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English Medium ♥ Delhi **16 February**

English Medium

6 February

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हिंदी माध्यम

६ फरवरी

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DATA POINT Over 90% teens use social media

Only 50% know to block profiles, make account private

OPINION » PAGE 9



SETBACK FOR INDIA BLOC **BJP wins Chandigarh** mayoral election STATES » PAGE 4

'Missing' CM Soren shows up in Ranchi

Jharkhand CM holds talks with alliance partners; MLAs sign letter of support without name; ED officials tow away vehicle, impound cash

Amarnath Tewary

ours after the BJP accused Jhark-hand Chief Minis-Jharkter Hemant Soren of going "missing" in Delhi since Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials visited his residence there on Monday, he surfaced in Ranchi and held several rounds of meetings with leaders from his ruling coalition on Tuesday.

The MLAs of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led coalition expressed solidarity with the Soren government.

They also signed a letter of support without any name as speculation is rife that the Chief Minister's wife, Kalpana Soren, will be given the reins of the State. Ms. Soren, who is



Fighting mode: Hemant Soren after paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, in Ranchi on Tuesday. PTI

not an MLA, attended a meeting of the lawmakers earlier in the day.

After their visit to his Delhi residence, the ED officials towed away a vehicle purportedly used by Mr. Soren and also reportedly impounded about ₹36 lakh

in cash. Mr. Soren is likely to appear before the ED at his Ranchi residence on Wednesday afternoon to record his statement in an alleged land scam case.

CONTINUED ON

Imran sentenced to 10 years in prison ahead of Pak. polls

Associated Press ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court convicted former Prime Minister Imran Khan of revealing official secrets on Tuesday and sentenced him to 10 years in prison – the latest in a slew of legal cases that supporters say are meant to sideline the imprisoned politician just days ahead of parliamentary elections.

Mr. Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in 2022, is not on the ballot because he is already serving a three-year prison term – and more than 150 other cases are still pending against him.

The former cricket star nonetheless remains a potent political force because of his grassroots following and anti-establishment rhetoric.

Pakistan saw violent demonstrations after Mr. Khan's arrest last year, and authorities have cracked



Imran Khan

down on the politician's supporters and party since then, making them wary of staging new rallies.

The February 8 elections come at a sensitive time in Pakistan, which is mired in an economic crisis that Mr. Khan's successor, Shehbaz Sharif, struggled to manage.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 12 'MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PAST' » PAGE 15

14 get death penalty for Kerala BJP man's murder

The Hindu Bureau ALAPPUZHA

A court in Kerala on Tuesday awarded the death penalty to 14 of the 15 convicts in the murder of Ranjith Sreenivas, a BJP functionary. The verdict was delivered by the Mavelikara Additional District Sessions Court-I.

Sreenivas, who was a lawver and the State secretary of the BJP's front for Other Backward Classes, was hacked to death at his house at Vellakinar in Alappuzha on December 19, 2021.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

St Feb PLUTUS IAS W



OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5



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A ND-NDE

Decide Sharjeel's bail plea by next month: HC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday ordered a trial court here to decide by next month a plea by student activist Sharjeel Imam seeking bail in connection with a 2020 communal riots case involving allegations of sedition and unlawful activities.

Mr. Imam has sought bail on the grounds that he has been in custody for the past four years and the maximum sentence for the offence under Section 13 (punishment for unlawful activities) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is seven years.

He said he has undergone more than half of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence and is entitled to bail under the provision. According to Section 436-A CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure), a person can be released from custody if he has spent more than half of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence.

During the hearing, Mr. Imam's counsel told the court that there are a total

of 43 prosecution witnesses in the case, out of which 22 have been examined so far. In 2022, the trial court had framed charges against him under Sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity), 153B (imputations prejudicial to national integration), 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of IPC and Section 13 of the UAPA.

'Informer' who helped bust trafficking racket was hand in glove with placement agency

A gram sevak from Jharkhand's Sahibganj used his influence to help traffic girls, turned informer over payment issues; survivors say they were beaten with sticks for refusing to work, not paid wages

NEW DELHI

t was a partner-incrime turning on a placement agency over payment issues that led to the rescue of 14 girls from various locations in Delhi-NCR, police officials said on Tuesday.

The girls were rescued recently after Meher Shah, a gram sevak (a panchayat official) from Jharkhand's Sahibganj district, informed the Jharkhand Bhawan in Delhi on January 23 that Chudki Placement Agency, which was operating from south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri, had brought six girls, all adolescents, from the eastern State and forced them to work as domestic helps in affluent households across the national capital.

"Meher tipped off the authorities because the



The accused were arrested on January 25, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

agency had not paid him to help traffic the girls to Delhi. He had considerable influence over Santhal families in Sahibganj and the agency charged ₹35,000 for each girl," the officer said, adding that Mr. Meher is absconding. Based on his tip-off, offi-

cials at the Jharkhand Bhawan took the matter up with the Delhi police, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and Mission Mukti Foundation, an NGO working with female victims of human trafficking. An FIR was registered

with the anti-trafficking unit of the Sahibganj police on January 24, and officers from Delhi and Jharkhand raided the agency the next day. "We rescued a minor and apprehended the owner, Rajnish Shah, along with one of his agents, Ansul Ansari," the officer added. Mission Mukti Foundation director Virendra K. Singh said more raids took place across residences in Amar Colony, South Campus, Model Town, Rani Bagh, and Faridabad based on the accused's inputs. "While 14 girls have been rescued [as of January 27], more rescue missions are being conducted," Mr. Singh added.

According to the police, the agency deployed adolescent girls as caregivers to senior citizens and domestic workers in affluent households. One of the rescued minors told The Hindu that Mr. Rajnish's brother had sexually assaulted her. "He threatened me not to tell anyone, including my parents, and said he would buy me a cell phone if I obeyed," the victim added.

The girl also said she was brought to Delhi under false pretences. "They [the agency owner and his wife] forced me to go work as a domestic help. When I refused, they thrashed me with wooden sticks and hot metal rods," she added. Another survivor said the girls were not allowed to contact their families. She also alleged that the wages they received went straight to the agency owner. The police have registered a case against the two accused under various IPC sections.

बिहार सरकार

Rural Works Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Works Department, Works Division, Sonpur.

(बिहार ग्रामीण पथ अनुरक्षण नीति-2018)

Notice Inviting Tender for Rural Roads Maintenance based on Output and performance based Contract through e-procurement mode on Model Bidding Document (MBD).

(Notice Inviting Re-Tender No. MR-3054-03/2023-24)

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser

2. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender 3. Period for downloading of Tender documents

4. Date, Time & Place of Pre- Bid Meeting

5. Last Date & Time for uploading tender

Document by bidder

6. Date, time for online opening of Technical bid 7. Last date, time and place for submission of

Original instrument of EMD, Cost of BOO and Affidavit regarding correctness of Information provided with bid document : Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Works

Department, Works Division Sonpur

: DATE: - 24.01.2024

: From 14.02.2024 (9:00) to 21.02.2024 up to 15:00 hrs.

From website-http://pmgsytenderbih.gov.in

: Date 12.02.2024 time 15:00 hrs.

Place O/o Concerned Superintending Engineer

: Date 21.02.2024 up to: 15:00 hrs.

http://pmgsytenderbih.gov.in

: Date **21.02.2024**up to. Time: 15:30 hrs.

: Till 15:00 hrs on 21.02.2024

: Place- O/o-concerned

(i) Executive Engineer, RWD, Works Div-Sonpur

(ii) Superintending Engineer, RWD, Works Circle-Chapra.

(iii) Chief Engineer-3, Patna.

8. The Executive Engineer, RWD, Works Div - Sonpur on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below.

9. Details of Works:-

SL. No	Package No.	Distri ct	Name of Division	Block	Name of Road	Length (In KM)	Cost of Initial Rectification with Surface Renewal (in Lakhs)	Cost of 5-years Maintenan ce (in Lakhs)	Total Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	Cost of BOQ in Rs.	Bid Security (in lakhs)	Amount Payable to works Division
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14
1	MR-N/22-23 SONEPUR/ 07	-	SONPUR	Dariyapur	Darihara To Kaparfora Khajuhta Road.	12.305	423.890	129.668	553.558	10000	11.080	EE, RWD Works Division, Sonpur
Total:-			12.305	423.890	129.668	553.558	10000	11.080				

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No.016125 (RWD) 2023-24

नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

Executive Engineer Rural Works Department, Works Division, Sonpur

Sanjay Singh made special purpose vehicle to launder money, says ED

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Arrested AAP MP Sanjay Singh was involved in creating a "special purpose vehicle" to launder the proceeds of crime "that would have been generated from the business arising out of the changes" made in the Delhi excise policy, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told the

High Court. The agency said Mr. Singh was involved in "acquiring, processing, concealing, dissipating, and using proceeds of crime" generated from the excise policy between 2021 and 2022 and had, in that time frame, received illegal funds to the tune of ₹2 crore as "proceeds of

The ED's contentions came in response to Mr. Singh's bail plea. The Rajya Sabha member, whom the agency arrested in October

Mr. Singh has been acmenting the now-scrapped excise policy.

nationals held in drug case

Four foreign

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

claimed to have busted an illegal drug manufacturing lab in Greater Noida and held four foreign nationals. The accused, including three Nigerian nationals, were producing methamphetamine, which has high demand at rave parties.

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ावाधी बाद सा0—'25,417, 20224 (1) संजीव अरोज कर करीव 6.4 वर्म मुंच उस्त जो आरार अरोज नि0—'60 फ्लेट नं0—102, पार्सवनाथ पीन विजा आपंटमेन्ट से0—48 मेन सोहमा रोड गुरुशाम हरियाणा। (2) बीराज अरोज उम्र करीक 55 वर्ष पुत्र करता मदन मोहन लाल अरोज नि0—सीहिंगः हैमर केज 556543 सुनर्क टीमरा जर्मनी। हारा मावना पुरा (पादर ऑफ अटमी आरक्) (3) श्रीमती मावना पुरा उस करीव 47 वर्ष पत्नी श्री अयुगाली पुरंप पुत्री स्वठमदन मोहन लाल अरोज निवासीगण—द वाटिका सिग्मेंबर विलाज स्टीट एस—1, एस—33, सै0—82 गुरुशाम हरियाणा। — वादीगण

। श्रीमती अंजला अगवाल उम्र करीब ८२ वर्ष पत्नी र ने0–ए0 263 प्रथम तल विकास पुरी नई दिल्ली।(३ ग्रेमती मनमोहिनी उम्र करीब 85 वर्ष पत्नी अनन्त रा मेलः gutcuram603@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRIN ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil

In the court of Sh. Deepanker Mohan, Additional District Judge-04, District: Shahdara New Building, Karkardooma Courts

Delhi. Registration No. CS-90/2019 KRISHAN KUMAR NARANG & ANR BHAGWATI SHARMA AND ORS. 1) SH. SUKHDEV MALHOTRA

S/O LATE JAGAN NATH MALHOTRA R/O 48-A, SOUTH ANARKALI EXTENSION, DELHI-110051. The Defendant Above Named WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on 80.02.024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined

my hand and the seal of the Additional District Judge-04 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Mrs Babita Chindaliya W/o Sh. Umed Chindaliya R/o 674, First Floor, Niti Khand-1, Near ATS 5, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201014 inform that due to some familiar circumstances, they have strike off their relations with her her husband is responsible for their own actions. She and her family's other members will not be responsible

and liable. Advocate O.P. Singh

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XII ADDITIONAL DISTRICT Pasupuleti Kodandaramaiah

ा) त्रांभारा जाजारा जन्नारा जन्म हुए वर्षा बढ़ उस्ते हैं। कैलाश नाथ अग्रवाल नि0–3 रुड क्लोज विनयार विलिधंम टी०एस० 225टी०जी० यू०के० (2) स्तुरि कोछड उम्र करीब 58 वर्ष पत्नी पत्नी हरीश कोछर

वरख्वास्त मुसम्मा संजीव अरोख आदि वासरे हुम् सर्विकिकेट वसूल जर कर्जा व किफालत हो दरख्वास्त मुसम्मा संजीव अरोख आवि मुतवपफा 30 सरोज अरोख अपने वस्त्रिवा एकट ७ सन 1983 हुंज करेंद्र 1,17,24,241 99 रुपये हरगाह मुसम्मा रमेश कुमार समी ने दरख्वास्त वसूल सर्विकिकेट गुजारनी है और तारीख 28-02-2024/ 05-03-2024 वास्ते समाजत वरखास्त के मुकर्नर हुई है। विकाज यह इस्तताह में किया जाता है कि जिस किसी भी निस्त्रत दरख्यास्त क्रिया जाता है कि जिस किसी भी निस्त्रत दरख्यास्त क्या जाता है गण जिस किया ने निसर्वा देखाँन इंतराधिकारी के उज्ज होगा असालतन या वकालतः इंक्त 10 बजे सुबह अदालत सिविल जज (सी0डिए मेरठ बतारीख 28–02–2024/05–03–2024 मुकर्र मरकम 25 माह 01 सन 2024 ई0, नियत तिथि

XII ADDITIONAL DISTRICT सिविल जज (सी0डि0), मेरढ I.A.No: 324/2023, O.S.No.77/2023

> Pasupuleti. R.Sai Prasad. & others, NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NO: 24 (R24). K.Jayasree.w/o

K.Ramakrishna, Residing at E-151 B.Radna Kunj, Briz Vihar, Gaziabad. Uttar Pradesh- 201 011. Within jurisdiction of City Civil Court, Take notice that the petitioner/plaintif

Pasupuleti R.Sai Prasad & others,

(D24). K.Jayasree w/o

Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-

Civil Court, Gaziabad

K.Ramakrishna., Residing at

E-151, B.Radna Kunj, Briz Vihar,

201 011, Within jurisdiction of City

Take summons that the plaintiff has

filed the above suit against defendan No: 24 in the above suit which is for

partition and allotment of plaintiff's

share in plaint schedule property

The above suit stands posted to

20-02-2024 at 10-00 A.M., before the

said Court for your appearance eithe

in person or through advocate and

file counter, if any. Else the matter will be decided ex-parte, in your absence

(BY ORDER OF THE HONBLE COURT

K.UDAYANATH

SRIKAL AHASTI

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO: 24

has filed the above petition to add vou as Respondents/Defendants No: 24 in the above IA which is for partition and allotment of plaintiff's share in plaint schedule property. The 20-02-2024 at 10-00 A.M., before the said Court for your appearance either n person or through advocate and file counter, if any. Else the matter will

(BY ORDER OF THE HONBLE COURT) **K.UDAYANATH**

PUBLIC NOTICE

संबंध विच्छेद में केसर सिंह पुत्र कर शी ठिवा रिहे व सतेश्वरी देवी पत्नी केसर सिंह पुत्र कर शी ठिवा रिहे व सतेश्वरी देवी पत्नी केसर सिंह निवासी वाई - 50, सेक्टर - 12, गाँएडा जिला गीतम बुध नगर उत्तर प्रदेश ने अपने पुत्र भार्य विन के दुव्यवहार, गंतत आवरण, लड़ाई झगड़ा, गाली गत्नी क अपमानित करने, सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठा धूमिल करने तथा समझाने पुर कहना नहीं मानने के कारण तंग व परेशान होंकर मैंने उनको अपने समस्त प्रार्थितिक संबंध विच्छेद कर अपनी समस्त चल-अवत संपत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है, भविष्य में उतन अवत संपत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है, भविष्य में उतन वानों द्वारा किए गए समस्त कर्णी एवं लेन-टेन के लिए

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING) SANTARAPUR. BHUBANESWAR- 751002.

Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 62/2024

e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of

Certified Turmeric Rhizomes for Kharif - 2024 OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender only from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, thei authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Certified Turmeric Rhizomes for Kharif-2024 in double cover system through online mode

Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Turmeri Rhizomes for Kharif-2024.
No of work	One
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.01.02.2024 to 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.22.02.2024

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.

OPR-01106/11/0080/2324



CAD-3909



Office of Principal

Government Engineering College, Samastipur (Under the Department of Science, Technology and **Technical Education Department of Bihar, Patna) SHORT TERM NOTICE**

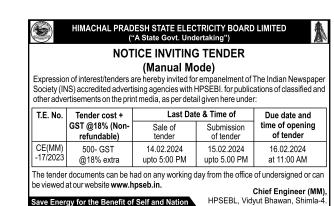
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT Advt.No.- GEC/SAM/01/2024-25

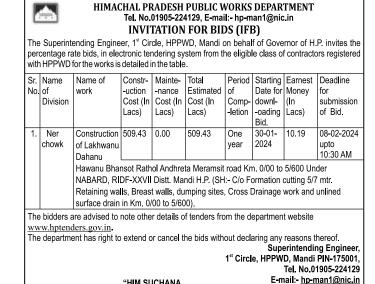
Government Engineering College, Samastipur is going to conduct a walkin-interview for the empanelment of GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/INSTRUCTOR in various departments/subjects for the current academic session. Interested and eligible candidates may appear for the walkin-interview with all their original academic certificates, category Certificate, Residential Certificate, a hard copy of CV, 02 sets of photocopies of original documents / certificates, and 02 recent passport size photographs as per the

ionowing scricuate.				
Guest Assistant Professor in the Department/Subject	Date and Time of Interview	Essential educational qualification/Eligibility		
Computer Science	12.02.2024 10:00 AM	Educational qualification: Three-year Diploma under regular course (Non Distance Mode) in the relevant Branch of Engineering obtained from an Institute approved by AICTE, New Delhi. OR Three-year diploma under regular course (non distance mode) in the relevant or equivalent branch of engineering obtained from university or deemed/ deemed to be university under the provisions of University Grants Commission Act.		

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। Principal PR. No.016218 (Sci. & Tech.) 2023-24 नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है G.E.C. Samastipur.

last year in a money laun-The police on Tuesday dering case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy, had challenged a trial court's December 22 order dismissing his bail plea. cused of playing a key role in formulating and imple-







"HIM SUCHANA

HP / 5305/23-24

nder Call Notice for Procuremen Nutmeg Seedling for Kharif - 2024

AWAM JAN SAMPARK" On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender only from Registered Nursery Owner (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Nutmeg Seedling for Kharif-2024 in double cover system through online mode only

Name of the work	Purchase of Nutmeg Seedling for Kharif-2024.			
No of work	One			
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.01.02.2024 to 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024			
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024			
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.22.02.2024			
The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions				

the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum cancellation can also be seen in the said website sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd. CAD-3913

OIPR-01106/11/0084/2324

Mamata flays BJP for 'raking up' CAA

Press Trust of India RAIGANJ

Lambasting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for "opportunistically raking up" the issue of Citizenship (Amendment) Act ahead of the Lok Sabha election, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said she would not allow anyone to take away the citizenship of people during her lifetime.

Her latest remarks were prompted by Union Minister Shantanu Thakur's assertion that CAA would be rolled out across the country within a week.

The CAA, enacted by the BJP-led government at the Centre in 2019, fasttracks citizenship to six undocumented non-Muslim communities - Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, Christian and Jain - from the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Speaking at a programme at Raiganj in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district, she said, "They [BJP] are speaking about NRC (National Register of Citizens), CAA, and Uniform Civil Code ahead of the election. This is nothing but politics. We have given citizenship to everyone [and] they [people in border areas] are getting everything. They are citizens, which is why they are allowed to vote," she said.

"But let me make it very clear that as long as I am alive, I will not allow the implementation of NRC in West Bengal. I will not allow them to take away the citizenship of anyone...," she said.

How can Senthilbalaji continue as Minister, asks Madras HC judge

It does not augur well for the system and better sense must prevail in this case, says Justice Anand Venkatesh while hearing his bail plea

Mohamed Imranullah S. **CHENNAI**

ustice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court on Tuesday questioned the propriety behind V. Senthilbalaji continuing to remain a Minister without portfolio despite having been imprisoned for over 230 days in a money laundering case booked by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).

The judge wondered how a person could be allowed to continue in the Cabinet despite incarceration for so long, when even the last grade employee of the State is deemed to have been suspended from service if he/she remains incarcerated for over 48 hours in a criminal case.

"When such is the severity shown in the case of a government employee, here you have a person who is continuing to be a Minister without portfolio when he is inside the prison. What type of a message are you giving to the public?" the judge asked senior counsel C. Aryama Sundaram, representing the Minister

He raised the question during the hearing of a bail petition filed by the Minister. The judge pointed out that the previous bail petition filed solely on health grounds was dismissed by

CAD-3916:



T.N. Minister V. Senthilbalaji. FILE PHOTO

Justice G. Jayachandran of the High Court in October 2023, taking into account his continuation in the Cabinet. However, there was no change in circumstance even now, as far as the issue was concerned, as the petitioner was still continuing as a Minister without portfolio, Justice Venkatesh said.

Mr. Sundaram replied that the petitioner was now seeking bail on the prime ground that the ED had completed the investigation substantially and collected all the required doc-

'Being frank'

uments. If the argument of the petitioner continuing in the Cabinet was to be put against him even at this stage, "then it will become difficult for anybody in a high place to get bail," he

Justice Venkatesh clarified that he was raising the

issue and not the ED. "I always believe in being frank. I will tell what is running in my mind so that it is much easier for you," the judge said, recalling that even the first Division Bench of the High Court led by its Chief Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala had in

September 2023 observed

that a Minister without

portfolio was a constitu-

tional travesty though the

law does not permit a

court to order removal of

such a Minister. "I don't want to get into the politics behind his continuation in the Cabinet because I am much away from that, but what I am saying is that it does not augur well for the system. ...I think better sense must prevail in this case because that will have a real bearing if ultimately a decision is taken in that regard," the judge told the senior

counsel.

Assuring the judge that he had understood the purport behind the judge expressing his mind, Mr. Sundaram said though the petitioner being a Minister might be a relevant consideration while deciding his bail application, the propriety behind continuing him as a Minister might not be a relevant consideration. The judge agreed to hear both sides on Febru-

HC reserves order on plea on online hate campaigns against Rohingya refugees

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday hinted that it will ask two Rohingya refugees, who sought direction to Facebook to act against "hate campaigns" targetting the community on the social media platform, to make a representation to the government or approach Facebook's grievance official as per the Information Technology Rules.

The HC observed that while there was "enough infrastructure already available" in law, the petition was filed without the petitioners approaching the government or Facebook. "... First you have to follow the mechanism...," the HC said while reserving judgment.



Dreaded gangster 'Ravan of Sahebganj', on the run for 10 years, nabbed from Bihar

Samridhi Tewari NEW DELHI

A dreaded gangster wanted in 25 cases of murder, attempted murder, extortion, and narcotics-related cases, known by his moniker 'Ravan of Sahebganj', was arrested from Paru town in Bihar's Muzaffarpur earlier this month by Delhi Police.

Ram Naresh Sahani was given the moniker after he set up his base in Muzaffarpur's Sahebganj village nearly two decades ago and terrorised its residents. He still has an active gang of nearly 50 in the area, police sources said, adding that he exerts tremendous influence over the illicit liquor business in northern Bihar. The Delhi police booked him in a murder case in 2005 and declared him a proclaimed offender in connection with a narcotics-related case in 2014.

Sahani was accused, along with two other persons, of murdering a man named Kumod in Surat. Police sources said Sahani ran an illicit liquor business in Gujarat for nearly four years, during which he had a dispute with Kumod, who was in the same

After gunning down his competitor, Sahani evaded arrest till March 2012, when Delhi Police's Crime Branch nabbed him for running a narcotics network in the national capital.

In July 2013, during the trial, Sahani got an interim bail for his daughter's marriage. However, he jumped the bail. A year later, he was declared a proclaimed offender.

Cat-and-mouse game

A senior officer said they received a tip-off about Sahani's whereabouts on January 5. "Upon reaching Bihar, we camped in Muzaffarpur for four days to apprehend him," the officer

"We looked for him from morning to night. We had to develop a network of informers because nobody wanted to speak up against him. What made catching him more difficult was that Sahani would change his address, mobile number, and appearance to evade arrest. He would grow a beard and then remove it. His facial features kept changing," the of-

Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjay Bhatia said, "Due to the terror of his gang, nobody ever shared information regarding his whereabouts with the police. Whenever the police tried mounting pressure on him, he would flee to Nepal and return to Bihar only after sensing that the pressure had eased."

Mr. Bhatia said, "On January 8, the police received a tip-off that Sahani would come to the registry office in Muzaffarpur. Police teams raided the location and arrested him from the outskirts of Paru town Muzaffarpur."

Mr. Bhatia said Sahani has been booked in a total of 25 criminal cases, of which 23 are registered in Bihar, one each in Delhi and Surat.

A Business Initiative

+ 'Will file new chargesheet in the 'land for job' case'

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday told a Delhi court that it will file a supplementary chargesheet within a month in a case related to an alleged land-for-job scam in the Railways against RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his family members.

The probe agency made the submission before Special Judge Vishal Gogne. It said that the final report will be filed by the end of February.

The matter has been listed for February 27.

Timings

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31
400

RISE 07:11 SET 18:00 RISE 22:55 SET 10:12 THURSDAY, FEB. 01

RISE 07:10 SET 18:00 RISE 23:49 SET 10:39

FRIDAY, FEB. 02 RISE 07:10 SET 18:01

RISE 00:00 SET 11:08

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 16°C Dense to very dense fog will occur in cold morning. The Afternoon will be cool & hazy. Chances of light to moderate

rain and thundershower. **Delhi Palam Tomorrow**

15°C Morning will be cold with moderate to dense fog. Cold day lie conditions is likely. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur. © Copyright Skymet Weather 2024 All rights reserved.

THEMOHINDU

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SUITS & JACKETS Men & Women wear Formal & Wedding collection By Economy Sales: 9212758425 ARROW Raymond Colorplus LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE GURUGRAM 306, City Center, Sector 29 (Near Hotel Pllazio) PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.) WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh) JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543 NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing





and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in

the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum

sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.

OIPR-01106/11/0087/2324 =

Advt No : 36/UPUMS/CBT/2023-24 RECRUITMENT NOTICE 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).

SI. No.	Name of the Post		Essential Eligibility Criteria
1.	Nursing		Qualification:
	Officer	(Backlog)	 (a) B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing / B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc. (Post-Certificate)/Post- Basic B.Sc. Nursing from an Institute or University recognized by
		500	Indian Nursing Council/ State Nursing Council.
		(Fresh)	OR
		(i resii)	(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 Uttal 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 REGISTRAR

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

GAIL PAT jumps 42% to Rs 6,660 Crores for Nine months ended 31.12.2023

compared to Rs 5,993 crores for the corresponding period in the previous year, mainly on account of higher gas trading margin, increase in transmission volume and increase in transmission tariff. Profit after Tax (PAT) up by 42% to Rs 6,660 crores as compared to Rs 4,698 crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Quarter on Quarter basis, Revenue from Operations is reported at Rs 34,254 crores in Q3 FY24 up by 8% as compared to Rs 31.823 crores in Q2 FY24. PBT registered an increase of 18% to Rs 3,694 crores in Q3 FY24 as against Rs 3,130 crores in the previous quarter and PAT increase by 18% to Rs 2,843 crore in Q3 FY24 as against Rs 2,405 crore in the previous quarter.Shri. Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited said that during the quarter the physical performance has improved across all major business verticals and Petrochemical Segment has turned profitable owing to plant efficiency, better capacity utilization & other optimization measures adopted. He further stated that the company has incurred a Capex of Rs. 6,583 crore during the period from April'23 to December'23, mainly on Pipelines,

Petrochemicals, Equity to JVs, etc. UP 112 celebrates Republic Day with pomp



The 75th Republic Day celebrations were celebrated with pomp and gaiety at the UP-112 headquarters. ADG-112, Smt. Neera Rawat hoisted the flag and saluted the National Flag. On the occasion, the ADG felicitated police personnel who did commendable work, conscious citizens who called 112 to help others

On the occasion of Republic Day, 547 personnel were felicitated by UP-112 across the state. These include 510 police personnel and 37 private employees of allied organisations.As many as 504 police personnel were awarded with commendation certificates for providing assistance on minimum response time after the call was made to 112 by the honoured citizens on the basis of response time. Commissioner of Police Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad and Superintendent of Police Shamli were awarded commendation cards by the DGP for maintaining minimum response time across the state. 37 police and private sector personnel working in UP-112 headquarters were also felicitated on the occasion of Republic Day.

REPUBLIC DAY

CEO Shri Swarup Kumar Saha, Executive

Director Dr. Ram Jass Yaday, other Executives. Staff and family members participated in the GAIL (India) Ltd reported Revenue from event. The Unfurling of the flag was followed

Operations of Rs 98,304 crores for up to Q3 by rendition of National Anthem, release of FY24 as compared to Rs 1,11,443 crores balloons and a small cultural programme. in the corresponding period of the financial Addressing on the occasion, Shri Saha proinflammatory cascade, triggered by TNF-α, year 2022-23. Profit before Tax (PBT) for up highlighted some special activities held during to Q3 FY24 stood at Rs 8,713 crores, up by the year 2023 including India hosting G20 iNOS. Giloy also exhibits anticarcinogenic, summit, launching of special Vishwakarma

> by the Govt of India. BHEL celebrates 75th Republic Day with



India's 75th Republic Day was celebrated with fervour and gaiety by BHEL at all its offices across the country. Sh. Koppu Sadashiy Murthy, CMD, BHEL, unfurled the national flag at a function in the company's township in Noida in the presence of Functional Directors on the Board of BHEL, and other senior officials. On the occasion, CMD, BHEL also addressed a gathering of BHEL employees and their families present at the function. A march-past, prize distribution ceremony and cultural programme was also organised at the

PUNJAB & SIND BANK CELEBRATED

REPUBLIC DAY Punjab & Sind Bank celebrated Nation's 75th Republic Day at its Gurugram office. MD & CEO Shri Swarup Kumar Saha, Executive Director Dr. Ram Jass Yadav, other Executives, Staff and family members participated in the event. The Unfurling of the flag was followed by rendition of National Anthem, release of balloons and a small cultural programme. Addressing on the occasion, Shri Saha highlighted some special activities held during the year 2023 including India hosting G20 summit, launching of special Vishwakarma Yojna, Landing of Chandrayaan-3, Solar mission and many other schemes launched by the Govt of India.

British Pharma accepts the usefulness of Giloy in liver diseases

The hepatoprotective (ability to keep the liver healthy) and other beneficial effects of Giloy (Tinospora cordifolia) have now been accepted by the United Kingdom as well, which has been published in the famous research journal 'Journal of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain'. Published by Oxford University Press in 'Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology'.United Kingdom.The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology has accepted that research on Giloy has found that it is helpful in keeping the liver healthy as well as in preventing the degradation of body cells and providing protection to the liver. Giloy also increases the immunity of the body. By using Giloy daily (in the form of food), one can get relief from many diseases. He told that Giloy can be used as a food supplement PUNJAB & SIND BANK CELEBRATED that protects the liver Acharya Balkrishna Ji Maharaj further told that Giloy was of sewing machines and wheelchairs to the Punjab & Sind Bank celebrated Nation's 75th traditionally used since ancient times for blood

its potential. Its hepatoprotective effects can be attributed to alkaloids (berberine, palmatine and jatrorrhizin) and sinapic acid. Berberine and reduces nitrosative stress by inhibiting anti-ir Yojna, Landing of Chandrayaan-3, Solar and other activities. Giloy has been found mission and many other schemes launched to be an active medicinal ingredient in many polyherbal formulations used to treat chemical-mediated hepatotoxicity.Acharya ji said that every effort was made to suppress Ayurveda but Patanjali has always given glory to Ayurveda. During the Corona period, an attempt was made to create misconception about Giloy that excessive consumption of Giloy has adverse effects on the liver. But the scientists of Patanjali Research Institute did research on Giloy and presented it with

> NTPC Limited certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India by the Top Employers Institute The 2024 Top Employers have been announced and NTPC Limited has been certified as a Top Employer in India by the Top Employers Institute.

> Shri Dillip Kumar Patel, Director (HR), received the Award on behalf of NTPC at the Top Employers 2024 Certification Celebration Event held on 25th January, 2024, at Singapore.Top Employers Institute is the global HR authority on certifying excellence in HR best practices. For over 33 years, the firm has been dedicated to accelerating the impact of HR strategies to enrich the world of work through certification, benchmarking, aligning and connecting Top Employers around the globe.NTPC completed the following steps in order to qualify for the certification: HR Best Practice Survey, Validation and Audit. NTPC's performance score was rated against an international standard and NTPC has achieved Top Employer status. The HR Best Practice Survey covers six HR domains consisting of 20 topics including People Strategy, Work Environment, Talent Acquisition, Learning, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Wellbeing and more. The survey is based on an international standard so participants are measured against globally applicable best practice

75TH REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED AT SBI, LOCAL HEAD OFFICE, JAIPUR WITH **CSR AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

State Bank of India, Jaipur Circle celebrated 75th Republic Day with full zeal and enthusiasm. On this occasion, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Chief General Manager, Jaipur Circle hoisted the National Flag at the Local Head Office, Jaipur. Cultural programs were organized on this occasion On this occasion while addressing the staff members and the guests, Shri Mishra said that SBI has always played an important role in the development of the country and is playing a leading role in fulfilling the vision of "Viksit Bharat". SBI has played an important role in financial inclusion for each segment of the society, SBI is also considered a proxy of the Indian economy. He appealed to all the staff members to work together to take our country to new heights. CSR activity was also organized in which financial assistance of ₹ 40,61,200/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Two Hundred only) was provided to Mahavir International Foundation Trust, Jaipur for the distribution beneficiaries identified by each Administrative Republic Day at its Gurugram office. MD & purification and increasing immunity. Giloy is Office of SBI Jaipur Circle and to the centers a hepatoprotective agent. The CCI4 model is run by Mahavir International Trust, Jaipur.

BJP trumps INDIA bloc in Chandigarh mayoral polls

AAP, Congress allege poll rigging after eight votes were declared invalid; losing candidate moves HC seeking fresh polls

The Hindu Bureau CHANDIGARH

he INDIA bloc alliance on Tuesday faced a setback as the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) joint candidates lost to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Chandigarh mayoral elections. The BJP's candidate, Manoj Sonkar, won the post of mayor by securing 16 votes in the 35-member municipal corporation House while Congress-AAP candidate Kuldeep Tita got 12 votes.

Though the INDIA bloc had 20 votes, 8 votes were declared as invalid by presiding officer Anil Masih and Mr. Sonkar romped home. In Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, there are 35 councillors while the Member of Parliament from Chandigarh (of the BJP) is an ex officio member and also has voting rights. The BJP has 14 councillors, AAP 13 and the Congress seven. The Shiromani Akali Dal has one

member in the House.

The Chandigarh election was being seen as the first electoral test for the INDIA bloc's effectiveness in taking on the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of the 2024 general election, coming as it does days after one of the bloc





unit for winning the Mayor

election. Under the leader-

ship of Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi Ji, UTs have

witnessed record develop-

ment. That the INDIA Al-

liance fought their first

electoral battle and still

lost to BJP shows that

neither their arithmetic is

Darkest day: CM Mann

Punjab Chief Minister

Bhagwant Singh Mann said

January 30 will be remem-

bered as the "darkest day"

in the annals of Indian pol-

ity. "This has come when

we celebrated the Republic

Day a few days ago. Now, in

the polls, the Constitution

has been trampled. I will

say that the mayoral elec-

nor chemistry."

Mixed emotions: Manoj Sonkar (BJP) being offered sweets by party colleagues after he won the post of mayor in Chandigarh on Tuesday; (right) Kuldeep Tita (AAP) breaks down after his defeat in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation poll. PTI

architects, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, switched over to the BJP-led alliance.

Ruckus in House

Congress and AAP members created a ruckus in the House alleging poll rigging, following which the presiding officer called marshals to control the situation. They boycotted the next phase of elections to the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor. BJP nominees Kuljit Sandhu and Rajinder Sharma were declared elected to the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor respectively.

Hours after the elections, AAP moved the Punjab and Haryana High

Court seeking setting aside the results and demanding fresh polls under the supervision of a retired High Court judge. The petition, filed by the AAP mayoral candidate against the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation and the Chandigarh UT administration, among others, is likely to be taken up on Wednesday.

As part of the tie-up, the Congress had contested the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor while AAP fought for the mayor's post, reserved this year for the Scheduled Caste category.

Taking a dig at the IN-DIA bloc, BJP president J.P. Nadda in a post, "Congratulations to BJP Chandigarh tions were looted by the BJP," he said.

Mr. Mann alleged there was tampering with the ballot papers in the elections. "Anil Masih, who was made presiding officer, is an office-bearer of BJP's minority wing. I demand that 'deshdroh' (treason) case be registered against the presiding officer. He has murdered democracy," he said.

The Punjab CM said several Opposition parties keep demanding holding of polls through ballot papers, "but if this is the way how ballots are counted as we saw in mayoral polls, imagine what will happen then".

HC-set poll date

The mayoral polls were earlier slated for January 18 but could not be conducted as the election presiding officer fell sick. While the Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner rescheduled the polls for February 6, the Punjab and Haryana High Court later directed the elections to be conducted on January 30 on a petition filed by Kuldeep Kumar, an AAP councillor.

While quashing the order postponing the elections, the court had called it "unreasonable, unjustified and arbitrary".

With inputs from PTI

Shameless capture of democracy, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP of "shameless capture" of democracy after the INDIA bloc nominee lost in the mayoral election.

"First they abruptly postponed the elections, and then devised a way to capture it. This is a warning for all those who are deluded into thinking that the Modi-led BJP will allow democracy to function if they win in 2024," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also echoed this in a post on X and said, "It is beyond imagination what the BJP, which can kill democracy in front of the whole world in Mayoral elections, will do to remain in power in Delhi [Centre]."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post said, "On Gandhi ji's #MartyrsDay, Godse worshipper BJP has murdered Democracy and all ethos of Constitution."



The aftermath: AAP and Congress councillors protest after declaration of results in Chandigarh on Tuesday. PTI

Blatant dishonesty, hooliganism: Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that through "blatant dishonesty" and "hooliganism", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the mayoral election in Chandigarh. He said this was "extremely dangerous" for democracy.

"On 30th January, 76 years ago the ambassador of peace and non-violence, Gandhiji was murdered. And today they have murdered democracy in the country. Fortunately, their acts of hooliganism and dishonesty have been captured on the cameras. Now, the entire country is

witnessing openly how forcibly they committed robbery of votes to elect their Mayor in Chandigarh," Mr. Kejriwal said at a press conference in New Delhi.

The AAP chief said that in the history of Chandigarh mayoral elections, votes have never been declared invalid at such a large scale.

He alleged that if the BJP can manipulate even in a mayoral election which involves only 35 votes, one can imagine the extent of manipulation in a Lok Sabha election which involves about 90 crore votes. "Even a 5-6% discrepancy in votes in national elections can significantly impact the results," he said.

INBRIDE -



'Himachal Rajya Sabha seat can go to Sonia or Priyanka'

Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Pratibha Singh on Tuesday said the lone Rajya Sabha seat falling vacant on expiry of six-year term of BJP chief J.P. Nadda on April 2 can go to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi or Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "We would discuss the matter with Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the seat could go to them if they are willing," Ms. Singh said. Following declaration of schedule for the elections to 56 Rajya Sabha seats, search has begun in the Congress which has a clear majority of 40 out of 68 seats in the Himachal Assembly. At present, all three Rajya Sabha seats from the State are held by the BJP. PTI

M.P. Congress removes party spokesperson over scuffle

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee president Jitu Patwari removed Shahryar Khan from the post of spokesperson and issued show-cause notices to him and the State unit's Scheduled Caste wing chief Pradeep Ahirwar, a day after a viral video showed the two leaders coming to blows with each other. A video of the two leaders engaged in a scuffle at the PCC headquarters in Bhopal went viral on Monday showing Mr. Khan and Mr. Ahirwar arguing over the ticket distribution in last year's State Assembly elections. The two can also be seen hurling abuses at each other while Mr. Khan is seen falling on the ground with Mr. Ahirwar charging at him with a chair.

<u>'Took permission to use AI to</u> recreate late singers' voice'

Music composer A.R. Rahman has said that his team took due permission to use an AI software for recreating the voices of late singers Bamba Bakya and Shahul Hameed for a track in veteran actor Rajinikanth's new film "Lal Salaam". The two artists, who had worked with Rahman on multiple projects before their deaths, are credited as playback singers for the track

credited as playback singers for the track "Thimiri Yezhuda". "We took permission from their families and sent deserving remuneration for using their voice algorithms ..technology is not a threat and a nuisance if we use it

right...#respect #nostalgia," he wrote. PTI

Will seek a Chennai LS seat from the DMK: Alagiri

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K.S. Alagiri on Tuesday said some of the Lok Sabha seat aspirants in the Congress were urging the leadership to ask for seats that Dravidian parties generally do not allot to allies.

Referring to DMK Minister R.S. Rajakannappan's comments that the Congress existed only to "get seats during polls", he said it was a norm in every party to speak about such shortcomings openly. "Even in our party, some have asked me why doesn't the DMK give us any of the Chennai seats. I told them that I will seek a Chennai seat on their behalf..."

Speaking on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not implemented any of the poll promises.

Jarange-Patil steps up pressure on govt. with new agitation threat

Shoumojit Banerjee

Unwilling to let the Maharashtra government off the hook, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Tuesday announced yet another indefinite hunger fast from February 10 onwards if the government did not make good its promise of granting other backward class (OBC) Kunbi caste certificates to blood relatives of Marathas whose records proved them as Kunbis.

Speaking at Raigad, which was the capital of the Maratha warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji, Mr. Jarange-Patil further gunned for reservation to be given to Muslims and the Dhangar community.

Mahatma anniverme Minisdi had not ny of the activist in Navi Mumbai and persuaded him to call of his protest by assenting to all his demands, the



Activist Manoj Jarange-Patil

Maharashtra government issued a draft notification which stated that blood relatives of a Maratha person, who had obtained records to prove that he belonged to the agrarian Kunbi community, would also be recognised as Kunbi.

'Implement in 10 days'
Mr. Jarange-Patil stressed
he had not stopped the quota stir and warned he
would not do so until every
Maratha had secured reservation. "The government
must implement its promises in the next 10 days,"
he said.

Amid seat-sharing talks with Congress, SP releases first list of 16 candidates for LS poll

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Tuesday announced its first list of 16 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha election amid seat-sharing talks with the Congress. The Congress had staked claim to at least two of these 16 seats – Farrukhabad and Faizabad.

According to sources, senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid wanted to contest from Farrukhabad, which he has won twice in 1991 and 2009. "How could they lay a claim on the seat, considering that the Congress had polled around 8,000 votes in all five Assembly segments that make the Lok Sabha seat during the 2022 Assembly election," a senior SP leader said.

The Congress wanted the Faizabad seat as well from where its former State The Congress had staked claim to at least two of these 16 seats — Farrukhabad and Faizabad; Dimple Yadav to contest from Mainpuri

president Nirmal Khatri has won twice in the past. But the SP leaders ruled that the Congress is not in a winnable position here.

The first list includes three members of the 'first family' of the SP – Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri, which she currently represents, Akshay Yadav, son of senior SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, from Firozabad, and Dharmendra Yadav from Budaun parliamentary constituency. Both Mr. Akshay and Mr. Dharmendra have held Firozabad and Budaun seats in the past, but had lost the 2019 election.

In the Kheri Lok Sabha seat, where the SP's two-

time Lok Sabha MP Ravi
Verma switched to the Congress, the party has fielded
Utkarsh Verma, a first-timer. This seat is currently
held by the BJP's controversial leader and Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni.

The party is also repeating its MP Shafigur Rah man Barq, from Sambhal. Annu Tandon, former Congress leader who switched to the SP, has been fielded from Unnao. She had won the seat in 2009 on a Congress ticket. The SP has been a distant second on the seat in the last two elections losing to the BJP's Sakshi Maharaj. Ravidas Mehrotra, sitting MLA from Lucknow Central, has been named as the party candidate from Lucknow. Similarly, the sitting MLA from Katehari in Ambedkar Nagar district, Lalji Verma, has been fielded from Ambedkar Nagar parliamentary constituency.

Canal pact touted as major achievement of new BJP govt. in Rajasthan

Mohammed Iqbal JAIPUR

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Rajasthan has claimed that a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Centre and the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governments for the ambitious Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) will herald a "new era" of the State's development. A detailed project report (DPR) for the ERCP will be prepared under the pact.

The previous Congress government had turned the demand for the national project status for the ₹37,200-crore ERCP into a major election issue, while accusing the BJP government at the Centre of not taking care of the interests



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and his M.P. counterpart Mohan Yadav during signing of an MoU on Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project. FILE PHOTO:PTI

of the people in 13 districts, which were set to benefit from it. The Congress alleged that the BJP had gone back on its promise. In its original form, the

ERCP was to be implemented along with the interlinking of Parvati, Kali Sindh and Chambal rivers. Since the Centre did not accept the demand for the national project status, the Congress government

started the work with its own resources, with the construction of the Navnera-Bisalpur-Isarda link, Mahalpur barrage and Ramgarh barrage at a cost of ₹9,600 crore.

The MoU signed in New

Delhi on Sunday in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Chief Ministers Bhajan Lal Sharma and Mohan Yadav will incorporate the work done so far in the State. This will be the second project under the Centre's national perspective plan of interlinking of rivers programme.

BJP State president C.P. Joshi said here that the collaboration between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan had become possible after the formation of the "double-engine government". The revamped Parvati-Kali Sindh-Chambal link project of the ERCP would be a cornerstone for development of both the States, with the availability of an ample amount of water for both drinking and irrigation, he said.

A total of 26 districts in both the States will benefit from the agreement and 25 lakh families of agriculturists in 13 districts of Rajasthan will get access to irrigation waters. The water will be available for 2.80-lakh hectares in the State, contributing to an increase in the ground water level.

Rajasthan's districts which will benefit from the project are Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Dholpur, where a population of 3.5 crore resides. The Congress government had sought the national project status on the ground that the huge project cost could not be borne by the State alone.

'Will receive less water'
However, Kisan Mahapanchayat president Rampal
Jat said the MoU had undermined the original
DPR, as the quantity of wa-

ter to be received by Rajasthan would be reduced by half. "The DPR of 2017 stipulated that the State would receive 3,510 million cubic metres of water. The project's integration with interlinking of three rivers will reduce the quantity of water to 1,775 MCM, which will not be sufficient for the 13 districts," Mr. Jat said.

Uproar in AssemblyThe signing of the MoU al-

so came up for a debate in the State Assembly on Tuesday with the government making a statement on the floor of the House. The proceedings were adjourned twice because of the uproar by the Opposition Congress MLAs, who pointed out several shortcomings in the agreement and demanded that the government reconsider it.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR
SELECTION OF TPAA FOR MECHANIZATION SCHEME
Request For Proposal (RFP) For Selection Of Third Party Assessment Agency (TPAA) For

Monitoring & Evaluation of State Mechanization Scheme "Distribution Of Agriculture Equipment to $Farmers, Women SHG\ Etc." implemented/implementing\ During\ Financial\ Year\ 2020-21\ to\ 2024-25.$ Executive Director (Ag Engg) JAMTTC Ranchi, working under Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative, Govt. of Jharkhand invites Technical and Financial Proposals from consultants to provide services as Third Party Assessment Agency (TPAA) for Monitoring & Evaluation of Schemes implemented/implementing under the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-Operative "Distribution of Agriculture Equipment to Farmers, Women SHG Etc." implemented/ implementing During Financial Year 2020-21 to 2024-25. The document can be downloaded from the website https://jamttc.org or <a href="https://jamttc.org or https://jamtkand.gov.in from 31.01.2024, (16.00 hrs) to 20.02.2024 (13.00 hrs) or can be obtained personally from office of JAMTTC, Krishi Bhawan, the state of the state Kanke Road, Ranchi during office hour from 11.30 am to 15.30 pm on payment of document fee in shape of required bank draft. The last date for submission of proposal is 20.02.2024 (upto 4.00 pm) only through speed post or by hand.

Response to this RFP shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its implications. This section provides general information about the issuer important dates and addresses and the overall eligibility criteria for the parties. The RFP/tender document cost of INR 10,000/- is to be submitted vide crossed demand bank draft from any Nationalized Bank/ Scheduled Bank in favor of "Executive Director (A Engg) JAMTTC Ranchi" payable at Ranchi.

PR 317415 Agriculture (23-24) D

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l	Jadugora.	
	Availability of tender document on website	30.01.2024 at 2:00 pm
l	Last date and time for uploading of E-Tender	26.02.2024 at 2:00 pm
l	Date and time for opening of tender Part-I (Technical and Commercial)	26.02.2024 at 3:00 pm
l	Date and time for opening of tender Part-II (Price Part)	Further communicated
l	Tendering Officer and address for communication	Electric Supply Area, Jamshedpur

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No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-42/43/574/2023-24

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EP-43 (1) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastrcuture Facilities and Street Lights to Kapnoor Industrial Area, 3rd Phase, 2nd Stage, Kalaburgi District. (2) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastrcuture to Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

For EP-42: Last date for submission of bids is: 12.02.2024 upto 04:30 pm.

For EP-43: Last date for submission of bids is: 14.02.2024 upto 04:30 pm.

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Journalist cuts anti-Periyar statements from article

Mohamed Imranullah S. CHENNAI

New Delhi-based journalist Abhijit Majumder on Tuesday informed the Madras High Court of having redacted certain objectionable statements about Dravidar Kazhagam founder Thanthai Periyar, alias E.V. Ramasamy, from an article penned by him in September 2023 accusing Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin of having given a call for Hindu genocide.

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh recorded the statement made by advocate Ramaswamy Meyappan, on behalf of the journalist, regarding the redaction and decided to hear on February 13 the latter's plea to quash an FIR registered against him by the Tamil Nadu police pursuant to the publication of the article in the opinion column of news website Firstpost.

The article, titled 'Udhayanidhi Stalin's call for Hindu genocide does BJP a big favour in Tamil Nadu', was published online on September 3, 2023, after the Minister had in a conference on September 2, 2023 equated Sanatana Dharma to vector-borne diseases. The article had criticised Periyar heavily.

When the plea to quash the FIR was listed for hearing on January 8 this year, the court found certain "derogatory" statements against Periyar in the piece. The matter has been listed for February 13.

Oppn. blames + LDF govt. for fiscal crisis

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Opposition United Democratic Front staged a walkout in the Kerala Assembly on Tuesday, accusing the Left Democratic Front government of doing next to nothing to overcome the "grave financial situation" in the State. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan added that the UDF cannot accept the LDF narrative that the Centre is solely to blame.

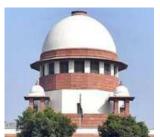
Curbs on liquor sale do not extend to municipal areas: SC

A three-judge Bench headed by CJI DY. Chandrachud has recalled a SC order of March 20, 2023; Supreme Court order in 2016 clearly states that the prohibition did not extend to municipal areas

NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court has asserted that its December 2016 ban on the sale of liquor within 500 metres of the outer edge of national and State highways will not extend to municipal areas.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recalled a Supreme Court order of March 20, 2023. The March 2023 order had set aside a Madras High Court decision confirming the permission granted by the Puducherry Excise Department to a liquor retailer, represented by senior advocate P.B. Su-



resh, to shift his shop to

blishment was hardly 150

Kamarai

Pillathottam.

2016 does not prohibit licensed establishments within municipal areas. This clarification shall govern other municipal areas too SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

metres from temples, mos-

The order dated

December 15,

ECR Main Road at Ganaques and educational instipathi Chettikulam from tutions. The High Court dismissed the petition of the residents, who ap-The residents' society, proached the Supreme Kanagachettikulam Makkal Court. A Division Bench Podhunala Eyakkam, had headed by Justice (now removed the High Court tired) M.R. Shah had ruled against the shifting of the liin favour of the residents in March 2023. quor shop, saying the esta-

Arguing the review peti-

tion on Monday, Mr. Suresh said the top court had clarified, in a subsequent order on July 11, 2017, that the December 2016 prohibition on the sale of liquor within 500 metres along highways, did not extend to municipal areas.

"The purpose of the directions contained in the order dated December 15, 2016 is to deal with the sale of liquor along and in proximity of highways properly understood... The order establishments set at rest any ambiguity," a three-judge Bench had explained in its 2017 order.

does not prohibit licensed within municipal areas... We have considered it appropriate to issue this clarification to

Idukki gang rape case: 3 sentenced to 90 years in jail

The Hindu Bureau

The Devikulam Fast Track Special (POCSO) Court on Tuesday sentenced three youth to 90 years in prison with a fine of ₹40,000 each for raping a 14-year-old migrant girl at Poopara in Idukki.

Special public prosecutor (SPP) Smiju K. Das said that the youth were sentenced to 90 years of rigorous imprisonment under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act and may undergo the sentence simultaneously for 25 years.

The compensation should be handed over to the family members of the girl and if the accused fail to pay the fine they will unanother dergo months in jail.

Judge P.A. Sirajudeen had delivered the verdict on Monday in which three of the accused persons were found guilty. They are Tamil Nadu residents Sugand, 20, and Sivakumar, 21, and Poopara resident Syam, 21.

The incident occurred on 29, May 2022, when the girl, the daughter of a plantation worker hailing from West Bengal, was raped by a six-member gang, including two minors. The survivor had reached a tea plantation here with her male friend who is a Madhya Pradesh native. They attacked her friend and chased him away, and dragged the girl to a secluded area and raped her.

Jacqueline possessed conman's proceeds of crime: ED to HC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has told the Delhi High Court that Bollywood actor Jacqueline nandez was "knowingly involved in the possession and use of proceeds of crime" of arrested 'conman' Sukesh Chandrasekhar, facing charges along with the actor in a ₹200crore money laundering

The central probe agency made the claims in an affidavit filed on January 27 in response to the actor's plea seeking the quashing of an FIR against her in the

The Delhi police have accused Chandrasekhar of duping Aditi Singh, the wife of former Ranbaxy promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh, of ₹200 crore, with the promise of securing bail for her husband, who is lodged in jail in a criminal case.

The Sri Lankan-origin actor has been accused of being complicit in laundering the extorted money.

The ED told the court that the actor "never revealed the truth" regarding the financial transactions with Chandrasekhar, and concealed facts until confronted with evidence.

"She continues to hold back the truth even till date. It is also a fact that Fernandez wiped out the entirety of the data from her mobile phone after the arrest of Chandrasekhar,



Actor Jacqueline Fernandez. **FILE PHOTO**

thereby tampering with evidence," the ED said.

"She also asked her colleagues to destroy evidence. Evidence proves beyond doubt that she had been enjoying, using and is in possession of proceeds of crime. Thus, it is proved that Fernandez was knowingly involved in the possession and use of proceeds of crime of the accused, Chandrasekhar," it added.

Meanwhile, the plea filed by Ms. Fernandez states: "There is absolutely no indication that she [Ms. Fernandez] had any involvement whatsoever in aiding him to launder his purportedly ill-gotten wealth. Hence, she cannot be prosecuted for the offences under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act".

The High Court listed the case for further hearing on April 15 after the counsel representing the actor sought time to file rejoinder in response to the ED's affidavit.

Culture says that family's honour is vested in woman's body, says retired Madras HC judge

The Hindu Bureau

Culture could be used positively to mobilise people in the struggle for their human rights or used negatively by persons exercising a certain power, said retired Madras High Court judge Prabha Sridevan in Chennai on Tuesday.

She also underlined how culture was used negatively by 'khap' panchayats, and that 'honour killings' were expressions of a cultural male hegemony. "Culture dictates that

the family's honour 'kudumbamanam' is vested in a woman alone and particularly in her body," she contended in her speech at the international conference on 'Gender Dynamics in History, Society, Culand Power ture, Structures,' organised by the Department of History and the Centre for Women's Studies at Stella Maris College.

Patriarchal norms

Ms. Sridevan highlighted the challenges faced by women in approaching courts, and added that the presence of "so many hurdles, distance, language and more had rendered



Retired Madras High Court Judge Prabha Sridevan at an event at Stella Maris College in Chennai on Tuesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

the entire structure a "threatening" one.

"For a long time now, what we see has been determined by the way men spoke, thought and acted. Thus, the law and its legislative formulations are on man as the norm," Ms. Sridevan said.

Referring to the 'Feminist Judgment Project', which re-imagines decided cases and asks what noted judgements would have looked like had they been written by women, Ms. Sridevan said the project's research and outcome were "illuminating".

She further stated that "while the law won't change, perspective cer-

tainly will". Nanditha Krishna, president of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, said that women, when in power, have been quite influential. She recalled the tenures of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, and lauded the power they had wielded in their time.

Former PM Indira Gandhi was "probably India's best Prime Minister till date," she said, and recalled how she had used her power to stop the "genocide of the Bangladeshis that was going on at the

Recalling the past

Referring to women in ancient society, Ms. Krishna said it was a little-known fact that 21 authors of the Rig Veda were women, known as rishikas. These women, she said, were at par with men, and went on to produce the longest-living literature in the world. In the Vedic period, fe-

male brahmavadinis went through the same rigorous discipline as their male counterparts, she added. She also recalled the contributions of Rani Abbakka, Rani Mangammal and Velu Nachivar to the freedom struggle.

A book, titled 'Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle in India', was released at the event. Principal Sr. Stella Mary; secretary Sr. Judith Anita Gonsalvez; Dolly Thomas, director of Centre for Women's Studies, and Susan Paul, head of Department of History were also present.

Won't support BJP in anything + illegal, says Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau

Addressing the media in Tuesday former Karnataka Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy said that the JD(S) would not support all activities of the BJP.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "I am telling BJP that I will not support the party in any illegal activities. Even today my stand on hijab issue remains the same." He

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THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

had, in the past as well, opposed the previous BJP regime's ban on hijab in classrooms.

The former ment came in response to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's accusations that the JD(S) leader, alongside the BJP, had incited violence by visiting Keragodu village in Mandya district, which has remained tense after the district administration brought down a saffron flag from a 108-feettall flag post and hoisted

nder in AMRUT-2.0 (2023-24).

DIPR/ 543 /TENDER/2024

Total Project cost is Rs. 179.74 Crores.

the portal https://tntenders.gov.in

the tricolour in its place.

"What connection do I have with the incident? I did not instigate violence. BJP had organised the protest and they had invited me. My followers had also invited me. During my 13minute speech at Keragodu, I did not discuss Hindutva or the bhagwa (saffron flag). I have only spoken about the failure of the government. I have asked the Chief Minister to take action against erring officials," he said.

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 100

Notice for Inviting E-Tender

(Roc.No. E1 / 5122/2018, Date: 30.01.2024)

-Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for "Providing Comprehensing

Inderground Sewerage Scheme to Added areas (Zone -11, 11.1 & 11.3) in Tiruppu

The details of the tender shall be obtained from web portal https://tntenders.gov.inThe tender documents shall be downloaded from 31.01.2024 to 18.03.2024 throug

Pre Bid Meeting will be on 15.02.2024 at 11.00 AM by the Commissioner, Tiru

The Last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uple

The received tenders will be opened at 3.30 PM on 18.03.2024 at the Office of

 $Tiruppur\ City\ Municipal\ Corporation,\ Municipal\ Office\ Road,\ Tiruppur\ -\ 641\ 604.$

The value of each works and the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the Eligibility of

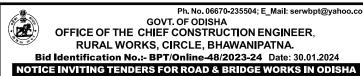
Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation

City Municipal Corporation, Municipal Office Road, Tiruppur - 641 604.

submission of filled up tender document is upto 3.00 PM on 18.03.2024.

bidders are given in the concern work tender document

City Municipal Corporation including 60 months of operation and main



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement : Construction of Road & Bridge Work under MMSY-TRIP Schemes in the District of Kalahandi.

2. No of Works 02 Nos. 3. Location details Kalahandi District

4. Estimated Cost As per NIT Period of Completion : As per NIT.

6. Cost of tender paper: Rs.10,000/- per set 7. Other details Availability of tender for online bidding Last date & time for Date and time of То seeking tender clarification opening of technical bid 02.02.2024 16.02.2024 17.02.2024 15.02.2024

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna O-2335 OIPR-25102/11/0064/2324

> (A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING) SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.

Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 56/2024

Certified Coriander Seed for Kharif - 2024 OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender only from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, thei authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Certified

the work below.	cover system through online mode only for
Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Coriander Seed for Kharif-2024.
No of work	One
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.01.02.2024 to 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.22.02.2024

and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum CAD-3917:



(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING) SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002. Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 58/2024 e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED

Clove Seedling for Kharif - 2024 OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender only from Registered Nursery Owner (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Clove Seedling for Kharif-2024 in double cover system through online mode only for

Purchase of Clove Seedling for Name of the work No of work 15.00 hours on dt.01.02.2024 to Availability of Bid documents in Portal 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024 Last date of receipt of tender in portal 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024 Date and Time of Opening of Bid 10.30 hrs of dt.22.02.2024 The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in

he e-Tender porta**l www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum: CAD-3911:

sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd. OIPR-01106/11/0082/2324

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING) SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.

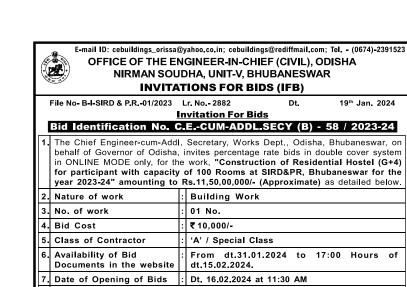
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 53/2024 **Tender Call Notice for Procuremen** Certified Seed Potato for Kharif - 2024 OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender only from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs. their

authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Certified Seed Potato for Kharif-2024 in double cover system through online mode only for the Purchase of Certified Seed Potato for Kharif-2024. No of work 15.00 hours on dt.01.02.2024 to Availability of Bid documents in Portal 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024 Last date of receipt of tender in portal 17.00 hrs of dt.21.02.2024 Date and Time of Opening of Bid 10.30 hrs of dt.22.02.2024

and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum cancellation can also be seen in the said website sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd. CAD-3914: OIPR-01106/11/0085/2324

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions



19th Jan. 2024 Bid Identification No. C.E.-CUM-ADDL.SECY (B) - 58 / 2023-24 The Chief Engineer-cum-Addl. Secretary, Works Dept., Odisha, Bhubaneswar, or behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work, "Construction of Residential Hostel (G+4) for participant with capacity of 100 Rooms at SIRD&PR, Bhubaneswar for the year 2023-24" amounting to Rs.11,50,00,000/- (Approximate) as detailed below. 'A' / Special Class From dt.31.01.2024 to 17:00 Hours of 7. Date of Opening of Bids : Dt. 16.02.2024 at 11:30 AM 8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only. Chief Engineer-cum-Addl. Secretary, Works Dept., Odisha OPR-34117/11/0097/2324



बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम,लि७ पटना

- मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोब शास्त्रीनगर, पटना—800023

(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम) ई—निविदा/पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-65/2023-24

निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) करने दिनाकः 09.02.2024 से 01.03.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।

की अंतिम तिथि एवं समर

निविदा बिक्री का स्थान

निविदा जमा (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं - दिनांकः 02.03.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

120 ਵਿਚ

प्री—बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान दिनाक-19.02.2024 को 16:00 बजे संबंधित उप महाप्रबंधक के प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि. समय एवं स्थान

काथालय कहा म। - दिनांकः 20.02.2024 को 16:00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंत, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना—23 - दिनांकः 04.03.2024 को 15.00 बजे।

निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (वित्तीय बीड) - तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।

10 निविदा वैद्यता की तिथि - 120 दिन							
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जिला का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (अनुसूचित एवं गैर अनुसूचित) (रैं) में	अग्रधन की राशि (^ह में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (र्रे में)	Bid Processing Fee	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
बाँका	योजना के अतर्गत बाँका जिलान्तर्गत चान्दन प्रखण्ड के ग्राम पचायत गौरीपुर में 200 मीटर ट्रैकयुक्त फुटबॉल स्टेडियम का निर्माण कार्य। ई-पुनर्निविदा	₹1,81,77,600.00	₹3,64,000.00	₹10000.00	As per website	(छः) 06	भागलपुर
कैमुर	के कलानी में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई—पुनर्निविदा	₹1,00,64,377.00	₹2,01,300.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	06 (छः)	पटना
बेगुसराय	चक प्रखंड के अहियापुर में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई—निविदा	₹1,18,96,267.00	₹2,38,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(B:)	मुंगेर
नालंदा	प्रखंड के निरपुर में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई–निविदा	₹1,18,46,379.00	₹2,37,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(a:) 0e	पटना
अरवल	प्रखंड के उसरी में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई–निविदा	₹1,06,03,723.00	₹2,13,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(a:)	गया
पूर्वी चम्पारण	सुगौली प्रखंड के रघुनाथपुर में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई—पुनर्निविदा	₹1,20,34,413.00	₹2,41,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(<u>a</u> :)	मुजफ्फरपुर
पूर्वी चम्पारण	प्रखंड के कण्डवाचैनपुर में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई—निविदा	₹1,19,17,995.00	₹2,39,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(평:)	मुजफ्फरपुर
किशनगंज	प्रखंड के पहाड़कठ्ठा में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। ई–निविदा	₹1,21,64,309.00	₹2,44,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(B:)	पूर्णियाँ
सिवान	सिवान जिलान्तर्गत आंदर में बुनियाद केन्द्र के निर्माण कार्य योजना में अवशेष कार्य। ई—निविदा	₹1,10,30,992.00	₹2,21,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	(B:) 06	सारण
	कार्य का वि जिला का नाम 2 बाँका कैमुर बेगुसराय नालदा अरवल पूर्वी चम्पारण किशनगज	कार्य का विवरण जिला का नाम 2 3 मुख्यमंत्री खेल विकास योजना के अंतर्गत बाँका जिलान्तर्गत चान्दन प्रवण्ड बाँका बाँका के प्रमुख्यमंत्री खेल विकास योजना के अंतर्गत बाँका जिलान्तर्गत चान्दन प्रवण्ड के कार्म पंचायत गरिपुर में 200 मीटर ट्रैकयुक्त फुटबाँल रंटेडियम का निर्माण कार्य। डं-पुनिविद्या केमुर जिलान्तर्गत रामगढ प्रखंड के कलानी में प्रथम वर्गीय पश्च विक्रित्सावय कितान्तर्गत मनसूर वक प्रखंड के अहियापुर में प्रथम वर्गीय पश्च विक्रित्सावय का निर्माण कार्य। डं-मिविद्या मालंदा जिलान्तर्गत अस्तत्व प्रवा मालंदा जिलान्तर्गत सत्त्वा प्रखंड के निरपुर में प्रथम वर्गीय पश्च विक्रित्सावय का निर्माण कार्य। इं-मिविद्या पूर्वी चम्पारण पूर्वी चम्पारण पूर्वी चम्पारण जिलान्तर्गत खळा प्रखंड के के क्यवन्तर्गत प्रथम वर्गय पश्च विक्रित्सावय का निर्माण कार्य। इं-पुनिविद्या प्रखंड के प्रश्न ख्यान्य में प्रथम वर्गय पश्च विक्रित्सावय का निर्माण कार्य। इं-मिविद्या प्रखंड के प्रश्न ख्यान्य में प्रथम वर्गय पश्च विक्रित्सावय का निर्माण कार्य। इं-मिविद्या किश्मनपाज विलान्तर्गत खळा प्रखंड के क्यवन्नवर्गन प्रणा क्रामणा विलान्तर्गत वर्गत प्रखंड के प्रश्न कर्गन में प्रथम वर्गीय पश्च विक्रित्सावय का निर्माण कार्य। इं-मिविदा क्रियान करन्त के निर्माण कर्य।	कार्य का विवरण जिला का नाम कार्य का नाम प्राव्धित राशि (अपूर्विश्व एवं गेर अनुस्विश्व) (रे) में 2	कार्य का विवरण जिला का नाम कार्य का नाम विवरण 2 3 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	कार्य का विवरण	जार्ब का विवरण जार्ब का नाम जार्ब का जां्व का जांव का	कार्य का विवरण

बिहार सरकार

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

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। मुख्य महाप्रबंधक

पत्रांक -162 / बाँका

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, पटना

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियता का कार्यालय, सिचाई प्रमण्डल, बाँका

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-25SBD/2023-24 राष्ट्रीय रपर्द्धा निविदा आमत्रण (केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण –

PR- 016182 (B & C) 2023-24

क्रम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण—विपत्र	बेलट्रॉन को देय	कार्यपूर्ण करने
सं0		(रू० लाख में)	(ऑन लाईन अथवा		''बीड प्रोसेसिंग	की अवधि।
			फिजिकल / मैनुअल	(अप्रत्यर्पेणीय)	फी"	
			मोड में भुगतेय)	(केवल	(अप्रत्यर्पणीय)	
			(रू० लाख में)	ऑनलाईन मोड	(केवल ऑन	
				में भुगतेय) रू०	लाईन मोड में	
					भुगतेय) रू०	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	चदन-विलासी लिक नहर के					
	विभिन्न बिन्दुओं पर एस०एल०					
	आर० ब्रीज का निर्माण एवं					
4	मरम्मति कार्य तथा घोघा वीयर	266.00	E 22600	10.000/	5900/-	12 महीना
1		266.80	5.33600	10,000/-	5900/-	12 महामा
	से निःसृत बायाँ मुख्य नहर पर					
	क्षतिग्रस्त पुल का मरम्मति					
	कार्य					

कार्यपालक अभियंता. सिंचाई प्रमण्डल. बाँका। 3 निविदा आमंत्रण सचना निर्गत ं दिनांक 24.01.2024

4 निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं : दिनांक 13.02.2024 के 10.00 बजे पूर्वाहन से दिनांक अपलोड करने की अवधि 19.02.2024 के 03.00 बजे अपराह्न तक । (केवल वेबसाईट

ww.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) 5 प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान : दिनांक 15.02.2024को 03.00 मुख्य अभियंता, सिंचाई सृजन, जल संसाधन विभाग, भागलपुर के कार्यालय कक्ष में।

6 तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि : दिनाक 21.02.2024 के अपराहन 03.30 बजे (केवल वेबसाईट एवं समय

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)। 7 वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं: सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में वेबसाईट

समय

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की जायेगी। केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर |

८ निविदा खोलने का स्थान 9 निविदा की वैद्यता अवधि

: 120 दिन 10 विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेत् : वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/www.wrd.bih.nic.in

www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियता,

सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बाँका

PR. No.016122 (WRD) 2023-24 नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

Revenue Department

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY. (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001 **Phone No.**: 080 29565353/29604556 **Email**: splocaima-21@ka.gov.in

Date 29-01-2024. **Publication** Expression of Interest to appoint Advocate for Interstate Cases on Contract.

मो0 :-7463889275/9199427686

Under the provisions of KTPP and within the powers conferred upon SPLOCA under 6(2) (d) of the KPIDFE act the Competent Authority can appoint legal practitioner or chartered accountant or any other person whose services are necessary for taking possession of assets and realization of the assets of the Financial Establishment. The SPLOCA calls for an EOI for contract appointment of advocates in Special courts under PIDFE or other courts required in a) Kolkata Barasat and / or Sealdah Court

High Court and b) Special Court Ernakulam & c) Special Courts / High Courts of UP. EOI should include: (i) Name: (ii) Age: (iii) Address, E-mail & Contact Number: (iv) Year of LLB: (v) Years at Bar: (vi) Area of expertise and expected monthly retainership: (vii) Effective hearing charges: (viii) Ineffective hearing charges:

Clerkage: (a) Experience of working as an advocate for Government / investigating authorities is preferred.(b)Age not more than 50 years.(c) Proficiency in local language

Nature of Work:1) Assisting the arguing advocate of the Government organization.2) Attending the specific case for which the advocate will be appointed.3) Assisting in procuring necessary documents, evidence and interviewing witness.4) Interpreting

Text and conversations in local language. 5) Filing process as and when required. The consultancy fee shall be paid in the form of retainership and effective /ineffective charges, Clerkage charges as broadly applicable as charges of Government of Karnataka.

Last Date: 3rd February 2024, 5 pm.

Office Address: O/o SPLOCA, V.V Towers Podium Block, Bengaluru-01.

Email: splocaima21@gmail.com. Contact: 8197059992.

Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA & other KPIDFE cases **Revenue Department Bangalore**



बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड BIHAR STATE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking) ISO 9001:14001;OHSAS 18001 Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar Rashtrabhasa, Parishad Campus, Acharya Shivpujan Sahay Path, Saidpur, Patna-800004 Tel. No: 0612 - 2660850 *Fax No: 0612 - 2660256 E-mail: bseidc@gmail.com * Website : http:/www.bseidc.in * CIN: U80301BR2010SGC015859

> र्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 62 वर्ष 2023-24 SBD आधारित प्रतिशत दर निविदा

(केवल ई-टेन्डिरेंग पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत पटना विश्वविद्यालय, पटना के विज्ञान ब्लॉक एवं नये बालिका छात्रावास, मेस, स्टॉफ क्वार्टर के भवन निर्माण हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कोई भी संवेदक जो केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित हो, निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं परन्तु इस निगम का रजिस्ट्रेशन कार्य के आवटन के बाद कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

२ निविदा आमत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि 3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने एव अपलोड करने की अवधि पर्वाहन से

4. संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि / समय

5. अग्रधन,सभी शपथ पत्र, मूल में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि / समय स्थान 6. प्री–बीड मीटिंग का समय एव स्थान

7. तकनीकी बीड् खोलने की तिथि/समय अंतिम तिथि / समय वित्तीय बीड खोलन की तिथि, समय

एवं स्थान कार्य की विवरणी:- मुख्य अभियता, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत सरचना

विकास निगम पटना। 25.01.2024 2022

दिनांक-12.02.2024 से 20.02.2024, 15.00 बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

: दिनांक–20.02.2024 के 15.00 बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

दिनांक-21.02.2024 के 15.00 बजे तक। बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना। मुख्य अभियता, बिहार राज्य षैक्षणिक आधारभूत सरचना विकास निगम, पटना। दिनांक-15.02.2024 के 15.00 बजे। दिनांक-22.02.2024 के 15.30 बजे

(on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरांत। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

SL no-	Work Name	BOQ Amount (In Lakh)	EMD IN (In Lakh)	Cost of BOQ IN RS	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Two Block New Girl's Hostel (G+13) & Mess (G+4) at Campus of Patna University, Patna	9345.13	103.46	10,000/	24 Months
2	Construction of Science Block (G+9) at Patna University, Patna	5790.65	67.91	10,000/	24 Months
3	Construction of Staff Quarter (G+3) at Campus of Patna University, Patna	393.38	7.86	10,000/-	15 Month

नोट:-(i) प्राक्कलित राशि घट या बढ़ सकती है एवं तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि घट या बढ़ सकती है।

(ii) वेबसाईट:www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर अंकित प्राक्कलित राशि, अग्रधन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपन्न की राशि

(iii) बेल्ट्रान का Bid Processingg Fee e-Tendering Website के अनुसार देय होगा। 10. निविदा की वैद्यता अवधि -120 दिन |

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

PR-16176 (B & C) 2023-24

नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

मुख्य अभियता



योजना एवं विकास विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल, सूपौल अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-05 SBD/2023-24 (केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

परिमाण-विपत्र

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम / अन्य राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय ख्याति के किसी भी एजेंसी में समृचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग / निगम में पूर्व से निबंधित नहीं है, तब एकरारनामा के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेपटेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम (जिसमें निबंधन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्यों की विवरणी :-

ग्रुप संख्या	कार्य का नाम	पारमाण विपत्र की राशि (लाख रू0 में)	लाईन मोड या ऑफ लाईन मोड में केवल B.G. के रूप में) (लाख रू0 में)	का मृल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगतान) (रूपये में)	शुल्क (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में भुगतान) (रूपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
1	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत प्रतापगंज प्रखंड के भवानीपुर दक्षिण पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	277.100	5.542	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
2	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत प्रतापगज प्रखंड के श्रीपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	269.460	5.390	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
3	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत प्रतापगज प्रखंड के टेकुना पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	276.127	5.523	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
4	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत प्रतापगज प्रखंड के भवानीपुर उत्तर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	276.412	5.529	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
5	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत राघोपुर प्रखंड के वायसी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	278.339	5.567	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
6	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत राघोपुर प्रखंड के हुलास पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	280.620	5.613	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
7	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत राघोपुर प्रखंड के डुमरी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	273.980	5.480	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
8	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत राघोपुर प्रखंड के बौराहा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	277.515	5.560	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
9	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत पिपरा प्रखंड के रतौली पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	272.688	5.454	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
10	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गतृ छातापुर प्रखंड के माधोपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	316.771	6.336	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह

प्रारम्भिक की तिथि एवं समय (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं दिनांक 15.02.2024 समय 03:30 बजे, मख्य अभियता का कार्यालय ु स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियत्रण संगठन, विरवेश्वरैया भवन, चतुर्थ

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं

(सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) : दिनाक 21.02.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराहन से। (कंडिका 5 में उल्लेखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के पश्चात की तिथि)। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट

तल, कमरा नं0-423, बेली रोड, पटना-800015

ः दिनाक 19.02.2024 समय 3.00 बजे अपराहन तक।

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एव

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) : <u>www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</u> पर

: 120 दिन(निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान 9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि 10 विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

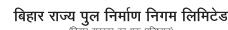
PR-016186 (Planning) 2023-24

ः कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमडल, सुपौल विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar कार्यपालक अभियंता स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्य प्रमंडल, सुपौल

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





(बिहार सरकार का एक प्रतिष्ठान) कार्य प्रमंडल, कटिहार

वेबसाईटः http://www.brpnnl.bihar.gov.in, ईमेलः— spe-katihar@brpnn.co.ir

Doc.No:- BRPNNL/KTR/C011/124 **SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

(F2 Based) (Only through e-tendering system on website (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Bihar Raiya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd (BRPNNL), A Government of Bihar undertaking, invites Proposals for Construction of Boundary wall (Pre-cast Pillar with Panel) and Gate etc from the contractors registered with BRPNN Ltd in Two Bid System (Technical and Financial) from eligible $Firms/Contractors/Agencies \ or \ Companies \ for the following \ work \ on \ \textbf{Percentage Rate Basis}.$

क्र. सं.	जिला का नाम	अनुमंडल का नाम	प्रक्षेत्र का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रू० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (Online Payment) (रू० में) (अप्रत्यपर्णीय)	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख रू० में)	Bid Processing Fee (Online Payment) (रू० में) (अप्रत्यपणीय)	कार्य की अवधि (माह में)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	कटिहार	कटिहार	कटिहार	126.50	10000.00	2.53	3540.00	04 माह
2.	पूर्णियाँ	धमदाहा	धमदाहा	65.81	10000.00	1.32	590.00	03 माह
3.			कोचाधामन	105.60	10000.00	2.11	3540.00	04 माह
4.	किशनगंज	किशनगंज	बुआलदह	134.31	10000.00	2.69	3540.00	04 माह
5.			किशनगंज	90.12	10000.00	1.80	3540.00	03 माह
5	अररिया	अररिया	विस्टोरिया	156.80	10000.00	3.14	3540.00	04 माह
6	जरारवा	जरारवा	सिकटी	150.00	10000.00	5.14	3340.00	U4 শাহ

SCHE	SCHEDULE :								
SI. N	0.	Act	ivity			Durat	ion		
1.		Download	date of Bio	d	From 06-02-2	024 (10:0	00 Hrs.) to 13-	-2-2024	
		docu	ments		(15:00 Hrs.)	(www.ep	oroc2.bihar.go	ov.in)	
2.	Last I	Date/Time	for submis	ssion/	15-02-	-2024 upt	o 15.00 Hrs.		
		uploading	of offer/Bio	d	(www	.eproc2.l	oihar.gov.in)		
3.	Da	te & time	for opening	g of	16-0	2-2024 at	t 16:00 Hrs.		
		Techn	ical Bid		(www	.eproc2.l	oihar.gov.in)		
4.		Date, time	and place o	of 7	To be informe	d later to	technically q	ualified	
	О	pening of	Financial B	id	bidder. (v	vww.epro	c2.bihar.gov.	in)	

6. The detailed information like eligibility criteria, detailed Scope of work etc. can be $seen/downloaded\,from\,website\,www.eproc2.bihar.govt.in\,\&\,www.brpnnl.bihar.gov.in$ This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

Senior Project Engineer Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd.,

PR. No. 016239 (B & C) 2023-24

Works Division, Katihar नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है।



योजना एवं विकास विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल, सुपौल अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – 04SBD/2023–24

(केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम / अन्य राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय ख्याति के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित

संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग / निगम में पूर्व से निबंधित नहीं है, तब एकरारनामा के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेपटेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम (जिसमें निबंध की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा। 1. कार्यों की विवरणी : — अग्रधन की _{परिमाण—विप}

ग्रुप संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि (लाख रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (ऑन लाईन मोड या ऑफ लाईन मोड में केवल B.G. के रूप में) (लाख रू० में)	परिमाण—विप त्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में भुगतान) (रूपये में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगतान) (रूपये में)	कार्य पूण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
01	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत त्रिवेणीगज प्रखंड के जदिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	310.749	6.215	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
02	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत सरायगढ भपटियाही प्रखंड के लालगंज बगेवा टैंगराहा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	319.690	6.394	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
03	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत सरायगढ भपटियाही प्रखंड के मुरली पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	313.772	6.276	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
04	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत सरायगढ भपटियाही प्रखंड के भपटियाही पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	313.753	6.276	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
05	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत बसतपुर प्रखंड के दीनबंधी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	320.136	6.403	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
06	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत बसतपुर प्रखंड के बसतपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	322.003	6.441	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
07	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत बसतपुर प्रखंड के भीमनगर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	320.153	6.404	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
08	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत बसतपुर प्रखंड के ग्राम पंचायत निर्मली पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	319.398	6.388	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
09	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत सुपौल प्रखंड के ग्राम पंचायत बैरो पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	307.903	6.159	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
10	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत सुपौल प्रखंड के हरदी पूरब पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	306.432	6.129	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
11	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत सुपौल प्रखंड के सुखपुर सौल्हनी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	307.773	6.156	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
12	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत छातापुर प्रखंड के बलुआ पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	319.369	6.388	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
13	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत छातापुर प्रखंड के राजेश्वरी पश्चिम पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	312.236	6.245	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
14	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत छातापुर प्रखंड के झाखाड़गढ पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	316.048	6.321	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
15	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत छातापुर प्रखंड के चरणें पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	313.443	6.269	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
16	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत पिपरा प्रखंड के महेशपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	272.772	5.456	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
17	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत पिपरा प्रखंड के निर्मली पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	271.768	5.436	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
18	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत प्रतापगज प्रखंड के चिनौली दक्षिण पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	275.024	5.501	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
19	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत त्रिवेणीगज प्रखंड के पिलुआहा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	311.489	6.230	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
20	सुपौल जिला अन्तर्गत मरौना प्रखंड के सरोजा बेला पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण।	318.472	6.370	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह

3. निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक की तिथि एवं समय

4 प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एव

 निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि : एवं समय तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा खोलने का स्थान

9 निविदा की वैधता अवधि

10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

120 दिन(निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद)

कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमडल, सुपौल विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकतीृ है।

दिनाक 13.02.2024 को 10.00 बजे पूर्वाहन से

दिनाक 15.02.2024 समय 03:30 बजे.

मख्य अभियता का कार्यालय

के पश्चात की तिथि)।

<u>www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</u> पर

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रथानीय क्षेत्र अभियत्रण संगठन विरवेश्वरैया भवन

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सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी।

चतुर्थ तल, कमरा नं0—423, बेली रोड, पटना—800015

(कडिका 5 में उल्लेखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवर

कार्यपालक अभियता PR. No. 016148 (Planning) 2023-24 स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियत्रण सगठन नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। कार्य प्रमडल, सुपौल





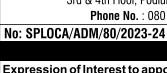














and English is essential.

DIPR/CP/3291/Zen/2023-24

Editorial



Economic encomium

A glowing 10-year report card must not stoke complacency

head of the Interim Budget for 2024-25 on Thursday, the Finance Ministry's 10-year review of the economy with some forward outlook, serves as a proxy to the annual Economic Survey. The review signals GDP will grow close to 7% in 2024-25, with scope to go 'well above' 7% by 2030. From about \$3.7 trillion this year, India's economy will expand to \$5 trillion in three years, making it the world's third largest, and could hit the \$7 trillion dollar mark by 2030, it reckons. Splicing India's growth story into two phases - 1950-2014, and a 'decade of transformative growth' since 2014 – the review stresses that the state of the economy was 'far from encouraging' when Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'assumed power'. Growth was hobbled by structural constraints such as tardy decisionmaking, ill-targeted subsidies and a large informal sector, while inflation was unpalatably high. Post-2014 reforms have restored the economy's ability to grow healthily with "longer and stronger" economic and financial cycles, and made India the fastest growing G-20 nation, it argues. The review asserts that India's 7% growth when the world is growing 2%, is 'qualitatively superior' to 8%-9% achieved when the global economy grows 4%, perhaps, hinting at a few years of the UPA era. This is debatable as India's economy is generally delinked from the world with domestic activity driving growth more than exports.

Now that the twin-balance sheet problem inherited from the UPA days has turned into an 'advantage', as the review stresses, it must translate into a wider private investment revival. That would hinge on a broad-based consumption rebound rather than the K-shaped recovery the government vehemently dismisses. Four years of 7%-plus growth, post-pandemic, would be commendable indeed. However, India needs to grow faster to create jobs at the scale its youth need and ensure that a rising growth tide lifts most boats, if not all. The review expects an 'all-inclusive welfare approach' to help enlarge the consumption base by expanding the middle class. But those dependent on handouts, such as the 800 million that need free food by the Centre's reckoning, must progressively shrink for growth to be meaningful and equitable. The report rightly mentions reforms in learning outcomes, health, easier compliances for smaller firms, as priorities, with some critical changes at the 'subnational government' level to accelerate growth. It is also essential that flaws in reforms such as GST are fixed and some of the blunt policy tools deployed, for instance, import licences and price controls on deregulated products, that send convoluted signals about India's 'open market with predictable policies' pitch, are reconsidered.

Vetting for vendetta

Mechanism to scan cases for political motive cannot address issue of cover-up

he Supreme Court's suggestion for a mechanism to eliminate the perception of vendetta behind the use of investigative agencies against political opponents is sound in principle, but may not address all aspects of the problem. A case under formal investigation may be scrutinised for its legal tenability or political motive, but such a mechanism can do nothing about offences and allegations that are covered up for political reasons. During a recent hearing on a bribery case against an Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer in Tamil Nadu, the ED sought the transfer of the probe to the CBI. It also charged that the State police was not sharing details of FIRs it had registered on complaints against Ministers, officials and others in instances of corruption and illegal mining. The ED, presumably, wants to probe the money-laundering aspects of these offences, whereas the State government believes these details will be used to target its ministers and officials as the State is run by a party opposed to the ruling BJP at the Centre. The Bench's idea that an independent, pan-India mechanism to vet such cases appears reasonable. However, much of the criticism of the use of central agencies against political adversaries of the BJP stems from the view that similar allegations against its party members and allies across the country are seldom investigated.

Corruption allegations abound in several States against key political figures seen as friendly to the Centre, but the Opposition parties believe the CBI, ED and Income-Tax Department are hardly active there. The Bench is right in observing that offenders should not be spared only because they claimed to be victims of vendetta. Its remarks disapproving of retaliatory arrests are also salutary. However, despite the Solicitor-General's argument that the courts could intervene in the case of vindictive action, it has to be noted that the ED's power to summon and arrest anyone, and the difficulty in obtaining bail in money-laundering cases, renders the Union government quite invincible if it chose persecution in the name of prosecution. An unsavoury instance of how far politics over the use of central agencies can sully institutions is the recent episode of a Calcutta High Court judge ordering a CBI probe into charges against the ruling party in West Bengal, and a Division Bench staying the order. The single judge chose to ignore the Bench's order, accusing its presiding judge of political motive. In a welcome move, the Supreme Court formed a Bench of its senior-most judges and transferred the whole case file to itself for disposal. The perception of vendetta can only be removed if all

A dark message to Delhi from Kangla Fort

n what could have been an anti-climax to a melodramatic Shumang Leela act (a traditional form of theatre in Manipur), 38 Meitei legislators took a six-point public oath-taking at the Kangla Fort, Imphal, on January 24. Unlike the four-generic resolutions passed by the State Assembly, and reportedly endorsed by 34-odd State legislators (this included a Meitei Pangal and five Nagas) three days earlier, the six-points oath (later endorsed by the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh) made explicit its communal overtones by castigating the 'Kuki' for unilaterally fomenting violence since May 3.

Everything other than disarmament

The six-points oath called upon the Centre to do the following: abrogate the tripartite Suspension of Agreement (SoO) that it signed with the State and Kuki-Zomi-Hmar militants since 2008; implement the National Register of Citizens but using 1951 as the base year; construct a border-fence across the India-Myanmar border; replace the Assam Rifles with other central paramilitary forces; delete 'Kuki' from the Scheduled Tribe list, and relocate 'Kuki refugees' in Manipur to Mizoram.

If these were implemented, they would not only further expose the vulnerability of the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar groups but would also effectively erase their long-standing protective discrimination benefits.

In hindsight, had the above points been played as themes of a Shumang Leela act to showcase what could have transpired in the real world, patrons of Shumang Leela would have been sorely disappointed by the inversion of its conventional themes, wherein brotherhood, tolerance and justice, among others, are sacrificed at the altar of collective self-love and perceived sense of insecurity.

Clearly, the legislators lost Tagore's dream of 'clear stream of reason' and a fearless mind which should have animated their public action even as they allowed themselves to be consumed by the burning passion to protect the interests of the 'Sanamahi' and Meitei 'community'. That this reflection and reasoned public action were missing from the legislators' public action became apparent as the six-points oath failed to mention 'disarmament', which was one of the four resolutions passed earlier by the Assembly. This is glaring given that almost half of the 6,000 automatic rifles and over five lakh rounds of live ammunitions from various police armouries that were handed over to ragtag mobs are reportedly still with the Arambai Tenggol, the armed militia under whose diktat and supervision this oath-taking event was held.

This, and the fact that much of the arms and ammunition continue to be in the hands of armed



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militants across the divide, continue to be a key structural cause of this violence.

An abandonment of constitutional duty

Given the extensive reports of Arambais being involved in violent attacks against several Kuki-Zomi-Hmar villages, the legislators' decision to publicly partake in the Arambais agenda only reinforces the partisan image and the role of the Meitei legislators in Manipur's violence. There may have been applause following the Arambai Tenggol's triumphant shout of 'Manipur na yai phare (Manipur has done well') in Kangla as they retreated to their camps in motor cavalcades after this event, but far from securing the interests of the Meiteis and protecting Manipur's territorial integrity, there are signs of a sense of insecurity. If one is to go by the hostile responses on social media, this event has also sharpened the emotional, demographic and territorial divide between the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar and Meitei.

The immediate fallout of this was evident during the event as three legislators, who included Meghachandra, the President of Congress Pradesh Committee, were physically assaulted by the Arambais for attributing the violence to misrule by the Bharatiya Janata Party in the State. The muzzling of dissent and violent intolerance stems from this. That the Arambai Tenggol brooks no dissent and might unleash terror was also evident when its cadres vandalised the residences of human rights activist Babloo Loitangbam and a retired police official, Thounaojam Brinda, when they implicated the Arambai Tenggol for its role in this cycle of

By giving in to the diktat of the Arambai Tenggol and Korounganba Khuman, its commander-in-chief (out of fear of being labelled 'enemy' and 'traitor' of the Meitei 'community'), the Meitei legislators have abandoned their primary constitutional duty and oath to protect India's Constitution.

This dramatic event is also remarkable for its symbolic and iterative significance. That an armed militia chose Kangla Fort as the site for public oath-taking demonstrates its determination to not only revive the glorious past of Kangleipak (the local name for Meitei Kingdom) from its symbolic and traditional seat of power, but also project this as a fulcrum to revive Meitei indigenous tradition, culture, and religion (Sanamahi). The event is also significant for another reason - that elected representatives of a democratic state, whose primary oath of allegiance is to the Indian Constitution, are very pliable and can be blackmailed under duress to capitulate to the partisan communal agenda of an unelected, and armed militant group. That elected legislators could be overshadowed in a democratic and constitutional state is disturbing

as it strikes at the very root of the legitimacy of the Indian state.

Dangers of a radical agenda

The fact that this event was organised to convey a strong political message to New Delhi is clear as it happened within days of backroom attempts by a three-member team of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (headed by A.K. Mishra, a retired police officer and an interlocutor with Kuki-Zomi-Hmar SoO groups in Manipur), to persuade the Arambai Tenggol to either cancel or postpone the event. In its ambition to upstage the 38-odd Meitei legislators (plus the Chief Minister who later signed the pledge) as the bearers of democratic legitimacy, the Arambai Tenggol and this oath reinforced the communal and partisan agenda/interest of large segments of Meitei non-state actors and their legislators in targeting the 'Kuki' as the problematic 'other'.

Although the Arambai Tenggol is largely seen as a private militia (started and sustained under the patronage of Leisemba Sanajaoba, the titular king of Manipur, and the powers-that-be), it also represents a calibrated organisational attempt to revive Meitei indigenous culture, tradition and religion (Sanamahi). Much like the radicalisation of youths in Punjab in the 1980s under Bhindranwale's Damdami Taksal, the Arambai Tenggol has succeeded in reorienting many unemployed Meitei youth to the cause of a sovereign Kangleipak under the veneer of reviving Meitei's fast-vanishing indigenous religion, traditions and cultures such as traditional martial arts that focus on the use of sword, and a horse-mount dart as a weapon. In doing so, the Arambai Tenggol has galvanised popular interest and support in quick time. However, given that it operates in an insurgent space where the 'radical' agenda and interest of a motley of non-state actors including armed groups which espouse a sovereign Kangleipak intersect and often either coalesce or reinforce one another, the Arambai Tenggol is susceptible to manipulation and control by powerful social forces and political actors.

It is precisely here that one should be wary of the Janus-faced Arambai Tenggol. Allowing the mighty Indian state to capitulate to this armed militia, or other powerful social forces, just because it is amenable to cultural and nationalist appropriation by some vested parties in their electoral pursuit cannot be used as a ruse to denude what the eminent sociologist Michael Mann in a different context calls the 'infrastructural power' of the state – that is, the autonomous power to regulate state-society relations. Otherwise, this public event could turn out to be India's Bhindranwale moment again.

The views expressed are personal

A blurred mapping of internal female migration

nternal migration is a crucial form of physical and social transaction in India. The Periodic data on employment and unemployment indicators in the country, has estimated it to be 27% from June 2020 to 2021. Normative literature (Rajan et al., 2020; Jesline et al., 2021) usually documents it as a male-dominated narrative. However, women, especially of working age, comprise a greater share of the migrant pool but there is little dialogue surrounding them. This is a concern given India's falling Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR). It also raises the question of whether women face employment barriers due to post-migration conditions.

National surveys, inaccurate picture

National surveys such as the PLFS capture information about female migrants but often convey an inaccurate picture. For instance, surveys only ask the respondents regarding their primary reason for migration. PLFS data suggest that the leading reason for migration among women is marriage (81%), followed by migration of family members (10%), employment (2.42%), and migration for education opportunities (0.48%). There is no provision to know the secondary reasons/motivations such as climate shocks and food insecurity, which can be a crucial driver of migration for women.

In the same vein, data from these surveys regarding migrant women's labour force participation can be misinforming. According to the PLFS, approximately three quarters of migrant women are unemployed, approximately 14% of migrant women are in self and wage-employed jobs and approximately 12% are in casual labour. This round of data collection was during the COVID-19 pandemic, which might explain the low numbers, but does not adequately underscore the problem of underreporting of their employment status. Anecdotal evidence and findings from the respective works of researchers Sonalde Desai and Ashwini Deshpande suggest that it is not uncommon for migrant women to engage in



The Indian

the recent

oath-taking

event by 38

legislators in

Imphal, under

the gaze of a

militia group

Meitei

state needs to

be aware of the

implications of

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Women, especially of working age, comprise a greater share of India's migrant pool but there is little dialogue and flawed data on this important issue

casual employment, indicating the underestimation of the number of migrant omen involved in the various sectors that might be categorised as causal (or even informal) such as agriculture, construction, and domestic help.

Second, definitional issues and women's own beliefs also lead to an underreporting of employment of migrant women. According to the definition of employment used by national surveys, only those with some form of verbal or written contract with their employer are considered part of the labour force. Consequently, women are largely classified as

However, what is often overlooked is that women choose forms of employment that allow them to handle their domestic duties while contributing to the household's production or finances. Thus, working as unpaid family workers, in household enterprises, or being self-employed is common amongst them (S. Rukmini, 2023). But they may view that as an extension of their domestic commitment instead of a form of employment which leads to them misreporting their employment status.

Human and social capital

Notwithstanding these arguments, if indeed entry to the formal labour force is challenging, one important factor restricting their entry into the labour force could be the need for more human and social capital. In the PLFS data, 85% of the women have less than 10 years of education, which can create problems. While there is no significant difference in the educational levels of migrant and non-migrant women, migrant women are proportionally less employed than the non-migrant women. Coupled with the lack of social networks, especially after they migrate, these factors can significantly hinder their employment chances.

Such barriers might also explain the dismal recovery of women's labour activity after the pandemic. A study by Yale University on this issue observed that after the COVID-19-induced lockdown, 55% of women never returned to their places of employment, and those who did so. earned only 56% of their pre-pandemic income

Regardless of the sparse number of migrant women formally counted in the labour force, female migration for labour/employment increased by 101% between 2001 and 2011. However, they remain largely invisible, facing significant hurdles and marginalisation. Consequently, this results in unaddressed struggles and a lack of targeted policies. From a political standpoint, women migrants are not a considerable vote bank, and, therefore, their needs are not addressed. Although recent polls would disagree, political parties do not campaign to gain migrant women's votes. This has several detrimental outcomes, such as a lack of good data on female migrants and treating migrant men and women as the same. This engenders policy-making, which is poorly informed about the needs, motivations, and conditions of female migrants. Policies such as One Nation One ration card, e-Shram, and affordable rental housing complexes are examples of this as they are mainly targeted towards the male migrant population.

Steps to take

To remedy this, several steps should be taken. National surveys should compile more information regarding their socio-economic conditions post-migration as very little is known about it. For instance, the PLFS indicates that a minute percentage (approximately 7%) have access to social security benefits; there is no data for the rest of the populace. There is also a lack of time-use data (Nadal et al., 2020; Charmes, 2019) for migrants, as India has not made that the norm yet. Time-use data would significantly help advance existing knowledge regarding unemployed female migrants. On a broader scale, a change in narrative is required, starting with an increased collection of female-specific data. It will illustrate the largely anecdotal problem and bring awareness about the plight of these women to encourage progressive policymaking.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Party hopping

It does not augur well for the health of democracy in India if we have maverick politicians like Nitish Kumar who change loyalties at the drop of a hat.

The anti-defection law may have checked retail horse trading perhaps, but wholesale horse trading

continues unabated. With the biggest show of all, viz., the general election due in a few months, one has to wait and watch how many more such turnarounds are in store for the general public (Inside pages, January 30). Sharada Sivaram.

The world of Test cricket The aggressive brand of

cricket, which the English coach Brendon McCullum has espoused, seems to be working well for England ('Sport' page, January 30). Test cricket purists must be shaking their heads in disbelief when they see

pre-determined scoops. Bazball has definitely created a buzz and shown that an unconventional approach can succeed in Test matches in India. India needs to come up with a strategy to counter this unconventional approach. Thomas Palocaren,

The world of cricket witnessed two of the best Tests, won by visiting countries. In this batsmen's era, the wins on account of bowling performances are a boost to Test cricket.

P. Ramu Selvam, Palani, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

West Indies has taken the cricketing world by storm. Beyond the records, the West Indies victory was a celebration of the spirit of the game. It showcased the power of belief, teamwork and overcoming invincible odds.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

Ernakulam, Kerala Vellore, Tamil Nadu agencies chose independence over subservience. reverse sweeps and The sensational win by the

Pulling Sri Lanka out of the abyss

n January 9, 2024, the United National Party (UNP) proposed incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe as the national presidential candidate for the elections. This move may garner support from some political parties. In July 2022, six-time Prime Minister Wickremasinghe was chosen for his economic credentials by a parliamentary majority to replace Gotabaya Rajapaksa who resigned following mass protests over economic mismanagement and rent-seeking.

In April 2022, Sri Lanka became the first Asian country in the 21st century to pre-emptively default on debt, which amounted to over \$50 billion. A devastating economic crisis followed. The GDP contracted by 7.8%, year on year inflation escalated to 69.8% in September 2022, the Sri Lankan rupee depreciated by 44.8% against the U.S. dollar, and usable foreign reserves fell to two weeks of imports creating shortages of medicine, food, and fuel.

Stabilisation policies

Mr. Wickremesinghe's government, with members of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) led by Mahinda Rajapaksa, implemented an orthodox set of stabilisation policies. These included raising interest rates to control inflation, removing fuel subsidies, increasing taxes, passing a law to improve the independence of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and initiating privatisation of state-owned enterprises. The government also sought Indian aid, intensified negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and also foreign debt restructuring talks with private bondholders and bilateral creditors.

Under Ranil In March 2023, the IMF Board Wickremasinghe, approved a EFF worth \$2.9 billion economic over 48 months, emphasising progress is visible fiscal and governance reforms. after 18 months The first review by the IMF Board of stabilisation in December 2023 rated Sri Lanka's performance as policies



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"satisfactory" meaning total IMF disbursement will be \$670 million. The EFF unlocked additional funding from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for budget support, social protection, financial sector development, and infrastructure development.

Progress is visible after 18 months of stabilisation policies. Inflation fell to 4% in December 2023 but could rise with the increase in Value Added Tax from 15% to 18% in January 2024. The Sri Lankan rupee appreciated by 12.1% against the U.S. dollar in 2023. Foreign exchange liquidity pressures eased. More import capacity means shortages of essentials and waiting lines have disappeared. The IMF projects a return to growth of 1.8% in 2024 compared with -3.6% in 2023.

Furthermore, foreign direct investment in infrastructure, due to Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean, may also be picking up. A joint venture project between India's Adani Group and Sri Lanka's John Keells Holdings seeks to develop the \$700 million West Container Terminal at Colombo Port. The U.S. **Development Finance Corporation** has committed \$553 million. This will expand the capacity of the port and improve transhipment trade with a growing Indian

In a geopolitical twist, China's Sinopec Group, which will also manage 200 fuel filling stations in Sri Lanka, has committed \$4.5 billion to an oil refinery in the controversial, low-profit Hambantota Port. Foreign exchange constraints and an inefficient state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation led to fuel shortages and hardships for the Sri Lankans during the crisis. FDI by China's Sinopec in petroleum refining and distribution may help improve Sri Lanka's energy security provided the energy market is open to all investors and a strong competition policy is adopted. If not, Sri Lanka could be vulnerable to problems of a private monopoly under Sinopec

with higher fuel prices and variable fuel supply.

Risks to Sri Lanka's outlook Sri Lanka needs sustained economic growth of 5-6% in the medium term to escape from indebtedness. But its outlook is vulnerable to external and internal risks. The first is geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China. For instance, an intensified U.S.-China trade war following the possible victory of Donald Trump in the U.S. presidential elections could be devastating for inward FDI and trade in Sri Lanka.

The second is debt restructuring. In November 2023, Sri Lanka concluded an initial agreement with key bilateral creditors, including India and the Paris Club, to restructure \$5.9 billion in external debt. This was important for reducing interest payments and unlocking IMF financing in 2024. This deal followed China's separate debt restructuring agreement with Sri Lanka. These agreements are on similar terms, extending deadlines and lowering interest rates. But ominously, private bondholders, who held about 40% of external debt (end 2022), are concerned about the extent of the 'haircut' on debt they could face. They say there has been little engagement with them due to the focus on talks with official creditors.

Third, political risks could derail the EFF and growth beyond 2024 – presidential elections are due in September and general elections in 2025. A doubling of poverty to 25% of the population since the default, and growing dissatisfaction with the UNP and SLPP, appears to be leading to support for the left-wing populist National People's Power. And Sajith Premadasa, the leader of the opposition, who is the head of the centre-right Samaji Jana Balwegaya, says he wants to renegotiate the IMF agreement.

Mr. Wickremasinghe deserves credit for pulling Sri Lanka back from the abyss. Only time will tell whether he can win the election.

Gruha Lakshmi is not a freebie

It signifies a redistribution of resources by the government to a marginalised section

STATE OF PLAY

<u>Gourishankar S. Hiremath</u> & K.S. H<u>arikrishnan</u>

he introduction of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme by the Karnataka government has reignited the policy debate about welfare programmes for the economically disadvantaged and fiscal prudence. The scheme guarantees a direct monthly cash transfer of ₹2,000 to women who are the heads of below poverty line households in Karnataka. About 1.36 crore beneficiaries are registered. This means that the annual outlay of the scheme is more than ₹32,000 crore.

economics Mainstream does not recognise activities primarily carried out by women at home as economic activities. Unpaid work encompasses domestic chores such as cooking and washing, while care work involves caring for the elderly and children. The participation of women in remunerative economic activity is abysmally low, while their burden of unpaid work is substantially higher than men. According to the Time Use survey conducted by the National Statistical Office, 57.3% of male respondents were involved in employment and related activities compared to 18.4% of women. In contrast, 81.2% of women bore the burden of unpaid domestic services for household members compared to 26.1% of men.

Further, the burden of unpaid and care work is disproportionately higher for economically poor women who are also engaged in wage work, as they lack the resources to outsource care activities. Thus, they are trapped in a cycle of poverty. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme represents a



crucial step in recognising the value of unpaid work. As urbanisation grows and the population ages, the burden of elderly care is expected to increase, especially for impoverished families. Income support from the state can alleviate the strain on such families. In this context, monetary support to women cannot be seen as a 'freebie'; it is an entitlement for the care work that women do, especially women who face multidimensional and time poverty.

In a patriarchal economic system, women are often paid low wages, which they reluctantly accept due to their limited bargaining power. Unconditional cash support not only helps women decontrol their labour power from the system to an extent, but possibly provides some cushion to resist accepting reservation wages by enhancing their bargaining power.

Empirical evidence supports cash transfers to households in stimulating aggregate demand and putting the economy back on a growth trajectory rather than providing sops and bailout packages to the corporate sector to revive it. For instance, according to a study by IFPRI-Indian Council for Agricultural Research, PM-KISAN, a direct benefit transfer scheme of the Union government, enabled farmers to meet expenses other than agriculture and had a multiplier effect. Direct support measures, including cash transfers to households by the Union government during the COVID-19 pandemic, led to a swift V-shaped recovery of the economy. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is also poised to bolster aggregate demand given its target group's relatively high marginal propensity to consume. Consumption improves quality of life and also boosts economic activities.

The scheme signifies a redistribution of resources by the government to a marginalised section of society, recognising unpaid work. Nonetheless, ensuring that resources to finance the scheme are augmented from direct taxes. such as levies on high-value property and capital transactions and excise taxes on premium liquor, is crucial. Prudent administrative measures to trim unnecessary expenditures can provide additional resources to ensure timely and uninterrupted transfers. Therefore, a transparent and well-thought-out road map for resource augmentation is indispensable. While fiscal prudence is necessary, it must not come at the expense of the welfare of the marginalised.

It is naïve to consider Gruha Lakshmi as a panacea for gender inequality. There is a need to universalise such support to women in recognition of their unpaid and care work. A comprehensive institutional framework at the national and sub-national levels and cooperative federalism are indispensable to address gender inequality in the economy and ensure redistribution.

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Most teens use social media, but lack skills to protect themselves

While more than 90% use social media, only about 50% know how to block their profile or make their account private

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

mong Indian teenagers in rural areas who can't even read a paragraph of text, over 30% can still browse the Internet and close to 50% can find a video on YouTube, says the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Rural. The report provides several such insights into the digital prowess of high school and college students in India.

In the ASER survey, students in the 14-18 age group were asked to read a paragraph. Those who could read the words but not the sentences were said to belong to the 'word level'. Those who could read the paragraph but not a bunch of paragraphs were categorised as belonging to 'Grade 1 level'. Those who could read many paragraphs were said to belong to 'Grade 2 level'. The survey was conducted in 28 districts from September to November, 2023.

Chart 1 shows the share of students aged 14-18 with different leading levels who could do digital tasks on a smartphone. Among those at the 'word level', more than 30% managed to find a You-Tube video, browse information on the web, and set an alarm on their smartphone. Among those belonging to 'Grade 1 level', more than 55% could do all these tasks. Interestingly, most students, across reading levels, found it challenging to find travel time on Google Maps.

These conclusions were made for all the 28 districts put together. If the data are analysed at the district level, there are wide variations. For instance, more than 95% of teenagers in the rural parts of Ernakulam in Kerala were able to set an alarm on their smartphone, while less than 50% in Cooch Behar in West Bengal and Gariaband in Chhattisgarh knew how to do this. The India average was 66.4% (Chart 2A).

There were wide variations among those who could browse information too: while 93% in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag could do this, less than 50% could do so in Odisha's Sambalpur and Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills (Chart 2B).

In Nagaland's Kohima district, only 12.5% teenagers knew how to use Google Maps while more than 55% in Punjab's S.A.S. Nagar could do this (Chart 2C).

Notably, variations among districts were the narrowest when it came to accessing YouTube: with close to 70% or more teenagers in every district managing to do this (Chart 2D).

The data show that digital literacy has penetrated deep into many rural areas but a few areas are still catching up. However, worryingly, many teenagers have still not learned to protect themselves from the dangers of the online world. While more than 90% of them from across districts used social media during the survey week, only 52.3% knew how to block a profile and only 47.8% knew how to make their account private.

There were wide variations in these skills too. Just 33% in Tripura knew how to block a profile (Chart 2E) and less than 30% in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum knew how to make their profile private (Chart 2F). A bigger concern is that the share of girls who knew these skills was much lower compared to the share of boys in many districts despite the fact that girls form a majority of the victims of online abuse.

Table 3 shows the share of teenagers who could block/report a profile and make their profile private, across genders, in select districts where the variation was noticeable. Only 46% girls in the 17-18 age group in Bihar's Muzaffarpur knew how to block a profile, whereas over 73% boys knew how to do this. Only 57% girls in Rajasthan's Bhilwara knew how to make their profile private compared to 80% of the boys.

Online and unprotected

The charts are based on data collated from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Rural 2023. The survey was conducted in 28 districts last September-November



Chart 1: The chart shows the share of students aged 14-18 who could do digital tasks on a smartphone, across reading levels (in %)

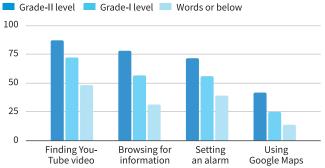


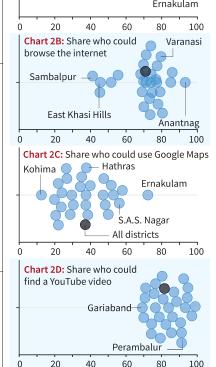
Table 3: The table shows the share of teenagers who could block/report a profile and make their profile private, across genders, in select districts where the variation was noticeable

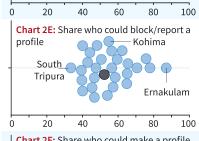
State: District	Gender of students under the age group 17-18	Share who could block/ report a social media profile	Share who could make a social media profile private
Bihar:	Male	73.6	70.1
Muzaffarpur	Female	46.4	39
Chhattisgarh:	Male	60.3	48
Gariaband	Female	49.6	31.3
Jharkhand: East	Male	59.4	52
Singhbhum	Female	42.8	28.7
Rajasthan:	Male	80.6	80.1
Bhilwara	Female	63.1	57.3
Tamil Nadu:	Male	73.8	69.9
Perambalur	Female	49.5	47.1
Uttar Pradesh:	Male	75.7	60
Hathras	Female	54.8	41.9
vignesh.r@thehind	u.co.in rebecca.	varghese@thehindu	.co.in

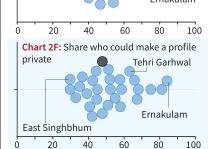
Chart 2: The charts show district-wise digital access and usage among youth in the 14-18

Chart 2A: Share who could set an alarm

on a smartphone







out of there?" Another gave notice of a "sense of Congress" resolution which would voice disapproval of the rupee accord. Congressional sources, however, doubted whether such a resolution would gain the approval of the House even though only last week the lower House had killed a Bill which would have allocated \$1.5 billions to the International Developmental Association. These sources also said that if such a resolution is adopted, it would have no binding effect on the agreement already entered into by the Governments of the two countries, though the ensuing confrontation between Congress and the Executive could create an embarrassing situation.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 31, 1974

of U.S. Congress approval

Rupee Accord: Moynihan sure

Washington, Jan 30: The U.S. Ambassador to

December, would win the approval of the Congressional Committees now considering it,

even though two Congressmen, who are

traditional foes of all forms of aid, told the

House Sub Committee on South Asia before

which the U.S. envoy testified yesterday that

they would oppose the "give away" programme,

One of the critics of the Indo-U.S. deal asked,

"What has India ever done for us, except show

enmity? Didn't Mrs. Gandhi tell us to get the hell

which would in effect write off the bulk of the

U.S. rupee balances in India.

India, Dr. D.P. Moynihan, is confident that the

Indo-U.S. rupee agreement initialled in Delhi last

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 31, 1924

France and Rumania

Paris, Jan. 30: A long and authoritative statement issued here now makes it clear that Rumania has finally renounced her intention of asking the French Government for a loan of hundred million francs. It is explained that inevitable delay in the French Parliament's voting loans compels Rumania to seek other means of tiding over her difficulties and most of her orders for war material have been given to Rumanian industries. This will be advantageous to both Rumania and France, to the former on account of her depreciated exchange and to the latter because it gives her an opportunity to practice another economy at the moment she is endeavouring to find means of balancing her budget. It is emphasised that France-Rumanian elections are in no way affected.

Text&Context

THEMOHINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's rank in tourist arrivals to Maldives after row

visiting Maldives, Indians have slipped to the fifth position in the last three weeks, according to official data. Maldives received over 1.74 lakh tourists till January 28 this year, of which 13,989 were Indians. PTI

Tankers taking longer routes after Red Sea attacks

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis have been targeting vessels in the Red Sea since November to show their support for Hamas in its war against Israel. This has prompted major shipping companies to take the longer route.

Amount seized by ED from Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

lakh in cash. This seizure was related to a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. The ED also seized a BMW SUV and some "incriminating" documents after it searched the CM's house. It has so far arrested 14 people. PTI

Rate of global GDP growth forecast by the **IMF**

in percentage. The global growth forecast was raised by 0.2 percentage points from an earlier estimate on account of greater-than expected resilience in the U.S. and large emerging markets and developing economies, and fiscal support in China. AFP

India's rank in corruption perceptions index

out of 100 nations. The report was published by Transparency International, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Pakistan and Iran: calm after the storm

What prompted Iran to target Balochistan, and how did Pakistan respond to the missile strikes? What key factors contributed to the decision for both nations to de-escalate tensions? How did the arrival of Iran's Foreign Minister in Islamabad impact economic and security discussions between the two countries?

WORLD INSIGHT

D. Suba Chandran

The story so far:

n a series of events, Iran launched missile strikes in Pakistan's Balochistan province, targeting alleged strongholds of the Jaish al-Adl. In response, Pakistan condemned the attacks, recalling its Ambassador and expelling the Iranian Ambassador, while also suspending high profile bilateral visits. A day later, Pakistan retaliated by targeting individuals and terrorist groups in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province. However, with a diplomatic approach, Pakistan emphasised its respect for Iran, preventing further escalation. On January 19, at a National Security Council meeting aimed at addressing security concerns for regional peace, both nations decided to de-escalate, reinstating ambassadors, and by January 28, Iran's Foreign Minister arrived in Islamabad to discuss economic and security matters, signaling a shift towards dialogue and cooperation.

What is special about the two Baloch provinces in Iran and Pakistan?

First, the demography and geography of the provinces. The Sistan-Baluchestan province, one of the largest provinces in Iran, shares the border with Pakistan's Balochistan and Afghanistan's southern provinces. The Baloch are the majority in the Sistan-Baluchestan province, with Sistanis as a minority. The former is Sunni, while the latter is Shia.

Geographically, Balochistan is the largest of four provinces in Pakistan, with a Baloch majority (which is now being threatened by the Pashtun ingress from Afghanistan and Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). However, Baloch are a minority within Pakistan.

Second, the borders. Pakistan's Balochistan province shares a long border with Iran, around 900 km. Unlike the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, which is disputed by Kabul, the Pakistan-Iran border is settled. Both countries have been building a concrete wall along the border to prevent illegal crossings between Balochistan (in Pakistan) and Sistan-Baluchestan (in Iran) provinces. However, the border remains ineffective in preventing the illicit movement of people and goods, especially along the land and maritime borders. Smuggling is common, especially in the south, closer to the Pakistan-Iran maritime border.

Third, two ports of strategic importance - Gwadar in Pakistan and Chabahar in Iran, are situated on the mouths of the Arabian Sea less than 200 km apart. China and India have invested in these two ports and see them as exit and entry points from/into maritime/mainland Asia. Baloch provinces are strategically important for Iran and Pakistan; however, they remain in the political periphery and are alienated from the national capitals. For the national capitals, the control of the provinces and the two ports is paramount.

Who are the militants that Iran and Pakistan targeted in each other's territory?

In Pakistan, Iran targeted a relatively little-known Sunni militant group – "Jaish al-Adl," based in Balochistan. According to Iran's Foreign Minister, "none of the nationals of the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones." Considered as a remnant of Jundullah, Iran has been fighting it since the late 2000s.

The Jundullah, believed to be founded



Tension relief: Convener, World Minorities Alliance and Former Federal Minister for Population Welfare of Pakistan, Julius Salik showers rose petals to celebrate after Pakistan and Iran 'agreed to de-escalate' tensions, in Islamabad on January 20. AFP

by Abdolmalek Rigi, was present then in the Sistan-Baluchestan province and has repeatedly been targeting Iran's security forces and civilian targets through terrorist activities, including suicide bombings. Iran has been targeting the Jundullah leader; Rigi, a Baloch, was captured and executed in 2010.

Jundullah was a Sunni group with links to al Qaeda and fighting for "Sunni" rights, rather than an ethnic Baloch militant group. However, Tehran considers that the Jundullah had the support of the Baloch people across the Sistan-Baluchestan and Balochistan provinces in Iran and Pakistan, respectively. After Rigi's death, a few Jundullah members formed the Jaish al-Adl and continued attacking Iran during the 2010s.

Between 2013-2023, the Jaish al-Adl is accused of having carried out numerous attacks, mainly targeting Iran's security officials; the latest one was in December 2023, where they targeted a police station in Rask in Sistan-Baluchestan, killing 11 security personnel.

In Iran, Pakistan targeted the hideouts belonging to the "Balochistan Liberation Army" and "Balochistan Liberation Front." Pakistan has been fighting multiple waves of Baloch insurgency since 1947. The latest wave of insurgency intensified after the killing of Akbar Bugti, one of the tallest Baloch leaders. Unlike the Jundullah, the Baloch militant

organisations do not have a sectarian agenda or have links with international organisations such as al Qaeda. They have an ethnic agenda and fight for greater rights for the Baloch; some of them have a separatist agenda and want to establish an independent Balochistan.

Why did Pakistan and Iran de-escalate immediately after the missile attacks?

If the escalation was fast, de-escalation was faster. Immediately after Iran's initial attack, Pakistan recalled its Ambassador and asked the Iranian Ambassador to leave. Two days later, Pakistan targeted a few militant targets in the Sistan-Baluchestan province in Iran. After the swift diplomatic and military escalation, there was a de-escalation. China is believed to have pressured Islamabad and Tehran. But more than any external pressure, the bilateral dynamics might have led to the de-escalation.

Given the regional security situation and the immediate neighbourhood, both countries cannot afford an escalation now, which was reflected in their statements. Pakistan's official statement talked about "dialogue and cooperation as key tools for addressing common challenges, including terrorism," while Iran's underlined adhering to "the policy between the two nations" and not

of good neighbourliness and brotherhood Tehran together. allowing "enemies to strain the amicable have its own for the Shia world.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani greets his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad. AFP/PAKISTAN FOREIGN OFFICE

and brotherly relations of Tehran and

Islamabad." It appears that Iran's missile strikes in Pakistan had a limited objective as a part of its targets in Syria and Iraq in response to an earlier attack in January 2024 in Kerman. Similarly, Pakistan's response seems limited in making a domestic and a bilateral statement. Both have been careful with their statements to ensure it does not escalate. Besides there have been efforts in recent years aimed at a rapprochement, which they did not want to jeopardise.

What challenges lie ahead for Pakistan and Iran?

Though Tehran was one of the first to recognise Pakistan, since the 1979 Iranian revolution, the two countries had a troubled relationship. Iran's revolution in 1979 and Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq's regime in Pakistan during the 1980s brought the Sunni-Shia sectarian divide to the fore between the two. Though both refer to the "brotherly Muslim countries' rhetoric, the sectarian factor was too strong to patch the divide.

Globally, Iran saw Pakistan under the American sphere of influence during the Cold War and post 9/11, especially in Afghanistan. Pakistan and Iran remained in opposite groups; only in recent years has China tried to bring Islamabad and

And regionally, the struggle for supremacy, within the West Asia, pitches Iran and Saudi Arabia on opposite camps, with Pakistan aligned with the latter. On Afghanistan and the Taliban, both countries have differed on objectives and strategies. Until recently, Pakistan viewed Tehran as closer to New Delhi than Islamabad. Pakistan's nuclear bomb is seen as a Sunni one, pushing Tehran to

Finally, economically, the bilateral relationship is not strong enough to create a political stake; the fact that Iran is planning to approach international arbitration for Pakistan's reluctance to move ahead with the Iran-Pakistan pipeline should underline the harsh realities for Islamabad and Tehran.

(Prof. D. Suba Chandran heads the NIAS Pakistan Reader, an area studies initiative at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

THE GIST

On 16 January, a day after its strikes in Iraq and Syria, Iran targeted Pakistan's Balochistan province, with missiles, killing two.

On 17 January, condemning the attacks as "unprovoked" and a breach of sovereignty, Pakistan recalled its expelled the Iranian

Ambassador from Tehran and Ambassador. Pakistan also suspended all high profile bilateral visits - ongoing and planned

On 18 January, Pakistan retaliated by targeting "individuals" and "terrorist groups" in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, killing nine. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry claimed Iran as a close friend, with great respect and affection for the Iranian people.

Security Council meeting decided to "address each other's security concerns in the larger interest of regional peace and stability" as Iran is a "neighbourly and brotherly

Muslim country."

On 22 January, a joint statement issued by the two Foreign Ministries agreed on the return of ambassadors. Subsequently, on 26 January, the Ambassadors returned to their offices in Tehran and Islamahad.

On 28 January, Iran's Foreign Minister arrived in Islamabad to discuss economic and security issues between the two countries.



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Legacy remembers: View of the Mahatma Gandhi memorial on a foggy winter morning at Rajghat on Gandhi's death anniversary in New Delhi on January 30. AFP

A betrayal of the very idea of Mahatma

The principles Mahatma Gandhi stood for represent an ideal that is being weakened every day by those in power who are pushing their agenda of bigotry; he viewed Hinduism as a faith that respected and embraced all other faiths, challenging the exclusivity promoted by Hindutva ideologues

Shashi Tharoor

This article dated January 27, 2023, explores the challenges to Mahatma Gandhi's legacy in contemporary India. The article contrasts Gandhi's inclusive vision rooted in Advaita Vedanta with the majoritarian creed of Hindutva ideologies, emphasising the ongoing clash between idealism and exclusionary practices within India's ideological landscape.

his year marks the 75th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination (January 30, 1948) by a Hindu fanatic who thought the Mahatma was too soft on Muslims. The momentous anniversary comes at a time when his legacy, the very idea of Gandhi, stands challenged by the prevailing ideological currents. At a time when the standing of his historic detractors, whose descendants now form the ruling dispensation in the country, is at an all-time high, Gandhiji has been criticised for weakness, for having bent over too far to accommodate Muslim interests, and for his pacifism, which is seen by the jingoistic Hindutva movement

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination (January 30, 1948) by a Hindu fanatic who thought the Mahatma was too soft on Muslims. The momentous anniversary comes at a time when his legacy, the very idea of Gandhi, stands challenged by the prevailing ideological currents. At a time when the standing of his historic detractors, whose descendants now form the ruling dispensation in the country, is at an all-time high, Gandhiji has been criticised for weakness, for having bent over too far to accommodate Muslim interests, and for his pacifism, which is seen by the jingoistic Hindutva movement as unmanly.

The Mahatma was killed, with the name of Rama on his lips, for being too pro-Muslim; indeed, he had just come out of a fast he had conducted to coerce his own followers, the Ministers of the new

Indian government, to transfer a larger share than they had intended of the assets of undivided India to the new state of Pakistan. Gandhiji had also announced his intention to spurn the country he had failed to keep united and to spend the rest of his years in Pakistan, a prospect that had made the government of Pakistan collectively choke.

But that was the enigma of Gandhiji in a nutshell: idealistic, quirky, quixotic, and determined, a man who answered to the beat of no other drummer, but got everyone else to march to his tune. Someone once called him a cross between a saint and a Tammany Hall politician; like the best crossbreeds, he managed to distil all the qualities of both and yet transcend their contradictions.

Explaining a contradiction nowThe contradiction is mirrored in the attitude of the Hindutva-inspired Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Modi was schooled, like other Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) pracharaks in an intense dislike of Mahatma Gandhi, whose message of tolerance and pluralism was emphatically rejected as minority appeasement by the Sangh Parivar, and whose credo of non-violence, or ahimsa, was seen as an admission of weakness unworthy of manly Hindus. Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, whom Mr. Modi has described as one of his heroes, had expressed contempt for Gandhiji's 'perverse doctrine of non-violence and truth' and claimed it 'was bound to destroy the power of the country'.

But Prime Minister Modi, for all his Hindutva mindset, his admiration of Savarkar and his lifetime affiliation to the Sangh Parivar, has embraced Gandhiji, hailing the Mahatma and even using his glasses as a symbol of the Swachh Bharat campaign, linking it to a call to revive Gandhiji's idea of seva through the recent 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign.

This may, or may not, represent a sincere conversion to Gandhism. The Prime Minister is hardly unaware of the tremendous worldwide reputation that Mahatma Gandhi enjoys, and is too savvy a marketing genius not to recognise the soft-power opportunity evoking Gandhiji provides, not to mention the global public relations disaster that would ensue if he were to denounce an Indian so universally admired. There may, therefore, be an element of insincerity to his newfound love for the Mahatma, as well as a shrewd domestic political calculation.

But the ambivalence speaks volumes: when many members of Mr. Modi's BJP call for replacing Gandhiji's statues across the country with those of his assassin, Nathuram Godse, the Prime Minister seeks to lay claim to the mantle of his fellow Gujarati for his own political benefit. At the same time, there is also a tangible dissonance between the official governmental embrace of Gandhiji and the unofficial ideological distaste for this icon, that is privately promoted by members and supporters of the present ruling dispensation, some of whose members have not hidden their view that his assassination was, in their eyes, a patriotic act.

The vision of the MahatmaIt is a well understood reality that the vision of Gandhiji, an openly practising Hindu, differed greatly from that of Veer Savarkar and M.S. Golwalkar, the principal ideologues of the Hindu Mahasabha and its more militarised alter ego in the post-Independence era, the RSS and eventually, the BJP (formerly the Jana Sangh).

Gandhiji embodied the central approach of Advaita Vedanta, which preached an inclusive universal religion.

Gandhiji saw Hinduism as a faith that respected and embraced all other faiths. He was profoundly influenced by the principles of ahimsa and satya and gave both a profound meaning when he applied them to the nationalist cause.

He was a synthesiser of cultural belief systems: his signature bhajan of

'Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram' had another line, 'Ishwara Allah Tero naam'. This practice emerged from his Vedantic belief in the oneness of all human beings, who share the same atman and, therefore, should be treated equally.

Such behaviour did not endear him to every Hindu. In his treatise on 'Gandhi's Hinduism and Savarkar's Hindutva', the social scientist Rudolf C. Heredia places his two protagonists within an ongoing debate between heterogeneity versus homogeneity in the Hindu faith, pointing out that while Gandhi's response is inclusive and ethical, Savarkar politicises Hinduism as a majoritarian creed.

But Gandhiji's own understanding of religion, in Heredia's words, "transcended religiosity, Hindu as well as that of any other tradition.

It is essentially a spiritual quest for moksha but one rooted in the reality of service to the last and least in the world". Unlike Savarkar, who believed in conformity, Gandhiji was a synthesiser like no other who took care to include Indians of other faiths in his capacious and agglomerative understanding of

He took inspiration from not just Advaita Vedanta but also the Jain concept of 'Anekantavada' – the notion that truth and reality are perceived differently by different people from their own different points of view, and that, therefore, no single perception can constitute the complete truth. This led him to once declare that 'I am a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Parsi, a Iew'.

Hinduism and Hindutva, as I have argued in my book Why I Am a Hindu, represent two very distinct and contrasting ideas, with vitally different implications for nationalism and the role of the Hindu faith. The principles Gandhiji stood for and the way in which he asserted them are easier to admire than to follow. But they represented an ideal that is betrayed every day by those who distort Hinduism to promote a narrow, exclusionary bigotry.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your **English**

K. Subrahmanian

MR. B. M. Mehra, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi, wants to know the meaning of 'For want of a nail, the kingdom was lost.'

Everything is important. Nothing is small. The absence of what is considered small may lead to some disaster. The line is taken from the following verse:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost; For want of a shoe the horse was lost; For want of a horse the rider was lost; For want of a rider the battle was lost; For want of a battle the kingdom was lost. And all for the want of a horse-shoe nail.

Mr. S. Rajagopalan, Valasaravakkam, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'dyed-in-the-wool'.

This is an idiom which means 'totally fixed in one's ideas, beliefs, etc.' It is used in a derogatory sense.

He is a dyed-in-the-wool conservative. *She is a dyed-in-the-wool socialist.*

When wool is dyed or coloured before it is spun into yam, the colour is even and more lasting Of the blackest dye' or 'of the deepest dye' means 'of the worst kind'.

He is a rouge of the deepest dye. He is a tyrant of the blackest dye.

Mr. B. Krishnamoorthy, Dayal Street, Coimbatore, wants to know whether the use of "offload" in the following sentence is correct: 'The driver and conductor are empowered to offload the passengers found smoking'. He feels that 'offload' should be used with inanimate things. 'To offload' means 'to unload something

that is unwanted'.

He offloaded excess baggage.

Strictly speaking, 'offload' must go with animate things. It is used occasionally with animate beings also. Airlines seem to be fond of this word. They use it with baggage and also passengers.

Five passengers were offloaded.

The word 'collect' was originally used with inanimate things but now you can say, 'I will collect you from your office in the evening'. 'Pick up' is another expression that is used these days with human beings. 'I'll pick you up on my way back and drop you at home'. 'Collect' and 'pick up' were used originally with inanimate things but now even human beings are 'picked up' or 'collected' and 'dropped'. So don't feel offended when people want to 'collect you', 'pick you up', 'drop you' or 'offload' you. No disrespect is involved.

Mr. N. Uday Bhaskar, Governorpet, Vijayawada, wants to know the meaning of

'Aunt Sally' is a game in which you throw sticks at the wooden image of a woman. You must hit the nose of the figure or break the pipe in its mouth. Figuratively, it means 'a woman or a thing that is subjected to general abuse and criticism, often undeserved'.

She is the Aunt Sally of the neighbourhood. Published in The Hindu on December 18, 1990

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, here are a few questions

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

January 27 has been chosen as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the holocaust, for a reason. Do you know why?

QUESTION 2

Did you know that the word Nazi is an abbreviation for Hitler's political party? Maybe we've given out too much already, but what does Nazi expand to (in German)?

QUESTION 3

Yet another question on etymology. The Nazi killing pogrom was called the Holocaust. Why was this word chosen?

QUESTION 4

While the Nazis targeted Jews, they also slaughtered other groups of people, in their effort to engineer the pure Aryan race, through a mixture of eugenics and murder. Name at least two other groups thus prosecuted.

QUESTION 5

When was the first concentration camp opened in Nazi Germany, and where?





Visual Question: Find the connection between these two images.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This film written, directed and starring Charlie Chaplin premiered on this day in

1931. Ans: City Lights 2. Across the world every year the last Sunday of January is observed as _ Day to

raise awareness about this disease. Ans: Leprosy 3. An Indian politician and Independence activist who was jailed during the Quit India Movement was born on this day in 1910. Ans:

Chidambaram Subramaniam

4. The legendary band performed their last live gig, known as the 'rooftop' concert, on this day in 1969 for a limited audience. Ans: The Beatles 5. One of the first memorial museums

established in India on Mahatma Gandhi. Where is the museum located? **Ans: Madurai** Visual: Identify the man who invented a 3-D combination puzzle. Ans: Erno Rubix Early Birds: C Saravanan | K.N. Viswanathan | Jagrati Shukla | Medhini Prabhakar | Akshat Tiwari

Word of the day

Astute:

very clever, an ability to understand things clearly

Synonyms: shrewd, quick, sharp, intelligent

Usage: Astute readers will have noticed the

Pronunciation: bit.ly/astutepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əstjuːt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

A ND-NDE

From Page One

'Missing' CM Soren shows up in Ranchi

"We are ready for what may come... The BJP is abusing Central agencies to destabilise a democratically elected government but we will not allow them to succeed in their mission," Transport Minister and senior JMM leader Champai Soren said.

Health Minister Banna Gupta said any decision in the current scenario will be taken according to the circumstances. "We will again meet tomorrow at the CM House to express solidarity."

On the speculation that Ms. Soren might replace her husband as the Chief Minister, the legislators said no such discussion was held in the

Security was beefed up at his Ranchi residence where he held meetings with his alliance partners. Leaders of the Congress, the RJD, and the Nationalist Congress Party, all members of the ruling coalition also held a meeting at the State Circuit House. Later in the evening, legislators from Mr. Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha met at his residence.

The ED has arrested 14 people in the case so far. The agency is investigating charges that a 7.16 acre parcel of land near Ranchi was acquired through the proceeds of crime involving the illegal sale of land belonging to the defence forces. Mr. Soren, however, has dismissed the allegations as "politically motivated", saying that the details of his assets are public.

(With inputs from Devesh K. Pandey and PTI)

14 get death penalty for BJP man's murder

His family welcomed the verdict. The convicts, hailing from Alappuzha, belong to the now-proscribed Popular Front of India and its political arm, the Social Democratic Party of India.

Observing that the murder fell under the category of the rarest of rare cases, Judge Sreedevi V.G. directed that the 14 convicts - Naisam, Ajmal, Anoop, Mohammed Aslam, Abdul Kalam alias Salam, Abdul Kalam, Saffaruddin, Manshad, Jaseeb Raja, Sameer, Nazir, Zakir Hussain, Shaji Poovathungal, and Shernas Ashraf – be hanged by the neck till their death. The court also imposed a ₹1 lakh fine on all of them.

Though the court has found Navas, the tenth accused, guilty of the offences charged against him, it did not pronounce his sentence as he is undergoing medical treatment at a hospital. The court will award him punishment at a later date.

All 15 accused in the case were found guilty by the court on January 20, under Section 302 (murder) and various other provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Special Public Prosecutor Prathap G. Padickkal said that the accused had been found guilty on a total of 15 counts.

Imran sentenced to 10 years in prison

Mr. Sharif was only able to get a bailout from the International Monetary Fund by agreeing to a substantial increase in tariffs on gas and electricity that led to alarming price hikes on everyday goods and made his party unpopular.

On Tuesday, Mr. Khan was convicted in what is popularly known as the cipher case, in which he was accused of exposing state secrets by waving a confidential document at a rally. The document has not been made public but is believed to be diplomatic correspondence between the Pakistani Ambassador to Washington and the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad. Mr. Khan claimed the document was proof he was being threatened and that his ouster was a U.S. conspiracy, allegedly executed by the military and the government in Pakistan. American and Pakistani officials have denied

A special court at the prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi where Mr. Khan is being held announced the verdict, according to Zulfiqar Bukhari, chief spokesperson for Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

Man killed, one injured in gunfight in Manipur

Press Trust of India IMPHAL

At least one village volunteer was killed and another injured after their camp came under attack from unidentified gunmen in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Tuesday, the police

The incident took place at the camp situated near Kadangband village in the Lamshang area in adjoining Imphal West district.

"After the unknown gunmen launched the attack, the village volunteers retaliated, resulting in a gunfight in which one village volunteer was killed and another was injured.

"Following the retaliation, the attackers retreated, regrouped and attacked again. The gunfight is under way," a police officer said. After the eruption of the gun battle, several women and children from Kadangband and neighbouring Koutruk village fled to safer areas, he said. Additional security personnel have been sent to the area to bring the situation under control, the officer said. The injured has been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal.

3 CRPF personnel killed in Maoist attack in Bastar

Two commandos of elite jungle warfare unit among the deceased; 15 personnel injured but are out of danger; six Maoists killed in retaliatory fire, say police; Chief Minister slams 'cowardly act'

Shubhomoy Sikdar

hree personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), two of them commandos of the elite jungle warfare unit CoBRA, were killed and 15 injured in an encounter with Maoists along the boundary of Sukma and Bijapur districts in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. Six Maoists were killed in the retaliatory fire, the police said. The shoot-out took

place on the first day of a newly established security camp at Teklagudem village, a Maoist stronghold about 450 km from the State capital, Raipur. The attackers were over 500 in number, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said in the evening. He spoke to some of the injured jawans hospitalised in Raipur. Some accounts had pegged the number at even 1,000, the Chief Minister added.

Inspector-General Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P. said that after the camp was set up, a joint



Deep pain: An injured CRPF jawan being treated at a government hospital after a Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh. PTI

team of the Special Task Force, the District Reserve Guard [both components of the State police], the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), and the CRPF was patrolling in nearby villages when Maoists opened fire on

"All the jawans gave a befitting reply and we have received information of six Maoists cadre getting killed but unfortunately, in this encounter, our three jawans – two CoBRA jawans and one CRPF jawan were martyred. Fifteen were injured too," he said.

The Maoists retreated into the forests following the retaliatory fire. Search operations were on till late in the evening, the police added.

The deceased were identified as constables Devan C. and Pavan Kumar (both from 201 CoBRA) and constable Lambdhar Sinha (150 CRPF). Among the injured are a Deputy Commandant, an Assistant Commandant, four head constables, and nine constables.

Mr. Sundarraj said the injured personnel were taken to the Jagdalpur Medical College and two private hospitals in Raipur. They were out of danger, he ad-

Twenty-three security personnel were killed in an encounter with Maoists in the same area in April 2021.

Mr. Sundarraj said that the camp had been established for the security of the people and that the attack would not deter the police.

Expressing solidarity with the security personnel, the Chief Minister said areas perceived as sympathetic to Maoists were now witnessing increased deployment and effectiveness of security forces. This, the Chief Minister said, led to "a disarray among the Naxals and they were resorting to cowardly acts of terror".

SC questions J&K on plea to publish review orders

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir about the non-publication of review committee orders regarding Internet shutdowns in the region.

"Review committee's orders are meant to be published," a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sanjay Karol addressed Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, who appeared for the Union Territory. The court's remarks came in a petition filed by the Foundation for Media Professionals, which claimed that the authorities were not complying with a Supreme Court direction in the January 2020 Anuradha Bhasin judgment to publish the orders for suspension of telecom services.

Justice Karol told Mr. Nataraj that the authorities ought to follow the directions in the judgment. Mr. Nataraj said the deliberations of the review committee need not be made public. He assured the court that he would seek instructions on the issue in time for the next hearing, posted after two weeks.

Navy foils hijacking bid by Somali pirates, rescues 19 Pak. nationals

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

In the second successful intervention within hours, the Indian Navv's offshore patrol vessel INS Sumitra, deployed in the Gulf of Aden, neutralised a hijack situation and rescued the Iranian-flagged fishing vessel Al Naeemi and its crew of 19 Pakistani nationals from 11 Somali pirates off the east coast of Somalia.

In another incident, a coordinated multilateral response between the Indian Navy, the Seychelles Defence Forces and the Sri Lankan Navy foiled the hijacking bid on a Sri Lankan fishing trawler.

Swift response

The Indian Navy, in a statement on Tuesday morning, said that INS Sumitra was pressed into action to locate and intercept the Iranian-flagged fishing vessel Al Naeemi, which had been boarded by pirates with its crew of 19 Pakistani nationals taken hostage.

"Responding swiftly to the developing situation, Sumitra intercepted the vessel on Monday and through coercive posturing and effective deployment



Indian commandos with a group of detained pirates after the Indian Navy freed an Iranian Fishing Vessel hijacked by Somali pirates. AFP

of her integral helicopter and boats compelled the safe release of the crew and the vessel. The ship also undertook confirmatory boarding to sanitise and also to check on the well-being of the crew who were held captive by the Somali pirates.

This incident came just after INS Sumitra prevented a hijack incident in the area after responding to a distress message from Iranian-flagged fishing vessel Iman, with a crew of 17 Iranian nationals, which had been boarded by pirates and the crew taken

A hijacking incident was reported aboard the Sri Lankan-flagged

trawler Lorenzo Putha 04 about 955 nautical miles east of Mogadishu, Somalia and three pirates had boarded and hijacked it on January 27.

The Indian Navy deployed INS Sharada from Kochi on Sunday afternoon and also tasked its Sea Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle with locating and intercepting the hijacked fishing vessel, the Navy said.

"Additionally, efficient operational coordination and information sharing through the Sri Lanka and Seychelles International Liaison Officers at Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC

IOR), New Delhi resulted in the interception of the hijacked fishing vessel by SCGS Topaz in Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone on Monday."

The three pirates surrendered to the Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG), all six crew members are safe and the vessel is being escorted to Mahé, Seychelles, the Navy said.

"INS Sumitra, over the

course of less than 36 hours, through swift, persistent and relentless efforts has rescued two hijacked fishing vessels along with 36 crew, 17 Iranian and 19 Pakistani, in southern Arabian Sea approximately 850 nm [nautical miles] West of Kochi, and prevented misuse of these vessels as mother ships for further acts of piracy on Merchant Vessels," the Navy said on the two incidents to which INS Sumitra responded.

The Gulf of Aden has seen a sudden spurt in piracy from Somalia in the last few months after going down completely from the peak around 2010. The Indian Navy has maintained continuous presence with at least one major warship deployed on anti-piracy duties since 2008.

'India-U.S. ties will make the democratic world order stronger'

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

The capital and technological know-how from the U.S. can help India achieve its goal of becoming a developed country by 2047, while investments here can give the American companies high returns and an avenue of de-risking Defence Minister Rainath Singh said on Tuesday. In addition, he said that India-U.S. cooperation will act as force multiplier for a rules-based world

'Beneficial for world'

"India is the largest democracy in the world, and the U.S. is another big democracy. When two big democracies cooperate with each other, it will definitely make the democratic world order stronger. This will act as a force multiplier for rules-based order across the globe. Our work together will be beneficial not only to us, but for the entire world," Mr. Singh said while addressing a conference on "Strengthening Indo-U.S. Relationship in Amrit Kaal - Aatmanirbhar Bharat" organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

Stating that American investments can play a vital role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, Mr. Singh termed it a win-win situation for both the countries, stating that India's fast-growing economy, its demographic dividend, skilled workforce, and huge domestic market guarantee high returns to the



Bilateral affairs: Rajnath Singh during the event organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT U.S. companies.

Mr. Singh described India and the U.S. as natural partners who must move forward together in both business and strategic sectors amidst the current global geopolitical scenario.

"India and the U.S. support a free, open and rulesbased international order. Due to this, there is a lot of alignment in our strategic interests. Besides, our economic relationship is a win-win proposition for both the countries. The current relationship is driven by twin congruence of shared values and aligned interests, which is a guarantee for long sustainability and robustness of ties,"

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The Defence Minister clarified that the aim of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' is not to cut off from the global system and not to work in isolation. He stressed that it is based on collaboration with friendly countries for shared security and pros-

Graziers confront Chinese soldiers in eastern Ladakh

Vijaita Singh <u>Dinakar Peri</u> NEW DELHI

graziers were stopped by Chinese soldiers in the Kakjung area of Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) earlier this month, according to a video shot by the local people that was shared on X by Chushul councillor Stanzin on Konchok

Tuesday. In the video, the herders can be seen confronting the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers when the latter ask them to go back claiming it to be Chinese territory. The local people, who can be heard

speaking in a Tibetan language, are seen throwing rocks at the Chinese soldiers.

The incident occurred on January 2 near Patrolling Points 35 and 36 at Kakjung under the Nyoma constituency in Ladakh, Mr. Stanzin said. While Chinese soldiers with their vehicles can be seen in the video, there is no presence of Indian security forces.

Ishey Spalzang, councillor, Nyoma, told The Hindu that the area is within India's perception of the

He said that after the face-off, the sarpanch, the sub-divisional magistrate, and officials of the Indian



Face off: People Liberation Army soldiers and tanks during military disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh. AFP

Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) visited the grazing site on January 12. "It is a valley and is essential for winter grazing of cattle. In 2019, the Chinese had tried to stop the

graziers but we had pitched tents to assert our claim. The nearest Army unit is present around five to seven kilometres from this place. That particular day they were not present," Mr. Spalzang said, adding that the herders had started from their village around 20 days ago before they reached the location. Mr. Stanzin said on X,

"See how our local people are showing their bravery in front of the PLA claiming that the area they are stopping is our nomad's grazing land. PLA stopping our nomads from grazing in our territory. Seems it is never a never-ending process due to different lines of perceptions. But I salute our nomads, who always stand to protect our land and stand as the second guardian force of the nation." He later told The Hindu that the place where the incident happened is within one kilometre of the Indian claim on the line of the border with China.

A defence source said the video is of an incident that happened in the first week of January where "nomad graziers [with livestock] from our side are seen in conversation with PLA soldiers".

Such incidents are commonplace and happen on both sides whenever graziers stray across the LAC on account of the differing perceptions of the LAC, the source said. Such incidents are dealt with appropriately as per established mechanism.

12 years Adithya is suffering from B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and needs Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs. 12,00,000/- His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No.60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is

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Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. EMail ID:

New BJP-JD(U) alliance may cap the evolution of social justice politics

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George NEW DELHI

The pendulum politics of Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar, who swung between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Congress axis several times in recent years, signifies the social kinetics unleashed by the rise of Hindutva. The evident opportunism in the renewal of the BJP-JD(U) alliance is only superficial.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has subsumed the social justice rhetoric within the rubric of Hindutya. This Hindutya 2.0 has thrown old tropes of social justice politics into a tailspin. Mr. Kumar's latest

somersault is his last attempt to hold on to his base – he concluded that his political longevity would be higher as an ally of the BJP than as an opponent. The BJP, on the other hand, has split the Opposition and derailed an attempted revival of Mandal politics, through its newest alliance. Various strands of subal-

tern politics shared a common scepticism about Hinduism, even as nationalist politics sought to advance a composite Hindu identity through appeasement and coercion. Socialists, the forebears of the current social justice stock, hoped to use the Jan Sangh, the predecessor of the BJP, to undermine the dominance of the Congress. Socialists saw the Congress as the vehicle of upper caste dominance and hoped they could opportunistically ally with Hindutva.

Anti-Congress politics

Hindutva remained a marginal player within the spectrum of anti-Congress politics until the birth of Ayodhya politics in the 1980s. Terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir, supported by sections of Sikhs and Muslims, provided a helpful backdrop to the rise of Hindutva, but the simultaneous rise of Mandal politics raised a barrier. But all social justice groups were not opposing the BJP. Mr. Kumar, under his mentor George Fernandes, split from the Janata family and joined hands with the BJP in 1994.

The relations between Hindutva and caste-based social justice politics re-



More to it: The evident opportunism in the renewal of the BJP-JD(U) alliance is only superficial. FILE PHOTO

mained fluid, with both sides looking to take advantage of the other, even tensions underneath.

Mr. Modi's proclamations about his own Other Backward Class (OBC) origins began making a dent in the flanks of social justice politics by 2014.

In 2015, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for a rethink of caste reservations brought forth a resurgence of social justice politics and propelled the JD(U)-RJD alliance to victory in the Bihar Assembly lasted only for two years. Since then, Mr. Bhagwat has made compendious arguments in favour of continuing with reservations for an indefinite period, resolving a fundamental friction between Mandal and Kamandal. The move in the past one year to infuse a new life into Mandal politics through the call for a caste census did not gain momentum.

election. But the alliance

Mr. Kumar's government conducted a caste survey in Bihar and its results were published, but it did not turn out to be a climactic political event. Meanwhile, Mr. Modi's speech at the inauguration of the temple in Ayodhya recently amplified the subaltern legends that embellish the epic of Ram.

Subaltern Hindutva thrives by expanding representation in politics and cultural spaces that are under construction in the new nationalist project. Subaltern classes that allied with Muslims since the 1990s in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to gain political power find three attractions in the Hindutva model of social justice.

What it offers

First, it allows numerically weaker OBC groups to break away from the Yadav-, Jatav-, and Jat-led politics in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Second, the BJP encouraged OBCs to decouple from Muslims and increase participation in repurposed great traditions. This is presented as upward mobility.

Third, the BJP offers subaltern classes better

Mr. Modi presents himself as a member of the OBC community; the BJP elected a Dalit followed by a tribal woman to the highest office in the country. The combination of these factors have made conventional social justice politics redundant at the moment.

The BJP model has its own contradictions that might sharpen at some point in future. For the moment, the Sangh Parivar has moved to the centre on the question of social justice, and Mr. Bhagwat's changed view on reservations is only one indicator of that. The pendulum of social justice politics might stop swinging for now. Mr. Kumar's opportunism might end with the complete assimilation of his politics by the BJP.

BJP hits out at Kharge over his remark on 'dictatorship'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday criticised Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his remark that the 2024 Lok Sabha election will be the "last" in India if Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reelected, stating that it was in fact "dynastic politics in the name of democracy" that was at an end.

Responding to Mr. Kharge's remark that "if Narendra Modi another election, there will be dictatorship in the country", BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi asserted that "only two Prime Ministers were elected democratically in India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi".

Nitish caved under pressure; don't need his support: Rahul

'BJP was in a panic as they oppose the caste survey. Nitishji was in a jam and the BJP provided him a back door to escape'

The Hindu Bureau PATNA

s his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra traversed Bihar for the second day on Tuesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said his party did not need the support of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "A little pressure and he took a U-turn". "I understand Nitishji's quandary. I told him that you will have to conduct caste census in Bihar... But BJP was in a panic as they oppose the survey. Nitishji was in a jam and the BJP provided him a back door to escape," Mr. Gandhi said.

Taking a dig at Mr. Ku-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacting with the locals at a dhaba in Bihar during the party's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, on Tuesday. BHARAT JODO NYAY YATRA-X

mar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Bihar is known today as political lab of aaya-rams and gaya-rams."

"Our country needs a caste based census to determine the exact population of Dalits, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Tribals and others," Mr. Gandhi said. "Providing social and economic justice to promote people's development are the reasons behind our va-

tra. Dalits and Backward

Classes do not get due representation in all sectors."

Mr. Gandhi said, "Manipur faces a civil war-like situation but Prime Minister Narendra Modi is yet to visit the State."

Mr. Gandhi met a group of farmers in the district and alleged that "farmers' land is being gifted to industrialists like Adani. The good thing is that farmers have refused to yield and are fighting for their rights." He added, "If our party (Congress) is voted into power, we will frame farmer-friendly policies.'

"I am not speaking empty words here. We waived ₹72.000 crore in farmers' loans and introduced the

Land Acquisition Bill. We worked for farmers before, and we will continue to work in the time to come..." he said.

'In Purnea, Rahul Gandhi had an extended interaction with local farmers. They highlighted how they were squeezed between rising input costs, unfair land acquisition practices, and inadequate compensation for harvests,' Jairam Ramesh posted on X.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge could not reach the venue as his plane could not reach due to bad weather.

Addressing the meeting virtually he took a dig at Mr. Kumar's political U-turns.

CPI(M) reiterates its support to INDIA, but slams Cong. in Kerala

Th<u>e Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) Central Committee, while reiterating its commitment towards the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc on Tuesday, slammed the Congress for "adopting a negative and anti-democratic approach" to the Kerala government.

"Despite the JD(U) deserting the INDIA bloc and collaborating with the BJP, the CPI(M) will make all efforts to further strengthen this formation and continue the activities to defeat the BIP to safeguard the secular democratic character of our Constitutional Republic," the party said.

The party, however, accused the Congress of keeping silent on the

Centre's "assault on the rights of Kerala" which, it said, helps the BJP in its manoeuvres against the State government. The party also asked the

Election Commission of India to "restore people's confidence" in Electoral Voting Machines (EVMs) by changing the current sequence of recording ballots. "Voters have no control over or knowledge of what transpires electronically between the VVPAT [voter-verified paper audit trail] device and the control unit. Hence, the CPI (M) has requested the ECI to connect the ballot unit directly to the control unit and from that point to the VVPAT to ensure accurate accounting," party general secretary Sitaram Yechury

Dt.25.01.24

Suspended MPs to return MVA finally agrees to induct as last session of 17th Lok Sabha commences today

The Hindu Bureau **NEW DELHI**

The Budget Session of Parliament, the last one of the 17th Lok Sabha, will commence on Wednesday. The 14 Opposition MPs who were suspended during the previous session for protesting against the lack of a response from the government after an unprecedented security breach, will return to Parliament, after the Privileges Committee of the two Houses recommended the revocation of their suspension.

A total of 146 Opposition MPs - 100 in the Lok Sabha and the rest in the Rajya Sabha – were suspended for bringing placards into the chambers, and frequently disrupting parliamentary proceedings. While the suspension of 132 members was only till the remainder of the session that ended on December 21, the cases of 14 members (11 in the Rajya Sabha and three in the Lok Sabha) were referred to their respective Privileges Committees.

The session will begin with President Droupadi Murmu addressing a joint sitting of the Lower and Upper Houses. At an allparty meeting, the government urged the Opposition parties to cooperate and ensure that no placards were on display.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will



Singh on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

present the Interim Budget on Thursday, ahead of the Lok Sabha election likely to be held in April-May. The Budget for Jammu and Kashmir, which is under President's Rule since December 2018, will also be presented during the

With the return of the Janata Dal(U) to the National Democratic Alliance, and the differences evident between the Trinamool Congress and the Congress, the Opposition will be on the back foot. Several senior Congress leaders, including former party chief Ra-

Opposition on back foot

hul Gandhi and general secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh, who are participating in the party's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, are unlikely to be present.

This will be the first Lok Sabha without a Deputy Speaker, a post mandated under Article 93 of the Constitution.

At the all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Opposition members raised a host of issues, and demanded a debate on unemployment, high inflation, agrarian crisis, and violence-hit Manipur. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi addressed presspersons at the conclusion of the meeting. "They [the Opposition] have given suggestions, but since this is the last session of the present Lok Sabha, we [the Union government] have said we will give them an opportunity in the next session," he said. Trinamool Congress

leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the Finance Minister should include the pending dues to West Bengal on account of various Central schemes in the Interim Budget. "It is unfortunate that a Chief Minister has to sit on a dharna to demand timely allocation of Central dues to the State," he said.

Prakash Ambedkar's VBA

Shoumojit Banerjee

After months of vacillation, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition on Tuesday finally announced the induction of the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi into the MVA fold even as Mr. Ambedkar complained that his party's representative was not accorded "due respect" at the seatsharing meeting held in Mumbai. Top leaders of the MVA met in Mumbai where a marathon round

of deliberations over seat sharing, and the questions pertaining to the induction of smaller parties, especially the VBA, took place. Following the meeting, Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut said the coalition had become stronger with the induction of several new parties.

🚵 TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI CHIEF EDITOR OFFICE e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Roc.No.TTD-95021(31)/78/2018-Chief Editor

e-Tenders are invited for supply of Pre-Gumming Address Label Blank for Chief Editor Office, TTD, for a period of one year. For Tender notice and details please log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and http://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.

For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264543, 2264363.

CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM No: DB/62983/08 (77) Date: 30.01.2024 Thiruvananthapuram Corporation online E-tenders (Pre-qualification)

are invited for the below mentioned project in 2 bid system. 1. E11/34545/21- Construction of Biogas Plant and **Odour Control Systems at Modern Slaughter House in** Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation followed by Turn Key basis - Rs.2,11,69,959/-

The detailed e-tender notice is published in our website https://tmc.lsgkerala.gov.in and office notice board. For participating e-tender visit website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in Superintending Engineer

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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 RfS 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)



File No.HO/Civil/T&E-E-5041/01/2024 2433

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Bid Identification No.Civil/EST-48/2023-24

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL

: Construction of Hockey Training Centre at Tileibani, Deogarh. 1. Name of the Work . Value of the Work Rs.1195.15 Lakhs (Approx.)

: 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months

L Availability of tender online for Bidding Start Date

: 18:00 Hours of dt.02.02.2024

: 11:30 Hours of dt.17.02.2024 Opening date

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be

in e-procurement portal as well as on IDCO website. Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

OPR-14003/11/0367/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-II, CHANDIKHOLE nt Notice No.ACE, EC-II 12 OF 2023-24(On-line) Improvement to service road on Paika left Embankment from RD 10.124Km. 1 14.484Km. (Khurusiapat to Nilachalbazar) in the District of Kendrapara. Improvement to left bank service road of Kendrapara Canal from Marshaghai to Giranga Improvement to Left Bank Service road on K.Canal from RD, 39,530 Km, t 42,230Km, from village Girigola to Danpur. 4 Improvement to right bank service road of P.Canal from RD 55.045Km. to 58.00Km Improvement to road on left bank of P.Canal from RD 58.945Km. to 60.900Km Improvement to Canal System including lining of Distributary No.14 from R 2245Mtr. to 3425Mtr. of Pattamundai Canal. Restoration of communication facility on Baitarani left embankment near Banast Improvement to communication facility on CE No. 5(B)A on Baitarani le embankment from Akhuapada to Nereda 10 Improvement to right service bank of HLC Range-III from RD 0.00Km. to 7.00Km Restoration to road on Baitarani left embankment from Ambagadia to Birid Railway line 2 Restoration to left bank of Distributary No-2 of HLC Range-III 2. Total No. of Packages : 12 (Twelve) No. Individual Packages 1. Rs. 625.46 Lakh (Approximately); 2. Rs. 248.79 Lakh (Approximately); 3. Rs. 208.96 Lakh (Approximately); 4. Rs. 197.40 Lakh (Approximately); 5. Rs. 205.24 Lakh (Approximately); 6. Rs. 248.69 Lakh (Approximately); 7. Rs. 252.03 Lakh (Approximately); 8. Rs. 250.29 Lakh (Approximately); 10. Rs. 248.30 Lakh (Approximately); 11. Rs. 247.46 Lakh (Approximately); 12. Rs. 151.33 Lakh (Approximately); . Cost of Bid Docum Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment) for each Package (Non Refundable) 1. Rs. 6,25,500/-; 2. Rs. 2,48,800/-; 3. Rs. 2,09,000/-; 4. Rs. 1,97,500/-5. Rs. 2,05,300/-; 6. Rs. 2,48,700/-; 7. Rs. 2,52,100/-; 8. Rs. 2,50,400/-9. Rs. 2,50,300/-; 10.Rs.2,48,300/- ; 11.Rs.2,47,500/-; 12.Rs. 1,51,400/-Bid Security 6. Class of Contractor 1. "A" & "Special" for Package No. 1; 2."B" & "A" for Package No. 2 to 12. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) calendar months for all packages Bid Identification No Date of Opening Availability of Tender On-line for bidding Officer of Technical Bid (Cover-I)

15/02/2024 16/02/2024 01/02/2024 Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle - II at 11.30 A.M. 9. e-mail Id : seec2chandikhole@gmail.com

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle - II, Chandikhole. OPR-32322/11/0016/2324 =

INBRIDE BRIDE



2 pilots de-rostered for taking off without ATC clearance

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) de-rostered two IndiGo pilots after the airline's Delhi to Baku flight allegedly took off on Monday night without clearance from the air traffic controller. Sources at the Indira Gandhi International Airport said IndiGo's 6E 1803 from Delhi to Azerbaijan's Baku at 7:38 p.m. on Monday took off without a departure clearance from the air traffic controller. "The matter is under investigation. The two pilots have been de-rostered from duties pending investigation," said a DGCA official. The airline said in a separate statement, "The incident is currently under investigation and, appropriate action will be taken as necessary."

ED questions Tejashwi Yadav in land-for-jobs case in Patna

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav was questioned by the ED at its Patna office for several hours in a land-for-jobs case on Tuesday. This comes a day after his father and RJD chief Lalu Prasad was questioned for 10 hours. A crowd of RJD supporters and leaders camped outside the ED's office waiting for Mr. Tejashwi to come out. "This is not the office of the BJP. When elections come, Opposition party leaders get summons from them," said Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha. The ED has alleged that land was taken in the name of Mr. Prasad's family members in return for railway jobs while he was Railway Minister.

Modi pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 76th death anniversary. Mr. Modi paid floral tributes to the father of the nation at Rajghat in the morning and attended a prayer meeting at Gandhi Smriti in the evening.

"I pay homage to *Pujya* Bapu on his Punya Tithi. I also pay homage to all those who have been martyred for our nation. Their sacrifices inspire us to serve the people and fulfil their vision for our nation," he said in a post on X.

Educationist nominated to Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has nominated founder Chancellor of Chandigarh University and educationist Satnam Singh Sandhu to the Rajya Sabha.

The Union Home Ministry announced the decision in a notification here on Tuesday.

Centre starts survey on participation of women in workforce

Study undertaken to assess the spread of women employee-friendly practices such as running creche and equal pay for equal work

NEW DELHI

he Union Ministries of Labour & Employment and Women & Child Development have started a joint survey on increasing women participation in the workforce. The survey was announced by Union Minister Smriti Irani here on Tuesday at a function, "Women in the workforce for Viksit Bharat".

The survey is being undertaken to assess the spread of women employee-friendly practices in the country. Various international agencies and trade unions, including the International Labour Organization, had expressed concern over the decrease in participation of women workforce in the country.

Latest PLFS data

The latest results of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Labour Bureau last October, showed a considerable increase in women participation. In 2017-18, the participation rate was 23.3% and



increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 37% in 2022-23. FILE PHOTO

in 2022-23, 37%. The survey, conducted by the Un-Ministry ion Labour through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and other government agencies, has asked questions to the subscribers of government schemes about policies or initiatives for women by the companies they are employed

The government is seeking details such as formation of the internal complaints committee for prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace, creche for children, equal pay for equal work, flexible or remote working hours for women and transportation facilities during late hours.

A senior officer said the survey is carried out in a confidential manner. "We are not asking the names of [the women] or any other identification detail, except their gender," the officer said. The name of the company, its location and address are also sought in the survey.

'Give maternity leave to construction staff'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday asked employers to ensure digital payment of wages and paid maternity leave of 26 weeks to women construction workers. These two were a few measures that were part of advisories issued by the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, and Housing and Urban Affairs to agencies under them to encourage their participation in the workforce.

For more than two children and for adoption or

commissioning mothers, 12 weeks of paid maternity leave shall be provided by the employer. In addition to childbirth, the advisories addressed miscarriages, stipulating that if a woman in the construction sector experiences a miscarriage, she is entitled to leave with wages equivalent to maternity benefits for six weeks following the day of the miscarriage.

The advisory also emphasised the proactive role of employers in implementing policies and programmes to encourage women to join the workforce.

7 additional judges made permanent

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Seven additional judges posted in four High Courts were elevated as permanent judges on Tuesday.

Justices Ananya Bandyopadhyay, Rai Chattopadhyay, Shampa Dutt (Paul) and Raja Basu Chowdhury of the Calcutta High Court were made permanent judges. Justice Lapita Banerji of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Shobha Annamma Eapen

of the Kerala High Court and Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava of the Jharkhand High Court were also elevated. Justice Subhendu Samanta, an additional judge of the Calcutta High Court, was given a "fresh term" of one year effective from May 18.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the appointments in a post on X. Additional judges are usually appointed for a period of two years before being made judges.

Former MP's wife killed in Rajasthan road accident

The Hindu Bureau

Congress leader and former MP Manvendra Singh's wife Chitra Singh, 55, was killed in an accident on Tuesday in which he was injured. His son Hamir and driver also sustained inju-

Their car hit the sidewall of a flyover on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The accident occurred near Khushpuri village in Alwar district.

The cause of the accident is unclear, but the police said the driver appears to have lost control of the vehicle at a high speed and hit the sidewall. The family was travelling from New Delhi to Jaipur. The injured were rushed to a private hospital in Alwar. Mr. Singh, who was injured in the ribs, was stable.

After four years of survey, India's snow leopard count put at 718

Jacob Koshy

India has an estimated 718 snow leopards in the wild, according to a first-of-its kind, four-year-long estimation exercise, the results of which were made public on Tuesday.

The snow lead known to be an elusive cat and located in mountainous terrain that is hard to access, and the exercise for the first time marks a base threshold for the animal's numbers in India.

The highest number of cats was estimated to be in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (nine). The current estimate puts the number of Indian snow leopards between 10% and 15% of the global population.



locations and surveying 13,450 km of trails. GETTY IMAGES

The exercise involved setting up cameras, or camera traps, in 1,971 locations and surveying 13,450 km of trails which teams surveyed for recording signs of snow leopards such as scat, hair and other body markers. Much like the approach used in surveys to estimate tiger numbers, the States conducted the surveys and the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India, an autonomous body of the Union Environment Ministry, used software and statistical methods to estimate the number of individual cats that are present but not caught on camera and combined them with those caught on camera.

"Essentially we use a similar statistical approach to that being used in the tiger surveys for the past

20 years. It's a rigorously tested equation and not dependent on guesswork," V.B. Mathur, former head of the WII, involved in the study, told The Hindu.

"Over the years, technology and statistics has improved leading to better estimates. What we now have is a good, scientifically established baseline that will be a reference for future surveys," he added. The Snow Leopard Pop-

ulation Assessment in India (SPAI) began in 2019 and involves the World Wide Fund for Nature-India and the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, along with the WII.

The snow leopard is classified as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and faces threats from freeranging dogs, human-wildlife conflicts, and poach-

India nominates 12 forts of Marathas for UNESCO World Heritage List

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List for 2024-25.

The 12 forts included in this nomination are the forts of Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee in Tamil Nadu.

The "Maratha Military Landscapes", which developed between 17th and 19th centuries, represent an extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha



nominated for UNESCO World Heritage List. FILE PHOTO

rulers. This extraordinary network of forts, varying in hierarchies, scales and typological features, is a result of integrating the landscape, terrain and physiographic characteristics distinctive to the Sahyadri mountain ranges, Konkan Coast, Deccan Plateau and Eastern Ghats in the Indian Peninsula.

They are distributed across diverse geographical and physiographic regions and showcase the strategic military powers of the Maratha rule, the Union Culture Ministry said on Monday.

The inception of the Maratha military ideology dates back to 17th century during the reign of the Shivaji Maharaj from 1670 and continued through subsequent rules until the Peshwa rule till 1818 CE.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14085

get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

To solve this puzzle online,





13 Awareness of king currently on narrow platform (9)

Story not essentially missing skill (6) **16** Tiredness of stout one regularly missing gluten (7)

19 Invalidate fully in new order (7)

Not good working to conceal fortune - racket may be involved

25 Doctor cutting tea for coffee (5)

First to last shoe splitting tumble in kicking game (8) 28 It may be played by pawn easily losing heart (6)

29 Source of light on carrier - one that may fly through space (8)

1 Repeat broadcast of race outside Portugal (6)

Can no Yankee conceal anger? (5)

Crate also transported in device that moves up (9)

Part of piano made for one that keeps moving (5)

Star in retrospect embarrassed with editor, split away (8)

Whip returned for sport (4) Expel one minister in delight (9)

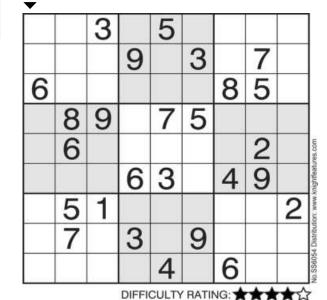
Mythical creature at this time on island (4)

Make up of criminal, firm on court (7)

Everyone amidst German operation to quickly make progress

24 Physicist split direct and alternating current (5) 25 Doctor on small hill to move fast (5)

SUDOKU



3 8 1 9 4 6 5 5 4 6 9 8 3 2 7 296734



Splendour of the Goddess

Sri Papanasam Sivan, in his composition, asks whether a child can live without the merciful care of its mother ('Thai irangavidil seiyuir vazhumo?'). A child bereft of the mother's help will display anguish and sadness.

The mother of the Universe, Goddess Mahalakshmi, emerged when celestials and asuras churned the ocean of milk using the Mandhara mountain as the churning staff; Vasuki, the king of serpents, as the cord; and Lord Narayana turning as a tortoise to support the churning. The Goddess made the auspicious bosom of Lord Vishnu her abode. Affluence personified, the Goddess illuminated with Her splendour. She is the Goddess of prosperity, wealth, tolerance, and patience.

Smt. Visaka Hari said in discourse that our backbone is the Mandara mountain, our veins and arteries (nadis) are the Vasuki-like cord, our heart is the ocean of milk, and our sitting posture for penance, the koorma (tortoise) asana, is to derive the nectar-like blessings of the Lord with His divine consort.

When Lord Vishnu descended on Earth as Sri Rama and Sri Krishna, the Goddess also descended as Sri Sita and Sri Rukmini. She is the divine energy of the Lord. She is called Jaganmatha (the mother of the Universe). She will reside where righteousness is upheld.

12 Mimicry by primate on railway line (5)

1 Glow in arcade, perhaps (8)

Across

10 Astuteness of copper aboard - so be it (6)

Number nine in standings at first in game (6)

Over concerned with correctness, engineer cited a new paper at

21 Clergyman to heal without a hint of therapy (6)

26 Encroachment at home beside street (6)

2 Grand old blade used in sport where one may have to evade (9)

What an insect may play? (7)

Charges a tenor in a bad way to enter a party uninvited (9)

Condescending aristocrat follows saint initially, braking is hard

BELFAST

Unionists to end boycott of Northern Ireland government



Northern Ireland's main pro-U.K. party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), said on Tuesday it endorses a deal with the U.K. government allowing it to end a long-running boycott of the province's devolved administration. The DUP walked out of the regional government in February 2022. AFP

HONG KONG

New Hong Kong law to crack down on pro-independence threats



REUTERS

Hong Kong's leader announced on Tuesday the city would urgently create a new security law to crush pro-independence threats, nearly four years after authorities extinguished a huge democracy movement. The law will expand on legislation imposed by China in June 2020 to silence dissent. AFP

BEIJING

U.S., China launch talks on fentanyl trafficking in a sign of cooperation



American and Chinese officials met on Tuesday to discuss joint efforts to stem the flow of fentanyl into the U.S., a sign of cooperation as the two global powers try to manage their contentious ties. The U.S. wants China to do more to curb the

export of chemicals that it says are processed into fentanyl. AP

BOGOTA

Colombia, National Liberation Army rebels extend ceasefire



Colombia's government and the nation's largest remaining rebel group announced on Monday they will extend their current ceasefire by one week to "improve the humanitarian situation", while delegates from both sides who are meeting in Cuba continue to discuss policies that could secure a longer lasting truce. AP

Khan's conviction a week before election is a mirror image of the past: diplomats

While diplomats point to similar cases against other leaders before previous Pakistani elections, control by the Generals appears tighter than in the past; they indicate that this year's election winners will also be 'selected, rather than elected' by the military establishment which pulls the strings

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

Pakistan ormer Prime Minister Imran Khan's latest conviction in the 'Cipher Case' on Tuesday, which comes just 10 days before the general elections, is a dramatic development, but one in step with past elections that have been "managed", said diplomats who have served there. They indicated that this year's election winners would also be "selected, rather than elected" by the military establishment.

While Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaaf (PTI) leaders called the 10-year prison sentence against Mr. Khan and former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi a "sham" and vowed to appeal to higher courts, it seems clear that the verdict is a blow for the party that won elections in 2018 and still claims to be the most popular party in the

"Imran Khan wasn't gi-

ven a fair trial, not given access to his counsel or media and public despite the higher courts orders, and the decision was reached in haste with no right given to defence counsel to cross-question the witnesses," Syed Zulfigar Bukhari, PTI's Adviser on International Affairs and Media, said in comments to The Hindu. "These cases are politically motivated and stand no chance in higher courts so we are hopeful decision will be overturned."

Role reversal

Former Indian diplomats to Pakistan pointed out that Mr. Khan is undoubtedly a victim, but of a system that he was the beneficiary of in previous elections, when roles were reversed with PML-N chief



Recurring pattern: Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi were sentenced to 10 years in prison in the Cipher case. AFP

and three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. In July 2018, with about two weeks to go to the elections, Mr. Sharif was convicted and handed a 10year sentence on charges of corruption, after being disqualified from public office in the 'Panama Papers' corruption cases, involving his property in London.

"What Imran Khan and the PTI face today is almost identical to what Nawaz Sharif and the PML-N faced then. So India should see this as one more Pakistani election and not very different from others," said former High Commissioner to Pakistan T.C.A. Raghavan, who was posted in Islamabad during 2013-15. "We should wait for the dust to settle and see what comes up."

Another former diplomat also said the conviction of Mr. Khan was not "surprising", and as in the past, all strings were being pulled by the Pakistani military. "This election is fast

turning into the mirror image of the 'managed' 2018 election, with Imran Khan at the receiving end of the wrath of the Army this time. The process of his conviction is as questionable as Nawaz Sharif's conviction in 2017-18," said Sharat Sabharwal, who served as High Commissioner to Pakistan during 2009-2013. "A managed election will neither solve the ongoing political crisis, nor result in a government capable of dealing effectively with Pakistan's intractable problems."

Ties with India

Asked about the impact of the expected results of the elections next week on ties with India, Mr. Sabharwal said there could be a "degree of thaw", including some movement on trade. "But the government's ability to deliver on the bilateral relationship will remain contingent upon the will of the Army," referring to Pakistan Army chief Gen. Asim Munir.

While many of the characteristics of previous Pakistani elections are being repeated in 2024, some developments suggest the control exercised by the establishment over elections is more extreme than in the past. In the 2008 elections, held after former PM Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, Mr. Khan's and his party boycotted elections, claiming they would be "manipulated" by the U.S. and then-President Gen. Musharraf to favour Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), but his party was allowed to contest. In 2013 and 2018, all three major national parties, PML-N, the PPP and the PTI were in contest, but this time, the PTI has had its election symbol of the "cricket bat" blocked or delisted by the courts, and as a result, PTI candidates are at a further disadvantage.

Israeli forces pose as women, storm West Bank hospital, kill 3

Associated Press

Israeli forces disguised as civilian women and medical workers stormed a hospital on Tuesday in the occupied West Bank, killing three Palestinian militants in a dramatic raid that underscored how deadly violence has spilled into the territory from the war in Gaza.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli forces opened fire inside the wards of the Ibn Sina Hospital in the town of Jenin. The Ministry condemned the raid and called on the international community to pressure Israel's military to halt such operations in hospitals. A hospital spokesperson said there was no exchange of fire, indicating that it was a targeted killing.

The military said the militants were using the hospital as a hideout, without providing evidence. It alleged that one of those targeted in the raid had transferred weapons and ammunition to others for a

The military said the militants were using the hospital as a hideout, without providing evidence

planned attack, purportedly inspired by the Hamas assault on southern Israel on October 7 that triggered the war in Gaza.

Footage said to be security camera video from the hospital that circulated on social media showed about a dozen undercover forces, most of them armed, dressed as women with Muslim headscarves or hospital staff in scrubs or white doctor's coats. One in a surgical mask carried a rifle in one arm and a folded wheelchair in the other. Meanwhile,

continued in the Gaza Strip, even as talks inched forward on a ceasefire to pause the war, which began when hundreds of Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting about 250 others.

Philippines, Vietnam sign deal on South China Sea

Associated Press HANOI

The Philippines and Vietnam signed agreements on Tuesday to prevent incidents in the South China Sea and broaden cooperation between their coast guards in a growing alliance that will likely be frowned upon by China, which claims virtually the

The agreements, along with discussions on enhancing information-sharing and training exchanges between the Vietnamese and Philippine militaries, were forged during a visit to Hanoi by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos

Both sides agreed to boost trade and investment and signed a key deal **Both countries have** had confrontations with China in the strategic waterway for global trade

The Philippines and Vietnam have had especialtense confrontations with China in the strategic waterway and key route for global trade in recent years. Territorial face-offs in the high seas between Chinese and Philippine ships intensified last year, fuelling fears of a wider conflict that could involve Washington, Manila's longtime treaty ally.

Although Chinese and Philippine officials agreed earlier this month at a meeting in Shanghai to take steps to de-escalate tensions, Mr. Marcos while in Hanoi raised his concerns over the long-seething disputes and cited inaggressive creasingly actions by the Chinese coast guard.

Vietnamese and Philippine officials did not release specific details of their agreements on managing incidents in the South China Sea and intensifying coordination on maritime issues.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Executive Engineer (C) Civil

Thiruvananthapuram invites on online percentage rate composite tenders for the following work No.24/EE-TVM/23-24(2ⁿ

call). Name of work Consruction of Post office building at Kumbla under Kasaragod Division, Kerala Circle, Estimated Cost: Rs 14093651/- (Rs. 13384585/- (Civil Portion) & Rs. (Electrical Portion)/-Money: Rs. 281873/- Period of completion: 18 months. Last date and time of submission of bid: 20.02.2024 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://eprocure.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

Sd/-CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR Date: 30.01.2024

entire waters.

Revenue Department OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001 **Phone No.**: 080 29565353/29604556 **Email**: splocaima-21@ka.gov.in

No: SPLOCA/ADM/80/2023-24

Date 29-01-2024.

Publication

Expression of Interest to appoint Advocate for Interstate Cases on Contract. Under the provisions of KTPP and within the powers conferred upon SPLOCA under 6(2) (d) of the KPIDFE act the Competent Authority can appoint legal practitioner or chartered accountant or any other person whose services are necessary for taking possession of assets and realization of the assets of the Financial Establishment. The SPLOCA calls for an EOI for contract appointment of advocates in Special courts

under PIDFE or other courts required in a) Kolkata Barasat and / or Sealdah Court / High Court and b) Special Court Ernakulam & c) Special Courts / High Courts of UP. EOI should include: (i) Name: (ii) Age: (iii) Address, E-mail & Contact Number: (iv) Year of LLB: (v) Years at Bar: (vi) Area of expertise and expected monthly retainership: (vii) Effective hearing charges: (viii) Ineffective hearing charges:

Clerkage: (a) Experience of working as an advocate for Government / investigating authorities is preferred.(b)Age not more than 50 years.(c) Proficiency in local language and English is essential.

Nature of Work:1) Assisting the arguing advocate of the Government organization.2) Attending the specific case for which the advocate will be appointed.3) Assisting in procuring necessary documents, evidence and interviewing witness.4) Interpreting Text and conversations in local language. 5) Filing process as and when required.

The consultancy fee shall be paid in the form of retainership and effective /ineffective charges, Clerkage charges as broadly applicable as charges of Government of Karnataka.

Last Date: 3rd February 2024, 5 pm.

DIPR/CP/3291/Zen/2023-24

Office Address: O/o SPLOCA, V.V Towers Podium Block, Bengaluru-01.

Email: splocaima21@gmail.com. Contact: 8197059992.

Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA & other KPIDFE cases **Revenue Department Bangalore**

राजस्थान मेडिकल सर्विसेज कॉपेरिशन रजि. कार्यालयः गाँधी ब्लॉक, स्वास्थ्य भवन, तिलक मार्ग,

CIN: U24232RJ2011SGC035067 Website: http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमाक : एफ.4 (1) / आरएमएससी / विशेषाधिकारी / अन्तर DDW परिवहन / 2023–25 / 5220

ई-<u>निविदा सूचना</u>

निगम के जिला / मेडिकल कॉलेज औषधि भण्डार गृहों (Inter DDW/MCDW) से औषधियों / सर्जिकल्स / सूचर्स आदि के राज्य के जि गुख्यालयों पर स्थित जिला औषधि भण्डार गृहों तक अन्तर जिला औषधि भण्डार गृह परिवहन कार्य (Inter DDW/MCDW Transfer) एवं NOSC अधिधियों के राज्य एवं राज्य से बाहर परिवहन हेतु 24 माह के लिए दर संविदा हेतु परिवहन व्यवसाय अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत / अनुमवी संस्थाओं / कोरियर सेवा प्रदाताओं से ई—निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई—निविदाएं निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ही मान्य होंगी। ई—निविदा प्रपत्र, शर्ते एवं अन्य विवरण कार्यालय समय में ई—निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 07.02.2024 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जावेगी एर दिनाक 07.02.2024 को साय 04:00 बजे उपस्थित ई—निविदादाताओं के समक्ष निगम मुख्यालय पर खोली जाएगी।

क्र. स	विवरण	अनुमानि त राशि (₹ लाखों में)	बोली प्रतिभूति (bid securi ty) (₹ लाखों में)	ई—निविदा शुल्क (₹)	प्रोसेसिंग फीस	प्रि–बिड मीटिंग की तिथि व समय	ई—निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय की प्रारंभ की तिथि	ई—निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय की अंतिम तिथि एव समय	ई—निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई—निविदा प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
2.	कॉल्ड वैन अन्तर्गत औषधियाँ आदि के कार्टून अन्तर जिला / मेडिकल कॉलेज औषधि मण्डार गृह (Inter DDW/MCDW) / निगम मुख्यालय पर परिवहन कार्य (राज्य एवं राज्य से बाहर) नौंन कॉल्ड चैन अन्तर्गत अन्तर्शत जीवधियाँ/ आदि के कार्टून अन्तर जिला / मेडिकल कॉलेज औषधि मण्डार गृह (Inter DDW/MCDW) / निगम मुख्यालय पर	132.00	2%	2360.00 (2000+ 18% GST)	2360.00 (2000+ 18% GST)	29.01.2024 3.00 PM	19.01.2024 6.00 PM	06.02.2024 6.00 PM	07.02.2024 12.00 PM	07.02.2024 4.00 PM

ई–निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाईट "<u>http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</u>" से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है एवं वेबसाईट www.dipronline.org", "sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "<u>http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in</u>" पर देखा जा सकता है। ई–निवेद गॅनलाईन इलेक्ट्रोनिक फॉरमेट में वेबसाईट ''<mark>http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</mark>'' पर ही प्रस्तुत की जाएगी। ई–निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क राशि र 2360.00 (2000+18% GST सहित), RISL प्रोसेसिंग फीस, राशि रू. 2360.00 (2000+18% GST सहित) के डी.डी. व बोली प्रतिभूति (bio security) के पेटे राशि रू. 2.64 लाख का डी.डी. (देय आरएमएससी, जयपुर) अलग—अलग दिनांक 07.02.2024 दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक निग कार्यालय में जमा करवाना आवश्यक है। ई—निविदा के दिनांक 07.02.2024 दोपहर 1200 बजे तक तकनीकी ई—निविदा के साथ Gener Scanned copy Upload की जा सकती है । विशेषाधिकार्र

राज सवाद / सी / 23 / 12373

आरएमएससी

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF **TELANGANA LIMITED**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of Four (4 pirector posts i.e., Projects, Operations, Commercial and Finance in TSSPDCL. The format of application and other details may be downloaded from www.tssouthernpower.com under Careers link.

R.O.No.:896-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Date:30.01.2024

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-Tender Notice O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Kollam E-tender ID: 2024 KSEB 643910 1

Last Date - 02.02.2024, 05.00pm PAC: Rs. 632.25 Lakhs E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_645306_2 PAC: Rs. 1224.834 Lakhs Last Date - 14.02.2024, 06.00pm E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_645797_1 **Last Date -** 09.02.2024, 05.00pm PAC: Rs. 536.775 Lakhs

E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_646191_1 PAC: Rs. 661.602 Lakhs Last Date - 09.02.2024, 05.00pm O/o the Chief Engineer (SCM), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapurar E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_651292_1

PAC: 25.55.67.348/-Last Date - 09.02.2024. 05.00pm E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_651190_1 **Last Date -** 20.02.2024, 05.00pm PAC: 6,06,31,309/-Ref: PR/MC1/E463/E-tender/2024 Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.ii

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING) Ph: 04842323448/458

F.No: LDCL/Stevedoring-1 Dt: 22.01.2024

engagement of Stevedoring

TENDER E-tender is invited for

agency for Stevedoring Agency Service for UTLA owned Cargo Barges. For details and E tendering please visit website https://www.tenderwizard. com/UTL and https:// tendersutl.gov.in Tender due on 12.02.2024 at 11.00 AM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 080-40482000 / 9605557738/ 9686115318 **(https://** tenderwizard.com/UTL) and 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787 (https:// tendersutl.gov.in). Sd/- MD (LDCL)

Office of the Electricity Department THRISSUR CORPORATION **THRISSUR** RDSS-3116/23 & 4479/23 Dated: 30.01.2024

of security based pre-printed

computer stationery for Board are

invited through e-procurement

from the reputed firms. Last date

of submission of bid is 12/02/2024

till 03.00 pm. Details of tender

document is available on www

eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.

sppp.rajasthnan.gov.in. UBN: SEB2324WSOB00031

e-Tender Notice

"Implementation of ERPSI" "LT ABC re-conductoring work"

log on to: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

(Sd/-) Assistant Secretary

Business



TCS extends contract with U.K. firm Aviva for 15 years

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) has announced a 15-year extension of its contract with Aviva, the U.K.'s Insurance, Wealth and Retirement provider, to transform its U.K. Life business and enhance customer experience. As part of this, the end-to-end policy administration and servicing will be expanded to cover more than 5.5 million policies to be managed by Diligenta, TCS's FCA regulated subsidiary in the U.K., on behalf of Aviva, TCS said in a statement.

IKEA expands e-com footprint to 62 districts in four States

IKEA, the Swedish omnichannel home furnishings retailer, has announced the introduction of its e-commerce deliveries across 62 districts in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh on increasing customer demand. "We will leverage the distribution capabilities of our existing physical stores in these States to fulfill the demand from online channels," said Susanne Pulverer, CEO & CSO (Chief Sustainability Officer), IKEA India.

Coromandel International Q3 net profit plunges to ₹228 cr.

Murugappa group company Coromandel International reported consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December declined sharply to ₹228.11 crore from ₹526.85 crore in the year earlier. Revenue from operations of the company stood at ₹5,464.15 crore (₹8,309.59 crore). Contribution of nutrient and allied business to the revenue was ₹4,902.66 crore (₹7,709.83 crore), while crop protection solutions accounted for ₹615.44 crore (₹652.58 crore).

IMF says global 'soft landing' in sight, lifts 2024 growth outlook

Lender upgrades outlook for U.S., China, the two largest economies; cites quicker-than-expected easing of inflation; raises India's growth forecast

WASHINGTON

he International Monetary Fund on Tuesday lifted its forecast for global economic growth, upgrading the outlook for both the United States and China - the two largest economies – and citing faster-than-expected easing of inflation.

The IMF's chief economist, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, said the updated World Economic Outlook showed that a "soft landing" was in sight, but overall growth and global trade still remained lower than the historical average.

'Remarkable resilience'

"The global economy continues to display remarkable resilience, with inflation declining steadily and growth holding up. The chance of a 'soft landing' has increased," Mr. Gourinchas told reporters in Johannesburg, adding, "We are very far from a global recession scenario."

But he cautioned that the base of expansion was slow and risks remained, including geopolitical tensions in West Asia and attacks in the Red Sea that could disrupt commodity prices and supply chains.

Delays in announced fiscal consolidation in what Mr. Gourinchas called "the biggest global election year



prices would drop 2.3% in

2024, versus the 0.7% de-

cline it had predicted in

October, and said prices

were expected to drop

Growth in India is project-

ed to remain strong at 6.5%

in both calendar 2024 and

2025, with an upgrade from October by 0.2 per-

centage point for both

years, on resilient domes-

tic demand, the IMF said.

soft landing will not be ea-

sy," Mr. Gourinchas said,

noting that new commodi-

ty price spikes from geo-

political shocks, including

continued attacks on ship-

ping in the Red Sea, could

prolong tight monetary

watching developments in

West Asia closely, but the

broader economic impact

appeared "relatively limit-

He added the IMF was

conditions.

ed" as of now.

"Staying on the path to a

Raises India outlook

4.8% in 2025.

in history" could boost economic activity but might also spur inflation, he added.

The IMF said the improved outlook was supported by stronger private and public spending despite tight monetary conditions, as well as increased labour force participation, mended supply chains and cheaper energy and commodity prices.

The IMF forecast global growth of 3.1% in 2024, 0.2 percentage point higher than its October projection. The historical average for the 2000-2019 period was 3.8%. Global trade was expected to expand by 3.3% in 2024 and 3.6% in 2025, well below the historical average of 4.9%.

The IMF stuck with its October forecast for headline inflation of 5.8% for 2024, but lowered the 2025 forecast to 4.4%. from 4.6% in October.

The IMF said average oil

Larsen Q3 net profit rises 15% to ₹2,947 cr.

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro Ltd. reported third-quarter consolidated net profit grew 15% to ₹2,947 crore, from ₹2,653 crore in the yearearlier period due to better performance of its energy projects and IT services segments, and aided by better execution at its infrastructure division.

For the period ended December 31, 2023, L&T reported consolidated revenue of ₹55,128 crore recording a year-on-year growth of 19%, aided by a ramp up in execution of a strong order book in the Projects and Manufactur-



S.N. Subrahmanyan

ing portfolio.

S.N. Subrahmanyan, Chairman and Managing Director, L&T, said: "We have registered yet another quarter of strong performance, despite the headwinds from a volatile global environment and consequent supply chain

NCLT issues notice to Sony and ZEEL on suit seeking merger

Press Trust of India MUMBAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Tuesday accepted a petition by a Zee Entertainment shareholder seeking the merger of its Indian entity with Sony, which was called off last week despite regulatory approvals.

The Mumbai-bench of NCLT issued notices on a petition moved by Mad Men Film Ventures, a shareholder of Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL), directing Sony Pictures India, Network

known as Culver Max, to file a reply in three weeks. Mad Men Film Ventures

on Tuesday filed the petition requesting both ZEEL and Sony to implement the merger as it was approved by NCLT in August 2023.

NCLT has set March 12 for the next hearing.

Last week, Sony called off the merger with ZEEL following a stalemate over who will lead the merged entity. This merger could have created a \$10 billion media enterprise in India.

The merger was stipulated to be completed before Dec. 21, 2023.

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,140	-1.11
US Dollar	83.10	0.07
Gold	63,300	0.31
Brent oil	82.19	0.51

PRICE CHANGE

6309.80	19.95
2954.10	21.95
1054.10	7.15
7566.40	17.60
1590.55	46.40
6817.20	374.45
1158.65	-3.50
504.20	11.55
5091.75	45.15
1317.10	19.75
402.55	10.25
3551.70	18.90
5840.95	2.75
3704.75	35.70
2126.15	21.65
1559.30	15.25
1444.30	10.35
575.00	-3.55
4588.35	-5.15
569.25	1.35
2458.65	14.25
1016.90	0.50
1519.90	-6.90
1651.45	5.15
438.05	
812.00	0.30
1823.60	0.70
3633.30	74.70
5352.80	95.55
1620.35	19.65
9951.65	39.75
2492.05	-6.50
315.45	9.10
249.20	
254.10	0.15
2815.25	80.85
1399.00	19.40
626.75	3.80
1371.75	29.10
1122.90	18.15
858.85	17.85
134.70	-0.30
3800.55	
1317.85	
3735.75	
9963.60	
535.25	
472.50	
	2954.10. 1054.10. 7566.40. 1590.55. 6817.20. 1158.65. 504.20. 5091.75. 1317.10. 402.55. 3551.70. 5840.95. 3704.75. 2126.15. 1559.30. 1444.30. 575.00. 458.35. 569.25. 2458.65. 1016.90. 1823.60. 3633.30. 3633.30. 3535.80. 1620.35. 2492.05. 3315.45. 2492.0. 254.10. 2815.25. 13371.75. 1122.90. 858.85. 1317.75. 1122.90. 858.85. 1317.85. 3735.75.

EXCHANGE RATES

URRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
S Dollar	82.91	83.23
uro	89.74	90.09
ritish Pound	105.08	105.49
apanese Yen (100)	56.26	56.48
hinese Yuan	11.55	11.59
wiss Franc	96.05	96.42
ngapore Dollar	61.87	62.12
anadian Dollar	61.84	62.08
alaysian Ringitt	17.53	17.61
ustralian Dollar	54.72	54.93

Rane Brake Lining Q3 net climbs 10% to ₹10 crore

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> CHENNAI

Rane Brake Lining Ltd. (RBL) reported standalone net profit for the December quarter rose 10% from the year-earlier period to ₹10 crore.

Revenue from operations increased to ₹164 crore from ₹153 crore, while cost of materials remained almost unchanged at ₹87 crore, the leading manufacturer of brake linings and disc pads said.

"Demand continues to remain robust in India except aftermarket though there are increased risk factors globally," Rane Group Chairman L. Ganesh said in a statement.

Roca India to invest

₹400 cr. for capacity

expansion in TN

Wheels India Q3 net declines 18% on low demand and floods

The Hindu Bureau

Wheels India Ltd. standalone net profit for the December quarter contracted by 18% to ₹13 crore from the year-earlier period due to low demand in the tractor and mining wheel segments and floods.

Revenue from operations rose 13% to ₹1.131 crore driven by a strong recovery in exports. Exports grew to ₹307 crore from ₹205 crore, the leading manufacturer of wheels for trucks and agricultural tractors among others said in a statement.

"The profits in Q3 were impacted by low demand in the tractor and mining



wheel segments and by the floods that affected our Padi plant in the first week of December," said Wheels India Managing Director Srivats Ram. "There was no power for a week at our plant in Padi, and we were not able to run it to full capacity in that period," Mr. Ram added.

Shanthi Gears Q3 net slips marginally to ₹17.43 crore

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> CHENNAI

Shanthi Gears Ltd. (SGL) standalone net profit for the December quarter contracted marginally to ₹17.43 crore, from ₹17.54 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations rose 9% to ₹125.54 crore, while costs of materials increased to ₹67 crore from ₹50 crore, the Tube Investments' subsidiary said in a statement.

SGL generated free cash flow of ₹8 crore (₹6.5 crore) and its order book grew 19% to ₹142 crore.

The board declared an interim dividend of ₹3 per share and it is payable by February 23.

Tender No : RE-E-Tn.No. 229, 230, 231, 232/2023 - 24/SE/PH C/ALP-RT-5, RE-E-Tn.No. 233 234, 235, 236/2023-24/SE/PHC/ALP-RT-4, JJM - Haripad - (1) Construction of 6LL OHSR, 7LI OHSR, 6LL OHSR 10LL Sump zone - 4, Cheruthana & Kumarapuram pump no. 3, 4 & 5 zone ORSK, BLL ORSK INCL SUMP 2016 - 4, Chefuturian a Kulmarapuram pinin 10. 3, 4 & 3 2019 - 2, Mavelikkara Thazhakkara, Cheftikulangara & Karipuzha and near by Pts-Construction of WTP OHSR Supply and installation of Transmission mains and Distribution mains, (2) Haripad - 9LL OHSR 6LL OHSR, Devikulangara zone - 5, Thrikkunnapuzha, Karthikappally & Chingoli zone - 3, Constructor of 12LL OHSR, 15LL OHSR - Supply and installation of Transmission mains and Distribution mains, EMD: Rs.2,00,000/- to Rs.5,00,000/- Tender Fee: Rs.13,010/- to Rs.19,518/-, Last Date for Submitting Tender: 12-02-2024, 02:00 pm, Phone: 0477 - 2237954 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-2229-2023-24
Superintending Engineer, PH circle, Alappuzh

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर

निविदा सुचना संख्या: 47 वर्ष 2023-2024

NIB No. PWD2324A4184

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सीआरआईएफ योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्मूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। कार्यवार यूबीएन संख्या निम्नानुसार है। 1. PWD2324WLOB18097 (देवीलाल आर्य), अतिरिक्त मख्य अभियन्त

सा.नि.वि. संभाग, प्रथम, जोधपुर डीआईपीआर/सी/268/2024

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

PSPCL is in the process of registration of suitable firms/buyers/recyclers fo disposal of General Scrap, Used/Dirty T/f Oil, Lubricating Oil, Battery Scrap E-waste, Plastic Wastelying in various central Stores, TRYs and Outlet store throughout Puniab and various types of vehicles related to Projects & Operation rganisation through e-auction.

The documents and other compliances required along with General Terms & Conditions for e-auctioning of sale of scrap, obsolete, unserviceable material of PSPCL for registration process are available at https://www.pspcl.in/e-auction notice.aspx. The firms interested for registration with the PSPCL may registe by visitinig the link https://www.tenderwizard.com/PSPCL after fulfilling the equirements of PSPCL. For any query, please contact the undersigned. Sr.Xen/Disposal

O/o C.O.S. and D. (South)

76155/12/2651/2023/31866

PUNJAB AGRO

PUNJAB AGRI EXPORT **CORPORATION LTD. (PAGREXCO)** (A Punjab State Govt. Undertaking)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF B2B-SERVICE PROVIDER

PAGREXCO invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of Service Providers for Sale of fresh fruits & vegetables/ products processed by PAGREXCO in B2B-Domestic/ International Market by procuring

Interested parties can submit their sealed offers superscribing "EOI: Empanelment of B2B Service Provider by 15.02.2024 upto 5 P.M. For details log onto: www.punjabagro.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum(s) shall be published on the **Managing Director**

Ph.+91 172 5074210-15 & 5073140 Email: khushdeepika.singh@punjab.gov.in CIN No. U51909CH1997SGC019321 www.punjabagro.gov.in

Plot No. 2 A, Sector 28A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh

bid system) for the Medical Equipment. For details Log on to the website https://

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES-TIRUPATI TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS (A University established by an Act of A.P.State Legislature)

tender.apeprocurement.gov.in & https://svimstpt.ap.nic.in The Director-cum-VC reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SRI BALAJI AROGYA VARAPRASADINI SCHEME" \ DIRECTOR-CUM-VC

e-TENDER NOTICE

enders are invited through e-tendering process in ap-eprocurement platform (Two

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking) (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal) BESCOM invites tender for the following Enquiry No.BESCOM

/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT99 For "Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of all makes of DAS and Non DAS RMUs of all configurations in East Circle area of BESCOM for a period of two years on total turnkey percentage quoting basis" Bid documents available on 31.01.2024 onwards, Last Date for Bid submission on 20.02.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Opening of Bid Document on 21.02.2024 at 15:15 hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Bidders can take assistance with KPP helpdesk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

General Manager (Ele.,) Procurement, BESCOM



No. EE/RRN-Lakesh)/Tend-06/2023-24 Date: 30.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2) (Two Cover System), (Through GOK Kppp Portal)

The Executive Engineer, (RRN-Lakes) BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders on item rate basis for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors with CPWD/ KPWD/Railways/MES or any Central/State Govt. Organisations.

SI. No.	Name of work / Category	Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Providing chain link fencing to Gandhinagara, Hosakerehalli Lake. (General).	100.00	2.00
2.	Providing chain link fencing to Kannalli Lake. (General).	150.00	2.25
3.	Providing chain link fencing to Konasandra Lake. (General).	200.00	3.00
4.	Providing chain link fencing at Rajarajeshwari Nagara Assembly Constituency. (General).	150.00	2.25
5.	Providing chain link fencing at Yashwanthpur Assembly Constituency. (General).	150.00	2.25

Calendar of Events: (1) Available of Tender Documents from: 31.01.2024 after 11:00 a.m. (2) Pre-bid meeting will be held on : **05.02.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: 07.02.2024 upto 4:00 p.m. (4) Opening of Technical bid: **08.02.2024 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of financial bid: will be informed later (after approval of technical bid). Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (RRN-Lakes), BBMP.

Spain-based sanitaryware major Roca Group an-

N. Anand

CHENNAI

nounced it would invest ₹400 crore in Tamil Nadu towards process automation of plastics and sanitaryware, capacity expansion of pipes and fittings and upgradation of the Global Technical Centre in Sriperumbudur, said a top official.

"All these investments are expected to be completed by the year end," said Roca India MD K. Nirmal Kumar while interacting with the State Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and the visiting delegates in Ma-



the investment conclave in Madrid. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

drid on Tuesday.

"Roca India has committed to invest further in process automation to export products to Europe and Australia. Besides, we will be modernising the factories to produce products to meet the consumer demand," he told *The Hindu*.

rises 11% to ₹1,380 cr. **The Hindu Bureau** share gain in the U.S., new

Dr. Reddy's Q3 net

HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories reported consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December increased 11% year on year to ₹1,380.9 crore on the back of growth in mainstay global generics business in the U.S and Europe markets.

Total revenue from operations increased more than 6% to ₹7236.8 crore (₹6789.8 crore), according to the results prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards.

"We delivered another quarter of highest ever sales and robust financial performance aided by new products performance and base business market

products launch momentum and strong performance in Europe," cochairman and MD G.V. Prasad said in a statement. Price erosion in certain

markets partially offset the gains of increase in volumes of the base business and new product launches. Global generics revenue stood at ₹6,312.4 crore (₹5,927.6 crore), CFO Parag Agarwal said. On the impact on the sit-

uation in Red Sea, he said, "We have been able to divert to different routes... [translating into] some cost escalation and some increase in inventory levels, which we have done to ensure that our sales do not suffer."

REHAB

Pant slowly getting fit, expected to return to the pitch this year



FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAF

Rishabh Pant on Tuesday provided an injury update as he looks to regain fitness ahead of the upcoming IPL. He posted a story on Instagram, sweating it out in the gym, as he looks to make his first appearance on the field since December 2022. He is expected to return to the pitch this year.

TALISMAN

India badly missed Kohli in **Hyderabad Test: Boycott**



K. MURALI KUMAR

Former England opener Geoffrey Boycott feels India missed Virat Kohli in the series opener. "Kohli is their talisman. He is a magnificent batter who averages 60 on Indian pitches but he also gives them great energy in the field... England must make the most of it before he comes back for the third Test," Boycott said.

NOT QUITTING

Venus Williams plans to make a return in Indian Wells



Venus Williams is preparing for a return to tennis during the North American hard-court season, and she is drawing inspiration from her sister Serena Williams. "One of my big goals is to play United States, to play in the Miami Open and at Indian Wells. I have not played there since 2019 due to injuries," Venus said.

IMPRESSIVE SHOW

Paltan rout Titans to return to the top of PKL standings



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan scored a crushing 60-29 win over Telugu Titans to go to the top of the standings in the Pro Kabaddi League in Patna on Tuesday. Akash Shinde (11 raid points), Mohd. Chiyaneh Shadloui (7 points) and Abinesh Nadarajan (5 tackle points) did the star turn for Paltan in their comprehensive victory.

Musheer and Saumy star as India romps past NZ

The opener flays the Kiwi attack to score 131, crosses 300 runs in this edition; Adarsh chips in with a fifty; the spinner then takes over as the opponent is skittled out for 81





Dazzling duo: Saumy got into the act after Musheer took India close to the 300-run mark. TWITTER@ICC/BCCI

UNDER-19 WC

Press Trust of India

usheer Khan's superlative showing in the ongoing ICC U-19 World Cup continued as his second hundred trampled New Zealand by 214 runs in a Super Six encounter here

After India's top performer Musheer's 131, backed by opener Adarsh Singh's 52, powered India to a huge total of 295 for eight, left-arm spinner Saumy Kumar Pandey (four for 19) and pacer Raj Limbani (two for 17) ripped apart New Zealand's top-order to bowl it out for 81 in 28.1

Limbani struck off the first and fifth deliveries of ensure that the momentum remained with India.

ished with splendid figures of 10-2-19-4 as he knocked the stuffing out of the Black Caps' chase.

look like going all the way.

For New Zealand, it was its third heaviest defeat in terms of runs and also its third lowest total in the Under-19 World Cup.

Earlier, Musheer flaved the Kiwi attack to score his second century of the 2024 edition while opener Adarsh Singh struck 52 as India set its opponent a stiff 296-run target.

the New Zealand innings to

Left reeling at 27 for four in the PowerPlay, New Zealand could never stage a comeback as the Indian colts, like in every edition,

Third heaviest loss

On a perfect batting

wicket at the Mangaung Oval, Musheer tore apart the Kiwi bowlers to become the first batter in the Vice-captain Saumy fincurrent edition to go past the 300-run mark, going past Pakistan's Shahzaib

Khan with his superb Musheer, en route his 131, blasted 13 fours and three sixes off just 125 balls and once again showed the

right temperament to up the ante when it mattered. His innings, which was marked by fine running between the wickets, ended when he was looking to accelerate in the slog

Musheer and Adarsh carried out a fine recovery job with a 77-run stand for the second wicket after an

looked good while driving

early blow for India. Adarsh took charge of attacking the bowlers as he on the rise and also played the pull-shot with elan.

Unfortunately he failed to keep a drive in check when Zac Cumming teased him with one outside the off-stump.

A thick edge off Adarsh's bat flew to Oliver Tewatiya at point in the 18th over. The left-handed opener with six fours.

Skipper Uday Saharan was dismissed for 35 (57b,

Saharan put on 87 with Musheer – İndia's best for the day - before Saumy and Limbani ran through New Zealand.

The scores:

India 295/8 in 50 overs (Adarsh Singh 52, Musheer Khan 131, Uday Saharan 34, Mason Clarke 4/62) bt New Zealand 81 in 28.1 overs (Saumy Pandey 4/19). India's next match: Feb. 2 vs.

India's conundrum ahead of crucial second Test

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar VISAKHAPATNAM

Bad things come in threes. Maybe in fours, in the case of the Indian cricket team.

A defeat at home after taking a lead of 190 is bad enough, but being forced to rejig the eleven for the next game can be quite a challenge. India indeed has to sort a few things out before the second Test against England begins here on Friday.

Mohammed Shami has been out of action, because of an ankle injury, since his spectacular show at the World Cup. Then, Virat Kohli pulled out of the squad for the first two Tests because of personal reasons.

K.L. Rahul was the obvious choice to occupy Kohli's No. 4 position and the Karnataka batter justified the team management's faith in him by making a fine 86 in the first innings, but has quadriceps pain and will not feature in the second Test.

The only Indian who scored more than Rahul at Hyderabad also sustained an injury and is not available, either. Ravindra Jadeja will be badly missed. He is not merely a world class spinner but a reassuring presence in the middle-order, not to mention his left-handedness.

Remember, there is no Rishabh Pant, either; the dashing left-hander is still recovering from the injuries he sustained from a car accident over a year ago. It perhaps is not the best of times to be the Indian coach, captain or se-



as India looks to draw level. K. R. DEEPAK

lector. They will have to make some choices within the next couple of days before the team takes on a history-making, raring-togo England side at the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Stadi-

Obvious chances

An Indian batter is bound to make his Test debut on that ground. Rajat Patidar, Kohli's replacement, had joined the team on the eve of the Hyderabad Test, while Sarfaraz Khan was named in the squad on Monday.

They both have played for India-A against the touring England Lions and have had considerable success. Patidar, the top-order batter from Madhya Pradesh who made his ODI debut in South Africa last month, had scores like 111 and 151 against the Lions at Ahmedabad. Sarfaraz, Mumbai's run-machine extraordinaire in the middleorder, had scores such as 96, 55 and 161.

The team management may not find it easy to fill the Jadeja-shaped hole. Kuldeep Yadav's left-arm wrist spin is a fascinating option - he has been in excellent form with the white ball and from his eight Tests, he has three fivewicket hauls - but, of course, he is all-rounder.

Washington Sundar is. He made 62 in his first Test innings and in the second, he hooked Pat Cummins for a stunning six that changed the course of India's historic chase at the Gabba against Australia three years ago. The offspinning all-rounder scored 96 not out in his last Test innings.

India's other spinning option, Saurabh Kumar, can also bat, and has two First Class hundreds. It would be interesting to see if the host would consider playing just the one seamer in Jasprit Bumrah and play a spinning all-roun-

Sharath confident of Indian



Mayank Agarwal. FILE PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR

Mayank survives serious health scare

N. Sudarshan BENGALURU

Test cricketer and Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal survived a serious health scare on Tuesday, just as he and his teammates were about to fly out of Agartala for Delhi en route Surat for their next Ranji Trophy match against Railways starting this Friday.

According to team sources, Mayank allegedly consumed spirit (disinfectant and cleaning agent) in the Indigo flight after mistaking it for bottle of drinking water.

He is said to have spat out most of it after experiencing an immediate burning sensation, and was quickly deplaned and rushed to a local hospital, where he continues to be in the ICU.

There is, however, no threat to the 32-year-old's life and he is currently stable, The Hindu understands. Mayank will be assessed further and then flown to Bengaluru for the next stage of treatment.

Because of the incident, the Delhi-bound flight left Agartala only at 4.20 p.m. and the Karnataka team missed its connecting plane to Surat. The team will thus fly out of Delhi Wednesday morning.

Tamil Nadu's Keerthana causes a flutter, rewrites National youth record in girls' 81kg

KHELO GAMES

Sports Bureau CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu weightlifter R.P. Keerthana broke the National youth record in snatch, clean and jerk and overall to clinch the gold in the girls' 81kg category at the Khelo India Youth

Games here on Tuesday. Keerthana lifted a total of 188 kgs, including 85kg in snatch and 106kg in clean & jerk to finish ahead of Statemate K. Oviya (184kg). The previous record in snatch (81kg), clean & jerk (104kg) and overall (185kg) was held by Ch. Srilakshmi of Andhra Pradesh set at the National youth championships last year in Nagercoil.

Manipur won the girls' football gold for the second successive time, defeating West Bengal on penalties

8-7 in the final, after the teams played out a goalless draw in the regulation

Maharashtra is at the top of the medals tally with 53 gold, 46 silver and 50 bronze medals. Haryana is in second position (35, 22, 46) while Tamil Nadu is in third place (35, 20, 36).

The results:

Archery: Recurve: Boys: Recurve: 1. Shubham Kumar (Bih); 2. Laishram Nelson (Man); 3. Atharva Sharma (Raj). Girls: 1. Avani (Har); 2. Sharvari Shende (Mah); 3. Jannat (Har).

Compound: Boys: 1. Sukhmandeep Singh (Pun); 2. Harsh Kumar (Chd); 3. Mihir Apar (Mah); Girls: 1. Aditi Gopichand Swami (Mah); 2. Tejal Salve (Mah); 3. Kumud Saini (Del) Mixed team: Recurve: 1.

Shende (Mah); 2. Agastay Singh & Avani (Har), 3. Atharva Sharma & Pranial Tholiva (Rai). Compound: 1. Manav Jadhao & Aditi Swami (Mah); 2. Pendyala Trinath Chowdary & Kengam

Pruthviraj Ghadge & Sharvari



gold with a new record. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Saranya (AP); 3. Aryan Yadav & Kumud Saini (Del). Badminton (finals): Boys: M.A.

Laksh Chengappa (Kar) bt Ansh Negi (Utk) 21-17, 21-13. **Doubles:** G.P. Vinavakram & M. Swastik (TN) bt Bhavya Chabra & Param Choudhary (Del) 21-18, 21-18. Girls: 1. T. Surya Charishma (AP)

21-14. Doubles: Taarini Suri & Shravani Walekar (Mah) bt Pragati Parida & Vishakha Toppo (Odi) 21-13, 20-22, 21-16. Shooting: Mixed team: 1. Yuvek

bt Aesha Gandhi (Guj) 21-14,

Battula & Venkat Lakku (TS); 2. Vanshika Tiwari & Udyaman Rathore (MP); 3. Zorawar Bedi &

Tennis: Doubles final: Girls: Maaya Raieshwari & Lakshmi Prabha (TN) bt Suhitha Maruri & Sreenidhi Balaji (Kar) 6-2, 6-1. Weightlifting: Boys: +102kg: 1. Suvansh Thakur (HP) 280kg; 2. David Zohmingmawla (Miz): 3. Sarth Jadhav (Mah). Girls: 81kg:

1. R.P. Keerthana (TN) 188kg; 2. K.

Oviya (TN); 3. Santushti

Choudhary (UP). +81kg: 1.

Amritha P. Suni (Ker) 181kg; 2.

Aditi (UP); 3. Y. Chaitna Kumari Swimming: Boys: 200m medley: 1. Yug Chelani (Raj) 2:10.73; 2. Siddhant Singh Jadon (MP); 3. Saswata Roy (WB); 200m backstroke: 1. Nithik Nadella (TN) 2:04.60; 2. Rishabh Anupam

Das (Mah); 3. Akash Mani (Kar); 800m freestyle: 1. Mongam Theerdu Samadev (AP) 8:29.77; 2. Gotteti Sampath Kumar Yadav (AP): 3. S. Dharshan (Kar). Girls: 200m medley: 1. Shreenithi Natesan (TN) 2:26.78; 2. Saanvi Deshwal (Mah); 3. Subhranshini Priyadarshini

(Asm): 200m backstroke: 1.

Palak Ashutosh Joshi (Mah)

Naisha (Kar).

2:18.59; 2. Sri Nithya Sagi (TS); 3.

men booking Paris ticket K. Keerthivasan India's star paddler Sharath

CHENNAI

Kamal is quite confident of the Indian men's team qualifying for the Paris Olympics through the World team table tennis championships in Busan from February 16 to 25.

"This is our last chance [World team championships] to make it to the quadrennial event. I am pretty confident we can make it to the knockouts (top three make the grade from eight groups). If we make it to the quarterfinals, we can make it to Paris. "Our men's team is

ranked 16 now. We will go up to 15 once the world team rankings are released next week. Of course, the deadline is July 2024," said the 41-year-old here on Tuesday. The Indian men's team is in Group 3 with Korea, Poland, New Zealand



Sharath. M. VEDHAN

and Chile. There are eight groups and the top three from each group will make it to the knockouts.

Assessing the teams, Sharath said: "Korea is a top team while Poland is a dangerous young side. We also have a young team, including Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar. I am fit.

"Sathiyan is recovering from back injury and will be back. As for me, I have been focusing on Worlds for the last six months. We are confident," he said.

Sharath's mind is focused only on the Worlds. "It will be the be-all and end-all as far as I am concerned. India has never qualified for Olympics as a team. If we do it, we will get funding from SAI and other external sources. We are sorted for the next four years," he said. Sharath, however, is not keen on playing singles at Paris. "I might not try as it hasn't given me the motivation.

"I might not take part in the South Asian qualifying tournament as I don't want to compete with the youngsters whom I am mentor-

"If we qualify in men's team, two singles places are guaranteed (TTFI can decide as to who should go). I don't want to go there, too. In doubles, I will contribute," he said.

Sharath is more than eager to give it his all for a final shot at Paris.



Messi and Suarez score but Miami falls to Al Hilal

Luis Suarez bagged his maiden goal for Inter Miami and Lionel Messi scored a penalty but it was not enough to stop the MLS side falling to a 3-4 defeat against Saudi Pro League side Al Hilal in Riyadh on Monday. An 88th-minute header from Brazilian Malcom settled an entertaining friendly after Miami fought back to 3-3 from 3-1 down early in the second half. The game was the latest leg of Miami's pre-season tour.

The result: Al Hilal 4 (Mitrovic 10, Al Hamddan 13, Michael 44, Malcom 88) bt Inter Miami 3 (Suarez 34, Messi 54-pen, Ruiz

India loses to Netherlands in the quarterfinals

Mohammed Raheel's hat-trick went in vain as India suffered a 4-7 defeat against Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the FIH Hockey5s Men's World Cup in Muscat on Tuesday. Apart from Raheel (first, seventh, 25th minutes), Mandeep Mor (11th) scored for India. For Netherlands, Sander de Wijn (fourth, 15th), and Alexander Schop (10th, 26th) got a brace each, while Lucas Middendorp (12th), Jamie van Aart (13th), and Pepijn Reyenga (20th) also found the net. India will play Kenya in the fifth-eighth place match.



Rakitic leaves Sevilla, signs with Saudi's Al-Shabab

Former Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic has left Sevilla following a second spell at the club ahead of his move to Saudi Arabia's Al-Shabab, the LaLiga side said on Tuesday. "We have agreed a deal with Al-Shabab Club for the transfer of Ivan Rakitic, who will bring his second spell with us to a close," Sevilla said. Rakitic, who first played for the Spanish club from 2011-2014 following a move from Schalke 04, returned to Sevilla in Sept. 2020 and last year helped his team win record-extending seventh Europa League title.

AIPA, NSG in deal to organise Pickleball League in India

The All-India Pickleball Association (AIPA) has inked a long-term deal with Natekar Sports and Gaming (NSG) to organise a pickleball league in the country. The collaboration marks a significant step towards amplifying the sport's reach across the nation, setting it on an upward trajectory. Pickleball is a sport thriving in over 92 countries with a growing number of active players. In India, the game has found a solid footing, being played across 21 states with participation of over 15,000 enthusiasts.



Russia demoted to team skating Olympic bronze

Kamila Valieva's doping ban has resulted in the Russia Olympic Committee team being demoted from the gold to bronze medal in the 2022 Winter Olympics team skating event, the International Skating Union (ISU) said Tuesday. The then 15-year-old's positive test in December 2021, for which she received a four year ban on Monday, has led the ISU to perform "a re-ranking of the Team event." The USA has been promoted to the gold medal with Japan in silver.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 CWC: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m. PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 a.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m.

'Rohan is a terrific guy and has been a great representative for India'

Vijay Amritraj, felicitated for being inducted to the Hall of Fame, lauds Bopanna on his incredible achievement; says it would be disappointing if the Davis Cup team suffers a reverse in the World Group I Play-Off

Ashwin Achal BENGALURU

lose to 43 years have passed since Amritraj reached a career-high men's singles ranking of 18. The passage of time, however, has not diminished his appeal.

Still dapper at 70, Amritraj was the cynosure of all eves at an event hosted by The Leela Palace here to honour his induction into the Tennis Hall of Fame (contributor category). Amritraj held court effortlessly with his friendly demeanour and quick wit.

Birthplace of tennis

Amritraj will be inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame at Newport (USA) – a city where he has won three titles (1976, 1980 and 1984).

"The setting in Newport is spectacular. It is the place where tennis was born in the USA," Amritraj



SUDHAKARA JAIN

said. Amritrai took a moment to remember his late parents – Robert Amritraj and Maggie Dhairyam.

"My greatest talent was being born to the right parents," Amritraj said.

Amritraj praised Rohan Bopanna, who recently claimed the Australian Open men's doubles title to become the oldest man to win a Grand Slam.

'You must have tremendous support from family, especially your spouse, to stay with it for this long duration of time.

"To play at 43 – the tough part is all the work that must be put in before matches. As you get older, you slow down. The shot that was once routine is not routine anymore," Amritraj said.

"The advantage is that Rohan plays doubles. Doubles and singles is like night and day. If you have to run down everything for three hours, as you do in singles, it would have been

a nightmare. The good thing is that he has a good serve, so there will always be free points," he said.

"More than anything else, Rohan is a terrific guy. He's been a great representative for India," Amritraj added.

Later this week, India takes on Pakistan in a Davis Cup 2024 World Group I Play-Offs tie at Islamabad (Pakistan).

India will slip back to Group II if it loses – a scenario that does not sit well with Amritraj.

"I have never known what it is like to be in Group II. I never even knew a Group II existed. That is not where India belongs. It is the players' job to get us out of it," Amritraj

Don't take it lightly Amritraj warned against taking the Pakistan team lightly.

"Firstly, I do not know how good the grass courts are in Pakistan. Their players are generally good on grass," he said.



Deepti second among bowlers in T20I rankings

Press Trust of India

India's Deepti Sharma rose one place to joint second while teammate Renuka Singh also moved up a spot to 10th in the latest ICC women's T20I bowling rankings issued on Tuesday.

Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal took the joint second spot with Deepti after moving up one place. England's Sarah Glenn was at fourth after rising a rung. England's Sophie Ecclestone maintained a healthy lead at the top of the T20I rankings for bowlers. There was no change within the top 10 of the latest T20I rankings for all-rounders with Deepti retaining the fourth spot.

It's a historical tie, we will benefit from India team's visit: Pakistan tennis fraternity

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has paid a huge price in the absence of international sporting events in the last decade, and the tennis fraternity is hoping that the arrival of the Indian Davis Cup team for the "historic tie" will inject fresh enthusiasm and provide a big boost to the

The last time an Indian Davis Cup team travelled to Pakistan was in 1964. The AITA was not keen on sending its team this year too, but the ITF rejected its appeal and said categorically that there is no reason to believe that Indian players will face any security concerns in Pakistan.

International sporting events in Pakistan came to a halt after the attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team bus in March 2009 in Lahore. Consequently, the country was barred from hosting world-level tournaments across sports.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) could not host junior ITF events or senior men's Futures. There were no women's events and no Davis Cup team travelled to Pakistan till 2017.

It badly hit Pakistan tennis, which was nowhere near cricket in terms of popularity in the country as many promising players were forced to quit the game for lack of growth opportunities and exposure.

The ones who were playing at U14 level did not graduate to the men's level and competing abroad for ITF events is not easy either for Pakistani or Indian players considering the huge cost involved.

Things began to change in 2017 when Iran sent its teams to Islamabad. The arrival of Japan in 2021 also had a positive impact.

However, nothing matches the excitement and anticipation when India and Pakistan compete in Pakistan.

The reactions of Pakistan's top players, Aisam-ulhaq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan, best summed up the excitement. They are even hoping that this tie could pave the way for the arrival of Indian cricket team to

"We are very, very excited and happy, finally the Indian Davis Cup team is here. I have always believed that we should keep politics, religion, culture away from sports. That's the beauty of the sport and being a sportsman. I have always vouched for that," Qureshi, the only Pakistan player competing on ATP Tour, told *PTI*.

"For me it's the most historical tie, probably. I am super excited I think it is going to promote tennis in Pakistan, definitely. Already, it has created hype that Indian team is there officially. Hopefully, it will break barriers. I would be happy if this Davis Cup tie pushes the Indian cricket team to come to Pakistan."



Zeeshan is both captain and coach for Davis Cup tie

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has asked coach Zeeshan Ali to take over the job of the captain as well for the Davis Cup World Group play-off tie against Pakistan to be played in Islamabad on February 3 and 4.

It was announced that the captain of the Indian team Rohit Rajpal has not been able to join the squad in Pakistan owing to personal reasons.

WTA event returns to Mumbai after six years ready won three WTA tit-

Sports Bureau MUMBAI

Three top-100 players -Kayla Day of USA, Nao Hibino of Japan and Tamara Zidansek of Slovenia – are scheduled to compete in the L&T Mumbai Open \$115,000 WTA tennis tournament to be staged at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) courts from February 5.

In the first of its three editions, the Mumbai Open had witnessed the then 18-year-old Aryna Sahalenka ranked 96 in the world, win her maiden WTA title in 2017. Sabalenka had lost to Maria Sharapova in the final of the Tianjin Open earlier that year and was happy to announce her arrival into the big league with the title in Mumbai, in her last tournament of that season.

Sabalenka has become a super star now, having been ranked world No.1 and winning back to back Australian Open titles.

In the current crop of players, Day had won the US Open girls' title in 2016 and is ranked 82 in the world. Nao Hibino has alles. Tamara Zidansek had made the semifinals of French Open. Notable among other

exciting players is the 16year-old Alina Korneeva of Russia, the No.1 ranked junior last year, who has already made her breakthrough into the women's field by reaching the third round of Australian Open this year. She had won the girls' title at the Australian Open last year. The rest of the field, featuring players from around world will also be strong, with the last direct entry being made

with a rank of 179. Only Prarthana Thombare has got a direct entry in doubles among the Indians, with Dutch partner Arianne Hartono. Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale are also expected to make the main draw of doubles.

There will be four wild cards for the main draw and four for the qualifying event which are expected to be announced soon. That should help more Indians stake their claim and gauge their strength against top opponents.

Jakupovic fights past qualifier Morvayova

Sports Bureau

Fifth seed Dalila Jakupovic of Slovenia fought her way past qualifier Viktoria Morvayova of Slovakia 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 in the first round of the \$40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Indore on Tuesday.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Jakupovic will play another qualifier Mei Yamaguchi of Japan.

In the doubles last-16, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Vaidehi Chaudhari defeated compatriots Vaishnavi Adkar and Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-3, 6-3.

Sharmada Balu was the only other Indian to make the doubles quarterfinals, and she did so in partnership with Diana Marcinkevica of Latvia.

The results: First round: Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Anouk Koevermans (Ned) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) bt Viktoria Morvayova (Svk) 7-5, 3-6, 6-2; Ekaterina Yashina bt Diva Bhatia 6-1, 6-2.

Michika Ozeki (Jpn) bt Pehal Kharadkar 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Zhibek Kulambayeva (Kaz) & Sapfo Sakellaridi (Gre) bt Humera Baharmus & Smriti Bhasin 6-0, 6-3; Sharmada Balu & Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Pooja Ingale & Saumya Vig 6-4, 6-4.

Jessie Aney (USA) & Lena Papadakis (Ger) bt Rina Saigo & Yukina Saigo (Jpn) 7-5, 6-2: Yu-Yun Li (Tpe) & Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Kashish Bhatia & Sahira Singh 6-1, 7-6(2). Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehi

Chaudhari bt Vaishnavi Adkar & Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-3, 6-3; Carole Monnet (Fra) & Ekaterina Yashina bt Diva Bhatia & Jennifer Luikham 6-3, 6-2; Saki Imamura & Mana Kawamura (Jpn) bt Akanksha Nitture & Soha Sadiq

Darja Semenistaja (Lat) & Fanni Stollar (Hun) bt Aanya Choubey (USA) & Pehal Kharadkar 6-0, 6-0.

Raiza Dhillon misses skeet final by one point

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

fect 25 in the penultimate round to stay in contention for a final berth, but a 21 in the last round pulled her down to the 11th spot.

In men's skeet, Munek

Asian Games silver medalist Anant Jeet Singh Naruka shot 115 for the 40th spot in

a field of 64.

Raiza Dhillon shot 114 and missed making the women's skeet final by one point in the shooting World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, on Tuesday.

Dhillon had shot a per-

Ganemat Sekhon (112) and Areeba Khan (108) placed 15th and 22nd.

Bhattula was unable to build on his fine overnight effort of 74 out of 75, and placed 18th with a total of 119. He had 22 and 23 in the last two rounds.

Abhay Singh Sekhon (119) placed 16th, while

Competing in the Ranking Points Only (RPO) section, World Cup gold medalist Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Sheeraz Sheikh shot 118 and 109 respectively.

In the 25-metre rapid fire pistol event, Anish Bhanwala and Vijayveer Sidhu shot identical score of 119 for the 10th and 11th spots respectively. They missed the final by four points. Abhinav Choudhary shot 569 for the 28th place. In the RPO section, Sameer Ghulia and Adarsh Singh shot 573 and 567 respectively.

Despite not adding to its medals collection, India continued to stay on top of the medals table with two gold and three silver medals.

Prime Volleyball League in Chennai from February 15

Sports Bureau CHENNAI

The RuPay Prime Volleyball League, powered by A23, will be held from February 15 to March 21 at the Nehru Indoor Stadium

Nine franchises - Ahmedabad Defenders, Bengaluru Torpedoes, Calicut Heroes, Chennai Blitz, Delhi Toofans, Hyderabad Black Hawks, Kochi Blue Spikers, Kolkata Thunderbolts, and Mumbai Meteors - will vie for the trophy.

Defending champion Ahmedabad Defenders will face off against host Chennai Blitz in the opening game of the tournament on February 15, while last year's runner-up Bengaluru Torpedoes will take on the Season-1 winner Kolkata Thunderbolts on the

Super5s from March 11

The Super5s stage will take place between March 11 and March 18 in which the top five teams from the league stage will compete in a round-robin format to determine the final three teams. The team finishing first in the Super5s will earn a direct qualification for the final, while the teams finishing second and third will compete in the

nator will be the second team to book a spot in the final.

The winner of the Elimi-

Eliminator on March 19.

De Rossi's Roma beats Salernitana

The coach's stint at the club starts with two successive victories; he took over from manager Mourinho in the middle of January

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press

aniele De Rossi's dream start as the Roma boss conti-

nued when it earned a 2-1 win over Salernitana in Serie A on Monday. His second win came thanks to second-half goals

from Paulo Dybala and Lorenzo Pellegrini. Grigoris Kastanos pulled

one back with a header



Elegant: Dybala's penalty broke the deadlock. AP

four minutes later.

Serie A: Salernitana 1 (Kastanos

70) lost to Roma 2 (Dybala 51-pen, Pellegrini 66). LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Greenwood 21, Mayoral 36) bt Granada 0.



SPORTS OUIZ

Ojas Pravin Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam won gold in their respective categories in which sport at the 2023 **Asian Games?**

3. Who ended India's nearly four decade-long wait for a second medal in the men's singles badminton event at the Asian Games by winning the bronze in the 2023 Asian Games?





Scan the QR code, take part in the quiz and vote for vour favourite stars. Top 3 winners every day

Answer to yesterday quiz:

1. AVINASH SABLE

2. SUPER HEAVY WEIGHT

Nominations for the Moment of the Year

Sports Bureau

Indian sports had many moments to cherish in 2023. It is time to celebrate these landmark moments and achievements at the Sportstar ACES Awards.

Here are the nominees for the Moment of the Year award:

Virat Kohli moved clear of former teammate and India great Sachin Tendulkar with a record-breaking 50th ODI in the World Cup semifinal against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, the home ground of Tendulkar. Kohli reached the landmark in trademark fashion, completing a brisk two despite battling cramps. Once the milestone was reached, Kohli leapt and then bowed down to Tendulkar, his childhood hero, and the maestro heartily applauded from the stands.

Indian men's football team captain, Sunil Chhetri, secured victory with a decisive goal during the Intercontinental Cup match against Vanuatu. To share the joyous news of impending parenthood, he celebrated in front of his wife, the ball tucked warmly within his jersey – a customary gesture in football worldwide to announce such delightful moments to the fans.

When Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem pulled out on the eve of the Asian Games javelin throw final due to injury, Neeraj Chopra's path to Asian Games gold seemed guaranteed. But when the controversy surrounding Neeraj's first throw overshadowed the competition, Kishore Ku-



CASAGRAND

b bigbasket





mar Jena stepped up by went viral. From celebrities to the political brass, recording his personal best throw of 86.77 m, momenpraise flooded in for the retarily propelling himself to silience and talent of the first place. Neeraj immeyoung girl, who eventually diately embraced his counwent on to finish the year tryman to celebrate his as the No. 1 archer in open achievement. The Olympic compound. Jyothi Yarraji secured the champion eventually secured gold and Jena a wellsilver in the women's 100m deserved silver. "It was fun hurdles at the Hangzhou pushing each other," Nee-Asian Games amidst a

raj said later. In that embackdrop of controversy and drama. Initially disbrace, one saw a snapshot qualified for a false start, of Indian javelin's future. Armless archer Sheetal she was allowed to take **Devi** made headlines in part pending a thorough post-race review. The offi-October when she shot her way to three medals at the cial verdict came approxi-Asian Para Games. The 16mately half-an-hour after year-old, who hails from the conclusion of the race. Kishtwar, Jammu and The decision not only vindicated Jyothi, but also Kashmir, was born with phocomelia, a disorder pushed her from third to causing underdeveloped second. It was her fourth limbs. Without arms, she fastest run of the year, and learned to use a bow and the eighth time she ran under 13s in 2023. arrow using her feet and started training full-time in The archery only two years voting ago. Videos of her mount-

ing the bow and using her

right foot and mouth to

steady the equipment be-

fore shooting perfect 10s

lines for the 2024 awards close Jan. 31.





Hyderabazi haar gaye

Akshdeep betters National record

Sports Bureau

Punjab's Akshdeep Singh broke his own year-old National record as he won the men's 20km title in race walking's Indian Open in Chandigarh on Tuesday.

Also bettering the national record was Uttarakhand's Suraj Panwar. Akshdeep finished in 1:19:38s to retain his title while Suraj clocked 1:19:44. Tamil Nadu's Servin (1:20:03) and Punjab's Arshpreet Singh (1:20:04) took the next two spots.

bettered the Paris Olympics qualification standard of 1:20:10s. Paramjeet Singh Bisht and Vikash Singh finished in the top 10 today. However, only three can go to Paris and the final team is expected to be decided in June. Punjab's Manju Rani won the wo-20km men's gold

The top four finishers

(1:33.00s) in the absence of National women's recordholder Priyanka Goswami who is now training in Aus-



Akshdeep broke his national record in the men's 20km walk.

tralia. In the U-20 category, Uttarakhand's Himanshu Kumar won the 10km title while the junior women's winner Aarti of Haryana broke the national record on her way to gold.

The results: Men: 20km: 1. Akshdeep Singh (Pun) 1:19:38s National record, OR own 1:19.55s, 2023, 2. Suraj Panwar (Utk) 1:19:44.00, 3. Servin (Tamil Nadu) 1:20:03.00. Women: 20km: 1. Manju Rani (Pun) 1:33:00s, 2. Payal (Utk) 1:33:28, 3. Munita Prajapati (Utk) 1:34.14. U-20: 10km: Boys: 1. Himanshu Kumar (Utk) 41.11s, 2. Aditya Negi (Utk) 41.12s, 3. Roshan Kumar (Jkd) 41.28. Girls: 10km: 1. Aarti (Har) 47:03.00 National record,

OR 49:01, Mansi Negi, 2021, 2.

Vaishnavi Negi (Ukd) 49:31, 3.

Chakpram Naocha (Man) 51:21





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	Assistant Director	4
	Accreditation Officer	11
NABET	Executive Officer	8
DADD	Deputy Director	1
PADD	Assistant Director	2
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ТСВ	Executive Officer	2
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CM YK

Part Shamar, part Bopanna: Gourav finds second wind with Pondicherry

Drawing inspiration from the ageless Indian tennis star, the 32-year-old pacer, whose origin mirrors the Caribbean fast bowler, has started to make an impact in Indian domestic cricket

Dhruva Prasad

n a week where Shamar Joseph's youthful exuberance and Rohan Bopanna's age-defying perseverance dominated sporting headlines, Pondicherry fast bowler Gourav Yadav, whose career is a mélange of both storylines, continued his domination in the wickets-takers chart of the ongoing Ranji Trophy.

At the age of 32, with 31 wickets in seven innings, Gourav feels his career is finally peaking and takes inspiration from 43-year-old Bopanna's Australian Open

"Thirty-two kya hota hai? Aapne Rohan Bopanna ko dekha na. At the age of 43, he is World No. 1. I can still play for another six to seven years with full intensity," he said during Pondicherry's match against Madhya Pradesh, where he added another eight scalps to his tally.

His origins, meanwhile, mirror those of Joseph, who worked as a security guard till the age of about 21 and who, until 12 months ago, would have dismissed his place in cricketing folklore as a pipe-dream.

Gourav, who hails from Bisoni Kilan, a small village of about 1200 to 1500 people in Madhya Pradesh, had never played with a leather ball till he was about 19 or

"I used to play tennis-ball cricket in school and college. One day, the older boys told me that I bowl fast and that I should take a shot at bowling with a leather ball. I got myself admitted into a club in Bhopal and played there for about six to seven months. I was bowling quick with the leather ball too and received a lot of praise," he said.

With Indore being the epicentre of cricketing activity in MP, Gourav soon had to relocate from Bhopal.

"I went to Indore and played club cricket there. My village is in the Hoshangabad division, which is called Narmadapuram now. Someone asked me to play division cricket in Hoshangabad. From there, within two years, I came into the Ranji Trophy team. I was 22 or 23 [21] at the time," he added.

Though Gourav made his First-Class debut in 2012 against Gujarat in Indore, he got limited opportunities in his first four to five years on the domestic circuit, largely due to a slew of injuries that were in many ways the result of a late initiation into the game.

"I had a lot of injury issues initially. I would toil so hard in practice that I had no energy left after it. There was no time for my body to recover fully. Because I started playing so late, I was trying to compensate for it by bowling as much within two years as someone would have bowled in five years. That led to a lot of injuries, which set my career back a little bit," he said.

"MPCA (Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association) rated me so highly that the moment I was fit, they would select me after just a couple of selection matches... I could never play a full season. It's only since the last two seasons that I have been playing regularly," he added.

For Gourav, playing the Ranji Trophy wasn't only about pursuing his passion but also about proving a point and winning over his father, who was sceptical of his son's late entry into a sport that millions in the country aspire to play.

"I asked my father to give me two years to pursue cricket and I promised him that



THE GIST

19 or 20

Indore

games

franchises

Gourav had never played with

a leather ball till he was about

He made his First-Class debut

In more than 10 years with the MP team, he had featured in

MPCA had repeatedly refused to allow him to attend trials

He finally attended the RCB

The pacer was Pondicherry's

Vijay Hazare Trophy last year

leading wicket-taker in the

camp last year, where he

dismissed Virat Kohli

and net sessions of IPL

only 16 List A and nine T20

in 2012 against Gujarat in

if I fail. I will never play the sport again. Main kabhi bat-ball nahi uthaunga," he

When his father would fret over his future in case his plans went awry, Gourav would assure him that he had no qualms about returning to his roots.

"Aap bhi toh kheti karke hummein paal rahe ho. Main bhi kheti kar lunga, usmein kya burai hai. (You have raised us with the income you got from farming. I will do the same. There's no harm in doing that)," he would tell his father.

But once Gourav made his entry into First-Class cricket and his name began appearing in the papers, his father was convinced and never disapproved of his son's choices again.

Gourav made another enterprising decision ahead of the 2023-24 season when he quit MP to play for Pondicherry. Though he was a mainstay in red-ball cricket and an integral part of MP's Ranji Trophy title triumph in 2021-22, Gourav was rueing the lack of opportunities in limited-overs formats.

In more than 10 years with the MP team, he had featured in only 16 List A and nine T20 games despite showing promise in both formats.

"I wanted more opportunities in white-ball cricket. I was playing red-ball cricket consistently but chances in white-ball cricket were few and far between. I was the highest wicket-taker in the Vijay Hazare Trophy [2019-20] for MP, but still. I didn't get too many opportunities in white-ball cricket," he explained.

What also irked Gourav and stalled his progress was MPCA's repeated refusal to allow him to attend trials and net sessions of Indian Premier League franchises.

"I wasn't allowed to attend trials on two or three occasions. CSK (Chennai Super Kings) had called me as a net bowler and they were going to take me to UAE, but they [MPCA] didn't allow me to attend the trials or even go there as a net bowler. And neither were they giving me chances in white-ball cricket, so I had no other option," he told *Sportstar*.

Gouray could finally attend the Roya Challengers Bangalore (RCB) camp last year as a net bowler, where he dismissed Virat Kohli on a couple of occasions on the first day.

"Virat Kohli came up to me and said, 'Where are you from? You are bowling really well," he recounts gleefully.

In his first full white-ball season since 2019-20, Gourav emerged as Pondicherry's leading wicket-taker in the Vijay Hazare Trophy last year, picking 14 scalps in seven games.

In the Ranji Trophy, he inspired Pondicherry's wins against more fancied sides such as Delhi and Uttarakhand before facing defeat against his former side MP on Sunday.

However, Gourav believes the team, which is only five First-Class seasons old, has got what it takes to qualify for the knockouts.

Although minute in the global context, that story would well be in keeping with the pacer's odds-defying journey and the sporting world's giant-killing mood of late.

Iran 'following dreams' in bid to clinch its first Asian Cup crown since 1976

Agence France-Presse

Iran is "following our dreams" in trying to win the Asian Cup for the first time in 48 years, winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh said ahead of the last-16 clash with Syria.

Three-time champion Iran faces Syria in Qatar with a quarter-final against Bahrain or pre-tournament favourites Japan up for grabs.

Along with holder Qatar, Iran is the only team left in the competition which went through the group stage with a 100 per cent record.

"We know the importance of this tournament for the people of Iran and for ourselves," Feyenoord's Jahanbakhsh said on Tuesday.

"We are doing our best to follow our dreams."

Syria is in the knockout round for the first time and Iran is clear favourites, but Jahanbakhsh warned: "It's going to be very difficult, they are very physical.

"They only conceded one goal in the group phase and are very good

"It is all about details," the 30-yearold former Brighton player, who captained Iran in its 1-0 group-stage win over Hong Kong, added.

"The biggest difference between the group phase and the knockout is that if you make one mistake, you can

easily go out." Iran's coach Amir Ghalenoei identified his Syrian counterpart, the experienced Argentine Hector Cuper -who guided Egypt to the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations final – as a formidable opponent.

Cuper called Iran one of the strongest teams at the tournament while his men squeezed into the knockout rounds with one win, a 1-0 victory over India, in three games.

It was the only goal Syria has



scored, but it has also only conceded once, in a defeat to Australia.

"We are optimistic and have big ambitions," the 68-year-old Cuper

"I want to make the long-suffering Syrian people happy and put a smile on their faces."

Syria, ranked 91 in the world to Iran's 21, will look to soak up pressure and hit its opponents on the break.

"My players have the spirit and talent to change the game at any moment," warned Cuper.



Astronomers spot unusual object that falls within the black hole 'mass gap'

The mass of a 'dark' companion in the NGC 1851E system is between the heaviest possible neutron stars and the possible lightest black holes. The nature and formation of objects in this gap is an outstanding question in astrophysics; the heaviest neutron stars, are thought to be around 2.2 solar masses, and the lightest black holes around 5

Ewan D. Barr Arunima Dutta Benjamin Stappers

ometimes astronomers come across objects in the sky that we can't easily explain. In our new research, published in *Science*, we report such a discovery, which is likely to spark discussion and speculation.

Neutron stars are some of the densest objects in the universe. As compact as an atomic nucleus, yet as large as a city, they push the limits of our understanding of extreme matter. The heavier a neutron star is, the more likely it is to eventually collapse to become something even denser: a black hole.

These astrophysical objects are so dense, and their gravitational pulls so strong, that their cores – whatever they may be – are permanently shrouded from the universe by event horizons: surfaces of perfect darkness from which light cannot escape.

If we are to ever understand the physics at the tipping point between neutron stars and black holes, we must find objects at this boundary. In particular, we must find objects for which we can make precise measurements over long periods of time. And that's precisely what we've found – an object that is neither obviously a neutron star nor a black hole.

It was when looking deep in the star cluster NGC 1851 that we spotted what appears to be a pair of stars offering a new view into the extremes of matter in the universe. The system is composed of a millisecond pulsar, a type of rapidly spinning neutron star that sweeps beams of radio light across the cosmos as it spins, and a massive, hidden object of unknown nature.

The massive object is dark, meaning it is invisible at all frequencies of light – from the radio to the optical, X-ray and gamma-ray bands. In other circumstances this would make it impossible to study, but it is here that the millisecond pulsar comes to our aid.

Millisecond pulsars are akin to cosmic atomic clocks. Their spins are incredibly stable and can be precisely measured by detecting the regular radio pulse they create. Although intrinsically stable, the observed spin changes when the pulsar is in motion or when its signal is affected by a strong gravitational field. By observing these changes we can measure the properties of bodies in orbits with pulsars.

Our international team of astronomers has been using the MeerKAT radio



An artist's impression of the the NGC 1851E binary system, looking over the shoulder of the dark mystery companion star. MPIFR, DANIËLLE FUTSELAAR (ARTSOURCE.NL)

telescope in South Africa to conduct such observations of the system, referred to as NGC 1851E.

These allowed us to precisely detail the orbits of the two objects, showing that their point of closest approach changes with time. Such changes are described by Einstein's theory of relativity and the speed of a change tells us about the combined mass of the bodies in the system.

Our observations revealed that the NGC 1851E system weighs almost four times as much as our Sun, and that the dark companion was, like the pulsar, a compact object – much denser than a normal star. The most massive neutron stars weigh in at around two solar masses, so if this were a double neutron star system (systems that are well known and studied) then it would have to contain two of the heaviest neutron stars ever found.

To uncover the nature of the companion, we would need to understand how the mass in the system was distributed between the stars. Again using Einstein's general relativity, we could model the system in detail, finding the mass of the companion to lie between 2.09 and 2.71 times the mass of the Sun.

The companion's mass falls within the "black hole mass gap" that lies between heaviest possible neutron stars, thought to be around 2.2 solar masses,

99

Neutron stars are some of the densest objects in the universe. As compact as an atomic nucleus, yet as large as a city, they push the limits of our understanding of extreme matter

and the lightest black holes that can be formed from stellar collapse, around 5 solar masses. The nature and formation of objects in this gap is an outstanding question in astrophysics.

Possible candidates

So what exactly have we found then?
An enticing possibility is that we have uncovered a pulsar in orbit around the remains of a merger (collision) of two neutron stars. Such an unusual configuration is made possible by the dense packing of stars in NGC 1851.

In this crowded stellar dance floor, stars will twirl around one another, swapping partners in an endless waltz. If two neutron stars happen to be thrown too close together, their dance will come to a cataclysmic end.

The black hole created by their collision, which can be much lighter than those created from collapsing stars, is

then free to wander the cluster until it finds another pair of dancers in the waltz and, rather rudely, insert itself – kicking out the lighter partner in the process. It is this mechanism of collisions and

exchanges that could give rise to the

system we observe today.

We are not done with this system yet.

Work is already ongoing to conclusively identify the true nature of the companion and reveal whether we have discovered the lightest black hole or the most massive neutron star – or perhaps neither. At the boundary between neutron stars and black holes there is always the possibility that some new, as yet unknown, astrophysical object might exist

Much speculation will be sure to follow this discovery, but what is already clear is that this system holds immense promise when it comes to understanding what really happens to matter in the most extreme environments in the universe.

(Ewan D. Barr is project scientist for the Transients and Pulsars with MeerKAT (TRAPUM) collaboration and Arunima Dutta is a PhD candidate at the Research Department Fundamental Physics in Radio Astronomy, both at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy; Benjamin Stappers is professor of astrophysics, University of Manchester. This article is republished from The Conversation.)

THE GIST

Neutron stars are

permanently shrouded from the universe by event horizons: surfaces of perfect darkness from which light cannot escape

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If we are to ever understand the physics at the tipping point between neutron stars and black holes, we must find objects at this boundary

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At the boundary between neutron stars and black holes there is always the possibility that some new, as yet unknown, astrophysical object

BIG SHOT

The spiral galaxy NGC 1512, located 30 million light-years away from the earth, is seen in this image captured by the James Webb Space Telescope. The images were made public on Monday by scientists in a project called Physics at High Angular resolution in Nearby GalaxieS (PHANGS). The new images came from Webb's Near-Infrared Camera and Mid-Infrared Instrument. They show roughly 100,000 star-clusters and millions of individual stars. NASA, ESA, CSA, STSCI, PHANGS

QUESTION CORNER

Rain: how vapour becomes water



Q: Why does rain fall as drops and sheets?
A: Many windblown drops can be forced together to form what weather reporters call 'sheeting rain', but

rain is always born as minuscule drops of condensed water vapour, according to the book *Clouds and Weather* by John A. Day and Vincent J. Schaefer.

The formation of these droplets depends on the right amount of water vapour at the right pressure and temperature, but it also requires the presence of tiny solid particles of matter in the air on which the water vapour can gather and condense. These bits of dust and salt are called cloud condensation nuclei. Salt starts collecting vapour at about 80% relative humidity, while bits of clay begin to take on water molecules at 100% relative humidity.

As the water molecules slowly collect and condense on the particles, cloud droplets form. They are a million times the volume of the original particle but are still very tiny. It takes perhaps 3,000 droplets to form a small raindrop. The drops in a heavy shower are the size of around 6,000 droplets, according to *The New York Times*.

The droplets can grow into drops by several processes. First, they can slowly continue to attract vapour. Second, larger droplets fall faster than small ones and collide with



Rain is carried to the ground by solid particles in the air. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

them, sometimes joining into larger drops.

Finally, evaporating droplets may collect on ice crystals in clouds. The crystals may warm and melt into rain drops or they may grow 'branches' and fall as snowflakes.



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