi to Annamalai have seemingly welcomed his move. Seeman even anticipated Vijay's entry as a boost to alternative voices in state politics.

Rajinikanth's political entry was aborted by the star himself three years ago. In comparison, Vijay is on comparatively safer ground, buoyed by fans from diverse age groups, unlike the older demographic of Rajinikanth's fan base. Vijay's strong Tamil identity also distinguishes him as Rajinikanth's Marathi roots and links with BJP-RSS have been points of contention in TN, where Dravidian politics is dominant.

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI
Army dismisses soldier for desertion

New Delhi: The Army has dismissed from service a soldier for initiating a disinformation campaign on social media platforms against the Army and also for unauthorised absence from the Army Signal Training Centre at Jabalpur, officials said Tuesday. Signalman Harendra Kumar Yadav was found guilty and sentenced to 89 days of rigorous imprisonment and dismissal from service, effective 3 January 2024. As per officials, Yadav's actions involved filming training activities and portraying them falsely as mistreatment. He was designated as a deserter in March 2023. "He filmed training activities secretly and misrepresented them as punishment and ill-treatment being meted out to soldiers. He also deserted himself and did not rejoin the service," an official said. **ENS**

GOA
Gujarat man detained for bomb hoax

Panaji: A 38-year-old passenger, travelling from Goa to Ahmedabad, was detained by Goa police for allegedly causing panic at the Manohar International Airport in Mopa after he claimed that he was carrying a bomb during the security check on Monday, police said. Officials said the claim was found to be a 'hoax'. Police said Vimal Prajapati (38) was to take the Spicejet flight when he told the staff at the check-in counter that he was carrying a bomb. "CISF officials and the Bomb Detection Disposal Squad (BDDS) cordoned off the area and carried out an anti-sabotage check but no suspicious item was found. The accused person was detained for questioning and an FIR was lodged," said a police officer. **ENS**

KARNATAKA
Assistant loco pilot arrested for stealing

Bengaluru: Railway Police arrested a 33-year-old assistant loco pilot for allegedly stealing valuables of passengers at night. The accused has been identified as Pudi Swaraj, a resident of Sakleshpur in Hassan district. Police have recovered goods worth Rs 3.3 lakh that includes laptops, gold ornaments, mobile phones and others. A police officer said on January 25, Swaraj was caught red-handed with some stolen items at Sakleshpur railway station. Swaraj confessed to the crime and when police searched his house, they found more stolen items. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA
CBI files closure report in case against ex-cop

Mumbai: More than two years after an extortion case was registered against former Mumbai police commissioner Parambir Singh and four others, the CBI on Tuesday submitted a closure report in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Thane. The agency informed the court that facts and circumstances do not substantiate the allegations by the complainant. According to police, the case was registered on July 23, 2021, on the complaint of real estate businessman Sharad Agarwal. He alleged that Singh, along with others namely Sanjay Punamiya, Sunil Jain, Manoj Ghotkar and DCP Parag Manere, extorted money and possessions by threatening to lodge a false case under MCOCA against his uncle Shyam Sundar Agarwal. **ENS**

GYANVAPI CASE

Mosque panel on ASI report: Will submit objections after getting historians' views

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 30

REACTING SHARPLY to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) report on the Gyanvapi mosque complex, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee, which runs the mosque in Varanasi, has said they are studying the report and would submit objections to it in court after getting opinions from historians.

S M Yasin, joint secretary, Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, said on Tuesday, "We have sent copies of the ASI report to five historians, including some non-Muslim ones. We will wait for their opinion and we have started having conversations with Buddhists here in Varanasi. They also claim that a lot of signs and objects found at the mosque belong to their faith. We have also sent copies (of the report) to our lawyers and after we have received opinion from the historians, we will sit with them and draft our objections to the report."

The ASI, tasked by the Varanasi district court to ascertain whether



The ASI report was made public on Thursday. File

the mosque was "constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple", has concluded that a temple "appears to have been destroyed in the 17th century, during the reign of Aurangzeb and part of it... modified and reused in the existing structure". The ASI report — which has four volumes — was made public on Thursday after copies of it were handed over to the Hindu and Muslim litigants by the court.

Asked about the ASI report concluding that the mosque was built over a pre-existing temple, Yasin said, "They are saying this. We say it is wrong and the remains found there are actually of

HC to hear plea challenging suit maintainability on February 22

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday fixed February 22 for hearing a plea regarding maintainability of a suit seeking removal of Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura, which it claims has been built

on 13.37 acre land of Katra Keshav Deo temple. While passing the order, Justice Mayank Kumar Jain said objections to the plea challenging maintainability of the suit have to be filed before Feb 22. **PTI**

the mosque. Can they do a scientific evaluation from photographs? They didn't collect any samples and get them tested at a laboratory. How can they reach a conclusion based on photographs?"

"We have got historical books which state that the mosque was built in the 15th century before Humayun's reign. The document/book is in Persian, which states that Sheikh Suleimani Mohaddis had got this (Gyanvapi) mosque built on an empty plot of land. It seems that there may have been some Buddhist structure there. The whole of Varanasi was a major centre for Buddhists till the Shankaracharya arrived in

Varanasi. Sheikh Suleimani Mohaddis, who hailed from Jaunpur and was a wealthy man, had built two mosques — one in Varanasi and one in Jaunpur which is still there," added Yasin.

He claimed that it was Emperor Akbar, who expanded the mosque under the philosophy of Din-e-ilahai, and then, in the third phase, it was Aurangzeb who expanded the mosque. "We also have an issue with the ASI report quoting from the book Maasir-i-Alamgiri. They (ASI) have used a translation of the book, but where is the original. We want the original book to be quoted and not a translation," he said.

Centre: 718 snow leopards in India; two-thirds of them in Ladakh

New Delhi: India has an estimated 718 snow leopards with Ladakh reporting the maximum number (477) of these cats, the Union Environment Ministry said on Tuesday. The Wildlife Institute of India carried out the first-ever 'Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India' with the

support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners — the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and WWF-India — between 2019 and 2023.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released the report during the National Board for Wildlife meeting Tuesday. **PTI**

Kashmir sarpanches call for panchayat polls at the earliest

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 30

WITH THE tenure of panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir coming to an end earlier this month, and no announcement on fresh elections, sarpanches of several villages have raised concerns on the "vacuum" that could be created by a lack of local elected leadership that residents find approachable.

Calling for panchayat polls at the earliest, sarpanches of several villages told *The Indian Express* that a system had evolved in which panchayats were performing efficiently to deal with local issues.

"I was able to get a lot of work done with the funds we were getting. We prioritised flood control in our area that had been pending for a long time. We also put new transformers in place," said Qayoom Mir, who was sarpanch of Pohnu in South Kashmir.

Even now, after the five-year tenure of 4,892 elected panchayats ended on January 9, people come to his residence with their issues, he said, pointing out that panchayats were able to provide the most focused attention to grassroots concerns. "If there were no panchayats over the last five years, people would have been protesting against lack of representation," the 50-year-old said. Sarpanches had access to

funds of Rs 23.30 lakh annually, apart from funds for centrally sponsored schemes and capital expenditure for different works. They worked with different departments to prioritise village-level work and rural infrastructure.

With District Development Councils (DDCs) being the sole tier of elected governance now left in J&K, the vacuum of grassroots democracy has come into greater focus. In November last year, the term of urban local bodies, including two municipal corporations, 19 municipal councils and 57 municipal committees had ended.

According to sources, elections to urban local bodies and panchayats are unlikely before the LS polls. Further, elections to the J&K Assembly need not be held along with the LS polls, sources said, citing the deadline of September 2024 given by the SC while delivering its judgement on the constitutional validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

On January 10, the J&K administration appointed BDOs as administrators to run the affairs of panchayat halqas (area comprising a village or villages) under their jurisdiction for six months. Officials of the Rural Development Department will overtake work under centrally sponsored schemes until fresh elections are announced.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Top court acquits man accused under SC/ST Act for molesting maid

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has acquitted a man of charges of outraging the modesty of a woman under section 3(1)(xi) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, pointing out that the alleged offence was not committed for reasons of caste.

A three-judge bench presided by Justice BR Gavai said "the language of Section 3(1)(xi) of the SC/ST Act... provides that the offence must be committed upon a person belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes with the intention that it was being done on the ground of caste".

The bench also comprising

Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Sandeep Mehta set aside trial court order convicting the accused as well as the Chhattisgarh High Court order upholding his conviction under SC/ST Act.

The trial court convicted him in September 2022 for offences punishable under Sections 451 (House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment), 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the IPC and Section 3(1)(xi) of the SC/ST Act. On appeal, the HC upheld the conviction under the SC & ST Act and acquitted him of offences under the IPC. **ENS**

15 PFI workers get death for 2021 Kerala BJP leader's murder

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 30

AN ADDITIONAL district sessions court in Kerala's Alappuzha on Tuesday sentenced 15 people to death in connection with the murder of a BJP leader in 2021.

Ranjith Sreenivasan (45), who was the state secretary of the BJP's OBC morcha, was hacked to death in front of his wife, mother and child in Alappuzha town on December 19, 2021.

All those convicted in the case were members of the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI) or its political wing, Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI). Sreenivasan was murdered hours after SDPI state secretary KS Shan was killed in Alappuzha, by a gang of people allegedly from the RSS, on the night of December 18.

"Our loss is irreparable. However, the court verdict gives relief. This cannot be seen as a murder. It is a rarest of rare case. They encroached into our house and brutally hacked my husband in front of us. His face was disfigured," Sreenivasan's wife Lisha said after the sentence was announced.

Additional District Session Court-I Judge Sreedevi V G delivered the sentence, a week after finding the 15 people guilty. They are Naisam (42), Ajmal (28), Anoop (36), Muhammed Aslam (32), Abdul Kalam alias Salam



Police escort the convicts after they were awarded death sentence by a Sessions Court in Alappuzha on Tuesday. **PTI**

(35), Abdul Kalam (43), Safarudheen (25), Manshad (33), Jaseeb Raja alias Akku (34), Navas (49), Shameer (37), Naseer (50), Sakeer Hussain (36), Poovathingal Shaji (47), and Shemas Ashraf (38).

They had been charged with offences under IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy to commit an offence punishable with death), 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting while armed with a deadly weapon), and 302 (murder) read with section 149 (offence committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly).

The prosecution had told the court that the PFI-SDPI workers prepared a hit list and Sreenivasan, who was also a lawyer in Alappuzha, was at the top of that

list. The hit list was found in a mobile phone seized from Anoop, the third accused in the case.

Most of those found guilty were from Alappuzha's Mannamchery panchayat, which is where Shan, the SDPI leader killed hours before Sreenivasan, hailed from. As many as 11 RSS men were charged in the Shan murder case, and the trial is yet to begin.

Reacting to the death sentences handed out in Sreenivasan's murder case, BJP leader and Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said in a social media post, "Grateful to the judiciary for delivering justice to the family of Ranjith Sreenivasan, who was brutally killed by PFI terrorists."

UTTAR PRADESH
nature AND Bird Festival

उत्तर प्रदेश
नेचर एंड बर्ड फेस्टिवल
(27 जनवरी-2 फरवरी, 2024)
के अंतर्गत
राज्यव्यापी जागरुकता कार्यक्रम

मुख्य अतिथि
डॉ. अरुण कुमार सक्सेना
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), वन एवं पर्यावरण, जन्तु उद्यान एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, उत्तर प्रदेश

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति
के.पी. मलिक
राज्य मंत्री, वन, पर्यावरण, जन्तु उद्यान एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, उत्तर प्रदेश

व्याख्यान सत्र

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| पक्षी विज्ञान और आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण (वक्ता : असद रहमानी) | संरक्षण के लिए पारिस्थितिकी पर्यटन (वक्ता : टोबी सिक्लेयर) | जंगल में फोटोग्राफी की नैतिकता (वक्ता : रूपक डे) |
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दिनांक : 31 जनवरी, 2024 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे | स्थान : सूरजपुर वेटलैंड, ग्रेटर नोएडा, गौतमबुद्ध नगर

प्रमुख आकर्षण

- बर्ड वाचिंग, बर्ड काउंट, रंगोली प्रतियोगिता, वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता, पेंटिंग मेकिंग, फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिता तथा प्रदर्शनी
- उकृष्ट प्रदर्शन करने वाले प्रतिभागियों के लिए पुरस्कार

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड
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CONTRACTUAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS-GDMO & PAEDIATRICIAN REQUIRED
BHEL requires CONTRACTUAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (GDMO & SPECIALIST-PAEDIATRICIAN) on fixed tenure basis for its Dispensaries in Delhi & NCR region. Please visit the website <https://careers.bhel.in> for full details and updates. **DGM (HR)**

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HIJAB ROW Strict action if dress code not followed in govt schools, warns Rajasthan minister

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, JANUARY 30

A DAY after controversy erupted over girl students wearing hijab at a government school in Rajasthan, School Education Minister Madan Dilwar warned of strict action wherever the dress code was not being followed. Minister of State for Home, Jawaharsingh Bedham, said that students should not come to school in "oot-patang (absurd) attire."

Cong leader Manvendra Singh's wife dies in Rajasthan car crash

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, JANUARY 30

CHITRA SINGH, the wife of Congress leader and former Lok Sabha MP Manvendra Singh, died in a road accident in Alwar on Tuesday evening, officials said. The Congress leader, his wife, their son Hamir Singh, and a driver were in the car that met with an accident on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Alwar. Manvendra Singh, Hamir, and the driver sustained injuries in the accident, but are said to be out of danger.



Cong ex-MP Manvendra Singh at a hospital after a road accident in Alwar on Tuesday; the damaged car. PTT

passed away, the other three are out of danger." Dr G S Solanki, chairman of Solanki Hospital, said Chitra Singh "had already passed away when she was brought to the hospital". Upon hearing the news, top district officials rushed to the hospital to take stock of the situation. Principal Medical Officer at Alwar District Hospital, Dr Sunil Chauhan, who also reached the hospital, said that Manvendra suffered a fracture in his ribs. The doctors said that Manvendra was suffering from Pneumothorax and Hemothorax, where air and blood, respectively, enter the pleural space. Due to this, an intercostal tube has been placed. Chauhan

also said that Manvendra is "talking and his vitals are normal". Solanki said Manvendra Singh "is in shock, but very conscious", and that he was yet to be informed about his wife's death. According to Solanki, Hamir suffered a wrist injury, and their driver had minor injuries. Chitra Singh, however, had sustained multiple injuries, he said, adding that the exact cause of death would be known only after a post-mortem is conducted. Principal Medical Officer Chauhan said the Singh family's relatives are on their way to the hospital and will take a call on if and where to move Manvendra and the others.

Indian student missing in US confirmed dead

Neel Acharya was a student at Purdue University

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, JANUARY 30

AN INDIAN student who had been missing in the US was confirmed dead by university authorities on Tuesday, a day after his mother had taken to social media to request information about his whereabouts.

Neel Acharya, a computer science and data science student at Purdue University in Indiana State, had been missing since January 28, as per a tweet by his mother Gouri Acharya.

The Consul General of India in Chicago had replied to her post, saying, "Consulate is in touch with Purdue University... Consulate will extend all possible support and help."

In a statement on its website, Purdue University said that Acharya was confirmed dead, without divulging the cause.

It said that a "college-aged" man matching Acharya's description and carrying his ID was found dead near the Maurice J Zucrow Laboratories on the campus at about 10.30 am on Sunday.

After jawan faked death to evade repayment, BSF to list personnel with loans

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Border Security Force (BSF) has ordered collation of the details of its personnel with loans from banks or insurance companies, particularly the habitual bad hats, so as to keep a close watch on them and take strict action if they default on repayments.

This comes as the force seeks to increase financial discipline among its personnel after a BSF jawan allegedly faked his death to avoid paying his loan instalments. The constable, Amit Rana (32), was arrested in June last year.

Through a letter sent on January 24, the BSF D-G has told the headquarter heads that Rana's case was taken "very seriously" as such incidents not only brought a bad name to the force but also had a bearing on its administration.

"All the headquarters heads of BSF should make a proper register with details of persons who have taken loans from banks as

well as insurance companies. They should be regularly sensitised about the financial discipline through Sainik-Sammelan, Roll-Call and during the visit of senior officers," an official said, citing the letter issued by a Commandant-rank officer of the coordination branch.

The headquarter heads have also been told to re-ascertain all off-duty deaths with the relatives of the deceased, maintain a list of the habitual bad in their respective units and conduct regular checks on them.

"Commanders at all levels should interact with the troops to find out their family background, financial hardships to know them better... they should conduct regular checks of those personnel who have taken loans and also to ascertain if they are repaying through regular instalments," the official quoted above said, citing the letter.

"The concerned unit should liaise with the banks regarding defaulters in loan repaying, if any, and strict disciplinary action be taken against the loan defaulters to avoid such incident," the letter added. Commanders

have also been asked to make the personnel aware of cases such as constable Rana's and counsel them to avoid its recurrence.

Rana, from Nurpur in Himachal's Kangra district, was arrested on July 21, 2023 while travelling from Bengaluru to Chennai in his friend's truck. It was three weeks after his charred car was found on the Chamba-Chowari road in Himachal on June 29 and he was suspected to have died in the incident. Rana's family even performed his last rites, while expressing fears he may have been murdered.

According to the BSF, however, Rana was found to have allegedly faked his death to claim insurance money after failing to repay a bank loan. "The unit ordered a Summary Court of Inquiry (SCOI) and initiated steps to be taken in such a case. It came to fore later that Rana had taken a loan of Rs 40-45 lakh from various banks and when he failed to pay EMI, he hatched a conspiracy of his own death to claim the insurance money," the letter stated.

MINORITY STATUS OF AMU Institute of national importance must reflect national structure: Govt to SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE CENTRE on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that an institution like Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) which is recognised as an institution of national importance by the Constitution "must reflect the national structure".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a CJI D Y Chandrachud-led seven-judge Constitution bench that is hearing a reference on AMU's minority status that declaring it to be a minority institution would mean no reservation

for those belonging to SC, ST, and Socially and Educationally Backward Class. He said that the court therefore "would also examine (the issue) from the point of view of social justice and equality".

The bench also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra and Satish Chandra Sharma.

The CJI pointed out that the provision exempting minority educational institutions from the application of reservation to SC, ST and SEBC was provided by the 93rd amendment to the Constitution. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

THREE OPERATIONS IN 72 HOURS

Navy rescues 19 Pak nationals from Somali pirates, frees Lankan vessel with 6 crew

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE INDIAN Navy rescued a crew of 19 Pakistani nationals from 11 Somali pirates in a successful operation on hijacked Iranian fishing vessel Al Naeemi, the Navy said Tuesday.

In a separate operation, the Navy in collaboration with Seychelles Defence Forces and Sri Lanka Navy successfully intercepted and rescued a hijacked Sri Lankan fishing vessel with six crew.

The Navy's INS Sumitra carried out the anti-piracy operation to free the Iranian vessel off the east coast of Somalia.

On January 29, the same warship had thwarted a piracy attempt on Iranian-flagged fishing vessel FV Iman, ensuring the safe release of the 17 crew members.

In the latest incidents, INS Sumitra was tasked with locating and intercepting Iranian flagged fishing vessel Al Naeemi. In this incident too, the pirates had boarded the ship and her crew of 19 were taken hostage.

Both the operations took place in the Southern Arabian Sea approximately 850 nm West of Kochi, where the Navy successfully prevented misuse of these fishing vessels as mother ships for further acts of piracy on merchant vessels.

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Both the operations took place in the Southern Arabian Sea approximately 850 nm West of Kochi, where the Navy successfully prevented misuse of these fishing vessels as mother ships for further acts of piracy on merchant vessels.

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Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department P. W. Division, Panvel Telephone No. 022-27452778 E-Tender Notice No. 164 (Open ONLINE) Year-2023-24

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR & ALLIED SCIENCES (IHBAS) Hospital based autonomous academic Institute, under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, dealing with "Brain - Mind Problems & their Solutions"

NOTICE INVITING TENDER The following tenders is being uploaded on the E-procurement site (http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in) of Delhi Govt./IHBAS website:

Govt. of Jharkhand OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department

SHAHRUKH General public is hereby informed that one girl and one boy, both are R/o C-40, Thokar No. 8, Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi.

MUSKAN Any person having any information or clue about these missing boy and her aunt may kindly inform to the following.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL PRAYAGRAJ Balmiki Chauraha, Nawab Yusuf Road, Prayagraj-211001

RECRUITMENT AGAINST CULTURAL QUOTA OPEN ADVERTISEMENT 2023-24 Employment Notice No. CQR 2023-24 Dated : 29.01.2024

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HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT Arunigudi Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu, Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District

UPSIDA 30 प्रश्न राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण का वित्तिय प्रश्नोत्तर प्रतियोगिता

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER 5th CIRCLE HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: AGC-ELG-T-06R1-2023-24 Date: 29.01.2024

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STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION WEST BENGAL KRETA SURAKSHA BHAWAN (Ground floor)

BSES BSES Rajasthan Power Limited TARIFF BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR PURCHASE OF POWER THROUGH DEEP PORTAL

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31, कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31, कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Sureshchand Tiwari, S/O Keshri Mani Tiwari, R/O Village-Bihari Singh Purwa Post Dhuswa Khas, Mankapur, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh-271302, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as Golu Tiwari in his Aadhar-card. The actual name of my minor son is Adarsh Tiwari, which may be amended accordingly.

0040710954-9

It is for general information that I, Sukh Dev S/O Shankar Ram, R/O Jaitpur, Palli, Rajasthan-306421, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Shuk Dev in my 12th-Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is Sukh Dev.

0040710952-8

It is for general information that I, Asma Parvin W/o Muhammad Yusuf R/o House no-34 Block-K Sunder Nagri Delhi-110093, declare that my name has been wrongly written as Aasma in my minor child Rumaisa's 10th Class School record. The actual name of mine is Asma Parvin respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0070885966-1

It is for general information that I, Muskan, D/o-Ram Nath Manchanda, R/O-761, Charch-Road, Jwala Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Muskan Manchanda.

0040710953-1

I, Yash Kumar S/O Nareish Bhardwaj, R/O House no-54 Second-floor Madangri Village Dr. Ambedkar-Nagar, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Yash Bhardwaj, Permanently

0040710952-6

I, VINAY KUMAR NISAD, S/O MAHESH, R/O UGF-1 UG-FLOOR 771, NEAR-AMITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SECTOR-1, VASUNDHRA, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VINAY, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040710949-9

I, Sweta Sharma, W/o Rohitash Sharma, R/O H.No. S55 3rd Floor, School Block Shakarpur Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Sweta Sharma, for all purposes.

0040710953-2

I, Vedantika Dua, D/o Ankush Dua, R/O H.No-383, Sector-23, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Vedantika Dua, for all purposes.

0040710955-3

I, Swati W/o Nitish Bhardwaj, R/O Villa, No. 1773, Block-D, Park & Temple, Sector-18, Omxax City, Sonapat (Haryana)-131001, have changed my name to Swati Bhardwaj.

0040710954-3

I, Shiv Shankar, S/o Girraj Singh, R/O, E-31 Chhatrapur Extn. Mehrauli, New Delhi-110074, have changed my name Shiv Shankar Sikarwar, for all purposes.

0040710954-1

I, Savita Rani, w/o Gyan Prakash r/o Ward 19, Bazar Madhodas, Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, UP, 203205, have changed my name to Savita Goel now, r/o-2A-021, GC Grand, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, R/O-201014, for all purposes.

0040710958-4

I, SHILPA KATHURIA, D/O BALDEV GULERIA R/O-17/18, GALI, NO.8, SOUTH ANARKALI EXTENSION, KRISHNA NAGAR, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to SHILPA GULERIA.

0040710954-4

I, Rajender Singh, S/o Sh. Sube Singh, R/o Plot.No.151-B, Khasra.No.569/38, Lane No-6, 2, Near IGNOU, Maidan Gali, South Delhi, Delhi-110068, Presently at S-565, Flat No.G-11, Second-Floor, Rear Side, Greater Kailash-II, Delhi-110048, have changed the name of my minor daughter aged about 14 years, from EKA to EKA SINGH for all future purposes.

0040710949-7

I, Pooja Khurana Seehgal, W/o-Gaurav Sehgal, R/O-164, New Surya Kiran-Apartment, Plot No-65, LP-Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, have changed the name of my minor son name, from POORAV SEHGAL to MANNAN SEHGAL.

0040710955-4

I, Parvez Alam Azmi Son of Akhlaq Ahmad R/O, House no-86, Gali no-18, Zakir-Nagar Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have been changed my name to Parvez Ahmad Azmi, Permanently

0040710952-5

I, No-30032508K, SPR Gh Mehdi Unit 175TA Engineer, C/O-56 APO, District-Kargil. In my service records the name and D o B of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as Samina Batool, D o B- 21-06-2015 instead of Sameena Batool, D o B- 21-05-2017 as in school records. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days.

0020471190-1

I, No-707533X, NB SUB MYAPPAN S/O- Muthusamy, R/O- No-6345, Duthi Nagar, Kollankudi, Kalaiyarkovil Taluk, Sivagangai District-Tamilnadu. In my service records the name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Akshay Kumar instead of I Akshay Kumar as in birth certificate. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days.

0020471191-1

I, Nasreen Ahmad W/o Israr Ahmed R/o-4370, Mirza Ahmed Ali Marg Shahganj Ajmeri, Gate Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Nasreen Ahmed

0040710952-1

I, Mudit Jain S/o Laxmi Pat Bengani R/o C-373, Second-Floor, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Mudit Bengani.

0040710955-2

I, Nabiha D/o Shah Alam R/o 143-E, Pocket-4, Mayur Vihar-I, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Nabiha Anam.

0040710952-3

I, Man Singh S/o Shiv Pujan Singh, R/o R-97, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Singh.

0040710950-1

I, M.P.DABAS/MAHABIR PRASHAD S/O, KANHYA LAL R/O-136-BANIYA WALI GALI BARGWAL DELHI-110039, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHABIR PRASAD.

0040710949-3

I, Laxminarayan Naik, S/o Shri Appu Naik, Address: GOVT OF KARNATAKA FLAT, NO-9 STAFF-COLONY-II, NEAR-OUTER RING-ROAD, RK PURAM, SECTOR-6, NEW DELHI, 110022, have changed my name to Laxman Naik, for all future purposes.

0040710949-10

I, Kritikka Singh, W/o-Sh. Bhupeendra Raj Singh, R/o-E5-UG, 002, Ansal Esencia, Near-reo Victory Colony, Sector-67, Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana-122101, have changed my name from Kritikka Singh to Kritikka Singh, for all future purposes.

0040710954-6

I, KAUSHAAL KUMAR, S/O SANJAY KUMAR, R/O, FLAT, NO-12A03, STAR-COURT JAYPEE GREENS, TOWER-1, BLOCK-G, GREATER-NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201310, changed my name to KHUSHAAL KUMAR.

0040710967-1

I, Himanshu, S/o Mr. Jai Prakash Tripathi, R/o Hari Bhawan, Block-C, Near Shiv-Mandir, Saneh-Vihar, Bhandsi, Gurgaon (Haryana)- 122102, have changed my name to Himanshu Tripathi, for all Purposes.

0040710952-4

I, Harish Pal, S/O-Shri Sukhpal Singh, R/O-Khasra No.8/13, Gali No.9, H-Block, Sindhi Colony, Swaroor Nagar, Libas Pur, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Harish Kumar.

0040710958-1

I, Gundeep/Gundeep Singh, S/O Ravinder Singh Hanspal R/O. 597/18, Joshi Road Karol Bagh Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Gundeep Singh Hanspal.

0040710949-6

I, GOURAV KUMAR BISWAS, S/O. ASHIT BISWAS, ADD-E-1/611, GALLI NO-20, 4TH PUSTA SONIA-VIHAR, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI 110094, Changed my name to GOURAV BISWAS, for all future purposes.

0040710953-6

I, Diya Sangar, D/o Shri. Vipan Kumar, R/O RZ-A-13, Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name from DIYA to DIYA SANGAR, for all future purposes.

0040710959-1

I, DHARAMPAL HOODA, alias DHARAM PAL HOODA, alias DHARMPAL HOODA, S/O, SH. RAMCHANDR HOODA, R/O-98, 4TH FLOOR, D-BLOCK, SECTOR-8, DWARKA, BAGDOLA, NEW DELHI-110077, inform that my, correct name is DHARAMPAL HOODA, for all future purposes.

0040710954-8

I, Dipti Gupta, W/O RAVI KUMAR GUPTA, R/O, 29/98-A, GALI NO-10, VISHVAS NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, changed my name to DEPTI GUPTA.

0040710949-4

I, MOHAMMAD ZAFAR, S/O, MOHD AHMED, ADD-2507, BARADARI BALLIMARAN, CENTRAL, DELHI 110006, changed my name to MOHD ZAFAR, for all future purposes.

0040710967-2

I, MOHAMMAD ASAD S/O MOHD NAWAB R/O 748 GALI SODAGARAN BALLIMARAN, CHANDNI CHOWK DELHI-110006, have changed my name to, MOHD ASAD Permanently.

0070885883-1

I, Lalita, W/o Manoj Kumar, R/o-6/80, Dakshinpur Extension, VTC, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Lalita Devi, for all purposes.

0040710949-2

I, Koothur Jambunathan Bharani Sundararaman S/o Swaminathan Jambunathan R/o 10/12138, Mahagun Mywoods, G.City-2 have changed my name to K.J.Bharani Sundararaman.

0070885966-1

I, RAVI GUPTA, S/O PRAMOD KUMAR GUPTA, R/O 29/98-A, GALI NO-10, VISHVAS NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, changed my name to RAVI KUMAR GUPTA.

0040710949-5

I, KM.RESHMA RANI, W/O MOHD ISRAR ALI MALIK, ADD-B-41, GALI, NO-5, MAJID WALI GALI, JOSHI COLONY, I.P.EXTENSION, EAST-DELHI-110092, changed my name to RESHMA RANI, for all future purposes.

0040710953-5

I, Jambunathan S/o Swaminathan R/o 10/12138, Mahagun Mywoods, G.City-2 have changed my name to Swaminathan Jambunathan.

0070885982-1

I, Amar Prasad Gaur R/o 101, Begumpur, Malvia Nagar, Delhi have changed my minor son name from Vivek Prasad to Vivek Prasad Gaur for all purposes.

0070885943-1

I, Amar Prasad Gaur R/o 101, Begumpur, Malvia Nagar, Delhi have changed my minor son name from Vishal Prasad to Vishal Prasad Gaur for all purposes.

0070885945-1

I, Amar Prasad Gaur R/o 101, Begumpur, Malvia Nagar, Delhi have changed my minor daughter name from Saanchi to Saanchi Gaur for all purposes.

0070885954-1

I, Ajay Kumar Jain S/o Brij Mohan Jain, R/o 8289, Gali No.5, Multani Dhand, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-55, declares that henceforth my name will be known as AJAY JAIN for all purpose

0040710854-1

I, Aditya Chauhan S/o Santram Chauhan residence 395, Gali No. 1, Chhalera, Sector-44, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201303, have changed my name Aditya to Aditya Chauhan for all future purposes. Aditya and Aditya Chauhan both are same person.

0070885990-1

I, Ram Khelvan S/o Harishchandra R/o Khotila, Khotila, Sijauli, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh-121657, have changed my name to Ram Prajapati

0070885990-1

I, Meena Bisht W/o Manik Shah Sanduja R/O House No.- 3462, Gali No.- 7, Block-A, S.G.M Nagar, Faridabad, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, have changed my name to Meena Sanduja

0070885988-1

I, Madho Behari S/o Late Sh. Jagdish Prasad R/o 200-201, Kalyan Vihar, Near Polo Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Madho Behari Aggarwal for all purposes.

0040710850-1

I, Jigyasha Chaudhary D/o Shyam Kumar R/o 71, Block-B, Subhadara Colony, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Jigyasa Chaudhary.

0070885887-1

I, Balraj Son of Puran Singh, R/O House-no-5 Tigri Village, New Delhi-110062, Have changed my name to Balraj Singh, Permanently.

0040710950-2

I, Anjali W/o Saurabh Singh R/o Tower-55, Flat No.204 Eldeco Aamantran, Sector-119 Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Has Been Changed My Name To Anjali Singh For All Future Purposes.

0070885533-1

I, Tamanna, D/o Sh. Rajender Singh, R/O Khasra, No.569/38, 151-B, Gali, No.2, Maidan Garhi, South Delhi Delhi-110068, Presently at S-565, Flat, No.G-11, Second Floor, Rear Side, Greater Kailash-II, Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name, from Tamanna to Tamanna Singh, for all future purposes.

0040710949-8

I, Ritendra Upadhyay, daughter of Divendra Upadhyay and W/o Deepak Gaur, R/O 5900 N Keating Avenue, Chicago, IL, USA with address in India of 60 Parvatiya Vihar, Plot B-6, Vasundhra Enclave, Delhi-110096, has changed my name from Ritu Upadhyay to Ritu Upadhyay Gaur as per affidavit. IN-DL3542900570513W.

0040710958-2

I, JYOTI RANI, W/O, DEVINDER, ADD-94-A, 1ST-FLOOR, SINGLE-STOREY, RAMESH NAGAR WEST DELHI 110015, changed my name to JYOTI, for all future purposes.

0040710953-3

I, My client SMT SAROJIBEN WIFE OF LATE SHRI DEV RAJ RESIDENT OF GC-18A, VIKAS PURI, NEW DELHI, HAD LOST HER ORIGINAL CONVEYANCE DEED, AS DOCUMENT NO.24970, IN BOOK NO.1, VOLUME NO.413, ON PAGES 133 TO 134, ON DATED 03/12/2002, OF FLAT NO GG-18A, SITUATED AT VIKAS PURI, NEW DELHI-110018 ON DT.05/01/2024 AT 11:00 HRS. DURING TRAVELING FROM RAJOURI GARDEN TO JANAK PURI NEW DELHI, AND IF ANYONE FOUND THEN INFORM ON MOBILE NO.9810053465. (ALSO LOGGED NCR VIDE LR.NO.138859/2024, DT.29/11/2024).

I, My client Smt. Leena Arora W/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Arora R/O F-423, Krishna Nagar, Delhi who is the owner of the property bearing NO.F-423, Krishna Nagar, Delhi by virtue of agreement to sell, possession letter, G.P.A. all dt. 0.4.1999 and one shop out of the property bearing NO. 1X/5532, Kaushtya Market, Subhash Road, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi by virtue of Will dt. 24.10.2020 accompanied with MOU and affidavit dt. 24.10.2020. However, all the original documents of the aforesaid properties alongwith Bank Passbook, Aadhar Card, etc with other relevant court documents were lost by my client on 11.11.2024 in Sadar Bazar Area and therefore it is requested to the Public at large that if anybody found the aforesaid documents, then please return the same to my client at her aforesaid mentioned address immediately. My client has already lodged an online NCR vide LR No.1336599/2024. It is requested to the Public at large that in case someone found the same, then do not misuse the said original documents in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/- P.K. RAWAL
Enrt. No. D-5179
ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 241-242, Civil Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

LOST & FOUND

I, GIRINDRA MOHAN S/O SRICK ANT MANDAL R/O AT-DHARAMPUR UJANPOST OFFICE- LOHNA ROADDISTRICT-DARBHANGA BIHAR- 847407 LOST MY DDA ISSUED POSSESSION LETTER OF MY DDA ALLOTTED LIG FLAT NO.41 BLOCK B4 POCKET-2 SECTOR 34 ROHINI DELHI SOMEWHERE IN INA VIKAS SADAN NEW DELHI ON DATE 05 JANUARY 2024 FIR NO.-1350886/2024 PHONE:-9934205960 Email:-gmlicdbg@gmail.com

0040710863-1

I, HAVE LOST PROPERTY PAPER OWNER NAME- MEENA SHARMA W/O ANIL KAUSHIK & HARPAL SINGH S/O RAMRATAN SINGH ADDRESS:- A-143, GALI NO-9, SOM BAZAR ROAD, RAJAPURI, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110059. FIR lodged in Police Station, LR No 1386956/2024 dated 28.01.2024. If found please inform on 9811216416/9910300714

0040710922-1

I, Mohd. Mujtaba Zaidi, S/o Late Saifur Raza Zaidi has to inform that I have misplaced the Original Share Certificate and Original allotment cum possession letter of Flat No.34, Azad-Apartments, Plot.No.111, Azad Apartments, I.P.Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092.

0040710967-3

I, Nipun Soodan S/O Late Harash Wardhan Sharma R/O Flat no.309, Godrej Apt.plot no.14, Sec.-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have lost my Original-Allotment letter of above address

0040710952-10

I, Om Prakash Mahesh, S/O Late Purn Chand R/O, A/A-196, Meera-Bagh, Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have lost my Original-Allotment Letter of DDA-MIG Flat GG-1, 69B, Vikaspuri, New-Delhi-110018.

0040710953-10

I, My client Smt. Kamlesh W/o Sh. Satyanarayan And Satyanar W/o Late Shankar Lal R/O H.No. X/568, Gal.No.9, Near Bhim Dairy Raghubarpu-I, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 have no any type of concern with these persons i.e. 1. Ram Narain 2. Prem Narain 3. Jay Narain 4. Surender Kumar 5. Narendra Kumar all sons of Late Ram Lal and their family members as they have vacated the house, H.No. X/568, 2nd Floor, Gali No. 9, Near Bhim Dairy Raghubarpu-I, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 on 19.09.2023 and if anyone of them used the above said address belongs to my clients, my clients will not be responsible for any act of these persons.

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THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN WE ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT INJUSTICE, BUT THERE MUST NEVER BE A TIME WHEN WE FAIL TO PROTEST. — ELIE WIESEL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

An opening for diplomacy

ICJ interim ruling could end up pressuring Israel, give a much-needed chance to peace



UPENDRA BAXI

UNSURPRISINGLY, THE INTERNATIONAL Court of Justice (ICJ) orders and opinions on South Africa's case against Israel have met with diverse reactions. Ad hoc Judge Aharon Barak's partial dissent has been viciously and vehemently trolled and has been criticised by many for not fully adopting the total dissenting opinion of Judge Julia Sebutinde. South Africa (SA) is upset by the fact that its requests were not fully taken cognisance of. The verdict is being seen by many as making Israel accountable for the first time, while others lament it as a disastrous portent for the just exercise of self-defence. Judge Barak found it "hard" to find a violation of the Genocide Convention (GC) by Israel. A Holocaust survivor, he is deeply aware of Israel's commitment to the rule of law as a "Jewish and democratic state".

The ICJ, however, decided only on the interplay of difficult realms of international law and found "plausible" some accusations of "violation of the GC." The full judgment on the indictment must await trial and evidence on issues such as jurisdiction, intervenors (already Germany, Bangladesh, Jordan, and Nicaragua are seeking intervention), genocidal intent and other related matters. It found "at this early stage... the existence of a real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to the rights protected" under the GC and that "Israeli conduct in the Gaza Strip to minimise harm to civilians and to respond to incitement did not sufficiently remove the risk of irreparable harm."

Of course, at the merits stage — to determine whether genocide is occurring — the Court has imposed the highest, almost insurmountable, standard of proof. In *Bosnia v. Serbia (2007)*, the ICJ insisted that: "...for a pattern of conduct to be accepted as evidence of genocide of its existence it would have to be such that existence of such intent" is proved by "fully conclusive evidence" — that is, "the only inference that could reasonably be drawn from the acts in question".

But the provisional measures "need not be identical" to those requested by parties.

Notably, the Court denied the first provisional measure, namely that "the State of Israel shall immediately suspend its military operations in and against Gaza". The ICJ further maintained a stoic silence on SA's request to identify its own obligations to prevent genocide.

The foremost provisional measure binding on the parties is by a majority of 15 ICJ judges (with Judges Sebutinde and Barak dissenting) and is not about a ceasefire but about Israel acting in accordance with its obligations under the Article 2 of GC to take all measures to prevent the commission of all acts: "In particular, (a) killing members of the group, (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group". With the total dissent of Judge Sebutinde, the ICJ by 16 votes obligated Israel "to take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip". By 15 votes to 2, it asked Israel to take effective measures to allow humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip and prevent the destruction of evidence. The Court directed Israel to submit a report within one month on its compliance with all measures.

Judge Sebutinde holds the dispute between "the State of Israel and the people of Palestine" as "not a legal dispute" but a political one, calling for a diplomatic or negotiated settlement. And that SA "is yet to demonstrate that the acts allegedly committed by Israel... were done with the necessary genocidal intent." Besides, the Court's order will be read as its final judgment, erroneously because this may come after many years, or even decades. Moreover, in her view, "the order to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian aid is beyond the scope of the court's authority" under the GC because there is not a "sufficient link between the measure and the

rights claimed under the convention". In sum, the dispute between "the State of Israel and the people of Palestine calls for a diplomatic or negotiated settlement". A "permanent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only result from good faith negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian representatives working towards a just and sustainable two-State solution," not by judicial settlement or outside imposition. Further, according to the judge, SA has not even demonstrated prima facie that the acts allegedly committed by Israel... were committed with the "necessary genocidal intent".

"Moreover, the order to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian aid is beyond the scope of the court's authority under the GC and there is also no basis to order the preservation of evidence absent a showing that Israel is deliberately destroying it." No "basis exists to order the preservation of evidence absent a showing that Israel is deliberately destroying it". Finally, given that SA has allegedly enjoyed and continues to enjoy "a cordial relationship with the leadership of Hamas," it should use its influence to persuade Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release the remaining hostages, "as a good will gesture [that] would go a very long way in defusing the current conflict in Gaza."

The learned judge's dissent has been applauded by many. But is it not myopic to say that the ICJ has no power to promulgate provisional measures simply because on merits it may, after a long time, disallow a case? The potential of creative diplomacy is never to be undermined. However, law and jurisprudence have been equally known to overcome many a political stalemate. One hopes that Israel uses the month's period to abate the horrors of war, displacement, deaths, devastation, and destruction in Gaza, and gives peace a much-needed chance.

The writer is professor of law, University of Warwick, and former vice chancellor of Universities of South Gujarat and Delhi

PRICE OF DISTORTION

Government's move takes fertiliser industry back to full-control era before introduction of nutrient-based subsidy system

THE CENTRE'S FERTILISER subsidy bill has more than trebled from Rs 81,124 crore to Rs 2,51,339 crore between 2019-20 and 2022-23. Even the current fiscal's budget estimate of Rs 1,75,100 crore is likely to be overshoot in the final numbers. Not for nothing that the Narendra Modi government wants to derive maximum mileage, political as much as economic, from this humongous spend. Since November 2022, all subsidised fertilisers are being marketed under a common Bharat brand, with companies having to print this (along with the Prime Minister's One Nation One Fertiliser scheme's logo) on two-third space of every bag and leaving only the balance one-third for their own name, logo and other product information. Now, the Modi government has capped the profit margins companies can earn from sales of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP) and other subsidised non-urea fertilisers. The maximum retail prices (MRP) of these fertilisers cannot be more than 8-12 per cent higher than their total cost of sales.

The government's argument would be that when so much of taxpayer money is being spent on fertiliser subsidy, the benefits should also accrue to farmers. One way to ensure this is by making companies reveal their actual cost of production/imports, distribution and other expenses. Based on this self-assessed and duly audited cost data, they will be allowed to set MRPs that generate "reasonable" profit. Any unreasonable profit, in excess of 8-12 per cent, will have to be refunded with interest and adjusted against future subsidy payments. In short, the current detailed cost monitoring and price control regime in urea will henceforth be extended to all other subsidised fertilisers. While urea is a controlled fertiliser — its MRP is fixed by the government — the likes of DAP, MOP and complexes (with varying nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and sulphur content) will also practically cease to be "decontrolled" fertilisers.

The flip side to the Modi government's move is that it takes the fertiliser industry back to the full-control era before the introduction of the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) system in April 2010. Fertilisers are basically food for crops. NBS was supposed to foster product innovation, with newer and better fertilisers providing more balanced nutrition. That dream didn't materialise, as urea was excluded from NBS; its fixed MRP led to over-application, worsening nutrient imbalance and declining crop yield response. Farmer interest is better served by freeing up MRPs, encouraging balanced nutrient use and fertiliser products customised to different crop and soil-type requirements. The Rs 1,00,000-1,50,000 crore annual fertiliser subsidy can be converted into a direct income support scheme, be it on a per-farmer or per-hectare basis. Either way — India has about 10 crore farmers and 14 crore hectares net sown area — the benefits would be more than from distorted nutrient pricing.

AFTER NIHARIKA

Student suicide in Kota points at onerous pressure on the young. PM Modi touches a chord with his advice to parents

I AM A loser. Worst daughter... This is the last option," wrote Niharika Solanki, who died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota on Monday in the second such incident reported in the city this year. The 18-year-old, the eldest of three daughters of a security guard, had been preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Solanki's desperation echoes that of many other students whose inability to crack high-stakes competitive examinations such as JEE and NEET has seen a disquieting spike in student deaths in the country. Last year, Kota — the ubiquitous pit stop on this arduous road to "success" — saw 29 student deaths by suicide reported in its many coaching centres, the highest ever in a single year. The National Crime Records Bureau 2022 annual report, released in December last year, showed that students and the unemployed constituted 7.6 per cent and 9.2 per cent of the total number of suicides, respectively.

This is, of course, indicative of a deeper malaise that begins at home, often as an ambition dreamed up by parents for their children and ends with make-or-break attempts at securing a seat at one of the hallowed institutions that promise upward mobility and job security. The cost of aspiration is steep — interminable hours of studying in coaching centres away from home, loneliness and despair, and the unrelenting pressure of making it to a bigger, brighter future, not just for oneself but for one's family. In his annual Pariksha pe Charcha interaction with students, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged parents to not treat their children's report cards as their calling cards, working instead on mutual understanding and realistic goals. Reminiscent of his call to parents to hold their sons, not daughters, accountable in the context of incidents of sexual violence, in his inaugural Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, this was a reminder from the highest office of the land that change requires everyone to own responsibility, a conscious effort to open up minds, and rethink ways of seeing.

The future need not be one of anxiety and duress, of expectations so onerous that they become the sole metric of achievement for young people like Solanki. A recognition of potential can be a gesture of confidence but it can just as easily sharpen itself into a jagged edge of despair in a country of more than 1.4 billion, where over 50 per cent of the population is under 30, and where generating employment opportunities remains a problem in a fast-growing economy. To address the crisis, a lot more needs to be done — by parents, but also by teachers, institutions and policy makers.

MONA LISA SMILES

And no amount of soup-throwing protests will change that

THE MONA LISA keeps on smiling, pumpkin soup hurled at it notwithstanding. The woman inside the painting has been witness to war, revolution, theft and vandalism, for reasons as varied as nationalism, love, climate change, disability rights, and now, the latest, food and economic security. Through it all, she smiles knowingly, and to some, annoyingly.

Earlier this week, protesters from a French group called Food Counterattack threw pumpkin soup at arguably the Louvre's most iconic exhibit. "What is more important," the protesters can be seen shouting in a video, "art or the right to healthy and sustainable food?" While the deliberately starving artist, or the penniless writer, whose only fuel is coffee and cigarettes, might disagree with the framing, most people would probably agree that food matters more. What many might also ask, though, is: What's a painting got to do with it?

In 2022 and 2023, Vincent Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, *The Scream* by Edvard Munch, *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer and Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpieces were subject to food attacks — from cake smears to tomato soup — by protesters. Their causes were often just — climate change and the excesses of the fossil fuel industry, for example. Or as in the current case, the need to ensure food security and nutrition for the marginalised. But the target was wrong. Time was when protesters would protest outside the buildings and offices of the rich and powerful. Artworks on public display, on the other hand, are one of the only ways that those without means can access the rarefied world of what was once "high" culture. Perhaps in this, like so much else, social media is to blame. It seems like the all-caps scream of the troll has bled into real life, replacing for some the meaningful engagement and anger of a thoughtful protest. Whatever the case, behind her protective glass shell, the Mona Lisa smiles.

DELHI IN DAVOS

At World Economic Forum, India was prominent in dialogues on key global matters



R DINESH

BETWEEN THE LAST edition of the World Economic Forum and this one, the world has faced multiple challenges — geopolitical emergencies, climate change, dips in growth trajectories of nations and the threat of misuse of technology. Amidst all this, India has attracted attention with its standout growth trajectory. Davos 2024 was an opportunity for India to share the highlights of its successes. The CII India Business Hub buzzed with activity as business visitors took note of upcoming opportunities.

As an integrated global economy, India is impacted by geopolitical incidents. This places an extra responsibility on the country to be a partner that lives up to and secures the "trust", both from a commercial viability as well as a geopolitical strategy perspective. Let me highlight a few important conversations held at the CII venues.

First, with the government's steady and proactive reform announcements, India has been positioned as a country that has effectively used technology to develop and deliver governance solutions at a mass scale. With the conversation around Artificial Intelligence (AI) taking centre stage, discussions on how AI can benefit all and ensure that the risks of AI are at the bare minimum level have taken place at Davos. The digital leadership that India has established leads us to use AI in a smarter and better manner to make businesses focused on delivering the right value and solutions. It also gives an opportunity to India and Indian companies to take the lead in identifying where AI will be used, just like they have taken a lead in adaptation of digital technologies at scale and viable cost.

Second, India has been taking a prominent position in the discussions at Davos on key

global issues, especially on aspects of socio-economic importance. Participants at the women's special lounge reiterated some key facts on Indian women's participation in growth. Ninety million are currently self-employed with credit from financial institutions under the ambit of self-help groups. They manage businesses at the grassroots worth annually \$37 billion. Of the credit they take from financial institutions, their non-performing assets (NPAs) are below 2.5 per cent. They have made a solid case for investment by financial institutions in women-owned businesses.

Third, the conversations on energy are as critical as the ones on technology, especially with the thrust WEF 2024 has put on climate change. Three developmental challenges related to energy transition were stressed even as import dependence on oil is growing in tandem with the economic growth — availability, affordability, and sustainability. While for the next many years, India will remain fossil-fuel dependent, new sources such as green hydrogen can offer solutions. Any transition for India must be conducted through non-disruptive processes that will require relevant policy strategies on pricing.

In most dialogues, it was pointed out that India will continue to be among the fastest-growing economies in the world in 2024. The country's growth is trending to be equitable, which manifests in three different ways. First, every part of the country is seeing growth with an infrastructure build-up. Second, a focus on gender inclusivity is evident, encompassing aspects such as women's employment, social security, and entrepreneurship. Third, addressing the needs of disadvantaged sections through social security measures and facilitating their integration with digital interventions.

According to Moody's Investors Service, amid the risk of sticky inflation affecting the growth trajectory of the global economy, India can appear as a "pocket of resilience". At the global level, there was a time when India was on the sidelines, but today, it is recognised for its economic, social and political stability and the country now receives global attention across the board. India's economic prowess has consistently outshone several large economies, showcasing a robust growth trajectory. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, the nation enjoys a substantial domestic market brimming with lucrative investment opportunities. The youthful and dynamic workforce, coupled with an expanding middle class and rising consumer purchasing power, has fueled India's consistently strong GDP growth. A plethora of supportive policies and reforms by the government have bolstered the country's resilience.

As per the UNCTAD World Investment Report, India is one of the favoured destinations for global investments. The Prime Minister has also highlighted his government's mission to propel the country into developed status by 2047. The Indian industry participation at Davos provides a platform to further reinforce its position as a trusted global partner and a resilient economy.

With a thriving economy, our growing prowess isn't just national progress, it's a beacon for collaborative global advancement, reflecting our commitment to shaping a bright, sustainable future for the world. A credible India helps build a more equitable and inclusive world.

The writer is president, Confederation of Indian Industry



JANUARY 31, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

EX-MANIPUR CM SHOT

YANGMASHO SHAIZA, FORMER chief minister of Manipur was shot dead by three unidentified gunmen at his residence in Imphal. The gunning down of the 60-year-old popular leader, who recently joined the Manipur Peoples Party (MPP), sent shock waves across the tiny state in the northeastern region and people gathered in hundreds at his house.

day as the number of agitators courting arrest dwindled. The agitators set on fire two government vehicles and robbed a busload of Rajasthan tourists going from Bangalore to Mysore. The bus was stoned and the tourists looted. The miscreants fled after looting Rs 60,000 from the passengers.

PUNJAB BUS TRAGEDY

IN ONE OF the worst tragedies in Punjab in recent times, about 80 passengers were feared killed when their bus fell into the 14-feet-deep Bhakra-Nangal hydro channel. The ill-fated Punjab Roadways bus was going from Paonta

Sahib in Himachal Pradesh to Nangal in Punjab. It crashed into the railings of the Sirsa bridge and plunged into the canal after the driver lost control while avoiding a cyclist.

REAGAN FOR PRESIDENT

IN A TELEVISED announcement from the White House, Ronald Reagan declared that he will seek re-election to the American presidency. "We've begun to restore American values: dignity of work, the warmth of family, the strength of neighbourhood, and the nourishment of human freedom. But our work is not finished," the President said dramatically.

VIOLENT PROTEST

THE FARMERS' AGITATION in Karnataka showed signs of turning violent on the fifth

THE IDEAS PAGE

Stay calm, build on strengths

China's economic slowdown is an opportunity for India. It must avoid the nationalist hubris that has undermined Beijing's fortunes



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

WRITING IN THE *Financial Times* a few weeks ago, well-known investor and fund manager Ruchir Sharma highlighted the irreversible decline of China's share of the global GDP. Sharma represents a growing body of opinion that believes that China has peaked economically. Many China hands, of course, don't agree with the notion that we are in a "post-China world". They point to the enduring strengths of the Chinese economy, its growing technological prowess and expanding military power.

Is China's continuing rise ineluctable, or is its incipient decline irreversible?

If the world has struggled to come to terms with the dramatic expansion of China's power in the early 21st century, what might be the consequences of China's slowdown in the coming decades? How should India, which has been feeling the heat of China's rise on its Himalayan frontier, in the regional politics of the Subcontinent, and the waters of the Indian Ocean adapt to the unfolding shift in China's trajectory?

As Sharma points out, China's share in the world's GDP rose from about two per cent in 1990 (after a decade of economic reform and opening up) to about 18.4 per cent in 2021. It is now down to 17 per cent. Sharma estimates that China's share will continue to decline because of several factors, including demographic decline. China's share of the world's working-age population has been falling for a decade and is about 19 per cent. In the next three decades, it will likely come down to 10 per cent.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's anti-market interventions, high levels of debt and declining worker productivity are seen as other reasons for China's relative decline.

If China's share of the global GDP is falling, who is gaining? According to Sharma, several emerging markets like India, Indonesia, Mexico, Brazil, and Poland contributed to nearly half of the expansion of the global economy last year. The US has grown at an impressive rate and made up most of the other half. Last year, the US added \$1.6 trillion to its GDP, about the size of the South Korean economy (which is the 13th largest in the world).

Two important immediate implications for the world order stand out. One is the growing gap between the comprehensive national power of the US and China. Until recently, it was conventional wisdom that China would soon overtake the US GDP. It now looks unlikely to take place in the near term; some would say it is unlikely to happen ever.

The latest numbers on the world economy put the US economy in 2023 at \$28 trillion and the Chinese at 18 trillion. In 2020, the Chinese economy was inching towards 80 per cent of America's. It is now drifting down towards 60 per cent. If the present trends continue, China's relative weight vis-à-vis the US is likely to go down further.

The changing economic fortunes of China and the US mean we are unlikely to be a bipolar or the G2 world that never stops animat-



CR Sasikumar

ing India. The notion of parity or symmetry between the US and China was always unrealistic given the wide coalition of Western partners that the US leads. America's allies in Europe and Asia weigh far heavier than China's friends, including Russia.

What about Asia? Until recently, the notion of a China-centred Asia seemed inevitable. While many Asian countries have had impressive economic performances in the last few decades, China's rise has been faster than most of its neighbours. That seemed to suggest that Asia must simply learn to live with China's weight and accept a regional order dominated by it.

China's relative decline now suggests that Asia has other alternatives. The faster economic growth in India, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines suggests that a "multipolar Asia" can be a real possibility. Although China will remain the most important economy in Asia and the second largest in the world for the foreseeable future, its large Asian neighbours have the potential to increase their standing in relation to China.

Meanwhile, China's muscular approaches to its neighbours on territorial issues had, in fact, opened up space for the US to revitalise its alliances and build new Asian partnerships in the last few years. An America that is regaining economic ground and is politically more confident could indeed queer the pitch for China and open up more strategic options for Beijing's neighbours.

India, for example, is unlikely to overtake the Chinese economy any time soon. But China's slower growth and India's economic acceleration will mean Delhi can steadily reduce the economic gap with Beijing. Indian pessimists had in the past presumed that the gap between the two will never narrow.

Even as it grows faster than Beijing and reduces the economic gap, Delhi can't take a complacent attitude on the boundary or in its competition for influence with China in the Subcontinent and the extended neighbourhood. It can, however, cope with the

Is China doomed to decline, or does it have the political flexibility to rework its policies? Some analysts like Ruchir Sharma think that whatever Xi Jinping does, he is not in a position to reverse China's relative economic decline. Others would bet China can initiate some structural reforms in the Chinese economy to reclaim a faster growth rate. Some might bet on internal political change in China that could lead to more accommodative external policies and reduce some of the internal pushback against Beijing.

Chinese power more confidently if it continues to build on its national capabilities and strengthens the Quad and other regional coalitions.

But is China doomed to decline, or does it have the political flexibility to rework its policies? Some analysts like Ruchir Sharma think that whatever Xi Jinping does, he is not in a position to reverse China's relative economic decline. Others would bet China can initiate some structural reforms in the Chinese economy to reclaim a faster growth rate. Some might bet on internal political change in China that could lead to more accommodative external policies and reduce some of the internal pushback against Beijing.

It is not clear if Xi is willing or capable of making a major reversal of the policies he had initiated over the last decade. It is entirely possible, though, that Xi could offer a political olive branch to the United States in order to gain geopolitical breathing room. At a time when the US is coping with multiple wars, limiting conflict with China and seeking cooperation with China is already on top of the Biden agenda. But the domestic political mood in the US has hardened against China, and if the Republicans win the White House again, Washington's pressures on China could only mount.

Put simply, the time has come to rethink many of the assumptions in India about the global distribution of power and its consequences. For one, the US is not about to decline and fade away, notwithstanding the multiple challenges confronting it today. Second, although China's rise has been impressive, the limits to its power are coming into view. Third, the growth of China's Asian neighbours has enhanced possibilities for a more internally balanced region. Finally, if it can stay calm, build on its strengths, and avoid the kind of nationalist hubris that has undermined China's fortunes, India could thrive amid the unfolding power shift.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Alleged involvement of UN employees in the October 7 attack should be dealt with objectively, and the international community should increase support for UNRWA rather than reduce it. As for the complex situation in the Gaza Strip, the two-state solution is the only viable option..." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Things that matter

Union budget will need to focus on fiscal consolidation, while maintaining capex and welfare spending



SUVODEEP RAKSHIT

THE UNION BUDGET, which will be presented tomorrow, will seek to balance three priorities. One, ensuring a sharper-than-usual fiscal consolidation. Two, focusing on welfare expenditures in the run-up to the general elections, and three, maintaining the thrust on capital expenditure to improve physical infrastructure. Interim budgets are expected to be devoid of big bang announcements. But if the 2018-19 interim budget is a guide, a few prominent welfare expenditures should be expected. We expect some targeted expenditure on rural India, youth and women welfare, and MSMEs. On the other hand, capital expenditure growth, though much lower than last three-four years, will still be adequately high next year (2024-25). All of these priorities should be enveloped in a fiscal consolidation push which possibly pegs the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio at (or below) 5.4 per cent.

The government has targeted a fiscal deficit of below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26 in the 2021-22 Union budget speech. The target explicitly has not changed. At 5.9 per cent in 2023-24, the deficit needs to be reduced by 1.4 percentage points over 2025-26 — that's a pretty tall task. In fact, given the expansionary fiscal policies globally, it might be tempting to place the fiscal consolidation on the back burner. One may also argue that given the relatively weak consumption growth, the government should keep the fiscal taps open for longer. However, India's fiscal metrics remain adverse when compared with other major economies. The inclusion of Indian government securities in global bond indices puts the fiscal under greater scrutiny. To that end, sticking to targets will be important.

While debt sustainability is not a concern, controlling debt/deficit would help restrict interest payments and borrowings. Borrowings for the Centre have doubled compared to pre-Covid levels. In the 2024-25 budget, the government will likely announce around Rs 15.8 trillion of gross borrowing. This will be in line with this year's gross borrowing, but a large jump from around Rs 5.7 trillion in 2018-19. Further, the Centre's interest payments have increased to around 40 per cent as a proportion of total receipts from around 35 per cent pre-Covid. Its debt/GDP, currently around 56-57 per cent, is unlikely to go back to the pre-Covid level of around 45 per cent, even by the end of this decade. If GDP growth continues at the present pace, these risks will remain under the radar, but it becomes all the more important to exercise fiscal rectitude when the conditions are favourable.

The good part of the Centre's fiscal sit-

uation has been the buoyancy in direct tax revenues (likely around 1.9 per cent this year) riding on better compliance and robust profit growth of the companies. Even if tax buoyancy were to normalise to around 1.5 next year, it would represent a growth of around 17 per cent. This would assist in the fiscal consolidation job. However, with corporate earnings growth expected to slow down to around 11 per cent and formal jobs also on a weaker footing, direct taxes buoyancy may be lower next year.

The fiscal deficit was at 4.6 per cent in 2019-20. Thus, essentially, the path back to 4.5 per cent by 2025-26, is a reversal to 2019-20 levels. How do the broad heads stack up in this scenario?

Total expenditure has increased to 15.3 per cent of GDP this year, up from 13.4 per cent in 2019-20 with revenue expenditure broadly flat at around 12 per cent while capital expenditure has increased to 3.3 per cent this year, up from 1.7 per cent in 2019-20. Over the same period, total receipts have increased to 9.4 per cent, up from 8.7 per cent. Thus, for reverting back to 4.5 per cent deficit levels, while maintaining capital expenditure at current levels, the revenue expenditure (as a proportion of GDP) has to reduce sharply. This implies that over the medium term, assuming a moderate tax buoyancy, revenue expenditure has to grow at a pace much lower than nominal GDP growth and capital expenditure growth can only be moderately above the nominal GDP growth.

Over the past four quarters, consumption has been on a weak footing, averaging at a growth of 3.5 per cent. Investments, on the other hand, driven by government spending, have averaged at 9 per cent and been the main driver for GDP growth. In that context, the budget could seek space for welfare spending to counter some of the general weakness. The rural and agricultural sector could see some support given that some of the trade restrictions on key crops may have impacted farmers' potential incomes. The youth, women welfare, and MSMEs could be the other focus areas. However, revenue expenditure growth (including interest payment, salaries and pension, welfare schemes, transfers to states) can at best be in low single digits (around 3 per cent). This forms the constraint for meaningful populist expenditure.

Over the past three to four years, the government has done a commendable job in improving the quality of expenditure. The policy outline of pushing the supply side through capital expenditure has worked well in terms of maintaining macro-stability even as the fiscal deficit expanded. The budgeting exercise will start feeling the pressure on continuing with the pace of capital expenditure seen over the past few years. In this year's budget, capital expenditure growth could slow down. This would leave space for decently high spending growth in the sectors that matter for the overall development of the country — defence, housing, railways, and roads.

The writer is chief economist at Kotak Institutional Equities. Views expressed are personal



RACHANA JOHRI AND KRISHNA MENON

Monster mom & other stories

In reality, most mothers are burdened by deeply problematic expectations

THE KILLING OF children by their families is a tragic but frequent event witnessed throughout the world. In India, these murders take various forms including femicide, female infanticide, killing of children with disabilities, "honour" killings, and so on. Statistics show that fathers are more likely to kill their children than mothers. Yet, when mothers kill children, it arouses dread and disbelief. Recently, television news channels in India let their creativity run amok when some of them described the 39-year-old mother from Bengaluru (startup founder and CEO of an AI company) who is alleged to have killed her four-year-old son, as "monster mom". While it is too early to understand the circumstances surrounding the tragic event, it may be worthwhile to use this moment to reflect upon the deeply problematic expectations of mothers.

Maternal filicide, or child murder by mothers, has occurred throughout history. Research conducted across the world suggests that when a young child is murdered, the perpetrator is most likely to be the parent or stepparent. Myths and legends globally testify to the tragic phenomenon of a distraught mother killing her children. Euripides writes of Medea killing her two sons as revenge against her husband who marries another woman. Closer home, we read of Ganga submerging seven sons. Maternal filicide could be attributed to motivations ranging from intense love (she believes death to

be in the child's best interest) to an acute state of disturbance, long term abuse of the child, perception of the child as a hindrance or for revenge against the spouse.

Much of the discussion on mothers who have killed their children tends to focus on the contrast between the violent acts and the societal expectations of femininity and motherhood, reducing it to a simple dichotomy between good versus bad mothers. The ribu movement of Japan, in the 1970s, tried to understand this phenomenon in the context of the re-construction of Japanese society and challenged the hegemonic discourses of mothers who kill their children as either "bad" or "mad". The isolation of Japanese women in their roles as mothers and wives when husbands devoted all their energy to building corporations triggered sharp criticism. At a time when captains of industry in India are calling for almost interminable working hours, this experience of Japan should be a warning for us.

Serious and engaged research on motherhood in India has established that many women in our society are struggling in their roles as mothers. This is compounded by the difficulties of being in unequal marriages without love, and of providing care without ever receiving it. Undoubtedly, the experience of caring and nurturing can be a beautiful one, but the institutionalisation of mothering with its lofty expectations and standards makes it arduous,

especially under adverse social and psychological circumstances.

It is easy to monsterise and pathologise mothers who kill their children, as this helps retain the impossible but shared ideals of the maternal role in society. There is a widespread expectation that every woman should be married and have children. Women without children are considered to be barren, referred to with derogatory words such as "banjh" in Hindi. This pushes many women to prioritise motherhood over other pursuits. The assumption of a naturally existing maternal instinct contrasts with the labour involved in caring for a child. Women, especially mothers, are expected to be stirred to selfless love and sacrifice. This contrasts with the recognition in both psychological and feminist literature that recognises the difficult process of becoming a mother, one that can often feel disorienting and exhausting.

The celebrated paediatrician and psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott, writing in 1949, made a rather startling observation when he wrote that "mother hates her infant from the word go". After all, the baby "treats her as scum, an unpaid servant". Writing as a mother of four children, Adrienne Rich, author of the groundbreaking feminist text, *Of Woman Born* (1976) wrote, "My children cause me the most exquisite suffering of which I have any experience. It is the suffering of ambivalence: the murderous

alternation between bitter resentment and raw-edged nerves, and blissful gratification and tenderness." Both writers create space for mothers to experience fatigue and despair in the task of mothering without the self-recrimination and shame that often leads them towards self-condemnation.

Becoming a mother is seen as a quick fix solution to a range of challenges — physiological, psychological and marital. Such an understanding of motherhood is oblivious to the social circumstances of mothering, i.e., financial difficulties, unemployment, violent or unhappy marriage, complete responsibility of child care in the absence of safe and reliable childcare facilities, poor healthcare and almost non-existent mental health services.

That motherhood can be exhilarating and exhausting at the same time is an awkward little secret that we seldom let slip. In our society, most mothers are overworked, underpaid, and burdened by the cult of the sacrificing and loving mother. And yet, the fact is that our mothers work very hard with sadly little help from the world around them. The murder of children by their mothers is not only about individual mothers and children, but about how our society understands and facilitates mothering and child care.

Johri is visiting professor of Psychology, BML Munjal University and Menon is professor of Gender Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GAZA'S TRAGEDY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'No looking away' (IE, January 30). To address the situation, diplomatic efforts should be intensified to encourage dialogue and negotiate a ceasefire. The international community should exert political pressure on all the parties involved in the conflict, emphasising compliance with humanitarian laws. Offering more help to the people of Gaza is important. The United Nations should take a leading role in assisting with peace talks and dealing with the crisis. It's crucial to make people aware world of the ongoing situation and work together globally to get to the root of the problem.

Jemkit Lepcha, Bengaluru

TO THE LAST MILE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The quota gambit' (IE, January 30). Given the acceptance of the demands for Marathas' inclusion in OBC reservation, it would be crucial to review the contents of the Rohini Commission report on the sub-categorisation of OBC. As rightly pointed out in the article, Marathas are not a homogenous community state-wide. Conversely, it is important to ensure that those who suffer the most in times of agrarian distress can receive the benefits of this reservation. Beyond the creamy layer, reservation-within-reservation can help these groups.

Anany Mishra, Bhillai

NITISH'S U-TURN

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The always CM' (IE, January 30). Nitish Kumar has created a record by taking oath for the ninth time as Bihar's CM. To see the BJP, which says that it is a "party with a difference", indulge in this unethical power game, especially after the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya, is saddening. It is appalling that Kumar still continues to call the shots. It is shameful that the NDA has no qualms about joining hands with this serial offender again all for the sake of self-interest. His latest political "turnaround" demolishes the much-touted "secular-communal" rhetoric.

SS Paul, Nadia

FOR A BETTER DIET

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The burden of malnutrition' (IE, January 29). The reason that the diet of an average Indian lacks essential nutrients, and the majority of Indians cannot afford a healthy meal is due to the financial constraints of people. Since the government determines food and agriculture policies such as the export and import of grains and other goods, one thing it can do is provide a better diet is through public institutions. Schools, hospitals, childcare centres etc. can shift from saturated fats to unsaturated fats, limit sodium consumption, intake of free sugar, and ensure the availability of free, safe drinking water.

Aanchal Roy, Bengaluru

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
 e-Tender Notice No. 4430-GRC-CE-C-11-43-2023, dated 29.01.2024. e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con)/II/Garden Reach, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in. The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works:** Execution of earthwork in cutting & filling for making of Railway formation work including blanketing, extension of minor bridges, supply of oess ballast, p way works, execution of protection works, diversion road works, transportation, supply of p way fitting and other miscellaneous works between (Km : 414.734 to Km : 417.455) of Rourkela-Panposh section for extension of Biramitrapur line upto Rourkela Yard under the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/Jharsuguda in Chakradhar pur division of S.E.Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 16.41 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 9,70,600/- **Completion period:** 12 months. **Closing Date:** 21.02.2024. Interested tenderers may regularly visit 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-1077)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



CT/DVRRAM KISHORE
HEP URI-1
31-01-1994



CT/GD RAMSHANKAR RAI
HEP URI-1
31-01-1994

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

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice
 Divl.Rly. Manager, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below- **Sr. No. 1 Name of work with location:** ENGG-JP-2023-24-114 ADEN/FL sub division: Zonal work on Phulera Sub Divn.- Phulera Station and Phulera to Himoda (Excl.), Phulera to Renwal (Incl) and Phulera to Madar (Excl.) Railway Service Buildings etc. (other than Staff Quarter) for Sanitary work, all type of repair work and Horticulture work and Any type of road work as per CPWD-DSR for the period up to 30.06.24 (In Jurisdiction of SSE (Works) FL Zone-8A **Approx. Cost of work:** 14988277.50 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 225000/- **Sr. No. 2 Name of work with location:** ENGG-JP-2023-24-115 ADEN/FL Sub Division:- Provision of 4 Nos Escalators, 2 Nos lift and PF shelter and Platform work at KSG Station. **Approx. Cost of work:** 18107031.79 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 240500/- **Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-www.ireps.gov.in and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. 2.Tender No. ENGG-JP-2023-24-114 to ENGG-JP-2023-24-115 is to be closed on 20.02.2024 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 20.02.2024 at 16.00 hrs. **111-CQ/24****

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
 (Survey & Construction)
 Two Packet System
 Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-IV, North Western Railway, Nirman Bhawan, Near Railway Samudayik Bhawan, Jagatpura, Jaipur-302 017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tender. Tenderer shall on-line submit their original/revised offer before the date and time of closing of E-tender. 1. **E-Tender Notice No.:** NWR/SC/Civil-02/140528 2. **Name of work with location:** Laying and linking of Broad Gauge main line, including points and crossings, tampering of track, transportation of P. Way Materials in connection with RE-KTWS doubling project of North western Railway. 3. **Approximate cost of work:** Rs. 21,15,24,813.82 4. **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 12,07,600/- 5. **Completion Period:** 15 (Fifteen) Months 6. **Closing Date & Time of submission of On line E-tender:** Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 19.02.2024 7. **Website particulars where complete details of E-Tender can be seen:** Tender can be seen at Website www.ireps.gov.in under the unit of DY.CE(C)IV-JP 8. **Official E-mail Address:** Dyce4jp@gmail.com **Note:** 1. No manual tender will be accepted. 2. Bid security should be in proper form. Bid security should be submitted by the tenderer only through net banking or payment GATEWAY or in form of BG in favour of FARCAO/Construction, North Western Railway, Jaipur. **114-CQ/24**

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
 Follow us on www.scr.in
 Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.in
Open E-Tender Notice No.: C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/370A/23-24/24, Dated : 30-01-2024.
 E-Tenders from the experienced Contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
SI. No. 1. Tender Number & Date: C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/370A, Dated : 30-01-2024. **Description of work:** Repair / Rehabilitation of MSU of 3-Phase locomotives Qty : 60 Nos.
Approximate Value Rs.: 2,73,93,228.00. **Bid security Rs.:** 2,87,000/- **Cost of Tender Form Rs.:** NIL. **Contract Period:** 24 Months. **Date & Time of Closing & Opening:** 26-02-2024 15:00 hours & 26-02-2024 15:15 hours.
Validity of offer : 63 days from the date of opening of tender.
Submission of tender document : Through IREPS website at www.ireps.gov.in
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, ELS, Lallaguda, Secunderabad.
 For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.in

INDIAN RAILWAYS
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
 MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
 (RAILWAY BOARD)
 No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532 New Delhi, dated 30/01/2024
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
Corrigendum No.14 to Tender No. WTA-532
 Sub : Tender No.WTA-532 due on 31.01.2024 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trainsets with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots."
 It is hereby advised that the subject tender MAY BE TREATED AS DROPPED/CANCELLED.
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS), MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD), RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001, Email- drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 315/2024

Asset Recovery Branch, D-26/28, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 (Working at M-35, First Floor, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001), Email ID - ubin0554723@unionbankofindia.bank
[Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
 Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch situated at 26/28-D, Connaught Place New Delhi-110001 [Working at M-35, First Floor, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001] under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice Ref No ORO/VS/US/38/2019-20 dated 04.10.2019 calling upon the borrower M/s Saara Surgical Products Pvt Ltd., B-2/731 Ekta Garden, IP Extension, New Delhi-110092 Also at: 116, Durga Chamber D8 Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi - 110 005 Also at: Plot No 1556, Kissam-Gharbari-2, Khata No 838 in Mouza, KapilaPrasad, Bhubaneswar and Guarantor 1. Mrs. Sumitra Mohapatra W/o Sh. Subhansu Shekhar Mohapatra Sivayan Talasipur Mathasahi, PO-Bijupatnaikachik, PS-Bidanasi, Cuttak, Khathin Sahi, Orissa - 753008 2. Mrs. Pallavi Bhardwaj W/o Mr. Deepak Bhardwaj B-2/731 Ekta Garden, IP Extension, New Delhi - 923. Mr. Subhansu Shekhar Mohapatra S/o Late Sh Girish Chandra Mohapatra Sivayan Talasipur Mathasahi, PO-Bijupatnaikachik, PS, Bidanasi, Cuttak, Khathin Sahi, Orissa - 753008 4. Mr. Anupam Ghosh S/o Sh. S.K. Ghosh, R/o C-6, Sector-27, Noida -201301, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 4,48,82,041.80 (Rupees Four Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Eighty two Thousand forty one and paise eighty only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
 The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(14) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 30th day of January 2024.
 The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, 26/28-D, Connaught Place New Delhi-110001 for an amount Rs 4,48,82,041.80 (Rupees Four Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Eighty two Thousand forty one and paise eighty only) and interest thereon.
 The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 Immovable Property Flat No. F-102, First Floor, Tower No. F "Grand Savanna" Raj Nagar Extn., NH-58, Village - Noor Nagar, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. measuring 1250 Sq Ft. in the name of Smt. Pallavi Bhardwaj, Bounded as: On the North - Open Area / Park Beyond the Road, On the South - Flat No. F-101, On the East - Entrance of Flat/ Common corridor, On the West - Other's Flat
Date: 30-01-2024, Place: New Delhi Authorised Officer, UNION BANK OF INDIA

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA
 2nd Floor, (A, B & F Wing) Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchari Parisar (GPOA), Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.
DEMAND NOTICE
 NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
 RC/299/2023 29-01-2024
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
 Versus
M/S AMAN TRADING CO. AND OTHERS.

To
 (CD 1) M/s Aman Trading Co. and Others, through its proprietor Amina Khatun W/o Md. Nihal C/o Md. Nehal Mubarak Chak, Munger-811201
 (CD 2) Amina Khatun (Borrower) W/o Md. Nihal R/o Mubarak Chak, Munger, Bihar-811202
 (CD 3) MD.NIHAL (GUARANTOR-CUM MORTGAGOR) S/o Md. Jamal, R/o Mubarak Chak, Munger, Bihar-811202
 This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA in OA/484/2022 an amount of Rs. 2115314.00 (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifteen Thousands Three Hundred Fourteen Only) along with pendentlille and future interest @ 8.20 % Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 05/09/2022 till realization and costs of Rs 24000 (Rupees Twenty Four Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/ Limited).
 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.
 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 03/04/2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
 5. In addition the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
 (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
 (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
 Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 29/01/2024
Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03
 No. CE/Comm/Asom Mala 2.0/15/2023-24/18
PRESS NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER
 The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-03 invites re-bid on behalf of the Governor of Assam from approved and eligible contractors registered with PWRD, Assam for Improvement and upgradation of 2 Nos projects under Asom Mala 2.0 for the year 2023-24 amounting to **Rs. 6796.803 Lakhs (approx.)** in Nalbari and Cachar districts of Assam.
 Details along with packages for the works may be seen from 02.02.2024 at website- www.assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned in the **Communication Branch**. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
 Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
 JANASANYOG/CF/5119/23/31-JAN-24

North Eastern Railway
E-Tendering Notice
 Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites Online (E-Tendering) "Open tender" for the following work:
S.No. 1, Tender Reference No.: E-Tender-L-30-23-24, **Name of Work:** Electrical Work connection to improvement of platform surface under Amrit Bharat scheme at Ekma Station, **Approx. Cost (in Rs.):** 1,30,30,005.02, **Earnest Money (in Rs.):** 2,15,200.00, **Completion Period:** 120 Days, **Date & Time of Closing Tender:** 22.02.2024 14:30 Hrs., **Date & Time of Opening Tender:** 22.02.2024 14:30 Hrs.
 For full details of above E-Tender work and to participate in tender please visit Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in.
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General CPROEL-358 North Eastern Railway, Varanasi
 Do not travel with inflammable article in train

WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA
PROVIDING AND FIXING SIDE PATHWAY ON TRACK BRIDGES
 e-TENDER NOTICE NO. DYCE-BR-RC-02-2024
 e-Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Deputy Chief Engineer (Bridge-Line) Vadodara, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390004 for the following works. **Tender No. DYCE-BR-RC-02-2024. Name of Work:** "Railam Division: Providing and fixing side pathway on major/important track bridges no- 26 UP, 299 UP, 114 UP, 142 UP/DN, 229, 256 DN, 367, 338, 378, 437, 439, 450 in jurisdiction of SSE/Bridge/RTM and Br. No.-22 DN, 72 DN and 101 DN in jurisdiction of SSE/Bridge/UJN (16 Bridges)" **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 6,73,01,952.14 **Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 4,86,500.00 **Date and time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender:** On line tender is to be submitted on 04-03-2024 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. **Website for particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen etc.:** Deputy Chief Engineer (Bridge Line) Vadodara, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-4. **Web site at:** www.ireps.gov.in BRC-316
 Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WesternRly) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/WesternRly)
"IMPORTANT"
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OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, P.W.D KASGANJ
Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender
 दिनांक: 62/17 ए दिनांक: 15.01.2024
 The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P.P.W.D. Kasganj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with U.P. P.W.D. Road work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

| Sl. No | District | Name of Work | Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac) | Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of Document (in Rs.) | Time of Completion | Category of Contractor |
|--------|----------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| (1) | | Renewal Work With General Repair in Various Village Roads Under Patiyali Block in District Kasganj. | | | | | |
| a | | Dariaoganj Bagharai Road to Navada Link Road | | | | | |
| b | | Thana Dariaoganj Road to Bjora to Nagla Malikhian | | | | | |
| c | Kasganj | Thana Dariaoganj Shihori Road to Nagla Padam Road | 22.80 | 2.28 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| d | | Sidhpura -Patiyali Road to Hathodavan Road | | | | | |
| (2) | | Renewal Work With General Repair in Various Village Roads Under Sidhpura and Ganjdumdara Block in District Kasganj. | | | | | |
| a | | Etah Ganjdumdara Road to Nagla Dhongi | | | | | |
| b | | Etah Ganjdumdara Road to Nagla Chandan Road | | | | | |
| c | | Nagla Bhavani Noorpur Road to Nagla Cheda Road | | | | | |
| d | Kasganj | Dhumari Sidhpura Kullri Road to Nagla Mahajeet Road | 23.50 | 2.35 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| e | | Mohanpur Ganjdumdara Road to Mangadpur to Sainoth | | | | | |
| f | | Hazipur Road to Nagla Todi | | | | | |
| g | | Nagla Sujan Link Road | | | | | |
| 3 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Ashokpur to Rustampur Kudha Road Via Nagla Beniram | 18.70 | 1.87 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 4 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Bhargain to Salempur Road | 17.50 | 1.75 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 5 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Gobdi Nagla to Nagla Abdal Road | 10.20 | 1.02 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 6 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Ganjdumdara Patiyali Road to Nagla Kaji | 24.70 | 2.47 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 7 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Dhumari Patiyali Road to Gonda Road | 22.60 | 2.26 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 8 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Etah Ganjdumdara Road to Motinagar Road | 13.30 | 1.33 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 9 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Thana Dariaoganj Shihori Road to Nagla Manshukh Via Nagla Havi (Nagla Chhavi) | 17.60 | 1.76 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 10 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Thana Dariaoganj Road to Nagla Khagu Bahuri Road | 31.70 | 3.17 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 11 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Aliganj Soron Road to Nagla Panni | 11.30 | 1.13 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 12 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Aliganj Soron Road to Luhari Kheda Road | 13.30 | 1.33 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 13 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Nagla Mansukh to Bahuri Road | 11.60 | 1.16 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 14 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Samaspur to Bara Road | 25.50 | 2.55 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 15 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Noorpur to Sisaiya Nagla Chauraha Road | 15.80 | 1.58 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 16 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Ajipur to Patiyali Bypass Road | 33.80 | 3.38 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 17 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Dharampura Kurli to Pipal Tiraha Via Nagla Jhamman | 24.00 | 2.40 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 18 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Village Bikhpur Gangsara Road to Bikhpur Longpur Road | 11.70 | 1.17 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 19 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Bhargain to Sahpurtelha Road | 18.10 | 1.81 | 500+300+144= 944 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 20 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Ganjdumdara Kadarganj Road to Samaspur Road. | 11.30 | 1.13 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |
| 21 | Kasganj | Renewal Work With General Repair on Nagla Beru Dharampur Shahwajpur Nyoli Golakuan Road (ODR). | 13.80 | 1.38 | 500+225+131= 856 | 3 Month | A, B, C, D |

Bids can be downloaded online from date 01.02.2024 at 12:00 Noon to 08.02.2024 at 12:00 Noon. And bid can be submitted online on or before 08.02.2024 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 08.02.2024 at 12:30 PM.
 Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software, the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document.
 All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.co.in>
 UPID-201753 Dt. 29.01.2024
 www.up.gov.nic.in
 Executive Engineer
 Construction Division, P.W.D., Kasganj

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE HALDWANI
 Phone No. (05946) 255255, 255926, Ext. 4216, 4365, e-mail: Principal-gmchld-uk@gov.in
e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)
 The bids are invited through e-tendering system from original manufacturer under two bid systems for procurement of Medicine & I.V Fluids needed for Government Medical College, Haldwani (Uttarakhand). The tender document containing detail information, terms & condition etc. are available on website uktenders.gov.in. The bid document and the specification can be downloaded from the above site as per the following schedule:-

| Tender Sl. No. | Name of Items | Date & Time For Downloading of Bids | Last Date & Time For Uploading of Bids |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (3) |
| 12 | Medicine & I.V Fluids | 03.02.2024 6:30 P.M Onwards Onwards (I.S.T) | 20.02.2024 12:30 P.M (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>
 Advt. No: 317/Medicine & I.V Fluids/GMC/Purchase/January, 2024.
Principal

Pt. Neki Ram Sharma
Government College
 Rohtak-124001 (Haryana)
 Office : 01262-281965
 E-mail : nrsrohtak@gmail.com
 Ref. No. 2471 Dated 29/01/2024
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER
 This is in continuation to invite tenders for cleaning services of premises published in The Indian Express and The Tribune dated 11.01.2024. Fresh tender documents are invited by the agencies (Approved by Govt. of Haryana) having three years experience in similar services in a prescribed form. Interested tenderers / agencies can collect form from the office on any working day by paying **Rs. 1,000/-**
See all terms and conditions at college website: nrsrohtak.ac.in

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Last date of sealed tender document is extended up to : | 16.02.2024 up to 4:00 PM |
| Revised date and time of opening of tender : | 19.02.2024 at 2:00 PM |

 24556/HRY Sd/- Principal

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Chand Md., S/o Jagru Rehman, R/o. D-57, Gali No. 4, Brijpuri, P.S. Gokulpuri, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 3375/2018 U/s 379/411 IPC** registered at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Chand Md.** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Chand Md.** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Chand Md.** accused of **FIR No. 3375/2018 U/s 379/411 IPC** P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.03.2024**
 By Order
Ms. Ayushy Saxena
 Metropolitan Magistrate -05,
 Room No. 48, Shahdara,
 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi
 DP/577/NE/2024

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore - 560 020
 No. BDA/EM/EE/ID/TENDER/PRR-210/2023-24 Date : 25.01.2024
Development of Peripheral Ring Road to Bengaluru City Under Public Private Partnership
 The Bangalore Development Authority, Government of Karnataka (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority"), is the nodal agency for the development of the Bangalore region by providing various civic amenities, quality infrastructure and as part of this endeavour, the Authority has decided to undertake Development of Peripheral Ring Road to Bengaluru City ("Project") through Public Private Partnership ("PPP") on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer ("DBFOT") basis. In this regard, the Authority is desirous of selecting the Concessionaire through a transparent and competitive bidding process.
Name of the work : Development of 8 lane Peripheral Ring Road with service road to Bengaluru City for approx. length of 74 km and in RoW width of 100m, including cloverleaf junctions, flyovers/underpasses, ROBs, RUBs, vehicular underpass/overpasses, Toll Plazas, transport zones, culverts, minor and major bridges, utility ducts along and across the road, green corridor with operation and maintenance for a lease period of 50 years on revenue sharing basis through PPP mode (Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer DBFOT) along with funding the land acquisition cost for 2560 Acres (Approx). **EMD Rs. Crore : 270.00.**
 The Authority invites proposals ("Bids") through e-tendering mode from Interested parties ("Concessionaires") in accordance with the Request for Proposal ("RFP") through Public Private Partnership ("PPP") on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer DBFOT) basis. In this regard, the Authority is desirous of selecting the Concessionaire through a transparent and competitive bidding process.
Name of the work : Development of 8 lane Peripheral Ring Road with service road to Bengaluru City for approx. length of 74 km and in RoW width of 100m, including cloverleaf junctions, flyovers/underpasses, ROBs, RUBs, vehicular underpass/overpasses, Toll Plazas, transport zones, culverts, minor and major bridges, utility ducts along and across the road, green corridor with operation and maintenance for a lease period of 50 years on revenue sharing basis through PPP mode (Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer DBFOT) along with funding the land acquisition cost for 2560 Acres (Approx). **EMD Rs. Crore : 270.00.**
 The Authority invites proposals ("Bids") through e-tendering mode from Interested parties ("Concessionaires") in accordance with the Request for Proposal ("RFP"). The RFP document containing instructions to Bidders, criteria for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka ("Gok")

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, OPEN TENDER
E-tender on behalf of the president of India acting through Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination), Divisional Railway Manager (Works), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works: - NIT No. - DRMW-JBP-23-2024 dated 24.01.2024. Name of work with location - Welding of 52KW/60Kg/900TS/R-260 rails in-situ with single shot crucible fitted in connection with various track renewal works under Divisional Engineer (South) Jabalpur and Divisional Engineer (North) Jabalpur section. Approx cost of the work (Rs.) - 2,26,55,310/-, Earnest money (In Rs.) - 2,63,300/-, Completion Period - 10 Months, NIT No. - DRMW-JBP-24-2024 dated 25.01.2024. Name of work with location - Complete Track Renewal 3.19 Km on Jukehi-Kymore, Through Ballast Renewal 14.50 Km on Jukehi-Mahar and Improvement to Mahiar and Jukehi Yard under Assistant Divisional Engineer (South) Satna section. Approx cost of the work (Rs.) - 3,02,23,821/-, Earnest money (In Rs.) - 3,01,100/-, Completion Period - 15 Months, For all Above Tenders Last date & Time for submission of tender (Up to 15.00 Hrs. On) - 20.02.2024. For all Above Tenders to be opened at 15:15 Hrs on- 20.02.2024. The complete information of the above e-tender is available on website <https://reps.gov.in> and also placed on notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) West Central Railway, Jabalpur

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, (ROADS)
PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT,
ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03
No. CE/DEV/TB/741/2023-24/09
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 3 (Three) nos. of Package for Construction of Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 in Golaghat District of Assam amounting to Rs. 8.55 Crores (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.
Details may be seen from 03.02.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
Note: NIT Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour Cess (1%), etc.
Chief Engineer, (Roads), PWRD Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
JANASANYOG/CF/5109/23/31-JAN-24

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, (ROADS)
PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT,
ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03
No. CE/DEV/TB/737/2023-24/08
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Re-Bid)
The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Re-Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1 (None) nos. of package for Improvement and Upgradation of Roads under Asom Mala 2.0 for the year 2023-24 in Jorhat District of Assam amounting to Rs. 117.60 Crores (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.
Details may be seen from 01-02-2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
Note: N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour Cess (1%), etc.
Chief Engineer, (Roads), PWRD Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
JANASANYOG/CF/5111/23/31-JAN-24

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Subhash Kumar Sharma, Proprietor of M/s Sharma Associate & Builders, at D-29, Gali No. 01, Vikas Complex, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide CC No. 7011/18 U/s 138 NI Act P.S. IP Estate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Subhash Kumar Sharma can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Subhash Kumar Sharma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Subhash Kumar Sharma of case CC No. 7011/18 U/s 138 NI Act P.S. IP Estate, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 02.04.2024.
By Order,
Sh. Arjun Kirar
Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act, Central)-04 Room No.01, Annexe-1, Central Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/1069/CD/2024 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mohit @ Montu S/o Jai Prakash R/o RZ-D-1/236A, Gali No. 5, near Sulabh Sochalya, Mahabir Enclave, Dabri Palam Road, New Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 294/2017 U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Janak Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Mohit @ Montu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Mohit @ Montu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mohit @ Montu of case FIR No. 294/2017 U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Janak Puri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.03.2024.
By Order
Ms. Bharti Beniwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-11 Room No. 5, Ground Floor Dwarka District Court, Delhi
DP/950/WD/2024(Court Matter)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

| SR. NO. | NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH | NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER | OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) | AMOUNT/TEND (APPROX) IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH | NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | UHBVN | SITE SURVEY, PLANNING, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ALL ITEMS/MATERIAL IN ALL RESPECTS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ROAD WORKS IN NIT 403 UNDER RAJOURN SUB DIVISIONS IN PUNDI DIVISION UNDER RAJOURN DISTRICT. | CLOSING DATE 19.02.2024 | 0.25 CRORE | www.uhbvn.org.in | 01722570431 cepcd@uhbvn.org.in |
| 2. | UHBVN | SITE SURVEY, PLANNING, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ALL ITEMS/MATERIAL IN ALL RESPECTS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ROAD WORKS IN NIT 402 UNDER RAJOURN SUB DIVISIONS IN PUNDI UNDER RAJOURN DISTRICT. | CLOSING DATE 19.02.2024 | 0.19 CRORE | www.uhbvn.org.in | 01722570431 cepcd@uhbvn.org.in |

24534/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Bandhan S/o Unknown, R/o Andha Mugal Kishan Ganj, Gulabi Bagh Age: 32 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Yellow coloured Jacket and Blue coloured Lower, was admitted in Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital, Delhi vide MLC No.276/24 & during the treatment Doctors declared him dead. In this regard a DD No.13A dated 21.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi.
If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.
SHO P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-23651692, 23645100 Mob.: 8750871634
DP/1180/N/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Krishan, S/o Uma Shankar, R/o In Front of Brahm Shakti School, Bharat Vihar, Begumpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1345/2017, U/S 25 Arms Act, PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Krishan can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Krishan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Krishan of FIR No. 1345/2017, U/S 25 Arms Act, PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.03.2024.
By Order
Navdeep Gupta
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West) Room No. 109, First Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi
DP/1113/RD/2024

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427
Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.03.2023 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.06.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvarna & EMI due up to 31.12.2023 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 12.02.2024 from 10 am onwards.
GHAZIABAD DISTRICT - BHANGEL: 4175000007, 4175000014, 4175000019, 4175000038, 4175000043, 4175000055, 4175000057, 4175000060, 4175000062, 4175000076, 4175000077, 4175000081, 4175000090, 4175000093, 4175000097, 4175000102, 4175000110, 4175000113, 4175000114, 4175000129, 4175000130, 4175000139, 4175000140, 4175000143, 4175000148, 4175000153, 4175000155, 4175000158, 4175000160, 4175000161, 4175000165, 4175000166, 4175000168, 4175000170, 4175000171, 4175000172, 4175000173, 4175000174, 4175000179, 4175000181, 4175000182, 4175000184, 4175000185, 4175000186, 4175000187, 4175000188, 4175000189, 4175000190, 4175000191, 4175000192, 4175000193, 4175000194, 4175000195, 4175000196, 4175000197, 4175000198, 4175000199, 4175000200, 4175000201, 4175000202, 4175000203, 4175000204, 4175000205, 4175000206, 4175000207, 4175000208, 4175000209, 4175000210, 4175000211, 4175000212, 4175000213, 4175000214, 4175000215, 4175000216, 4175000217, 4175000218, 4175000219, 4175000220, 4175000221, 4175000222, 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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
AMC of 4 wheeler (02 nos.) & 8 wheeler (03 nos.) tower wagon Cummins make diesel engine (06 nos. engine) in DDU Division for 2 years

Open e-tender notice No. TRD/OT/12/TW/AMC/23-24
E-tenders are invited from reputed contractors having proven experience, Authorized OEM, and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents for the work as per details given below :-

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER THROUGH E-TENDERING 2023-24

1. Name of Work : Operation, Maintenance and Development of Rail Museum Ajmer for 05 Years. 2. Estimated cost of work : Rs. 62,85,800.00/-

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKS AT TINSUKIA DIVISION

Tender Notice No. : TSK/Engg/05 of 2024. Dated: 25-01-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item : Operation and maintenance of Iron Removal Plants & water supply system under jurisdiction of ADEN/Simaluguri Jn.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice

Div.Rly. Manager, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below- Sr. No. 1 Name of work with location : ENGG-JP-2023-24-111

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKS AT TINSUKIA DIVISION

Tender Notice No. : TSK/Engg/05 of 2024. Dated: 25-01-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item : Operation and maintenance of Iron Removal Plants & water supply system under jurisdiction of ADEN/Simaluguri Jn.

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
1. Nature of Work :- Construction of Bridge Works in the District of Kalahandi.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_22 of 2023_24 No. 129 Dated. 19.01.2024
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Bridge works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.

Regional Office Samastipur : Panchvati Complex, Mohanpur Road, Samastipur (Bihar)-848101
यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Table with 4 columns: Branch Name, Name of the Borrower, Description of the Secured Assets, Amount of Demand Notice. Includes details for Muzaffarpur branch and borrower M/s Bunni Fashion.

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा

ई - अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई- अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या :- 10 /2023-24 / RWD /LOHARDAGA दिनांक 29.01.2024

Table with 4 columns: क्रम सं०, आईडीएन/फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या, कार्य का नाम, प्राकृतिक राशि (रुपये में), कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि, टेंडर कॉल नं०. Includes details for EE RWD/LOHARDA GA/ 02/STPKG-02/2023-24.

- 2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 31.01.2024 ।
3. ई-निविदा प्रारंभ की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 15.02.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे ।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 17.02.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे ।

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.)E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open e tender under single packets system from experienced, electric license holder and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:

Govt. of Bihar
Public Health Engineering Department
Public Health Engineering Division, Forbesganj

SHORT TENDER NIT No -04/2023-24 (SBFe)
National Competitive Bidding
(Through e-procurement mode on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Table with 9 columns: Group No, Designation and Address of Advertiser, Date of issue of Tender Notice, Period of sale, Date, time & place of pre-bid meeting, Last date and time of receipt, Last date and time of submission, Date and time of opening of technical bid, Date and time of opening of financial bid, Details of Work.

Table with 10 columns: Block, Panchyata, Ward, Scheme, 169, 7358.051, 83.600, 10000, 5900, 15. Includes details for Narpatganj, Bhargama, and Kursakatna blocks.

Table with 10 columns: Block, Panchyata, Ward, Scheme, 69, 3086.407, 40.900, 10000, 5900, 12. Includes details for Kursakatna block.

10. Any Contractor registered in appropriate class with Central Government/ State Government or their undertakings, any PSU in requisite class, or an agency of international or national repute may participate in the tender but registration with the Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar in requisite class will be essential after issue of LoA and before signing the agreement.

For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
Executive Engineer
P. H. Division, Forbesganj

PR- 16291 (P H E D) 2023-24
नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 71,139.90 ▼ 801.67 (1.11%) NIFTY: 21,522.10 ▼ 215.50 (0.99) NIKKEI: 36,065.86 ▲ 38.92 HANG SENG: 15,703.45 ▼ 373.79 FTSE: 7,675.49 ▲ 42.75 DAX: 16,951.34 ▲ 9.63

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| | | | |
| GOLD | USD RATE | OIL | SILVER |
| ₹63,300 | ₹83.11 | \$83.47 | ₹76,700 |

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 29

International market data till 1900 IST

AMID RED SEA TENSIONS

Asian fuel exports to Europe hit, Russian oil cargoes sail strong

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

EVEN AS west-to-east crude oil flows — mainly Russian oil headed to India and China — via the Suez Canal have not been majorly impacted by the Red Sea troubles, refined petroleum product exports to Europe through the crucial trade route have seen disruptions, according to commodity market analytics firm Kpler. The trend is significant for India as the country is a top destination for Russian crude and also an important source market for fuels, particularly aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel, for Europe.



Over the past couple of months, a number of cargo ships have come under attack from the Iran-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen in the Red Sea. Reuters

Over the past couple of months, a number of cargo ships have come under attack from the Iran-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen around the Bab el-Mandeb strait, which leads to the Red Sea and Suez Canal, forming the shortest, albeit narrow route to the Mediterranean Sea and beyond from the Arab Peninsula, North-East Africa, and the Arabian Sea. The route is seen as an important artery of global goods and energy supplies. The Houthis have so far claimed that they are targeting vessels with links to Israel and its allies in view of its military offensive in Gaza.

"West-to-east flows via the Suez Canal, mainly made of Russian crude, have been less impacted, remaining steady at around 1.4 Mbd (million barrels per day). So far this month all cargoes shipped to Asia from Western Russian ports have travelled via the Suez Canal," Kpler said in a report. It also noted that Russian refined fuel cargoes headed to Asia via the

Suez Canal, too, appear to be "undeterred by the escalating hostilities in the Red Sea".

While Kpler did caution that the recent attack on a tanker carrying Russian naphtha could see tanker transits through the Red Sea fall relatively more steeply in the coming weeks, it also noted that there has been no immediate change in tanker approaches since the attack and four tankers carrying Russia's flagship Urals crude passed through the Bab el-Mandeb strait with another three heading south through the Red Sea.

As reported earlier by *The Indian Express*, tankers carrying Russian crude have largely been immune to the security situation in the Red Sea region, which has forced a number of major shipping lines and Western oil companies to shun the route and

instead take the much longer route around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. Higher risk premiums and longer voyages have hit movement of goods between Asia and Europe in terms of higher freight rates.

Russian oil cargoes departing from the North Sea and Black Sea ports take the Suez Canal-Red Sea route to reach Asia, specifically India and China, which are currently the biggest buyers of Russian crude. Oil and shipping analysts do not foresee tankers carrying Russian oil coming under attack in the region as Russia is perceived as Iran's ally. The Houthi rebels are widely believed to be backed by Tehran. In contrast, crude oil flows from West Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal have seen a "substantial decline since October 2023", Kpler said.

But unlike India's inbound

cargoes of Russian crude, tankers hauling refined fuels from India and other parts of Asia to Europe, do not appear to be comfortable transiting the Suez Canal.

"Last year, 3.5 Mbd of refined product flows was shipped via the Suez, a record annual high, making up 14 per cent of total refined product flows. Jet fuel is the most exposed, with 33 per cent of exports utilising the canal. Flows of these products are already disrupted with some cargoes travelling via the Cape (of Good Hope), while others are waiting in the Arabian Sea. The surge in freight rates has also closed arbitrage which will restrict long haul flows to Europe," Kpler said, but did not quantify the impact.

The majority of Indian and Middle Eastern ATF exports to Europe are now going around Africa, adding 15-20 days to the voyage length. In the aftermath of Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as Europe started shunning Russian crude oil and fuel, India emerged as the largest buyer of Russian seaborne crude and also a major fuel supplier to Europe with all such shipments passing through the Red Sea.

"The main jet (fuel) trade flow is from the Middle East and India to Europe, averaging 400 kbd in 2023. Europe is the most reliant on the flow of products through the Suez with 1.3 Mbd arriving via this route, 24 per cent of the total. This share has increased in recent years after Europe banned the import of Russian oil products, forcing a greater volume...to be sourced from the east of Suez," Kpler said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

IMF remains bullish on India, raises GDP growth forecast

Raises FY24 growth to 6.7% from 6.3%

PRIYANSH VERMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

JUST TWO days before the inter-im Budget, India had some good news from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report, the IMF has raised India's GDP growth projection for (2023-2024) FY24 by 40 basis points (bps) to 6.7 per cent, and for FY25 by 20 bps to 6.5 per cent. The revision cited "resilient domestic demand" for its latest estimate.

At 6.7 per cent, India would remain the fastest growing major economy in the world. However, the forecast for FY24 is still 60 bps lower than the National Statistical Office's (NSO) projection. Earlier this month, the NSO projected India's economy to grow at 7.3 per cent in the current fiscal, based on data extrapolated for the first seven to eight

months. The IMF's estimate is also 30 bps lower than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7 per cent for FY24.

On the Fund's projection, the finance ministry said the IMF has revised India's growth forecast for FY24 to 6.7 per cent from 6.3 per cent on account of the robust second quarter GDP outturn. In Q2FY24, India's GDP growth came in at 7.6 per cent, much higher than market expectations.

"The IMF has revised upward medium-term (potential) GDP growth to 6.5 per cent (from 6.3 per cent), reflecting strong public investment, positive labour market outcomes in the latest PLFS report, and adjustments to our model," the finance ministry said.

For the next fiscal, the IMF's estimate is about 50 bps lower than the finance ministry's estimate. Chief Economic Advisor V

Anantha Nageswaran said in a report that India's real GDP growth will likely be close to 7 per cent in FY25 for the fourth year in a row.

He said India's economy will touch the \$5-trillion mark by 2027-28, and subsequently become the third-largest economy in the world.

"It is eminently possible for the Indian economy to grow in the coming years at a rate above 7 per cent on the strength of the financial sector and other recent and future structural reforms. Only the elevated risk of geopolitical conflicts is an area of concern," the finance ministry report noted.

Meanwhile, the IMF expects the global economy to now grow at 3.1 per cent in 2023, 20 bps higher than its previous forecast, on the back of declining inflationary pressures. It, however, says that the pace of expansion remains slow, and "turbulence" may lie ahead.

"The clouds are beginning to

part. The global economy begins the final descent toward a soft landing, with inflation declining steadily and growth holding up," said Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist at IMF.

"Global activity proved resilient in the second half of last year, as demand and supply factors supported major economies," he said. The IMF expects the US economy to grow at 2.1 per cent in 2024, 60 bps higher than its previous forecast, and China's economy at 4.6 per cent, 40 bps above its earlier projection.

"We expect slower growth in the US, where tight monetary policy is still working through the economy, and in China, where weaker consumption and investment continue to weigh on activity," Gourinchas said.

"Many other economies continue to show great resilience, with growth accelerating in Brazil, India and Southeast Asia's major economies," he added.

FE

Day after sharp gains, Sensex declines over 1% on heavy selling in RIL, Bajaj Finance

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

DOMESTIC BENCHMARK stock markets tanked around 1 per cent on Tuesday amid caution ahead of the interim Budget announcement and the US Federal Reserve monetary policy outcome.

The BSE Sensex lost 801.67 points, or 1.11 per cent, to close at 71,139.90 and the NSE Nifty 50 ended 215.50 points (0.99 per cent) down at 21,522.10.

The fall in the indices came a day after they rose by 1.8 per cent each led by a 6.86 per cent surge in the Reliance Industries shares. On Tuesday, the equity market witnessed profit booking at higher levels.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell by 5.03 per cent after its third quarter earnings failed to encourage investors. Titan, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, ITC and NTPC were among the major firms that witnessed a sell-off.

"Investors exhibited a reversal in strategy, adopting a cautious approach in anticipation of the upcoming FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting and interim Budget amid persistent concerns regarding elevated valuations and escalating tensions in the Middle East," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Analysts expect the US Fed to keep the interest rates unchanged in the policy, which will be announced on January 31, but

Tata Motors overtakes Maruti in m-cap

Mumbai: Tata Motors on Tuesday became the most valuable automobile company with a combined market capitalisation of Rs 3,146 lakh crore as against Maruti Suzuki's Rs 3,131 lakh crore. The value of Tata Motors included Rs 2,855 lakh crore market capitalisation of its ordinary shares and Rs 29,119 market value of its DVR shares. DVR shares carry differential voting and dividend rights. The company's ordinary shares closed with a gain of 2.19 per cent at Rs 859.25 and DVR shares rose by 1.63 per cent at Rs 572.65 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Maruti shares shed 0.36 per cent as they ended the session at Rs 9,957.25 on the BSE on Tuesday. While Tata Motors shares rallied by 115 per cent in the last 12 months, Maruti rose by 22.51 per cent during the period. Mahindra & Mahindra which fell 1.17 per cent to Rs 1,620.20 on Tuesday has a market capitalisation of Rs 2,011 lakh crore. **ENS**

said comments on the direction on further rate cuts will be closely monitored.

In its December 2023 policy, the US Fed had signalled that it may start cutting interest rates as early as March this year. However, on January 16, Federal Reserve System's Governor Christopher J Waller said that interest rate cuts need to be calibrated and not rushed, which dampened the hopes of early rate cuts by the US central bank.

According to Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, selling intensified towards the end of the closing bell as investors further slashed their positions in key stocks ahead of the Budget, while weakness in several Asian indices also contributed to the overall fall. "With just one day left for the Budget, investors want to play it safe although there would not be any big-bang

announcement by the government in this budget," Tapse added.

Yes Securities in a note said the policy intent in the interim Budget on February 1 is likely to be made clear through the selective allocation of resources and thrust towards rural development, employment generation, and capacity building through infrastructure development.

"The critical intent of this Budget will be to signal a consolidation towards achieving the promised 4.5 per cent GFD (gross fiscal deficit) by FY26. Thus, the government will have to do a tightrope walk in allocating resources for capital expenditure, the incremental pace of which can reduce," it said.

On Tuesday, the majority of the sectors ended in the red but buying was witnessed in public sector banks due to healthy third-quarter results.

'Opaque' corporate tax practices barrier to our firms willing to invest in India: US ambassador

New Delhi: US Ambassador Eric Garcetti on Tuesday pitched for reform in India's taxation, export control and intellectual property rights regimes for deeper bilateral economic engagement and said the "rhetoric" that everything has to be made in India could slow down the pace of the country's growth.

The envoy said that "opaque corporate tax practices" are still a "barrier" to American companies wanting to invest in India and that export control and export policies have to be changed if the country is to achieve its goals in the economic sphere.

In an address at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Garcetti asserted that the US wants to see an India that doesn't look at self-reliance as a "fortress" but instead as the strength of Indian companies to compete with anyone in the world.

Delving into various facets of fast-growing India-US engagement, Garcetti said there are no areas of cooperation that are "off limits" now and cited fast-growing bilateral engagement in areas of defence, critical minerals and semiconductors.

"We used to say the sky's the limit; now we are beyond that. We are even working in space together; we are in the depths of the ocean together. We have literally no limits to this relationship, horizontally or vertically," he said at the event on the theme 'Strengthening Indo-US relationship in Amritkal-Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

PTI

EPFO's new survey seeks details on women workers to boost their share in workforce

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AMID CONCERNS over the suboptimal rate of female labour force participation in the country, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) have launched a new survey on "increasing women participation in the workforce". The EPFO, which is the retirement fund body for organised sector workers under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, has reached out to its subscribers seeking details regarding the working facilities available for women workers in companies across the country, including provision of flexibility in working hours for women and 'equal pay' for female workers.

The survey has a detailed questionnaire seeking organisation details, including whether the company provides an internal

complaints committee for addressing Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) formalities, crèche facilities for children, and transportation facilities during late hours. The survey has also sought answers on whether there is 'equal pay for equal work' for male and female workers along with a query on availability of flexible or remote working hours for women.

The survey questionnaire has been shared by the EPFO with its nearly 30 crore subscribers across the country. The employer rating survey was launched at an event "Women in the Workforce for Viksit Bharat" by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the WCD ministry on Tuesday. Details have to be submitted on the myscheme.gov.in portal.

As per the EPFO's Annual Report for 2022-23, there are 29.88 crore members across 21.23 lakh establishments under the ambit of the retirement fund body.

Data shows women's labour force participation rate (LFPR) has

improved over the last few years but much of this increase has been seen in the unpaid work category. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the female participation rate rose to 27.8 per cent in 2022-23 from 17.5 per cent in 2017-18, but a major chunk of this is of the women reported as "helpers in household enterprises", who do not receive any regular salary for their work.

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, female LFPR reduced to 8.73 per cent in 2022-23 from 11.80 per cent in 2017-18. Female LFPR in rural areas slowed to 9.68 per cent in 2022-23 from 12.16 per cent in 2017-18, while that in urban areas moderated to 6.90 per cent in 2022-23 from 11.10 per cent in 2017-18.

Globally, the South Asia region had a female labour force participation rate of 26 per cent in 2022, with India's neighbouring countries registering female LFPR of 33 per cent in Sri Lanka, 25 per cent in

Pakistan, 29 per cent in Nepal, 38 per cent in Bangladesh and 61 per cent in China, as per World Bank.

In the proposed four labour codes, which are expected to replace a set of 44 central labour laws and are likely to come into effect after elections, the government has incorporated specific provisions for safeguarding the employment of women workers. The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for enhanced paid maternity leave, provision for mandatory crèche facilities in establishments having 50 or more employees, permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.

The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH), 2020 has proposed tweaks in employment terms and conditions for women workers in the above-ground mines. The Code on Wages 2019 has provisions for no gender-based discrimination for wages in an establishment for similar nature of work.

BRIEFLY

NTPC arm, Maha govt ink pact for green hydrogen

New Delhi: NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) on Tuesday said it has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to develop green hydrogen projects and its derivatives in Maharashtra. The memorandum of understanding has been signed as a part of Green Investment Plan of the state government in the next five years and envisages a potential investment of Rs 80,000 crore, NGEL said. **PTI**

Sony gets NCLT notice, to file reply in 3 weeks

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Tuesday issued a notice on a petition moved by Mad Men Film Ventures, a shareholder of Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL), directing Sony Pictures Network India to file a reply within three weeks. **PTI**

Aramco to halt oil expansion plans, lower its maximum capacity target

MAHA EL DAHAN & YOUSEF SABA
DUBAI, JANUARY 30 -

SAUDI ARABIA'S government on Tuesday ordered state oil company Saudi Aramco to halt its oil expansion plan and to target a maximum sustained production capacity of 12 million barrels per day, one million bpd below a target announced in 2020.

Saudi Arabia has for decades been the holder of the world's only significant spare oil capacity, providing a safety cushion in case of major disruptions to global output such as those caused by conflict or natural disasters. In recent years, fellow OPEC member the United Arab Emirates has also built up its capacity.

Aramco's lowered target in no way reflects a change of view on future oil demand scenarios nor stems from any technical issue, but was simply a directive from the government, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters. "If the government decides to go the other way, the company is ready," the source said. Aramco was asked by the Energy Ministry in March 2020 to



Aramco was earlier asked to boost its maximum output capacity to 13 million bpd. AP

boost its maximum output capacity to 13 million bpd the same year it had a stand-off with Russia over market share.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, is currently pumping around 9 million bpd, well below its capacity after the kingdom cut production as part of an agreement with OPEC and its allies last year.

The kingdom, the de facto leader of OPEC, cut output to balance markets in the face of rising supply from non-OPEC producers.

"Aramco currently has spare capacity of 3 million bpd and that will be supported in the near future by a very important liquids displacement programme which will avail another 1 million bpd of oil and refined products for production," the source said, adding that this volume allows Aramco the flexibility to respond to market conditions.

Benchmark Brent crude futures were down 1.14 per cent to \$81.46 per barrel as of 1338 GMT.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have repeatedly called for more investment in oil and gas and argue fossil fuels will be part of the energy mix for decades to come.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during US President Joe Biden's visit to the kingdom in July 2022 warned that Riyadh "will not have any more capability to increase production" after it reaches the now-scrapped 13 million bpd goal.

Yet major oil consumers, including the United States and the European Union, have adopted policies aimed at transitioning away from fossil fuels to cleaner energy which has discouraged such investment.

REUTERS

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re e-tender SE/PHC/KKD/ (164 to 170) /2023-24
Jai Jeevan Mission - Providing Functional Household Tap Connections in Naduvannu, Kattippara, Koothali, Keezhariyur, Koorachund, Chenghottukav & Kottur Grama Panchayath in Kozhikode District. EMD : Rs. 500000, 500000, 200000, 200000, 500000, 200000, 500000, Tender fee : Rs. (16540, 16540, 11025, 11025, 16540, 11025, 16540)+GST, Last Date for submitting Tender : 12-02-2024 04:00 PM Phone : 04952371046, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer PH Circle Kozhikode
KWA-JB-GL-6-2224-2023-24

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 177/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM
(J.M)-Construction of tanks- CWSS To Vellandam Aruvikkara and Karakulam Panchayaths Construction of 10 LL Capacity OHSR At Vellarippara, Construction of pump house in Sump at Chithirakkunnu, Providing and laying Transmission main from vellaripara to Kuthirakkulam and Mathalampara and other allied works in Vellandam Panchayath - SLSSC 5, EMD : Rs. 500000, Tender fee : Rs. 19518/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 20-02-2024 03:00 PM Phone : 0471-2322303, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer PH Circle Thiruvananthapuram

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064.
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender Notice No. RWFS/10/2023-24 Dated 25/01/2024
On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tenders from experienced Manufacturers, for supply of the following item, on the Indian Railways e-portal www.reps.gov.in. The tender documents and the Contingendum to the Tenders if any, will be available on the portal only.
Tender Item Description Quantity Tender Closing Date and Time
P2235747B HIGH ALUMINA ROOF SETS AS PER RWF SPECIFICATION 12 Sets 16/02/2024, 14:00 hrs.
Tender Notice No. RWFS/10/18/2023-24 dt. 29/01/24
Sl. Tender No Due date Short Description Qty
1 P1232347B 12-02-24 Graphite Electrode with preset Nipple to RWF Specification (Developmental Tender) 15 MT
Tender details can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.irgms.gov.in
Principal Chief Materials Manager.

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
CIN U40109GJ2004SGC045195
(Wholly-owned company of Govt. of Gujarat)
ISO 9001-2015 Certified Company
Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, Vadodra 390007
PBX: (0265) 2310582-86, www.guvnl.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
GUVNL invites Tender for procurement of power through competitive bidding process (followed by e-reverse auction) from 1125 MW Grid Connected Solar Photovoltaic Power Projects to be set up in GSECL's RE Park at Khavda (GSECL Stage-3) without energy storage through RIS No. GUVNL / 1125 MW / Khavda / Solar (Phase XXIII) dated 29.01.2024. For tender documents, please visit the website www.bharat-electronictender.com and www.guvnl.com. The last date of bid submission is 15.02.2024
Date: 31-01-2024 General Manager (RE)

UPSIDA Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDA Complex, A/14 Lakhapur, Kanpur 208024, Uttar Pradesh, India
Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Master Plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of Bulk Drug Park in District Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh
(RFP No: UPSIDA/RFP/1223/Pharma/Consultant/02)
The Government of Uttar Pradesh is planning for setting up of a bulk drug Park on land measuring 1472 acres in phased manner in District Lalitpur. In first phase it would be confined to 300 acres for providing easy access to world class Common Infrastructure Facilities (CIF) to pharma units located in the proposed bulk drug park. It would significantly bring down the manufacturing cost of drugs and thereby make India self-reliant in bulk drugs, Key Starting Materials and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for making India self-reliant and reduce imports. It also envisages to inhouse formulation units to produce high quality medicines at affordable cost. Online tenders through e-procurement are invited by Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority from interested bidders for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Master Plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of Bulk Drug Park in district Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh. The salient features of the project, eligibility criteria and prescribed formats for submission can be accessed in the RfQ cum RFP document uploaded on the website: www.etender.up.nic.in or from <https://onlineupsida.com>
Date of issue of RFQ CUM RFP 31.01.2024 from 11:00 AM
Due Date & Time of Closing 08.02.2024 by 5:00 PM
Due Date & Time of Opening 09.02.2024 at 11:00 AM
General Manager (Engg.)
Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority

TOP OF THE WORLD



Fumio Kishida

JAPAN PM says will break party from money politics

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stressed Tuesday he was determined to make a clear break from money politics as he renewed an apology for the latest major corruption scandal in the governing party, which has eclipsed his key policies such as strengthening the military and Japan's alliance with the United States. His policy speech had been due last week when the new parliamentary session opened, but Kishida broke with tradition and instead faced an intensive session on the scandal first. Kishida said he must admit that factions in the Liberal Democratic Party seemed to work for money and favors rather than policy, and he vowed to lead reforms. AP

VIETNAM Deal signed with Philippines on South China Sea

Hanoi: Vietnam and the Philippines agreed on Tuesday to boost cooperation between their coastguards and to prevent untoward incidents in the South China Sea, in an announcement during a state visit to Hanoi by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The two Southeast Asian countries have competing claims over some parts of the South China Sea, a conduit for \$3 trillion of annual ship-borne trade that China claims almost in its entirety. The two memoranda of understanding on security covered "incident prevention in the South China Sea" and "maritime cooperation" among coastguards. REUTERS

AMERICAS US sanctions on Venezuela start, oil could be next

Washington: The U.S. on Monday began reinstating sanctions on Venezuela and a Biden administration source said a roll-back of restrictions on the oil industry could be allowed to expire, after the South American country's top court upheld a ban blocking the candidacy of the leading opposition hopeful in presidential elections. The United States had granted sanctions relief for OPEC member Venezuela in October in recognition of a deal for elections this year. REUTERS

FRANCE Govt prepares new measures to calm farmers

Paris: With protesting farmers camped out at barricades around Paris, France's government hoped to calm their anger with more concessions Tuesday to their complaints that growing and rearing food has become too difficult and not sufficiently lucrative. Attention was focusing on an address to new Prime Minister Gabriel Attal was to give in the afternoon to France's parliament, laying out government's priorities. The farmers' campaign for better pay blew up into major crisis. AP

CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL MADE BY QATAR PM, INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS OF U.S., EGYPT, ISRAEL

Studying three-stage truce scheme made in Paris, says Hamas leader

REUTERS DUBAI, JANUARY 30

HAMAS SAID on Tuesday it had received and was studying a new proposal for a ceasefire and release of hostages in Gaza, presented by mediators after talks with Israel, in what appeared to be the most serious peace initiative for months.

A senior Hamas official said the proposal involved a three-stage truce, during which the group would first release remaining civilian hostages it captured, then soldiers, and finally the bodies of hostages that were killed.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not indicate how long the three stages would last or what was envisioned to follow the final stage.

It was the first time since the collapse of the only brief truce of the war so far, that details were released of a new proposal being considered by both sides.

The ceasefire proposal followed talks in Paris involving CIA Director William Burns, Qatar's prime minister, the chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence service and the head of Egyptian intelligence. In a mark of the seriousness of the negotiations, Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said he was going to Cairo to discuss it, his first public trip there for more than a month.

But Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu repeated his vow not to pull troops out of Gaza until "total victory".



Displaced Palestinians move from Khan Younis to Rafah as Israel hardens its strikes. Reuters

Israel hands over Palestinian bodies in Gaza, raids hospital in West Bank

REUTERS GAZA, JANUARY 30

ISRAEL ON Tuesday handed over to Palestinian authorities the bodies of dozens of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza war in recent weeks, health officials in the Palestinian enclave said.

The bodies, which had been held in Israel, were handed over through the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing and will be buried in mass graves in the

city of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, the officials said.

The Gaza health officials confirmed they had received 100 bodies, "including full bodies, half bodies and body parts."

The bodies arrived at an open space in Rafah where workers and medics waited next to a long line of newly dug graves.

The bodies, wrapped in blue plastic bags, were transferred to the location in a cooler truck.

On Tuesday, Israeli police and military said that Israeli com-

mandos disguised as Palestinians killed three Palestinian militants in a hospital in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday. The hospital's medical director said the three were "executed in cold blood".

The Israeli military identified one of them as a Hamas member who, it said, planned an "attack inspired by October 7 massacre".

The second Palestinian killed was a member of the Hamas-allied Islamic Jihad (IJ) and the third belonged to a Jenin-based group, a military statement said.



LANKA OPP PROTESTS ECONOMIC CRUNCH

Workers of the main opposition United People's Power party protesting Sri Lanka's dire economic conditions in Colombo, on Tuesday. Police used tear gas and water cannons Tuesday to disperse the protesters, as the country gears for elections later this year. AP

Nicole Kidman's Expats was filmed in Hong Kong, but can't be watched there

ASSOCIATED PRESS HONG KONG, JANUARY 30

NICOLE KIDMAN'S latest project is set in Hong Kong, but people who live there are blocked from seeing it, prompting speculation about censorship in a city where civil liberties are shrinking fast.

First two episodes of "Expats," a drama series about expat women, were released on Amazon Prime on January 26. When viewers in Hong Kong try to watch it, they see "this video is unavailable in your location."

The city has hardened its controls over political speech af-



A still from Expats. AP

ter 2019 protests rocked the city.

The first episode of "Expats" includes a brief scene in which people at a rally chant "I want real general elections." The show's trailer also refers to the 2014 Umbrella Movement.

HONG KONG BEGINS WORK ON NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

Hong Kong: Hong Kong began work on a local National Security Law on Tuesday, more than three years after Beijing imposed a similar law that has all but wiped out dissent in the semi-autonomous city. Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, calls for the city to enact a national security law, but it's been delayed for decades due to widespread public opposition. AP

VERDICT 9 DAYS BEFORE NATIONAL POLLS

Imran, ex-minister Qureshi get 10 years prison in cipher case

Only waved piece of paper in rally, Khan tells court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 30

JAILED FORMER Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a special court on Tuesday for leaking sensitive state secrets, in another blow to his bid to return to power in the February 8 general elections.

The decision to sentence Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was announced by a special court Judge during the hearing of the case held at the special court in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi.

The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician is already serving a three-year jail term after being convicted of corruption.

Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has faced numerous troubles starting with the denial of its election symbol, the cricket bat, to the rejection of nomination papers of Khan, Qureshi, 67, and a number of other party leaders. The verdict comes nine days before the February 8 general elections.

The controversy first emerged on March 27, 2022, when Khan while addressing a public rally waved a letter before the crowd, claiming that it was a cipher from a foreign nation that had conspired with his political rivals to have his government overthrown.

Khan reportedly informed the court that he had only waved a "piece of paper" during his party rally to expose a conspiracy against his government.



Police detains a PTI supporter outside the Sindh High Court in Karachi, on Tuesday. AP

Blast at PTI rally in Balochistan kills four

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 30

AT LEAST four people were killed and five injured on Tuesday in an explosion at a political rally of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party in Balochistan, the latest terrorist strike in Pakistan's restive province.

The blast occurred on Jinnah Road in Sibi city when an election rally of a National Assembly candidate of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was passing through.

The medical superintendent of the District Headquarters Hospital in Sibi, Dr Babar, confirmed that four people were killed and five others were injured. The victims were shifted to the civil hospital.

Officials said that police reached the spot of the attack and launched a search for the

perpetrators.

In a statement, the PTI party said the bombing attacked an election rally of party-backed candidate Saddam Tareen, who is contesting the upcoming polls from the constituency. The party claimed that the victims were its workers.

"We strongly condemn this heartbreaking incident and demand that attention should be given to suppressing terrorists instead of PTI workers," it said in a post on social media platform X.

Terming the incident a "criminal failure" of the provincial and federal governments, the party said, "A full investigation of the incident should be conducted, and the criminal negligence of the supervising governments should also be investigated".

An emergency was imposed in all hospitals of Quetta and Sibi following the incident, a health department statement said.

Nikki Haley's S Carolina dilemma: Voters who like her, but love Trump

BILL BARROW CONWAY, SC, JANUARY 30

FOR SOUTH Carolina's conservatives, deciding whether Nikki Haley's record warrants a promotion to the Oval Office seems less about her experience and abilities and more about the man standing in her way: Donald Trump.

"Haley did some fine things as governor, but Donald Trump is the man!" said Doug Roberts, a retired electrician who came to a recent Haley rally in a Trump T-shirt.

Haley, Trump's last major Republican rival, faces a make-or-buy break stretch ahead of South Carolina's Feb. 24 primary that could be Trump's last obstacle to a third consecutive Republican nomination. While Haley has talked about her comfort running in her home state, interviews with almost two dozen South Carolina Republicans since



Republican candidate Nikki Haley

the New Hampshire primary suggest Haley is struggling to win over conservatives who backed her twice for governor but haven't soured on Trump for president.

The winner of South Carolina primary has won the nomination all but one time since 1980.

But Trump's campaign remains confident of another victory, with his top advisers releasing a memo Monday to supporters and media predicting a "humiliation at home" for Haley.

The pressure to convert Trump voters was evident in Haley's first South Carolina campaign since outlasting Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and finishing second in New Hampshire.



S Korea's Yoon vetoes fresh probe of 2022 crowd crush

Seoul: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol blocked on Tuesday a bill to launch a new probe into a Halloween crowd crush that killed 159 people in Seoul's Itaewon district in 2022, in a move slammed by the opposition and relatives of the victims.

Yoon's office announced his veto of conducting an investigation with an independent panel hours after the prime minister described the opposition-backed bill as politicised and potentially in breach of the constitution.

"The pain from the disaster cannot be used as a tool to justify political strife and a possibility of unconstitutionality," Prime Minister Han Duck-soo told a cabinet meeting, denying an earlier probe by police and prosecutors was flawed. REUTERS



South Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol

ATTEMPT IN PERU TO PROTECT BEE VARIETY THAT FACES THREAT DUE TO PESTICIDES, CLIMATE CHANGE

To protect Amazon, conservators try to save pollinator: Stingless bees

THE NEW YORK TIMES JANUARY 30

AS A child, Heriberto Vela, an Indigenous resident of Loreto, Peru, watched his father pull nests of wild stingless bees from trees in the Amazon forest. Together, the two then extracted honey from the nests to help cure colds and other ailments.

Stingless bees are native to the Amazon, unlike the more familiar but invasive honey bees from Africa and Europe that have spread through the Americas. The most obvious difference, perhaps, is that stingless bees don't sting. Their honey, which

is runny enough to be drunk like a liquid and is said to have a citrusy aftertaste, is used by many Indigenous Peruvians as a natural medicine.

Today, Vela's methods are more sophisticated. His family keeps 76 nests of stingless bees in square wooden boxes perched on sticks and scattered around his home. Each artificial nest has multiple drawers, but Vela only harvests honey from one, which he calls the mielera, or honey pot, leaving the rest for the bees. "They need it to live," he explained. "If I take it away from them, they may flee."

The Amazon is home to hundreds of species of stingless bee,



A sustainable conservation programme requires funding, government backing, and the integration of local knowledge and practices. NYT

but as deforestation converts the tropical landscape into farms and ranches, these and other native pollinators are in danger of disappearing. Pesticides, climate change and competition with the honey bee, which is adapted to agricultural areas than the stingless bee, introduces more strain.

Mr. Vela's family is among the few who keep stingless bees and live off the income they provide. César Delgado, an entomologist at the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute who helped Mr. Vela refine his practice, wants to widen the appeal. "Beekeeping is a very good way for the forest and communities to adapt to climate change," he said.

Building an economy around stingless bees, which pollinate much of the Amazon's native flora, is a creative way to fight deforestation, said Rosa Vásquez Espinoza, a chemical biologist and founder of Amazon Research Internacional. But for the effort to work, Dr. Vásquez Espinoza stressed, it must incorporate the knowledge and ways of life of the Indigenous peoples who call the rainforest home. It must be "a process that is self-sustaining, and aligned with the culture of the communities," she said.

The Amazon is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. But widespread deforestation threatens the protection of

Indigenous communities as well as the animals and plants that live there, and it reduces the habitat's function as a major carbon sink amid the growing climate crisis.

"We are losing species that have never even been documented," said Adrian Forsyth, a tropical ecologist who founded the Andes Amazon Fund and is not involved in the beekeeping effort. "It's not just that we're burning the book of life," he added. "It's that we haven't even read the first few pages."

A sustainable conservation program requires funding, government backing, and the integration of local knowledge and practices, Dr. Forsyth said.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Issues with EVs, and possible hybrid solution

Overall, hybrids could work out to be cleaner for India in the medium term. Subsidy policy, charging, and power source are significant challenges to EV adoption.

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK & ANIL SASI
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDIA MUST "embrace" hybrid vehicles over the next 5-10 years on the way to full electrification, says a new research note. Hybrids are the more practical medium-term solution for India's decarbonisation efforts and, more importantly, less polluting, according to the note. According to HSBC Research, currently overall carbon emissions are lower in hybrids compared to both electric and those that run on petrol and diesel for similarly proportioned vehicles. In fact, it could take as long as a decade for EV and hybrid vehicle emissions to come to the same level, the note says. Hybrids have both an internal combustion engine and an onboard electric motor, which work in tandem to provide motive power. Countries including India are pushing toward electrification. In India, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai Motor have been betting big on EVs. But passenger car market leader Maruti Suzuki has taken a more conservative approach, and has no battery electric vehicle (BEV) in the market so

far. It has, however, prioritised hybrids in its portfolio in partnership with Toyota Kirloskar. The Centre currently offers clear tax incentives for primarily one category of cars, with almost all other vehicular technological platforms clubbed together towards the upper end of the tax bracket. India's electric mobility plan is largely focussed on BEVs replacing internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Li-ion is seen as the most viable battery option for now.

Why do the researchers believe hybrids are a good medium-term solution?
 "We have a long-standing belief that hybrid and compressed natural gas cars are a practical medium-term (5-10 years) solution for India, while the country moves towards eventual electrification. Hybrids are critical not just from a cost-of-ownership perspective, but also for India's decarbonisation drive," the HSBC note issued to investors said. The note says total (wheel-to-wheel, or WTW) carbon emissions from an EV is currently 158 g/km, compared to 133 g/km for hybrids — so, a hybrid is at least 16% less polluting than the corresponding EV. The numbers for corresponding petrol and diesel vehicles are

176 g/km and 201 g/km respectively. The analysis does not focus only on tailpipe emissions; it includes vehicle emissions (tank-to-wheel, or TTW) and emissions from crude mining, refining, and power generation as well. "In the case of EVs we have only incorporated power generation emissions and not coal production emissions, which would have skewed the equation further in favour of hybrids," HSBC said in the note.

How long could this situation continue?
 EV and hybrid emissions could converge after 7-10 years, according to the estimates. The non-fossil share of power generation in India in FY23 was 26%, and the blended power generation emission was 716g/kWh. According to the note, total emissions from hybrid cars and EVs will converge if non-fossil power generation in India moves up to 44%. By 2030, even if India's share of non-fossil fuels is 40%, hybrids will still release 8% less emissions than EVs, which, however, will be half of the 16% of today, the note said. Authors of the note at HSBC Research did not respond to a request for comment.

How is the global push for BEVs faring?

There are a few speed bumps on the way to rapid adoption of battery electrics at scale. **UPFRONT SUBSIDY:** The experience in markets from Norway to the US and China shows that the electric push works only if it is backed by state subsidies. An elaborate system of incentives is central to Norway's EV policy, which has fostered the world's most advanced EV market. The government waives the high taxes it imposes on the sale of non-electrics; it lets electric cars run in bus lanes; toll roads are free for EVs; and parking lots offer a free charge. The problem with this kind of overt subsidisation of EVs, especially in developing countries like India, is that much of the subsidy, especially the one offered as tax breaks for cars, ends up in the hands of the middle or upper middle classes, who are typically the buyers of battery electric four-wheelers. **CHARGING NETWORK:** A World Bank analysis has found that investing in charging infrastructure is between four and seven times more effective in ensuring EV adoption compared with providing purchase subsidies. Both Norway and China, while offering purchase subsidies, have seen faster adoption of EVs as a result of sustained efforts at

expanding the public charging infrastructure. China, the leader in the number of publicly available chargers, accounts for 85% of global fast chargers and 55% slow chargers. The situation in India is very different. While the number of EVs had crossed 1 million by mid-2022 and will likely grow to 45-50 million by 2030, only about 2,000 public charging stations are currently operational across the country. Also, as a report by KPMG (*Electric vehicle charging — the next big opportunity*) pointed out, India faces a unique challenge in building charging infrastructure because the vehicle mix in the country is dominated by two- and three-wheelers. Given that cars and these smaller vehicles have different charging requirements — two- and three-wheelers have small, low-voltage batteries for which normal AC power charging is adequate, while four-wheelers have varying battery sizes and use different charging standards — the charging network strategy has to be tweaked. **ELECTRICITY SOURCE:** In several countries that have pushed EVs, much of the electricity is generated from renewables — Norway, for example, has 99% hydroelectric

power. In India, the grid is still fed largely by coal-fired thermal plants. Unless the generation mix changes significantly, India would be effectively using fossil fuels to power EVs. Theoretically, this would mean reduced tailpipe emissions in cities, but continuing pollution from the running of thermal plants. There is the advantage of substitution of oil imports, though. **VALUE CHAIN:** As India struggles to make inroads into the global lithium value chain, there is discussion on the need to diversify the country's dependency on Li-ion batteries in the EV mix. The demand for Li-ion batteries from India is projected to grow at a CAGR of more than 30% by volume up to 2030, which translates to more than 50,000 tonnes of lithium requirement for the country to manufacture EV batteries alone. However, more than 90% of global Li production is concentrated in Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia, alongside Australia and China. Other key inputs such as cobalt and nickel are mined in the Congo and Indonesia. India would, therefore, be almost entirely dependent on imports from a small pool of countries to cater to its demand. While other options to Li-ion are being explored, viability remains a key factor.

EXPLAINED LAW

DEATH PENALTY TO 15: THE KERALA BJP LEADER MURDER CASE OF 2021

SHAJU PHILIP
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 30

AN ADDITIONAL sessions court in Kerala's Alappuzha district Tuesday awarded the death sentence to 15 activists of PFI-SDPI, for the murder of BJP leader Ranjith Sreenivasan.



Police escort convicted PFI men in Alappuzha on Tuesday. PTI

Who was Ranjith Sreenivasan?
 Ranjith (45) was the BJP's OBC morcha state secretary, and an advocate by profession. He had contested the 2016 Assembly polls as the BJP candidate from Alappuzha. He had been a special invitee in the BJP state committee and had served as additional standing government counsel in Alappuzha. Besides, he had been a member of the management committee of the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology. He was involved in welfare measures for coastal communities and fishermen.

How was he killed?
 On December 19, 2021, Kerala woke up to the news of two tit-for-tat political killings in Alappuzha. The previous night around 7 pm, Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) state general secretary KSShan (39) was killed in Mannanchery. SDPI is the political wing of Popular Front of India (PFI), which was banned in 2022 by the Centre for activities "prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country". Hours later, a gang of assailants forced their way into the house of Ranjith Sreenivasan. He was hacked to death in front of his mother, wife, and younger

daughter. His face was disfigured.

What was the background of this?
 Tensions between the Sangh Parivar and PFI had been running high in Alappuzha in 2021. In February of that year, an RSS worker, Nandu R Krishna, was murdered in Vayalar allegedly by an SDPI-PFI gang. This came after the SDPI took out a march in Vayalar against the Kerala visit of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The RSS also marched against the PFI, allegedly raising "provocative slogans". Shan's murder was believed to be in retaliation to Nandu's killing.

What about the Shan case trial?
 The police submitted chargesheets in both murders on March 17, 2022. In the Shan murder case, the chargesheet named 15 persons belonging to the RSS. However, the trial in this case is yet to begin for want of a special prosecutor.

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DEATH of the last male in 2018 made the extinction of the northern white rhino an inevitability. But already in 2015, a group of 20 scientists from five continents had launched an audacious and expensive project to rebuild the subspecies through in vitro fertilisation (IVF). Last week, the scientists announced the first-ever rhino pregnancy achieved by transferring a lab-made rhino embryo into a surrogate mother. It took 13 attempts for the breakthrough with a southern white rhino, a closely-related subspecies that branched away from the northern whites about a million years ago. The international consortium of scientists, named BioRescue, is confident that the success can be replicated with 30 embryos of the northern white stored in liquid nitrogen. However, rebuilding a species is easier said than done.

Process is the challenge
 In 2009, four northern white rhinos were brought from a zoo in the Czech Republic to a conservancy in Kenya in the hope that they might breed in their natural environment. The two males — Suni and Sudan — have died since, and the two females — Najin and her daughter Fatu — turned out to be incapable of reproduction for pathological reasons. This meant surrogacy was the only option to produce a northern white calf through IVF. Preparing a southern white female, the natural choice for a surrogate mother, is an elaborate process. The first step is to isolate her and put a protocol in place to guard against bacterial infections. The real challenge, though, is to spot when the animal is in oestrus — the fertile window for implanting the embryo. This requires the services of a 'teaser' — a scrubbed and sterilised rhino bull to check when the designated surrogate mother gets interested. Mating also triggers an array of hormonal reactions that primes the female for the embryo implant, Thomas Hildebrandt



The last two northern white rhinos, Najin and Fatu, live in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. BioRescue

of Berlin-based Leibniz-Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (Leibniz-IZW) told *National Geographic*. **Issue of genetic viability**
 In this case, since the embryos are all from eggs harvested from two females and sperm taken from a few deceased zoo males, even multiple successes with IVF and surrogacy cannot build a gene pool large enough for a viable northern white population. One solution is to broaden the breeding pool by creating sperm and eggs from stem cells extracted from preserved tissue samples stored in zoos. The science has worked in lab mice, but it may not be easily replicable in rhinos. Another optimistic argument is based on the natural resilience witnessed in the wild. Rampant hunting had resulted in the southern white rhino population crashing drastically in the 19th century when their numbers had possibly dropped to as low as 20.

However, thanks to armed protection and multilateral conservation efforts, the subspecies has made a significant recovery since then, and now numbers more than 17,000. But even favourable outcomes from experiments with stem cell techniques cannot stretch the northern white rhino gene pool beyond 12 animals, BioRescue project coordinator Jan Stejskal told *BBC*. Crossbreeding the northern and southern subspecies is not a solution since this will result in the loss of certain unique attributes, such as hairier ears and feet, that make the northern white better adapted for swampy habitats. **Being a northern white**
 Breakthroughs in IVF or stem cell technologies can in theory produce northern white rhino calves long after the species is extinct. However, babies are not born genetically hardwired to behave as one of the species. They pick up those traits from fam-

ily and social interactions. So the first batch of IVF northern white calves born to surrogate southern white mothers needs to be raised by northern white adults to learn to be northern whites and carry that legacy for the next batch of IVF calves and, if the species indeed survives, future generations. That is why scientists consider it absolutely vital that the first IVF calves are born in time to learn the social and behavioural skills of northern whites from the last two surviving females in Kenya. Najin is 35, and Fatu 24. Given that northern white rhinos rarely live beyond 40 in captivity, that window will be closing soon. **Is it worth the money?**
 The BioRescue consortium, which is led by the Leibniz-IZW, is funded by the German government and several other public and private donors. Millions of dollars have been spent on the project that aims to make "the seemingly impossible a reality". Questions have been asked on whether the project takes focus and resources away from other endangered species that could still be saved. Some critics have also questioned the purpose of rebuilding a northern white population without addressing the threats to its natural habitat, which may jeopardise its future in the wild all over again. A victim of organised hunting for its horns, the northern white was officially declared extinct in the wild in 2008. In 2015, when BioRescue was launched, only three individuals survived in a Kenyan conservancy. The effort to rebuild the species was inspired by an obligation to try and undo the damage caused by the greed of humans. One rhino is poached every 16 hours on average in Africa. While the southern whites form the largest surviving rhino species, there are fewer than 7,000 black rhinos in Africa, and only 4,000 one-horned rhinos in Asia. Populations of the other two rhino species — the Javan and the Sumatran — are down to fewer than 100 each. But there may still be time to help them in the wild before test tubes become their future too.

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What is the cipher case, in which former Pak PM Imran got 10 years in jail

ALIND CHAUHAN
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FORMER PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan and ex-Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were on Tuesday sentenced to 10 years in jail by a special court in the cipher case, which pertains to the disclosure of a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington in early 2022. Imran and Qureshi have been found guilty of making the document public. Imran has claimed that the cable is proof of a US conspiracy to push the Pakistani military to oust him in a parliamentary vote in 2022. He has, however, denied revealing the document's content publicly — the former PM has said news outlets got the document from other sources. Soon after the court's ruling, Imran's

party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) posted a statement on X, saying "Pakistan stands with Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who defended Pakistan and stood for Haqeeqi Azadi... A complete mockery and disregard of law in the cipher case shall not lead us to forget our primary responsibility in order to provide justice to IK and SMQ". **The classified cable**
 The document at the centre of the controversy contained an account of a meeting that took place on March 7, 2022, among US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and then Pakistani ambassador to US Asad Majeed Khan. The complete text of the purported cable hasn't been disclosed yet as it is protected under Section 5 of the Official Secrets



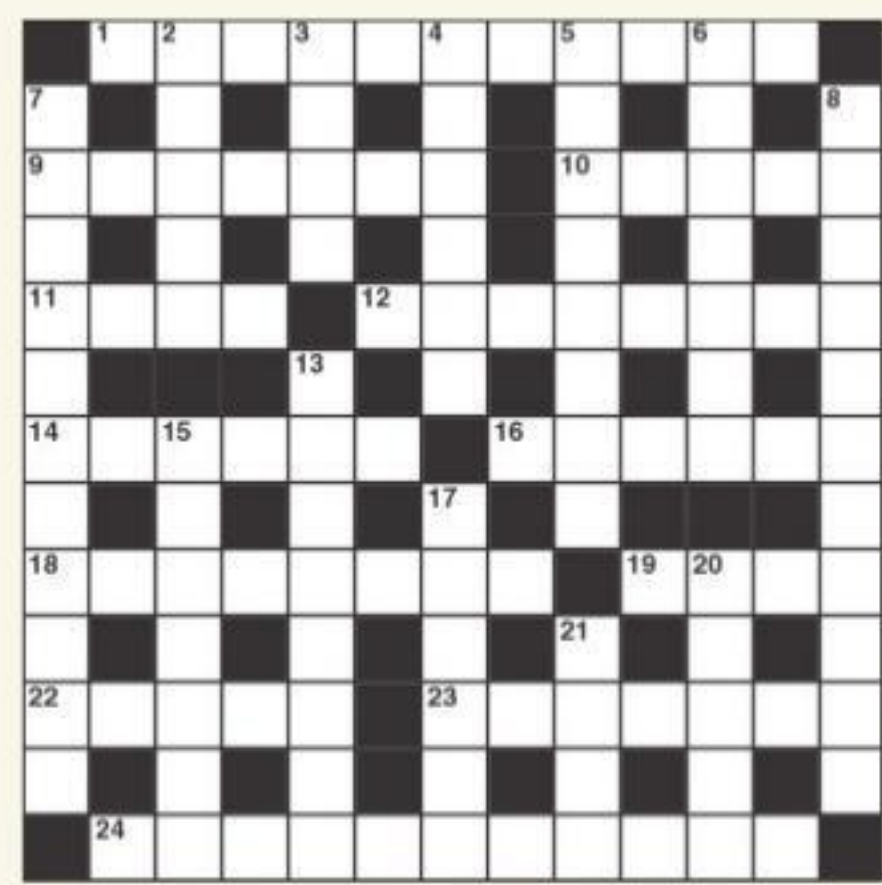
Imran claimed the cable was proof of a US conspiracy to oust him. Reuters/fil

edly expressed their displeasure regarding Imran's neutrality on the Russian invasion of Ukraine — the then PM was in Moscow on February 24, 2022, when President Valdimir Putin announced the invasion of Ukraine, according to *The Intercept* report. Lu purportedly said: "I think if the no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister. Otherwise, I think it will be tough going ahead." Asad Majeed sent the details of the gathering to Islamabad through a cable, labelled "Secret". Just a day after the meeting, on March 8, Imran's political rivals in Parliament moved forward with a key procedural step towards a no-confidence vote. More than a month later, the PTI chief was ousted from office after the vote succeeded. The US State Department has denied that its officials encouraged their Pakistani counterparts to oust Imran.

The case
 Imran cited the secret document for the first time on March 27, 2022, at a huge gathering in Islamabad, where he pulled out a 'letter' from his pocket, claiming it to be proof of an international conspiracy to remove him from the top job. Ten days later, he revealed more details about the cable and said, "The US had sent a threatening message through Pakistan's envoy," according to a report by *Dawn*. Since then, especially after his ouster, Imran has repeatedly brought up the classified cable and its content to claim that the US was behind the no-confidence vote against him. In response, in July 2023, the Pakistan Muslim League (N)-led government accused the former PM of "exposing an official secret document". The then Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah told reporters in Islamabad that Imran's abuse of an official secret document had harmed Pakistan's foreign relations.

The next month, just days after *The Intercept* published its report, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered an FIR against Imran under Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act 1923 for making the contents of the classified cable public. In October 2023, both Imran and Qureshi were indicted in the case. According to the chargesheet, Imran "illegally retained and wrongly communicated" the document. But in November, the Islamabad High Court declared the proceedings in the case illegal, which meant that the entire process had to start afresh. The special court began the trial again and indicted Imran and Qureshi for a second time in December. On Tuesday, the PTI leaders were handed 10 years in jail. In August 2023, Imran was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison in the Toshakhana graft case. While that sentence was later suspended, he has remained behind bars due to other cases.

CROSSWORD 5275



- ACROSS**
- He shouldn't leave any wrong impressions (11)
 - He's clear about fish (7)
 - It's erect whichever way you look at it (3,2)
 - The permit is to reside in Virginia (4)
 - He has a telling part in play (8)
 - Gather the woman's hellish (6)
 - She and men get involved and become engaged (6)
 - Negligent woman coming second in extremities (8)
 - It changes me in appearance (4)
 - Wakes all awry (5)
 - Prohibited sort of beard (7)
 - Will the orator be speechless if he loses it? (7,4)
- DOWN**
- People's pursuits (5)
 - Certainly nothing to chatter about (4)
 - Picture again what could be exceptional reward (6)
 - Dad's backing mother for example - that's obvious (8)
 - Fit style (7)
 - Commanding location seen in new garden visit (7,4)
 - Understood to be arrested (11)
 - The most admirable debtor is one who gives (8)
 - Gratefully acknowledged (7)
 - Skilled trades in building boats (6)
 - How pointless to follow a girl in a state (5)
 - Food for a young insect (4)

Solutions Crossword 5274 Across: 1 Astray, 4 Big wheel, 9 Austin, 10 Asterisk, 12 Buck, 13 Meant, 14 Chin, 17 Desert island, 20 Relief worker, 23 Lied, 24 Scale, 25 Frau, 28 Slacking, 29 Senior, 30 Satiated, 31 Cachou Down: 1 Adam Bede, 2 Test case, 3 Arid, 5 In single file, 6 When, 7 Elsha, 8 Liking, 11 Reminiscence, 15 Tried, 16 Annoy, 18 Skirmish, 19 Frou-frou, 21 Clasp, 22 Pedant, 26 Skusa, 27 Vera

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

We are shifting from a managerial society to an _____ society. - John Naisbitt (15)

RVEEE **HLILRT**

DAERR **PANNUS**

SOLUTION: REVEE, DAREER, RREAR, THIRLL, LUNSNAP
Answer: We are shifting from a managerial society to an entrepreneurial society.

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 5458

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | 3 | 1 | 9 | | | | | |
| | 4 | | | | | | 3 | |
| 2 | | | 6 | | 5 | | | |
| | 9 | 4 | | 2 | | 8 | | |
| | 7 | | 5 | | | | | 1 |
| | 2 | | | | | 5 | | |
| | | | | | 3 | 2 | 4 | |
| | 8 | | | | | | | 7 |

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5457

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 |

Office of Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur E-Procurement Tender Notice

No.: 239 /E-Nivida-R.Circle/23-24 Date: 16-01-2024

1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors Category as per column No.8 from date 01.02.2024 at 10.00 am to 07.02.2024 at 12.00 pm. Technical bid/Prequalification tenders shall be opened on 07.02.2024 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

2. Details of the works are following:

| Sl. No. | DISTRICT | Name of Work | Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakh) | Bid Security (Rs.in Lakh) | Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season) | Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.) | Category of road contractor eligible | Address of Executive Engineer executing the work | Address of Superintending Engineer | Address of Chief Engineer |
|---------|----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Bijnor | Renewal of Panipat Muzaffarnagar Bijnor Kadharpur Khatina Road | 55.70 | 4.79 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B.C. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 2 | Bijnor | Renewal of Balawali Kiranpur Nohaur Chandpur Feena Road | 162.18 | 10.11 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 3 | Bijnor | Renewal of Dhampur Abadi Road | 52.48 | 4.62 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B.C. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 4 | Bijnor | Renewal of DN Road KM 12 to Parmawala Road | 117.54 | 7.88 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 5 | Bijnor | Renewal of Chachri Mod to Jalolpur Road | 98.03 | 6.50 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 6 | Bijnor | Renewal of Nalhu Nohaur Road | 119.25 | 7.96 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 7 | Bijnor | Renewal of Mahatma Vidar Road | 99.81 | 6.99 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 8 | Bijnor | Renewal of Bijnor Chakkur Road | 195.12 | 11.76 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 9 | Bijnor | Renewal of Chandpur Bastia Manpur Ahraula Road | 89.89 | 6.49 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 10 | Bijnor | Renewal of Feena Dhanaura Road | 197.96 | 11.90 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 11 | Bijnor | Renewal of Chandpur to Naseerpur Shekh Road and SH 76 KM 28 to Sadanpur Road | 79.03 | 5.95 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 12 | Bijnor | Renewal of SH 77 KM 36 to SH 76 KM 44 via Seemla Camri Sarfuddin nagar | 83.62 | 6.18 | 02 Months (Including Rainy season) | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking) | A.B. Road category | Provincial Division PWD Bijnor | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |

> The Rates adopted in the BOQ are including all other taxes but excluding GST.
> The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 7 in the table.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> The bidder have to login on Prahari URL <http://wms.upwd.gov.in> Prahari to upload required documents as per Government order No. 879/1(23-7-2020 dt. 25.08.2020 & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.

Superintending Engineer
Rampur Circle, PWD, Rampur
Ph. 0595 - 2351163
Email - pwdrampur@gmail.com

UPID-201772 dt. 29.01.2024
www.up.gov.nic.in

Office of Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur Short Term Notice Inviting E-Tender

Letter No. 319/E -Tender R.Cir./23-24 Dated : 20.01.2024

On behalf of the Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors with UP PWD (as per column no. 8). The bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract. Bids must be download online from 10:00 AM on date 01.02.2024 to 03:00 PM on dated 07.02.2024 and the technical bids will be opened online date 07.02.2024 at 03:30 PM in Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle PWD Rampur and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified.

2. Details of the works are following:

| Sl. No. | DISTRICT | Name of Work | Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakh) | Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh) | Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season) | Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.) | Category of road contractor eligible | Address of Executive Engineer executing the work | Address of Superintending Engineer | Address of Chief Engineer |
|---------|----------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Seohara to Bhagwanpur Raini road | 100.00 | 7.00 | | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 2 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Moradabad Handwar Dehradun road km 49 to Aklipur road | 95.00 | 6.75 | | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 3 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Jaspur Dhampur road km 6 to Jafraabad via Jaspur Dhampur road | 80.00 | 6.00 | | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 4 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Seohara Moradabad road to Raini via Nehar ki Patni | 60.00 | 5.00 | | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 5 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Aijalgaon Kalagah road km 2 to Khairhatta road to Jamanpur road | 46.00 | 4.30 | | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 6 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Badhapur Raipur road km 11 to Berkhedra urf Abdulapur Quresi road | 60.00 | 5.00 | | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad |
| 7 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Nagina Raipur Kotadar road km 22 to Tands Maidas road | 65.00 | 5.25 | | 2354.00 (Security will be accepted only net banking) | CD-2 PWD Bijnor (Hq - Najibaba d) | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 8 | Bijnor | Special Repair of NH-74 km 83 to Aligari road | 46.00 | 4.30 | 02 Months (Including Rainy Season) | | 'A, B & C' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 9 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Nagina Badhapur road km 4 to Rampur Chajmal to Bhogli urf Nangi road | 45.00 | 4.25 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 10 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Gopiwala to Harvanshwala Kashiwala road | 60.00 | 5.00 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 11 | Bijnor | Special Repair of NH-74 to Begampur Chaimal road | 44.00 | 4.20 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 12 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Nagina Raipur road km 8 to Bhogli road to Shekhpura Nauabad road | 45.00 | 4.25 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 13 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Najibabad Raipur road to Gadmalpur to Pachhadpura road | 55.00 | 4.75 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 14 | Bijnor | Special Repair of NH-74 km 54 Village Bejpur to Gajwala road | 60.00 | 5.00 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 15 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Seohara Satwai to Mundakhi ki Mandayoi road | 36.00 | 3.80 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 16 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Lambaheda to Sadafal road | 41.00 | 4.05 | | | 'A & B' in Road Category | Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur | Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad | |
| 17 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Bijnor Chajmal road km 49 to Bishanpura road | 57.00 | 4.85 | | -do- | -do- | -do- | -do- | -do- |
| 18 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Bhogpur to Bhaneda road | 52.00 | 4.60 | | -do- | -do- | -do- | -do- | -do- |
| 19 | Bijnor | Special Repair of Mochipura to Maujampur via Rangadpura road | 42.00 | 4.10 | | -do- | -do- | -do- | -do- | -do- |

> The Rate adopted in the BOQ are including all other taxes but excluding GST.
> The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 6 in the table.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> The bidder have to login on Prahari URL <http://wms.upwd.gov.in> Prahari to upload required documents as per Government order No. 879/1(23-7-2020 dt. 25.08.2020 & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.

Executive Engineer
CD-2, PWD, Bijnor
(Hq Najibabad)
Email - eeupdnjb@gmail.com

UPID-201788 DATE 29.01.2024
WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN

PROVISION OF 384 KWP ON GRID ROOF TOP SOLAR POWER PLANT
E-Tender Notice No.: EL-GH-932R2 of 2023-24; Dated: 25-01-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No.:** EL-GH-932R2, dated: 25-01-2024. **Name of work:** At Malgaon : Provision of 384 kWp On grid Roof Top Solar Power Plant At NFRSA Complex, Malgaon. **Advertised Value:** ₹2,04,93,901/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,52,500/-; E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 16-02-2024. For details please visit: www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. DEE/Guwahati
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No:140 e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 30/01/2024
The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhall Stage-II, Chhinalsaur (Uttarakhand) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No: NIT- 60/E/EE (M)/MB-II/2023-24
Name of work / Supply/Services: Strengthening of 11 KV Chhinalsaur Line -2 from DPH Dharasu to Shaktipuram Colony Chhinalsaur
Estimated cost: Rs 42,74,733/- only + GST extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website: 31.01.2024 from 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website: 21.02.2024 up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

| Sl. No. | NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH | NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER | OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE (TIME) | AMOUNT/ EST. (APPROX. IN RUPEES) | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH | MODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | THE ROHTAK COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD | ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR REWINDING OF ELECTRIC MOTORS, AIR CURTAINS, CEILING FAN AND EXHAUST FANS FOR ONE YEAR. | 27.01.2024 17.02.2024 | AS PER DNIT | https://tenders.hry.nic.in / vitaindia.org.in | 9996577829 vitarohat@gmail.com |
| 2. | THE ROHTAK COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD | "PURCHASE OF MINERAL SALTS" FOR CATTLE MINERAL MIXTURE. | 30.01.2024 08.02.2024 | AS PER DNIT | https://tenders.hry.nic.in / vitaindia.org.in | 9996577829 vitarohat@gmail.com |

24535/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in

varthana Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.)
Registered Office at : No. 5 BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website: www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone : 080-68455777, Branch Office : Office : 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram -122018.

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

We hereby serve upon you this notice, the contents whereof you may kindly note: That you the Borrower along with Co-applicants/Mortgagors have approached and requested for grant of the credit facility from M/s Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Company") (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Limited). This Demand Notice issued on 19.01.2024, the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec. 13(2) of the Act/Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Borrower/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgagor No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. At your request and instance, we granted you the following credit facilities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "credit facility"). The details are mentioned below.

Loan Account No: U20GUR-GUR-015323, S19GUR-GUR-010475, U22GUR-GUR-020055 and U21GUR-GUR-017831. Sanctioned loan amount Rs.3,50,000/-, Rs.43,47,997/-, Rs.3,00,000/- and Rs.4,44,923/- Total Liability as on 19-01-2024: Rs.39,82,345/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest), Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Aplicants & Mortgagors: 1. **Mrs. Maharana Pratap Memorial School**, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Village Bhirawali, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana-122107. 2. **Mrs. Maharana Pratap Memorial Shiksha Samiti**, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Village Bhirawali, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana-122107. 3. **Mr. Pawan Kumar, S/o. Chetram Kheda Khalipuri Indri** (197), Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana-122103. 4. **Mrs. Birajwanti Rani, W/o. Pawan Kumar, Kheda Khalipuri Indri** (197) Mewat Haryana-122103.

That you availed of the above mentioned credit facilities from time to time and utilized the amount and further, while availing the financial assistance you have given an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s)/document(s). You have also created a mortgage by way of Deposit of Title Deeds/ Registered Mortgages creating security interest in favor of the Company which is more fully described in below Schedule.

That you continued to enjoy the above credit facility, however, you became irregular and failed to maintain the financial discipline, despite our repeated request and reminders from the officers of the Company you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities.

The operation of and conduct of the above said credit facility has become irregular and the debt has been classified as Non-Performing assets (NPA) in accordance with directives/ guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon accordingly Loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 09.01.2024, and hereby recall the said loan / credit facility and call upon you to pay the entire outstanding balance together with interest and all sums payable by you under the said Agreement.

On account of defaults committed by you, you are jointly & severally liable to pay to us the total outstanding dues of 19-01-2024: **Rs.39,82,345/-** with agreed contractual rate of interest, until the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, thereon.

Under the circumstances, we hereby call upon you to repay the above said entire dues of **Rs. 39,82,345/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty Five Only)** as on 19-01-2024 together with future interest from 20 January 2024 at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges thereon within 60 (Sixty) days of the date of this notice. If you fail to repay to the Company the aforesaid sum with further interest and incidental expenses, cost as stated above in terms of this notice U/Sec. 13(2) of the Act, the Company will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-section (13) of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below without obtaining written consent of the Company.

This notice is without prejudice to the Company's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law to recover its legitimate dues.

If you have any representations to be made in response to this, please mark the same to the Authorized Officer, M/s Varthana Finance Pvt Ltd., Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043.

Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Asset): All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khewat No.165/142, Khatoni No.173 Kharsa No.49/24 Situated at Bhirawali Village, Nuh Tehsil, Mewat District (Haryana), admeasuring 5 Kanal, 2 Marla, bounded on : East By: Road West By: Other Property / Road North By: Other Property South By: Other Property.

Date : 31.01.202

Manchester: Manchester City will finally have striker Erling Haaland back in the squad when they play Burnley on Wednesday, manager Pep Guardiola said. Haaland is the joint-top goalscorer in the league with 14, level with Mohamed Salah, but has not played since fracturing a bone in his foot. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

Jolly-Gopichand enter Thailand Masters doubles 2nd round

Bangkok: Indian pair of Treena Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand had to sweat it out to get the better of Hong Kong's duo of Lok Lok Lui and Wing Yung NG as they entered the second round of the women's doubles event at the Thailand Masters on Tuesday. The sixth seeded Indian pair battled it out for one hour and 14 minutes to beat their first round opponents 16-21 21-10 21-18. Jolly and Gopichand will play compatriots Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa in the next round. Crasto and Ponnappa defeated Chinese Taipei's Ling Fang Hu and Xiao Min Lin 21-13 21-17. **PTI**

Messi, Inter Miami lose to Al-Hilal

Riyadh: Lionel Messi and Inter Miami kicked off their tour of Saudi Arabia by losing to Al-Hilal 4-3. The Major League Soccer team is playing two games in the oil-rich kingdom as part of its pre-season preparations, but even Messi could not inspire it to victory in Riyadh. While Messi got on the score sheet with a second-half penalty, Malcom came up with the decisive goal to win the match in the 88th. Al-Hilal had been strongly linked with a move for Messi when he left Paris Saint-Germain and became the most sought-after free agent in the sport last year. **AP**

Ivory Coast knock Senegal out of AFCON

Abidjan: Moussa Niakhaté missed his penalty in the shoot-out as holders Senegal tumbled out of the Africa Cup of Nations after a drama-filled 5-4 loss to hosts Ivory Coast following a 1-1 draw at the Charles Konan Banny Stadium on Monday. Senegal were quick out the blocks and took the lead inside four minutes as Sadio Mané's cross from the left was chested down by Habib Diallo, whose shot from 10-yards settled in the top corner of the net. The Ivorians were awarded a penalty and equalised through Franck Kessie four minutes from the end of the 90 minutes. **REUTERS**

PKL: Purneri Paltan thrash Telugu Titans

Patna: Purneri Paltan bounced back to winning ways and soared to the top of the standings as they handed Telugu Titans a 60-29 loss in the Pro Kabaddi League here on Tuesday. Purneri Paltan came into the game on the back of two consecutive ties and were eager to claim all points available from this game. Akash Shinde (11 raid points), Mohammadreza Chiyaneh Shadlou (7 points) and Abinash Nadarajan (5 tackle points) were the key players for Purneri Paltan in their win. **AP**

Bhuttia demands AIFF president's resignation

New Delhi: Bhaichung Bhuttia demanded the resignation of AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, holding him responsible for the "current mess" in the administration. "I told the executive committee members that Kalyan Chaubey and treasurer Kipa Ajay should resign. Shaji Prabhakaran should not be made the scapegoat. All three of them are equally responsible for taking decisions without the approval of executive committee," Bhuttia said. **PTI**

Discard fear, embrace risk

In tough conditions, Indian players have lacked commitment to their plans and have fallen prey to a lack of clarity, courage and skill

VENKATA KRISHNA B
VISAKHAPATNAM, JANUARY 30

SHORTLY AFTER India's batting line-up combusted against a debutant spinner in Hyderabad, head coach Rahul Dravid spoke about the shots that would have worked on pitches like this on Day 4. "I think using your feet to the left-hand spinner with these kinds of conditions is fraught with risk, you probably have to play a little bit more square the wicket. Having said that, that is a high risk shot as well," Dravid said. One risky shot to be avoided and another risky shot to be played?

It's this kind of psychological-dawdle that has perhaps been a factor in Indian batting's iffy approach during the first Test. Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma allow their batsmen to formulate their own style and interestingly it is exactly what England coach Brendon McCullum advocates. But Bazball stands with the mental preparation for the aggressive brand of cricket and the hours spent honing the required skill-sets in walking that risky path. Clarity, courage and skill; Indians often forget at least a couple of those traits in tough conditions in recent times.

Shortly after Dravid vacated the seat in the media room, England skipper Ben Stokes arrived with Ollie Pope. It was a study in contrast. On the way to 196, Pope revealed on this surface, he believed the reverse-sweep was as safe as a defensive shot. But there was something more striking. "We practise those shots enough and if you get out for none playing a reverse sweep you're not going to get a load of chat in the changing room about that. You can go and commit to it," he would say.

That committing was absent in the Indian approach. In the second innings, Yashasvi Jaiswal went down the track but turned coy after not finding the ball in his area. Shubman Gill was worse, tamely guiding a ball straight to silly point as if he were giving catching practice. Even Shreyas Iyer, usually so proactive against spin, had a weak flail at a ball leaving him and to none's surprise, it nestled in the slips. Axar Patel's was a soft dismissal, patting a ball straight to the bowler. And on it went.

Rohit is a kind of a captain who likes to lead by example and believes that this belief would filter down to his team. Even during last year's ODI World Cup, it came down to Rohit's pre-tournament talk to his team-mates about how he was going to adopt an attacking approach. They followed him. In the second innings, he did try to set the agenda; playing reverse sweeps and reverse laps. But such is his stature that he doesn't always need to set the agenda himself; he can help frame a committed approach for his younger players and guide them, along with Dravid, on the ways to go about it. Like how Stokes and McCullum do. It's not just a one-time philosophical talk about self-expression as batsmen but they actively created conditions in UAE ahead of this series, spending hours honing their skills in identifying shots to play. It might not come off again in the second Test, but that's beside the point; they had a carefully cultivated plan and clarity, which is lacking in India. If it takes an end of Test to come up with "going down the track is not wise, but playing square is also risky", it can't help.

It says much about the Bazball effect that a batsman such as Pope has had a rebirth of sorts under the new management. The first thing that McCullum did after taking over as coach was to ring Pope. "I was down in Cornwall when I got a call from Baz (McCullum). He said, 'you're going to be in the squad and you're go-



Shubman Gill was dismissed after he tamely guided a ball to silly point and failed to control England's spinners in the second innings of the first Test. **PTI**

We practise those shots enough and if you get out for none playing a reverse sweep you're not going to get a load of chat in the changing room about that. You can go and commit to it."



OLLIE POPE
ON THE REVERSE SWEEP SHOT

ing to bat three as well' Whatever you call it, the red-ball reset or whatever, I'm loving every minute of it. This is the first time I've felt like I can be a No 3 in red-ball cricket," Pope has said. And that's how Pope came into the Bazball Universe. McCullum and Stokes have worked the charm on veterans like Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root as well. "I've gone back to young Jonny, where you're just watching the ball and seeing the ball." Sample this from Root: "The Yorkshireman inside me is still saying 'dig in, play straight and get behind it'. Then there's the captain on my shoulder saying 'be a rock star'.

"Doubt kills more dreams than failure," McCullum told Forbes magazine recently. "I genuinely believe that even if you fail, you'll learn something from it. So you progress, you get better. It's okay to fail, for me it's not okay to not have a go at something, it's not okay to leave your talent unflourished because you're scared to do something. The key from a leadership point of view is that when failure does arise, I'd still be there to pick them up, I'd still be there to encourage them to have a go next time," McCullum said of his coaching philosophy. Now with England as a head coach, he has a similar thinking captain in Stokes, he is leading their charge from the dressing room.

Against an attacking team like England, opposition teams' response has been to go on the defensive. Even India erred in the same aspect, particularly with the bat in the second innings, where they let an inexperienced set of spinners to dictate their pace. Having landed a bloody blow straight up, India has a daunting task ahead. And at Vizag in the second Test, they have to be a lot more aggressive in the absence of Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul. Their route is fraught with risk. Whether they embrace it or not lies the question.

How Hartley watched Jadeja, Axar bowling videos to upstage them

VENKATA KRISHNA B
VISAKHAPATNAM, JANUARY 30

FROM THE time Lancashire spin bowling coach Carl Crowe met Tom Hartley, there has been one ritual that has been followed till date. After discussing everything under the sun, the conversation would gradually veer towards spin bowling. And it will ultimately end with Crowe and Hartley studying the footage of Ravindra Jadeja. At times, even Instagram reels of the all-rounder outfoxing batsmen are shared. Ahead of the ongoing tour to India, the two even watched a lot of videos of Axar Patel.

When England picked three inexperienced spinners to partner Jack Leach, Hartley was mostly seen as a back-up to the frontline left-arm spinner. But during the two trips that Hartley made to the UAE in December and January – first with England Lions and then with the senior team for a pre-series camp – would turn into a game-changer.

And in the first Test at Hyderabad, despite looking out of place in the first innings, Hartley would walk away with 7/62 in the second and bowl England to victory. Like most English spinners, Hartley doesn't have a side-on run-up, and his approach to the stumps is at times quick. More importantly, he seldom flights the ball. But these factors worked in his favour in India, rather than just relying on the revs. It is the reason why Hartley and Crowe have been analysing the footage of India's two spinners for a while.

"We watch a lot of Jadeja and Axar, especially in terms of how they vary their speeds and the approach they have when it comes to bowling across conditions. With a repeatable action, they are able to be consistent. And the idea for us is not to copy them, but learn what they are doing to be successful. That is what we impart in his bowling," Crowe adds.

And one of the key learnings was that in spin-friendly conditions, the straighter



Tom Hartley picked 7 wickets to take down India's batting in the 1st Test. **PTI**

one is as lethal as the one that turns sharply. It is what Jadeja and Axar rely on to outfox batsmen, who are often trapped in front or end up losing their stumps.

"On such pitches, you need to have those. While the delivery to KS Bharat (bowed by a big-turning delivery in the second innings) was indeed special, we enjoyed the one to Rohit (Sharma) much more as it went in with the angle. Those subtle variations would keep you in the game," Crowe adds.

Willing to learn

That Crowe also knows the conditions in India also played its part. Having been part of Kolkata Knight Riders' support staff in the past, Crowe would pass on whatever he picked up from his stint. "He is a very coachable player, one who wants to talk and learn about spin. It just doesn't end with the net session. He is very craft-oriented even off the field. A couple of seasons ago, when Washington Sundar was here, Tom spent a lot of time with him and learnt a few things," Crowe adds.

While the manner in which Hartley bounced back after being hit all over the park in the first innings and returning with figures of 131/2 in 25 overs, back home in

Lancashire, they weren't a worried lot. "Of course, Test cricket is always challenging. But one thing we knew was, he would bounce back very quickly. Because that is what he is used to doing here. At Old Trafford, we have a short boundary on one side. And invariably, when we play white-ball games, Hartley always puts his hand up to bowl from the end where the leg-side boundary is short. He is a very level-headed fellow, whose attitude stands out. He is a very relaxed person and you need that as a spinner," Crowe says.

Family of athletes

Despite playing top-flight cricket in England, the other stand-out quality of Hartley, according to Crowe, is how he still keeps connections with his roots. A product of the Ormskirk Cricket Club, a small team in the west side of Lancashire, he maintains his membership despite turning out for the Red Rose county.

Son of Bill Hartley, a former European Championship gold medalist in 4x400m relay, during the off-season, he is used to spending time at the family's nursery, taking care of the plants on a daily basis.

"He has acquired a lot of qualities from his father," Mark Chilton, Lancashire's director of cricket, tells this daily. "That he comes from a family which knows what it takes to be a high-performance athlete has a lot of bearing on him. His father has had a huge influence on him and it especially shows when he is handling adversity. He never flinches even in high-pressure moments," Chilton says.

During his time at Lancashire, first as a coach and now as a director, Chilton has seen Hartley grow. There was a time when it seemed that Hartley would not make it beyond the youth team. Chilton says he just about made it to the academy.

"When he was 19-20, he went to Australia to play some club cricket. He came back as a different cricketer and just established himself from there on," Chilton adds.

Agarwal admitted to hospital after drinking suspicious liquid

KARNATAKA RANJII team captain Mayank Agarwal was rushed to a hospital in Agartala on Tuesday after he fell sick on board a New Delhi-bound flight.

"He (Agarwal) is not in any kind of danger. He is under observation currently in a hospital at Agartala, and we will fly him back to Bengaluru once we get an update from the doctors, which we are expecting tonight," said a Karnataka State Cricket Association official to **PTI** before confirming that Agarwal will be missing out on Karnataka's Ranjii Trophy game against Railways in Surat starting February 2. Expanding on the incident, Kiran Kumar K, Superintendent of Police of West Tripura – who was reached out by the player's manager to register a complaint – told the agency, "(Mayank) while sitting on a flight saw a pouch in front of him and thinking of it as water, drank it. He had swelling and ulcers in his mouth. His condition is normal, and his vitals are stable. His manager has made a complaint. We are registering the complaint and will investigate the matter." **ENS**

ALL-SPIN ATTACK

England may field four spinners if wickets remain the same: McCullum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 30

ENGLAND ARE not ruling out an all-spin attack after taking a 1-0 lead in the five match Test series. England coach Brendon McCullum was quoted as saying to SEN Radio: "If the wickets continue to spin as much as what we saw in the first Test as the series goes on, look, we won't be afraid to play all spinners or a balance of what we've got."

McCullum also said that Pakistan origin off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who missed the first Test because of visa issues, is in line to play the second Test.

The other three spinners played in the first Test in Hyderabad – left-arm spinners Tom Hartley and Jack Leach and leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed.

"Bash (Bashir), he was obviously with us during our camp in Abu Dhabi, and I was really impressed with his skill set.

"He fitted in seamlessly within the group, and he's a guy who's got an immense amount of enthusiasm, albeit at a young age and pretty limited in his first-class experience. When he arrived, boys gave him a huge cheer, and he got to witness something pretty special with the fel-



Shoaib Bashir will be 'in the calculations' for the second Test, said England coach Brendon McCullum. **PTI**

las bowling us to a Test win. He comes into calculations for the next Test match," McCullum added.

If the wickets continue to spin as much as what we saw in the first Test as the series goes on, look, we won't be afraid to play all spinners or a balance of what we've got."

-BRENDON MCCULLUM
ENGLAND HEAD COACH

McCullum has admitted that they took a punt on left-arm spinner Tom Hartley and it paid off.

"Hartley on debut, who has only played a handful of first-class games stepped up with the bowl. It was a punt selection," McCullum said. "We saw something in him that we thought will work over here. He is a tough character and the way skipper handled him was quite remarkable as well. He obviously bowled us to the Test win.

"There are so many different emotions. Guys have taken a lot of confidence with the Hyderabad win but we also know that

it is a long series and we got some work to do. India will bounce back strong but we certainly celebrated last night," he added.

Hartley didn't have a great start after he was hit for two sixes on his first two balls on Test debut. Instead of that England captain Ben Stokes gave him an extended spell and that McCullum feels gives massive confidence to the youngster.

"When we picked Tom, people raised their eyebrows but let's not forget Nathan Lyon only played a handful of first-class cricket averaging 40 odd when he first got picked for the Test team for Australia," he said.

"When you see guys who are good enough and the conditions will suit them, it is like horses for courses. You have to back your judgement on things like that. If you like the skillsets and the character you need to be brave with the selection call as well. The way Ben Stokes handled him and bowled him an extended spell regardless of him being put under pressure by the India batters.

"I thought that was a real sign of leadership and also it was a clear message to those around the squad that you are not going to cast aside or take off the crease after the first sign of danger."

McCullum says he still felt that 246 in

U-19 WORLD CUP

India squash Kiwis

Musheer scores second ton of the tournament, while Saumy stars with the ball in 214-run victory

PRATYUSH RAJ
JANUARY 30

INDIA HAVE found two heroes in Musheer Khan and Saumy Pandey. Musheer was the standout performer with the bat, scoring his second century in three innings (126-ball 131; 2 for 10), and Pandey was at his incisive best with his left-arm spin, picking up 4 for 19 as they hammered New Zealand by 214 runs in their first Super Six match.

India posted a massive 295 for 8 after being put into bat before bundling out New Zealand for a paltry 81. It was India's third straight time of winning a game by more than 200 runs and New Zealand's worst defeat in the Youth ODIs.

Musheer and Pandey have been pivotal in India's dominance in the tournament. With 325 runs Musheer is leading the highest run-getter chart, while Pandey, the joint leading wicket-taker alongside Pakistan's Ubaid Shah, has scalped 12 wickets with an economy rate of less than two.

A+ Saumy

Saumy Pandey's coach Aril Anthony says the biggest strength of his ward is his ability to bowl wicket to wicket and not give an inch to the batsmen.

"His intent is unreal. He is a spinner with a mindset of a fast bowler and that's why you can see a bit of aggression in his bowling," Anthony told *The Indian Express*.

Anthony, who has coached the likes of Ishwar Pandey, and Kuldeep Sen, feels the biggest strength of Saumy is his ability to quickly assess the conditions. "He is excellent in reading conditions and situations. It might have something to do with his sharp mind. He is A plus student, has been a topper throughout, and likes science a bit too much, and that you can see in his bowling," Anthony said.

"People are saying that he only bowls at one trajectory. I disagree with this. If you see him bowling, you can easily point out that he is using the crease every second ball. It is not easy to pick him, he is a wicket-taker and his figures are proof," he said.

In this tournament, Saumy has bowled



Musheer Khan slammed 13 fours and three sixes in his 126-ball 131. ICC

39.5 overs and has given away only 78 runs. He has already been compared to Ravindra Jadeja because of the trajectory he bowls at.

"I hate such comparisons. What Jadeja has achieved is immense. Let him be Saumy Pandey. His real test will come in the knockout games and then when starts bowling with red ball in first-class cricket. He has a long way to go before getting compared with someone of Jadeja's stature," said Anthony.

Such has been Saumy's performance in this tournament that skipper Uday Saharan gave him the new ball against the Kiwis. Raj Limbani had already wreaked havoc in the first over after he removed Tom Jones and in-form Snehit Reddy. Saumy didn't let down his captain, picking up two wickets

with the new ball to leave New Zealand reeling at 22 for 4 in 7.4 overs.

Red-hot Musheer

Musheer Khan has given everyone a glimpse of his elder brother Sarfaraz Khan with the way he is bullying the bowlers in the U-19 World Cup.

The ICC on their social media handles also shared a clip, showing the similarity in their batting. Sarfaraz has scored seven fifties in the two U-19 World Cups. And Musheer, a top order batsman became only the second Indian after Shikhar Dhawan to score multiple centuries in the same event.

However, their father Naushad feels the duo are completely different from each other. "Sarfaraz bats at 5 and 6, so there you

hardly get time to build the innings. You need to play the situation. Whereas, Musheer has played as an opener, where he has the luxury of taking his time. Musheer has a great ability to shift gears, he can play the anchor role and at the same time can hit sixes at will," Naushad had said. All of those traits were visible on Tuesday when Musheer scored his second century in three innings.

In four innings, Musheer's only failure came against Bangladesh, where he managed only three runs. After scoring a century against Ireland in the next match he admitted to being in a "hurry" to score quick runs and decided to give himself "some time". In his last three knocks, his scores are 118, 73 and 131.

"I want to continue this form in the coming matches. Hitting a century gives you confidence and I want to carry it forward," Musheer told the broadcasters.

Shades of Sehwag and Dhoni

Musheer teed off with an uppercut straight out of Virender Sehwag's book and once he completed his century he pulled out MS Dhoni's helicopter shot for a six. Musheer's knock was studded with 13 fours and three sixes and all those big hits came after he had played 82 balls. He took his time, completing his fifty in 62 balls.

The other impressive aspect of Musheer's batting has been his ability to build partnerships.

He put on a 77-run stand for the second wicket with opener Adarsh Singh (52), and was involved in a 87-run partnership for the third wicket with skipper Uday Saharan (34).

He then added 27 runs for the fourth, 38 for the fifth, and 18 for the sixth before he got out to Mason Clarke (4 for 62), who was New Zealand's pick of the bowlers. Not much went right for New Zealand on a day when India bossed them.

Brief scores: India U-19 295/8 in 50 overs (A Singh 52, M Khan 131, Uday Saharan 35; Mason Clarke 4/64) beat New Zealand U-19 81 in 28.1 overs (O Jackson 19; Raj Limbani 2/17, Saumy Pandey 4/19) by 214 runs.

Akshdeep breaks own 20km race walk record

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 30

ON TUESDAY morning, Akshdeep Singh of Punjab rewrote his national record in the 20km race walk. He clocked one hour, 19 minutes and 38 seconds to better his previous mark of 1:19:55. Akshdeep had already qualified for the Paris Olympics at last year's National Open Race Walk Championships in Ranchi.

Tuesday, however, was a special day for Indian race walkers. Three more walkers met the qualifying standard for this year's Olympics during the 11th National Open Race Walking Championship. Uttarakhand's Suraj Panwar (1:19:44s) Tamil Nadu's Servin Sebastian (1:20:03s) and Punjab's Arshpreet Singh (1:20:04s) were also faster than the qualifying mark of 1:20:10s.

At the finish line Suraj hugged Akshdeep before the group had a long chat.

"Each one of us feels the joy in each other's success and to see Suraj, Servin and Arshpreet achieving the Paris Olympics standard here today motivates me too. 20 Km race walk is a tactical event and I am glad that I was right with my tactics today to better my national record mark," Akshdeep said.

In all six race walkers have met the qualifying standard for the Paris Olympics. Vikash Singh and Paramjeet Malik too made themselves eligible to participate in the Olympics at the All Japan Race Walking Championship in 2023. Tuesday's winner Akshdeep is a native of Kanhe Ka village. The son of a farmer, Akshdeep started running 800 metre races after seeing youngsters in his village train for army recruitment rallies.

A chance visit to Patiala led him to train under Gurdev Singh, coach of London Olympics 10th-place finisher KT Irfan, and the subsequent years would see him becoming the junior national record holder.

After achieving the Paris qualification standard in Ranchi last year, he followed it up with a 12th place in Asian Championships in Japan. But he finished 47th in the World Championships in Budapest. At the Worlds, Akshdeep suffered an injury to his right knee, which also meant that he had to miss the Hangzhou

Asian Games. "I was in fine form and was expecting a fine season before the knee injury. At the Asian Games, the gold medal timing was one minute and 23 seconds, a mark which I could have achieved. Apart from the medal, I also missed out on the prize money. It's a huge amount for any budding athlete," Akshdeep said.

Second place finisher Suraj, a Dehradun native, was just six months old when his father, a forest guard, died during a shootout with the mafia. Suraj, the youngest of three siblings, started off with long distance races. In 2018, Suraj won a silver medal in the men's 5,000m race walk in the Youth Olympics in Argentina. When he progressed to the senior level, he won a silver at the National Games in 2022 and then finished atop the podium in the next edition in Goa.

"It took me some time to adjust from 5000m and 10,000m junior events to 20km race walk. I had to work on my endurance as well as speed and making it to the national camp was a big thing in my career. I did not have to worry about training expenses," Suraj said. While Selvin and Arshpreet are army men and train in Pune, the other four are part of the national camp. Only the best three — based on form — will make the cut for the Paris Olympics. At the national camp they are coached by foreign coach Tatiana Sibileva.

Sibileva has been focusing on ensuring that the walkers improve their technique. Walkers are required to have one foot in contact with ground at all times while the supporting leg should be straight and not bent. There have been instances when even world's top-ranked walkers are disqualified.

"At last year's world championship in Hungary, Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Massimo Stano was disqualified. So even top athletes can falter. But then we have to get our technique as foolproof as we can. Tatiana has been focusing on right hip and arm movements of each one of us apart from sand and track training to make the right balance," Akshdeep said. Suraj too weighs in on the matter. "Tatiana coach has been specific with our training and sometimes we also work on the treadmill to understand where we are making the fault. We are constantly trying to improve."

From Maharashtra to Delhi's Chhatrasal akhada in search of an Olympic berth

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, JANUARY 30

PRUTHVIRAJ MOHOL is a fourth generation wrestler from Mulshi taluka of Pune, and his grandfather was Maharashtra Kesari. Soon after his first School Nationals, however, his father, an accomplished wrestler himself, started preparing him for a move to Delhi.

"We could see after I won U17s that Mahabali Satpal was India's greatest coach because India's top medals at Olympics were coming from his trainees. So I gave trials for Chhatrasal and moved," Mohol, who picked the 125kg gold at the suspended WFI's Pune Nationals, said.

The field might have been depleted in Pune and Jaipur will have the original crowning, but Mohol insists that Olympics are his ultimate goal. After years of hosting top wrestlers from north India at renowned talims (akhadas) in Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Pune, a reverse journey is underway. Maharashtra wrestlers are increasingly considering moving to north India's most competitive training facility, Chhatrasal stadium, to get a move on their stagnant careers.

After Rahul Aware honed his talent at Sonepat, the two heavyweight Pruthvirajs — Khadke, the Greco Roman 97 kg grappler, and Mohol, the 125 kg strongman, took the decision to move to wrestling's monastery-like campus of Chhatrasal to take forward their careers. "Rahul Aware fought in the same weight category for over 10 years. He's an inspiration, and we realised training with the best was important," Mohol says.

The Delhi-based Maharashtra pehelwans are clear the writing was on the mud pits, and no number of Kesari titles could quite compare with Olympic success on the shiny blue & mustard mats.

"We had to go, and it's been considered for 2-3 years," says Khadke, adding that while his junior national and Khelo India bronze from 2022-23 for Maharashtra guaranteed



Pruthviraj Khadke (left) and Pruthviraj Mohol moved from Maharashtra to Delhi to train at the famed Chhatrasal.

him due attention in his home state, the future didn't look great. "At Chhatrasal, there's no time-pass. They train with dreams of the Olympics only. The focus never wavers. We don't want to be left behind merely fighting in jatraa kustis (mud village fair dangals), where most Maharashtra pehelwans are steered towards," says the 22-year-old.

Khadke grew up on a staple diet of watching Haryana and Delhi wrestlers win, and simply went and found out for himself why they won. "In Maharashtra, mud wrestling is a huge distraction, for fame and money. In Chhatrasal, the focus is only on getting better at the game, mind is only on Olympics wrestling," he says.

He's not too thrilled with the support from Maharashtra governments of the past two decades either. "There's no support in terms of jobs and facilities are not geared towards mat wrestling," he says.

Maharashtra wrestlers spent years living off the legacy of past greats from more than 30 years ago, without achieving much themselves. The state might've given India its first Olympic medallist in 1952, but even Asian Games medals have dried up in recent decades as the state totters towards irrelevance in the sport. For years now, wrestlers from the erstwhile powerhouse had been telling themselves that they received a rough deal from

wrestlers, coaches and referees of the north in selection trials and national competitions.

Except, a new generation of wrestlers now is refusing to misdiagnose their failures and taking charge of their futures. A Kolhapur wrestling coach continues to brew bitter resentment, and Mohol says he believed the same and there was some truth in it. The predominantly women's coach explains, "Wrestlers from Maharashtra, Karnataka, MP were always on the backfoot when fighting Haryana wrestlers. We could see unfairness with our own eyes, when a point was earned by our wrestlers, but not awarded," the coach explains.

This age-old resentment — partly legitimate — has shaped much of the alignments of the last two years in the federation politics, and explains why the wrestlers' protests didn't get unanimous support.

Mohol who's braved three Delhi winters now, explains, "Yes I grew up hearing about partiality towards north wrestlers, and even experienced it. But after shifting to Chhatrasal I didn't face any hostility. I slowly made friends and realised their dominance is largely due to their mat skills. There might be some partiality, but now that I'm friends with north side referees, they are fair to me now. They see me as one of them," he says.

Mohol was an ace at the 127-year-old Khalkar Talim in Pune's Sadashiv Peth, steeped in tradition, as a junior.

"But there was no doubt I'd head to Mahabali Satpal if I wanted to progress after 17s Nationals. The food was very different and I'd fall ill often. But my father kept telling me it's part of tapasya (struggle). Slowly, I made friends and adjusted to the food and cold winters too," he says.

The 125kg needs a lot of protein, and he went hungry. "See, us Maharashtra wrestlers, especially heavyweights, need non veg and mutton if we have to stay strong. The Delhi, Haryana wrestlers are vegetarian and for their body weights it's OK. But I did struggle with food. It's OK," he says.

Ministry threatens legal action against suspended WFI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 30

THE MINISTRY of Youth Affairs and Sports threatened legal action against Sanjay Singh, president of the currently-suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), on Tuesday if he, or any other elected members, continued to make "unsubstantiated claims regarding the status of the WFI."

In an interview published in *The Indian Express* on Tuesday, Singh claimed that he is confident that the government will revoke the suspension of the federation, and he will return in his capacity as president "within 10 days." Singh was speaking on the sidelines of a Senior Nationals competition in Pune that

was conducted in defiance of orders from the Sports Ministry. He also said that "those who go for the Olympics will be from the Pune Nationals only."

The official notice from the ministry stated that any competition organised by the suspended federation will be treated as "unsanctioned/unrecognised" and that only the ad-hoc committee appointed by the IOA had the power to hold nationally-recognised tournaments. The ad-hoc panel has decided to hold its nationals in Jaipur from February 2-5.

"Based on an interview of yourself given to a national newspaper, published on 30.01.24, certain completely baseless statements have emerged which are causing confusion and anxiety among the athletes and others concerned with wrestling," the notice

also stated.

"Please be advised that failure to adhere to this caution may compel the Ministry to consider further legal action including, but not limited to, legal proceedings for spreading misinformation and unsubstantiated claims and any other relevant charges as per the laws of the country," it went on to say.

Singh, a loyalist of BJP MP and former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against whom some of the country's top wrestlers had held months-long protests over alleged sexual harassment, had been elected as the chief of the federation. Many of the new office-bearers, including Singh, who said that Brij Bhushan was like his "brother", have openly claimed they are loyalists of the former president.

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