

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

Nitish wins Bihar floor test to start fresh CM innings

Arun Kumar

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PATNA: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar won a trust vote in the assembly on Monday, capping a dramatic few weeks that saw him switch allies, take oath for a record ninth time, and tensions escalate in the days leading up to the floor test.

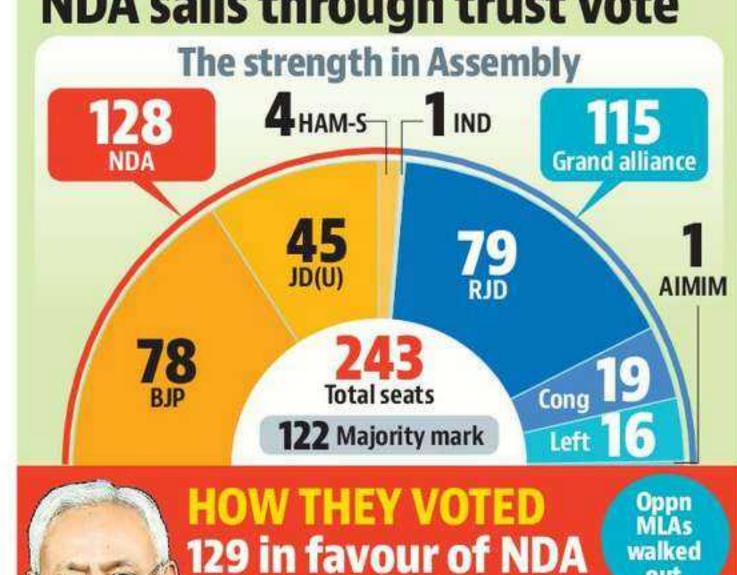
The ruling coalition got 129 votes in the 243-member assembly after the Opposition walked out, with three members of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) changing allegiances and voting with the government. In the debate that preceded the voting, Kumar's former deputy Tejashwi Yadav mocked the CM for frequently changing partners, prompting the Janata Dal (United) chief to hit out at his former allies and blame them for the condition of the impoverished state.

"There was no law and order. The RJD indulged in corrupt practices during its rule (before 2005)... I will get these probed," Kumar said.

Yadav, who was deputy CM between August 2022 and January 2024 when Kumar deserted the alliance and realigned with the BJP, accused the CM of frequent flip-flops.

"There is a lot of talk about

NDA sails through trust vote



From the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U), one MLA

Dilip Ray — did not vote for NDA, and dy speaker's

Neelam Devi — supported NDA

vote was not counted. Separately, three RJD

MLAs — Prahlad Yadav, Chetan Anand and

Modi ki guarantee. But can he (Modi) guarantee that Nitish Kumar will not take another U-turn? I respected Nitish ji and will continue to respect him. He may have some compulsions for banishing me, who he often

described like his son," he said. no-trust vote against speaker

Awadh Bihari Choudhury, an RJD leader, with 125 votes in favour of his removal and 112 against.

The ruling alliance has 128 legislators in the assembly and was expected to win the trust vote. But tensions began build-The government also won a ing up on Saturday after the



Ashok Chavan

BODY BLOW FOR CONGRESS AS FORMER MAHA CM WALKS OUT

Faisal Malik

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MUMBAI: Former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan resigned from the Congress on Monday, becoming the third senior leader to leave the party in four weeks and dealing it a major blow just months ahead of general elections.

Chavan's exit triggered speculation that several of his loyalists may also leave the party. At the time of going to print, names of 13 MLAs were doing rounds. However, only one Amarnath Rajurkar, former MLC (member of legislative council) had resigned.

"I worked earnestly as long as I was in the party... I don't want to speak about internal matters of the party as it is not in my nature. I have no complaints against anyone," he said. →P9





READ: Senior Mumbai Cong leader Baba Siddique quits party

TN GUV REFUSES TO READ GOVT'S SPEECH, SPARKS FURORÉ IN HOUSE

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi on Monday skipped his entire speech customarily read at the start of the budget session of the assembly, saying he disagreed with numerous passages on "moral and factual" grounds, sparking a political controversy. Ravi walked out of the House

after speaker M Appavu read out the Tamil version of his speech.

The governor's address on the first day when the House convenes for the year is customarily prepared by the state government. While Ravi was walking out, the DMK-led government passed a resolution to record the approved speech. In 2023, Ravi had omitted portions of the speech.

SONIA MAY SHIFT TO RAJYA SABHA? DECISION SOON, SAY CONG LEADERS

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi is likely to contest a Rajya Sabha seat, preferably from north India, two senior Congress leaders indicated on Monday. The final decision will be taken shortly, they added on the condition of anonymity. If Gandhi settles for a Rajya

Sabha seat, it would be the first stint in the Upper House for the 77-year-old leader, who is a fiveterm lawmaker of the Lok Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. →P9

Delhi braces for stir after late push to resolve crisis



Barricades installed at Tikri border on Monday. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

eases to 5.1% in Jan

Karn Pratap Singh, **Gurpreet Singh Nibber** and Bhavey Nagpal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH/KAR-NAL: Security forces on Monday placed rows of metal barricades, put in shipping containers, lined the streets with concertina wires, and dug up trenches at Delhi's fringes, as the Capital's borders turned fortresses a day before farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh planned to march into the city, even as talks between protesters and Union ministers hit a deadend after hours of parleys.

As the meeting ended past continued on →13

Consumer inflation TENSIONS SIMMER BETWEEN BENGAL AND CENTRE OVER

Roshan Kishore letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation came down from 5.7% in December 2023 to 5.1% in January 2024 in India, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). In another set of statistics released by the NSO, industrial activity gained momentum to grow at 3.8% in December 2023, compared to 2.4% in November.

These numbers underline the larger goldilocks state of the economy, which has been experiencing high growth with

THE MODERATION IN CPI IS LARGELY DRIVEN BY A FALL IN FOOD INFLATION WHICH EASED FROM 9.5% IN DECEMBER 2023 TO

moderate inflation rates.

8.3% IN JANUARY

The moderation in headline CPI is largely driven by a fall in food inflation which eased from 9.5% in December 2023 to 8.3% in January.

SANDESHKHALI

Tanmay Chatterjee and Saptarshi Das

letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose visited violence-hit Sandeshkhali in the state's North 24 Paraganas district on Monday and met local women who have made allegations of torture and exploitation against local TMC leaders, even as the BJP lashed out at the government, which in turn said that the state commission for women had visited the area and submitted a report, and that no "troublemaker" would be spared. →P11

{ PAKISTAN } CHAOS AFTER ELECTIONS

Imran's PTI launches protest as Nawaz, Bilawal look to seal deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's two largest political parties were on Monday wrangling over who will be Prime Minister after an inconclusive election last week forced them to join forces and try to form a coalition in a parliament dominated by independ-

Nawaz Sharif's PML-N was the largest party with 75 seats and the PPP of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of assassinated former premier Benazir Bhutto,

was second with 54. The two parties opened formal talks late on Sunday to form a coalition government, but representatives from both sides said their talks were snagged over which leader would take the top

"Both parties want the office of Prime Minister," a senior PML-N figure close to the Sharif family said.

Meanwhile, thousands of supporters of imprisoned former PM Imran Khan and members of other political parties blocked key highways and started a daylong strike in the volatile southwest on Monday to protest Independent candidates,

alleged rigging of the elections. mostly backed by Khan's PTI, secured 93 seats.

The party is set to file suits against the Election Commission to attempt to force recounts in some National Assembly seats that it lost.

SC CLEARS DECKS FOR ARBITRATION BY INDIAN OIL AND ARCELOR

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com **NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court

on Monday cleared the decks for the initiation of arbitration proceedings by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Limited (AMN-SIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to resolve their dispute pertaining to Essar Steel India Limited (ESIL). ESIL was acquired by AMNSIL in 2019 through the corporate insolvency resolution process. →P17





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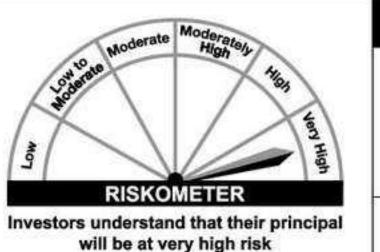


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{ MY INDIA } LAKHIMPUR KHERI

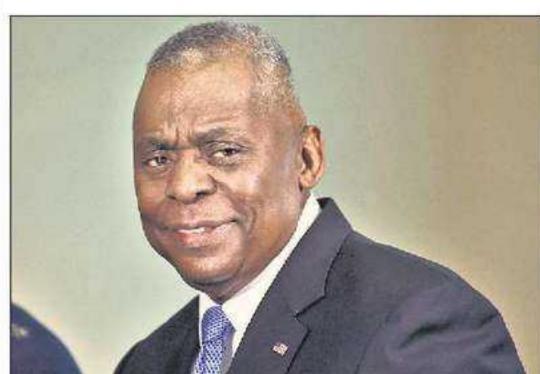
SC extends interim bail to Teni's son



The Supreme Court on Monday extended the interim bail granted to Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence which claimed eight lives. A bench of justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan directed the apex court registry to obtain a report from the trial court on the progress of the case and adjourned the matter. On September 26 last year, the top court had relaxed the bail conditions of Mishra to enable him to visit and stay in the National Capital Region (NCR) to look after his ailing mother and for the treatment of his daughter. The case pertains to an incident of violence on October 3, 2021, in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.

{ WORLD } AFTER CANCER DIAGNOSIS

US defence secretary admitted to hospital



US defense secretary Lloyd Austin was on Sunday hospitalised again to address a bladder issue as he continues to recover from prostate cancer and has transferred authorities to his deputy, the Pentagon said. Austin was diagnosed with prostate cancer in December last year and continues to deal with complications from his treatment. At around 2.20pm on Sunday, he was transported by his security detail to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center "to be seen for symptoms suggesting an emergent bladder issue," the Pentagon said. He also transferred his authorities to deputy secretary HTC of defense Kathleen Hicks.

{ MY INDIA } TWO-DAY TRIP

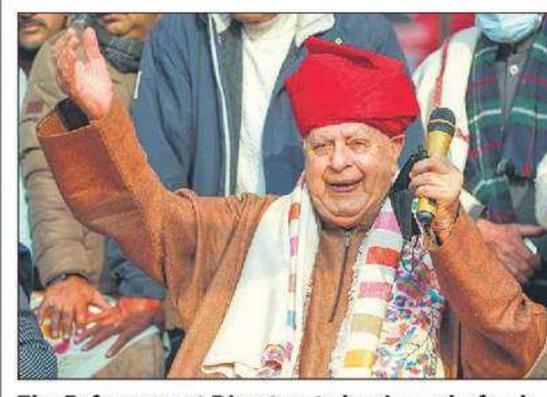
Modi to inaugurate temple in Abu Dhabi during UAE visit



Boosting cooperation in areas of energy, ports, fintech, digital infrastructure, railways and investment flows are set to be focus of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) beginning Tuesday. Modi will also inaugurate the BAPS Mandir, the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi. Following talks between Modi and President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the two sides are likely to ink a number of agreements to shore up cooperation in several key areas. Foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra, addressing a press conference, said both sides are looking at firming up understandings in areas of ports, logistics, energy security, energy trade and digital domain, among others.

{ MY INDIA } 'MONEY LAUNDERING'

Farooq Abdullah gets ED summons



The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh summons to National Conference (NC) president Faroog Abdullah for questioning in a money laundering case pertaining to the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), official sources said Monday. He has been asked to depose at the ED office in Srinagar on Tuesday. The 86-year-old politician was last called by the central agency in this case on January 11 but he did not appear before it. He is not expected to appear at the Srinagar office of the central agency this time too, sources close to him said. The ED probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities at the J&K Cricket Association.

{ MY INDIA } NRC LIST UPDATES

'Assam working to fix biometric issues'



The Assam government has been working with the Centre to solve problems faced by those whose biometrics were locked while the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was being updated, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in the assembly on Monday. He said those without Aadhaar cards can now avail of benefits under state government schemes, though it remains a problem for enrolling for the Centre's programmes. Sarma said biometrics of over 2.7 million people were collected during the process. The first draft of the NRC was published on August 31, 2019. However, it is yet to be notified by the Registrar General of India. Sarma, who also holds the Home department, was replying to a question by a Congress MLA.

One in 5 migratory species at risk of extinction: UN data

Jayashree Nandi

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NEW DELHI: One in five species that migrate are threatened with extinction and a substantial proportion of them -44% — is undergoing population decline, United Nations' first State of the World's Migratory Species report has said.

The UN's Convention on Migratory Species covers around 1,189 species, including terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory animals and their fates are linked inevitably to the delicate ecological balances, at present being upset by human activity and the climate crisis.

When considering the appendices under the Convention on Migratory Species separately, 82% of appendix I species these are defined as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range — are threatened with extinction and 76% have a

declining population. Around 18% of appendix II species (not as endangered as appendix 1) are globally threatened, with almost half (42%) showing decreasing population trends. The current situation and trajectory of migratory fish is of particular concern, with nearly all (97%) listed fish species threatened with extinction,

the report has flagged. The report has cautioned that habitat fragmentation caused by dams in river systems is one of the most significant pressures facing freshwater migratory fish, including in India. Only 37% of the world's long rivers (>1,000 km) have high levels of connectivity over their entire length, while the rest have dams and other artificial river infrastructure.

Habitat fragmentation resulting from dams is currently greatest in the Indian sub-continent, Europe, East Asia, North America and Southern Africa. In the near future, connectivity within tropical river systems, such as the Amazon, Mekong and Congo basins, is predicted to come under increasing pressure from new dams.

"Levels of extinction risk are rising across CMS-listed species as a whole. Between 1988 and 2020, 70 CMS species showed a deterioration in conservation status, substantially more than the 14 species that showed an improvement in conservation status. Extinction risk is also escalating across the wider group of migratory species not listed in CMS," the report said.

An analysis produced for the report identified 399 globally threatened and near-threatened migratory species (mainly birds

and fish) that are not yet listed in the CMS appendices but need protection. The deteriorating status of

migratory species is being driven by intense levels of anthropogenic pressure — or factors attributed to human activity.

Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (primarily driven by agriculture), and overexploitation (hunting and fishing, both targeted and incidental) are among major threats. Pollution including pesticides,

plastics, heavy metals and excess nutrients, as well as underwater noise and light pollution, also impact these species. Climate change too is expected

to increase over the next few decades, not just as a direct threat to species but also as an amplifier of other threats such as habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, the report said. Obstacles to migration range

from physical infrastructure, like roads, railways, fences and dams; disturbance from industrial development, and shipping traffic, also threaten migratory

Over the past 30 years, 70 migratory species, including the steppe eagle, Egyptian vulture and the wild camel - have become more endangered.

Only 14 species have recorded an improvement in conservation status, including blue and humpback whales, the white-tailed sea eagle and the black-faced spoonbill. Migratory sharks, rays and sturgeons — are facing a high risk of extinction.

Large colonies of the strawcoloured fruit bat for example, known to play a role in the dispersal of Iroko (Milicia), an economically important timber, however, is threatened by deforestation and hunting for wild

Tropical regions are seeing a higher rate of decrease in abundance of migratory species. An average decrease in abundance between 1970 and 2017 ranged from -66% in Asia to -27% in Africa. But, in South America, there is an average 90% increase in abundance compared to the baseline.

Many marine migratory species listed in the CMS appendices, including marine mammals and some species of sharks and rays, are very sensitive to pressure from exploitation due to their inherently low reproductive capacity, the report said. Incidental catch is a huge threat to them and cross coastal regions of the tropics and subtropics, the use of migratory cetaceans, crocodilians, manatees, dugongs and marine turtles for consumption or bait (aquatic wild meat) is also widespread.

{ TRAGEDY STRIKES WORLD SPORT } MARATHON MAN

What happened on Sunday?

accident

Record runner Kiptum dies in crash

Marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum and his Rwandan coach Gervais Hakizimana were killed in a car accident in Kenya on Sunday

Kiptum (who was driving), Hakizima-

Chepkurui Kosgei, were heading from

Kaptagat to Eldoret in the Rift Valley

He lost control and veered off the

road, entering a ditch on the left.

He drove in the ditch for about 60

- A police report about the

metres before hitting a tree.

of western Kenya around 11pm on

Sunday. The car hit a tree.

na and a third passenger, Sharon

at the Chicago Marathon on October 8, 2023. He surpassed the mark of 2:01:09 run by 39-year-old compatriot Eliud Kipchoge in Berlin in 2022

Kiptum and Hakizimana

Kosgei was rushed to

hospital with serious

Images showed the

its windscreen

wreck of the vehicle,

shattered, the roof

and doors buckled

and almost ripped

injuries.

off.

died on the spot, while

Kiptum's world record, which he set

long-distance greats **Short, vibrant career**

him into the pantheon of

Debut for the ages He burst onto the scene in 2022 in a race in Valencia where he clocked 2hr, 01min, 53sec,

labelled the "fastest debut marathon ever".

2 Gruelling training regime Hakizimana said Kiptum ran between 250km and 280km a week as part of his routine, and sometimes even 300km. Kipchoge, in

3 Epic rivalry ends early

comparison, ran 180-220km a week.

Kiptum and Kipchoge were expected to provide an all-Kenyan battle for gold in the Paris Olympics. Kiptum also said he would try to become the first man to run

Kenya's tryst with tragedy

2011 Wanjiru died in a mysterious accident

Agnes Tirop was found

2023 | Kiplagat was found dead in his car stabbed to death with a stab wound

An athlete who had a whole life ahead of him to achieve incredible greatness. I offer my deepest condolences to his young family. ELIUD KIPCHOGE, FORMER WORLD RECORD HOLDER

an official marathon in under two hours

2021 Marathon great Running star

aged 25

to his neck

Marathons that 24-year-old Kiptum ran. However, they were 3 of the 7 fastest times ever and were enough to propel

{ POWER PLAY ON SILVER SCREEN } POLL SEASON

Andhra's political fight, on a celluloid battlefield

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: The battle for political supremacy in Andhra Pradesh is not being fought at the hustings alone, but also in a parallel arena: the silver screen.

In less than three months, the state will simultaneously hold two crucial elections, to its 25 Lok Sabha seats and 175 assembly constituencies, which has turned it into a beehive of activity - from chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and principal opposition leader Chandrababu Naidu making trips to Delhi to presumably stitch up an alliance with the BJP, to Reddy's sister Sharmila now battling her brother as the new

Congress president, and a bunch of disleaders gruntled switching parties.

Amid all this activity, four films have been made in Andhra Pradesh that have regional politics at

their centre. Three have protagonists that mirror the story of YSRCP president and chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, two of which Vyooham (strategy) and Sapatham (vow) have been made by established director Ram Gopal Varma. The third film, Yatra 2, has been made by director Mahi

Raghava. The fourth, Rajdhani Files, directed by Bhanu Shankar and set for release on February 15, highlights the issues of farmers of Amaravati, once posited by the TDP as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh, a promise the party has reiterated in its campaign.

Raghava's Yatra 2 was released in over 400 theatres across Andhra Pradesh on Thursday and saw Tamil star

Jeeva play the role of Jagan Mohan Reddy, with Malayali superstar Mammootty playing the role of his late father and former Andhra Pradesh chief

minister YS Rajasekhar Reddy. "The film will appeal to the cadres of YSRCP, if not the common viewers, because it depicts the ups and downs in the life of Jagan, right from the day of his father's death till he undertakes a marathon 3,000km padayatra that ultimately catapulted him to power," said Venkat Arikatla, chief editor of popular film por-

tal greatandhra.com. Films with clear political themes being released just before the state elections are not

unusual in Andhra Pradesh. TDP MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna made NTR: Kathanayakudu, a biopic based on the life of his father and TDP founder NT Rama

PICK OF Rao. The film was released on January 9, 2019, right before the assembly elections. Yatra 2 is a sequel to Yatra,

made by Raghava before the 2019 elections. "While Yatra I was made on

the life of late YSR and the struggles in his rise to the position of chief minister of unified Andhra Pradesh, Yatra 2 begins with the death of YSR and narrates how Jagan carries the legacy of his father, braving several setbacks including being in jail for 16 months for defying the Congress high command and his defeat in the 2014 elections before finally realising the dream of coming to power," Arikatla said.

Political analyst Ramesh Kandula says such biopics have little influence on the electorate. "There is no such precedent, at least in Andhra Pradesh, in which the films have influenced



Yatra 2 follows the life of Jagan Mohan Reddy.

the minds of voters so that they changed the outcome of the elections," he said.

The reason, according to Kandula, is that most of these films were not high-quality in production values as well as subject.

"Their main objective is to highlight a particular party or a political leader and run down the opponent. So, such films appeal only to the targeted audiences, that is leaders and cadres of that particular political party, rather than general audiences,' he said. "It is like preaching to the converts."

The Telugu film industry has a turnover of over ₹2,500 crore, according to a CII report from 2022-23. "But the political biopics have hardly earned any revenue at the box office. Even Yatra 2, I am told, has failed to generate enough footfall in the first three days," Kandula said.

Reached for a comment, the 40-year-old Raghava denied that Yatra 2 was made to explicitly promote the YSRCP.

"It is an out-and-out commercial film and has all the elements of a family drama. It is almost a Lion King kind of story, where the son carries the legacy of his father after the latter's death and overcomes hurdles that present themselves before him in life," Bhargava

Asked why he chose to release the film ahead of the assembly elections, Raghava said every movie has an apt time for release if it is aimed to be a commercial hit.

"Such films cannot be released for Pongal or Dussehra," he said

Varma's film *Vyooham* — also based on the life of Jagan Mohan Reddy — is up for release on February 23, after a

court battle. "We, Vyooham, are coming on 23rd Feb to drink #TDP and eat @JanaSenaParty," Varma announced on X on Fri-

The film was originally meant to hit the screens in January, but its censor certificate was suspended by the Andhra Pradesh high court on January 22, following a petition by TDP general secretary, and Chandrababu Naidu's son, Nara Lokesh, alleging that it portrayed the lives of TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, Lokesh, as well as Jana Sena Party chief and actor Pawan Kalyan, incorrectly.

Varma filed a review petition in the high court immediately with the matter heard by chief justice Alok Aradhe and justice J Anil Kumar. On Thursday, the bench directed the Central Board of Film Certification to re-examine the issue, and decide on giving clearance, which the board did on Friday after some cuts.

"Unlike Yatra 2, Varma's film focuses not only on Jagan's life, but also on opposition leaders, particularly Naidu and Lokesh. One has to wait and see how it is received by the audience, " Ari-

katla said. Another noted Telugu film critic Allani Sridhar said biopics like Yatra 2 or Vyooham are seasonal and have no long-term impact. "They are like political pamphlets of the parties appealing to only their cadres. Obviously, they cannot influence the people's choice," he

Varma has also simultaneously made Sapatham, said to be a sequel to Vyooham, announcing that it would be

ready for release on March 1. "Sapatham is said to be based on how Jagan implemented his welfare agenda and catered to the poorer sections of society," a person involved in the making of the film said.

Rajdhani Files, up for release on February 16, captures the travails of the capital Amara-

Amaravati capital region, located between Vijayawada and Guntur, was visualised to be developed as the world class capital city of Andhra Pradesh by the previous TDP government headed by N Chandrababu Naidu. More than 24,000 farmers from 29 villages of the area gave away their fertile land for the capital city under land pool-

ing system. However, after YSRCP led by Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power in 2019, it dumped the Amaravati capital project and proposed to create three capitals for the state - administrative capital at Visakhapatnam, judicial capital at Kurnool and only legislative capital at Ama-

The farmers moved the high court, challenging this decision, and won the case in March 2022. The issue is presently in the Supreme Court. The farmers recently completed 1,500 days of their agitation to retain the capital city at Amaravati.

"Going by the trailer, the film seeks to highlight the agitation of farmers of the Amaravati capital region and depicts their struggles to fight against the government, which is planning to establish three capital cities in place of Amaravati," Arikatla

Oneindia.com, a popular Telugu political and entertainment news website, which is the promoter of the film, said in a statement on February 5, "The interesting part of the film is that about 600 real farmers of Amaravati and many of their children have acted in it."

SUPREME COURT The appointment of deputy chief ministers is a practice followed in some states to give a little more importance to senior leaders... it's not unconstitutional On the appointment of deputy CMs. Related story on page 13

MYDELHI



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee Digital India strengthening the economy India accounts for 46% of global digital payments

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat









Delhi Police commissioner Sanjay Arora in an order said that all vehicular traffic heading to Delhi shall be subjected to "rigorous and thorough inspection by law enforcement authorities stationed at designated checkpoints".

Prohibitory orders across Delhi as farmers' march to go ahead

Karn Pratap Singh

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NEW DELHI: Anticipating a rerun of 2020-21 farmers' agitation, the Delhi Police on Monday invoked prohibitory orders under section 144 of the code of criminal procedure (CrPC) in the entire city with immediate effect and it is likely to continue for the next 30 days unless the order is withdrawn, senior officials aware of the devel-

opment said on Monday. Talks between Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Arjun Munda and protesting farmers ended in an impasse, with consensus missing on some of the key sticking points, including a legally guaranteed minimum support price (MSP).

The restrictions were clamped after an order issued by the Delhi Police commissioner Sanjay Arora, around 11.30am.

In the order, a copy of which has been shared by the city police's public relation office, the police commissioner mentioned the "Delhi Chalo" march announced for February 13 (Tuesday) by various farmers' unions and associations such as the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to hold protests outside Parliament, to press their demands.

Arora in his order said that for maintaining peace, tranquillity, public safety and public order in Delhi, eight orders are being promulgated. The first is about prohibition on assembly. His order stated that "there shall be a prohibition on blocking of roads, passages, any type of procession agitation, rally, public meeting by the agitators or general public or public representatives by way of assembly/gathering of five or more persons with or without weapons in the entire jurisdiction of Delhi, except for purposes specifically permitted under law."

Through his order, Arora also prohibited carrying or processions and rallies anywhere in the city. He directed that there shall be an absolute prohibition on the organisation, convening, or participation in any processions, demonstrations, rallies, or march on foot, where for political, social, or any other purpose, within the geographical limits of Delhi.

As inputs received from intelligence units have stated that the participants of the farmers' agitations are likely to use tractors, trolleys/trailers as mode of transport for entering Delhi from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the police commissioner through his order has imposed restrictions on entry of tractor trolleys and trucks.

"No tractor trolleys, trucks, or any other vehicles transporting individuals or materials, especially those carrying implements such as sticks/lathis/dandas, swords, spears, bludgeons, firearms, or any other thing capable of being used as weapons or tools of violence, shall be permitted entry into the territory of Delhi," Arora's order read.

The police chief also imposed a ban with immediate effect on carkamping up security

Restrictions clamped after Delhi Police prohibited the convening of, or participation in any processions, demonstrations or rallies in the Capital

security companies deployed along Delhi's key borders with Haryana, Uttar Pradesh

farmer groups from Punjab, Haryana likely to participate in their 'Delhi Chalo'

Arrangements at key SINGHU TIKRI **Delhi borders Location of deployment Location of deployment** Around the border area Three layers — flyover above Singhu Sonipat border, one km away towards Delhi, **Deployment strength** and close to Mukarba Chowk **Around 15 companies** Deployment strength Layers of security Chowk 20 CAPF companies, 600+ Delhi Police Iron barricades, concrete road personnel blocks, barbed wires, nail beds, Layers of security containers, hydra cranes, police Iron barricades, cement slabs, barbed PCRs, drones, buses etc wires, containers, dumpers carrying Movement of traffic sand, riot control vehicle VAJRA, water Border yet to be shut, but police cannons have advised commuters to take Harish Chander Hospital **Movement of traffic** alternate routes to enter Haryana Traffic currently allowed, but decision Palla to be taken in real time **Alternative routes** Badh To avoid Mukarba Khalsa Singhu border Chowk To avoid Ghazipur and Singhu both Dasna Madhuban To avoid Tikri Chowk Hiran Kudna border village Dabur Jharoda Punjabi Chowk Connaught Place border India Gate Najafgarh **GHAZIPUR Location of deployment** UP Gate (NH-9 and Delhi-Meerut Expressway near Ghazipur chicken and fish market) CHILLA Deployment strength 12 companies of security forces **Location of deployment** Chilla border on Noida-Delhi Link Road near New Layers of security **Ashok Nagar** Jersey barriers, iron barricades, iron nails, barbed wires, containers, hydra **Deployment strength** ≈500 personnel cranes, heavy vehicles Layers of security **Movement of traffic** Jersey barriers, iron barricades, iron nails, barbed

wires, containers, hydra cranes, heavy vehicles

No restrictions yet, but police arrangements

are in place and the border could be blocked if

farmers try to enter Delhi through this route.

Movement of traffic

rying corrosive substances, explosives, firearms, or any lethal weapons or articles capable of being used as a weapon of offence or defence at any public place in the city. Similarly, there is complete prohibition on collecting or carrying of brickbats, bounders, acids, or any dangerous fluid, petrol, soda water bottles, or any article capable of use for causing danger in any form to human life and

safety, the order stated. "Any vehicles found to be transporting lathis, rods, banners, or similar objects likely to be used for disruptive purposes shall be denied entry into Delhi," the order ity.

The police commissioner's

order invoked prohibition on provocative actions or utterances. It explained that it shall be unlawful for any person, group, or organization to disseminate, propagate, or utter any provocative slogan, speech, or message, whether through verbal, written, or electronic means, which may incite or inflame passion leading to a breach of public order and tranquility. It also banned the use of any amplifier, loudspeaker, or other similar instruments in or at any private vehicles or private building or public place unless allowed by the competent author-

The order, however, shall not apply firstly to any processions or

meetings organised by government, secondly to any public servant acting in the discharge of his/ her duty and thirdly to any congregations or processions related to any weddings, funerals, or other purely religious functions. A senior police officer said that

to ensure implementation of the prohibitory orders multi-layered security arrangements were put in place on the borders and within the city. More than 1,000 security personnel from the Delhi Police and paramilitary forces equipped with anti-riot gears were deployed at all three key borders - Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur.

The police have also arranged drones for aerial surveillance on suspicious activities around the borders, the police officer said. A second officer said that alert

Delhi-Meerut Expressway and main

NH-9 is open for traffic. Sub-lanes of

NH-9 near the UP Gate underpass are

Maharajpur border near Anand Vihar

closed. Vehicles going towards

Ghaziabad are also diverted to

has been sounded in all police stations across the city and police personnel have been asked to intensify police pickets, patrolling and checking of vehicles. The personnel were also asked to take action against people found violating the prohibitory orders issued across the city under section 144 of CrPC from Monday onwards till March 12. Multiple check posts manned by security personnel were seen throughout Monday in central Delhi areas such as Ranjit Singh flyover, Mandi House, ITO, Minto Bridge and Mathura Road.

About the curbs

Can I travel from my home in Noida to work in central Delhi? Yes, for now since the border is open. If it is shut, take the Metro or an

Are there curbs on transit between **Ghaziabad and Delhi?** There won't be any curbs on commuters if they are

alternative route.

not part of farmers' protests and not travelling in vehicles having banners and flags of farmers' unions. If Ghazipur border is sealed, all private and public vehicles will be diverted on the alternate routes.

Will school buses operate between Delhi and UP?

In case the Ghazipur border is sealed, school buses will use the alternate routes. No announcement on ban on school buses made by Delhi Police.

Will the supply of consumable items be affected?

Yes, as trucks and vehicles carrying these goods will be checked at the borders.

I have to travel from Delhi to Chandigarh. What is my best option?

By bus: Check with the roadways/private operator. By train: Leave early for stations to avoid snarls. By car: Use routes shared by traffic police.

I have plans to visit the Book Fair today. Will it still be on? Yes

Advertisement No. 12/2024

Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of

Director (Finance)

Oil India Limited (OIL) Last date of submission of application by the

applicant is 05/03/2024 Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is 14/03/2024 For details login to website: http://www.pesbnew.nic.in





STEPS TO CURB PROTEST HARSH, **COLONIAL, SAYS AAP MINISTER**

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi minister and the convener of Delhi Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Gopal Rai on Monday termed as "harsh" various measures that are being implemented by various state police to stop the farmers' march to Delhi, and added that either the central government should fulfil the demands of farmers or provide them space for raising their demands democratically.

Rai's remarks came at a press conference in the Capital where he referred to several restrictions that have been put in place Delhi's border points with Haryana and UP. He said that Delhi belongs to all Indian citizens including farmers.

He said that while on one hand the Centre keeps referring to India being the mother of all democracies, on the other hand, it was violating democratic values. "Such harsh curbs and threats to farmers remind us of the colonial era," he said.

Delhi Police on Monday clamped prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code with immediate effect, barring assembly of five or more persons and carrying out processions and rallies anywhere in the city til March 12. The order also barred tractor trolleys, trucks, or any other vehicles transporting individuals or materials, especially those carrying implements such as sticks/lathis/dandas, swords, spears, bludgeons or, firearms.

Delhi traffic police on Sunday evening issued an advisory announcing diversions at border point at Singhu and Ghazipur. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and several other farmers unions and groups have announced a 'Delhi Chalo' march on February 13, 2024, to hold protest outside the Parliament House, to press their demands related to legal guarantee for fixing a Minimum

Support Price (MSP). Meanwhile, the Ambala administration on Monday sealed key Delhi-Chandigarh highway with jersey barriers placed at Sadoupur on Ambala-Mohali border. The Haryana Police have issued traffic advisory with diversion of vehicles at Karnal and Kurukshetra.

Forces deployed, highways shut, flag marches done in Haryana

Bhavey Nagpal and Sunil Rahar

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH/KARNAL: Thousands of paramilitary and police personnel in riot gear stood guard behind multiple layers of metal and jersey barriers, concertina wire, spikes, and sandbags as Haryana sought to seal its border with Punjab in a bid to halt the proposed "Dilli Chalo" march by certain farmer groups scheduled for Tuesday.

However, discussions between a central panel of Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Arjun Munda and protesting farmers ended in a deadlock late on Monday night, with spokespersons of farmers organisations confirming the march will resume at 10am on Tuesday.

Top officials posted at the Haryana chief minister's office (CMO), police, and home department held back-to-back meetings in Chandigarh on Monday to fine tune the police response while handling any untoward situation.

The Manohar Lal Khattar-led BJP-JJP coalition government said it is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that there is no repeat of the 2020 agitation, when farmer groups had marched in a similar manner through Haryana and blocked Delhi borders for almost a year.

By Monday, Haryana deployed thousands of paramilitary personnel along with state police to deal with what is being dubbed as "Dilli Chalo 2.0". In view of the protests, prohibitory orders have been imposed in 16 of 22 the districts in the state even as Internet remained suspended in seven districts of North and North-West Haryana till Tuesday midnight.

District administrations in a few pockets have also ordered fuel pump owners not to fill more than 10 litre of diesel in tractors, and advising that fuel in is not sold in open drums.

Haryana police have warned the farmers that their passports will be cancelled and tractors would be impounded with registration cancelled, if they join the protest.

According to state officials, thousands of farmers from Punjab are planning to enter Haryana from different inter-state



Haryana Police personnel set up barricades at Jhamari in Ambala, on the border with Punjab, on Monday.

The protests are being led

under the banner of Samyukt

Kisan Morcha (apolitical) and

Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM)

including several breakaway fac-

tions of mainstream farmer bod-

Over 50 companies of para-

military forces have been

deployed in Haryana and flag

marches were carried out in the

state. The forces also carried out

drills on Haryana-Punjab border

at Shambhu in Ambala and

dropped few tear gas shells

turned three stadiums into open

jails to detain agitators if they

enter the state and has also

sealed key highways connecting

the state capital with Amritsar,

Chandigarh and other parts of

been issued by the Haryana

Police, claiming to provide regu-

lar traffic updates on its social

media handles. However, alter-

native routes, not capable of han-

dling heavy movement of traffic,

remain chocked prompting the

authorities to issue warnings for

general public to avoid taking the

routes for the next few days.

Traffic advisories have also

The state government has also

across the barriers.

the northern region.

ies in Haryana and Punjab.

Pradesh.

borders to further move to the

Across Haryana in the areas

that share border with Punjab

and Delhi, the authorities have

put in place multiple layers of

metal and jersey barriers, con-

certina wires, spikes, tear gas

shells, sandbags, drones, CCTV

cameras, and other logistics to

Punjab-Haryana have given a call

to march on February 13, to press

for their demands, including a

legal guarantee on minimum

support price (MSP), waiver of

farm loans, cancellation of pend-

ing criminal cases imposed after

protested against three agricul-

tural laws under the banner of

Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM),

no prominent organisations

from Haryana are part of the agi-

ana, Gurnam Singh Charuni,

head of Bhartiya Kisan Union

(Charuni) - a prominent face of

the 2020 agitation - is not part of

the protest this time. Neither is

Naresh Tikait-led Bhartiya Kisan

Union that has followers in the

sugarcane belt in western Uttar

The farmer leader from Hary-

Unlike 2020, when the farmers

the 2020 agitation, etc.

tation this time.

At least 15 farmer unions from

deal with any situation.

national Capital on Tuesday.

Likely plans to seal border points, city stares at gridlock

Karn Pratap Singh

karn.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi may face massive traffic chaos on Tuesday, especially in areas adjoining Delhi-Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-Haryana borders if the Delhi Police implements its plan to seal four border points at Ghazipur, Chilla, Tikri and Singhu as the protesting farmers vowed to continue their march from Punjab to Delhi. On Monday even-

A massive deployment of security forces has been done across Delhi and Haryana along with barricades put up at several points. Senior traffic police officials said the movement of vehicles would be hit.

The traffic police on Tuesday issued an advisory suggesting alternative routes for movement of people between Delhi and

service of said warrant).

20.04.2024.

DP/1536/NE/2024

(Court Matter)

Haryana bypassing four border

RAVIKUMAR/HT PHOTO

The city police plans to seal these borders by placing multilayered blockades using jersey barriers, iron barricades, shipping containers, barbed wires, and heavy vehicles.

"We urge the public to go through our detailed traffic advisory to know about alternative routes before leaving for their destinations. It will help them find their best routes. Our traffic personnel have been deployed in adequate strength to facilitate movement of traffic through diversions," said additional commissioner of police (traffic) Chinmoy Biswal.

Another traffic police officer said vehicles involved in transporting essential services such as milk, vegetable and food items will be allowed to enter the city after thorough search.

rams into bus on Yamuna e-way

Police said that the accident took place near the 117 milestone of

Five killed as car

the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura district.

HT Correspondents letters@hindustantimes.com

AGRA/NEW DELHI: Five people travelling from Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi on Monday morning were killed after the car they were travelling in hit a bus on the Yamuna Expressway near Mathura, and both vehicles became engulfed in flames, police officers aware of the matter said.

The officers said the collision took place when the private bus - which was heading from Gaya in Bihar to Noida - swung on the expressway to make a U-turn, and a Maruti Swift car behind the heavy vehicle rammed into it. None of the bus passengers was injured in the incident, they said.

"The accident took place near the 117 milestone of the Yamuna Expressway within the limits of the Mahawan police station of Mathura district," said Mathura senior superintendent of police (SSP) Shailesh Dubey.

Police identified the deceased as Anshuman Yadav, 28, who was driving the car from his residence in Firozabad to his office in Delhi's Preet Vihar; and four other people from Firozabad who were living in Govindpuri in Delhi — Sarbar Hussain, 32, Himanshu Yadav, 26, Zayad Khan, 25, and Shiv Kishan Rawat, 26.

It was not immediately clear

Directorate General of

how the five knew each other, but police suggested that the four passengers used a carpooling mobile app to travel to Delhi in Anshuman Yadav's car.

Officers said the driver and

the conductor of the bus are absconding, but efforts are on to nab them at the earliest. UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his grief at the

incident and ordered local officials to ensure all help to the families of the deceased. Satya Prakash, one of the passengers, said that the bus had

stopped at an eatery on the expressway minutes before the accident. "The bus cleaner asked the

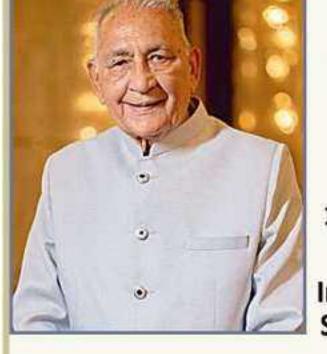
driver to turn around as he had spotted some blockades ahead. Initially, the driver disagreed, and started driving the bus towards Noida. However, the driver suddenly agreed to go back, and while he was turning the bus, a car collided with it and both vehicles caught fire. We had to rush out to save ourselves," Prakash said.

Anshuman Yadav's family said he had recently gotten mar-

His father Manoj said, "I was shocked when I saw the body. There was no form. It was just charred mass... The police should take action against the bus driver. It was because of him that the car collided with the bus."

Trade Remedies invites

Homage



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19/01/1939 - 10/02/2024

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NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum-I

Tender Notice no. 6-S/74/ Tender / 2023-24 Dt: 02.02.2024 Work of Special Repair of BOXNHL/BOXNR Wagon at C&W Workshop, Jagadhri, Northern railway was published for & on behalf of President of India acting through Chief Workshop Manager / Jagadhri W/shop & the date of opening of tender is dt.23.02.2024. Corrigendum-I is being issued for modified website: www.ireps.gov.in. 454/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Date: 09.02.2024

On behalf of the Chairman, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, e-tenders on two bid system are

kg. No.	Name of Work (Contract package)	Bid Security (Earnest Money)	Tender Document Cost	Time for Completion of work
1.	Construction of Devjani water supply scheme of Block Mori District Uttarkashi, consisting of supplying, laying & jointing of GI Medium pipes in gravity main and distribution system intake works, clear water reservoirs with complete testing, commissioning of scheme, along with all other appurtenant works, including confirmative survey, design/checking of design of different structures/pipe line etc.	Rs. 3.08 Lacs	Rs. 5000.00 +GST@ 18%	4 Months

Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal ie. http://www.uktenders.gov.in on or **Superintending Engineer** before 12th February 2024

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION DIVISION KRISHI ANUSANDHAN BHAVAN II, PUSA, **NEW DELHI-110 012**

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused

Chander Shekher, S/o Shyam Kumar, R/o C-1/17, Nand Nagri,

Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the

offence in FIR No. 120/2021, Dated 13.02.2021, U/s 392/411

IPC, registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi, and it has been

returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said

accused Chander Shekher, cannot be found and whereas it has

been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Chander

Shekher, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Chander

Shekher, of case FIR No. 120/2021, Dated 13.02.2021, U/s

392/411 IPC, P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi, is required to appear

before this court to answer the said complaint on or before

NETAJI SUBHAS - ICAR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) invites applications from the Indian as well as overseas nationals having Master's degree in Agriculture and allied sciences for the Netaji Subhas-ICAR International Fellowships (NS-ICARIFs) for the year 2023-24. The NS-ICARIFs are available for pursuing doctoral degree in agriculture and allied sciences. in the identified priority areas, to the (i) Indian candidates for study abroad in the identified overseas Universities/Institutions and (ii) to overseas candidates for study in the Indian Agricultural Universities (AUs) in the ICAR-AUs system, having strong research and teaching capabilities. Thirty fellowships for duration of three years will be available Detailed guidelines, priority areas of study and online application is available on ICAR Education portal: https://education.icar.gov.in/ NetajiSubhasNotification

No hard copy or application sent through email will be entertained Last date for online submission of application is March 15, 2024 by 1700 hrs. CBC 01304/12/0001/2324

ATTENTION ADVERTISING AGENCIES: INDICATIVE AD

Empanelment of Advertising Agencies by Eastern Railway Applications are invited from INS accredited advertising agencies for empanelment in Eastern Railway for Public Relations related work. Application forms can be downloaded from our website www.er. indianrailways.gov.in (Supplier Information → Other information) from 13.02.2024 to 14.03.2024 till 12.00 noon. The application form can also be obtained from office of Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway, 3, Koilaghat Street, Kolkata-700001 on any working day from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. upto 13.03.2024 and from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon on 14.03.2024 on submission of cost of application form. The cost of application form (non-refundable) of ₹ 5,900/- (₹ 5,000/- + 18% GST of 900/-) to be submitted in the form of Demand Draft from scheduled bank, drawn in favour of "FA&CAO, Eastern Railway" payable at Kolkata or money receipt issued by Chief Cashier, Eastern Railway. Applications complete in all respect with cost of application form paid in the prescribed method must reach the above address by 2.00 p.m. on 14.03.2024 after which applications will not be accepted. The detailed notice is available in the Eastern Railway's website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in For any query/clarification, please contact at 033-2248-4578.

> **Chief Public Relations Officer** EASTERN RAILWAY

By order

Aridaman Singh Cheema

Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Shahdara, Court no. 19,

Metropolitan Magistrate - 03

CBC 05128/11/0003/2324

U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. (ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)

No. A-12024/4/2024

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Department of Commerce

Directorate General of Trade Remedies

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https://www.dgtr.gov.in/disclaimer under 'Career'.

Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

e-Tender Notice

On behalf of UPPCL e-tenders are invited on percentage rate under two bid system from eligible contractors/firms registered in U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Lucknow for the followings Works:-

NIT Reference No.	Name of Work		
135/PCL/PM/Noida/2023-24, Dated	Construction work of Academic Building of Nursing College at Government Institute of Medical Science Greater Noida Distt. Gautambudha Nagar		
136/PCL/PM/Noida/2023-24, Dated	Balance work of Construction of Govt. Inter College at Razapur District Ghaziabad		
137/PCL/PM/Noida/2023-24, Dated	Balance work of Construction of Govt. Inter College at Dadri District Gautambudha Nagar		
138/PCL/PM/Noida/2023-24, Dated	Construction work of Govt. Girls Inter College at Noorpur Madaiya District Hapur		
139/PCL/PM/Noida/2023-24, Dated	Upgradation of Govt. I.T.I Muzaffarnagar Under Light House Project		
140/PCL/PM/Noida/2023-24,	Construction work of Sports Stadium, Shamli District Shamli		

District Snamii Details can be downloaded from the website "e-tender.up.nic.in" & UPPCL website "www.upprojects.org".

General Manager Zone-6, UPPCL, Noida

सामाजिक न्याय, अधिकारिता, अनुसूचित जातियां एवं पिछड़े वर्ग कल्याण तथा अंत्योदय (एस.ई.डब्ल्यू.ए.) विभाग, हरियाणा बेज संख्या 53-54, सैक्टर-2, पंचकुला

विज्ञापन

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति योजना अनुसूचित जाति, अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग तथा डी०एन०टी० के अंतर्गत

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति योजना अनुसूचित जाति तथा अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग तथा डी॰एन॰टी॰ के छात्रों से शैक्षणिक सत्र वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए आनलाईन आवेदन पत्र मांगे गए हैं। इस योजना के तहत लाभ लेने के लिए परिवारिक आय 2.50 लाख से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए। आवेदन विद्यार्थी हरियाणा निवासी होना चाहिए।

योग्य विद्यार्थी हर-छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल पर दिनांक 29.02.2024 तक आवेदन आनलाईन कर सकते हैं। छात्र आवेदन पत्र के लिए https://harchhatravratti.highereduhry.ac.in पर आवेदन कर सकते हैं। अधिक जानकारी के लिए नंबर 0172-2566219, 2567009 एवं सम्बंधित जिले के जिला कल्याण अधिकारी से सम्पर्क करें।

महानिदेशक

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remembered by Nephews, Sisters-in-law and Brothers-in-law, Relatives, Friends, Colleagues, Neighbours and the many lives that

Tender Document. Corrigendum-I for the same has been created on

Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand

Letter No.120/508/03

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	Construction of Devjani water supply scheme of Block Mori District Uttarkashi, consisting of supplying, laying & jointing of GI Medium pipes in gravity main and distribution system intake works, clear water reservoirs with complete testing, commissioning of scheme, along with all other appurtenant works, including confirmative survey, design/checking of design of different structures/pipe line etc.	Rs. 3.08 Lacs	Rs. 5000.00 +GST@ 18%	4 Months

Detail information is given in Bid documents of these work(s), shall be uploaded on the e-

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Conditions Apply*GST as applicable

Delhi HC grants bail to 4 convicts in Soumya case

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday granted bail to four men convicted for the 2008 murder of television journalist Soumya Vishwanathan. The men had challenged their conviction and life sentence.

Vishwanathan was shot dead in her car at Vasant Kunj on September 30, 2008 around 3.30am, while she was returning home from work. On October 18, 2023, a trial court held four accused -Baljeet Malik, Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, and Ajay Kumar - guilty of murder and charged them under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), later sentencing them to two life imprisonments each. A fifth suspect — Ajay Sethi was convicted on charges of receiving stolen property.

Malik, Kapoor, Shukla, and Kumar then approached the high court challenging their conviction and sentence.

On Monday, a high court bench led by justice Suresh Kumar Kait suspended their sensha Ghosh in 2009. In their bail plea, argued that the Dell

In their bail plea, the convicts argued that the Delhi Police had falsely booked them for Vishwanathan's murder while arresting three of them for Ghosh's murder in 2009.

"The prosecution miserably failed to link these accused persons in commission of the alleged offense dated August 30, 2008. There has not been any recovery of any weapon/vehicle from the accused persons. They have never been prosecuted for the commission of any offense under the Arms Act. There is no eye witness or CCTV footage on record to prove the participation of the accused persons as alleged

in the case," read their plea.

The plea said the prosecution failed to prove that Shukla and Malik were members of an "organised crime syndicate".

Didn't expect it, they deserved to be punished: Soumya's mother

After the Delhi high court on Monday granted bail to four convicts serving life imprisonment in the murder case of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan, her mother, Madhavi Vishwanathan, said that the order was "unexpected".

"I am not happy with the order," she added.

Madhavi said that she did not expect that the court will grant bail to the convicts, especially when it dismissed a parole plea by one of them just a month ago. She said that she wasn't in the country at the moment.

Soumya, who worked with a leading English news channel, was shot dead in the early hours of September 30, 2008, on Nelson Mandela Marg in south Delhi while she was returning home from work in her car. "I don't know how many Soumyas, Jigishas and Nadeems have to lose their lives till they are punished. I didn't expect this at all and they deserve to be punished," Madhavi said, adding that her journey for justice has been a long one. She added that the conduct of the accused in jail should also have been considered before granting them bail.

With inputs by Hemani Bhandari

Excise case: Court grants interim three-day bail to Manish Sisodia

Deepankar Malviya

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday granted three days' interim bail to former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in the cases registered by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged irregularities in formation and implementation of Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

Sisodia moved an application on Friday seeking interim bail from February 12 to February 16 to attend his niece's wedding on February 14 in Lucknow.

CBI strongly opposed the interim bail application, saying that Sisodia is a highly influential person and held a powerful post due to which he can tamper evidence. The agency also argued that the investigation

ाम इसे टी

Manish Sisodia

regarding the larger conspiracy behind the now scrapped policy is still pending.

ED, on the other hand, argued that a day's time can be granted to Sisodia to go and attend the wedding function in Lucknow with stringent conditions.

This is the first time Sisodia has been granted bail since he was arrested in February 2023

was arrested in February 2023.
Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, representing Sisodia, sub-

mitted that a day's time would be too short to go to Lucknow attend the wedding and return to Delhi.

Upon being asked by the court that whether officers can also be sent with him in civil clothes, Mathur argued that "Even if I get three days to attend the marriage functions it is fine by me but not with cops going with me as it will spoil the atmosphere".

The court after hearing both the sides granted bail to Sisodia. Meanwhile, the court listed the Aam Aadmi Party leader's regular bail application for arguments on February 17.

Sisodia has also filed a regular bail application before the court on the grounds that he has been detained for over 11 months and has not been implicated in the alleged offence as the agency has failed to establish any financial gain or undue advantage obtained by him.

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

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

He pointed out that the Supreme Court, relying upon the agencies' assurance that the trial would conclude within 6-8 months, had granted him liberty to file a fresh bail application if the trial is protracted and proceeds at snail's pace in the next three months.

His earlier bail applications have been dismissed by all the courts.

PM Modi to launch Ggm Metro project

Soumya Vishwanathan

tence till the pendency of their

appeal challenging their convic-

tion. The bench, also comprising

justice Girish Kathpalia, further

allowed their application seek-

ing suspension of their sentence

after taking note of the fact that

the four men had been behind

bars for 14 years and 9 months.

to walk out of prison as Malik,

Kapoor, and Shukla are also

serving life sentences after they

were convicted for the murder of

28-year-old BPO employee Jigi-

To be sure, only Kumar is set

Abhishek Behl

abhishek.behl@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the AIIMS Rewari project at Majra Bhalkhi village on February 16, officials aware of the matter said on Monday. Modi will also digitally lay the foundation stone of seven to eight other projects across Haryana, including the Gurugram Metro project, the officials said.

Government officials privy to the matter said that a parallel event will be held in Gurugram, where people can watch the foundation stone laying ceremony of the projects on a large

"The programme will be telecast live and arrangements will be made for the people to sit and watch the foundation stone laying ceremony of Rewari AIIMS, Gurugram Metro and



PM Narendra Modi

also listen to the speech of PM Modi," one of the officials said.
Gurugram deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav said, "The Gurugram Metro project has been a long pending demand of city residents and it will bring the old city on the Metro route."

The Union cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Modi on June 7, 2023, approved the Gurugram Metro extension project from Huda City Metro station (since renamed as Millennium City Centre Metro station) to Cyber Hub in a 26.65-km loop that would cover the entire old Gurugram region. It also

approved a 1.85-km spur to the Dwarka Expressway.

On January 25 this year, the Haryana government approved the formation of the Gurugram Metro Rail Ltd, which shall be jointly owned by the Haryana government and the Government of India to execute the metro extension project.

The cost of the project has

been pegged at ₹5,452 crore.

Meanwhile, the AIIMS,
Rewari project will be the 22nd
such institute across the country, and will be spread over 210
acres, with an estimated cost of

₹1,231 crore.

The hospital will have 750 beds and an outpatient facility for 1,500 patients daily. It will also have a 100-seat medical college, 25 super speciality departments, and a nursing college. The campus will also boast a guest house, a 1000-seat auditorium, a hostel, residential facilities, and a night shelter.

PANIC AFTER HOAX BOMB THREAT AT SAKET SCHOOL

NEW DELHI: Students of Amity International School, Pushp Vihar in south Delhi were evacuated on Monday morning after the institute received an email warning of explosives, following which multiple units of the Delhi Police carried out searches of the premises, officers said.

After a four-hour search operation, the police concluded that it was likely a hoax email. "A thorough checking of the school was done through the bomb disposal team, but nothing was found," said deputy commissioner of police (south) Ankit Chauhan, adding that they have registered an FIR.

The school's spokesperson said in a statement, "We received a bomb threat via email and we immediately took precautions and informed the police. The police took prompt action and have been very supportive. They are investigating the source of the email and taking necessary action. We have closed the school for tomorrow (Tuesday) as a precautionary safety measure in the interest of our parents and students."

Ghazipur a methane super-emitter: Data

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Ghazipur landfill in Delhi was among the largest emitters of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that causes atmospheric warming, a report has said, citing satellite data drawn between 2019 and 2023 that showed a total of 1,256 "super-emitter events" across the world.

The report by The Guardian carried an analysis of data by Kayrros, a company that has multiple satellites observing environmental emissions.

It found that between January 2019 and June 2023, the Ghazipur landfill had at least 124 super-emitted events, including one in April, 2022 when the amount of methane that poured into the atmosphere was "equivalent to the pollution caused by 68m petrol cars running simultaneously".

"A total of 1,256 methane super-emitter events occurred between January 2019 and June 2023, according to the new data. Pakistan, India and Bangladesh lead the list of nations with the most large leaks, followed by Argentina, Uzbekistan and Spain," the report said.

Delhi, the report added, recorded "at least 124 superemitter events from city landfills since 2020... The worst event in THE REPORT SAID BETWEEN JANUARY 2019 AND JUNE 2023, GHAZIPUR LANDFILL HAD AT LEAST 124 SUPER-EMITTED EVENTS

India occurred in April 2022 in Delhi, with methane poured into the atmosphere at a rate of 434 tonnes an hour," the report said.

That month, the landfill was consumed by repeated outbreaks of fire. A massive fire spread through a section of the landfill for the first time on March 28 that year, before reigniting repeatedly, sending a dense plume of smoke several metres into the sky and causing a toxic haze around the area, police and fire department officials said at the time. Such fires have broken out often at the site, especially during summer.

The Guardian report added that a recent outburst was near Lahore in Pakistan in February, which leaked methane "at 214 tonnes an hour, equivalent to 34m car exhausts".

Landfills emit methane when organic decomposes in the absence of oxygen. Methane traps 86 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over 20 years, the report added.

AAP, BJP spar over slum rehabilitation

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday alleged that the Centre and its agencies have carried out a series of demolition drives at slum, or JJ, clusters in Delhi over the last year, and that no rehabilitation has been carried out in these cases.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hit back, accusing the AAP government in Delhi of not doing anything for the resettlement of slum dwellers, and of engaging in political rhetoric

engaging in political rhetoric.

Speaking at a press conference, Delhi cabinet minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said several demolition drives have occurred over the past year, including three recently in Jasola, Karkardooma, and Adarsh Nagar. "Over the last year, people are settling under flyovers and public spaces. These are the people whose houses are being demolished. I appeal to BJP MPs to stop these demolitions," he said.

Bharadwaj said that no action has been taken against the officers who were responsible for these drives. He added that the courts have pulled up the agencies in many cases. "There was a demolition drive in Tughlaqabad and more than 1000 homes were destroyed without any rehabilitation. Mehrauli colony, Dhaula Kuan, Pragati Maidan, Sunder

Nursery JJ cluster and so many other places which were listed clusters of DUSIB have seen demolition. Such listed clusters can't be damaged without rehabilitation," he said.

In response, the BJP said that the Delhi government was engaging in political rhetoric, rather than arranging relief work.

"Bhardwaj mentioned that in some places in Delhi, slums have been demolished either on the orders of some court or due to the requirements of development by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department, and DDA. The minister raised unfortunate political rhetoric instead of arranging relief work. The responsibility of resettlement work in Delhi lies with the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) of the Delhi government. It would be better if Bharadwaj explains what DUSIB has done for the resettlement of slum dwellers in the last 10 years," Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar

Kapoor said.

Kapoor said that nearly 50,000 resettlement scheme flats in various areas of Delhi have been unallocated for the past 12 years. "Many of these flats have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance, but the Kejriwal government has not allocated a single flat to anyone" he said.

Secretary delayed plan to outsource radiological services: Bharadwaj

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Patients in city government hospitals are dying for want of functional CT scan or MRI machines, Delhi's health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told the Delhi high court on Monday, accusing the health department of delays in processing a state government proposal to outsource radiological services under a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The high court was hearing a plea dealing with the issue of lack of medical infrastructure in Delhi hospitals. Bharadwaj, in a status report filed on Monday, said that the Aam Aadmi Party government initiated the proposal in May 2022, but the health secretary failed to provide the status of the equipment. "It is important to inform the high court at this juncture that the file about this proposal was initiated 22 months back on

17.05.2022 in File No. F.52/PS/DGHS/Diagnostic/2022 bearing CD No. 112699488. It is needless to say that this file is going around for last 22 months and patients in Hospitals are dying for want of functional CT Scan/MRI

machines," the report said.

"In the previous Status Report to high court dated 05.02.2024, the undersigned had explained that proposal for outsourcing radiological services under PPP mode is being processed by the Department. But when the undersigned vide U.O. Note dated 22.11.2023 requested the Secretary (Health) to provide the status of the proposal regarding outsourcing of radiological services under PPP mode, no status report was provided by Sec-

retary (Health)," Bharadwaj added.
HT reached out to health secretary Deepak Kumar, but he did not respond to requests for comments on the development. Lieutenant governor VK Saxena's office did

not comment on the matter.

Bharadwaj filed the status report in the court days after Saxena wrote to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, expressing his "disappointment and concern" about the state of public health infrastructure in the Capital in a letter dated February 3, and seeking a "time bound response" and submission of a factual report about the sector.

Kejriwal, responding to Saxena in a communication dated February 4, laid the blame for the state of the health system on the health and finance secretaries, and asked Saxena to replace them both.

To be sure, the high court had on February 5 expressed its displeasure over the availability of only six CT scan machines in 19 hospitals catering to the Capital's nearly 30 million population, and asked the Delhi government to ramp up public health infrastructure and bed capacity.

Bharadwaj, in his status report

filed on Monday, accused the health secretary of filing affidavits regarding the Capital's health infrastructure by bypassing his approval, with an attempt to

"paint a rosy picture".

The minister said that though he directed the health department to only file affidavits before the court with his written approval, they were instead being filed with the health secretary's assent, and the issue of lack of infrastructure

was never discussed with him.

"The Undersigned was never informed by the Department of Health or Secretary (Health) about any of the affidavits being submitted before this court in this matter. The undersigned had asked the Secretary (Health) to submit the true facts before the court with the approval of the undersigned. However, the undersigned was bypassed with an attempt to paint a rosy picture before the court," Bharadwaj said.

SO TANDUTTION COMPANY LIMITED BY

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091 CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, Tel. No.: +91 (033) 2319 7209, www.wbsedcl.in

			Standalone			Consolidated		
SI No.	Particulars	Quarte	er Ended	Financial Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Financial Year Ended	
			31.12.2022 Un-Audited	31.03.2023 Audited	31.12.2023 Un-Audited			
60 70		W		(₹in L	akh)	60.0		
1	Total Income from Operations	813943	761014	2990453	813943	761014	2990453	
	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4048	4054	2815	4048	4054	2815	
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4048	4054	2815	4048	4054	2815	
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3295	4054	2101	3295	4054	2101	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2417	2205	5271	2417	2205	5271	
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	345343	273063	286734	345343	273063	286734	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	61381	49864	75537	61381	49864	75537	
8	Securities Premium Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	Net Worth	370178	288087	327014	370178	288087	327014	
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	1758188	1694253	1658678	1758188	1694253	1658678	
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.19	2.84	2.53	2.19	2.84	2.53	
	Earnings Per Share of ₹ 10/- each (for Continuing and Discontinued Operations)							
	 Basic & Diluted before extraordinary items & net movement of Regulatory Deferral account balance (₹) (not annualised) 	0.39	(1.64)	(6.25)	0.39	(1.64)	(6.25)	
	2. Basic & Diluted after extraordinary items & net movement of Regulatory Deferral account balance (₹) (not annualised)	0.13	0.11	0.05	0.13	0.11	0.05	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	20367	18700	19117	20367	18700	19117	
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.64	1.04	1.05	0.64	1.04	1.05	
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.21	1.36	1.37	1.21	1.36	1.37	

Two scavengers die in north-west Delhi sewer in a pit in Ashok Vihar

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Two men died after allegedly inhaling toxic fumes inside a sewer in northwest Delhi's Keshavpuram, officers aware of the matter said on Monday. Investigators said that the men descended into the sewer to scavenge for gold and silver residue. The sewer is located on Lawrence Road near three jewellery manufacturing

units, and the deceased men,

who were unemployed, would

scavenge every day to support

The Delhi Fire Services said that they received a call from local residents and the police at 2pm on Sunday about two men who descended 20 feet into the sewer and did not come out. Two

their families.

teams were sent with a fire tender to rescue the men.

A senior police officer on condition of anonymity said, "The men were with a few friends when they opened the sewer lid and went inside. Our inquiry revealed that only one man went inside while others waited outside. When he didn't return, the second man also went down the sewer. When he also didn't come out, the others fled from the spot."When passersby spotted the open lid, they called the

Delhi Fire Services.

A fire official said, "We found two men inside the sewer. They were taken out and rushed to the hospital, but they had died. The fumes inside the sewer were toxic. We had to be very careful and use masks and gloves to protect ourselves."

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A 25-year-old woman who has been missing since January 25 was murdered by her husband in December and her body was buried in a pit in northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar where the police found it on February 8, officers said on Monday, adding that the woman's husband, mother-in-law, and brother-in-law have been arrested.

Deputy commissioner of police (north west) Jitendra Meena said that the deceased woman was identified as Sapna Devi, a resident of Ashok Vihar.

Police said the woman was reported missing by her mother Savitri Shukla on January 25. "Savitri said she last saw her dispose of the body.

Sapna following an argument on December 26, after which his mother and brother helped him dispose of the body.

daughter on December 24 when her husband and in-laws were fighting with her. Later, Sapna's in-laws told Savitri that she and her husband had shifted to a different residence, but Savitri was unable to contact her. She then contacted us," Meena said.

On February 8, the police received a call about a dead body wrapped in a bed cover lying inside a pit near the railway line. A team arrived on the scene and the body was identified by Sapna's mother, after which a murder case was registered.

The police tracked down Sapna's husband and arrested him on Sunday. The suspect told the police that he strangulated Sapna following an argument on December 26, after which his mother and brother helped him dispose of the body.

Notes:

Place: Kolkata

Date: 12th February, 2024

The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statements of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results are available on the Company's website www.wbsedcl.in and on the website of Bombay Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com).

2. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 12th February, 2024 and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on the same day.

Directors in its meeting held on the same day.

The Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 31st December, 2023 was carried out by the Auditor of the Company as required under Regulation 52 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Auditor of the Company, R. Gopal & Associates, Chartered Accountants, have issued Audit Reports with qualified opinion on the said Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results.

Exchange in Wholesale Debt Market.

5. The Financial Statements have taken into account the effects of the revised operating norms for the Distribution utilities, which were notified through Regulation 76 of WBERC

Total value of secured, redeemable, non-convertible bonds issued by the Company on private placement basis is ₹100000 lakh. These securities are listed with Bombay Stock

on 13.03.2023, read with the Regulation 2.5.5.4 (amended) of the Principal Regulation.

6. The previous period's figures have been regrouped / reclassified / re-measured wherever necessary to confirm current period's classification.

The Financial Statements of West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited (WBGEDCL), only Associate Company of WBSEDCL has been considered for

preparation of Consolidated Financial Statement based on management certificate obtained in this regard.
Ratios are calculated on annualized basis.

For West Bengal State Electricity

Distribution Company Limited
Sd/(Santanu Basu)
ICA- N 110(1)/2024
Chairman and Managing Director

467/2024

दिनांक: 01.02.2024

(एम.एल. मीना)

अधीक्षण अभियंता

SAGARMALA

Date: 09.02.2024

Amount

(in Lacs)

529.84

Lump-sum

06.03.2024 Upto 5.00 PM

07.03.2024 at 11.00 AM

20.02.2024 at 11.00 AM

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Bathinda

Azadi _{Ka} Amrit Mahotsav

Qty. Closing

Date

464/24

Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2

सा.नि.वि. वृत्त दौसा

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location : Renovation/uprgradation of Tele facilities & PAE

Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern

Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender : Tender uploading /

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. : See the Northern Railway website

www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office,

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त दौसा

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 15/2023-24

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से वृत्त दौसा में बजट घोषणा वर्ष 2023-24 के अंतर्गत 02 कार्य मय 5

पांच वर्ष की डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी सहित उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार

के अन्य विभागों तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे

इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान के ''एए'' श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग

के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट www.dipronline.org

व www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

Sagarmala Development Company Ltd

(SDCL)

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Request for Proposal for

Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Standardized Bidding

2. Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report

(DPR) for Financing Scheme for Deep-sea Fishing Vessels (DSFVs).

SDCL invites interested parties in India to participate in the aforesaid assignments.

Interested parties may download the RFP document from SDCL website

www.sdclindia.com or from Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) or from e-

tender website www.sdcl.euniwizarde.com for detailed terms and conditions of the

All future communication/corrigendum for the above assignments will be issued

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Bathinda on the behalf of Chief

Executive Officer, Pb. W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the

Part (A) Prov. & Laying RCC NP-3 Pipe with HDPE lining,

UPVC pipe sewer, MPS Including pumping Machinery, DI K-7

R/M and all others works contingent thereto at Kotha Guru Ka

Part-(B) Survery, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Constn.

Commissiong of 2 MLD capacity STP cum 6 Kld FSTP

based on Suitable Proven Sustainable Biological technology

including other appurtenant works on turnkey basis as

per DNIT including O&M for a period of 60 months after

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender/RFP notice shall be published on the above

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on

behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for

83245023 Endoscopic Spine System as per pdf attached 1 Nos 13.03.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Brief Description

Tender Notice No. 83245023 Med/part-II Dated: 12/02/2024

On Dt. 20/02/2024 at 12.00 hrs. (in the office of Chief Engineer, Public Works

stabilization period of 3 months (SBM-2.0)

For detailed log onto : https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

only on SDCL website www.sdclindia.com and https://sdcl.euniwizarde.com

For any query kindly contact General Manager, SDCL at gm.projects@sdclindia.com

Documents for Projects Under the Sagarmala Programme.

systems- at Ground, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th floor of Rail Bhawan.

Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.

App. Cost of the work: Rs. 7,25,82,930.91/- only

closing date & time- 11.03.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.

No.: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-990 Dated: 12.02.2024

Bid Security: Rs. 5,12,900.00/- only

State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

क्रमांक: फा./निविदा/2023-24/3961-3976

NIB CODE: PWD2324A4311

Dipr/c/714/2024

or 011-21400754.

Date: 13th February 2024

NIT No.: 11/PWSSB D-2/BTI

as per DNIT (SBM-20.00)

Closing date & Time: - 6th Attempt

Opening date & time: - 6th Attempt

Pre-Bid Meeting date & time

supply of the following items:-

Tender

32310

UBN NO.: PWD2324WS0B18583

UBN NO.: PWD2324WS0B18584

Azadi _{Ka} Amrit Mahotsav

HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND, RANCHI

NOTICE

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for direct recruitment of Assistants for the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi. Detailed advertisement along with a format of online application form is available on the Official website of the High Court of Jharkhand i.e. www.jharkhandhighcourt.nic.in, under the 'Recruitment' head.

Starting date of Online application: 20.02.2024 Closing date of Online application: 22.03.2024

Sd/- Registrar General

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Trainset Depot, Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) for the under noted work. Tender No. 258830DSLSSB

Provision of supply and replacement of various types of glass arrangement installed in Vande Bharat Express rakes at Trainset Depot Shakurbasti for a period of one year (Material + Manpower.

Rs. 3,51,60,412.80 including GST Approximate cost

Rs.3,25,800/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or Earnest money gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)

Date and time for opening of tender

01 year Completion period of the work Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 06.03.2024

Website particulars notice board location Above tender is available on IREPS site complete details of tender can be seen | i.e. www.ireps.gov.in w.e.f. 09.02.2024 No. - 258830DSLSSB Dt. 12.02.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Woman (depicted in the photo) Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 55-60 Years, Sex: Female, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Round, ID Mark: Burn Mark on Right Hand, Wearing: Red and Black Printed Jacket, White Printed Jersey, Zebra color Jacket, Pink color Baniyan, Bhagwa Kurta and Lungi, bare footed, found dead near main Porch Park, Old Delhi Railway

Station, Delhi on 09.02.2024 by 5.59 pm under area of P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 38A, dated 09.02.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Woman but no clue has come to light so far.

Dead Body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 Hours if any person having any information or clue about this Woman may kindly inform to the following.

DP/1717/Rly/2024

P.S.- Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

Dy. CE/TS (Design), PSTCL, Patiala

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033814 www.pstcl.org O/o: Dy. CE/ TS (Design), Telefax: 0175-2207774 E-mail: se-trd@pstcl.org

60000000000000000000000000000000000000
Notice Inviting E-Tende

Enquiry No.	STQ-5163
Description	220 KV CTs & 220 KV PTs
Qty.	181 Nos. CTs & 40 Nos. PTs
Last Date & Time for receipt of tender	12.03.2024 upto 11.00 AM
Last Date & Time for Opening of tender	14.03.2024 at 11.00 AM

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.

32298

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

BID NO. ETENDER/EE/PWSSD/ROPAR/07/2024 Date:- 09.02.2024 Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn, Ropar on the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Pb.

W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the following:-Sr. No. Quantity Providing Tap Connections to consumers, Extension Rs. 540.13 Lacs and Augmentation of Water Supply System at Kurali for 9 months

Distribution Network and Installation of Tube Well. Closing date & Time → 06.03.2024 upto 3.00 P.M. Pre Bid meeting Date: 19.02.2024 at 11.00 AM at EE Ropar office.

For detailed log onto https://eproc.punjab.gov.in Note: Any Corrigendum(s), to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above websit

Executive Engineer

Note: 1). Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. Ropar (01881-292030)

Statement-1 **GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA**

Public Works (Building) Division, Pune - 411 003 Phone No. 020/25817517

Web- www.mahapwd.com & e-mail- buildingpune.ee@mahapwd.com E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 30 FOR 2023-24 (Online)

(Ref-Government of Maharashtra P. W. Dept. No. CAT-2017/P.K.8/Bldg.-2 Dt. 27/09/2018)

Executive Engineer, Public Works (Building) Division, Khadki, Pune - 411 003 (Govt. Milk Scheme compound) Pune. Invites online tenders in B-1 form from eligible bidders as per canditions of eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document for the following work of Government of Maharashtra Public Work Department. Bid Document can be downloaded from the portal http://mahatenders.gov.in

Dt. 13/02/2024 to Dt. 27/02/2024

Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. . Construction of New Government Rest House Building at Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune Rs. 8,64,01,155/-

Region, Pune Central Building Premises) From Dt. 27/02/2024 up to 18.00 hrs. Last date of Submission of E-Tender & time

: Dt. 29/02/2024 at 10.00 hrs. onwards Date & time of Opening of E-Tender The detailed e-Tender Notice is available on following Websites.

1. www.mahapwd.com

2. mahatenders.gov.in

(Any Changes made in e-Tender shall be informed on the above portals)

3. Notice Board in the office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works (Building) Division, Pune. Out No. AB/TC/ 289/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works (Building) Divison,

Govt. Milk Scheme, Khadaki, Pune Date :- 31/01/2024

Downloading period of E-Tender

Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Address

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 8091

Sd/-(U. S. Ghavte) **Executive Engineer,** Public Work (Building) Division,

Pune 411 003.

MAKEYOUR

MONDAY MORNING PLAYFUL

Catch the latest section of



Problematics

to solve a set of intriguing puzzles.

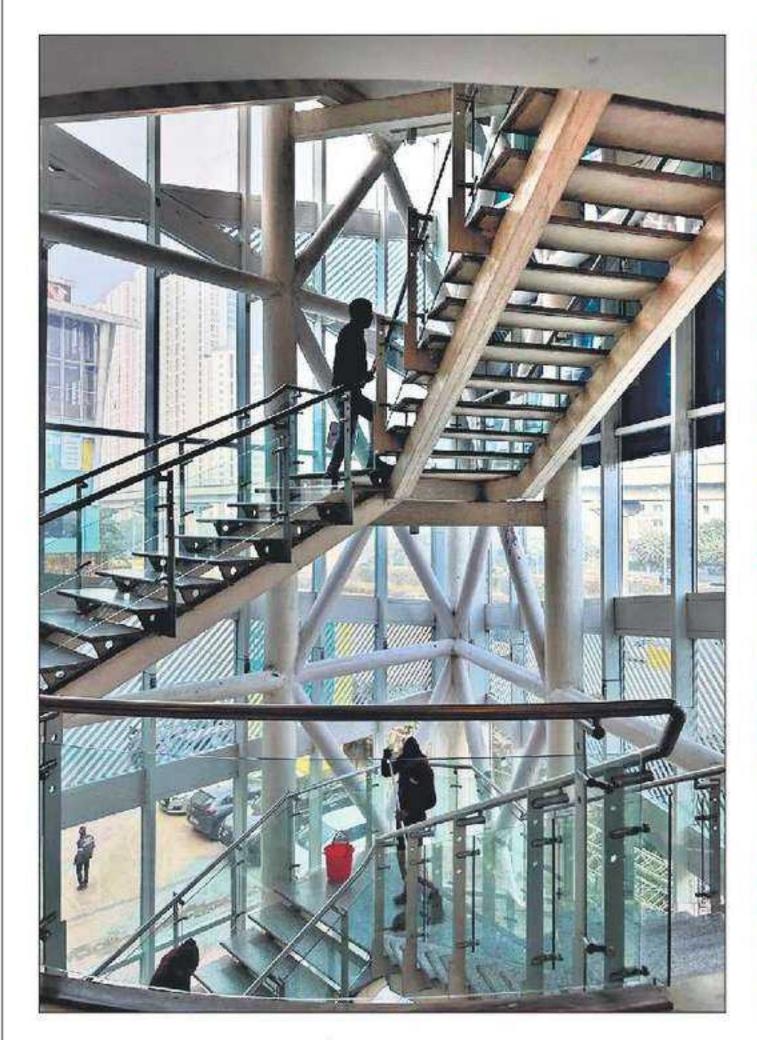


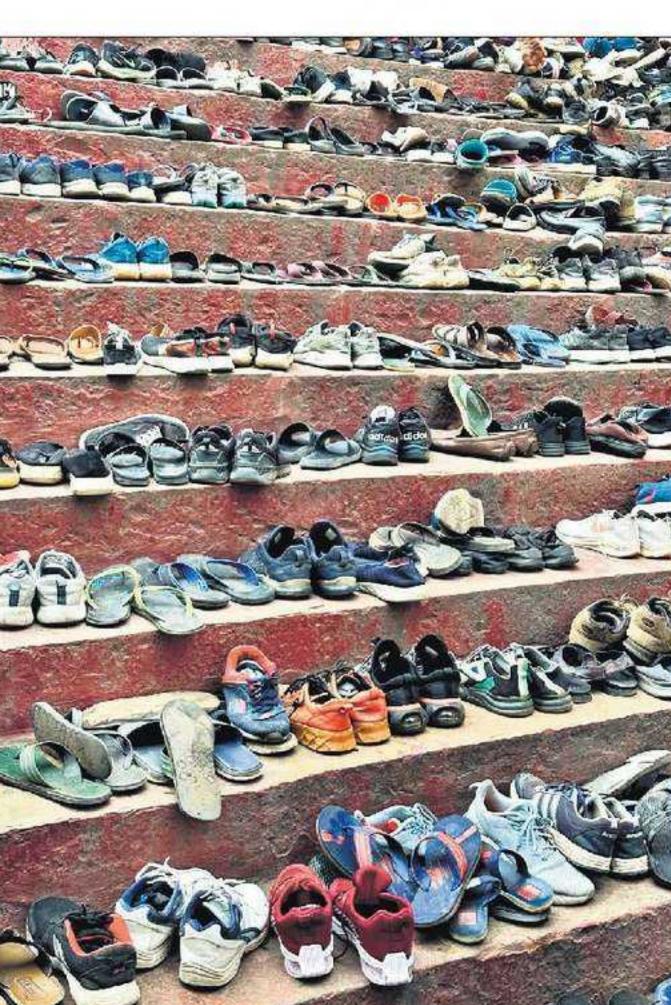
☐ ☐ hindustantimes ☐ htTweets ☐ www.hindustantimes.com

Delhiwale









More than just a fire exit

On the less visible aspect of the Millennium City's architecture

INTEREST

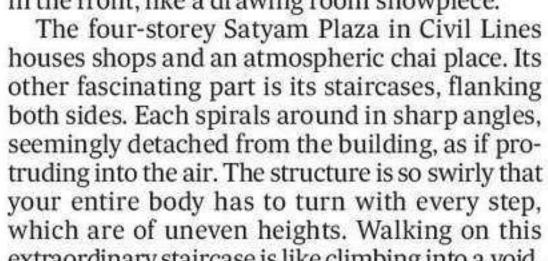
Here are two aspects of one city. As seen through two staircases.

The first one is a steep staircase littered with shoes, sandals and chappalssee right photo. The second one is a sparkling staircase — see left photo.

The first is part of a mosque. The second is part of a mall. The first is at Jama Masjid, in Gurugram's Sadar Bazar. The second is in South Point Mall, at Gurugram's Golf Course Road. The Jama Masjid staircase is crammed with footwear today, because it is the Friday afternoon prayer, and the mosque's courtyard and corridors are packed with barefoot worshippers — Jama Masjid, of course, means Friday mosque. The shopping mall staircase is almost bare of people, though the mall is brimming with citizens, who use lifts and escalators. In an upper floor staircase, two housekeeping staffers are cleaning the glass windows that overlook the Millennium City high rises and the elevated Metro track running along the road. Soon, Metro coaches appear, crossing the window view in the blink of an eye.

These two instances notwithstanding, staircases in Gurugram's public places - as well as in other parts of the Delhi region — tend to be hidden from public view. Here, residential apartments, high-rise offices and gigantic shopping malls offer multi-floor navigation through escalators and elevators, and staircases remain tucked behind service doors painted with the words -"Fire Exit".

The contrast between the staircases makes it timely to recall a visit to another Gurugram destination, one that (inadvertently) offers staircases as one of its attractions. A place where they are not put away in some discreet corridor, but right in the front, like a drawing room showpiece.



have emptied of the worshipers. The stairs are bare, until next Friday.



extraordinary staircase is like climbing into a void.

Later the same Friday, the Sadar Bazar mosque



READ:

For more stories by Mayank Austen Soofi, scan the QR code

दिनांक: 12.02.2024

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता

मानसरोवर जोन

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Eng. No. 515/P-2/EMP-W-12569 Dtd. 08.02.24 Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar Invites -Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_117153_1 for Complete repair of 01 no of 850KW/750 rpm 415V, 3-phase induction generator of GGSSTP micro-Hydel Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09.02.24

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-23/24

नगर निगम ग्रेटर जयपुर सेक्टर-9 गोखले मार्ग, शिप्रा पथ रोड मानसरोवर जयपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. अधि० अभि० (मानसरोवर) -51/2023-24 केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत "AA" "A" श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से बिड अधि० अभि० (मानसरोवर जोन) से सम्बन्धित विकास कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम जयपुर की वेबसाईट www.jaipurmc.org.com व http://sppp.raj.nic.in & eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है । जिसका sppp पोर्टल यु.बी.ई.एन. नं. JMC2324WSOB01498 है। उक्त निविदा को http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर दिनांक 10.02.2024 को

अपलोड करवा दिया जायेगा। राज.संवाद / सी / 23 / 12939

Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli,415 712 Dist- Ratnagiri

क्रमांक :- जसअ / 2023-24 / 373

email id- universityengineerdbskkv@gmail.com universityengineer@dbskkv.ac.in

No.Dr.BSKKV/Works/A-7/ 465 /2024

Website - www.dbskkv.org Phone Numbers - 02358-282413 Date -09 FEB 2024

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 09 (F.Y.2023-24) Online "B-1" e-tenders for the following works are invited by the University Engineer, Dr.B.S.Konkan Krishi University, Dapoli, Dist.

Ratnagiri from the experienced contractors in PWD vide G.R.No.CAT/2017/pra.kra.08/ema-2 dated 27-09-2018 of the Government of Maharashtra. The Qualification Criteria is included in the tender.

Sr. No.	A MODERN MISSELD OF THE AND A MODERN THROUGH AND	(Rs.)	E.M.D.(Rs.)	PARTY MEDICAL WAY TO SELECT	non refundable(Rs.)	Registration
	Providing Fire Fighting System for various building at Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Kokan Krushi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli/	Rs.11,97,39,462/-	Rs.5,99,000/-	400 Days (Including monsoon)	Rs. 3,000/-	Fire Fighting License in Class A

e-tendering portal https://agro.maharashtra.nextprocure.in the appropriate category applicable to them.

Note:- 1. All eligible/interested contractors who want to participate in tendering process should compulsory get enrolled on

- 2. If the tenderers have any difficulty or doubt while submitting the tender, they should contact the telephone number metioned on the website of the electronic tendering system.
- 3. It is compulsory for all participates to submit all documents online. 4. Other term and conditioned displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of work without
- assigning any reasons thereof is reserved.
- 5. Above Tender Notice is displayed on www.dbskkv.org

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 8134

Sd/-(N. M. Kulkarni) UNIVERSITY ENGINEER

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, नैनीताल

पत्रांक : 2565/XV-18

ई-निविदा सूचना

दिनांक : 12.02.2024

सर्वसाधारण/ इच्छुक फर्म/व्यक्ति को सूचित किया जाता है कि नैनीताल नगर में नगरपालिका परिषद् , नैनीताल द्वारा वर्ष 2024–25 हेतू निम्न सेवा के लिये ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। निविदा में प्रतिभाग करने हेतु www.uktenders.gov.in पर नियम व शर्ते देखी एवं अपलोड की जा सकती हैं।

कम सं	कार्य का विवरण	ई–निविदा संख्या	ई—निविदा site
01	Near Police Station Mallital Nainital Ashok Ceneman Vehicle Parking	2024_NPNTL_69406_1	www.uktenders.gov.in

अतः इच्छुक फर्म/व्यक्ति / निविदादाता ऑनलाईन निविदा अमंत्रित कर सकते हैं, जो कि निविदा फॉर्म में उल्लेखित विवरण के अनुसार शासन द्वारा गठित कमेटी के समक्ष निविदादाताओं की उपस्थिति में खोले जाऐंगे। तकनीकि निविदा खोले जाने के पश्चात् ही वित्तीय निविदा खोली जाऐगी, तथा तकनीकि निविदा में सफल हुए निविदादाताओं की ही वित्तीय निविदा खोली जायेगी। किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकृत / अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरीकर्ताओं के पास सुरक्षित

प्रशासक/ प्रभारी अधिकारी, होगा। नगरपालिका परिषद, नैनीताल।

अधिशासी अधिकारी, नगरपालिका परिषद, नैनीताल

Hindustan Times MY DELHI

NITISH WINS FLOOR TEST

RJD corralled all of its lawmakers and two of the three alliance parties at Yadav's house. At around the same time, three lawmakers of the BJP and two of the JD(U) went incommunicado, fuelling speculation that the trust vote might see a twist.

But the voting was largely on expected lines.

Of the 45 JD(U) members, 44 backed the government, as did all 78 of the BJP and four from Hindustan Awam Morcha (Secular). Sursand lawmaker Dilip Ray defied the JD(U) whip and did not turn up. One independent also supported the government, as did three members of the RJD - Sheohar lawmaker Chetan Anand, the son of criminal-turned-politician Anand Mohan Singh, Surgarha RJD MLA Prahlad Yadav, and Neelam Devi, lawmaker from Mokama and wife of jailed strongman Anant Singh.

Deputy speaker Maheshwar Hazari, who is also from the JD(U), did not vote, as the presiding officer was not required

to cast a ballot. The stage seemed set for drama earlier in the day when all NDA MLAs moved a motion of no-confidence against Choudhury. In the voting that followed, two BJP members and one from JD(U) did not turn up, and the ruling alliance won the motion 125-112, a much narrower majority than was expected.

But by 3.30pm, when the vot-

ing on the floor test began, 129 people had reached the assembly. Deputy speaker Maheshwar Hazari, who belongs to the JD(U), was in the chair. Kumar rose to suggest that Hazari's vote also be counted. Though unusual — the chair's vote is only used to break a tie — parliamentary affairs minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said all votes should be counted to dispel confusion, and Kumar backed the demand.

The trust vote capped weeks of fevered political activity in the state that began when Kumar took charge of the party on December 29 and removed Lalan Singh, fuelling speculation that he was looking to make his fifth switch in the last decade. On January 28, Kumar deserted the Opposition grand alliance and joined hands with

Later, Harlakhi MLA Sudhanshu Shekhar of the JD(U) registered an FIR against another one of his fellow party MLA from Parbatta, Sanjiv Kumar, and the RJD's Sunil with the Kotwali police station on Patna In the FIR. Shekhar alleged that Sanjiv Kumar connived to abduct JD(U) MLAs Bima Bharti and Dilip Rai and offered them ₹10 crore to cross-

Yadav attempted to take credit for the work done by the 17-month-long Grand Alliance government.

"Nitish ji knows I was not interested in joining his govern-

ment. I wanted to support him from outside. But I assure Nitish ji, if he again has a rethink and needs support, we will think over it. We made a tired CM run. We made him deliver on our job promise. We made the government carry out caste survey despite the BJP's reluctance. But then, you made a volte face yet again without even communicating the reason to your deputy CM. You were the one who always referred to me as the next generation.

asked. Yadav also addressed former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi, who had expressed unhappiness with the ministry allotted to his son Santosh Kumar Suman in the first week of February.

What happened to all that?" he

"After Nitish Kumar's outburst against him on November 10, 2023, Manjhi ji had said the CM was being administered wrong medicine. Now, it is for you get him properly treated. If possible, take a room close to him for his well being. Without stability, there cannot be development in the state," he said.

He also appealed to the government to continue with the job recruitment that started under the Mahagahtbandhan government. "Whatever compulsions you may have had, at least continue giving jobs to the people in the health sector. You did not want us to take credit. Why should we not take it? We

made it possible," said Yadav. Kumar hit back soon after,

सत्यमेव जयते

Government Of India

saying that he had heard about corruption (in his government), which he could not tolerate.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

"RJD wants to take credit, but they should know the condition of the state prior to 2005 when I took over. There was utter lawlessness, darkness and total absence of roads. My government has been working for Bihar's development and that will continue," Kumar said, vowing to continue with the

"...when his (Tejashwi's) father and mother got the opportunity to serve Bihar for 15 years. I also gave him two opportunities. I was pained that when I got know that I gave you respect, you were busy making money. When the BJP was with us, they never did this kind of thing. There were also reports that lakhs were being offered to break my party. Where did the money come from? We will get everything probed," he added.

Deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary attacked the RJD for alleged corruption and said they were facing cases due to the sins of the past.

"Even reservation could not go beyond one family in the RJD and its leaders have no right to speak about marginalised sections of the society," he

EX-NAVY MEN FREED

home-coming of these nationals," the statement said without giving details.

Hours after the announce-

ment, foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra told a media briefing that Modi will visit Qatar on February 14 after a trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He also said such trips are finalised months in advance, downplaying suggestions the visit was linked to the case of the eight men.

Modi last visited Qatar in June 2016, and he is set to have bilateral meetings with the emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and other senior dignitaries during the upcoming trip. "The bilateral relationship between India and Qatar, that has been steadily growing, includes a comprehensive span, including political ties, trade and investment linkages, a strong energy partnership, and ties in the field of culture, education and security," Kwatra said.

During the recent India Energy Week in Goa, QatarEnergy announced it has entered into a 20-year LNG sale and purchase agreement with India's state-run Petronet LNG Limited for supplying 7.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG to India. The LNG supplies will be delivered to terminals across India by QatarEnergy's LNG fleet starting in May 2028.

Kwatra also said two-way trade currently stands at \$20 billion and Qatar is a significant investor in India. The 840,000 Indians living in Qatar are part of an important

Modern Agriculture, Prosperous Farmers

Modi Government 's Guarantee

connection between the two countries, and Modi's visit will provide an opportunity for the top leadership of both sides to discuss ways to deepen and strengthen the multi-faceted partnership, he said.

While expressing India's gratitude for the Qatari leadership's decision to free the eight men, Kwatra said the prime minister had "personally supervised developments in this case" and pursued all initiatives for their release.

Both countries have still not revealed the charges against the men, or the conditions for their release. It had been widely reported that the men had been charged with espio-

A team of Indian officials was in Qatar for the past few days for the final discussions regarding the release of the men and to escort them to India, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity. It is understood that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and other security officials played a key role in negotiations for their release. Doval also made several lowkey visits to Doha for discussions on the matter.

Modi had met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on the margins of the COP28 Summit in Dubai in December and discussed the "well-being of the Indian community in Qatar", according to a post on X by the premier at

the time.

The people said Commander Purnendu Tiwari, who has family based in Qatar, had stayed back in Doha and is expected to return to India soon. Tiwari, who received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman in 2019, was engaged in training Qatari naval personnel during his term with Dahra Global.

The eight men were freed on Sunday and seven of them boarded flights to India soon after. One of the men told the media on his arrival at the airport in Delhi that they were very happy to be back safe and sound. He thanked Modi for his "personal intervention" to make the release of the men possible and the Qatari emir for letting the release happen.

"It wouldn't have been possible for us to stand here without the intervention of PM Modi. And it also happened due to the continuous efforts of the government of India," he said.

A third former Navy official said, "We waited almost for 18 months to be back in India. We are extremely grateful to the PM. It wouldn't have been possible without his personal intervention and his equation with Qatar."

On December 28 last year, Qatar's Court of Appeal commuted the death sentences awarded in October and sentenced the eight men to prison for varying durations. The

Court of Appeal initially delivered an oral order, and later released a copy of the verdict that was classified a "confidential document".

Tiwari was given a 25-year prison term while sailor Ragesh was given a three-year sentence. Four of the former naval officers were given 15-year prison terms and two

others 10-year prison terms. The commutation of the death sentences made it possible for India to invoke a 2015 agreement with Qatar on the transfer of sentenced persons. The pact allows citizens of both countries, who have been convicted and sentenced for criminal offences, to serve their prison terms in their home country. The agreement isn't applicable to persons

sentenced to death. India had earlier expressed "deep shock" at the death sentence given by Qatar's Court of First Instance and pledged to look at all legal options to help the eight men, including decorated officers who commanded frontline warships in the Indian Navy.

BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE STILL NOT REVEALED THE CHARGES AGAINST THE MEN, OR THE CONDITIONS FOR THEIR RELEASE

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LIGHT DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE

AMC invites sealed competitive bids from interested Bidders for the below mentioned work

(1) Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Grid Tied 30 MW Ground Mounted Solar Project in the state of Gujarat with Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance for five (5) year's period.

	There are an
Online Submission up to	Da Or
Last Date of Submission of	Da
(Hardcopy)	up

ate: 04/03/2024 nly up to 04:00 PM. ate: 06/03/2024 p to 04:00 PM. Tender details available on https://tender.nprocure.com

एसजेवीएन ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड SJVN Green Energy Limited

(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SJVN Limited) CIN: U40100HP2022GOI009237 E- Tender No.: SGEL/CHQ/Contracts/Trans-Jamui/2024

Online bids (E-tender) on Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) are invited on behalf of SJVN Green Energy Limited for "Construction of 132 KV Transmission Line including Bays for 125 MW Jamui Phase-I Solar Project and 75 MW Banka Solar Project to nearest STU sub-station at

Jamui and Banka respectively." For details, visit websites: https://www.bharat-electronictender.com www.eprocure.gov.in and www.sjvn.nic.in. Last date for bid submission is 04.03.2024 (13:00 Hrs.).

Amendment(s), if any, shall be issued on websites only.

DGM (Contracts) SJVN Green Energy Limited Corporate Headquarters, Shakti Sadan, Shanan, Shimla (H.P) Email- contracts.sgel@sjvn.nic.in

No. DYCE-II-GSU-PRYJ-03-2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Date. 06.02.2024

Dy. Chief Engineer-II/GSU/Prayagraj, North Central Railway, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work through Open Tender-Two Packet System& Joint venture/Consortium/MoUs applicable with closing date/time15.03.2024 up to 15.00 hours. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored

Approx.Cost of Work (INR): ₹21.14Cr. Amount of EMD (INR): ₹12,07,100/-Brief Description of work: Provision of Goods Shed at Athsarai station under Dy CE-II/GSU/PRYJ.

Cost of Tender Document: 0.00/-, Tender Opening date and Time: 15.03.2024, 15:00, Completion Period: 12 months, Similar Nature of Work for Eligibility Criteria: "Any Civil Engineering Work" Note: For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railways website http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-works tender will be available on website https://ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rate entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head attached by tenderer shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. In case of any difficulty, helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 242/24(DG)

F North central railways @CPRONCR @ @north central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in



Tender No. DYCE-II-GSU-PRYJ-02-2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Dated: 06-02-2024 E-Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Engineer-II/GSU/Prayagraj, North Central Railway, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work through Open Tender-Two Packet System & Joint venture/Consortium/MoUs applicable with closing date/time 15-03-2024 up to 15:00 hours. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Brief Description of work: Provision of Goods Shed at 02 nos. Stations at Ekdil & Phaphund under Dy CE-II/GSU/PRYJ.

Approx. Cost of Work (INR): 36.15 Cr., Amount of EMD (INR): 19,57,400/-,Cost of Tender Document: 0.00/-, Tender Opening date and Time 15.03.2024 15:00, Completion Period: 12 months, Similar Nature of Work for Eligibility Criteria: "Any Civil Engineering Work". Note-For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railway's website: https://www.ireps.gov.in. • Note- 1. The Complete information along with tender document of above E-works tender will be available on website https://ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rate entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head attached by tenderer shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. In case of any difficulty, helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be

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MYINDIA

Ex-CM latest stalwart to walk out of Cong in Maha

Faisal Malik

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan resigned from the Congress on Monday, becoming the third senior leader to leave the party in four weeks and dealing it a major blow just months ahead of

general elections. Chavan's exit triggered speculation that several of his loyalists might also leave the party. At the time of going to print, names of 13 MLAs were doing rounds. However, only Amarnath Rajurkar, former MLC (member of legislative council) had resigned. "I worked earnestly as long as I was in the party... I don't want to speak about internal matters of the party as it is not in my nature. I have no complaints against anyone," Chavan said, refusing to make any comments against his old party and its leadership. He also said he would decide about his future political course in a couple of days.

The Congress blamed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "We all know why people left the party. The BJP has no courage to face the people in elections, and thus it is breaking opposition parties and trying to be in power," former CM Prithviraj Chavan said.

Ashok Chavan, who is the sitting legislator from Bhokar with influence on around 13 MLAs, is likely to go to the BJP, said people aware of development, sparking speculation of large-scale defections from the Congress. He is the third leader to leave the Congress in four weeks, after former Union minister Milind Deora joined the Shiv Sena on January 14 and senior leader Baba Siddique joined the Ajit Pawar led NCP on February 10.

The 13 MLAs were: Jitesh Antapurkar, Mohan Hambarde, Madhavrao Pawar Jawalgaonkar, Amit Deshmukh, Dhiraj Deshmukh, Sunil Kedar, Amit Zanak, Kunal Patil, Vikas Thakre, Raju Awale, Shirish Chaudhari, Raju Parwe, and Vijay Wadettiwar.

On Monday morning, Chavan

met assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar and submitted his resignation as MLA and later sent a letter to state Congress chief Nana Patole. "I am submitting my resignation from the primary membership of the party," he said in the

His resignation sparked rumours that he could be accommodated by the BJP in one of the four Rajya Sabha seats the party is assured of getting in the upcoming elections to the Upper House on February 27. On February 3, HT reported that about 15 of the Congress's 43 MLAs night leave the party ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

one-line letter, which HT has seen.

The defection weakens the Congress and the Maha Vikas Aghadi in a state that sends the secondhighest number of members to the Lok Sabha. A four-time MLA and one-term MP, Chavan was considered a leader with a mass base in Marathwada.

Uddhav Thackeray said that Chavan has made a mistake, and he will be labelled a traitor. He also took a dig at the BJP and said, "Initially BJP raised the slogan of 'Congress Mukta Bharat', but that could not happen. Now the party has inducted so many leaders from Congress, that it can be called as 'Congress occupied BJP'..."

Known for his organising skills, Chavan was a tall leader in the party with many loyalists. Amarnath Rajurkar, a former member of the legislative council, resigned from the Congress hours after Chavan's exit, and at least six other lawmakers were rumoured to be contemplating their exit, said people aware of developments. This means the Congress is in danger of losing its lone assured Rajya Sabha seat in the February 27 polls. The party needs the support of 41 or 42 members to elect its nominee,

whose name is yet to be declared. "Several tall leaders of other parties want to join the BJP... They are feeling suffocated in their party... Aage aage dekhiye hota hai kya (wait and watch what happens next)," said deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Chavan's journey in Maha Cong



TWO-TIME CHIEF MINISTER Served as Maharashtra chief minister in two brief stints between Dec 2008 and Nov 2010. He resigned as the CM after being accused of graft in Adarsh Housing Society scam

LONG STINT IN POLITICS

Represented Nanded Lok Sabha constituency twice — from 1987 to 1989 and 2014 to 2019. He has also represented Bhokar assembly seat in Nanded four times - from 1999 to 2014 and 2019 till Feb 12, 2024

Chavan's exit a major blow to dwindling unit

Shailesh Gaikwad

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Former chief minister Ashok Chavan's decision to leave the party is a major blow for the Congress which has been trying to revive its organisation in the state where the party was conceived.

Son of the stalwart Congress leader and former chief minister, Shankarrao Chavan, Ashok Chavan holds considerably sway in Nanded and parts of Marathwada. The region sends 8 Lok Sabha MPs out of 48 in Maharashtra.

The 65-year-old served as the state's chief minister for 3 years in the Congress-NCP government from December 2008 to November 2010. Born and brought up in Mumbai, Ashok Chavan was first made minister in 1993, and then again in 1999 in the Vilasrao Deshmukh government. During this tenure, he brought in a policy that made the rise of multiplex cinema halls possible. When Deshmukh had to step down in his second stint as CM after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, Chavan was appointed chief minister in his place. He led the Congress to victory in the 2009 assembly elections as the Congress-NCP alliance returned to power for a third successive time in the state.

However, within a year, he was asked to step down over allegations of impropriety in the Adarsh Housing Scam. Chavan was accused of benefitting from the construction of a housing society on defence land meant for families of Kargil war heroes and other defence personnel. It emerged that his wife Ameeta's family had got 3 flats in the apartment complex at Cuffe Parade. However, the case about impropriety in Adarsh is wending its way in court.

Congress rehabilitated Chavan in 2014 by fielding him from his bastion Nanded in the Lok Sabha.

"Chavan was one of the handful of leaders in the party who have a strong mass base and can get a few candidates elected to the assembly...," said a senior Congress leader who has worked closely with him. "It's a major loss for the { CONG YET TO ANNOUNCE CANDIDATES } DECISION SOON

Will Sonia shift to Upper House?

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi may contest a Rajya Sabha seat, preferably from north India, two senior Congress leaders indicated on Monday, even as they said a final decision would be taken shortly.

If Gandhi settles for a Rajya Sabha seat, it would be the first stint in the Upper House for the 77-year-old leader, who is a fiveterm lawmaker of the Lok

Top Congress leaders including Gandhi, the party's national alliance committee members Mukul Wasnik and Salman Khurshid, and treasurer Ajay Maken met party chief Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence to discuss the names of party candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections on February 27. General secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal was also present in the meeting on Mon-

"No decision has been taken in the meeting but detailed discussions have taken place," said a leader who asked not to be named. The presence of Wasnik



Sonia Gandhi

and Khurshid also indicated that the leaders discussed the ongoing seat adjustments between the Congress and INDIA partners. The Congress is yet to announce any candidate for the biennial elections for 56 seats from 15 states. The last date for filing nominations is February 15. They are likely to win 11 seats in total.

The Congress leaders discussed the political situation and the status of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). In the meeting, some leaders pointed out how the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is being used to weaken the INDIA bloc, said the leader quoted above, possibly referring to Ashok Chavan's exit on Monday and the summons to former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah as

the National Conference (NC) and the Congress are set to finalise the seat pact in the Union Territory.

With four key leaders of the party - Kharge, former chief Rahul Gandhi, Venugopal and communications chief Jairam Ramesh — representing south India, a second leader considered close to the Gandhi family said that Gandhi might prefer a seat from north India.

Gandhi, so far, has remained an MP from UP. She was first elected from both UP's Amethi and Karnataka's Bellary in 1999 but retained the former seat. In 2004, she shifted to Rae Bareli as Rahul Gandhi contested from Amethi. Treasurer Ajay Maken and the party's ace legal brain Abhishek Singhvi are also expected to get Rajya Sabha tickets. While Maken lost his previous bid in Haryana in 2022, Singhvi won from West Bengal with the support of both the Congress and the Trinamool Congress.

The Congress has to name candidates from Karnataka, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh Rajasthan and Maharashtra. It is expected to gain one seat in the upcoming round of Rajya

Sabha polls. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance is expected to improve its tally by two seats from the current position of 115

From Himachal Pradesh to Telangana and Rajasthan, a number of state Congress units have urged Gandhi to contest from their state. "We have requested Kharge to nominate Sonia Gandhi as the Rajya Sabha candidate from Rajasthan. If Sonia Gandhi is made the candidate, it will infuse new enthusiasm among the Congress workers," said leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan assembly, Tika Ram Jully.

A Congress leader said a proposal in this regard was sent to the party high command on Sunday. However, the state Congress unit is yet to receive any response from the central leadership. Of the three seats falling vacant in Rajasthan, two are with the BJP and one with the Congress. The BJP is certain to win two and the Congress one. Former PM Manmohan Singh, who is unlikely to return to public life, held the Upper House seat from Rajasthan from the

Arrested by ED last year, Balaji resigns as TN minister: Official

CHENNAI: Eight months after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), V Senthil Balaji on Monday resigned as a minister in the Tamil Nadu cabinet, a government official familiar with the matter said. "His resignation has been forwarded to the governor," the official said, requesting anonymity. The development comes two days before the Madras high court is set to hear Balaji's bail plea on February 14. His bail plea was earlier rejected by a trial court and it is currently being heard by justice Anand Venkatesh of the high court. ED arrested Balaji on June 14

High court defers plea against puja in Gyanvapi cellar PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad

high court on Monday adjourned till February 15 the hearing on a plea challenging the Varanasi district court order allowing Hindu prayers in a cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agrawal passed the order on the appeal filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee, which looks after the affairs of the mosque adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, people aware of the matter said.

for RS elections in Raj

HT Correspondents letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/JAIPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday announced two candidates. one each from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections to three of the 10 seats in Rajasthan.

The two BJP candidates, former state minister Chunnilal Garasiya and former legislator Madan Rathore, are likely to get elected to the Rajya Sabha from the desert state in the February 27 polls. The ruling party, however, excluded the name of

Union minister Bhupender Yadav, whose tenure in the Upper House ends in April.

BJP names 2 candidates

Rathore, a two-term former MLA from Sumerpur constituency in Pali district, is a prominent OBC face in the BJP while Garasiya, a former state minister who held several key positions in the organisation, is a tribal leader. With the announcement, the BJP was aiming to woo members of the two key communities in the state ahead of the general elec-

tions scheduled for April-May. The BJP has 115 legislators in the 200-member state assembly while the Congress has 70

संचालनालय

किसान कल्याण तथा कृषि विकास, म.प्र. विंध्याचल भवन, भोपाल

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किसान कल्याण तथा कृषि विकास, म.प्र. द्वारा संचालित भारत सरकार सहायतित आरकेवीवाय योजना कैफेटेरिया के अंतर्गत मध्यप्रदेश के समस्त जिलों में एग्रोफॉरेस्ट्री योजना में प्रावधानित नर्सरी विकास, हाईटैक नर्सरी, वृहद नर्सरी आदि की स्थापना तथा विकास कार्यों को प्रोत्साहन देने हेतु सुयोग्य व्यक्तियों, संस्थाओं, कृषक उत्पादक संगठनों, स्वयं सहायता समूहों तथा शासकीय/अशासकीय संस्थाओं से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

योजना, प्रस्तावित कार्यों का विवरण एवं आवेदन का प्रारूप विभागीय वेबसाइट www.mpkrishi.gov.in से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 29 फरवरी 2024 होगी।

म.प्र. माध्यम/113737/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

Azadi Ka Arnrit Mahotsav No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/84/2023-24/W-3 Dated :- 10.02.2024

Name Renewal of overdue Assets and Turnouts for improvement of Yard in the of work section of SSE/P.Way/DLI under ADEN/DLI.

		Rs. 2,06,18,835.12/- (Rupees Two Crore Six Lakh Eighte Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Five and Twelve paise or			
		Rs. 2,53,100/- (Two Lakh Fifty Three Thousand and One Hundred Rupees)			
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0,00/-			

05.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.

of tender documents can be seen

net banking or payment gateway only.



The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender

Website particulars where complete details www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. . No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through

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पत्रांक: 855(I)/निविदा-01/2023-24

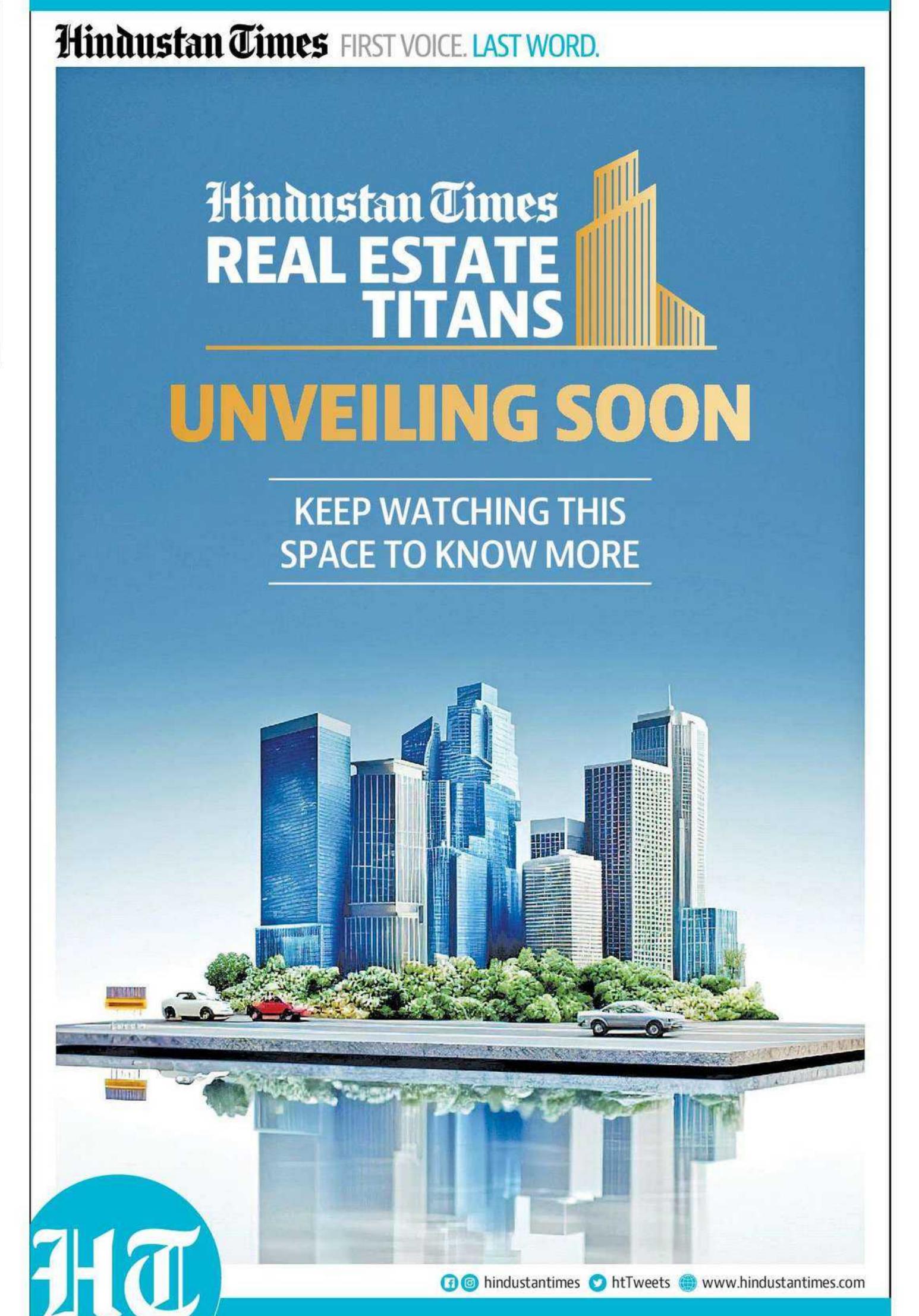
1st Circle PWD Almora दिनांक : 12.02.2024

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) **Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 15/02/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee In lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	CD PWD Ranikhet Renewal by S.D.B.C in Bhatrojkhan- Bhikiyasen- Chaukhutiya motor road in Km 21,22,28 to 45 Under Annual Repair.	5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 6.78 Lakh	120 Days	09 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class A & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.
2	PD PWD Almora Renewal work by SDBC in KM 78, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 and 90 of Kathgodam (Ranibagh)- Bhimtal - Khutani- Padampuri- Dhanachuli - Paharpani- Shaharfatak - Mournaula-Devidhura- Lohaghat- Pancheshwar (SH-10) Motar Road in Jageshwar Constituency District Almora.	5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.80 Lakh	120 Days	09 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class B & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.
3	PD PWD Ranikhet Renewal by PC at Thalisain Bungidhar Deghat Jainal Manila Dotiyal Marchula Motor Road (SH-52) in Km 71, 79, 84, 86 & Km 104, 108 to 110, 112 and Renewal by SDBC in 91 to 97, 99.	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	₹ 5.40 Lakh	120 Days	09 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class B & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.

Superintending Engineer 1st Circle PWD Almora



States turn fortresses ahead of farmers' march to Capital

Bhavey Nagpal, Sunil Rahar and Shruti Tomar

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH/KARNAL/BHO-**PAL:** Thousands of paramilitary and police personnel in riot gear behind multiple layers of metal barriers with barbed wires and spikes guarded the state borders to halt the proposed "Dilli Chalo" march of cultivators to the Capital on Tuesday, even as farmer leaders were detained in Madhya Pradesh to stop them from joining the agitation.

Protracted talks between Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Arjun Munda and Nityanand Rai, Punjab minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and protesting farmers ended in an impasse on Monday night, with spokespersons of farmers organisations confirming the march will continue. Farmers will now head for Delhi from their respective states at 10am on Tuesday, protesters said after the meeting, which ended after 11pm on Monday.

Different farm bodies called for the march demanding a national law on minimum support prices (the price at which the government buys foodgrain from farmers), withdrawal of all cases registered during 2020-21 farmers' protest around Delhi and a monthly pension of ₹10,000 for farmers above 60 years of age. At least 15 farmer unions are participating in the march. Some other farmer collectives have called for a Bharat Bandh on February 16.

By Monday afternoon, Haryana had deployed thousands of paramilitary personnel along with the state police to deal with what was dubbed as "Dilli Chalo 2.0". Prohibitory orders were imposed in 16 out of 22 districts by Monday morning. Internet was suspended in seven districts till Tuesday midKey demands of protesters



night. Some district administrators also ordered fuel pump owners not to fill more than 10 litres of diesel in tractors and told them not to sell fuel in open drums.

Haryana police have warned farmers that their passports will be cancelled and tractors would be impounded with their registration cancelled if they joined the protest.

Across Haryana at the areas that shares borders with Punjab and Delhi, authorities have put in place multiple layers of metal and jersey barriers, barbed wires,

spikes, tear gas shells, sandbags, drones and CCTV cameras.

Unlike in 2020, when the farmers protested against three agricultural laws under the banner of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), no prominent organisations from Haryana are part of the agitation this time. Gurnam Singh Charuni, head of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) who was a prominent face of the previous stir, is not part of the protest this time. Neither is the Naresh Tikait-led Bharatiya Kisan Union that has followers in

the sugarcane growing belt in the north. The protests are being led under the banner of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (Apolitical) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, including several breakaway factions of mainstream farmer bodies in Haryana and Punjab. Police in Madhya Pradesh detained farmer leaders on their way to participate in the protest in Delhi on Tuesday. Farmers from Karnataka on their way to participate in the protest were disembarked at Bhopal railway station on Sunday night and detained

under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code.

"All the farmers are safe and secure. They were not arrested. They are staying in a marriage hall where they are being provided all the food and other facilities," Ramji Shrivastava, deputy commissioner of police, Bhopal, said

Karnataka chief minister Siddramaiah slammed the detention of farmer leaders from the state in Madhya Pradesh, saying the move showed the anti-farmer attitude of the BJP. "I demand the MP government to immediately release all the farmers who have been arrested," he said in a post on X.

In Madhya Pradesh, Aam Kisan Union leader Ram Inaniya was detained from Narmadapuram, and Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Shivkumar Sharma and president Anil Yadav were detained in Bhopal. In a Whatsapp message, Yadav said he was sent to jail on Sunday night and police had kept Sharma at some undisclosed loca-

"No arrest has been made so far and police are just talking to them as section 144 has been imposed in Delhi. To maintain law and order, they can't be allowed to go there,' said Awadesh Goswami, deputy commissioner of police, Bhopal.

In Uttar Pradesh, district administrations in Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut and Baghpat issued prohibitory orders. Rajasthan imposed curfew in the three districts of Sriganganagar, Anupgarh and Hanumangarh bordering Punjab and Haryana. "Our teams are keeping a close eye on areas such as Alwar and Bharatpur (which share borders with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana). Necessary action will be taken if any violation is reported," said Vishal Bansal, Rajasthan's additional director general of police, law and order.

Tracking the legal battle in Qatar

August: Qatar authorities detain eight former Indian Navy personnel on undeclared charges; reports suggested they were accused of espionage

2023

October 26: Qatar's Court of First Instance awards them death sentence

October 30: External affairs minister S Jaishankar meets families of the eight men and assures to secure their release November 9: External affairs ministry says an appeal has been filed in Qatar's Court of Appeal

December 3: Indian ambassador gets consular access to meet the former Navy personnel

December 28: Qatar's Court of Appeal commutes death penalties to prison terms for varying durations ranging from three years to 25 years; gives the eight men 60 days to appeal against prison terms

2024

February 12: External affairs ministry announces the release of the navy men; says all but one have returned to India



How India secured the release of ex-navy men

Shishir Gupta

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal relationship with the Emir of Qatar and hard behind-the-scenes diplomacy by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval ensured that the eight former Indian Navy personnel were released from custody, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

According to people aware of the developments, since the eight former Indian Navy personnel were detained in 2022, Doval has been constantly in touch with his Qatari counterparts, trying to resolve the issue leading to their release. Since then, the NSA has been frequently travelling to Qatar and using institutionalised intelligence channels to convince the Qatari side that the personnel were not spying against the Qatari Emirate.

While Doval worked the wheels, the PM used his personal relationship with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to ensure that the personnel are not sent to the gallows, the people added, maintaining that it is for this reason that Modi is travelling to Qatar, after his visit to the UAE, to thank the Emir.

While the diplomatic front was handled by external affairs minis-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. PTI

ter S Jaishankar, the delicate negotiations for the release of the ex-Navy personnel were conducted by Doval at the advice of

A Qatari court sentenced the veterans to death in October in a case that officials said shocked India's government. The Qatar government didn't disclose the charges the former Navy officers faced, but reports claimed that they were accused of espionage. In December, the court reduced their sentences, although no details were available at the time.

PM Modi met Qatar's Emir on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in Dubai and discussed the bilateral partnership and the "well-being of the Indian community" living in Qatar.

Last month, spokesperson for the ministry of external affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, explained the significance of this period, stating, "As far as the issue is concerned, there is a time of 60 days when this issue can be appealed in the Court of Cassation, which is the highest court in Qatar."

The MEA's legal team possesses the confidential court order detailing the commutation of the death sentences to imprisonment terms, a move revealed in a press release following the court of appeal's judgment on December 28.

"We issued a press release in which we informed you that the sentence, which was originally a death penalty, has been changed to imprisonment sentences. Now our legal team has that court order, and I can confirm that all of them have received sentences of different durations, and the death penalty has been removed," Jaiswal had said.

The MEA spokesperson also highlighted the recent meeting that took place between Modi and Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad and said that they have had a good conversation on the overall bilateral relationship. The release comes days after Petronet LNG Ltd, India's biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, signed a \$78 billion deal to extend LNG imports from Qatar by another 20 years till 2048 at rates lower than current prices, even though the two developments are not related.

INFLUENCERS TO BE AWARDED FOR **CONTRIBUTION TO** DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

NEW DELHI: The Centre through its citizen engagement portal MyGov India will award influencers across 20 categories for their impactful contributions to India's digital landscape, the ministry of electronics and information technology has said in a statement.

"The digital creator economy is experiencing exponential growth, revolutionising the media landscape and empowering the youth to build their own communities," the ministry said. "These creators have emerged as storytellers of a New India, embodying confidence, assertiveness, and rootedness."

The award will have categories that include Disruptor of the Year; Celebrity Creator of the Year; Cultural Ambassador of the Year and Swachhta Ambassador Award, among others.

Content considered for the award will have to be published on social media platforms that include Instagram, Facebook, You-Tube, Twitter and LinkedIn.

People can nominate anybody, including themselves, on the MyGov platform till February 21, for the award. **ADITI AGRAWAL** { **BUDGET SESSION** } FURORE IN ASSEMBLY

T TN guv refuses to read govt speech

Divya Chandrababu letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi on Monday skipped his entire speech customarily read at the start of the budget session of the assembly, saying he disagreed with numerous passages on "moral and factual" grounds, sparking a political controversy.

Ravi walked out of the House after speaker M Appavu read out the Tamil version of his speech.

The governor's address on the first day when the House convenes for the year is customarily prepared by the state government. While Ravi was walking out, the DMK-led government passed a resolution to record the approved speech. The session began at 10am with the state anthem (Tamil Thai Vazhthu). Ravi began soon after by quoting Tamil philosopher Thirvalluvar and complaining that his repeated requests to "show due respect to the national anthem" by playing it at the beginning and end of the address were ignored.

"This address has numerous passages with which I convincingly disagree on factual and



Governor RN Ravi

moral grounds," Ravi said. "I lending my voice to them would constitute a constitutional travesty. Hence, with respect to the House, I conclude my address. I wish this House a productive and healthy discussion for the good of the people." This is the latest in a string of face-offs between the state and Raj Bhavan in recent months, and is part of a similar trend across states ruled by non-BJP outfits.

Ravi's comments sparked a brief commotion but Appavu took over to read the Tamil version of the speech. Ravi continued to be seated next to the speaker.

The 48-page speech was critical of the Centre's policies such as the goods and services tax and said it was impacting the state's fiscal autonomy, alleged that central funds not being released for projects such as the Metro Rail's phase 2 in Chennai, and said the state would never allow the Citizenship Amendment Act. The speech also highlighted Tamil Nadu's achievements, welfare schemes and its economic growth. The speaker said the speech

was sent to Raj Bhavan for approval. He added that the issue over the national anthem was already resolved given the practice in Tamil Nadu to play the state anthem in the beginning of a programme and the national anthem in the end. The speaker noted that though they are ideologically different, the Tamil Nadu government led by chief minister M K Stalin has been treating the office of the governor with respect and there would be no change in that stance. "You have come from the paths of Savarkar and Godse. Tamil Nadu and the assembly is no less than you," the speaker said.

Immediately after, the governor walked out even as the speaker said that the national anthem was about to be played. Water resources minister Durai Murugan began reading a resolution that the assembly would take on record the English and Tamil versions of the prepared customary speech.

Hours later, Raj Bhavan said that it received the draft address on February 9 and found "numerous passages with misleading claims far from truth". The governor's office explained that Ravi rose for the national anthem but he left because of the speaker targeting him. "The Hon'ble speaker, with his unbecoming conduct, lowered the dignity of his chair

and grace of the House ... " Former secretary general of the Lok Sabha, PDT Acharya, said that the Constitution required the governor to be physically present and inform the members of the House about the activities of the government. "The governor is not responsible for what is in the speech which is prepared by the state government," Acharya said.

State law minister S Regupathy said: "The address was approved by the governor himself. If he had doubts, we would have clarified."

BJP's floor leader Nainar Nagendran backed the governor's decision to walk out, saying the speaker used inappropriate words

Rahul to PM: Release funds for MGNREGS workforce in Bengal

Vrinda Tulsian letters@hindustantimes.com

their pending wages.

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the "devastating plight" of workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment** Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) scheme in West Bengal and urged him to facilitate the release of central funds to the state for clearing

In his letter to Modi on February 10, Gandhi said that during his recent visit to West Bengal, as part of the party's ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, a delegation of MGNREGS workers from the Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity apprised him of the issues faced by them.

The letter came days after chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who has even held a twoday protest over the delay in release of central funds under various schemes, on February 3 said her government would pay the dues of 2.1 million MGNREGS workers, who have not received wages under the 100-days of work programme, by February 21.

Flagging the "devastating



Rahul Gandhi

plight" of MGNREGS workers in Bengal and their relentless fight for justice, Gandhi, in his letter, said: "Lakhs of our brothers and sisters have been denied work and wages under MGNREGS due to the stoppage of central funds to West Bengal since March, 2022. I was informed that many workers have not been paid for work completed in 2021 due to short-

fall in funds. For many, MGNREGS is the only safety net in times of crisis, and an assured livelihood source, the former Congress president pointed out.

"In this context, I request the Union government to facilitate the release of funds to clear pending wages, and ensure that the demand for work is met. I believe that we have a duty to rise above our political differences to uphold social, political and economic justice," the Congress leader said.



Jayant Chaudhary

FORCED TO DECIDE IN A SHORT TIME: JAYANT AMID BUZZ OVER JOINING NDA

Brajendra K Parashar bkparashar@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: Without making a formal announcement of joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary on Monday said the decision to part ways with the opposition INDIA bloc and rejoin the BJP-led alliance was taken after consulting his party legislators and workers, adding there was no planning behind it.

He also rejected as "false" media reports about his party MLAs being upset with the RLD joining the NDA. "If someone is reporting that, I don't think they have talked to the MLAs. I talked to MLAs and workers and made a decision after that," he said. "There was no planning, we were forced to make a decision in a short time due to the circumstances."

Speculations about resentment within the RLD started doing rounds after four of the party's nine MLAs skipped a visit to Ayodhya on Sunday to offer prayers at Ram Temple. Though neither of the two parties has made any formal announcement on the tie-up, both have been hinting of the same since February 9, when Jayant's grandfather and former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh's name was announced for the Bharat Ratna posthumously. "We have good intentions for our people and country. When Bharat Ratna has been given, we are very happy. It is not limited to our family or party. It is an honour for every farmer, youth, poor," the RLD chief said.

RLD MLAs, also, rejected reports of resentment, saying all nine MLAs were solidly behind Chaudhary. "There is no truth in news that some RLD MLAs are unhappy with the party's decision to shake hands with the BJP for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. We are all with Jayant Chaudhary with all our might," party MLA Ghulam Mohammad, who was among those gave the Ayodhya visit a skip, said.

{ SEEKING PERMANENT COMMISSION }

SC notice to govt on plea by Coast Guard officer

Abraham Thomas

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre on a plea filed by a woman short service appointment (SSA) officer of the Indian Coast Guard seeking parity with male officers for permanent absorption, which is denied to women officers under existing rules.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, issued notice on the petition filed by Commandant (junior grade) Priyanka Tyagi, whose 14-year tenure as SSA officer ended on December 30 and she was released from service. She also approached the Delhi high court, which denied her any interim relief on December 21.

"We will issue notice. Let us see what they (Centre and Indian Coast Guard) have to say," said the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. As the petition filed by Tyagi for her permanent absorption is pending with the Delhi high court since August, the court considered the option of expediting the high court proceeding.

Senior advocate Archana Pathak Dave, who appeared for Tyagi, informed the court that the high court should have relied on the decisions by the top court in

THE PLEA RELIED ON PAST RULINGS BY THE TOP COURT PAVING THE WAY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN SHORT **SERVICE** COMMISSION **OFFICERS**

staying the release of the petitioner, who is the lone woman in her batch seeking permanent absorption.

"I want to continue in service but they have released me in December causing me great prejudice. So far no woman SSA offcier has been granted permanent absorption as Coast Guard Rules do not permit woman SSAs to change to permanent entry

scheme," Dave said. The petition relied on the past rulings by the Supreme Court paving the way for equal opportunity for women short service commission officers in the army, navy and air force to be considered for permanent commission at par with their male counterparts and wondered why the same rule did not extend to the Coast Guard, also an

armed force, since 1978.

4 held in UP over halal certification

HT Correspondent letters@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: The special task force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police on Monday arrested four office bearers of Halal Council of India in connection with a first information report (FIR) that was registered following a ban on production, storage, distribution and sale of halal-certified prod-

ucts in the state last year. Those arrested were the Mumbai-based organisation's president, vice president, general

secretary and treasurer.

The STF had summoned four officer bearers of the Halal Council of India to its office on Monday to record their statements. After interrogation they were arrested. Legal formalities are being completed," the STF said in a statement.

The FIR, the force said, was lodged at Hazratganj police station on November 17 last year

The STF said that it also seized four Aadhaar cards, four PAN cards, four ATMs and ₹21,820 cash from the arrested

On November 18, the Yogi Adityanath-led government banned the production, storage, distribution and sale of halalcertified products in the state. Export products, however, were kept out of the purview of the

people.

ban on halal-certified items. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered that no coercive steps were to be taken against Halal India Limited and Jamiat Ulama e-Maharashtra in a criminal case over the ban.

{ LAW COMMISSION RECOMMENDS }

'Need tougher punishment under Epidemic Act'

Saptarshi Das

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Law Commission has recommended for changes to the 127-year-old Epidemic Diseases Act 1897, a law that is invoked for disease outbreaks and had been the basis of the government's legal powers during the pandemic, calling for tougher punishment for people who act responsibly and a better balance between the Centre and the states.

The colonial-era law concerns infectious disease outbreaks but is seen by experts as having been outdated. In the days after the Covid-19 outbreak in early 2020, the government made some amend-

ments - first by an ordinance in April that year before Parliament approved a bill later that year - to mainly enhance punishment for those who attack health care workers, and expanded the powers of the central government to stop or check any person.

The commission has now said that the provisions of the main law are "not stringent enough to act as an effective deterrent", calling for stricter punishment for disobedience of guidelines and regulations made by the government during any health emergency. While noting that with the

enactment of the three new crimi-

nal codes, the punishment for neg-

ligence and disobedience during

THE PANEL CALLED FOR OFFENCES TO BE GIVEN A **'STATUTORY FORCE'** WITHIN THE ACT IN ITSELF

health emergencies had been enhanced, the panel said such punishment should be laid down within the Epidemic Diseases Act itself. The report noted that the punitive provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act – for disobeying orders under the law and attacks on health care workers are governed by sections of the criminal code Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 (or the erstwhile Indian Penal Code).

The panel called for offences to be given a "statutory force" within the Epidemic Diseases Act in itself. "Moreover, the commission deems it fit that for subsequent or repeat contraventions, the punishments should be enhanced," the report read.

To be sure, there are other sections of the BNS that can be invoked, but these were not referenced in the Epidemic Diseases Act. Among these are section 269 of the IPC (section 271 of the BNS, 2023), section 270 of the IPC (section 272 of the BNS, 2023) and section 271 of the IPC (BNS section

273). "Despite these provisions there is still a need for stricter punishment for disobedience of guidelines and regulations made by the government during any health emergency." The panel recommended that

to avoid conflict between the Centre and state, the amended Act should appropriately decentralise and demarcate power between the two, and local authorities and state governments be given the primary task of implementing prevention and management provisions to contain an epidemic. But it added that in an event where the government thinks a state is not able to contain a crisis, the Centre should have the power to take measures.

Guv visits violence-hit Bengal distt; police form probe team

Tanmay Chatterjee

and Saptarshi Das

letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose visited violence-hit Sandeshkhali village in North 24 Parganas district on Monday and met several women who have accused local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders of torture and exploitation, even as chief minister Mamata Banerjee asserted that no "troublemaker" would be spared.

In the evening, the state police formed a 10-member team led by a woman officer of DIG rank to look into the allegations of molestation and sexual assault. "The team will visit various localities from Tuesday. The villagers must meet these officers and lodge their complaints. We have received one complaint of molestation so far. There is no communal angle to the incidents," Sumit Kumar, DIG, Barasat range, said.

Sandeshkhali first hit the headlines on January 5 when an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team that went to raid the home



West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose during his visit to Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district on Monday.

in connection with multiple crore public distribution scam was attacked by a mob that left three officials injured. Even as Shahjahan has evaded arrest, since February 7, villagers led by women in Sandeshkhali have held protests, demanding arrests of local TMC leaders, alleging harassment.

HT reported on Sunday that in a video that purportedly emerged from the village, a woman was heard alleging that women in the village were forced to stay at the

of TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan homes of TMC workers for weeks, or even months. Since Saturday, the district administration has clamped prohibitory orders and suspended internet services in

Sandeshkhali due to the "tenuous

law and order" situation.

On Monday, governor Bose visited Sandeshkhali and said what he heard from women victims could not be allowed in society. "Ghastly crimes went on, unchecked by the government," Bose told reporters. "It is a complex issue. I will not jump into any

conclusion about the state government. Let me get their views first. I will certainly do my best to see that honour and dignity of my a Barasat court on Monday. sisters here are restored."

Hours before he reached Sandeshkhali, CM Banerjee told reporters: "Anybody can go there. Those who indulged in violence as well as those against whom people have grievances have been arrested. All troublemakers will be arrested." She added: "The chairperson of the West Bengal commission for women visited Sandeshkhali and filed a report."

West Bengal commission for women chairperson Leena Gangopadhyay said: "The names that came up repeatedly when I talked to the women are Uttam Sardar and Shiba Prasad Hazra. Nobody specifically named Shahjahan Sheikh. The women complained that they were summoned from their homes at random to do odd jobs for TMC workers. Some of them alleged they were molested but nobody has lodged a complaint so far. I asked them to file a

petition addressed to the us." TMC leader Uttam Sardar and

BJP leader Bikash Sinha, arrested on Saturday for allegedly inciting violence, were released on bail by

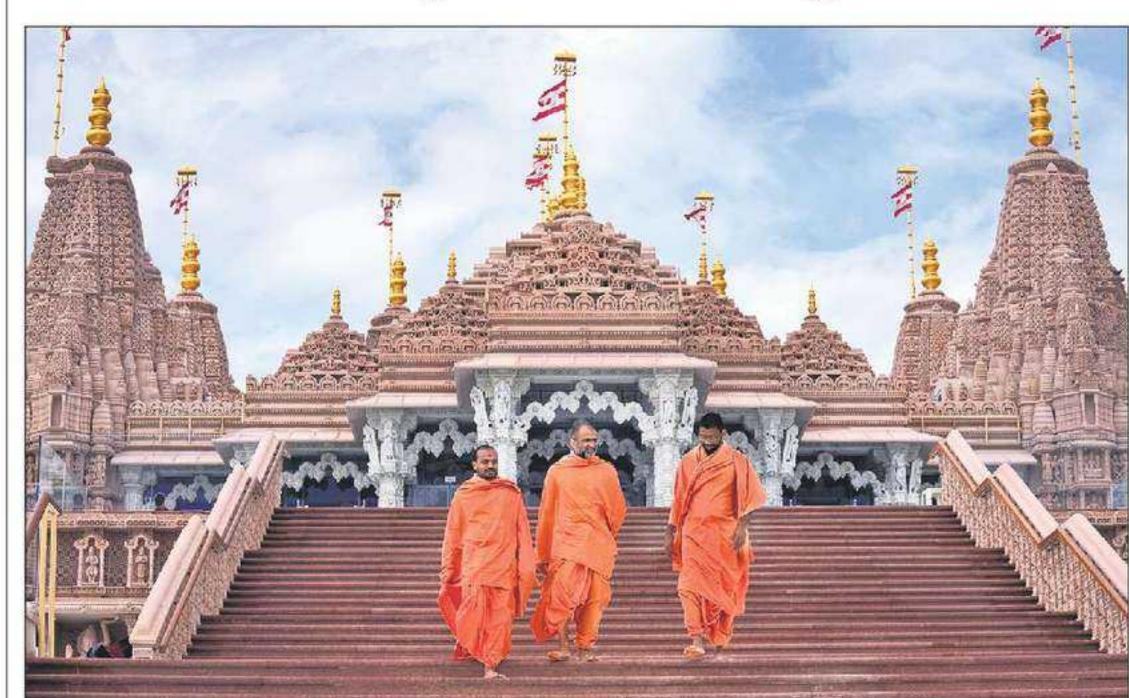
Irani attacks Mamata

Meanwhile, Union women and child development minister Smriti Irani lashed out at the TMC and said the women of Sandeshkhali were crying out for help and protection. "Can we, as citizens, be mute spectators?" she asked.

"The women of Sandeshkhali are crying out for help and protection. Mamata Banerjee is known for the genocide of Hindus, and she will now allow her men to pick out Hindu young married women to be raped night after night in the TMC office," Irani alleged while talking to reporters in the national capital.

Senior TMC leader and state's finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya hit back at Irani, saying: "She (Irani) keeps silent when women are paraded naked in Manipur and rapes take place at Hathras. The government here has taken prompt action and arrested the accused."

Abu Dhabi temple set for inauguration



Hindu monks walk down the stairs of the first stone-built Hindu temple in Abu Mureikha, 40 kms northeast of Abu Dhabi in UAE, on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the temple on Tuesday during an official visit to the country. 'The inauguration programme of BAPS temple is one of the key parts of PM Modi's UAE visit ..., foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra said.

Laws to breach, mapping the journey of the 17th Lok Sabha

Saubhadra Chatterji

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The 17th Lok Sabha cleared landmark laws with farreaching effects, witnessed the 75th anniversary of Independence and the inauguration of Ram Mandir, worked through the Covid-19 pandemic, and shifted to a new Parliament building, while it coincided with the country's growth to the world's fifth largest economy.

These five years also saw a major security breach after 22 years when two men jumped on to the Lok Sabha floor on December 13 and opened smoke canisters before they were caught. Acrimony between the government and the Opposition heightened and a record number of 146 Opposition MPs got suspended in six days for misconduct and a first-time member was expelled for sharing her parliamentary login credentials with a businessman. "Only four previous Lok Sabhas have had fewer sittings, all of which were dissolved before completing the five-year term," a PRS Legislative

Research study said. Lok Sabha officials pointed

भा.कृ.अनु.प.-राष्ट्रीय पादप जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान

लाल बहादुर शास्त्री भवन, पूसा परिसर, नई दिल्ली-110012

ICAR-National Institue for Plant Biotechnology

Lal Bahadur Shastri Building, Pusa Campus,

New Delhi-110012

WALK-IN/ONLINE INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates may appear in On-line/Walk-in-Interview starting at 11.00 am

on 12.03.2024 for temporary position of JRF in an ICAR funded project. The details

regarding number of positions, eligible, emoluments, application form, venue etc.

can be downloaded from the website (www.nipb.icar.gov.in)

IN 5 YRS, 222 LAWS HAVE BEEN PASSED, 202 TABLED AND 11 BILLS WITHDRAWN BY THE CENTRE

out that Parliament lost considerable days in 2020 and 2021 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said 222 laws were passed in these five years while 202 bills were introduced and 11 bills were withdrawn by the government. According to PRS, a total of 179 bills (excluding finance and appropriation bills) were passed in these five years and "35% of bills were passed with less than an hour of discussion in the Lok Sabha. The corresponding figure

for the Rajya Sabha was 34%." The BJP government revoked Article 370 on August 5, 2019. In the previous month, Parliament approved the bill to ban instant triple talaq. While it lost a session in 2020 due to Covid, last September the government convened a special session to shift to the new building and pass the women's reservation bill, which was pending since 1996. Last year, the Digital Data Protection Bill, the country's first data privacy legislation, was passed.

In his last parliamentary speech before the Lok Sabha polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed some of the bills as "game-changer reforms".

"Reform, Perform and Transform has been the mantra for the past five years. This Lok Sabha passed many game-changer reforms and the strong foundation of 21st century India can be seen in those reforms. The country has progressed at a faster pace," he said on the last day of the budget session.

Even as the Centre managed to pass landmark bills, at least two sets of reform bills - on agriculture and labour - faced headwinds. The government had to withdraw the three agriculture reform bills after massive protests. The four labour codes were cleared by Parliament but have not been rolled out yet. PRS reported that "16% of bills were referred to committees for detailed scrutiny. Four bills were referred to joint parliamentary committees, and one [the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019] to a Rajya Sabha select committee."

EX-CM SOREN'S ED CUSTODY EXTENDED BY 3 MORE DAYS

RANCHI: A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Monday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren by three days in a land scam case, people aware of the matter said.

"They (ED) were asking for a four-day remand...They have no ground left for any further remand. They (ED) just want to buy time...," Soren's counsel, advocate general Rajeev Ranjan, The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

executive president, who was arrested by ED on January 31, was remanded in five-day ED custody on February 7.

ED's PMLA probe against Soren pertains to an alleged land

scam linked to the ownership of

a parcel of land measuring 7.16

acres in Bajra area of Ranchi. HTC

{ DISQUALIFICATION PETITION }

Shinde seeks dismissal of Uddhav's plea in SC

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde on Monday opposed a plea filed by the Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) group in the Supreme Court against the assembly speaker's decision to dismiss disqualification petitions against Shinde and the legislators who supported him during the 2022 rebellion, and hold that the CM's faction was the "real Shiv Sena".

Even as a bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud adjourned the hearing of the Thackeray camp's plea due to paucity of time, the Shinde faction made it clear that it would seek the dismissal of the petition on the ground of maintainability.

Representing the CM's fac-



Eknath Shinde

tion, senior counsel Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi questioned how the Thackeray camp could move the apex court directly against the speaker's ruling without first approaching the Bombay high court.

"There is already a petition on the speaker's decision pending before the Bombay HC. It cannot go on in two different courts, especially after bypassing the HC. We are challenging the maintainability of their petition," the lawyers for the Shinde camp

M.Vaishnavi

told the bench, which also included justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Appearing for the Thackeray camp, senior counsel Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi requested the bench to hear the matter at an early date. Sibal said that since the court has on January 22 issued notice on their petition, the other side should be asked to file their counter affida-Responding, Salve and

Rohatgi said that they do not wish to file a counter affidavit at this point because they want the dismissal of the plea at the threshold on the ground of maintainability. At this, the bench said that it would try to assign a date of hearing soon.

On January 22, the bench had issued notices to all the 39 MLAs, including Shinde, against

General Public is hereby informed that one

girl Namely: M. Vaishnavi, D/o E. Murli,

R/o 1484, 1st Floor, Street No. 05, Wazir

Nagar, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi, Age:

21 years, Sex: Female, Height: About 4'6",

Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish,

Built: Thin, Hair: Normal long black

Wearing: Blue colour Top suit and black

colour slipper in her feet. She has been

tions had been filed by the Thackeray camp under the antidefection law for defying the party whip in the House for the election of the speaker and the floor test in 2022.

whom the disqualification peti-

The Shiv Sena suffered a vertical split in June 2022 when Shinde and 38 other legislators walked out of the party then led by Thackeray and joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to form the government. The rebellion brought down the then Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. On that day, the lawyers for

the UBT camp had urged the top court to hear the case, pointing out that the term of the present assembly will perhaps be over by the time the high court would decide their plea. The polls in the state are expected in late 2024.

TOAR

उत्तराखण्ड पावर ऋरपोरेशन लि०

INDIAN RAILWAYS **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) **CORRIGENDUM-III**

Subject: E-Tender No. TM-2303 for procurement of Rail Borne Maintenance Vehicle "RBMV" for Indian Railways to be opened on 16.02.2024 The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 16.02.2024 has been postponed to 12.03.2024.

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged. Executive Director/Track (M&MC) 3 Railway Board

回心证 Tele. No.: 011-47845531, E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in 等 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



(Assistant Administrative Officer)



Vinod Kumar

General public is hereby informed that this person namely Vinod Kumar S/o Late Ramji Lal R/o E-101, Bhagwati Garden Extn., Mohan Garden, New Delhi Age: 43 years, Height: 5'7", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Build: Thin, wearing blue colour jacket, blue colour pant and grey colour shoes in feet, has been missing since

01.01.2024 from his house. In this regard a DD No. 37-A dated 03.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Mohan Garden, New Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

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

Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 24368639,

Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO: P.S. Mohan Garden, Delhi E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 08750871029, 08851199334,

09654124763, 008368105164 DP/1729/DW/24

04.02.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one

missing from her house from P.S. Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi

since 03.02.2024. In this regard a case vides DD No.: 30A Dated

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Ajay S/o Ram Avtar R/o H.No. 4448/10, Prem Nagar, Tri Nagar, Onkar Nagar, West Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 477/2019 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Kanjhawla, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ajay can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ajay has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ajay of FIR No. 477/2019 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Kanjhawla, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 12.03.2024 By Order

P.S. Kotla Mubarakpur, Delhi DP/1477/SD/2024 Ph. 011-24624825, 8750870828

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

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

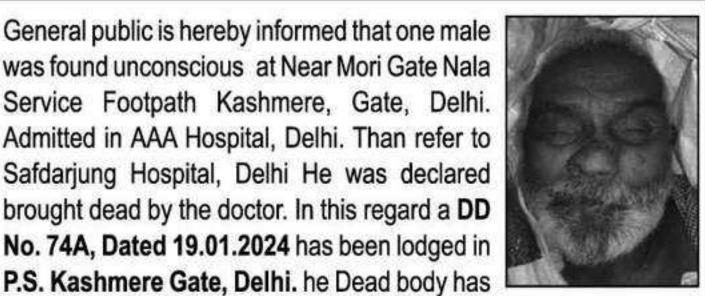
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Ashish Semivol George @ Harshit S/o Sanjay George R/o H.No. 265, Admin Flat, Phase-IV, Ashok Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 163/2016 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ashish Semivol George @ Harshit can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ashish Semivol George @ Harshit has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ashish Semivol George @ Harshit of FIR No. 163/2016 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 01.04.2024 By Order

Ms. Meena Chauhan Metropolitan Magistrate-08 Room No.- 272, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1638/CD/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found unconscious at Near Mori Gate Nala Service Footpath Kashmere, Gate, Delhi. Admitted in AAA Hospital, Delhi. Than refer to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi He was declared brought dead by the doctor. In this regard a DD No. 74A, Dated 19.01.2024 has been lodged in



been preserved in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi Mortuary for Identification. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 60 Years Height: 5'6" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Hospital Cloths Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph: 011-223962210/46123 DP/1691/N/2024

having any information about this missing girl please inform undersigned.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

Ayush Sharma Metropolitan Magistrate (NW) Room No.- 113, Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/1653/RD/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Sandeep @ Rocky S/o Chander Prakash R/o House No. S-30, Budh Vihar Phase-I, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 311/15 U/s 323/341/354/509/34 IPC, PS Aman Vihar, Distt. Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Sandeep @ Rocky can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Sandeep @ Rocky has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Sandeep @ Rocky of Case FIR No. 311/15 U/s 323/341/354/509/34 IPC, PS Aman Vihar, Distt. Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 11.03.2024.

DP/1648/RD/2024 (Court Matter)

By Order Ms. Preeti Rajoria Metropolitan Magistrate (North) Mahila Court, Room No. 02 Rohini Courts, New Delhi

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन िळ कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चम्पावत।

पत्रांक : 96/वि.वि.म.(च.) निविदा

ई-निविदा सूचना

दिनांक: 12.02.2024

क0 सं0	ई—निविदा संख्या	कार्य का विवरण	ई-निविदा कय करने हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने तथा हार्ड प्रति जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	ई—निविदा की तकनीकी बिड पार्ट—। (EMD & Tender Cost) ऑफ लाइन खुलने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा तकनीकी बिर ऑन लाइन खुलने की तिथि एवं समय
1,	वि0वि0म0(च0) 13/2023-24	वि0वि0ख0 सितारगंज के अन्तर्गत 33/11 कें0वी0 जेलकैम्प के अन्तर्गत सिसौना के विभिन्न ग्राम में एल0टी0 लाईन पर स्थापित जीर्ण-शीर्ण ए०सी0एस0आ0 वीजल कण्डक्टर को ए०बी० केबिल में बदलने का कार्य। निविदा मूल्य रू० 11,800/- एंव धरोहर धनराशि रू० 2,25,000/-	26.02.2024 12:00 बजे तक	27.02.2024 12:00 बजे	27.02.2024 16:00 बजे
2.	वि0वि0म0(च0) 14 / 2023—24	विठविठख० चम्पावत के अन्तर्गत 33/11 केठवीठ विद्युत उपसंस्थान चम्पावत के चल्थी पोषक के अनुरक्षण का कार्य, निविदा विशिष्टि के अनुसार। निविदा मूल्य रू० 2,360/- एंव घरोहर धनराशि रू० 57,000/-	26.02.2024 12:00 बजे तक	27.02.2024 12:00 बजे	27.02.2024 16:00 बजे
3.	वि0वि0म0(च0) 15 / 2023—24	वि0वि0ख0 खटीमा के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपसंस्थान झनकट कें सडासडिया, मच्छीझाला, डिग्री कालेज व झनकट आदि गाँव में ए०सी०एस०आर वीजल के स्थान पर ए०बी० केबिल लगाने से सम्बन्धित कार्य, निविदा विशिष्टि के अनुसार। निविदा मूल्य रू० 11,800/- एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू० 3,42,000/-	26.02.2024 12:00 बजे तक	27.02.2024 12:00 बजे	27.02.2024 16:00 बजे
4.	वि०वि०म०(च०) 16 / 2023—24	वि0वि0ख0 खटीमा के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपसंस्थान झनकट कें बिहि ठेरा, ऐंचता, गिधौर, बनकटिया, डियोढी, चांदपुर आदि गाँव में ए०सी०एस०आर वीजल के स्थान पर ए०बी० केबिल लगाने से सम्बन्धित कार्य, निविदा विशिष्टि के अनुसार। निविदा मूल्य रू० 11,800/- एंव घरोहर घनराशि रू० 3,21,000/-	26.02.2024 12:00 बजे तक	27.02.2024 12:00 बजे	27.02.2024 16:00 बजे
5.	वि0वि0म0(च0) 17 / 2023—24	वि0वि0ख0 चम्पावत के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपसंस्थान लोहाघाट से निकलने वाले गललागाँव, पॉलिटैक्निक, पुल्ला व सलना पोषक के अनुरक्षण एंव उपभोक्ता शिकायत निवारण का कार्य, निविदा विशिष्टि के अनुसार। निविदा मूल्य रू० 2,360/- एंव घरोहर धनराशि रू० 95,000/-	26.02.2024 12:00 बजे तक	27.02.2024 12:00 बजे	27.02.2024 16:00 बजे

नोट :- निविदा भाग 01 में पी.क्यू.आर. की शर्तें पूर्ण करने वाले निविदाकार का ही भाग -02 अलग से तिथि निर्धारित करते हुये खोला जायेगा।

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{ OUR TAKE }

Diplomatic win for New Delhi

Freedom for former naval personnel imprisoned in Qatar points to India's rising profile in West Asia

he travails of eight former Indian Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death in Qatar after being held on undeclared charges, appear to have ended with their release on the orders of the emir of the West Asian State. Following the intervention of the Indian government and the launch of a legal challenge by the families of the men, a Qatari court commuted the death sentences and gave them prison sentences of varying durations. Developments over the weekend saw the men, some of them decorated officers who commanded frontline warships, being set free and brought home on Monday. This is clearly a diplomatic win for the Indian government, which has invested heavily in recent years in improving relations with several key players in West Asia, especially Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, and Qatar. While countries in this region were always crucial energy suppliers for India, many had a pro-Pakistan tilt in their foreign policy approach. With the dwindling of Pakistan's fortunes in recent decades, many of these countries have realised the importance of stronger relations with India, increasingly an important player in the economic and security domains.

However, there are aspects of the case of the former Indian Navy personnel that deserve closer scrutiny. Ever since they were detained in 2022, neither Qatar nor India provided details of the charges brought against them. The legal proceedings against the men and the verdicts in the case were deemed confidential. With the highly qualified personnel of India's armed forces being perceived as prized employees in West Asia and other regions, greater clarity regarding this episode will make others aware of potential pitfalls. It would perhaps also be helpful if India clearly defined conditions for the re-employment of retired military personnel in foreign countries.

The resolution of this case is evidence of India's growing influence in West Asia, which is home to some nine million Indians. The developments also reflect the willingness of India's partners in this strategic region to trust New Delhi as a friend and a collaborator in pursuing common diplomatic and security goals. Besides the existing partnerships focused on energy security and people-to-people ties, India would do well to ramp up on openings provided by burgeoning military and security cooperation with West Asian countries.

Lessons from the U-19 World Cup

he U-19 World Cup has been a good hunting ground for India. They have made it to the final nine times and won the title five times. As always, a good showing at the event tells fans that there is enough talent in the pipeline. The 2024 edition was no different. A run to the final, where they lost to Australia by 79 runs, showed that India has some good depth at the youth level. Indian skipper Uday Saharan, who scored a tournamenthigh 397 runs, impressed with his temperament. Musheer Khan (360 runs) showed that he could score the tough runs, pacer Raj Limbani (11 wickets) has an inswinger worth taking note of and attitude to match, Saumy Pandey's left-arm spin earned him 18 wickets.

It must be said no one stood out in the manner that Mohammad Kaif, Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Unmukt Chand, Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal or Kamlesh Nagarkoti did. But that may not be a bad thing. There was a time when being part of the U-19 team gave the players exposure that others of a similar age in India could only dream about: It could fast-track players into the limelight. But now with the IPL becoming another stage that players must shine on before being considered for India A, the path to the national team has become a little longer. The hard yards still need to be done. Gill and Jaiswal took their time before finding their feet for India. Shaw struggled with off-field issues despite making his debut before them. There is a lot of talent that passes through the selection net at the agegroup level and all of that becomes competition at the senior level. And now, more than ever before, players know that the U-19 level is just the beginning.

Code that lets the State limit personal freedoms

Uttarakhand's UCC is at odds with the right to privacy and chips away at the agency of consenting adults

he framing of a new law is not just a legislative process; it ought to reflect people's aspirations and safeguard the cherished liberties the Constitution contemplates. So, the question to ask is: Does Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) manifest a form of social engineering, designed to optimise the welfare of both individuals and the State?

Thanks to the majority that it enjoys in the House, the Pushkar Singh Dhami government got the UCC passed last week, making the bill a lived reality for the residents of Uttarakhand. The proposed law, however, contains a raft of provisions that appear to limit individual rights, the agency of women, and the freedom of adults to form intimate associations without the State's muzzle.

To start with, the UCC criminalises live-in relationships if not registered with the state within a month of forming such unions. The bill gives the registrar the authority to review the declarations made by potential live-in partners, carry out an "enquiry" to make sure the couple's relationship is not "prohibited", and even call the pair or anyone else (including someone from their families). The exercise is merely "for the purposes of record", as the Code carefully notes. If one or

both partners wish to "terminate" the live-in relationship, a similar exercise is to be followed. Sending a live-in couple to jail for a period of up to three months for not informing the state and the police of a cohabitational union clearly falls afoul of adults' freedom to create an intimate zone of privacy without interference from the State.

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court, in the right to privacy judgment (2017), declared that the formation of human relationships falls within the intimate zone because such unions are relegated to the sphere of the home or the private zone and they involve intimate choices. It was unequivocal that the intimate zone is shielded from State regulation because relationships operate in a "private space" and decisions taken in a private space in the exercise of an individual's autonomy are "private activities".

One of the official justifications in support of compulsory registration of live-in relationships is fear of crimes against women by cohabiting partners. First, there is no empirical evidence to suggest that maintaining official records of relationships can prevent crimes against women. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) annual report of 2022, a majority of crimes against women under the Indian Penal Code were of cruelty by the husband or his relatives (31.4%), signifying protection of matrimony is not a guarantee of a safe space for women, nor does registration do much to ameliorate the situation. Second, the registrar is required to forward the records of live-in relationships to the local police, exposing the couples and their "intimate zone" to unwarranted scrutiny, at the whims of law enforcement. Third, while the UCC prescribes no jail term for married couples if they choose not to register their unions, those in live-in relationships can be put behind bars, questioning the rationale behind the negative discrimination.

The proposed law further poses a

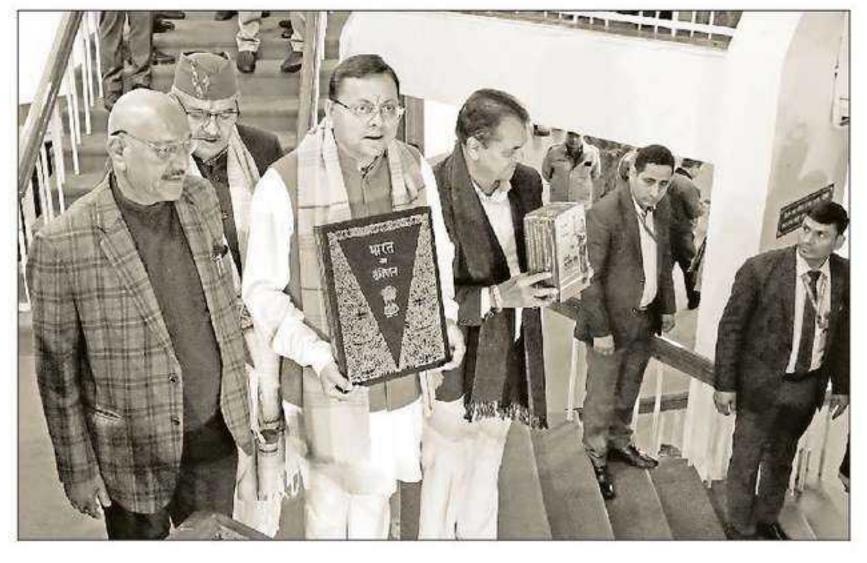
grave danger to the agency of an adult person by differentiating between the legal age of a woman to marry and her legal age to form a live-in relationship without her parents' involvement. The Uttarakhand UCC provides that while a woman can marry at 18, her parents must be informed if she is below 21 when she enters or ates a live-in relationship, statutorily robbing the unrelations of union that partners

Utkarsh

Anand

terminates a live-in relationship, thereby statutorily robbing the unrestrained choice of union that partners of a live-in relationship may have. The Supreme Court (SC) has consistently remained a vanguard of autonomy and agency by holding in a spree of judgments, including Shafin Jahan (the Kerala Hadiya case), that matters of clothes, food, ideas and ideologies, love and partnership are within the central aspects of identity. The proposed law, however, tends to diminish the agency of an adult woman to enter into a relationship of her choice by statutorily involving her parents.

Another red flag in UCC is manifest discrimination. There seems to be no intelligible difference as to why a live-in relationship, which should be



The Pushkar Singh Dhami government got the UCC passed last week, making the bill a lived reality for the residents of Uttarakhand

"in the nature of marriage", must be registered to ward off a jail term but a marriage need not. It further does not explain why a woman cannot have a live-in relationship without the knowledge of her parents if she is less than 21 but she can marry a man of her choice after turning 18. Additionally, an order of the registrar declining registration of marriage can be challenged before the registrar general but refusal to record a live-in relationship cannot be appealed against under the UCC.

In Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018), a Constitution bench decriminalised homosexuality on the core ground that it discriminated between heterosexual persons and non-heterosexual persons, although both groups engage in consensual sexual activities. The top court was emphatic that the State cannot create an artificial distinction between two classes unless there are sound principles of intelligible differentia. In the right to privacy judgment, the ninejudge bench underscored that discrete and insular minorities face grave dangers of discrimination for the simple reason that their views, beliefs or way of life do not accord with the "mainstream". While married couples indeed stand on a different footing socially, there is no palpable explanation of how a law can penalise live-in couples for exercising their agency without the State's intervention

vention. The proposed law on live-in relationships, notably, has also left out transgenders and LGBTQ persons from its ambit, even as the SC judgment in the National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India (2014) held that the State must recognise persons who fall outside the male-female binary as "third gender persons" and that they are entitled to all constitutionally guaranteed rights. By doing this, the State has clearly shown its indisposition to regulate relationships beyond the binary of sex and gender, raising questions if the UCC aims to contribute towards eliminating the inequality of the power structure in all relationships, thereby preventing

exploitation and subjugation.

The State's endeavour in democratising private space must promote compliance with constitutional values and the attainment of social justice. But Uttarakhand's UCC appears to be a threat to liberty and privacy while chipping away at the agency of consenting adults.

The views expressed are personal

Reclaiming the storied legacy of Arabian Sea

Samir

Saran

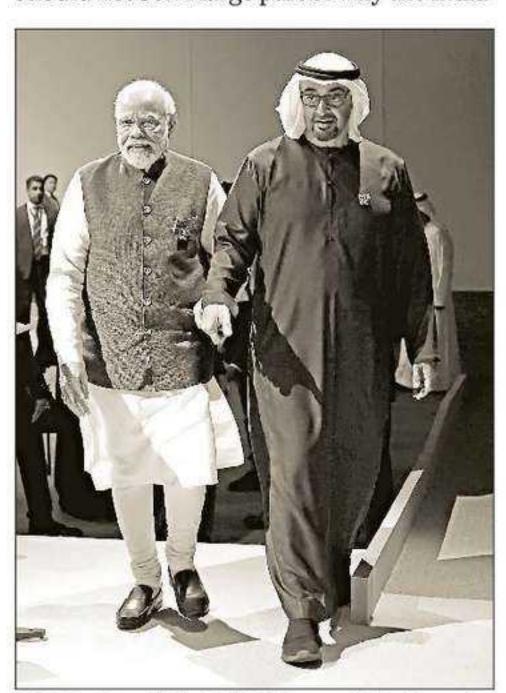
ost-Independence, India has been unfair to the sea that laps against our western shoreline. We forget that the Arabian Sea has long been a fertile bridge for the exchange of ideas, stories, commerce, and culture. *Khazanas* of knowledge have flowed through its waters and lasting friendships have been forged. More than any Indian Prime Minister (PM) before him, Narendra Modi recognises the injustice of this neglect. His upcoming visit to Abu Dhabi will be his seventh — six more than any predecessor. Before his first trip in 2015, no Indian PM had set foot in the Emirates for over three decades.

While numbers are often inconsequential, sometimes they do matter. As the B-school adage goes: If you can't count it, it doesn't

count. Seven prime ministerial visits paint a picture. It signifies a change in the relationship and growing appreciation of each other's importance. What India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have built is a special affinity. It reflects a new reality, one where the India-UAE bond is no longer voluntary but mandatory, not a choice but an instinct. PM Modi and

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have undertaken a systematic overhaul: We are now mutually indispensable.

The very texture of this relationship is different. PM Modi is travelling to inaugurate the first Hindu temple in the UAE, an exemplar of Abu Dhabi's promotion of a more pluralistic society. At the same time, he is attending the World Government Summit, a platform for deliberating innovation to deal with emerging governance challenges. In tandem, these act as a synecdoche for the larger relationship: The two nations are partnering with each other while celebrating who they are. They seek to be part of each other's change while not seeking to change the other. India has friendly relations with many nations, and yet such friendships often come with prescriptive clauses of what India can or cannot do; of what India should or should not be. A large part of why the India-



PM Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed are putting in place the building blocks for a prosperous Arabian Sea community ANI

UAE relationship is special is because it is descriptive, not prescriptive.

Embedded deeply in the India-UAE bond is a celebration of each other for what we are — plural yet singular. Plural because of our diversity of cultures and customs, and the heterogeneity inherent in our nations. Singular because we have navigated uncharted territory, and plotted an unmapped path for ourselves. In their own unique ways, both countries are exceptions in the region and in today's times. The UAE has created a lush economy in the middle of an arid desert. India's specific development challenges have no parallels, with individual states the size of entire nations. For both of our countries, there have been no models to follow, no moulds to fit into. This is the foundation of

> our mutual respect. It will continue to be the bedrock of our relationship as we transform incomes, update infrastructure, and move from an analogue to a digital world.

Diaspora lies at the centre of our relationship. More than 60,000 Indians have signed up to attend the PM's address at the Zayed Sports City Stadium. However, statistics of this sort do not do true justice to the

real story of the Indian diaspora in the UAE. The fact is Indians today share the top floor of skyscrapers in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Positions that by default went to Europeans and Americans, today, see a large proliferation of Indians, whether in finance, energy, or infrastructure. They are being recognised as valued advisors, creative talents, and financial wizards, rubbing shoulders with Emiratis in building a 21st-century nation and contributing to the future of the UAE. This cohort of Emiratis and Indians is working to make the UAE a global hub for our century, even as they make India a global economic powerhouse for the benefit of the country, the region, and humankind at large.

As China rose, a small clique of cities benefitted: Hong Kong, Singapore, London, and New York. India's journey, from four trillion dollars to 30, will see the world benefit. Abu Dhabi and Dubai will hold a privileged position in this odyssey. Even as India benefits, so will the global ambitions of the UAE. Moving forward, the UAE will be the new Gateway to India. It will be a talent hub, connecting Indian opportunities and Indian talent with the rest of the world. It will be a trade hub, with goods — and energy — that flow to and from India passing through it. It will be a finance hub, where it will be able to source at scale the capital required to sate India's

prowing appetite.

PM Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed are putting in place the building blocks for a prosperous Arabian Sea community. They are restoring the sea to the storied position it held in antiquity, refreshing it and bringing it into the 21st century. This community will offer people-centric, development-first, and growth-led solutions for Africa, Europe, and the Indo-Pacific. The space between the Gulf and the subcontinent will reclaim its role as the wellspring of inclusive globalisation in this century, just as it was millennia ago.

Samir Saran is president, Observer Research Foundation, India. The views expressed are personal DROUPADI MURMU } PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Dayanand Saraswati took up the challenge of eradicating superstitions prevalent in 19th century... He was an advocate of women's education and self-respect

On the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand

n the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Daya Saraswati

HT

India-US ties: Beyond fleeting expediencies

Sujan

Chinoy

appear to be dialling down on tensions. At the level of optics, China has lauded the Joe Biden-Xi Jinping Summit in San Francisco in November last year; The Global Times assessed that the "San Francisco vision" had "epochal significance". At the substantive level, their bilateral dialogue has intensified with a spate of US government officials travelling to Beijing. Noteworthy is the resumption of dialogue between the two militaries in December 2023, which had been suspended by China after Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August

2022. Despite the fundamental and often irreconcilable differences that bedevil ties, both the US and China appear keen to maintain an even keel.

There are major distractions for

There are major distractions for both. The US has its hands full dealing with prolonged conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, apart from the upcoming presidential election. China, on the other hand, is grappling with an economic downturn and churn in the

higher echelons of the leadership, including in the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which together may be instrumental in infusing a degree of pragmatism into foreign policy.

Notwithstanding the strong US support for Ukraine and Israel, neither of the conflicts shows any sign of abating. In both geographies, achieving an end state in line with US objectives remains a chimera. For Beijing, this provides a chance to get off its high horse of supplanting the US as the global hegemon and favour a more conciliatory relationship. Taking a cue from the US, allies such as Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) have endeavoured to stabilise relations with China. Most recently, even as the US, Japan and the ROK held an "informal" trilateral summit during the APEC meeting in San Francisco in November last year, the foreign ministers of the ROK and Japan also met with their Chinese counterparts in Busan later that month.

Despite these developments, the Chinese challenge to the US is structural and long-term in nature. The US has awakened to the perils of over-dependence on China. The Chinese economic juggernaut has provided cheap goods to the US consumer to maintain the American lifestyle in the short-run but has hurt the US economy in the long-run by hollowing out several sectors of the US economy. Therefore, US policy towards China is increasingly imbued with a dose of realism. De-risking in trade and

investments has emerged as a key policy priority. US exports to China in 2023 amounted to \$135.8 billion and imports were \$393.1 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$257.3 billion. That is considerably less than the trade deficit of \$382.29 billion in 2022. This is indicative of a continuing effort on the part of the US to diversify.

Separately, any suggestion that improvement in Sino-US relations is detrimental to India's ties with the US is without basis. India's relations with the US are *sui generis*. The new US-India partnership in the economic, tech and military

spheres is expected to further strengthen as the US increasingly regards India as an economic opportunity at a time when the Chinese economy appears to have peaked in several sectors. India is also regarded as a critical ballast in the regional security architecture in the Indo-Pacific. In an era of net-centric warfare that depends on advanced ISR capa-

bilities, intelligence sharing and technological cooperation between strategic partners such as India and the US is critical. Clearly, a democratic India with a high economic growth rate, a credible military and resolute

leadership acts as a fulcrum for stability in Asia. A confident India is less likely to countenance Chinese unilateralism, as witnessed in recent years. Strengthened military capabilities and a rapidly rising economy complement a deeper strategic convergence between India and the US. Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US in June last year led to a slew of agreements in the high-tech sector that will give a fillip to the partnership. Notably, in FY 2023, the US became India's largest trading partner in goods, displacing China. In services, the US has long been India's top partner.

The US has a lot riding on the future of its economic and strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. As part of its risk mitigation strategy and the compulsions of friend-shoring, the US will be inclined to further its trade and investment ties and technological cooperation with reliable partners such as India. Bilateral ties between India and the US have a standalone and enduring logic of their own. The US bet on India is part of a long-term vision, beyond fleeting expediency.

Sujan Chinoy, a former ambassador, is director general, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. The views expressed are personal

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Shooting at Greek shipping firm kills 3; gunman dead ATHENS: Three people

were fatally shot on Monday in the offices of a shipping company near Athens and the suspected gunman also took his life as police special forces prepared to confront him, authorities said. Police spokesperson Consantia Dimoglidou said the owner of the company was among victims. AP



Smoke rises from a fire that broke out at an amusement park in Gothenburg. REUTERS

Fire breaks out at Sweden's biggest amusement park STOCKHOLM: Fire

broke out Monday at Sweden's largest amusement park, engulfing a newly built water park in flames with a dozen people sustaining minor injuries, authorities said. Police evacuated a hotel and offices connected to the Liseberg Amusement Park in Gothenburg. AFP

N Korea tests new rocket launcher control system

SEOUL: North Korea said on Monday it had developed a new control system for a multiple rocket launcher that would lead to a "qualitative change" in its capabilities. The launcher would now be "re-evaluated" and its battlefield role "increased", state news agency KCNA said. AFP

Pakistan crisis: Two largest hospital again, hands duties to his deputy parties spar over PM's post

Nawaz Sharif's PML-N and the PPP of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari are holding formal talks to form a coalition govt

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's two largest political parties were on Monday wrangling over who will be prime minister after an inconclusive election last week forced them to join forces and try to form a coalition in a parliament dominated by independents. The squabbling is likely to deepen concerns about the stability of the nation which is mired in an economic crisis and battling a surge in militant violence.

Former prime ministers Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif both declared victory on Friday, with independent candidates backed by the jailed Khan forming the largest group of 93 members of a total of 264 seats for which results were declared.

However, Khan cannot become prime minister from jail and his grouping cannot form a government as they nominally ran as independents as his party was barred from standing.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was the largest recognised party with 75 seats and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of assassinated former premier Benazir Bhutto, was second with 54.

The two parties opened formal talks late on Sunday to form a coalition government, with a statement from PML-N saying the meeting was "constructive" and "both expressed commitment to putting nation's interest and well-being above every-



Supporters of former PM Imran Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), block the Peshawar-Islamabad motorway as part of their protest against the results of the general election, in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Monday.

thing". PML-N and PPP officials, however, said their talks were snagged over which leader would take the top job.

"Both sides are interested to form a coalition, but there is no breakthrough so far. Both parties want the office of prime minister," a senior PML-N figure close to the Sharif family told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

prime minister," PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi told Geo TV, adding that independents were joining his party. "No one can form a government without us."

"Our party wants Bilawal as

To become prime minister, a candidate has to show they have a simple majority of 169 seats out of the 336-member National

Assembly when it is called into session in the next few weeks. Some 70 seats are reserved for women and minorities, divided between parties on a proportional basis.

Meanwhile, senior leaders of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party met with President Arif Alvi on Monday and briefed him on the alleged irregularities in the February 8 general elections.

The development comes a day after Alvi urged all political parties and institutions to "respect and recognise" the huge mandate of the citizens in the general elections in which independent candidates backed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) outperformed all other political parties.

HOW WILL NEXT GOVT BE FORMED?

 Negotiations for a coalition government are taking place between former PM Nawaz Sharif's party, with 75 seats, and the party of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, with 54 seats, as well as other smaller parties. By law, the National Assembly, or the lower

house of parliament, must be called by the president three weeks after the national election. It is usually called earlier. A new speaker of the house is then elected, and then they call for the election of

the leader of the house, or PM, who must win a simple majority — 169 of 336 seats. candidates for PM. If no candidate secures a majority in the first round, a second vote is held between the top two candidates. Voting will continue till one person is

 There can be multiple able to secure a majority. Once elected, the PM takes an oath and announce the cabinet. The caretaker setup that has been in place then hands over power to

the new government.

Agencies

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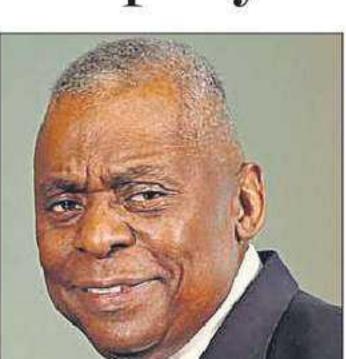
WASHINGTON: US defence secretary Lloyd Austin was hospitalised again on Sunday to address a bladder issue as he continues to recover from prostate cancer and has transferred authorities to his deputy, the Pentagon said.

Austin was diagnosed with prostate cancer in December and continues to deal with complications from his treatment.

At about 2:20pm (local time) on Sunday, he was transported by his security detail to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center "to be seen for symptoms suggesting an emergent bladder issue," Pentagon press secretary Maj Gen Pat Ryder said in a statement.

While Austin initially intended to retain the "functions and duties of his office", at about 5pm on Sunday he transferred those authorities to deputy secretary of defence Kathleen Hicks. As of Sunday evening, he remained hospitalised.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was notified, as well as the White House and



US defence secretary Lloyd Austin

Congress. Meanwhile, Austin has cancelled a trip to Brussels where he was set to take part in meetings with other Nato defence ministers, a US official said on Monday.

Austin was set to depart for the Nato meeting of defence ministers in Brussels taking place on Thursday and a separate meeting with allies on Wednesday on how to continue supporting Ukraine in countering Russia's invasion. The official said the meeting on Ukraine's defence needs, known as the Ukraine contact group, would be held virtually.

U.S. SENATE } \$60 BILLION PACKAGE

Ukraine aid package clears procedural vote

Agence France-Presse

letters@hindustantimes.com **WASHINGTON:** A sweeping US

foreign aid package, including \$60 billion for Ukraine, passed a key procedural vote on Sunday, although opposition from rightwing Republicans may block it from becoming law. The \$95 billion package

includes funding for Israel's fight against Hamas militants and for key strategic ally Taiwan, but the lion's share would help pro-Western Ukraine

restock depleted ammunition supplies, weapons and other crucial needs as it enters a third year of war.

The Senate, which has a very slim Democratic majority, voted 67-27 to break a procedural hold placed on the bill, making it almost certain it will pass a final simple-majority vote around midweek.

It is unusual for the Senate to hold votes on the weekend, with Sunday's session also coinciding with the all-important NFL championship game.

Former president Donald Trump speaks at a 'Get Out The Vote'

rally in Conway, South Carolina, on Saturday.

Republicans criticise Trump over threat to abandon Nato allies

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Some of former president Donald Trump's fellow Republicans on Sunday lashed out at him for saying he would not want to protect Nato members from a future attack by Russia if those countries' contributions to the defence alliance were lagging. "This is why I've been saying

for a long time that he's unfit to be president of the United States," former Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" programme.

The remarks prompted rebukes from the White House, which called them "appalling and unhinged", as well as from other top Western officials.

The failure of many of Nato's 31 members to meet a defence spending target of at least 2% of gross domestic product has long been a source of tension with the United States, whose armed forces form the core the alliance's military power. Nato estimates have shown that only 11 members are spending at the target level.

Former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, who is Trump's lone remaining challenger for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, said: "The last thing we ever want to do is side with Russia."

Interviewed on CBS's "Face the Nation", she added: "Don't take the side of someone who has gone and invaded a country



Let's be serious. Nato cannot be an 'a la carte' military alliance... depending on the humour of the president of the US.

JOSEP BORRELL, EU foreign policy chief

and half a million people have died or been wounded because of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin" in his war against Ukraine.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, a close ally of Trump's, told Reuters in a brief hallway interview that he disagreed "with the way he (Trump) said it", referring to the Nato

'Finland should stay calm

amid Trump rhetoric' Finland's president-elect Alexander Stubb said on Monday his country should remain calm and focus on its Nato membership despite former US president Donald Trump's recent comments on the military alliance. "US election campaigns are very different from Finnish elections, and the rhetoric used is quite a lot stronger... I think at this stage it is best to remain calm and focus on building our Nato membership," Stubb told a press conference.

Israel frees 2 hostages; ops kill 67 in Gaza plans for a ground assault on

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

DOHA/JERUSALEM: Israel freed two Israeli-Argentine hostages held by Hamas in Rafah on Monday in a ferocious rescue operation which killed 67 Palestinians in the southern Gaza city where about one million civilians have sought refuge from months of bombardments.

The mission by the Israeli military, the Shin Bet security service and a special police unit, freed Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Hare, 70, the military said. They were among 250 people seized during the October 7 raid by Hamas militants that triggered Israel's war on Gaza.

More than four months on, much of the densely-populated strip of land on the Mediterranean is in ruins, with 28,340 Palestinians dead including 12,300 minors and 67,984 wounded, according to Gaza health officials, with many others believed to be buried under rubble.

The Israeli military says 31 hostages have died in that time, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday's rescue showed that military pressure should continue and he brushed aside international alarm at its

The Gaza health ministry said 67 Palestinians had been killed overnight and the number could rise as rescue operations were under way. A Reuters journalist at the scene saw a vast area of rubble where buildings, including a mosque, had been destroyed. Israel says many of those killed are militants; the Gaza ministry says 70% are civil-

Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, said the attack on Rafah was a continuation of a "genocidal war" and forced displacement attempts Israel has waged against the Palestinian people. Its armed wing said it had killed 10 Israeli soldiers north of the city.

Hamas militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel, in the October 7 incursion, according to Israeli tallies. Israel said it had killed more than 12,000 Hamas militants and taken out threequarters of its battalions, of which it said earlier that four were in Rafah.

A UN official said a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million people faced a critical lack of food supplies. "We are seeing more and more people essentially on the brink of



Smoke billowing during Israeli bombardment over Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday.

and moving into famine-like conditions every day," deputy director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization Beth Bechdol said.

Many Western leaders have expressed alarm at Israel's offensive while continuing to support the country.

Britain urged Israel to agree to

a truce to free its hostages rather than attack Rafah where people were trapped. US President Joe Biden has

said Israel needs a credible evacuation plan. Israeli government spokeper-

son Eylon Levy called on UN aid agencies to help. "Work with us to find a way," he said.

Netherlands court orders halt to export of F-35 jet parts to Israel THE HAGUE: A Dutch appeals court on Monday

ordered the government to block all exports of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel over concerns they were being used in violations of international law during Israel's Gaza offensive.

It said the state had to comply with the order within seven days and dismissed a request by government lawyers to suspend the order pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. REUTERS

Aid agencies say an assault on Rafah would be catastrophic. Egypt has reinforced its border with the city, saying it fears Gazans will be pushed across, never to return.

An Israeli official has said people will be evacuated further north, but its forces are also active in central Gaza.

IRAN SENTENCES MAN TO DEATH **OVER KILLING OF TOP FILMMAKER**

TEHRAN: An Iranian court has sentenced a man to death over the killing of renowned filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui and his wife months ago at their home near Tehran, the judiciary said on Monday. Mehrjui, an 83-year-old

director associated with the Iranian new wave of cinema, was stabbed to death along with his wife Vahideh Mohammadifar in October at their home in Karaj, west of the Iranian capital.

The convicted killer, who was arrested days after the attack, was a former employee of Mehrjui who "had a grudge against the deceased due to financial issues", the chief justice of Alborz province, Hossein Fazeli-Harikandi, said previously.

Three others were charged in the case over their roles in planning and assisting the murder, he added.

On Monday, the Judiciary's Mizan Online website said the court sentenced the killer to death in accordance with the Islamic law of retribution, known as the "qisas" law. AFP

{ BRAZIL } THE CARNIVAL IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE MORE THAN \$1 BILLION IN REVENUE

'Everyone's jumping, everyone's happy': Rio celebrates carnival

Agence France-Presse

letters@hindustantimes.com

RIO DE JANEIRO: Glistening with sequins and sweat and shimmying to sultry samba beats, thousands of performers danced their way down a Rio de Janeiro avenue on Sunday in the Brazilian beach

city's famed carnival parades. With whimsical floats, thundering drum sections and legions of performers in fanciful, fleshflaunting costumes, 12 samba schools are competing for the coveted title of carnival champions across two nights of epic booty

shaking. Entering the parade venue "gives me goosebumps every time", said Debora Moraes de Souza, a 53-year-old doctor who grew up in the impoverished neighbourhood of Sao Goncalo and has been parading for a decade with its samba school, Porto da Pedra.

"You get to the end and you say, 'Oh, it's over already? I want

more!' Everyone's jumping, everyone's happy."

Rio has already been celebrating carnival for weeks with colourful, free-for-all street parties known as "blocos".

Sunday's and Monday's parades are the climax: sumptuous festivals of colour and sound that last all night and into the next day. A capacity crowd of 70,000

spectators cheered from the packed stands of the Sambadrome stadium, the city's purpose-built parade venue, with millions more expected to watch live on TV. But there is more to carnival

than all-night partying. The samba schools are rooted in Rio's impoverished favela neighbourhoods, and each parade tells a story, often dealing with politics, social issues and history.

This year's parades include homages to little-known heroes of the Amazon. Afro-Brazilian history and a cele-The school behind that parade, bration of the Yanomami Indige-Salgueiro, linked the plight of the nous people, who have been ravworld's biggest rainforest to the aged by a humanitarian crisis fight against climate crisis, in



Revellers from Imperatriz Leopoldinense samba school perform during the night of the Carnival parade at the Sambadrome, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday.

blamed on illegal gold mining in which the Amazon's carbon-ab-

sorbing trees play a vital role. "We're here to show everyone what's happening in the Amazon," said dancer Kevin Rodriguis,

his float by a crane at the end of the parade. "The Yanomami are in crisis, there's lots of deforestation, people and animals are dying, trees are being burned." 22, after being extracted from atop

Each samba school has 60 to 70

minutes to dazzle its way down the 700 metres of Marques de Sapucai, the avenue through the concrete carnival parade temple designed by modernist architect Oscar Niemeyer.

A jury judges each down to the minutest detail, with potentially devastating fractions of points deducted for being out of sync, running over time or lacking flair.

The parades were particularly political under far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, who faced accusations of authoritarianism, racism, environmental destruction and disastrous mishandling of Covid-19 - all fodder for the samba schools during his 2019-2022 presidency. The overall tone is less politically charged since veteran leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva returned to the

presidency in January 2023. Today, carnival is big business for Rio: the party is expected to generate 5.3 billion reais (more than \$1 billion) in revenue this



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B.Sc/ MSc. with relevant exp. Patient Care Coordinator-Graduate/BDS/ BPT/BHMS/BAMS with relevant exp. Phlebotomist-BMLT/DMLT with relevant exp. Walk-in Interview 10 am to 4 pm Ph.: 011-42255518 (9am to 5pm)

REQD. SUPERSPECIALIST Consultant / Consultant - DNB/DM (in Neurology), MD Medicine / DNB Family Physician (Senior / Jr.). Receptionist, Nursing officer, Medical transcriptionist, assistant quality manager, HR clerk in Surbhi Hospital, Sec-35, Noida UP. Whatsapp No. 8448928826

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Hrsh2024@gmail.com

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HARPAR GROUP a leading Textile Co. requires Telephone Operator. Walk in from 11 am to 3 pm. # A-234, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase 1, New Delhi 20 # 9873199761

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ARCHNA SHARMA, W/O Paras Kaushik

Noida, UP changed my name to

Archna Kaushik vide Affidavit Dtd:

10.02.24 before notary Rajkumar

42 ys, E 308, Prateek Laurel, Sec 120

I, SANGEETHA N.S D/o Sreedharan Kuchuparambil Narayanan R/o H.No.-91, Block-B, Sector-P3, Kasna Gautam Buddh Nagar (U.P) 201310 have changed my name to Sangeetha Nedumthottivil Sreedharan.

. MANGAT Ram Bali, S/O Sh. Sadhu

West Delhi - 110086, affirm that

Ram Bali, R/O D-2/12, BLK D-2, PH-

Mangat Ram Bali and Mangat Ram

both are one and the same person.

Budh Vihar, Sultanpuri-C Block, North

I , Mayank Bhagat S/o Sh. Purnendu Floor, Gram Sabha colony ,pooth kalan, delhi -86 inform that my all educational documents my name wrongly written Mayank Correct name is Mayank Bhagat.

changed my name from Payal Deb

Parth Malhotra for all purposes.

I, RAJEEV Gupta S/o Ramautar Gupta

201301 have changed my name from

R/o B-15, sector -26 noida U.P

to Pooja Gill for all purposes.

I, SANGEETA Singh D/o Prem Chand

R/o 2-A, Madanpur Khadar, Churiya

Das to Payel Deb for all future purposes vide affidavit before public notary Delhi dt 12-02-2024 I, BIMLA Kothari W/o, Ram Krishan R/o C-33B, First Floor, Bishwas Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 hereby **, NEERAJ** Malhotra S/o Ashok declare that my correct name is Malhotra R/o C-254, Vivek Vihar Bimla Kothari & date of birth is Ph-1, Delhi-110095, have changed my 08.01.1966 whereas the name minor son name from Rhaghav to

Rajeev Kumar to Rajeev gupta for all future purposes. I, POOJA Tomar W/O, Anant Gill R/o Kh No 17 Gali No 10, Sanjay Colony Narela, Delhi have changed my name

Mohalla, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-76 my name has been wrongly written Sangita Singh instead of Sangeeta Singh in my Passport No. L1853008. **I, KM** Arti Lohit Urf Arti W/O, Deepak Talan R/o Kh No 37/08/1 Gali No 10

Sanjay Colony, Narela, Delhi have

I, SOM A Raj D/o Mr. Awadhesh Prasac

changed my name to Arti Talan

for all purposes.

Thakur R/o P3B/063, Princeton Estate, DLF Phase-5, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009 have changed my name from Soma Raj to Soma Raj Thakur for all future purposes.

I, RATNESH Kumar S/o Sh. Yogendra

Rai R/o L-24, Sharma Colony, Budh

Vihar Phase-2, Delhi-110086 have

Kuamr to Ratnesh Kumar Rai for all

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TENDER NOTICES

Venue: Birla Vidya Niketan, Senior School

Wednesday, 27th March 2024

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The Statesman House, B Wing, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

110001' Tel No. 011 - 23464933 on or before 28/02/2024

timing: 24X7) . CIN: L99999MH2000PLC129113

my name from Pramila to Pramila

Kumari for all future purposes vide

public notary Delhi dt 10-02-2024

I, RAVINDRA Singh Kandari S/o Prabal

house no 157, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad

India 201012 have changed my name

from all purpose by affidavit sworn

before tehsil public notary Dated

Bimala Devi & date of birth

10.05.1965 recorded in service

records of my Husband is Ram

Krishan which is incorrect. My

correct name Bimla Kothari & date

of birth ie 08.01.1966 be used for

all future purposes and same be

changed in service records of my

Husband. This change affirmed

vide Affidavit dated 08.02.2024

I, RITESH Gupta S/o Sh. Vinod Gupta

R/o 1/3020, Ram Nagar Shahdara,

name from Om Gupta to Devansh

Gupta for all future purposes.

I, PREETI Singh W/o Pratap Singh

Negi R/o House No. 1235, Sector 9,

Vasundhara Ghaziabad U.P. 201012

have changed my name from Preeti

Singh to Preeti Negi for all future

I, DEEPAK S/O, Moharpal Singh R/o

Kh No 37/08/1 Gali No 10, Sanjay

my name to Deepak Talan for all

I HAVE changed my name from

Prabhansho Kumar Sharma to

Prabhanshu Kumar Sharma S/o

Savanna, Rajnagar Extension,

Gajraj Singh, R/o G-701, K.D.P. Grand

Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002 for all future

I NEHA Yadav d/o Ravindra Yadav r/o

251/7A, PK Road Railway Officers

for all future purposes.

Enclave, New Delhi have changed my

name from Neha Yadav to Neha Goel

Colony, Narela, Delhi have changed

purposes.

purposes.

Delhi-110032, have changed my son's

31/01/2024

Singh kandari, R/o Sector-1 MIG

dt 10-02-2024

name to Rakhi.

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Email: info@sbilife.co.in
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CHANGE OF NAME CHANGE OF NAME I. PRAMILA W/o No-16021039H I, DEBA Priya Roy S/o Sh. Debi Prasad NK Deepak Kumar Rao R/o Vill-Roy, Residing at H.No 6/19, Malancha Road, Post- Rakhajungle, Kharagpur Ranjeetpura, Po-Mandrella, Teh-Chirawa, Dist-Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan-West Midnapore, West Bengal-721301 333025, declare that I have changed have changed my name from Deba

I, P Sailaja W/o JC-442713A NB SUB Laxminarayana Paidi R/o H.No-1-95. Main Street, Bammidi Vaani Peta, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh-532185 declare that I have changed my name from P Sailaja to Paidi Sailaja for all future purposes vide affidavit before

> name from Amritanshu Kumar to Amritanshu Thakur for all future purposes.

future purposes vide affidavit before public notary Delhi dt 09-02-2024

Ekata Tiwari to Ekata Mishra for all

Bansal have lost the Original Allotment Letter, Demand Letter, Possession Letter Handover & Takeover, NOC and other documents of our Flat No. 62-B, First Floor, Pocket- A, Phase-2, Ashok Vihar Delhi-110052. Finder may return.

05.06.1985 of above said property. Finders may contact at above

legal child of SH. SARABJEET SINGH BHALLA and SMT HARMEET KAUR BHALLA R/o 60/18, Old Rajender Nagar

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general public information that I, KUNAL S/O

OM PRAKASH and SMT

SHUSHEELA R/O H NO. 2296.

PILI BUILDING

GURDUVARA ROAD KAROL

BAGH S.O, Central Delhi, Delhi

-110005 declare myself as the

Market, Old Rajender Nagar,

Central Delhi, Delhi-110060,

declare myself as the child of both

the families and there is no

objection to both the families.

PUBLIC NOTICE My client intends to purchase Freehold Residential builtup Property No. C-65, measuring 600 Sq. Yards, Friends Colony East, New Delhi from Mr. Rohit Kumar Mahajan (present owner) who acquired the same after demise of his father Late Mr. Bhim Sen nother Late Mrs. Sheila Mahajan died on 31.01.2020) who were the egistered owners of the said property by virtue of registered Conveyance Deed dated 23.01.2001 and said Mr. Rohit Kumar Mahajan is the only 1st class legal heirs according to Surviving Member Certificate dated 28.04.2023 of the said deceased referred property to our client, If anybody including Bank, Financial nstitutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property

client shall presume that title of the said property is unencumbered Karnail Singh, Advocate K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension New Delhi

Contact No. 9811163363 &

shall inform within 15 days to the

undersigned with documentary

evidence. In the event of no

esponse to this notice, than our

TENDER NOTICE

AIR FORCE GOLDEN

JUBILEE INSTITUTE

SUBROTO PARK.

NEW DELHI-10, Tel: 25692819

E-mail: afgjisp@gmail.con **AUCTION NOTICE** Auction of scrap material sucl as student & Office Furniture lectronic appliances, Compute tems, furnishing items etc. will be held on 22rd February, 2024 in AFGJI campus as perschedule below:

L1.00 a.m.: Inspection of material

The details are available on AFG.

website i.e. www.afgji.in. Intereste

parties are invited to participate in

Principal, AFGJI

12.30 p.m. : Auction

for auction.

TENDER NOTICE NIT for various works in phase-4, Gurugram i.e. sector-27, Maintenance contract for, House Keeping E&M services, services, Security services, Horticul-

5/3/24 at 3:30 pm in SMCA office. General secretary-

General Secretary

9891092684

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affidavit before public notary Delhi public notary Delhi dt 09-02-2024 MEENAKSHI Yadav W/o Shekhai RAKHI Dagar W/O, Sandeep Dagar Yadav, R/o Flat No-105, Citron R/o Flat No. 58, Krishi Apartments Residency, Bamroli Surat City, PO: Plot No.4, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-Pandesara, Surat, Gujarat-394221, 110085, India have changed my declare that Meenu Yadav & Meenakshi Yadav are one & same person. Hereafter I will be known as ture services. Sale of tender Meenakshi Yadav for all purposes. forms 28/2/24 up to 3:pm. date of receiving 29/2/24 up I, SHARDA Kumari C/o Ghanshyam Kumar R/o Piot 92, Rosen City 2 to 3pm. Date of opening Milakh, Duhai, Gzb- 201001, declar that Sharda Kumari & Sharda Devi

both names are the same person. My

LAMRITANSHU Kumar S/o Mr. Sushil

Nath Thakur R/o P3B/063, Princeton

Haryana - 122009 have changed my

correct DOB is - 19-Dec-1995

Estate, DLF Phase-5, Gurgaon,

Priya Roy to Debapriya Roy for all

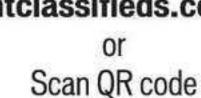
future purposes vide affidavit before

I, SON Devi W/o Late Sh. Sukhpal Singh R/o VPO-Bhuapur (102), Faridabad, Haryana declare that me and my husband's name wrongly written as Sohan Devi W/o Sh. Kirpal Singh, But correct name off me and my husband is to Son Devi W/o Sukhpal Singh for all future purposes

LOST & FOUND

I N.K.JAIN S/o Sh.N.C.Jain R/o C-4/112,

Classified



ad EKATA Tiwari W/o No- 15433353A Hav Ajay Kumar Tiwari R/o Vill-Tiwaripur, Katra Phool Kunwar, PO + Teh+Dist-Amethi, UP-227405, declare that I have changed my name from

WE, DR. Arvind Bansal and Dr. Neenu

Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi have lost my Original Sale Deed

address or Mobile No. 9891644444. **LOST FOUR** Original Receipts 50074217, 50075684, 50078217, 50078219 of B-099 Parsynath Elite Villa Dharuhera, CKN Rajan

9810387404

India eyes ghee for blue cheese in UK trade deal

Traceability of ghee, other dairy products a stumbling block for trade negotiators

Mihir Mishra & **Suneera Tandon**

mihir.mishra@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: India is trying to pry open the UK market for ghee in exchange for bringing the latter's blue cheese to the Indian market, under the proposed free trade pact being negotiated by the two countries, an official aware of the matter said.

Trade negotiators have pressed the UK to waive its sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) rules to let in ghee and other dairy products, which remain shut from the British market.

This is because these food safety rules insist on traceability of goods-a hard task in India where large dairy co-operatives source their milk from millions of individual cattle farmers and small dairy farms.

"The demand is to get SPS waiver for Indian ghee, which will provide for its entry into the



According to R.S. Sodhi, president, Indian Dairy Association, the branded ghee market in India is estimated at ₹50,000 cr. ISTOCKPHOTO

UK market. This is being sought since India is considering allowing cheese under the free trade agreement (FTA), which will provide a big market to their blue cheese," the official cited above said on condition of anonymity.

Emails sent to a commerce ministry spokesperson and commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal on Friday were unanswered till press time.

Several European countries produce and export blue cheese, with added edible moulds for varying tastes, bearing noticeable blue or green spots or veins.

to exports of Indian dairy companies, since India-made ghee is anyway being exported to various other markets like the US and Australia where there is a large Indian diaspora, as there is in the UK.

According to R.S. Sodhi, president, Indian Dairy Association, the branded ghee market in India is estimated at ₹50,000 crore, and exports (globally) would be just ₹1,500 crore.

That is puny compared to the overall ghee market in India, which was estimated to be ₹3.2 lakh crore in size in 2023, according to data from market research firm IMARC, a large part of which is in the unorganized space. The market is expected to grow to ₹6.9 lakh crore by 2032, at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.72% from 2024.

Analysts, however, say that an SPS waiver may be difficult, but noted that apart from its use as food, ghee is also used for religious purposes.

While SPS approval may be difficult to come by, there is a precedent of a Russian agreement that proposed waiving SPS on a case-by-case basis, Mukherjee said.

Retail inflation comes down to 5.1% in January

Roshan Kishore roshan.k@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation came down from 5.7% in December 2023 to 5.1% in January 2024 in India, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). In another set of statistics released by the NSO, industrial activity gained momentum to grow at 3.8% in December 2023, compared to 2.4% in November. These numbers underline the larger goldilocks state of the economy, which has been experiencing high growth with moderate inflation rates.

Experts believe that the moderation in inflation numbers could open a window for rate cuts from the next quarter.

India's benchmark inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 5.1% in January 2024. While this number is marginally higher than the 5% forecast by a Bloomberg poll of economists, it is a moderation from the 5.7% print in December 2024. The moderation in January CPI print comes after a rise in headline inflation for two months.

The moderation in headline CPI is largely driven by a fall in food inflation which eased from 9.5% in December 2023 to 8.3% in January. While food inflation

CHEAPLST PRICES

The moderation in headline CPI was largely driven by a fall in food inflation.

has been driving headline CPI movements in the recent period, what will soothe inflation watchers is the fact that the moderation in food inflation in January is not on account of vegetable inflation, which stayed unchanged at 27%. Cereals and products, on the other hand, saw a two-percentage point fall in inflation between December 2023 (9.93%) and January 2024 (7.83%).

To be sure, some of the moderation in cereal inflation could be on account of a favourable base effect. Cereal inflation was in double digits between September 2022 to November 2023. Among other food items, milk inflation saw a fall, and edible

oil prices continued to be in contraction zone for the 12th consecutive month. Pulses prices, however, continue to remain a worry, with an inflation of 19.5% in January, the eight consecutive month of double-digit growth. Fuel prices also contracted for the fifth consecutive month in January. While a sticky vegetable

inflation and the uncertainty

around cereal prices until there is clarity on the prospects of the winter crop, might have added to the hawkish tone of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its February meeting held last week, a further fall in core inflation - it measures the non-food non-fuel part of the CPI basket from 3.9% in December 2023 to 3.6% in January 2023 will bring comfort to both the monetary and fiscal arm of economic policy. A continuous fall in core inflation; it has been falling continuously for a year and is the lowest in four years now, shows that the economy is anything but overheated.

The RBI has been emphasising that it wants the benchmark inflation number to stabilise around the actual 4% target rather than the 2%-6% range specified in India's inflation-targeting framework, and underlined the fact that food inflation will be critical to this pursuit.

ESSAR CASE: SC ALLOWS AM/NS, INDIAN OIL TO GET ARBITRATORS

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday cleared the decks for the initiation of arbitration proceedings by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Limited (AM/NS) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to resolve

Steel India Ltd (ESIL). ESIL was acquired by AM/NS in 2019 through corporate insolvency resolution process.

their dispute pertaining to Essar

A bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, took on record the joint agreement of IOCL and AM/NS regarding the appointment of an arbitrator each within a week. "The parties have agreed to nominate two arbitrators within a week. The two arbitrators so appointed will nominate the third arbitrator. In view of the agreement of the parties, the Delhi high court's judgment dated October 10, 2023, is rendered infructuous," stated the bench, which also included justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The top court held that both sides have the liberty to argue on the aspect of whether the dispute was arbitrable or not, adding that all rights and contentions of the parties are kept open. While solicitor general Tushar Mehta represented IOCL, senior lawyers Harish Salve and Abhishek Manu Singhvi appeared for AM/NS in the matter.

On February 5, the SC reserved its judgment in the appeal filed by IOCL against the October 2023 judgment of the Delhi high court. In its ruling, the HC dismissed IOCL's plea to appoint an arbitrator to adjudicate a dispute that emanated from a gas supply agreement that it entered with ESIL in 2009. The contract was terminated by ESIL in 2017, but IOCL objected because it had not broken any of the agreement terms and said that the termination notice must be regarded as ineffectual. After ESIL did not respond to IOCL's demand notice for termination of the agreement, the latter invoked arbitration but to no avail.

Centre to bring in 14 QCOs by 2024 amid FTA push

Dhirendra Kumar

dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The Union government is planning to introduce 14 quality control orders (QCOs) covering 129 new products by the end of the year, two people aware of the matter said, in a move aimed at making India-made products more competitive globally.

The move comes as India negotiates free trade agreements (FTAs) with several countries.

These deals will ultimately lower import duties on manufactured items, which requires India to be on guard against imports of substandard goods into the country.

BIS standards apply to products manufactured in India that are meant for domestic supply, and imports, whereas products for exports adhere to global standards.

The notified quality control orders are not applicable to goods meant for export. But this clause may be reviewed in the future, the people cited above said.

They said some countries already accept BIS-certified products and that with manufacturing standards keeping to QCO orders, more countries may start recognising BIS-certified goods.

The purpose of bringing QCOs is to ensure that domestic consumers get quality products, whether India- or foreignmade, the second person said. The government is in consultation to bring in 14 QCOs that will cover 129 more products covered by the central ministries of steel, mines, textiles, commerce, animal husbandry, labour, petroleum, heavy industries, and women and child development.

The decision is at the consideration stage and may soon be

Urban unemployment in India

stood at 6.5% in the three

months to December, the lowest

since the June 2018 quarter,

according to Periodic Labour

Force Survey (PLFS) data

released by the National Sample

jobs, unlike their quantity, con-

tinued to be a cause for concern,

as the share of unpaid employ-

employment situation in the

week before the survey.

areas.

Abhishek Jha

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The QCOs are expected to cover 129 new products by the end of the year.

put on the websites of the concerned ministries as well as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) portal for comments. The new products that will come under QCOs include consumer durables, ceramic tiles and plastic products. The government has already published draft orders for 77 QCOs covering 317 products on the WTO website for stakeholders' comments. After receiving the comments, the government will evaluate them and if needed a stakeholder consultation will be done prior to the final notification of QCOs, one of the people said.

Quality control orders are issued by different line ministries and standards of products are prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), an arm of the ministry of consumer affairs.

As of now, 156 QCOs have been issued for 672 products. After a QCO is notified, no firm can manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit any product covered under the QCO without an ISI standard mark. Violations can

attract jail terms and fines. Queries sent to the consumer affairs ministry remained unanswered till press time.

Aion Capital readies Clix for sale, in talks to hire bankers Ranjani Raghavan

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Italy is the world's largest

exporter of blue cheese while

Germany is the largest importer.

Data from agencies that track

the cheese market shows that

global exports of blue cheese

grew 12.8% between 2020 and

India levies a 150% import

duty on blue cheese; plus, retail-

ers add margins of up to 30% on

imported cheese, keeping it out

of reach of most regular buyers.

While the UK sees a big market

for its cheese here, India is

equally keen to open up the Brit-

The move would give a boost

ish market for its ghee.

MUMBAI: Aion Capital, a fund of US-based private equity (PE) firm Apollo Global Management, has started the process of exiting non-bank lender Clix Capital Services, two people aware of the matter said. Aion Capital was wound down in 2020, and Clix is one of the last investments in its portfolio.

Aion Capital is interviewing investment banks to arrange the transaction, one of the people cited above said. "It is likely to be sold to either a PE fund or an NBFC (non-banking financial

ON FEBRUARY 9, CLIX'S BOARD HAD APPROVED A RIGHTS ISSUE OF UP TO ₹250 CRORE, ACCORDING TO A REGULATORY FILING

company)," the person added. The current net worth of Clix is around ₹2,000 crore, a second person said.

Aion Capital, an erstwhile joint venture (JV) between Apollo Global Management and

ICICI Venture, shut operations after the JV closed in 2020. Since then, Apollo has managed the assets of Aion.

Apollo Global Management did not respond to a request for comment. Pramod Bhasin, a shareholder and chairperson of Clix Capital, declined to comment.

Even as it prepares to appoint investment banks to sell Clix, Apollo is likely to put in an additional ₹200 crore into the company to push for further growth, one of the people cited above

Aion had previously infused capital of around \$40 million in

On February 9, Clix's board had approved a rights issue of

up to ₹250 crore, according to a regulatory filing. Aion Capital acquired Mumbai-headquartered Clix Capital and its subsidiary Clix Housing

Finance in 2016 through a joint venture with Bhasin, a former head of Genpact, and former GE India head Anil Chawla, for approximately ₹2,250 crore (then \$327 million). Aion owns 85% of Clix.

A Care Ratings report in January said it had upgraded Clix's rating from 'stable' to 'positive' on expectations that growth and

"The revision in outlook takes

profitability will continue.

comfort from the support received from its promoter Apollo Global Management, which is expected to infuse incremental capital into the company in the current fiscal year (FY24)," the report dated 8 January said. Clix Capital and its subsidiary

Clix Housing are also in the process of being merged, according to the Care report. In November 2022, the board

of Clix Housing Finance approved a merger with Clix Capital, according to a regulatory filing.

THE CROSSWORDS

SpiceJet laying off 15% staff to save ₹100 crore per year

Anu Sharma

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DELHI: Budget carrier SpiceJet is in the process of laying off nearly 15%, or about 1,500 of its employees to cut costs following a reduction in its fleet size by two-thirds. The cashstrapped airline expects to save around ₹100 crore per year from this exercise.

"As part of our turnaround and cost-cutting strategy, following the recent fund infusion, SpiceJet has initiated several measures, including manpower rationalisation, aimed at achieving profitable growth and positioning ourselves to capitalize on the opportunities in the Indian aviation industry," said a spokesperson for SpiceJet.

"Through this initiative alone, we anticipate an annual saving of up to ₹100 crore."

The Gurugram-based Spice-Jet recently raised ₹744 crore by allotting shares and warrants on a preferential basis.

Last month, the low-cost airline received an in-principle approval from BSE to raise ₹2,242 crore by issuing shares. "The new investors who have

come on board do not want to

Urban unemployment in India lowest since June 2018

layoffs.

Spice je

started. It will be across all categories of operations," said a second person. "The plan is to complete this drive by March 31." Both of them declined to be

annual report for 2022-23.

in the December quarter.

Labour Force Participation Rate

(LFPR) for urban areas, or the

share of urban population

working or looking for a job.

This number has been increas-

ing with decreasing unemploy-

ment. the LFPR was 39.2% in

the December quarter, the high-

est for the December quarter in

the PLFS series and also the

seeking jobs.

The airline has around 9,000 employees and is now looking to

reduce its strength by at least 1,000.

pay free salaries," said a person familiar with the developments at SpiceJet, adding that pilots are unlikely to be affected in the

"The layoffs have already

identified. SpiceJet had about 10,060 employees, including 7,131 permanent employees and 2,929 staff on contract, as per its

That year, the airline's expenditure on employee benefits stood at ₹880 crore, which is about 9% of its total expenses of ₹9,880 crore.

The airline is expected to terminate the employment of nearly 15% staff or around 1,500 employees by the end of the current financial year, the second person cited above told Mint.

When contacted, a company official confirmed the number of jobs being cut, but requested not to be identified. SpiceJet's net fleet size has dropped to 41 from 120 aircraft in 2019. Of these, about 10 are in wet lease, meaning aircraft leased along with pilots and cabin crew.

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1 Reckon to keep fit (4,3) 5 One way to apply a finish to education (5)

8 Contemplating dining out about ten (9) 9 Skill in particular (3)

10 It's unchanged when returned to me (4)

12 Remote chance a sniper may take (4,4) 14 Euclid confused her (6)

15 Follows directions and engages in litigation (6) 17 You may win one on points (8)

18 Nominally she gets five years (4)

21 Eggs of no value (3)

22 Billy took forty winks - that's novel (9)

24 Wood spirit supposedly drunk in ancient times (5)

25 A betrayal that will pack the theatre (4-3)

DOWN

1 Stands by for callers at Christmas (5) 2 Unpopular art form (3)

3 Has now moved South (4)

4 Stand and fall over a piece of wood (6) 5 Taking on the enemy (8)

6 He, you and pals got involved in the theatre (9) 7 Understatement in T.S. Eliot play (7)

11 Speak evil of a worker wanting to do harm (9)

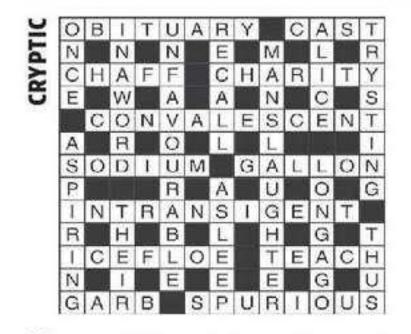
13 He deals in capital investments (8)

14 A second order of clergy (7)

16 A poem's positive points (6)

19 Examination on book work (5) 20 A love outwardly secure (4) 23 One who get paid for Latin? (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16780)





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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

18 Pile (4)

21 Obstruct (3)

24 Each single (5)

1 Superficial wound (7)

5 Go and bring (5) 8 On the other hand (4,5)

9 Slow old boat (3)

22 With the purpose of (2,5,2)

25 Shake involuntarily (7)

10 Question persistently (4)

12 Grounds (8)

5 Whimsical (8) 6 Prominent (2,3,4) 14 Alleviation of pain (6) 15 Fashionable craze (6)

7 A frequenter (7) 17 Overnight break in travel (4-4) 13 Speed (8) 14 Ludicrous (7)

DOWN

11 Australian city (9) 16 Rebellion (6) 19 Critical investigation (5)

1 Start to show interest (3,2)

3 Title of Russian emperors (4)

2 Feel regret for (3)

4 Paradise (6)

20 Indolent (4) 23 Poke fun at (3)

SUDOKU DIFFICULTY LEVEL *** 6 3 5 3 3 8 6 8 5 6

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

WEDNESDAY Generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle

THURSDAY Shallow fog

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS Today is 13th February 2024 02 Shaban, 1445 19, Magha, Shukla Paksha, 04 Samvat 2080 Sunset: Tuesday Sunrise: Wednesday at 07:00 a.m. Moonrise: Tuesday at 09:18 a.m. Moonset: Tuesday

Survey Office on Monday. Although the urban unemployment number showed improvement, the quality of

rate was 6.5% in the December lower than in year-ago three ture. current weekly status, or the

Comparisons of employment

account for seasonality of some jobs, such as those in agricul-However, urban unemploy-

highest for any quarter in the PLFS series. A fall in unemployment rate with increasing LFPR is usually a good sign for the job market

in the PLFS series (it started in that the jobs people found were the April-June quarter of 2018) of poor quality. The improvement was not

For example, 6.7% of the workers in the December quarter were unpaid helpers in household enterprises, a subcategory of self-employed. This was the highest proportion such workers have had in the urban workforce in the PLFS series. Their proportion was just 5.9% in the December 2022 quarter and 6.6% in the September 2023

share increased to 48.7% in December 2023 from 48.6% in December 2022.

ever, increased marginally in

the December quarter. Their

TUESDAY Shallow fog

WEATHER TEMPERATURE #HIGH *LOW

23°c | 09°c | 24°c | 10°c | 25°c | 09°c

ALMANAC 23°c | 09°c Mumbai 32°c | 18°c Kolkata 28°c | 19°c Chennai 32°c | 22°c

percentage point lower than a year ago. ment increased. The quarterly survey does not include rural It showed the unemployment the same quarter across years to The quarterly bulletin only quarter, 0.7 percentage point provides summary employment statistics for urban areas in the

The unemployment rate was 6.5% in the December quarter, 0.7

statistics are generally made for

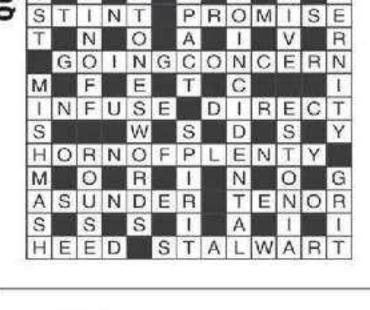
ment rate has also been improv-

employment and finding jobs. ing sequentially. It was the best However, the bulletin suggested

because fewer people were The bulletin also reported the

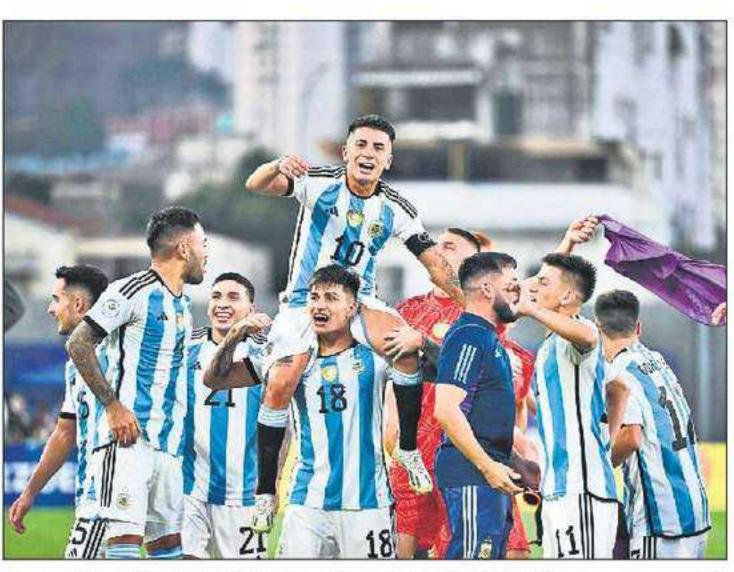
quarter. The proportion of regular wage or salaried workers, how-

This was still lower than the because it means the working- 50% and 49.5% figures recorded age population is seeking in the December 2018 and December 2019 quarters, respectively.



SPORT

Standing tall



Argentine players celebrate after defeating Brazil.

Brazil lose 1-0 to Argentina, out of Paris Games race

Agencies

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CARACAS: Brazil will not defend their Olympic men's football title in Paris after losing 0-1 to their regional rivals Argentina on Sunday. In the decisive South American Olympic qualifier, Luciano Gondou scored the winner for the Argentina under-23 team coached by Javier Mascherano. He headed a cross from Valentin Barco past goalkeeper Mycael in the 78th minute at the Brigido Iriarte Stadium in Caracas.

Brazil won gold in men's football in the Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo Olympics.

South America's Olympic qualifying for men's football offered two spots in Paris, where the men's tournament starts on July 24. Paraguay ended on the top of the table of the final group stage with seven points in three matches after their 2-0 win on Sunday against hosts Venezuela.

The Paraguayan team, which didn't have star players like its two bigger continental rivals, also beat Brazil to secure their spot for France.

Argentina finished the tournament with five points, two more than Brazil, who only managed to beat Venezuela in

the final stage. Argentina had the upper hand in the first half but the defensive stance of Brazil, coached by Ramon Menezes, didn't help bring much emotion to the match. World Cup winner Thiago Almada hit the post in

the 16th minute. Argentina's Leandro Brey made the best save of the game in the 61st, when substitute Gabriel Pec struck hard from close. Brazil did not keep up the pressure, with striker Endrick once more playing below par. And then Gondou's header made the difference between the two teams.

"We deserved this. We didn't lose a single match at the qualifying," said Gondou, who scored four goals in the tournament in Venezuela. "We suffered, we waited for this goal, but at the end we got it."

Brazil last failed to make the men's football Olympic tournament in 2004.

"It is a very bad feeling, we prepared well for this," Brazil midfielder Andrey Santos said. "We struggled to keep the ball throughout the tournament. It didn't go as we expected.'

Argentina won the gold at men's football at the Games in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008, with Lionel Messi leading the team in Beijing.

With Paris Games nearing, Sreejesh still going strong

The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist continues to be the backbone of Indian men's hockey team

Sandip Sikdar

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NEW DELHI: Charging towards the striker as if he was attacking and not defending, PR Sreejesh's two lunges during the penalty shootout were enough for the Indian men's hockey team to beat world No.1 and defending Pro League champions Netherlands 2-2 (4-2) on Sunday night.

With acrobatic saves and regular sprints towards attacking strikers, the 35-year-old continues to defy his age, being the only member of the Indian team born in the 1980s. Known for his youthful ebullience on the field, Sreejesh is a livewire on the field, regularly barking orders from between the posts 18 years since making his debut for India.

"Goalkeepers age like fine wine, they get better with age," is Sreejesh's response every time he is asked about his seniority in the team. The Olympic bronze medallist is quite right.

Dutchman Pirmin Blaak, who won the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award last year, is 35. Belgium's Olympic champion Vincent Vanasch - three-time FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awardee is 36, like Australia's Andrew Charter. These names are the best in the business. Time and again these names, including the India goalie, have proved that.

India in trouble. Sreejesh makes brilliant saves. India wins match. This has become a customary practice over the years with the 2021 Khel Ratna awardee coming to the team's rescue whenever needed.

Despite making his senior India debut in 2006, the two-time

PR Sreejesh, 35, yet again proved to be India's hero in Bhubaneswar **A** Asian Champions on Sunday night as the hosts Trophy 2011, 2016, edged past world No.1 and 2018, 2023 defending Pro League champions Netherlands via penalties 6 SILVER FIH GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR 2020-21, 2021-22 Asia Cup 2013 **Asian Champions SREEJESH IN PENALTY SHOOTOUTS** Trophy 2012 18 ■ Wins □ Losses Winning **2** Champions Trophy percentage 2016, 2018 Shootouts Commonwealth Games 2014, 2022 35 Saves made BRONZE 52 Goals conceded **Shots saved** Olympics 2020 accuracy 1 Asian Games 2018 Data only since 2013 when FIH started maintaining records. Sreejesh made his debut in 2006

FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awardee had to wait six years to become a regular in the team as he remained a support keeper after Adrian D'Souza and Bharat Chettri.

But since the 2012 London Olympics, the goalkeeper from Kerala has stood like a wall in India's goal withstanding all changes the team has seen, be it captains, coaches, management or players. From being the thirdchoice keeper, Sreejesh is now grooming Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Suraj Karkera and Pawan, among others, who will take up the mantle once the Olympic bronze medallist decides to hang up his goalkeeping kit.

"Sreejesh has proved that one can succeed despite coming from a culture (not well known for its

hockey players). He is at a different level completely and it feels so nice to watch him enjoying his hockey. Sreejesh is a perfect idol he said. for the young generation," said

D'Souza. The former India goalkeeper recalled the teenaged Sreejesh coming into the Indian setup, facing language and cultural barriers, overcoming them and developing into one of the world's best keepers. Back then, D'Souza would advise Sreejesh to develop his own style of keeping, form his own identity.

"As goalkeepers, we always try to copy another goalkeeper. It goes without saying. We used to watch videos. I have got advice from seniors saying, 'Hey, you got to be your own style.' And that made such a big impact because no matter what we learn, our walking style, our talking style is going to be a bit different in life,"

Today, Sreejesh's style, mannerisms and antics stand out making him the entertainer of the pack. For the entire side, 'Sree bhai' is the guy to seek advice from, to learn hockey from, but also someone to joke around with, who can easily lighten the mood of the team, especially when it is down.

"I have learnt how to lead from the front from my seniors like Sreejesh which has helped me take responsibility. It has helped me be the best version of myself and helped push my teammates to give their best on the pitch," said India vice-captain Hardik Singh, the 2023 FIH Player of the

Year. With the Pro League the final arena to test himself before the Paris Olympics, where Sreejesh will like nothing more than to stand on the rostrum again, the former India skipper is keen to push himself. Unlike most tournaments, only 16 players are allowed at the Games, meaning

GOLD

2 Asian Games

2014, 2022

only one keeper. Though Pathak has done exceptionally in the last few years, regularly alternating quarters with Sreejesh, it is likely that the senior goalkeeper will get the ticket to Paris. Sreejesh would want to fine tune his skills, sharpen his reaction time and get enough game time before heading to Paris, starting with India's next contest against Tokyo Olympics silver medallists Australia in Bhubaneswar on Thursday.

Ramkumar begins on winning note

BENGALURU: Wildcard Ramkumar Ramanathan fought back from a set down to pack off Frenchman Maxime Janvier 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4 and advance to the second round of the Bengaluru Open Challenger. The 29year-old kept his nerves to pull off the victory in two hours and 26 minutes.

Gukesh loses to Caruana in quarters

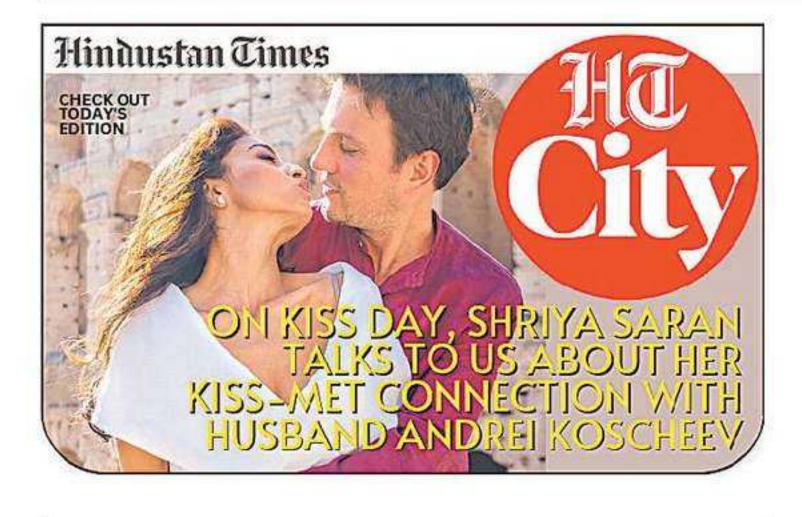
WANGELS: D Gukesh went down fighting against world No. 2 Fabiano Caruana of US in the first game of the quarterfinals in the Weissenhaus Freestyle Chess challenge. Gukesh had a slight advantage in the middle game but that slipped quickly and the American pounced on his opportunity thereafter to take the full point home in 39 moves.

Santosh's BigRock leads ISRL table

NEW DELHI: CS Santoshowned BigRock Motorsports ruled the Ahmedabad leg of Indian Supercross Racing League as Matt Moss, riding a Kawasaki, won the 450cc international. While BigRock's Reid Taylor won the 250cc international race Mohite Racing's Ben Prasit Hallgren won 250cc India Asia Mix category.

India lose to China in FIH Pro League

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's hockey team started their Rourkela leg of the FIH Pro League with a 2-1 loss to China. Despite the hosts taking lead through Sangita Kumari (7th), a brace from Gu Bingfeng (14th, 53rd) helped China win. This is India's fourth loss in five matches.





भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक RESERVE BANK OF INDIA www.rbi.org.in



Notice Inviting E-Tender

Reserve Bank of India invites e-tenders through MSTC (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/) from reputed vendors for engagement as service provider for Group Mediclaim Policy-OPD. Please visit Tenders Section on www.rbi.org.in for details.

Chief General Manager-In-Charge Mumbai HRMD, Central Office

"Don't get cheated by E-mails/SMSs/Calls promising you money"

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813

Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646117606)

Tender Inquiry No. 37/MM-I/TGP/0&M/GHTP/2024

Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc Circle-I/GHTP Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of "Routine, Preventive, Breakdown Maintenance and overhauling jobs (Mechanical job), of Boiler Feed pumps, Condensate Extraction Pumps, CW Pumps, Vacuum Pumps, Turbine Aux Cooling Water Pumps, BACW Pumps, Boiler fill Pumps, Hotwell Make Up Pumps, Stator Water Make Up Pumps, ACW Pumps, SGDMCW Pumps, TGDMCW Pumps, TG Cycle Make Up Pumps etc of 2X210MW and 2X250MW Units of Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant (GHTP), Lehra Mohabbat on Lump sum basis for a period of one year". For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 09.02.2024 from 17.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in GHTP-10/24



Department of Food and Public Distribution. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

DoF&PD, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, through NICSI invites electronics bid (e-bid) proposals from reputed and professional IT firms for Design, Development, Implementation and Maintenance of SMART-PDS in the country as per scope mentioned in the RFP document GEM/2024/B/4518959 which can be downloaded from www.gem.gov.in. The timelines are as follows:

Bid publish date: 22.01.2024, 6.01 PM

Interested System Integrators may submit their e-bids as per Terms and Conditions mentioned in the RFP document.

CBC 08201/11/0008/2324

Joint Secretary (PD) DoF&PD

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD. 1912 BLOCK NO.7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.)

Tel.No.: 0761-2702473, 2702442, e-mail: cepurez@yahoo.in CIN: U40109MP2002SGC015120 Jabalpur, dtd :- 05.02.2024

No. CGM/Works/EZ/2986 **ONLINE TENDER** Online Tenders are invited for following items :-

S. No.	TS No. (For e-Tendering) Discom-EZ/Pur	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. In Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs.)	Extending date & time of opening of tender online from 14.00 Hrs (*)
1	TS-1446 (e-Tender No. 2024_ PKVVC_330477_1)	Single Phase & Three Phase LT Cables and Copper Control Cable	1350.9	11800	22.02.2024
2	TS-1447 (e-Tender No. 2024_ PKVVC_330478_1)	11KV & 33KV Polymer Pin and Disc Insulators	466.70	5900	22.02.2024
3	TS-1448 (e-Tender No. 2024_ PKVVC_330479_1)	11KV Polymer DO Fuse Unit	58.90	2360	22.02.2024
4	TS-1449 (e-Tender No. 2024_ PKVVC_330480_1)	Single Phase & Three Phase LT Pole Distribution Box	133.92	5900	22.02.2024

* For updated / extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in cover-1 & Techno-commercial bid in cover-2) please refer to the online key dates.

For other details visit Company's website :- www.mpez.co.in or https://mptenders.gov.in SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW C.G.M. (S&P)

'बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के निराकरण के लिए 1912 डायल करें"

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division, Ahmednagar Phone No. 0214/2325334 & 0241/2325086 E-TENDER NOTICE NO.86 FOR 2023-24 (Online) email: ahmednagar.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

online E- Tenders in B-1 Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Ahmednagar (Phone No. 0241-2325334/2325086) From the contractor Registered with Government of Maharashtra, Public Works Department in appropriate class.

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Ahmednahar who reserves the right to reject any or all

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lakhs
1.	Creation of Garden in ward no 18 at Lohar Devi Mandir Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar. 2) Construction of male and Female toilet block in Mouje Jamkhed at milindnagar road to Bhootwada road Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 3) Construction of male and Female toilet block near Police Station in mouje Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed	Rs.72.37 Lakhs
2.	1) Construction of sabhamandap in front of Swami Samartha Mandir ward No 5 At Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 2) Construction of sabhamandap in front of Maruti Mandir ward No 1 Lehenewadi At Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 3) Construction of sabhamandap and compound wall in Sadafule wasti at Dr Ambedkar block At Jamkhed Tat. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 4) Construction of compound wall at Tapaneshwar road Dafanbhumi At Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 5) Construction of Toilet block at Kazi galli Majid At Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar and Beautification of Edgaha ground at Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar	Rs.93.00 Lakhs
3.	1) Construction of Sabhamandap in front of Maruti Mandir Ward No 7 At Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 2) Construction of Sabhamandap and Paving Block infront of Lakshmi Mandir at Ward no. 21 Tat. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 3) Construction of Sabhamandap in Ahilya Nagar Savata Maharaj Mandir Sabhamandap in ward No 16 at Jamkhed. Tat. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 4) Construction of Sabhamandap in front of Vamanbhau mandir in ward no. 19 At Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar 5) Construction of Sabhamandap in front	Rs.94.89 Lakhs

Ward no.10 at Jamkhed Tal.Jamkhed Dist. A.nagar Tender sale start Date - 13/02/2024 to 20/02/2024, Tender Opening Dt.21/02/2024

of Tuljabhavani Mandir ward No.5 at Jamkhed Tal. Jamkhed Dist, Ahmednagar

4. 1) Development of Selfypoint at Jamkhed City 2, Construction of Chaman Garden at

The details of works are provided on the websites as below,

tenders without assigning any reason there fore.

www.mahapwd.com https://mahatenders.gov.in

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 8105

Sd/-**Executive Engineer, Public Work Division** Ahmednagar

Rs.45.00

Lakhs

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001

Phone: 23353503, FAX: 23753923 Petition No. 332/TL/2023

Dated: 7.2.2024 NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF

SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 An application under Sections 14, and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Beawar Transmission Limited, DLF Cyber Park, Tower-B, 9th Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase-III, Sector 20, Gurugram,

Haryana-122 008 for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to establish the inter-State Transmission System in respect to the "Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under Phase III-Part F" ("the Project") on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") consisting of the following elements:

S. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date
1.	Establishment of 2x1500MVA 765/400kV Substation at suitable location near Beawar along with 2x330 MVAr 765kV Bus Reactor & 2x125 MVAr 420kV Bus Reactor. 765/400kV 1500 MVA ICTs: 2 nos. (7x500 MVA, including one spare unit) 330 MVAr, 765 kV bus reactor-2 nos. (7x110 MVAr, including one spare unit) 765kV ICT bays – 2 nos. 400 kV ICT bays – 2 nos. 765 kV line bays – 6 nos. 400kV line bay – 2 nos. 765kV reactor bay – 2 nos. 125 MVAr, 420kV bus reactor – 2 nos. 420 kV reactor bay – 2 nos. Future provisions: Space for 765/400kV ICTs along with bays: 2 nos. 765kV Bus Reactor along with bays: 2 nos. 400/220 kV ICTs along with bays: 2 nos. 400kV line bays along with switchable line reactor: 4 nos. 400kV Bus Reactor along with bays: 1 no.	18 months
2.	LILO of both circuit of Ajmer-Chittorgarh 765 kV D/c at Beawar	
3.	LILO of 400kV Kota – Merta line at Beawar	
4.	Fatehgarh-3– Beawar 765 kV D/c along with 330 MVAr Switchable line reactor for each circuit at each end of Fatehgarh-3– Beawar 765 kV D/c line • Switching equipment for 765 kV 330 MVAR switchable line reactor –4 nos. • 765 kV, 330 MVAr Switchable line reactor-4 nos.	
5.	± 2x300MVAr STATCOM, 4x125 MVAr MSC, 2x125 MVAr MSR at Fatehgarh- 3 PS along with 2 nos. of 400 kV bays at Fatehgarh-3 PS	24 months

by the Commission.

POWERGRID to provide space for 765kV switchable line reactors at Fatehgarh-3 S/s (for 765kV Fatehgarh-3 PS - Beawar D/c line) for which no cost is envisaged. Two (02) nos. 765 KV line bays at Fatehgarh-III PS for interconnection of Fatehgarh-3- Beawar 765 kV D/c line is under the scope of M/s

POWERGRID. (ii) ±300 MVAr STATCOM should be placed in each 400-kV bus section of Fatehgarh-3 PS (Phase-III Part E1).

(iii) POWERGRID shall provide space at Fatehgarh-3 S/s for STATCOM along with MSC & MSR and associated 400kV bays. 2. The applicant has been selected as the Transmission Service Provider with the lowest levelized

transmission charges of ₹ 2749.39 million on the basis of the competitive bidding carried out by REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd. (RECPDCL), in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Central

Government under Section 63 of the Act. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letter dated 31.10.2023 has recommended for the

grant of transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system. Based on the material available on record, the Commission vide order dated 5.2.2024 in Petition No.

332/TL/2023, has proposed to issue transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.

A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to Beawar Transmission Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.sterlitepower.com or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.

Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 22.2.2024 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.

The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on 26.2.2024. Any person who

files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid

(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)

Rahul's absence adds to India's batting worries for Rajkot Test

Jadeja should be back in the mix but the experienced Rahul's thigh injury has not healed in time for the key third match

Rasesh Mandani

rasesh.mandani@htlive.com

RAJKOT: India's dominant run at home faces its most serious challenge yet as a series of injuries, player unavailability and concerns over form threaten to stall the host team's progress. The injury ward stayed full as KL Rahul, who had missed the second Test due to a thigh injury, was ruled out of the third Test against England to be played in Rajkot starting on Thursday.

SHUBMAN

GILL

When the Indian team assembled in the Gujarat city after their week-long break on Sunday, KL Rahul was conspicuous by his absence. As the day wore on, it became clear that Rahul won't be able to return in time for the third Test. Rahul's absence wouldn't have been the body blow that it is in normal circumstances. But the batting star had switched from opening to shore up the middleorder in Test cricket, only recently in South Africa, and was expected to step up with Virat Kohli missing the series for personal reasons. The Karnataka batter did that ably in the first Test at Hyderabad. Once he was injured, India turned to Shreyas Iyer at No.4, usually nimble footed against spin and reasonably experienced too. But Iyer looked out of sorts in Visakhapatnam, preoccupied perhaps by the dilemma the short ball seems to present him with. So out of it did he look that even with the paucity of resources, the selectors took the bold step to look past him for Rajkot; the batter's back issues may have contributed as well.

All of this combined means that India will be forced to go with another tweaked middle-order and a new No.4. Rajat Patidar, with a solitary Test match to his name, is likely to be step up to a batting position usually held by Indian batting royalty - Sachin Tendulkar for a long time, and then Kohli.

Sarfaraz debut likely

In between all this, Sarfaraz Khan, the 26-year-old from Mumbai who averages 69.85 in domestic cricket, is all set to end his long wait and enter the big boys club. Karnataka left-hander Devdutt Padikkal, who has been in a rich run of form in the ongoing Ranji Trophy (556 runs, Avg 92.67), has been drafted in the side. Indications are that for now, he will

India's middle muddle

A look at the players that have batted at different positions in the middle order for India since 2023

Player	Innings	Runs	Best	Avg		
Shubman Gill	11	280	104		28	
Cheteshwar Pujara	7	174	59		29	

At Number 🕢						
Player	Innings	Runs	Best	Avg		
Virat Kohli	13	717	186			55.15
KL Rahul	2	108	86			54
Shreyas Iyer	2	56	29		28	
Ishan Kishan	1	52	52*	1 🚾		
Cheteshwar Pujara	1	7	7	7		

At Numbe	r 🖪				
Player	Innings	Runs	Best	Avg	
Ajinkya Rahane	4	146	89		36.5
Shreyas Iyer	7	92	35	15.3	33
Rajat Patidar	2	41	32		20.5
Ravindra Jadeja	3	39	28	13	
Axar Patel	1	17	17	17	
Virat Kohli	1	12	12	12	

At Number	6			
Player	Innings	Runs	Best	Avg
Ravindra Jadeja	6	259	87	51.8
KL Rahul	3	113	101	37.66
Axar Patel	2	72	45	36
KS Bharat	2	67	44	67
Shreyas Iyer	3	39	26	13
Suryakumar Yadav	1	8	8	8

Options for India in Rajkot

0	Sarfaraz Khan						
	45 Innings	3,912 Runs					
		1-2					

First-class

Devdutt Padikkal Innings Runs

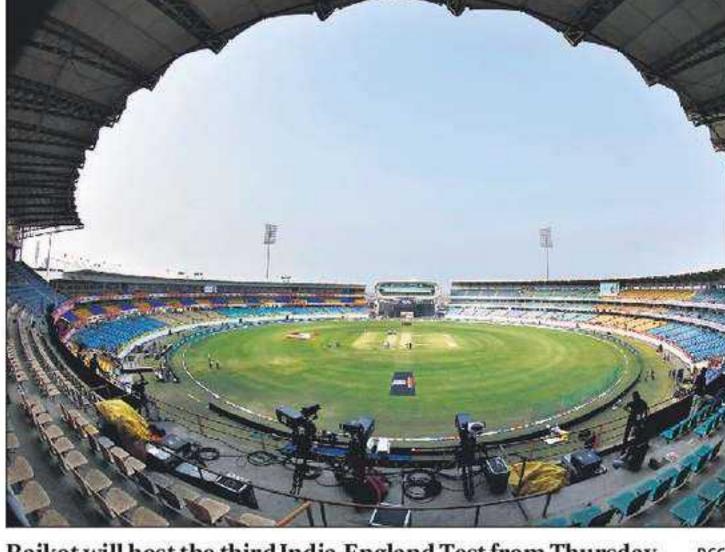
193 Best First-class

single-entry visa is not allowed to exit and re-enter the country. The England team returned to India after enjoying a 10-day break in

"The England team has been advised to process the visa again. The player was allowed to enter with the rest of the team and he will be appearing in practice on Tuesday," a BCCI official said.

Abu Dhabi after the second Test.

Rehan was the only one in the 31-member contingent who did not have the right visa. Rehan became England's youngest men's Test cricketer to take five wickets on Test debut in Karachi against Pakistan, last year.



Rajkot will host the third India-England Test from Thursday. BCCI

How Saurashtra became a player in the big league

Rasesh Mandani

rasesh.mandani@htlive.com

RAJKOT: The next time Yashasvi Jaiswal lofts Tom Hartley over the mid-wicket boundary in the series, it will be at the Niranjan Shah Stadium. On February 14, a day before the third Test match, the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) stadium will be renamed after Niranjan Shah, the long-serving affable administrator, who gets an advance birthday present before he enters the octogenarian club in June.

Having cricket stadiums named after administrators is not rare in India. But Shah's case is unique because he made it without political patronage. Belonging to a Gujarati family, who were into newspaper publishing, he rose through the ranks due to his administrative skills. He also went on to play 12 first-class matches between 1965-75, but even he concedes, "it was not very serious".

Long-time administrators like Shah whose time in office goes virtually unopposed - almost fifty years - have their share of critics, and the matter was central to Lodha commission's reform process inside BCCI. But it's equally true that Shah began at a time when there was no money in Indian cricket, let alone Saurashtra cricket, a tiny off-shoot. Shah had a burning desire that his team beat big teams like Mumbai then Bombay. It took some time. But once he entered cricket politics, Shah was able to bring bigticket cricket to Rajkot.

A measure of how insular Indian cricket was can be understood from the state of cricketing infrastructure in Rajkot at the time. Even though Saurashtra had been competing in Ranji since 1950-51, formerly as Nawanagar, it took Shah 10 years in administration to get turf wickets at the Race-Course ground. "Those times, we had either government stadiums or municipal grounds. There were constant tussles to get things moving," said Shah.

BCCI first opened up ODI cricket to non-metro cities. In 1986, Rajkot hosted its first ODI

Callum Vidler (Australia)

Vidler didn't claim the bag of

wickets that teammates Tom

Straker and Mahli Beardman

did in the semi-final and final

respectively. But with 14 wickets

in six matches, he was still Aus-

tralia's leading wicket-taker. He

is quick, hits the deck and just

seems to have all the attributes

that the senior Australian

set-up demands from its pace

was pinpoint accurate and

responsible for all the pressure

that the Australians built in the

early overs with the new ball

against India's batters. If Vidler

can sustain his accuracy and

sharpness in the years ahead,

Australia will not need to worry

about life after Pat Cummins,

Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell

Pacer Ubaid Shah, the younger

brother of Naseem Shah, was

Ali Raza (Pakistan)

In the final on Sunday, Vidler

bowlers.

Starc.

with Kapil Dev's India taking on Australia. Shah's administrative clout continued to rise as he often toured the world as Indian team manager and became BCCI secretary. "My years, with Sharad Pawar as president 2005 onwards were the best," he said. "That's when BCCI took a risk with IPL."

India was reluctant with the very idea of T20, which is why a young team was picked for the inaugural World T20 in 2007. MS Dhoni's India won the tournament, IPL became an instant success in 2008, and that changed the course of Indian cricket. With money flowing in, the board encouraged state units to build their own stadia. SCA bought land in 2005, began work in 2008 and the stadium was ready in 2013.

With a media box modelled on the Lord's spaceship, stand canopies evoking the Adelaide Oval, the stadium had a modern appearance, yet was built at a shoe-string budget of ₹75 crore. Today, BCCI pockets ₹67.8 crore media rights revenue from every bilateral match; ₹104 crore from every IPL match.

Sleepy Rajkot is gearing up to host its third Test. Three days from action, there is little to suggest the Indian team is in town. The only billboard en route to the stadium, 15 km away from the city in Khanderi, is Rahul Dravid smiling away in a fuel advertisement. But Shah is confident the crowds will come over the weekend. "Only if you give small towns Test matches will people warm up to the long format," says Jaydev Shah, Niranjan's son and a veteran of 100 Ranji matches.

The crowds will be cheering local boy Ravindra Jadeja, who comes from Jamnagar. They won't get to see Cheteshwar Pujara though. Out of favour from the national scene after playing 103 Tests, he will still be doing duties for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy in the old stadium.

Not only are Saurashtra defending Ranji champions, but also twice winners and five-time finalists in the last ten editions the most improved domestic redball team on the circuit.

Delhi beat Himachal, From India's Saharan to SA's Maphaka: 4-in-4 for Khejroliya in MP's innings win

HT Correspondent

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Young Delhi pacer Himanshu Chauhan grabbed five wickets as Delhi beat Himachal Pradesh by 76 runs to register their second win of an underwhelming Ranji season on Monday. Having set a stiff target of 327 after Delhi batters hammered 381/6 in 61.3 overs before declaring the second innings on Sunday, they dismissed Himachal for 250 at Dharamsala.

The 21-year-old Chauhan claimed 5/63 (match haul of 8/135) to lead the bowling effort with fellow pacer Pranshu Vijayran taking 3/44. Only Rishi Dhawan (65) showed any resistance for the hosts. Delhi's second win gave them six points and lifted them to fifth in the eightteam group after six matches.

Former Delhi left-arm pacer Kulwant Khejroliya, 31, captured four wickets in a row to bowl 2021-22 champions Madhya Pradesh to an innings and 52-run victory over Baroda in Indore.

Khejroliya's hat-trick plus one (5/34 - 7/57 match haul) in a devastating over saw Baroda lose their last five wickets for 15 runs as they were dismissed for 270 in the second innings. MP, despite Rajat Patidar being away with the Test team, had scored 454 and skittled out Baroda for 132 in

the first innings. Group B toppers Mumbai collected three points after their match against Chhattisgarh in Raipur was drawn. Mumbai had snatched a one-run first-innings lead on Sunday after bowling out Chhattisgarh for 350. Mumbai were 253/6 in the second innings when the match ended. Mumbai,



remain the back-up.

short-leg drills.

During training on Monday,

Sarfaraz did everything he was

asked to. He batted in the centre-

wicket against pace, to spin in the

nets, did slip catching as well as

The only respite for India was

Ravindra Jadeja, who too has

been picked subject to fitness,

showed no discomfort while roll-

ing his arm over or after his bat-

ting stint. His knowledge of the

local conditions and his ability to

find the spot with the ball on his

home turf will be in precious

demand. Returning from a ham-

string injury, the all-rounder's fit-

Tamil Nadu's Vijay Shankar. PTI

with four wins and a draw, have 30 points, five clear of secondplaced Andhra.

Kerala rose to third in Group B after registering their first win. All-rounder Jalaj Saxena completed a match haul of 13/172, the spinner taking 4/104 in the second innings, as the hosts beat Bengal by 109 runs at Thumba. Set an improbable 449-run target overnight, Bengal were 339 all out with only Abhimanyu Eashwaran (65) and Shahbaz Ahmed (80) hitting fifties.

In Elite Group A, holders Saurashtra beat Rajasthan by 218 runs with seasoned left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja taking a career-best 7/32 (12/131 in the match) in Jaipur. Saurashtra, who scored 328 and 234/6 declared, skittled out Rajasthan for 87 in 28.4 overs, after they were 257 all out in first innings.

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu played out a thrilling draw in Chennai. Chasing 355, the hosts looked on course as No.3 Pradosh Ranjan Paul (74), and then from 199/5 Baba Aparajith (98) and all-rounder Vijay Shankar (60) in a 125-run sixth-wicket stand led the way. TN were just 17 short while Karnataka had reduced the innings to 338/8, but both ran out of time to force the issue. Karnataka top the group (24 points) with TN (22) second.

next two days.

ness will be monitored over the

RAJAT

PATIDAR

Jadeja's return will force the team management to choose between Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel. With the batting lacking heft, they may also consider Washington Sundar for his allround skills over Mohammed Siraj. That would increase Jasprit Bumrah's workload as the sole

fast bowler. The other move being given serious consideration is bringing in young Dhruv Jurel as wicketkeeper-bat ahead of KS Bharat, whose returns with the bat haven't been up to scratch.

With muscle injuries becoming a worry, players didn't exert themselves on any one particular skill during their three-hour long training session. But that didn't deter Yashasvi Jaiswal, the youngest in the party and in just the right nick, from having an hour-long extended session at the centre-wicket with a simulated packed off-side field, as batting coach Vikram Rathore and Dravid watched on. The lefthander was in no tearing hurry to dissect the field — the IPL can wait - but wanted to stay oblivious of the fielders and perfect his front foot defence.

In the 2016 Test played here between the two sides, despite the flood of runs in the first innings, Kohli had saved the day by batting the day out on a pitch which was beginning to turn. With the India coach repeatedly saying his batters were leaving some runs in the middle, some old-fashioned dead-bat batting was practised during training.

Rehan's single-entry visa England leg-spinner Rehan

Ahmed was held up by Indian immigration in Rajkot after it was found that he arrived with a single-entry visa. A person holding a

APPOINTMENT OF **ADMINISTRATIVE** COMMITTEE: SC DISMISSES TN

"The problem is that you are not spending money from your pocket. So, you don't know the pain of litigation. You are spending public money... This is all self-promotion and abuse of the process of the law," remarked the bench, dismissing TNFA's appeal. The association's lawyer objected to the appointment of a retired high court judge and lawyers in the

on the state body after noting that the high court order was passed after TNFA's lawyers consented to constituting an administrative committee, instead of an administrator. In the batch of petitions pertaining to the identification of office-bearers of TNFA, the high court appointed an administrative committee chaired by retired high court judge AK Rajan and comprising two sportsmen - R Basheer Ahmed and Harjinder Singh and lawyers Stalin Abhimanyu and Kanimozhi Mathi for administering the association until the

Five U-19 cricketers to keep an eye on was evidence of his talent as a teenager. It will be fascinating to observe Maphaka's transition to the top level.

Vivek Krishnan

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NEW DELHI: In the 38th over of India's run chase in the U-19 World Cup final on Sunday, as the five-time champions were hurtling towards defeat, Naman Tiwari was heard on the stump mic telling Abhishek Murugan: "Yaad rakhna, haarenge par seekh ke jaayenge (Remember, we will lose but will learn and go back)."

As Tiwari seems to have grasped, the U-19 platform is essentially about making an impression and imbibing lessons that serve well in the long run. A look at five players who were most impressive during the three-week-long U-19 World

Uday Saharan (India) The India skipper finished as the leading run-getter of the tournament — 397 runs in seven innings at 56.71. More than the volume of runs though, it was the circumstances in which Saharan's best knocks came that threw light on his steely temperament. Not the most flamboyant of stroke-makers, the 19-year-old was the glue around which the Indian batting unit functioned. His defining contribution was a 124-ball 81 against South Africa in the semi-final, guiding India successfully towards a tricky target of 245. If Saharan could have stayed longer at the crease against Australia, India would have gotten a lot closer to the target than they did.

Sachin Dhas (India)

Dhas was Saharan's able partner for a majority of that chase



India's Sachin Dhas and Uday Saharan during the U19 World Cup semi-final in Benoni.

against South Africa, hitting 96 off 95 balls to initiate the revival after they were wobbling at 32/4. Against Nepal too, Dhas came in with India in a bit of bother at 62/3 but didn't show any nerves during his knock of

Other than these knocks under severe pressure, Dhas was also at ease when asked to swing his bat in the slog overs, which is why he was chosen as the designated finisher before the start of the campaign. Dhas

wasn't really in the limelight going into the tournament but ended it with his reputation greatly enhanced.

Kwena Maphaka (South

When Anrich Nortje talks of Kwena Maphaka in glowing terms as a possible future teammate, you know that there is serious promise. Maphaka, a left-arm pacer from Johannesburg, has a mean bouncer and a lethal yorker. He also has the skills for conventional swing. Basically, he is not far from being an all-round package. He finished as the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 21 scalps in six innings, winning the player-of-the-tournament award even though South Africa didn't reach the final. It was hard to resist comparisons with Kagiso Rabada, who starred in South Africa's victorious 2014 U-19 World Cup campaign. That Rabada made his senior international debut in the same year

earmarked as one to watch out for before the tournament **GETTY IMAGES** began. He stepped up with 18 scalps at an average of 12.38. Equally exciting is 15-year-old Ali Raza.

While his exact age may be a bone of contention given Pakistan's dubious past in this regard, Raza's talent isn't up for debate. The medium-pacer came into the tournament belatedly, but immediately made an impact and ended with nine scalps in just three matches. He notably claimed 4/34 in ten overs against Australia in the semi-final.

FOOTBALL'S PLEA

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday handed a "red card" to the office-bearers of the Tamil Nadu Football Association (TNFA), imposing a fine of ₹50,000 on them in their individual capacity for "abusing the process of law" and "spending public money for self-promotion". A bench of justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan took umbrage at TNFA moving in appeal against a September 2023 order of the Madras high court that flagged the power struggle within the state body and appointed an administrative committee for conducting fresh elections to the association.

administrative committee.

But the bench came down hard election of the new office-bearers.