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NEW DELHI/METRO
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Hindustan Times

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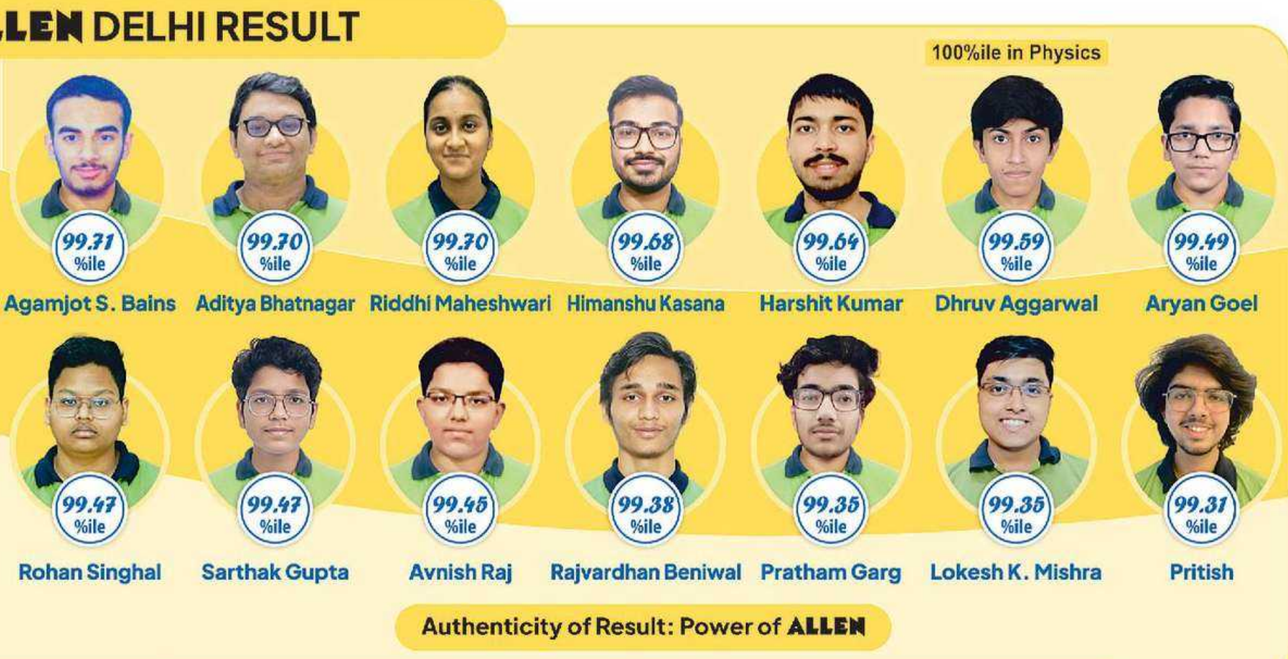

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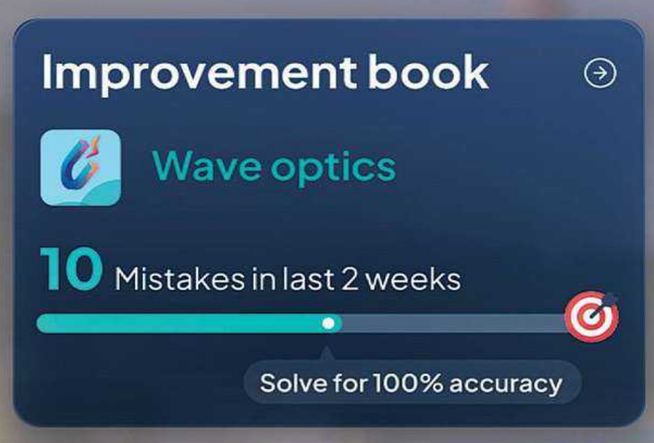

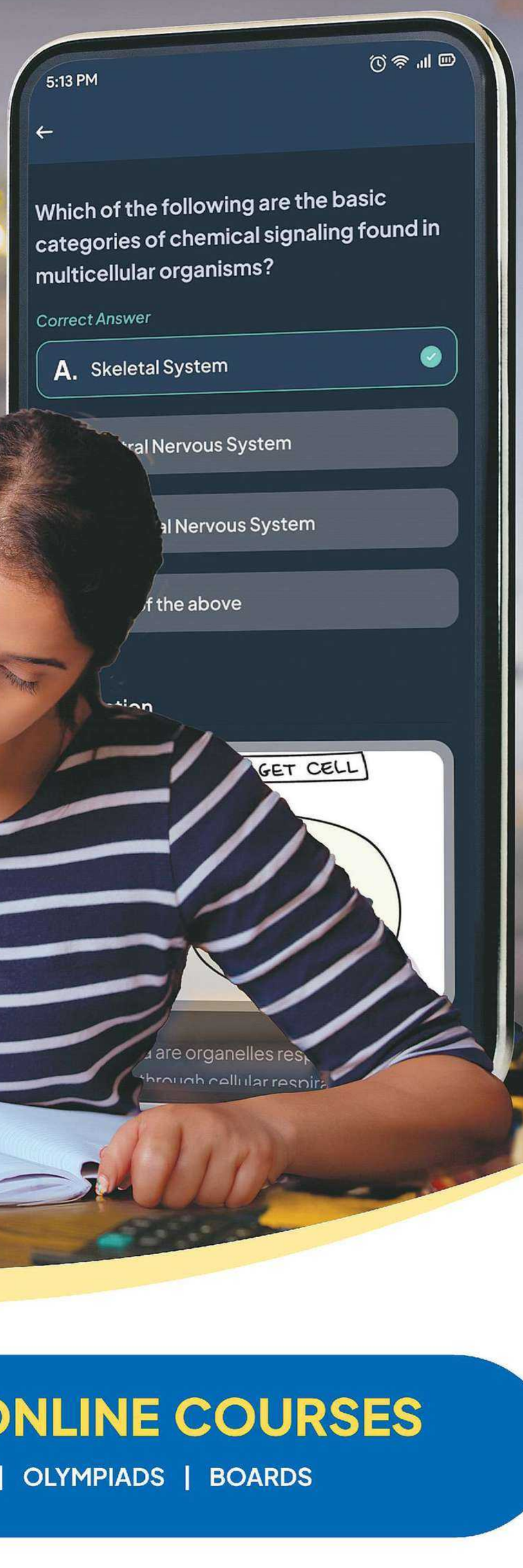

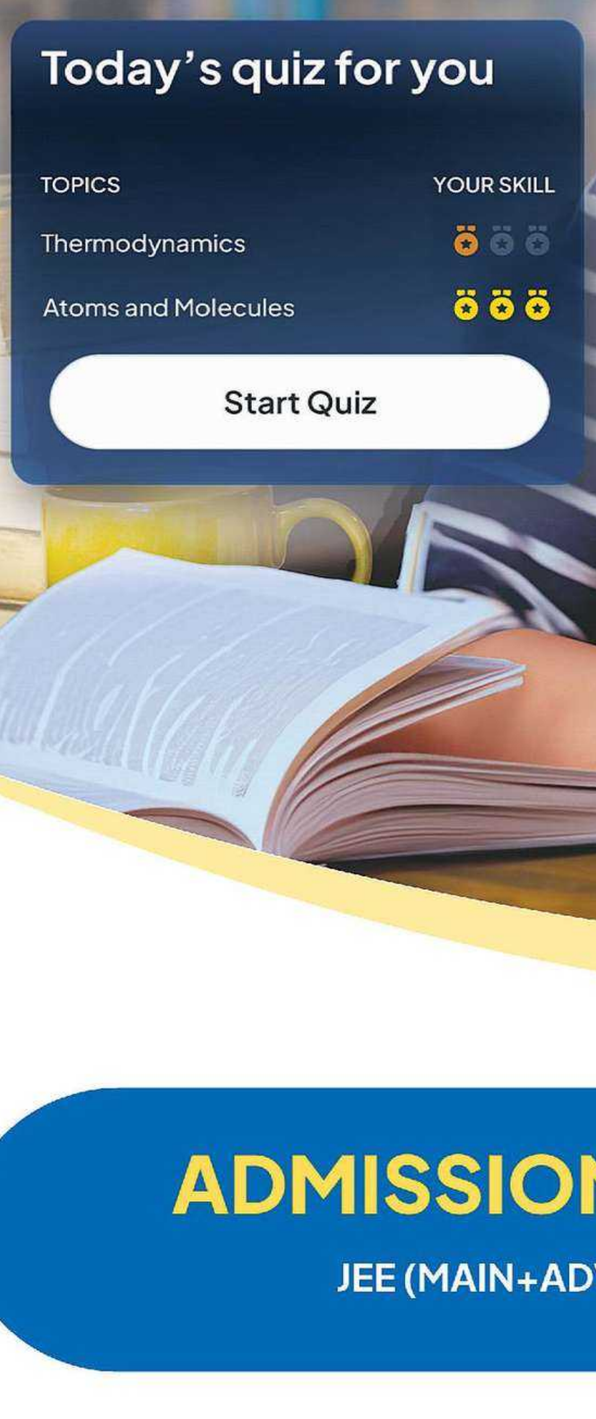

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ALLEN

NEW DELHI/METRO
Thursday, February 15, 2024
■ VOL. C NO. 40

Hindust

Govt, farmers to hold talks as more unions may join stir

Ravinder Vasudeva, Bhavey Nagpal, Sunil Rahar and Karn Pratap Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH/KARNAL/ROHTAK/NEW DELHI: A panel of central ministers will begin a third round of negotiations with protesting farmers on Thursday, people aware of the matter said, as the Centre aims to resolve a stir that has choked the borders between Punjab and Haryana even as the agitation appeared likely to expand on Wednesday, with a bunch of key farm unions pledging their support.

Meanwhile, defence minister Rajnath Singh and agriculture minister Arjun Munda held talks on Wednesday, said officials aware of their discussions, with the former consulted to end a deadlock that has threatened to spill over into Delhi, which security forces have fortified with layers of barricades and advanced surveillance equipment.

The news of high-level discussions, however, did little to calm restive farmers from Punjab and Haryana, who continued to lay siege to the borders between the two north Indian states, with fresh face-offs between agitators and security personnel at the Shambhu and Jind borders. They have called a nationwide strike on Friday.

The traffic mess in Delhi eased somewhat — though the borders between Delhi and Haryana, and Delhi and Uttar Pradesh still remained clogged — as police streamlined diversions, and thousands of commuters opted for public transit instead of private vehicles after the nightmarish snarls on Tuesday.

Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Nityanand Rai and Munda will lead the talks on Thursday, according to an invite sent to farm leaders Jag-

continued on →17

Farmers scramble for cover as police fire tear gas to disperse them at the Shambhu border on Wednesday. REUTERS

DELHI POLICE DIG TRACKS AHEAD OF PLANNED MARCH

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Wednesday dug up dirt tracks at three villages along Singhu border to stop protesting farmers from bypassing barricades set up at NH-44, with the Capital's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh still clogged amid several layers of security. The traffic mess within the city, however, eased to an extent, as commuters came to terms with the blockades. →P6

PUNJAB-HARYANA BORDER REMAINS A BATTLEGROUND

SHAMBHU: The Punjab-Haryana border remained a battleground on Wednesday as a fresh standoff began between farmers and Haryana Police, when protesters tried to breach barricades to march towards Delhi and security forces fired tear gas shells to contain the crowd. →P12

KEJRIWAL TOLD TO APPEAR ON FEB 19 IN SIXTH ED SUMMONS

Alok KN Mishra
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NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before it on February 19 in connection with its investigation into a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise police 2021-22, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday. This is the sixth time that Kejriwal has been issued summons in connection with the case. He has skipped five previous summons calling them "illegal and politically motivated". The AAP did not immediately comment on whether Kejriwal will appear. →P6

{ HOME AT LAST } FREED ON SUNDAY

Back home, ex-Navy man relives 531 days of uncertainty in Qatar

Rahul Singh
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NEW DELHI: Commander Sanjeev Gupta (retd), one of the eight former Indian Navy personnel sentenced to death in Qatar on undeclared charges but freed from 17-month captivity on February 11 after painstaking negotiations between the two countries at the highest levels, often contemplated what-ifs in his prison cell in Doha in the early days.

What if he never sets foot on Indian soil again? What if he never gets to see his wife or hug his two young daughters? What if he was doomed to die in the detention facility?

"Those 17-plus months were horrendous. The first six months were even worse. At times, I got this feeling that I might die there," the 56-year-old said in an interview at his 20th floor Noida apartment, three days after all the men were released, and seven of them have already returned home, in a dramatic

continued on →19

Sanjeev Gupta with his wife Rekha. HT PHOTO

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TN HOUSE PASSES A RESOLUTION AGAINST 1 NATION, 1 ELECTION PLAN

Divya Chandrababu
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly on Wednesday adopted two resolutions moved by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government opposing the scheduled delimitation exercise for redrawing of poll constituencies in 2026 and the Centre's proposed "one nation, one election" policy. Chief minister MK Stalin in assembly hailed the passage of the two resolutions as "a watershed moment". →P15

UMAR KHALID WITHDRAWS HIS BAIL PLEA FROM SC

Abraham Thomas
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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Umar Khalid to withdraw his bail plea after the former JNU scholar, accused under UAPA for his alleged role in the 2020 Delhi riots. Khalid said he will approach the trial court again for bail. →P8

PLAN NEEDED FOR REOPENING SHUT STERLITE PLANT: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Tamil Nadu and it's pollution control board to suggest a "way forward" to restart the Sterlite copper smelting plant owned by Vedanta in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi. "You are shutting down an industry. We are not a banana republic. We are a republic governed by the rule of law," said the bench →P13

Hindustan Times

NEW DELHI
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2024

NUMBER THEORY

Understanding the issues ailing Indian agriculture

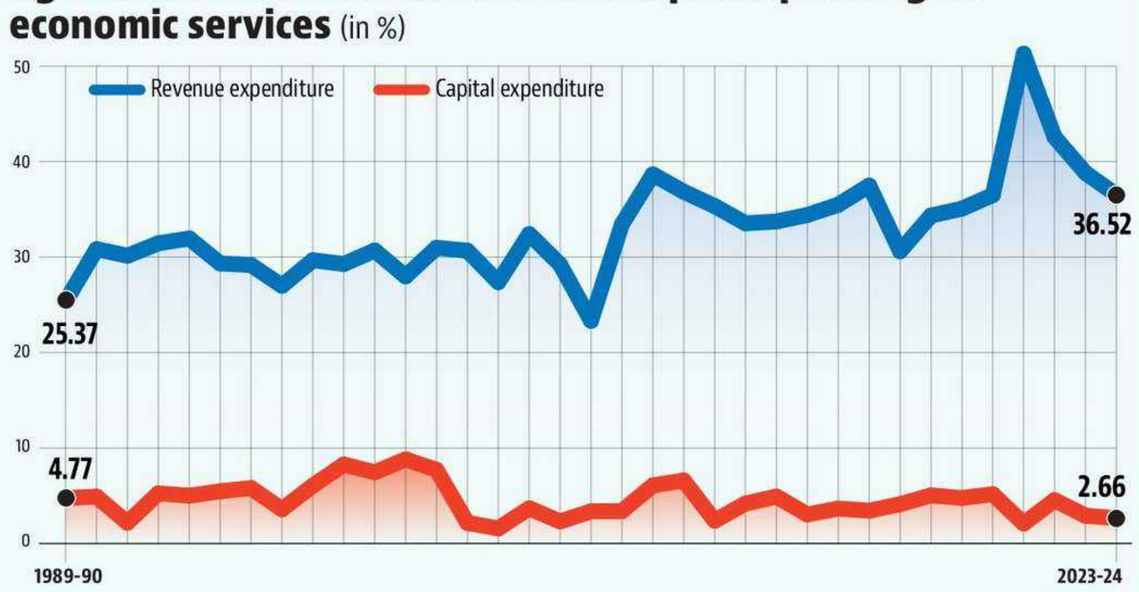
By Roshan Kishore

With some farmers' unions in Punjab restarting their protests demanding a guarantee on minimum support prices (MSP), agricultural policy is back in public debate. While, there can be no rationale for a law providing a blanket guarantee for MSP, support or opposition to this demand cannot be the be all and end all of agricultural policy debate in India. In fact, one can argue that the tragedy of Indian agriculture is that it has been caught up in sensational debates such as these and substantive issues always fail to catch the public imagination. If Indian agriculture has to have a future – it is absolutely essential that it does – it needs to have a future-oriented policy outlook. In economic terms, this means that it should have adequate investment. Is this requirement being adequately met? Here are three charts that try and answer this question.

1 Share of agricultural spending has remained largely same, but it's true for capital spending

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) database gives details of revenue and capital spending (under economic services category) on agriculture by both the Centre and the states. A long-term analysis of the data shows that the overall share of public spending in agriculture has largely remained unchanged if one were to ignore the spike seen in the pandemic year. Does this mean that government spending in agriculture has been unchanged over the past few decades in India? The true picture emerges when one disaggregates this spending by revenue and capital account. The latter, by definition, is meant for enhancing long-term productivity and is therefore more useful for future growth. The data clearly shows that agriculture's overall share in revenue spending has seen a rise while that of capital spending has fallen even further from its already low levels in the past. This is not good news as far as agriculture's future growth prospects are concerned. The falling share of capital spending in agriculture is even more worrying because it is widely accepted that public and private investment in agriculture are compliments rather than substitutes.

Agriculture's share in revenue and capital spending on economic services (in %)



Source: CMIE

2 Agriculture continues to remain an under-invested sector in India

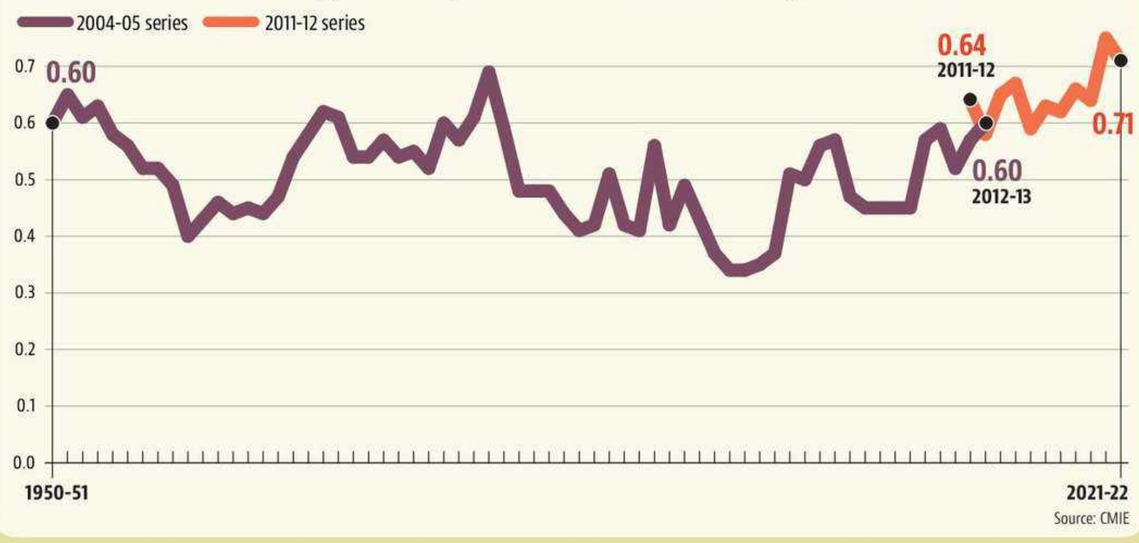
The best way to look at this is to track the relative share of capital formation in agriculture – its share in capital formation divided by the share in Gross Value Added (GVA) – over time. Using relative share is important because a simple share of capital formation in agriculture could show a falling trend just on account of its falling share in GVA.

CMIE data using both the 2004-05 and 2011-12 GDP series shows that agriculture's relative share in capital formation has always been less than one – this means that its share in capital formation has been less than its share in GVA – in India.

The analysis used here has only included agriculture/crop sector in the 2004-05 and 2011-12 series rather than agriculture and allied activities, which also include sectors such as forestry and fishing.

While this number shows a sharp increase in 2020-21 and 2021-22, the last two years for which this data is available, this could be a result of the non-agricultural economy being disrupted by the pandemic rather than a renewed dynamism in the agriculture sector. To be sure, the picture will only become clear when data for the post 2021-22 period is available.

Relative share of gross capital formation in agriculture

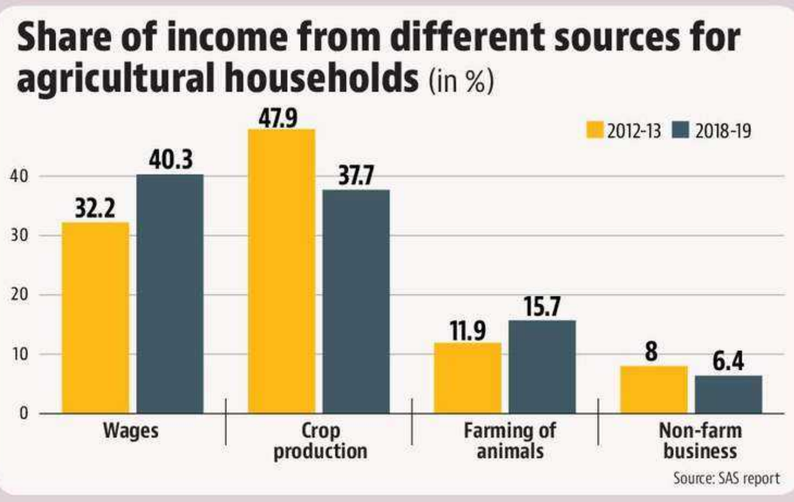


Source: CMIE

3 Even farmers are reducing their stakes in agriculture now

This is the most telling statistic as far as the predicament of the agriculture sector is concerned. A comparison of data from the 2012-13 and 2018-19 Situation Assessment Surveys (SAS) surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office shows that the importance of income from cultivation has fallen significantly for India's agricultural households during this period and it was not even the largest source of income for agricultural households. An agricultural household is defined as one which produces field or horticultural crops, livestock, or other specified agricultural products worth more than ₹4,000 and had a member self-employed in agriculture in the 365 days preceding the survey. In 2018-19 there were 93.1 million agricultural households and 79.3 million non-agricultural households in India.

Share of income from different sources for agricultural households (in %)



Source: SAS report

An earlier article published in these pages quoted research that showed that households who have been able to diversify into non-agricultural professions and increase their incomes are unlikely to have any incentive to invest in agriculture (even though they still practise it). With both the public and private sector giving up on long-term investment in agriculture, the future of farming and food security in India is far from secure.

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NEW DELHI/METRO
Thursday, **February 15**, 2024

Hindustan Times

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Modi opens UAE temple, hails ties with Arab world

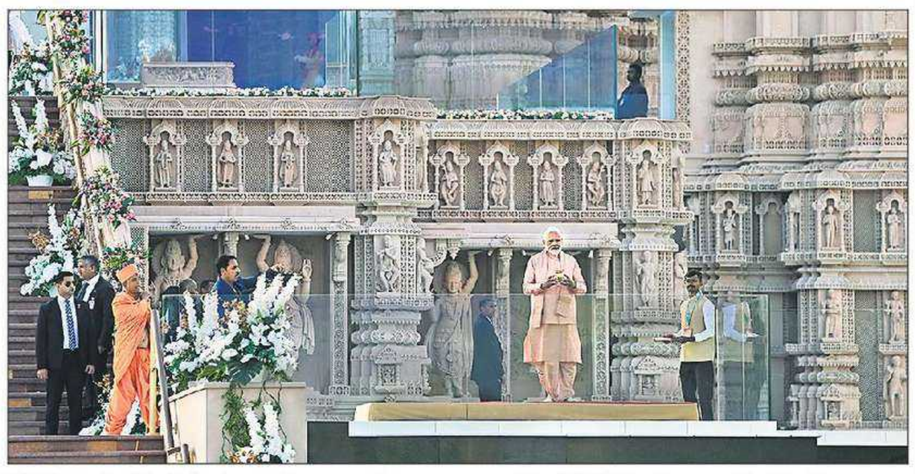
HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened a grand temple in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, describing the sprawling stone structure as an embodiment of the close ties between India and the Arab world and hailing the strength of diversity ingrained in the building.

Dressed in a pale pink kurta, Modi presided over the consecration ceremony of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) temple, participated in rituals that were replicated in around 1,200 shrines built by the organisation worldwide, and met workers who helped build the temple in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He also hailed the role played by UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, recalled the fervour over the opening of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya last month, referred to himself as the biggest pujari (priest) of "Maa Bharati", and said the current period was not only the Amrit Kaal – a reference to the years

continued on →17



PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration ceremony of the BAPS Mandir near Abu Dhabi. AP

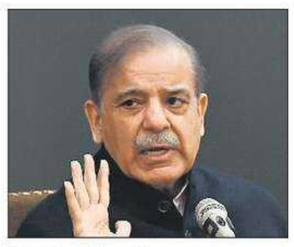
'Govts should be inclusive, use technology for change'

NEW DELHI: The world community should forge a "global protocol" to cope with challenges arising from new technologies such as artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency and give the Global South a say in decision-making, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

The world also needs governments that are inclusive and also use technology as a "medium of big change", he said in his keynote address at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, a flagship initiative of the UAE.→P11

MODI HEADS TO DOHA, WILL HOLD TALKS WITH EMIR

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday left for Qatar, for the second leg of his two-nation visit. In Doha, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meeting with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. AGENCIES



Shehbaz Sharif

SHEHBAZ SET TO BE PAK PM AFTER NAWAZ SHARIF STEPS ASIDE

ISLAMABAD: Shehbaz Sharif is set to make a return as Pakistan's prime minister after being named for the top job, a breakthrough after no political party achieved an outright majority but one that could lead to a weak and unstable administration.

Nawaz Sharif, who heads the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), was expected to be the candidate, but stepped aside on Tuesday to nominate his younger sibling Shehbaz for the post, party spokeswoman Marriyum Aurangzeb said in a post on X on Tuesday.

The PML-N party controls only 80 seats in the 264-seat parliament but is part of a coalition of six parties, including the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the second largest party. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the PPP will support any candidate put forward by PML-N. →P19

Sonia set to enter Rajya Sabha in big Cong shift

Saubhadra Chatterji
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NEW DELHI: Former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday filed her nomination papers as a Rajya Sabha candidate from Rajasthan, a first in her political career and marking the end of an era that saw the leader represent Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha, first as the parliamentarian from Amethi for one term and then from Rae Bareli for the next four.

The day also saw the Congress announce nine other candidates for the February 27 biennial elections to the Upper House.

Sonia Gandhi in Jaipur, with Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Ashok Gehlot accompanying her.

The party fielded treasurer Ajay Maken from Karnataka and former Union minister Renuka Chowdhury from Telangana. Among the sitting MPs, Abhishek Singhvi will step in from Himachal Pradesh and Syed Naseer Hussain, who is in charge of the Congress president's office, was named from Karnataka.

The party renominated its Bihar unit chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh and fielded the Maharashtra unit working president Chandrakant Handore from their respective states.

Another sitting MP GC Chan-

continued on →17

Party chief, 2 Union ministers part of BJP's Upper House list

Smriti Kak Ramachandran
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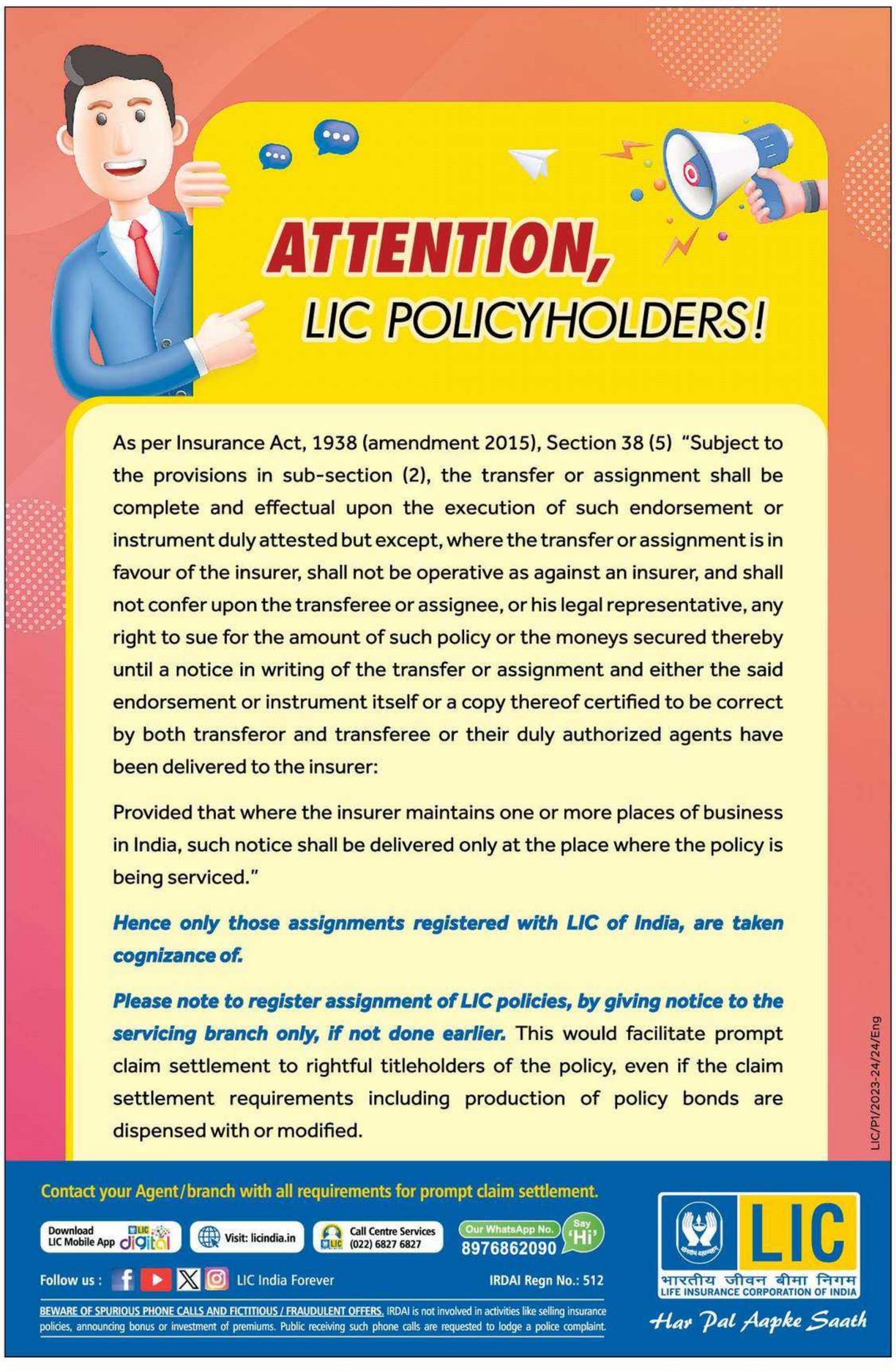
NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday nominated party chief JP Nadda, two sitting Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and L Murugan, and recently inducted senior leader Ashok Chavan to the Rajya Sabha, naming 12 candidates for the February 27 polls to the Upper House.

With this, the party has announced 28 candidates for the 56 seats that go to the polls.

The BJP named Nadda from Gujarat, Union railway and IT minister Vaishnaw from Odisha where the ruling Biju Janata Dal backing his candidature, Chavan from Maharashtra and Union minister of state for information and broadcasting Murugan from Madhya Pradesh. The list signalled that the generational shift effected by the party since 2014 will continue with newer faces platformed at the state and central level. →P13



PAGE ONE PLUS

{ MY INDIA } SANDESHKHALI

7th day of protest as political row worsens

The ongoing political row in West Bengal intensified on Wednesday as protests continued and fresh prohibitory orders were clamped in and around violence-hit Sandeshkhali village, which has been on the edge since last week over allegations of sexual harassment and land capture levelled by women in the village against local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders. State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Sukanta Majumdar was injured after he fell on a car's bonnet after allegedly being "pushed" by an unidentified woman while addressing a protest in Taki, around 35km from Sandeshkhali village, in North 24 Parganas district. Protests continued for the seventh consecutive day with hundreds of women carrying sticks, brooms, and farming tools blocked roads and demanded the arrest of TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his two aides — Uttam Sardar and Shiba Prasad Hazra. →P12

{ WORLD } EYES ON FED

US inflation hotter than expected: Data

US consumer prices jumped at the start of the year, stalling recent disinflation progress and likely delaying any Federal Reserve interest-rate cuts. The report from the labour department showed that the consumer price index rose 0.3% from December to January, up from a 0.2% increase the previous month. Compared with a year ago, prices are up 3.1%. That is less than the 3.4% figure in December and far below the 9.1% inflation peak in mid-2022. But the latest reading is still well above the Federal Reserve's 2% target level at a time when public frustration with inflation has become a pivotal issue in President Joe Biden's bid for re-election. This further reduces already-slim chances that the Fed will start lowering interest rates soon, and any additional reacceleration risks reigniting talks they will resume hikes. AGENCIES

{ MY INDIA } 31 NATIONS INVOLVED

Countries kick off talks on India's IEA membership bid

Member states of the International Energy Agency (IEA), an inter-governmental organisation comprising 31 industrialised countries, agreed on Wednesday to begin discussions on the Indian government's request to become a full member of the body. The IEA, which provides policy recommendations and analyses on the global energy sector, works under the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)and was established after the 1973-1974 oil crisis to help member states to respond to major energy supply disruptions. India joined the IEA as an associate member in 2017. Ministers from the IEA's member countries made the announcement in a joint communique after the body's ministerial meeting in Paris during February 13-14. The decision to start discussions on India's request to become a full IEA member recognises the country's "strategic importance in tackling global energy and climate challenges", the IEA said in a statement. →P17

{ WORLD } GAZA TALKS INCONCLUSIVE

SA urges ICJ to act on Israel's Rafah op

Palestinians jammed into their last refuge in Gaza voiced growing fear on Wednesday that Israel will soon launch a planned assault on the south city of Rafah after talks in Cairo ended inconclusively. The truce talks in the Egyptian capital, involving the US, Israel, Egypt and Qatar, ended without any sign of a breakthrough on Tuesday and no date was publicly set for the next meeting. South Africa urged the UN's top court to place more legal pressure on Israel to halt a threatened offensive against Hamas in Rafah, where more than one million Palestinians are taking refuge from Israeli bombardments elsewhere in Gaza. Pretoria has already made a complaint against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ), alleging that its assault on Gaza amounts to a breach of the Genocide Convention. →P19

{ MY INDIA } WILDLIFE CLEARANCE

'Compliance papers key for project nods'

Project proposals in and around wildlife sanctuaries and national parks will not be considered for clearance unless states file compliance certificates to the conditions prescribed by the standing committee of the national board for wildlife (NBWL) for previously permitted projects, the panel has decided. The minutes of the panel's 77th meeting released on February 7 showed there is little compliance of the precautionary conditions prescribed by NBWL for projects that have been allowed in such areas. "...Project proposals shall not be considered unless certificate of compliance of conditions in case of previously recommended/ approved project proposals have been received," the minutes said. In the last five years, 718 such proposals have been granted wildlife clearance. But, the certificates of compliance were not sent by the state chief wildlife wardens, the minutes said. →P16

If doctors can be sued over poor service, why not lawyers, asks SC

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

IN 2007, THE NAT'L COMMISSION HELD THAT ADVOCATES DO COME UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND CAN BE DRAGGED TO A CONSUMER COURT BY THEIR CLIENTS

NEW DELHI: Why can't lawyers be sued for poor service if doctors can be brought before consumer courts for negligence? The Supreme Court raised this question on Wednesday as it began hearing a clutch of petitions about whether legal representation for a fee can be classified as a "service" under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

"You (lawyer) have to also employ your skills and knowledge in the facts of that case... like a doctor does with a patient. How is it any different from a doctor?" asked a bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal, as it started to consider several petitions that questioned the views taken by the national consumer commission in 2007.

In its 2007 judgment, the commission held that advocates do come under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act and can be dragged to a consumer court by their clients for deficiency in service. The judgment declared that the legal services rendered by lawyers would come within the ambit of Section 2(1)(o) of the 1986 Act that defines "service", making them liable under the law.

"Undisputedly, lawyers are rendering service. They are charging fees. It is not a contract of personal service. Therefore, there is no reason to hold that they are not covered by the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act,1986," the consumer commission held in its 2007 judgment that was stayed by the top court in April 2009.

Commencing the arguments on behalf of the appellants that comprised several lawyer bodies, senior counsel Narender Hooda objected to the rationale of the 2007 judgment, arguing lawyers stand on a completely different footing from any other professionals, including doctors.

"The first duty of a lawyer is towards the court since he has to act as an officer of the court. There is no one-to-one relationship that a lawyer has with his clients. Further, success in a case does not depend only on the skills of a lawyer but it will depend on courts," argued Hooda.

Disagreeing, the bench replied: "If a lawyer does not remain present in the court and an ex parte decree is passed against his client. The lawyer does not even tell his client why the case was dismissed. Who will be responsible for this? For this kind of negligence, the court doesn't come in the picture at all."

While Hooda said that there is already a mechanism under the Advocates Act to conduct an inquiry against lawyers for misconduct, the bench retorted: "Negligence and misconduct are two different concepts. How do you differentiate your profession from doctors? They also have their own regulations under the Medical Council of India Act and still they come under the ambit of the Consumer Protection Act."

Responding, Hooda said that attributing negligence or deficiency to lawyers will expose them to two different actions – one, under the Advocates Act, and second, under the consumer law.

The bench, however, replied: "In that case, a court can always decide whether it's professional misconduct or negligence. There's a difference between professional misconduct and professional negligence and the court can adjudicate that depending on the facts of a case."

To this, Hooda contended: "It's different from doctors. When a doctor operates on a patient inside an operating theatre, nobody is watching. But a lawyer conducts his operation, it is in full public glare...Every unhappy client will then pursue a case before the consumer court."

But the bench commented: "Every argument you are making is true for doctors too. But they (doctors) are made to face cases before consumer courts...and then you cannot prevent anyone from filing a frivolous or false case. That's true for all professions and professionals."

Adjourning the case to Thursday for hearing it further, the court told Hooda that he would have to explicate how lawyers are different from doctors in providing services. Senior counsel V Giri, who assists the court as amicus curiae, will also present his views on Thursday.

There are at least 1.3 million lawyers in India, according to statistics with the Bar Council of India, the apex body to regulate legal education and profession in the country.

The 2007 judgment by the national consumer commission said that a lawyer may not be responsible for the favourable outcome of a case because the result does not depend upon only a lawyer's work. The commission also held that a lawyer and a client have a bilateral contract. "On receipt of fees, a lawyer would appear and represent the matter on behalf of his client. To hold that contract is unilateral is to ignore the fact that even after discussion, the client may not engage the advocate or the advocate may refuse to accept the brief. Hence, such a contract can never be said to be unilateral," stated the commission.

By an order on April 13, 2009, the top court had put the national commission's order in abeyance. "There shall be stay of the impugned order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi, during the pendency of the appeals," the court order had stated.

{ CRICKET } 3RD TEST, ENGLAND'S TOUR OF INDIA

A depleted India face Bazball Test

An injury-hit India are likely to go into the third Test against England with two debutants — middle-order batter from Mumbai Sarfaraz Khan, and keeper-batter from Uttar Pradesh Dhruv Chand Jurel — as the five-match series remains evenly poised at 1-1. A look at what's in store

INDIA vs ENGLAND 3rd Test

Where: Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot

When: From 9.30am today

Rohit Sharma, India captain

Ben Stokes, England captain

Head to head

	India won	Eng won	Drawn	Overall
India	51	32	50	133
England	15	23	28	66

Inexperienced India

The Indian batting line-up already missing Virat Kohli, who is out due to personal reasons, has been depleted further because of injures to KL Rahul (quadriceps) and Shreyas Iyer (groin). With Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Chand Jurel set to make their Test debuts, skipper Rohit Sharma (56 Tests) has his work cut out. There is not much Test-playing experience in the batting line-up. Yashasvi Jaiswal (6 Tests), Rajat Patidar (1), Sarfaraz (debutant), Jurel (debutant) constitute the line-up. Shubman Gill, who has played 22 Tests and scored a century in the previous Test, is only 7 matches old in his new role as No. 3.

India top order

	Mat	Runs	Ave	100s	50s
Yashasvi Jaiswal	6	637	57.9	2	2
Rohit Sharma	56	3,827	44.5	10	16
Shubman Gill	22	1,201	31.6	3	4
Rajat Patidar	1	41	20.5	0	0

Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel are yet to play a Test

The Bazball threat

England fast bowler James Anderson had said in the 2nd Test that the way India batted in the 2nd innings, it was evident that they were not sure of a safe target. So far in the series, England have shown there are a few speed modes to their Bazball approach and its not just about mindless attack. They have used the different variations of the sweep shot just enough to throw the Indian spinners off rhythm and mixed it up with shots front of the wicket.

The series so far

1. Test in Hyderabad: Eng won by 28 runs
2. Test in Vizag: India won by 106 runs

Matches left after Rajkot

4. Test in Ranchi from Feb 23
5. Test in Dharamsala from Mar 7

Pitch to the fore, not quite

The pitches provided in the first two Tests did assist turn, but were not really ones on which the ball turned square from Day 1 exploding a puff of dust to add to the drama. Bumrah bagging a 9-wicket match haul in Vizag showed the wicket had something for the seamers as well. So, where are the rank turners? Apparently, India are not too sure of their batting line-up and can't afford to dish out one. The Rajkot wicket too looked like one on the slower side. It prompted England to drop one of their three spinners — left-arm spinner Shoaib Bashir— and bring back Mark Wood as the second fast bowler.

Spinners in this series over 2 Tests			Anderson and Bumrah this series			Other pacers in this series		
531.5 Overs	35.75 Average	3.76 Econ	92.5 Overs	11.8 Average	2.54 Econ	48 Overs	182 Average	3.79 Econ
2,002 Runs			236 Runs			182 Runs		
Wkts 56			Wkts 20			Wkts 1		

India set to establish new naval bases at Agatti, Minicoy islands

Shishir Gupta
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NEW DELHI: Weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lakshadweep, India has decided to expand its naval footprint by establishing naval bases in Agatti Island and Minicoy, along with upgraded airbases, in order to secure vital sea lines of communication, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Agatti Island and Minicoy in Lakshadweep sit on the nine-degree channel through which billions of dollars worth of commercial trade passes through while en route to south-east Asia and north Asia. Minicoy Islands is just 524km from the Maldives.

India is set to make a major maritime security statement when defence minister Rajnath Singh goes on board the INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant carrier task forces, which include 14 warships, to travel to Minicoy along with the Navy brass to inaugurate naval base INS Jatayu on March 4-5, the people cited above said.

The Indian Navy plans to hold the first phase of the Combined Commanders Conference on board Indian aircraft carriers with the two armadas travelling from Goa to Karwar to Minicoy to Kochi. The second phase of the commanders' conference will be held on March 6-7.

The carrier task forces of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant PIB

It is understood that the Modi government has decided to build a new airstrip at Minicoy and upgrade the air strip at Agatti Island with plans to station naval assets at INS Jatayu. This decision dovetails into the Modi government's strategy to use its island territories to project power in the Indo-Pacific in support of the maritime security of the region.

While India is already developing its force capability in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands with new facilities at Campbell Bay in Great Nicobar, the move to upgrade capabilities in Lakshadweep will not only protect commercial shipping but also lead to infrastructure upgrades and tourism in the island territories.

INDIA IS ALREADY DEVELOPING ITS FORCE CAPABILITY IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR WITH NEW FACILITIES AT CAMPBELL BAY IN GREAT NICOBAR

The geographical location of Lakshadweep and the Andamans & Nicobar Islands is such that India can safeguard the maritime trade routes while countering the challenge of a rapidly expanding Chinese Navy and its allies in the Indian Ocean.

The main commercial shipping route from the Suez Canal or Persian Gulf to South East Asia and beyond goes through the nine-degree channel (between Agatti Island and Minicoy) and the 10-degree channel (between the Andaman & Nicobar Islands). India dominates the trade route via Sunda and Lombok Straits of Indonesia.

The carrier task forces of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant while en route to Minicoy will be accompanied by destroyers, frigates and submarines, the people cited above said.

US: Indian-origin family found dead, suspected case of murder-suicide

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NEW YORK: An Indian-origin family of four was found dead during a welfare check by police at their home in the US state of California in a suspected case of murder-suicide, US media reports have said.

The victims, hailing from Kerala, were identified by friends as Anand Sujith Henry, his wife Alice Priyanka, and their 4-year-old twin boys, NBC Bay Area reported.

The police did not release the identities of the victims.

The incident took place on Monday at 4100 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo city, where police were responding to 911 call requesting a welfare check at around 9.13 am.

Police officers entered the home to find two adults — one male and one female — as well as two young male children showing "obvious signs of death", CBS News reported.

"Unfortunately, we located four deceased people inside the home. One adult male. One adult female and two children," said Jerami Surratt, public information officer with the San Mateo police department.

The case is being investigated as a murder-suicide, police said on Tuesday.

The man and the woman were found in a bathroom with gunshot wounds, while the two children were found in a bedroom, police said. The children did not have gunshot wounds, and people with direct knowledge of the investigation said police believe the boys were smothered, strangled, or given a lethal overdose.

"The children did not have any gunshot wounds. Unfortunately, they were found deceased, so that will be part of the autopsy, to figure out the cause of (the children's) death," Surratt said at a press conference on Tuesday.

A 9-millimeter pistol and a loaded magazine were also found in the bathroom, police said. According to court records, the husband filed for divorce in December 2016, but did not seem to have gone through with it.

The deaths appear to be an isolated incident, and there is no danger to the public, police said. "We are confident the person responsible was located within the home," it said in a statement.

Though not linked, Monday's case bears striking resemblance to the deaths of another Indian-origin family in December when Rakesh Kamal, 57, his wife, Teena, 54, and their daughter, Ariana, 18, were found dead in their $5 million mansion, shocking a quiet community in the state of Massachusetts.

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PM likely to open revamped T1 at IGI airport this month

Neha LM Tripathi and Jasjeev Gandhiok
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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate Delhi airport's Terminal 1, likely by February 25, two officials close to the development said, adding that the upgraded facility will bring in a slew of new convenience features for flyers and make departures and arrival quicker.

The terminal, which will be two-and-a-half times larger than the old T1, will initially begin operations with IndiGo and SpiceJet flights, one of these people said.

"The revamped terminal 1 is all set to be made operational and is awaiting to be inaugurated by PM Modi. The terminal will be inaugurated around February 25," an official close to the development said, asking not to be named.

Work at T1 has been underway in segments, with portions shut since 2019, to bring both T1C and T1D – previously separate sections for arrivals and departures --- under one roof.

The expansion plan, officials said, focuses on passenger convenience and will include all aerobridges (referred as smart apron by the airport operator), which will enable flyers to walk to or back from the aircraft, as they do at Terminal 3 at present where planes directly dock with these bridges.

The old T1 did not have aerobridges, requiring passengers to take a bus to reach the plane or arrive at the terminal after landing, which took an additional 15 minutes.

"Passengers will now be able to directly de-board the aircraft and proceed towards his/ her destination if they have no check-in luggage," one of the officials mentioned above said.

In addition to the aerobridges, the terminal will also have self-baggage drop facilities and kiosks for self check-in.

"The self baggage drop service allows passengers to check-in their baggage at the airport themselves. This facility however, will be available for flights of particular airlines. Passengers will need their boarding passes to use this service," an airport official said.

The terminal will have 108 Common Use Self-Service (CUSS) check-in kiosks, which will allow people to access check-in features of several airlines from one device.

A second official said that the focus is also on quicker and safer aircraft movement, with the terminal now adding a Visual Docking Guidance System (VDGS).

A VDGS provide pilots with guidance to safely and correctly position aircraft at a parking stand.

"The existing aircraft parking stands at the Terminal 1 apron are not fitted with VDGS units; marshals manually guide pilots to specified aircraft stop positions," a second official said.

Additionally, a new baggage handling system will also help speed up delivery of people's items. "A new technology for baggage handling system (Individual Carrier System) that is more reliable in the sense that it avoids interfaces or transitions that could compromise 100% bag tracking, has been introduced in T1. This technology is being used by busy airports across the globe especially in Europe," the official said.

This system eliminates bag jams and system stoppages and has the ability to transport all shapes of baggage as well as oversized bags, reducing manual handling of baggage, the official added.

Talking about passenger amenities, the second official said that the terminal will also have charging points at every seat in the boarding area.

"It was observed that the charging stations at terminals are occupied by some passengers while the rest wait to charge their electronic gadgets before departure. Hence, all seats have been given an exclusive plug point," the official said.

Washrooms also have been equipped with smart features, including visual indicators for when stalls are occupied. "Washrooms if not cleaned will also be indicated in order to avoid any rush near the washroom area," the official said.

Other facilities in the terminal include more space for parking, increasing the pick-up arrival lanes, and additional baggage carousels.

Once T1 is inaugurated, Terminal 2 (T2) is likely to be temporarily converted into a concourse for short-haul international flights, and may be closed for three to six months later this year, to prepare for the transition.

The conversion is expected to increase passenger capacity by 8-9 million, taking care of the requirement for the next three to four years.

{ SIXTH SUMMONS BY AGENCY }

ED calls Kejriwal on Feb 19 in excise case

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NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before it on February 19 in connection with its investigation into a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise police 2021-22, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

This is the sixth time that Kejriwal has been issued summons in connection with the case. He has skipped five previous summons — on November 2 and December 22 last year, and on January 3, January 18, and February 2 — calling them "illegal and politically motivated".

The fresh summons come close on the heels of the federal agency moving court over Kejriwal not appearing for questioning.

The Rouse Avenue court subsequently summoned Kejriwal on February 17, calling for his personal appearance, while observing that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener was "legally bound" to join the ED investigation.

The AAP did not immediately comment on whether Kejriwal will appear before ED in connection with the fresh summons. After Kejriwal was summoned by the court, Delhi minister and AAP leader Atishi had said the party will "convey to the court that these summons are being sent just before the Lok Sabha polls to arrest and stop Kejriwal from campaigning".

To be sure, Kejriwal has repeatedly objected to summons by the federal agency by stating that it was not clear whether he was asked to appear before ED as a witness or suspect; as chief minister or as AAP chief; and without any details on the line of questioning.

Arvind Kejriwal

The federal agency, however, has said that it wants to question Kejriwal on the formulation of the excise policy, on the meetings held before it was finalised, and about allegations of bribery.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) urged Kejriwal to appear before ED next week.

"The Rouse Avenue court summoned Kejriwal on February 17. ED has summoned him on February 19. Now we hope that Kejriwal will cooperate with ED, otherwise it will amount to the contempt of court," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

The Delhi government's 2021-22 excise policy aimed to revitalise the city's flagging liquor business.

The plan, however, came to an abrupt end, with lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena recommending a Central Bureau of Investigation probe into alleged irregularities in the regime.

ED has alleged that the AAP received kickbacks to the tune of ₹100 crore to finalise the excise policy, and that some of this money was used by the party in its Goa elections campaign.

The agency has already arrested at least 14 top AAP leaders, in connection with the case, including former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and parliamentarian Sanjay Singh.

The AAP, Kejriwal, Sisodia, and Singh have denied all charges.

DELHI ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION TO BEGIN TODAY

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi assembly budget session is scheduled to begin on Thursday, and lieutenant governor VK Saxena will likely address the House on the opening day, according to a bulletin shared by assembly officials on Wednesday.

During the session, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government will also present the budget for the 2024-25 financial year. However, officials are yet to disclose the date for the budget presentation, which will be delivered by finance minister Atishi.

"Being the first session of the year, the lieutenant governor shall address the assembly on February 15 at 11am. Thirty minutes after the LG's departure, the duly constituted sitting of the House shall take place to transact the listed business," the bulletin said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), meanwhile, said it will raise in the assembly several issues facing Delhi, including the state of hospitals, air pollution, and pollution in the Yamuna.

The dates on which the assembly will meet have been tentatively fixed for February 15, 16, 19, 20, and 21, officials said, adding that the sitting of the House may be extended, subject to exigencies of business.

During the session, the government will also present the annual outcome budget — a document mapping the performance of all key departments against various predefined targets.

It will also table the Economic Survey 2023-24 — a detailed report on the state of Delhi's economy.

LEOPARD STRAYS INTO RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX IN F'BAD, RESCUED

HT Correspondent
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GURUGRAM: The Haryana wildlife department on Wednesday rescued a leopard that wandered into a residential area in Faridabad, hours after it was first spotted in the locality, officials aware of the matter said.

The leopard was first spotted at around 7.30am at Surajkund Road in Sector 42. They said a resident of RPS Omaxe Green Valley spotted the animal near the residential complex's boundary wall, and informed the police. "The authorities began a search for the leopard around noon. Residents were asked to stay indoors," said Manish Kumar, a resident.

Officials said the leopard was subsequently spotted around noon, was tranquilised, and was rescued five hours later.

"The leopard, a 3.5-year-old adult male, has been safely rescued. A detailed medical check of the animal will be conducted and it will be released in its natural habitat," MS Mallik, Haryana additional principal chief conservator of forests and wildlife (south), said. The incident comes a month after a leopard was rescued from the densely populated Narsinghpur village in Gurugram on January 3.

TWO CHARRED TO DEATH IN F'BAD ROAD ACCIDENT

Debashish Karmakar
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GURUGRAM: The driver and passenger of a truck were burned to death when their vehicle burst into flames in a road accident in Faridabad on Tuesday, police officers said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred at 2am on the Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressway near Maujpur toll plaza. The 16-wheel truck veered off course, rammed into the divider, overturned, fell into a five-foot-wide drain between both carriageways, and burst into flames. The fire spread so fast that the driver, Mohammad Sohrab, and his passenger, Manish Kumar, did not get a chance to escape.

Investigators said the accident likely occurred because the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

Roads dug up, supplies hit: How life at Delhi's borders is hit by fortification over farm protest

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Wednesday dug up dirt tracks at three villages along Singhu border to stop protesting farmers from entering the Capital by bypassing barricades set up at NH-44.

The development came a day after the police sealed the border at NH-44 for vehicular traffic, and set up multiple layers of blockades with concrete and iron barricades, barbed wires, and heavy vehicles.

The pits at the three villages — Narela and Bawana in Delhi, and Kundli in Haryana — are around six feet deep, officers aware of the matter said. The protesting farmers are still around 200km away at Shambhu — the border between Punjab and Haryana — but the Delhi Police are not taking any chances, not wanting a repeat of the farmers' agitation at the Capital's borders from November 2020 to December 2021, they said.

"The pits are about six feet deep and enough for a tractor to get stuck. The primary motive is to ensure that tractors cannot enter Delhi if they try to enter Delhi through the villages," a senior officer said, on condition of anonymity, adding that they got in touch with their Haryana counterparts to dig up the dirt tracks in Kundli.

The move, however, has left residents of the three villages worried — the blockades have already hit the supply of essential commodities to the area.

Bharti Singh, 28, a resident of Narela, said vegetables are running out in the village, and whatever supplies still exist are being sold at a much higher rate. "How will we afford meals?" she said.

Residents also complained that their water supply has been hit — these villages depend on government-supplied water tankers every day. "The water container didn't come today, and we didn't have a drop at home," said Anjita Devi, a resident of Kundli.

The residents also noted that the surrounding area has several factories, and fire is a very real risk that they face. "How will fire tenders reach if the road is completely dug up?" said Deepak Kumar, a resident of Kundli.

Security forces at the Singhu border in the city on Wednesday. SANJEEV VERMA/HT PHOTO

Police drills at Tikri border lead to snarls

The Delhi Police on Wednesday conducted intensive drills at Tikri — the other border with Haryana that has been sealed — leading to massive traffic snarls in surrounding areas. As part of the drills, police also shut access to roads around the border, leading to confusion among local residents.

Special commissioners of police (law and order) Ravindra Yadav and Madhup Tiwari also visited the border to check the arrangements.

Suraj Kumar, a Class 12 student who has a board exam on Thursday, said he is worried about reaching his exam centre in Mehrauli on time. "I will have to take the Metro, but I also have to reach the exam centre by 8am. We don't know what to do," he said.

A senior officer, on condition of anonymity, said, "We are merely following orders to secure the border and safeguard the city... A few issues will be there but no area is inaccessible except the border."

Pradeep Kaul, who operates a factory in nearby Nangloi, said, "My workers are complaining that they have to walk 5-6 km to reach the factory. They are stopped and questioned. My supplier has refused to send me material. How will I work? How will I pay my workers?"

Traffic jams mostly on city periphery, barricades stay

Karn Pratap Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Vehicular movement in the Capital, especially in central and south Delhi, was significantly better on Wednesday compared to the serpentine traffic throughout Tuesday, despite no changes in the deployment of security personnel and barricading.

However, while there were fewer snarls within the city, some key stretches near the Singhu and Tikri borders reported snarls during the morning and evening rush hours. Delhi's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh remained clogged for a second straight day as well.

"The farmers were scheduled to reach Delhi on Tuesday. Although the protesting farmers were contained at the Punjab-Haryana borders, we received inputs that some political and non-political groups in small numbers may march to central Delhi. Accordingly, instructions were issued to put barricades at strategic locations in the city and intensify the checking of vehicles. The arrangements disrupted vehicular movement and caused bottleneck congestion on roads leading to the police pickets. As commuters used alternate routes to avoid traffic snarls, the volume of traffic increased on those roads as well," said a senior traffic police officer.

On Wednesday, security arrangements remained in place at key borders like Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur, as well as within the city.

However, police shifted some of the barricading to the edge of the roads, leaving vehicles with enough space, while also checking fewer vehicles.

"Barricades and blockages are still on roads but they are placed in a way that they are not disrupting the flow of vehicles. I hope the situation remains the same in the coming days," said Anurag Sinha, who was driving towards Connaught Place via ITO.

Outer Delhi was severely congested on Wednesday in areas touching Grand Trunk Road as the Delhi Police diverted traffic going towards Mukarba Chowk to arterial roads crossing Bakhtawarpur in the afternoon.

Kripa Sahni, 35, who was going to Burari from Narela, said: "I have been stuck for over an hour and the GPS is still showing an hour from here. If they had to divert traffic, they should also have deployed to manage it," she said.

In Gurugram too, vehicles moved more easily on Wednesday compared to Tuesday.

"We are in continuous touch with Delhi Police officials, our headquarters and neighboring districts for situational awareness," said assistant commissioner of police (crime), Varun Dahiya.

Meanwhile, the Faridabad Traffic Police issued a traffic advisory on Wednesday urging commuters travelling to Palwal and Mathura to use alternative routes by taking NH 19 to reach Kailey Bypass, Chhainsa Road and hop on to KGP expressway or take Mohna and Alawalpur village roads.

(With inputs from Hemani Bhandari and Jignasa Sinha)

CBSE ASKS BOARD STUDENTS TO USE METRO ON WAY TO EXAM CENTRES

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday advised students to use Delhi Metro services to reach the centres for the Class 10 and 12 board examinations, which will be conducted from February 15 (Thursday) to March 13. The board also urged students to leave early for their centres to avoid any unwarranted delay.

The advisory has come amid an array of traffic restrictions in the national capital in the wake of the farmers' march towards the city. CBSE said in the advisory: "Due to the prevailing situation in Delhi, it is expected that there will be traffic-related issues which may cause delay in reaching the examination center... Therefore, all students are advised to leave their homes early so that they can arrive on time as per the instructions issued by CBSE. It is advisable to use metro services to reach the examination centers, which are running smoothly".

This year, more than 3.9 million students from 26 countries will appear for the CBSE examinations. As many as 5,80,192 students will appear for the exams at the 877 centres in Delhi.

The exam will start at 10.30am and students are expected to reach their centers at or before 10am.

"All CBSE students all over India and other countries are also requested to reach the examination centre on or before 10.00 am (IST) keeping in mind the local conditions, traffic, weather conditions, distance, etc... Only those students will be allowed entry who arrive at 10.00am," CBSE said.

THE ADVISORY HAS COME AMID AN ARRAY OF TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE FARMERS' PROTEST

Sanjay Singh

SANJAY SINGH FILES BAIL PLEA IN SUPREME COURT IN ED CASE

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh has approached the Supreme Court, seeking bail in the money laundering case filed against him by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise police 2021-22.

Singh, in his appeal filed on Tuesday, challenged the February 7 order of the Delhi high court, which rejected his bail plea by relying on the statement of accused-turned-approver Dinesh Arora, who claimed to have delivered ₹2 crore to the AAP leader's associate Sarvesh Mishra.

In his petition filed through advocate Vivek Jain, Singh questioned the veracity of Arora's claim, suggesting that he had given six different statements during the investigation and was thus unreliable.

ED arrested Singh on October 4, 2023, based on a statement made by Arora, who claimed to have delivered ₹2 crore to Mishra at the AAP leader's official residence. Arora also claimed that Singh confirmed the receipt of the money when the two next met.

The federal agency had filed supplementary complaints against Singh and other co-accused on December 2 and December 19, following which a trial court on December 22 rejected Singh grant of regular bail.

The AAP leader subsequently moved the high court, but justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, in her February 7 order, held, "The law regarding statement of the approver, its evidentiary value and the appropriate stage at which it can be admitted or disregarded is not the stage of bail as per judicial precedents. In view of the aforesaid discussion, no ground for grant of bail is made out, at this stage."

LG, Kejriwal launch 350 e-buses, fleet now 1,650

Alok KN Mishra
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NEW DELHI: Delhi lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday inducted 350 new air-conditioned low-floor electric buses into the public bus fleet of Delhi, increasing the number of such buses to 1,650.

The buses were flagged off by Saxena and Kejriwal at Baansera, a bamboo-themed park at Sarai Kale Khan. Kejriwal said that now, Delhi has the largest number of e-buses among all cities and the third-largest such fleet globally. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said that the country with the most number of e-buses in the world was China, followed by Chile.

"Delhi has become the first city in the country with the most e-buses and the third such city globally. These buses will help control pollution. Previously, Delhi's roads had blue line buses running on diesel/petrol. Then CNG buses were introduced in Delhi, and now electric buses are being introduced. Our effort is to replace CNG buses with electric buses," Kejriwal said.

The LG and the CM flag off the buses on Wednesday. RAJ K RAJ/HT

LG Saxena in a post on X said: "900 e-buses of the total 1,650 have been provided by the Govt of India under FAME-II Scheme, for mitigating vehicular pollution in Delhi & creating a robust green public transport infrastructure in the city."

The newly inducted e-buses are differently-abled-friendly, noise-free and equipped with GPS, CCTV, and panic buttons connected to a two-way centralised command and control centre. The buses can operate for 225km on full charge. They will operate on different routes from Sukhdev Vihar, Rohini Sector 37 depot II, and Burari bus depot I, officials said.

Gahlot said that among the 350 buses, 50 have been deployed with the Delhi Transport Corporation and 300 are deployed under the Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Limited (cluster scheme).

"For the first time, 300 e-buses have been included in the cluster scheme, while 50 buses are included in DTC. Earlier, all e-buses were included in the controlled depots of DTC. Depots have been built in Rohini Sector 37 and Burari to operate DIMTS buses, while DTC buses will be operated from Sukhdev Vihar," Gahlot said.

With the induction of the e-buses, the city's public fleet has a total of 7,582 buses. According to the Statistical Handbook 2023, an average of 4.1 million passengers commuted daily on public buses in the Capital in the year.

The induction of e-buses began in the city on January 17, 2022, with the deployment of a prototype bus. The first batch of 150 e-buses was deployed on May 24, 2022, while the last one before Wednesday was on December 14, when 500 e-buses were inducted.

"From 2022 until now, 1,300 electric buses have been running on Delhi's roads," Gahlot added.

A strict vigil on New Delhi's tulips

Tulip bulbs that NDMC has planted in Lutyens Delhi have begun to bloom, but the civic body now has a new challenge on its hands — protecting these flowers from being plucked. Officials said a number of incidents of "thefts" have been reported in the week leading up to Valentine's Day, forcing the council to deploy guards and patrolling teams around tulip flower beds. VIPIN KUMAR/HT

On day of jams, Metro's passenger journeys hit new peak of 7.109 mn

Jasjeev Gandhiok
jasjeev.gandhiok@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Metro recorded its highest single-day ridership on Tuesday, with the passenger journey count for the day crossing 7.109 million, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) officials said on Wednesday. Tuesday's passenger journey count was slightly more than Monday's count of 7.087 million, and eclipsed the previous high of 7.104 million passenger journeys on September 4, 2023, officials said.

"DMRC registered its highest passenger journeys on Tuesday, February 13, with 7.1.09 million journeys across the network. This faith shown by the passengers makes DMRC a major mass transit backbone of the National Capital Region. The Delhi Metro is continuously working to improve commuting experience," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC.

The peak in passenger journeys on Tuesday is likely to be down to more people choosing to commute by Metro in wake of restrictions at Delhi's borders and within city limits in wake of the farmers' protest. Visuals of slow-moving traffic near Ghazipur and Sirhaul borders, as well as in Delhi at areas such as ITO, Barakhamba Road, and Africa Avenue were widely shared on social media, which may have prompted more people to ditch plans of travelling by road.

DMRC data showed that the Yellow Line (Samaypur Badli to Millennium City Centre) was the busiest line on Tuesday, with 1.934 million passengers using it, followed by Blue Line (Dwarka Sector 21 to Noida Electronic City/ Vaishali) with 1.914 million passenger journeys and Red Line (Rithala to Shaheed Sthal) with 757,000 passenger journeys.

DMRC defines passenger journeys as the number of Metro lines used by a single passenger to complete a journey. So, if a passenger uses three Metro lines before exiting the network, this counts as three journeys.

CM gives 5 months' salary to Hardayal library staff

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NEW DELHI: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday met employees of Hardayal Municipal Heritage Library at his camp office and handed over pending salary checks for five months, even as he slammed the 15-year rule of the Delhi civic body by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the crisis. The chief minister assured the staff of a long-term solution to the salary crisis in the heritage library.

Addressing the library workers, Kejriwal attacked the BJP and alleged that the party has tried "to snatch power from the new Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) administration by not allowing the formation of a standing committee". "A provision has been made for your salaries for the remaining period and it will be released soon. Ours is a government of common people and we understand their pain and suffering... Earlier there was a dishonest government that ruined the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the last 15 years. You must have noticed the difference in MCD's functioning in the last year even though they have snatched our various powers...They are not allowing a standing committee in MCD. They are posing problems in running MCD and the government," he said.

Heritage library goes dark over political tussle
NOVEMBER 15, 2023: HT reported that the 161-yr-old landmark has had no electricity due to non-payment of bills.

However, the Delhi BJP said the AAP government should focus on providing a one-time grant to the library rather than looking for piecemeal solutions.

HT reported on November 15, 2023, how the 161-year-old heritage structure was caught in a political slugfest and had run into a state of complete disarray.

The Hardayal Municipal Heritage Library is an autonomous body that operates with an MCD grant. It has 96 employees with a salary pendency of 35 months, since 2021.

Kejriwal added, "We are not politicians. We also come from the middle class and understand how difficult it is to survive without a salary. Expenses are to be incurred on paying electricity bills, water bills, children's school fees, and medical treatment," he said. AAP MLA and MCD in charge Durgesh Pathak said the employees of the library had suffered a lot. "Not only were they denied salary for over 30 months, but the staff was also humiliated," he said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the party has always said that the library was in a financial crisis which can only be solved with government-level grants. "We welcome the release of five months' salary for Hardayal Library employees. We urge that instead of piecemeal efforts, the Delhi government should give a one-time grant to the library to totally pay its debts. They should also ensure the proper upkeep of this heritage building and further expand it, said Kapoor.

MAINTAIN AT LEAST 500 DEER AT DEER PARK, HC TELLS DDA

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to maintain at least 50 deer at Deer Park in Hauz Khas, adding that the civic authority should not deprive Delhi residents of the animals. The remaining deer, the court said, can be translocated to green areas in the national capital.

The court was considering a plea filed by the New Delhi Nature Society, seeking directions for DDA to ensure strict compliance to guidelines laid down by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) while translocating deer from Deer Park.

"There are so many city forests, they are supposed to be having many green activities. You can infuse them there. Where do children residing in the city get to see deer? ...You reduce the number (in the deer park) but don't deprive the Delhites of the deer. Have at least 50 or so. There are so many city forests. You have the ridge here. DDA has maintained so much of green cover. You check up," a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan said to the DDAs lawyer. The bench, also comprising justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora, also directed the civic authority to present a category wise chart depicting the total deer currently present in the park.

On June 8, 2023, the CZA technical committee approved the translocation of the approximately 600 deer from Deer Park to its natural habitat in Rajasthan and Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in the ratio of 70:30, subject to the authorities complying with statutory provisions and IUCN guidelines.

THE BENCH ALSO DIRECTED DDA TO PRESENT A CATEGORY WISE CHART DEPICTING TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER PRESENT IN THE PARK

Project Management Unit
Jal Marg Vikas Project-II (Arth Ganga)
INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector – 1, Noida - 201 301;
Phone: 0120-2544004, **Fax:** 0120-2543976 **vc.iwai@nic.in**

National Competitive Bidding

e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for **"Construction of Onshore Facilities at 8 Locations in Bihar under JMVP-II".**

The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at IWAI website **www.iwai.nic.in** and e-procurement site **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Date: 15.02.2024 **Vice Chairman & Project Director (JMVP)**

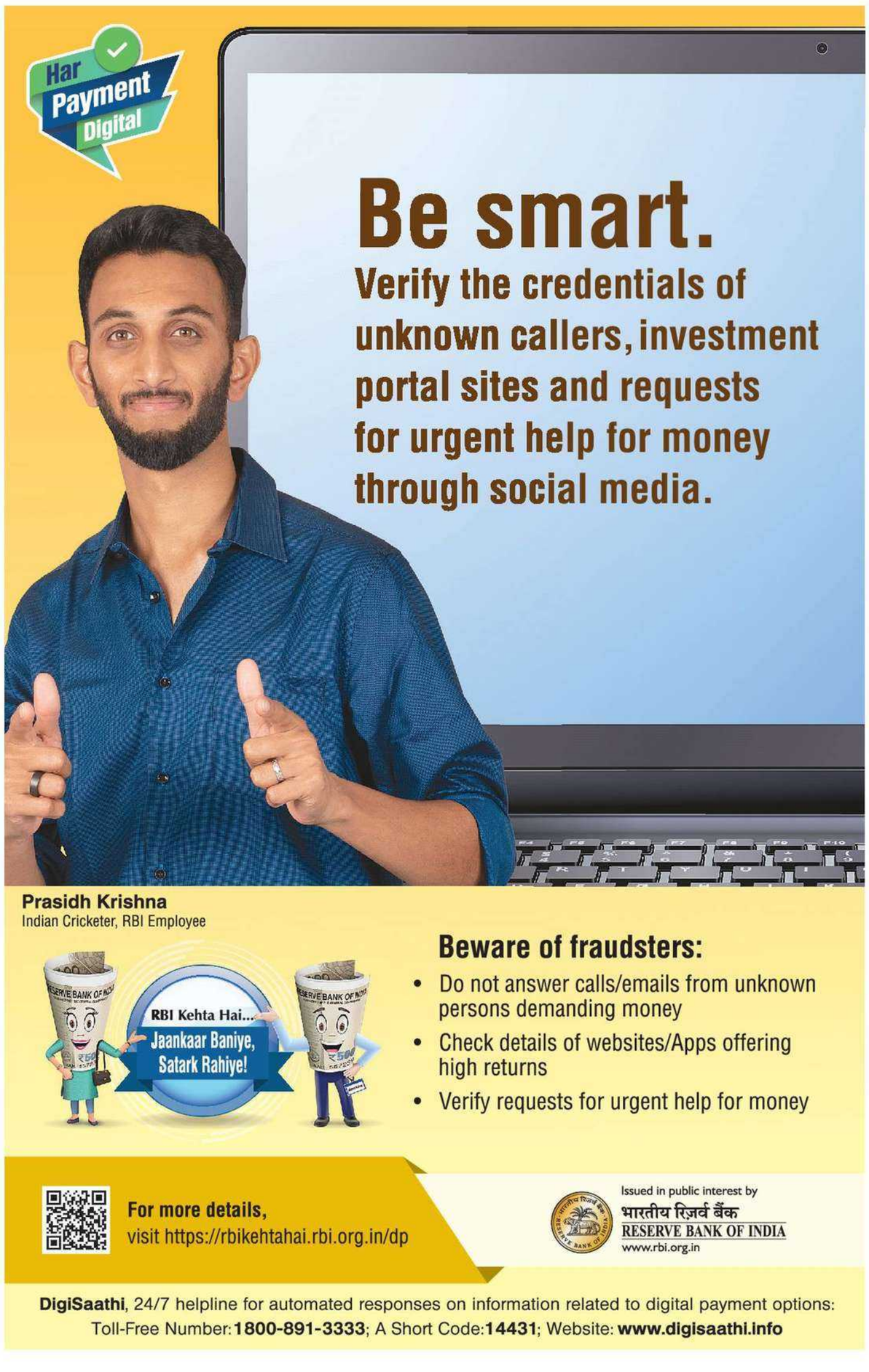
UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763380 8, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 239 **Scrap Notice** Date: 14/02/2024

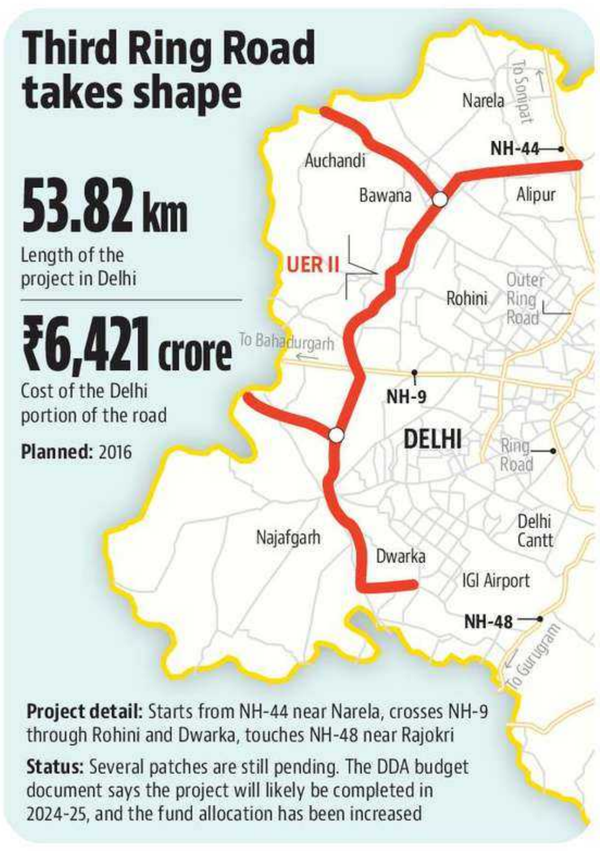
Due to unavoidable reasons, NIT No. T 20 & 23/UJVNL/ EE(M&G)/ KPS /2023-24 for "Protective coating on stay vanes and stay ring area of Unit A at Kulhal Power Station." is scrapped.

Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulhal

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



LG gives nod to acquire land to complete UER-II project



HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has approved the pending land acquisition for the Urban Extension Road II in Barthal village in southwest Delhi, clearing the last hurdle for what is being developed as the third Ring Road, the LG secretariat said on Wednesday.

The LG secretariat said that the acquisition of this land was pending since 2016. UER II is being planned to decongest Delhi by creating a bypass between north and southwest Delhi to ensure seamless connectivity from areas like Narela, Bawana and Rohini to Dwarka, IGI Airport, and Gurugram.

An official from the LG secretariat said that Saxena has approved the acquisition of over 1.2 acres of land at Bharthal which was critical for the completion of the project. "The Delhi Development Authority in April 2016 requested for acquisition of 2 bighas 4.5 biswas of land in this village but several litigations were pending," an official said.

UER II begins in the north from NH44 between Bankoli and Alipur, and then via Bawana Industrial Area, Rohini, Mundka, Bakkarwala, Najafgarh, meets the Dwarka Expressway near IICC and IGI airport tunnel end and NH48 Shiv Murti on the eastern end of the IGI.

The Delhi portion is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹6,421 crore. On February 7, DDA in its budget said that the authority plans to complete the construction of UER II in the next financial year and the allocation has increased from ₹920 crore to ₹1,590 crore. The project, which is a part of three UERs proposed in the Master Plan of Delhi 2021, was to be completed in 2020 but has faced multiple delays.

The official from the LG secretariat said the UER II was proposed by DDA from NH1 to NH 2 connecting areas like Narela, Bawana and Rohini in North Delhi to the Dwarka sub-city. "It will also connect all major National Highways in the western side of Delhi including NH 1, NH 10, NH 8 and NH 2. Once operational, UER II will also provide an alternate route to the commuters and freight traffic between southern and eastern parts of Haryana, to Delhi, Gurgaon and Rajasthan," he added.

Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Mayank Austen Soofi

Here, MF lives with Ghalib

A secret from the world of poetry and painting

PUBLIC INTEREST

He seems so far from the world of today, but Mirza Asadullah Beg Khan Ghalib died only 155 years ago, aged 72. This being the great poet's death anniversary, it is sweet and proper to perform a haziri (pilgrimage) to his marble mazar (tomb) in central Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti.

A panoramic view of the dainty monument can be glimpsed from an adjacent building. That multi-storey came into existence on Ghalib's 100th death anniversary, and is devoted to his life and work. But the singular thing that makes Ghalib Academy one of Delhi's most exclusive destinations is its rarely visited top-floor corridor, crammed with original Ghalib-inspired artworks painted by eminent artists such as Reddappa Naidu, GR Santosh, Jagdish Swaminathan, Laxman Pai, Jayant Parikh, Nirode Mazumdar, Sadequain, and Ameena Ahuja.

The highlight is a super-precious 1969 MF Husain, depicting the Ghalib couplet *Lutfe kharam-e saqi* (see photo—Academy's secretary Aqil Ahmad is pointing towards the Husain!). There is also an original film poster of the 1954 classic *Mirza Ghalib*.

The remarkable gallery is accessed through an equally enchanting museum. Most days, there's hardly a soul. The door remains locked. The staffers open it on request. A homage to lost time, the walls of the museum are decked with rare portraits of Ghalib's contemporaries, such as critic Qazi Abdul Wadood, scholar Maulana Ghulam Rasool Mehr, Ghalib biographer Malik Ram, and Master Ramchandra Dehlvi of the historic Delhi College.

The glass cabinets bring alive the world of Ghalib in all its material wealth — coins, letters, books, along with plastic replicas of Ghalib's beloved dishes. The most evocative of these is a set of old dresses. Just reading aloud the names of these bhoole-bhisre costumes transport the visitor to a long-ago world of Ghalibian elegance—bar ka pajama, malmal ki gole halki topi, ooni kalidar pajama, mirzai, ghetli jooti, shaali roomal, angrakha, malmal ki topi, kulah papakh, qaba-choga, and reshmi lungi. A dress called "Khule aasteen ka alfigereban ka kurta" looks excessively fragile, as if made of air.

The library downstairs, on the second floor, is itself like a museum to the library of yesteryears—it still maintains the pre-computer style of card-cataloguing books in Urdu and Persian. A row of reading cubicles overlook Ghalib's tomb. From here, you may easily spot a grave lying behind the tomb of Umrao Begum, the poet's wife. Since this being Ghalib's death anniversary, it is sweet and proper to conclude this dispatch with a sher he wrote on death:

maut kā ek din muayyan hai
niind kyuuñ raat bhar nahīñ aatī
(Death will come one day,
Why doesn't sleep come at night).

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

Khalid withdraws bail plea from SC

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed student activist Umar Khalid to withdraw his bail plea after the former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) scholar, accused under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for his alleged role in the 2020 Delhi riots, informed the court that he will be approaching the trial court again for bail.

A bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal passed the order allowing Khalid to withdraw his plea for bail after a request in this regard was made by senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for him.

Sibal said, "There has been a change in circumstances. We will try our luck again before the trial court. We wish to withdraw the bail matter."

Khalid has also filed a writ petition challenging constitutional validity of the provisions of UAPA, including Section 43D placing stringent conditions for bail, which was also listed on Wednesday before the same bench.

"We will argue the legal question that we have raised in the writ petition," Sibal added.

Khalid moved the Supreme Court in April against the Delhi high court's order denying him bail.

DDA gets notice on plea over action at mosque

Shruti Kakkar
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NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday issued notice to the managing committee of Shahi Masjid and Qabristan Kangal Shah on a plea moved by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) seeking vacation of the order restraining the civic authority from taking any coercive action against the 100-year-old masjid, the graveyard and a madrasa located in Dhaula Kuan.

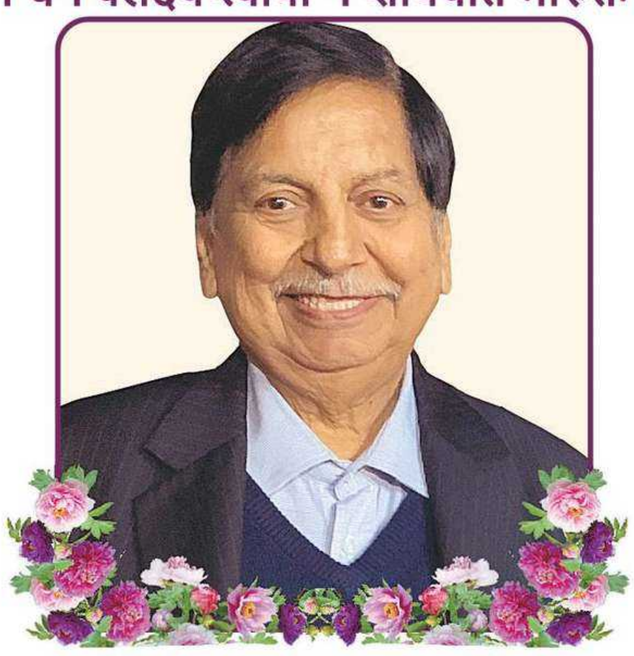
A bench of justice Sachin Datta sought posted the matter for February 29.

The civic authority has sought vacation of the high court's November 2, 2023, stay on the grounds that the land vests with it. The high court's November order was passed after a petition by the managing committee of the masjid and graveyard seeking to quash an order by the Delhi government's religious committee approving the removal of the encroachments. The plea also sought to restrain DDA from interfering with the management and possession of the structures.

During the hearing on Wednesday, the DDA lawyer submitted that the religious committee in October had urged the court to permit the civic authority to remove the graveyard and the madrasa claiming that they were encroaching upon the Central Ridge.

HT Homage

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः।
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः।।



Mahesh Kumar Tuli
(30.01.1944 - 13.02.2024)

A loving husband, a doting father, a true friend
Forever in our Hearts

Prayer Meeting

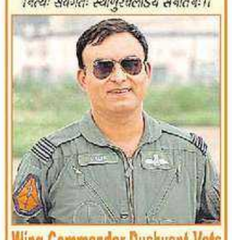
Friday, 16th Feb 2024
At Shri Sathya Sai Auditorium, Lodhi Road
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Shobha Tuli

Manoj & Deepika Tuli — **Sukanya & Nakul**
Gauri & Sumit Sarin — **Sumona & Sahira**

Joginder & Shyama Tuli, Neelam Kundra, Ravi & Sarita Tuli

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः।
अच्छेद्योऽयमदाह्योऽयमक्लेद्योऽशोष्य एव च।
नित्यः सर्वगतः स्थाणुरचलोऽयं सनातनः।।



Wing Commander Dushyant Vats
26.10.1980 - 15.02.2018

Till memory fades and life departs
You live forever in our hearts

K.L. Sharma, Pushpa Sharma,
Hemant, Vats Family,
Relatives and friends

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR EXECUTION OF LEFT-OVER S&T WORKS

The Senior Divisional S & T Engineer, S.E.C. Railway, Nagpur acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the execution of below mentioned work:

Tender Notice No.: ST-NGP-DUG-3rd-Line-24 Dated: 09.02.2024

Name of the Work: Execution of left-over S&T works in NGP-DUG section in connection with the commissioning of the third line work at Nagpur Division.

Tender Value: ₹ 3,01,93,582/-, **Bid Security:** ₹ 3,01,000/-, **Completion Period:** 18 (Eighteen) Months,

Submission of Tender: Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to **15:00** Hrs. on **04.03.2024** only.

Details are available on our website : **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional S&T Engineer-I,
South East Central Railway, Nagpur

FL/36-238

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Lalit @ Lalli, S/o Sh. Ajay R/o F-741, Mangol Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No.1116/2018 U/s 307/34 IPC, P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Lalit @ Lalli** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Lalit @ Lalli** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Lalit @ Lalli of FIR No.1116/2018 U/s 307/34 IPC, P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.03.2024.**

By Order
Sh. Babru Bhan
Additional Sessions Judge-03
Room No.304, Rohini Courts, New Delhi

DP/1686/OD/2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

No. S/Sale/611/E-AP/5270/23-24 Date : 14.02.2024

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME, NOTICE NO. 12 MONTH March-2024

It is intimated that scrap materials available in all Divisions and Depots of North Central Railway will be sold through e-auction and all organizers will conduct the auction of their area.

Scrap Items : P. Way Scrap, Scarp Rail, Cast Iron Scrap, Condemned rolling Stock, Non ferrous and Non metallic Scrap, Turning & Boring, Condemned Oil/Paints Drums, Condemned Machinery & plants, Condemned Vehicles, Condemned office equipments, Foundry Slag, Released overhead MS/GI tanks, Released Ferrous scrap of train lighting fans, Released MS/GI pipe line, foundry skull, Workshop MS scrap and other MS scarp.

SN	e-auction Date & Day		Depot/ Division	Organizer of Auction	Through Website
1.	07.03.2024	Thursday	GSD/JHS	Dy.CMM/SYS/JHS.	www.ireps.gov.in
2.	14.03.2024	Thursday			
3.	19.03.2024	Tuesday			
4.	22.03.2024	Friday			
5.	30.03.2024	Saturday			
6.	05.03.2024	Tuesday	GSD/CNB	Dy.CMM/GSD/CNB	
7.	12.03.2024	Tuesday			
8.	19.03.2024	Tuesday			
9.	30.03.2024	Saturday			
10.	07.03.2024	Thursday	PRYJ DIV	Sr. DMM/NCR/PRYJ	
11.	13.03.2024	Wednesday			
12.	19.03.2024	Tuesday			
13.	28.03.2024	Thursday			
14.	05.03.2024	Tuesday	JHS DIV	Sr. DMM/NCR/JHS	
15.	13.03.2024	Wednesday			
16.	20.03.2024	Wednesday			
17.	27.03.2024	Wednesday			
18.	01.03.2024	Friday	AGC DIV	Sr. DMM/NCR/AGC	
19.	07.03.2024	Thursday			
20.	14.03.2024	Thursday			
21.	21.03.2024	Thursday			
22.	27.03.2024	Wednesday			

Special Conditions : 1. All type of scraps will be through e-auction mode **www.ireps.gov.in** website. In the event of auction not being completed on the same calendar day, auction may be continued on the next calendar days also. **2.** The unsold lots of e-auction will also be included in next e-auction of respective depot. **3.** The Intending purchaser may inspect the lot of scrap material before the auctions during working hours. **4.** To purchase material above Rs. 5 Lacs, the purchaser must be registered with GST. **5.** For further details on auctions (like catalogues, last sold rates in auctions & other details), Please visit North Central Railway's website **"www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in" 6.** For further detail regarding e-auction Please visit **"www.ireps.gov.in** website. **278/24 (D)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
NARMADA WATER RESOURCES WATER SUPPLY & KALPSAR DEPARTMENT

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.29 OF 2023-24 (Amendment-1)

In the name and on behalf of Governor of Gujarat State. The Executive Engineer, Ver-II Project Division Vyara Dist: Tapi Pin code No.394650 (Phone No.02626-222090) Invites online tender from registered Contractors in the class show below for the work as under:

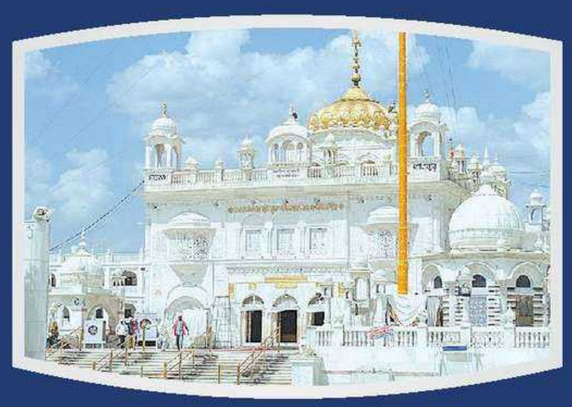
Sr. No.	Name of Work	(1) Estimate Cost (2) Class of Registration (3) Bid security (4) Tender Fee D.D. (5) Solvency (6) Time Limit
1	Extentions of Under Ground Distribution Pipeline Network for Local Kotars and Chak at Various Villages of Mandvi and Mangrol Taluka in Command Area of Kakrapar-Gordha-Vad Lift Irrigation Scheme.	(1) Rs.20,51,05,865.40/- (2) "AA" Class (3) Rs.20,52,000.00/- (4) Rs.18,000/- (5) Rs.4,10,21,174/- (6) 15 (Fifteen)Months.
2.	Downloading of tender Document	Dt.12/02/2024 to Dt.26/02/2024 up to 18.00 Hrs.
3.	Tender Uploading Date	Dt.12/02/2024 to Dt.26/02/2024 up to 18.00 Hrs.
4.	Pre-bid Conference Date & Address	Dt.19/02/2024 at 12.00 Hrs. Office of Superintending Engineer Ukai Circle (Civil), Ukai Dist:Tapi
5.	Last date & Physical Submission of document Tender fee, EMD & Other Documents in Division office during office hours by RPAD/Speed Post Only.	Up to dt.05/03/2024 up to 18.00 Hrs.
6.	PQ Bid Opening Date & Time	On Dt.27/02/2024, 12.00 Hrs. & onwards. (if possible)
7.	Date of Opening of Price bid.	Office of Superintending Engineer, Ukai (Civil) Circle, Ukai on Dt.02/03/2024 12.00 hrs.
8.	Inquiry / Contact office Address	Executive Engineer Ver-II Project Division, Vyara Ph.No.02626-222090 Superintending Engineer, Ukai Division (Civil)Ukai. Dist.Tapi Ph.No.02624-233270, 233269

No.:Mahiti-Surat/1570/2024

Punjab Land of Unlimited Opportunities

MUKH MANTRI TEERTH YATRA

Sri Amritsar Sahib

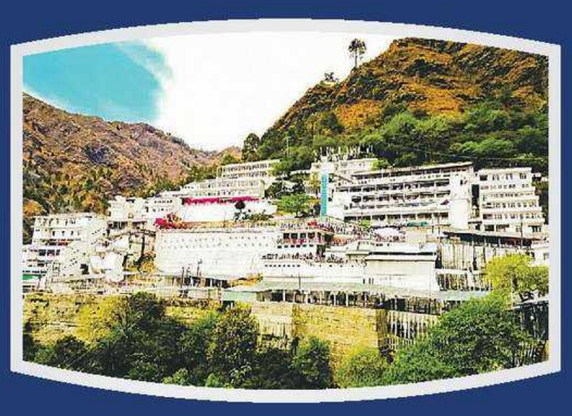

Sri Hazur Sahib

Sri Patna Sahib

Sri Anandpur Sahib

Mata Naina Devi Ji

Sri Vrindavan Dham


Mata Vaishno Devi Ji

Mata Jwala Ji

Varanasi

Mata Chintpurni Ji

Sri Khatu Shyam Ji, Sri Salasar Dham

Khwaja Ajmer Sharif Dargah

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Son of Punjab

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Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Transport, Punjab

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PROPERTY/DLF - SUSHANT LOK

PRIME SHOPS FOR SALE
IREO CITY CENTER
SMARTWORLD ORCHARD STREET
FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT: AJAY DHALL 9810247999

PLOTS FOR SALE
DLF ALAMEDA SEC-73
Size 538 SQ.YDS.
EMAAR EMERALD HILLS
Size 180 to 500 SQ.YDS.
DLF GARDEN CITY
Size 180 to 500 SQ.YDS.
KHUSHI HOUSING SOLUTIONS 9810886069

RENTED
BROKERS WELCOME

TENANT	RENT/M	TENANT	RENT/M
US Pharma	56,000/-	Archer UAE	3.47 Lacs
Fleet X	77,000/-	US Pharma	4.35 Lacs
Bauer	1.00 Lacs	Kotak Bank	4.50 Lacs
MCCANN	1.75 Lacs	Jubliant food Retail	6.50 Lacs
HDFC Bank	1.89 Lacs	Ind. Bldg.(Retail)	11.00 Lacs
Renewable Energy	2.79 Lacs	Ind. Bldg.(Retail)	15.00 Lacs

Rajeev Saluja | 99100-72803 98104-92803

AMBIENCE LAGOON /Confirm Sale 6BHK/6800sqft Aprx Rajokri Green N/E Facing 3Bhk/3200sft/Lower Flr, 3Bhk/2200sft/Lower Flr Reasonable Price. call 9899335988, 9899446667

NARAYAN ARYA GLOBE ESTATE 9810787781

FOR SALE Sushant Lok -1, 215 yds, 6BR (Livable House, East facing) DLF-2 , Old Builder floor 300yds, FF, East Facing 12Mtr Road @2.35cr. Cont: 9810787781 / 9811636767

SURENDRA (Mech. Engr.) 98109-80000

DLF CONFIRM Plots: 500, 1000 yd Sukhchain,Paschim, Poorvi, Kachnar, Shahtoot,Arjun, Ashoka Cres,Golf Crs Rd. Shops M3M Urbana,65th Avenue. Engineer Surendra 9810980000.

(Since 1992) GANGA PROPERTIES 9999970994

DLF PHASE-3, Plots & Builder Floors 215 Yds, 316 Yds, 402 Yds, 502 Yds & 1022 Yds North- East Facing / Park Facing. Corner options also available Ganga Properties. 99999-70994

DLF CITY-I - 500 Sq. Yards, Tastefully Built, Duplex Bungalow, Park Facing / Corner / Wide Road. PLF - 9811078877

B-538 SUSHANT Lok-1, 502 sqyd Newly built, SF, TF with terr. Garden East facing peaceful Loc. Vastu friendly 4 Bed D/D, 5 star interior 3 Car park. Ankit Jain 9871345678, 9811173232.

930+930 SQ.YD. Plots in Sushant Lok-2. Both Corner, East & 2-3 side open, Direct Entry from Golf Course Extn. Road. Single/ Pair. NSS Realtor 9810047003

MAIN SECTOR Road 500 Yards. Plot For Sale Near. Medanta East Facing Direct Party Deal : 9810980800

SOUTHCITY-1 500YD Plots for sale in blocks- J & H, Both East facing & Top Locations in Gated pockets. NSS Realtor 9810047003

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES 9811196843

PLOTS DLF-IV 270/316/360/500yd fully gated, Park facing, 12mtr Road, DLF Phase -III 316/400/500/1000yd 18mtr /24mtr road/Park facing/ Corner, Sabharwal 9811196843

SUSHANT LOK-3 House 300 yd, adjoining 4 acres of Lush Green Park, East facing, 12 Mtr. Road, Gated Lane, for sale @ Plot Rate. NSS Realtors 98100-47003

RENTED

Snapdeal	29,000	7.5%
Care Health	94,000	6%
Mckinsey	1,11,000	9%
Tata Zudio	1,30,000	6%
Domino's	1,60,000	7%
One Dose Pharmacy	1,80,000	5.25%
State Bank of India	2,08,000	4.75%
Mokobara	3,53,000	5.25%

STAR SHINE REALTORZ 9958681717

DLF WANTED/SALE
ARBOUR (3940 Sq.Ft.)
GROVE ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
9810199927

WANTED/SALE
EMAAR URBAN OASIS Sector-63
PURI THE ARAVALLIS Sector-61
ALL SIZES ARE AVAILABLE 9650060248

PRE RENTED MULTIPLEX 9971155712

PRE RENTED Multiplex with 18 Years Fresh Lease, 6 Years Lock In Period & 111 Seater Audi in Mall Full Of Brands. 9971155712

Millennium Real Estate 9810112870

DLF-IV GARDEN Villa 9000-Series Gated Colony 316yd Kothi B+2 Floors Duplex 5bhk near Park & 316yd Plot facing Park/North And 4900 Series 360yd House for Sale. 9810112870

Millennium Real Estate 9810112870

DLF-II KOTHI 215yd 6bhk Park @7.25, Q-200 4bhk @6.75, J-215 9bhk @7.15, M-250 9bhk @7.75, M-300 5bhk @9.90. Plot Blk-J 350yd Corner @2.75 & L-500 @2.90. 9810112870

RENTED

Argen Bright	-27,500/-
Air India	-51,000/-
Indusland Bank	-95,000/-
Targray	-1,00,000/-
Honeywell	-1,12,000/-
HDFC Bank	-1,88,000/-

Akhilesh-A3S Landbase +91 98106 53905 +91 99995 53809

DLF SIGNATURE Residences, Ready to Move-In 4BHK with Fully Fitted Kitchen, Home Automation & Terrace Garden in DLF Phase 4. Contact 9818230051

ORCHID PETALS Available for Confirm Sale 4 Bedroom + Servant quarter 2500 sq.ft. (approx) Middle Floor. Mix Price @ 3.75. For further details contact Anup Jain 98110-12758

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES 9910026336 9810026076

DLF 1, II 502Sq.yds Park East 9, 12mtr 300-316 sq.yds Park East, 200-215-251sq.yds Park East Sabharwal Associate's 9810026076, 9910026336.

DLF CITY 1022 yards. Facing MG Road J Block Deeparul Estate 9811068621

CHANDA ESTATES

AVAILABLE PLOTS /Kothi/ Floors DLF City, Sushant Lok, South City, Marbella, Anantraj all sizes. 9811040340 9811940340

DLF CITY 1023 yard s / Gulmohar Marg / Green belt Best location Deeparul estate 9811068621

DLF-1 SALE 2 townhouses built on same building 500 yd Plot- front side half 1st & half 2nd floor duplex, rear side half 1st & half 2nd floor duplex, 3BHK each. 9810039789, 9811071565

AVAILABLE MOST Prime Location Rare Availability, Newly Built Fabulous Builder Floors 500 Yards Facing a Beautiful Developed Park Sushant Lok-I. Contact Khurana 9811155032

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES 9811047417 9810026076

DLF-I PRIME location 200y Park North fac, Civil Structure Done (9000 sq.ft) Bmt+Stilt+UGF,1st, 2nd, 3rd +terrace, Suit.for Enduser/Builders. Sabharwal 9810026076, 9811047417

IMT MANESAR
1000 Mtr. Builtup FACTORY
Available on sale @ attractive Price
GANGA PROPERTIES (Since 1992) 99999-70994

CHIRAG ESTATE SINCE 1986 9871733233

DLF 1 200y 12m Rd DLF 2 New 215y B+S+4Floors Building S Lok 1 418 East Facing Plot Sec-43 14 Marla 18M Road. # 9871733233

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES 9958492130

SUSHANT LOK-1 A-block East fac 270,300,418y. (kothi) Wide Rd, B-blk 300y East fac kothi, 300 North fac Plot. 215 to 1022y More deals also avail prime locations 9958492130

WANTED / AVAILABLE
Elevate Sec 59
DLF Arbour Sec 63
Puri Aravallis Sec 61
Emaar Urban Oasis Sec 62
Please Contact:
JEET ESTATE 9810010295

Millennium Real Estate 9810112870

UDYOG VIHAR 250 Mtr Basement + 3 Floors with 8000 Sq Ft Builtup Area Newly Renovated with Lift for Sale. Many More Options of Vacant/ Rented deals. 9810112870

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES 9810652416

NEW FLOORS Suncity 800y@7.95cr, 680@6.95cr,502@5.15cr,360@4.35cr ,276@3.55cr,250@3.25cr South City-1 500y@4.95cr,360@3.55cr, 240 @ 3.15cr, 180@1.95cr. 9810652416

Rented Property Value for Money MANISH 9810327243

RENTED TO Bank 1200 Sq. Ft., Front 45 Feet, G.F. Rent 2.19 Lakh P.M., Lease 9 Years for Sale. Prime Location in South City-II, Gurugram. # Owner - 9810327243

चिराग इस्टेट SINCE 1986 9871733233

SALE MANDATE 500 Golf Course Road DLF 4 Villa 316Y East Fcng Excellent Location 10M Plots in Sec 42 & 45 18m Rd, DLF 1 400 Cnr Plot 12m Rd # 9871733233

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES 9810099171

ESENCIA / versalia/ Emerald hills Plots 1124 sq.yds North 12 MTR, 418 sq.yds North 12 MTR, 400 sq.yds East 12 mtr, Luxury Floors are also available 9810099171

RENTED

SALESCODE	27,500	55 L
VIVO INDIA	37,656	70 L
SQUARE YARDS	44,200	85 L
BREADTALK (RETAIL)	1.80 L	4.32 CR
IDFC	2.42 L	7.26 CR
BANK OF INDIA	7.04 L	16.5 CR

SPACE CREATTORS 9711622995

DLF Ph-3
Confirm & Mandate Deals
500 syd
· MOULSARI AVENUE
· SIRIS ROAD · NATHUPUR ROAD
Reasonable price
SUMINDRA PROPERTIES 98101-65528, 98101-65532

SOUTH DELHI

SAFDERJUNG ENCLAVE 300Yds, FF, 4Beds, DD, Fmly loung, S.Qtr, 2 Seperate Car Parking, Lift, 7star Construction, Wide Rd. Vastu Prefect. Pavneet # 9811036030.

Sai Jayani 9810070190 9667935163

FOR SALE Joint Venture, Collaboration, Lease, Buying,Selling,Funding. upto 500cr + Available Property in Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Goa. Celebrate Prosperity. Cont - 9810070190

FOR SALE: Defence Colony 325 yds Third Floor + Terrace with Lift, 3 BHK & Nizamuddin East 280 yds Third Floor + Terrace with Lift 4 BHK. # Meera 8826935059, 9818014483

Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES 7838871113

SARVAPRIYA VIHAR 152 yds Old Kothi, Prime Location Under ASI, Clear title, Vaastu Compliant @Reasonable price & Many more options # 7838871113

S KUMAR 98110-31558 SOUTH DELHI - GURGAON

VASANT VIHAR, Anand Niketan Ground, Basement, 1st, 2nd, 3rd floor with Terrace, 4 Beds, D/D Separate Drive Plot Size 400 Yds. Ready Possession. S. Kumar 9811031558

DESRAJ DEESHA CONSULTANTS 98110-72035 70114-98399

VASANT VIHAR GF+Bas Duplex 4 Bed, D/D, Separate Lift& Driveway Also FF 4 bed Park & N/F reputed builder easy payment terms. Details 9811072035, 7011498399

VASANT VIHAR (600) Bungalow, park facing., 9810030231

FOR SALE Ground Floor Commercial Shop - A-Block East of Kailash DDA Market 164 Sq.Ft. Broker's Welcome. Contact: 9999838647, 9953130634, Em: realtors.moneytree@gmail.com

ADVOCATE'S OFFICE Lajpat Nagar - 3 (bhnd Moolchand Hospital). LGF. 821 sqft in Freehold 307 sqyd Plot. Vastu Perfect. Fully Furnished.Park Facing. Ample Parking. Owner: 9540080001

SUNDER NAGAR Bungalow., 9810030231

GK 300 Yds & 500 Yds, New Third Floor+Terrace, Basement+Ground Floor Triplex & Second;Panchsheel 500 Yd, Second Floor, Third Floor+ Terrace. Gagan Gujral 9650516999

COMMERCIAL 3 Side Corner Plot (2366 Sq.Yards.) For Sale in Okhla Phase-1. For details Contact: RPG Estate # 9810150047 / 0965070279

CR PARK Corner 3 side Bungalow, Park facing Terrace, 200 sq.yd, 8000+ sq ft Lift, 10 car prkg, Swimpool, centrly AC, high class. CC & all permissions. Owner going abroad # 8587095020

SOUTH DELHI

GULMOHAR PARK 300 Yds, Luxurious 4 Bedrooms Floors, Top of the Line Construction, Beautiful and Peaceful Location, Possession in one month. Guptasons 98100 50020 Rajesh

VASANT VIHAR 1st Floor (200 sq.yds), 3 Bedrooms att. bath, Drawing Dining, S.Qtr, Car Parking for imm. Sale # 3.50 Cr. Only Genuine Buyers cont: Siddiqui Estate 9810265671

BAHLSONS FARMS A BUY/SELL COMPANY 98100-17982 85951-50232

SATBARI ANSAL Half Acre 4 BHK 21.50 Freehold, Nicely Built-up 10,000 SqFt Asola 2 Acres 5 BHK, Nicely Built 25cr Asola 2.5 Acres with Tube well @ 22cr All in Prime Locations, Delhi Registry

VASANT KUNJ - B 10, Ground floor, Four Bedrooms, Drawing Dining with Servant Quarter , Good Location, New Construction. Call Naveen 9999882906

LIVEABLE KOTHIS- Anand Nktn 400, Niti Bagh 830,V .Vhr 800/1000 Floor Gul Prk 5 Bhk dup300, SF 500 GF400 Grn prk SF+T 460, TF+T 311, SJ En SF 500 Gen buyer Agarwal 9810000859

DEFENCE COLONY 325 Sq.Yds Corner 3 Side Open Park Facing Ground Floor / First Floor, Ready to Shift. Contact Rajeev Varma 9868145855, 9999645855

FOR SALE E-Block, East of Kailash 125/ 250 yards Fully Renovated Third + Terrace Right Built-up 3Beds, D/D, Freehold, East Facing, Reasonable Price. # Owner Ajay - 9810371892

AMBICA PROP (Regd) 98101-20612 89206-30362

BUNGALOWS : Vasant Vihar 800 sq.yd Sunder Nagar 865 sq.yds Park Facing Niti Bagh 865 sq.yd north east facing Kalindi Kunj 885 sq.yd corner Livable E.O.K.835 sq.yd.Ambica 98101-20612

BAHLSONS FLOORS/ OFFICE A BUY/SELL COMPANY 98100-17982 98103-64472

GK-II 250Y New 3 BR Corner/ Park 4.75 GK-II 300y GF 4BR Lift Stilt 2 Car 5.25 GK-I 250y FF 3 BR Lift 2 Cars Sep 4.50 EOK 400y GF 4 BR Lift Stilt 5 Car 5.25 CR Prk Main Road rented office @40L

SDA: 200 Sq.Yds. 3 BHK Basement/UGF /First/Second & Third Floor with Lift, East Fcng, Stilt Parking,Newly Constructed Flat for Sale. Brokers Excuse. Genuine Buyers Cont: 96540 91010.

EAST OF Kailash C- Black 300 yds 3rd Floor with Exclusive Terrace 4 BHK 2 Parking S.qtr Very Well Maintained for Detail contact Sehgall Properties 9810076865, 9873076865

BUNGALOW FOR SALE PPS ESTATE 9818881000 9599808726

PANCHSHEEL PARK N-Block 1200y Bungalow for Sale, Regular Plot, Main Road, Near Max, Clear Title. Also 800y all floors in N-Block. # PPS 9818881000, 9599808726.

VASANT VIHAR 300 Yds., Park facing Newly Built B'ment + Ground Triplex, 3rd Flr+Terrace Garden, 4 BR Mitsub -ishi VRV, High Specs, Possession in 4 months. Guptasons 98100 50020

VASANT VIHAR 450/600
Confirmed Bungalow
Clear Title
Immediate Sale
Rajesh : 9810014771
Amrit : 9810019279

VASANT VIHAR (800) first & second floor, park facing., 9810030231

COLONEL's SPECIAL AMAN BAJAJ 98100-81588

DEFENCE COLONY 325 Sq. Yds 1st Floor 3 Beds with Stilt Parking Vastu Perfect With Park View . Price: 7.25 Crore (Full Cheque) Also 400 sq. Yds GF & First @ 10 cr

ALAKNANDA DDA Reno.Nilgiri FF & SF 3 B/R, Shivalik SF Duplex 4 B/R, D/D Yamuna & Kaveri SF 3 B/R, Narmada /Deshbandhu FF 3 B/R /TF 2 or 4 BR lift Uppal 9910712365, 9650485053

Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES 9910000257

VASANT VIHAR 600 sqyd, TF+ 1/2 terrace, North East facing, 3 side open, wide road, Separate driveway 4 car parking, Broker excuse # 9910000257

SALWAN REAL ESTATE PVT. LTD.

ANAND NIKETAN, North Facing 264/ 280 sq yards, Clear Title, Independent Building for sale. 9810063891/9810062871.

TOP OF line Builders Flat S.D.A, Safd Encl., Defence Colony, Swami Nagar, Hauz Khas,Green Park 3/4 Bedrooms Stilt Parking. Grover Associates. 9810173911, 011-47094595

SHANTI NIKETAN 1st Floor (400 yds), 3 Bedrooms att. bath, D/ Dining, S.Qtr, Separate Car Parking for imm. Sale @ 8.50 Cr. Only Genuine Buyers call Anil Bhasin 9717179884

SAINIK FARM wanted/sale banglows 4-7 B.R plot with registry 1000-7000 Syds AVL for sale at cheap rate right time for user investor call Vijay - Vijay 9811688940

SOUTH DELHI

S KUMAR 98110-31558 SOUTH DELHI - GURGAON

GREATER KAILASH-1, Ground, Basement, Third Floor with Terrace, 4 Beds, D/D, Lounge, Driveway, Plot 500 Yds. S. Kumar 98110-31558

B-1/7, 600 Vasant Vihar original booking, first and second floor, Windchimes Constructions 9810014771, 9810019279.

RENTED PROPERTY
SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE
APPROVED COMMERCIAL
Rented to Top Bank
Entire Building 125 Yds
G.Flr/ F.Flr/ S.Flr/ 3rd Flr
1125 Sq Ft each Floor
Can Sell Full/ Floorwise
Handsome Return
Owner: 99100-20141 98108-54926

VERMA Estate Pvt Ltd BUNGALOW MANOJ VERMA 9910020141, 9810020141

SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE : Confirmed Houses 125 -275 -300 -450 -500 Yds & many more Corner, Wide Road, Vastu Perfect, Clear Title. Suits Builders & self users. Manoj Verma 99100-20141

PPS ESTATE 9818881000 9599808726

JOR BAGH 575y B+GF & F.F.; Hauz Khas Enclave 1000y S.F. Park fac New; Vasant Vihar 800y All Floors available Park facing. Contact: PPS 9818881000, 9599808726.

LUXURY FARM HOUSES 9811150700

BUILT FARM: 1210/1500/1700/2420 Yd 1 Acre in DLF Chattarpur, Sultanpur, Radhey Mohan, Ansals, Club Drive, Vasant Kunj & nearby areas of South Delhi, All Registry Deals. call: Harsh

HAUZ KHAZ 292 sq. Yards. 1st Floor, 3 Bedroom , Drawing Dining, Powder Room, 2 car park in stilt, 6 year old . Cosmos : 8826700444

SARVODAYA ENCLAVE Ground Floor, Park facing, 3 Bedrooms, D/Dining, Servant Qtr, Car Parking, Plot size: 238 sq.yds for imm. sale @ 4 Cr. Cont: Siddiqui Estate 9810265671

RENTED

Bank of India	- 1.20L
Axis Bank	- 2.25L
SBI Bank	- 3.15L
IDFC Bank	- 3.75L
HDFC Bank	- 5.00L
Subway	- 1.25L
Titan	- 4.10L
Retail Building	- 5.00L
Retail Building	- 17.00L

Reliance Properties Ravi 9818336655

PAMPOSH ENCLAVE, GF & LGF Duplex 266 Yd 60' Main Road Ample parking, Vastu perfect, Ideal for Clinic, Lawyer etc. Contact:- 9873178776

FOR SALE, Purchase, Rent, Collaborations Turnkey Projects. Tinu Babber # +91 95-99-400-200

SALWAN REAL ESTATE PVT. LTD.

VASANT KUNJ D 3, First Floor East Facing 4 Bedroom D/D, Backside Park. 9810063891, 9810062871

SANDEEP SOORMA 98101-73551

VASANT VIHAR, Shanti Niketan 400-600, Top Class Builder Floors Ground +Basm't, FF, SF Duplex, Ready Floors FF, SF, 3rd Floor Terrace Ready / Booking/Old Floors 9810173551

AKSHAY SHARMA 9999785858

GREATER KAILASH (250) Corner Second Floor / Third Floor + Terrace 4 Bed - Lift - Separate Parking 208 / 300 yards floor also available SDR 9811352892 , 9560672632

MEA MALIK ESTATE AGENTS Since 1965 9810039071

SARVODYA ENCLAVE sale rare deal 3rd Floor+ Entire roof 300yds 4BHK+ 1SQ '2+2 car parkings' @ Reasonable Price. Call: Sanjay Malik 9810039071 Visit: www.malikestateagents.com

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PANCHSHEEL PARK, 500 yds, 2nd Floor, 4 Bedrooms, Drawing/Dining, Servant Qtr, Car Parking for imm. Sale @ 8 Cr. Genuine buyers contact Siddiqui Estates 9810265671

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More Classifieds on Page 14

EC seeks 340k CAPF personnel ahead of polls

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission has sought 340 thousand Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel for deployment during the upcoming Lok Sabha election and assembly polls. In a communication to the ministry of home affairs, the EC has said the chief electoral officers of all the states and Union territories have requested for the deployment of CAPFs for poll-related duties.

Pakistan Rangers violate ceasefire, BSF retaliates

JAMMU: The Pakistan Rangers violated the ceasefire on Wednesday by resorting to unprovoked firing at a BSF post along the international border in R S Pura, in Jammu, officials said. "At about 5:50 pm, the Pakistan Rangers resorted to unprovoked firing in R S Pura area, which was befittingly responded by the BSF . The firing stopped at 6:15 pm," the PRO of the BSF, Jammu frontier said.

Assam: One killed, four injured in OIL pipeline blast

DIBRUGARH: A worker was killed and four others were injured in an explosion that occurred when a pipeline of Oil India Limited (OIL) was being repaired in Dibrugarh of Assam, said officials. A firm spokesperson said: "It was a new pipeline and a valve was being repaired. There was a sudden pressure blast. We are probing the reason behind it."

Must forge global protocol on new tech challenges: PM

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The world community should forge a "global protocol" to cope with challenges arising from new technologies such as artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency and give the Global South a say in decision-making, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

The world also needs governments that are inclusive and also use technology as a "medium of big change", Modi said in his keynote address at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, a flagship initiative of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) aimed at forging the governments of the future.

"We will have to create a global protocol for challenges arising from artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and cybercrime. We have to give priority to our national sovereignty and maintain the dignity of international law," he said, speaking in Hindi.

These were among six suggestions made by Modi for governments to create a balance between national sovereignty and international interdependence, and to adhere to international rule of law while working for national interests.

This will allow countries to take advantage of digital technology while saving their societies from its negative effects and working jointly against terrorism, he said.

Calling for reforms in global governance institutions, Modi suggested the world community should promote the concerns of the developing world and give the Global South a say in global decision-making. "We have to listen to the voice of the Global South, bring forward their priorities. We have to share our resources and our capabilities with needy countries," he said.

Countries also have to promote the "values of a cohesive, cooperative and collaborative world", he said during his speech that also focused on the achievements of his government over the past decade.

At a time when the world is coping with food, health, water and energy security, technology has become a "key disruptor in every way, whether negative or positive", and terrorism and climate change are bringing new challenges, he said.

The international system "seems disintegrated", and the world needs governments "that are inclusive and take everyone along", and are also smart enough to use technology as a "medium of big change".

Governments should also be free from corruption, serious about environmental challenges, and make ease of living, ease of justice, ease of mobility, ease of innovation and ease of doing business their priority, Modi said.

Pointing to his 23 years as chief minister of Gujarat and as Prime Minister, Modi said there "should be no absence of government and no pressure from the government".

While many experts say trust in governments has decreased across the world after the Covid-19 pandemic, he said that there had been a "completely opposite experience" in India.

"Over the years, the trust of the people in the government of India has become stronger. People have full faith in both the intent and commitment of our government," he said, adding this has happened because his administration gave priority to public sentiments and is sensitive to the needs of the people.

"My biggest principle in government during these 23 years has been – minimum government, maximum governance."

The Indian government's move of connecting 50 crore people to the banking system has moved the country ahead in fintech and digital payments, and a law has been enacted to give reservation to women in Parliament. The government is now focusing on "last mile delivery and saturation" to ensure no one is left out of government schemes.

In the area of climate change too, India has its own approach that includes working on solar, wind, hydropower, biofuels and green hydrogen. "We have been looking at the approach of carbon credit for a long time. Now going beyond this, we should think about green credit," Modi said.

Modi attended the summit at the invitation of the UAE vice president, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, as the guest of honour. The event, the theme for which was "Shaping the future governments", was attended by 10 presidents, as many prime ministers, and delegates from more than 120 countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE vice president Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum inaugurate a warehousing facility 'Bharat Mart', in Dubai on Wednesday. ANI

Modi launches Bharat Mart, holds bilaterals

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The foundation stone of Bharat Mart, which will combine retail, warehousing and logistics facilities at Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai, was laid during a virtual ceremony by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) vice president, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, on Wednesday.

Bharat Mart is a joint initiative of DP World, a Dubai-based multinational that specialises in logistics, port terminal operations and maritime services, and India's commerce ministry that is aimed at boosting exports by Indian small and medium sized enterprises.

The facility, which has been compared to China's Dragon Mart, will be built by DP World and is expected to be operational by 2025. The facility, which is set to cover more than 100,000 sq m, will help cut the cost and time for shipping goods from India to Africa and Europe.

Modi and Mohammed bin Rashid, who is also the UAE prime minister and ruler of Dubai, expressed confidence that Bharat Mart will further enhance India-UAE trade by leveraging Jebel Ali Port's strategic location and strength in logistics, the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

THE FACILITY WILL HELP CUT THE COST AND TIME FOR SHIPPING GOODS FROM INDIA TO AFRICA AND EUROPE

Bharat Mart has the potential to play a key role in promoting the exports of India's micro, small and medium sectors by providing them a platform to reach international buyers in the Gulf, West Asia, Africa and Eurasia, Modi said.

Modi also held a bilateral meeting with Mohammed bin Rashid and discussed bilateral cooperation in a range of areas, including trade, investment, technology, space, education and people-to-people ties.

They expressed satisfaction at the rapidly growing economic and commercial ties between India and the UAE. In this context, they acknowledged the role of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement inked by the two countries in 2022 and welcomed the signing of the bilateral investment treaty on Tuesday.

Modi thanked Mohammed bin Rashid for his "graciousness towards the Indian community living in Dubai". Both leaders acknowledged the contributions of the Indian diaspora to Dubai's evolution into a global hub for trade, services and tourism.

Modi conveyed his deep appreciation to Mohammed bin Rashid for granting land in Dubai for an Indian community hospital that will offer affordable healthcare facilities for Indian blue collar workers. He also invited the ruler of Dubai to visit India.

Modi also met Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina on the margins of the World Governments Summit in Dubai. This was the first meeting between the two leaders, who acknowledged the long-standing friendly relations and ancient geographical ties between the two countries.

The leaders discussed ways to advance bilateral ties and appreciated their close cooperation in multilateral forums, including the UN. Modi said India is committed to strengthening the India-Madagascar partnership and to SAGAR or Security and Growth for All in the Region, the policy for Indian Ocean states.

Modi said that as a fellow developing country in the Indian Ocean region, India will remain a "committed partner in the developmental journey of Madagascar".

4 killed in firecracker blast in UP

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

JHANSI/LUCKNOW: Four people were killed when a cache of firecrackers, meant for celebratory display, exploded during a programme organised by the tourism department in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, said police even as chief minister Yogi Adityanath ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident.

All the deceased are in the 13 to 18 age group , said police, adding, the incident took place on the second day of the two-day Bundelkhand Gaurav Mahotsav in the district.

Chitrakoot SP Arun Kumar Singh said: "The incident took place in Chitrakoot Inter College ground where the event was being held. It was the final day of the programme and crackers were placed behind the stage in an equipment for the fireworks display, scheduled to be held in the evening."

"Of the four blast victims, two died on the spot while two others were seriously injured and later succumbed to their injuries," said the SP. "An FIR has been lodged under Section 304 (culpable homicide) of the Indian Penal Code against the owners of an entertainment company, Harsh Kamdar, Pankaj Jaat and others," he said,.

Meanwhile, chief minister Yogi Adityanath ordered a high-level inquiry committee under an additional director general (ADG) rank officer to probe the incident. He also announced ₹5 lakh ex gratia for the kin of the deceased.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd

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GM (Smart Metering)

NOTICE TO FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE MODI SPINNING & WEAVING MILLS CO. LTD.

It is hereby notified and brought to the attention of all the former employees of the Modi Spinning & Weaving Mills Co. Ltd. ("THE COMPANY") who were employed at its offices that the Modi Spinning & Weaving Mills Co. Ltd. EPF Trust (MSWMPF Trust), a trust which manages the provident fund contributions of the Company employees housed under the aegis of the Company will be surrendered to Regional Employees Provident Fund Authority (RPFC), Meerut. The process of surrendering will be effective from 15th February, 2024 or from the date as appointed by EPFO.

It is found from the trust records that till date you have not withdrawn or transferred the provident funds (PF) dues and Employees' pension (EPS) contribution from the EPF trust.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to furnish the duly filled Form no. 19 (PF Withdrawal form) and Form 10C (EPS Form)/online Form 13 through EPFO Portal (PF transfer form) as prescribed under Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Act, 1952 (EPF & MP Act, 1952) to get your dues/contribution withdrawn or transferred from the MSWMPF Trust Account before the surrender process begins.

You can download the format (website: www.epfindia.gov.in) and send them duly filled and signed at the following mail id and Corporate office address for withdrawal or transfer.

Email id: mswmcoltd@gmail.com. Address: Modi Spg. & Wvg. Mills Co. Ltd, Modinagar, Dist. Ghaziabad, U.P., 201201.

If the aforesaid documents/ forms are not submitted by you before 15/02/2024, it shall be constrained not to entertain any such application thereafter and the unclaimed PF fund shall be transferred to EPFO thereby, requiring such Former/Employees to directly correspond with EPFO post completion of transition process which may take at least 3-4 months from the date of surrender.

For Modi Spinning & Weaving Mills Co. Ltd.
Authorised Signatory,

Date: 01.02.2024
Place: Modinagar.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांक सं. 228 **Date Extension Notice-01** दिनांक 13.02.2024

Due to unavoidable reasons The Date of Submission & opening of the NIT No. 06/EE(Civil)/KB/2023-24 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), Katapather Barrage, Dakpathar, Dehradun is being extended as below.
Last Date & Time for submission of bids : Upto 15:00 hrs of 20.02.2024
Date & Time of Opening of bids at 11:00 hrs of 21.02.2024
Other Terms & Condition will remain same.
Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.
For full & further details, kindly visit our website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil)
Katapather Barrage
Dakpathar, Dehradun

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Bhundelkhand Industrial Development Authority, Jhansi

For constituting PMU, Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority invites application for engaging consultants & young professionals experienced in the fields of urban planning, environment, ICT, finance, civil engineering, architect, law. The interested applicants may apply online for senior consultant/consultant grade 2/consultant grade 1/Young Professionals in BIDA through the link https://innobles.com/resource/. The instructions for submitting the relevant profiles online will be available on said link. Candidate may note that mere submission of profiles and meeting the minimum eligibility criteria as per guideline do not entitle the candidate to be shortlisted/selected for any position of consultants and young professionals in PMU of BIDA. BIDA reserves the right to call only requisite no. of candidate for further selection process after preliminary screening/shortlisting of candidate profile vis-a-vis requirement of BIDA. BIDA would be free to cancel of any candidates at any stage of engagement process if he/She is found to be ineligible and/or furnished incorrect or false information/certificate/Document or has suppressed any information for further queries candidate may contact at E-mail aceo.bida@eoffice.uplc.in

Manager (Admin), BIDA

Hry and Punjab border remains battleground; farmers, cops clash

Karam Prakash, Bhavey Nagpal and Sunil Rahar
letters@hindustantimes.com

Haryana Police fire tear gas shells to disperse the protesting farmers at Shambhu on the Punjab and Haryana border on Wednesday. RAVI KUMAR/HT PHOTO

SHAMBHU/KARNAL/ROHTAK: The Punjab-Haryana border remained a battleground on Wednesday as a fresh standoff began between farmers and Haryana Police, when thousands of protesters tried to breach multiple layers of barricades to march towards the national capital and security forces fired tear gas shells, including through drones, to contain the crowd.

Several farmers from Punjab were injured in the face-off with Haryana Police stationed at Shambhu border near Ambala and Khanauri border in Jind – two points that saw similar scenes a day earlier. While the protesters claimed that at least 65 of them sustained injuries, there was no immediate confirmation from the police on the same.

Besides tear gas shells, the protesters faced water cannons, rubber bullets and lathicharge when they attempted to break the barricades, as Haryana Police and the Rapid Action Force deployed at the two junctions resorted to force to halt long caravans of tractors, SUVs and trucks and prevent them from proceeding.

Haryana home minister Anil Vij reiterated his government's efforts to ensure peace in the state and slammed the Punjab government for not acting against the protesting farmers.

"If someone attacks our police, why can't we go after them and catch them?" he told reporters in Ambala.

"When these groups (farmers) marched from Amritsar, the Punjab government did not make any effort to stop them anywhere on the way. This means they want to create chaos in Delhi. Do they want to go to Delhi and dance again at the Red Fort?" he said, referring to the farmers' bid to hold similar protests at the Red Fort in 2021.

"It appears their objective is something else," he said.

The Punjab government hit back, saying its Haryana counterpart has no right to stop the farmers from holding "peaceful protests". "The national highway is property of the nation, and farmers were trying to pass through Haryana's jurisdiction to reach Delhi," he said, adding that the Haryana government's action against the protesters were "unconstitutional and illegal".

Sixty-four companies of paramilitary personnel and 50 from the state police have been deployed across 16 Haryana districts. The state government has imposed restrictions on the assembly of people under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in these districts and extended mobile internet shutdowns in seven of them.

According to Haryana deputy general of police Shatrujeet Kapur, at least 26 police personnel were injured during the standoff at the two junctions. On Tuesday, 110 farmers and 25 police personnel were injured in both places.

Officials said the police at Shambhu border resorted to force as the protesters, who continued their agitation for a second day, tried to remove the barricades and also pelted security personnel who were positioned close to them. In a statement, Ambala DC Shaleen said tear gas shells and rubber bullets were used to contain the protests.

Farmers said at least 25 protesters were injured in the police action in the area and are undergoing treatment. Farmers said their vehicles were also damaged by the police. One of the protesters was seen wearing protective gear along with safety goggles at Shambhu border to protect himself from the tear gas shells and rubber bullets.

A similar face-off was reported in Jind where farmers faced tear gas shells and lathicharge by the police personnel. The protesters claimed 40 people sustained injuries in the police action.

Jind superintendent of police (SP) Sumit Kumar visited the civil hospital and met both the injured police personnel and farmers.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sidhupur) leader Kaka Singh Kotda also hit out at Haryana Police for firing tear gas shells on the protesters. "Even the Punjab government has objected to the use of drones. The Haryana Police is firing rubber bullets from drones. The Haryana Police and Rapid Action Force have been doing inhuman work by firing rubber bullets on even elderly people," he said.

Senior Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leader Azad Palwa, from Jind, said the protesters were sitting near Khanauri border when police resorted to lathicharge to disperse them.

"Our vehicles were damaged by the police. The Haryana Police is behaving like terrorists with Haryana and Punjab farmers. Nearly 15 farmers from Jind were detained by the police," he said.

Meanwhile, farmers, at both the sites, used tennis balls, kites, wet jute sacks, safety goggles and sports gloves as defensive weapons to bring down drones used by police to fire tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

DON'T SEND DRONE INSIDE OUR ZONE: PUNJAB OFFICIAL IN LETTER TO HRY COUNTERPART

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: Authorities in Punjab have objected to the use of a drone by Haryana Police, to fire tear gas shells on protesting farmers, in an area bordering the two states, and asked the latter to restrict the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle inside its territory.

In a letter to Ambala deputy commissioner Shaleen on Tuesday, his Patiala counterpart Showkat Ahmed Parray asked Haryana authorities not to send their drone inside Punjab's territory at Shambhu border near Ambala.

Confirming the same, Parray said: "As soon as the matter (about the drone in Shambhu) came to my notice, I immediately wrote to the Ambala deputy commissioner to refrain from such acts in the future."

He added that he conveyed the same to the Ambala senior superintendent of police as well.

On the letter, Shaleen said he has received the official communication. "We are analysing it," he said.

Over 100 farmers from Punjab have been injured in the tear gas firing, since Monday, during their ongoing protests and attempts to march to Delhi to press for various demands. While on Monday, the protesters were taken by surprise when Haryana Police used drones to fire tear gas shells, on Tuesday, they used items such as Tennis balls, kites, wet jute sacks, safety goggles and sports gloves to bring down the unmanned aerial vehicles.

{ AT SANDESHKHALI } IN BENGAL

Fresh curbs imposed, political row heats up

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

West Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose during his visit to Sandeshkhali, in North 24 Parganas, on Monday. ANI

KOLKATA: The ongoing political row in West Bengal intensified on Wednesday after fresh prohibitory orders were clamped in and around violence-hit Sandeshkhali village, which has been on the edge since last week over allegations of sexual harassment and land capture levelled by women in the village against local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders.

State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Sukanta Majumdar was injured after he fell on a car's bonnet after allegedly being "pushed" by a woman while addressing a protest in Taki, around 35km from Sandeshkhali, in North 24 Parganas district.

Majumdar, a Lok Sabha MP from Balurghat constituency, was rushed to Basirhat Government Hospital, and later transferred to Apollo Hospital in Kolkata for further treatment. West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose visited Majumdar at the hospital in night.

The state police said they have taken note of the incident and an investigation has been launched.

Earlier in the day, Majumdar organised Saraswati puja at Taki in Basirhat where he had stayed overnight after being denied by the police to head to Sandeshkhali. On Wednesday morning, he along with his supporters again tried to reach the violence-hit village, but they were stopped by the police. The state police also denied Majumdar's allegation that he was put under "house arrest" in Taki.

"There is nothing called police administration in the state. They can't address the grievances of the people... they can't arrest criminals. Instead, they create obstacles when someone tries to stand beside the people," BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya told the reporters. "Anger is brewing in villages which may any time burst out in the form of a mass protest."

Sandeshkhali first hit the headlines on January 5 when an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team was attacked by a mob when it went to raid the home of TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan in connection with the multi crore public distribution scam. Even as Shahjahan has evaded arrest, since February 7, villagers led by women in Sandeshkhali have held violent protests, demanding the arrests of local TMC leaders, alleging harassment and land grabbing.

Meanwhile, the administration on Tuesday night clamped prohibitory orders in 19 pockets across seven villages in Sandeshkhali-II block, hours after the Calcutta high court set aside orders under Section 144 of CrPC (restricting the assembly of four or more people) imposed in the entire block.

"Prohibitory orders have been imposed in 19 pockets of seven villages of Sandeshkhali-II block since Tuesday night till February 19," a senior police officer said, requesting anonymity.

Governor Bose, meanwhile, has submitted a report to the Union home ministry, blaming the law enforcers in the state for working hand in glove with "rowdy elements" in the village.

Meanwhile, BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday constituted a high-level panel headed by Union minister Annpurna Devi and comprising five other members to visit the restive area, collect information and submit its report to him at the earliest.

On Wednesday, protests continued for the seventh consecutive day with hundreds of women blocking roads and demanding the arrest of Sheikh Shahjahan and his two aides — Uttam Sardar and Shiba Prasad Hazra.

The TMC, however, accused the BJP of trying to "vitiate the atmosphere" of state. "Sukanta Majumdar knows he is going to face defeat from his seat. So, he has started practising acting so that he can start his film career," TMC spokesperson Santanu Sen said.

Govt blocked social media accounts of farmers ahead of stir

NEW DELHI: The section 69A blocking committee of the ministry of electronics and information technology on Thursday confirmed that emergency orders were issued last week to block social media accounts of certain farmer leaders to maintain "public order" in view of their protests. The blocking orders have been issued for the duration of the agitation, which began on Monday, people aware of the matter said. While the exact number of accounts blocked could not be immediately ascertained, HT learnt that all three social media platforms, i.e., Twitter (X), Meta, and YouTube, pushed back against the blocking. During the 2021 protests, the government had blocked social media accounts of protestors and some journalists reporting on the issue. X, then Twitter, had challenged the decision in Karnataka high court but lost the case.

Mahapanchayat to discuss atrocities on farmers, says Tikait

NOIDA: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday said a 'mahapanchayat' will be organised on Saturday at Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh to discuss the "atrocities" being committed on the protesting farmers in the country. Farmers from UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Haryana have been exhorted to attend the congregation to be held at the 'Kisan Bhawan' in Sisauli. "All farmers, office bearers and workers of Bharatiya Kisan Union are being informed that as per the decision of the national working committee, a monthly panchayat will be organised on February 17, 2024 at Kisan Bhawan, Sisauli in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, in which the current situation of the country will be discussed. There will be a discussion regarding the atrocities being committed on farmers," he said.

{ AMID POLICE ACTION }

Protesters eye indigenous methods to fend off drones and tear gas shells

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The protesters used wet jute sacks to reduce the effect of tear gas shells. HT

SHAMBHU: Tennis balls, kites, wet jute sacks, safety goggles and sports gloves – these items became defensive weapons of choice for protesting farmers at the Punjab-Haryana border on Wednesday, as they sought to bring down drones used by police to fire tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

As the farmers from Punjab resumed their efforts, for a second day, to march towards the national capital, more than two dozen youngsters took the reins to counter the police's strategy to fire tear gas shells at Shambhu, along the border with Haryana.

"We are more prepared today to counter the police action. We want to protest peacefully but the Haryana government seems to be adamant to hurt the peacefully protesting farmers," a senior farmer leader said, seeking anonymity.

On Tuesday, the protesting farmers were taken by surprise as Haryana Police used drones, which were initially deployed to monitor the law and order situation, to fire tear gas shells to prevent them from breaching multiple layers of barricades to proceed towards the national capital. At least 60 farmers were injured.

A day later, the farmers resumed their efforts to march towards the Capital, the youngsters could be seen flying kites in order to bring the drones down by entangling the unmanned aerial vehicle in the kite strings.

"As of today, we are fully prepared. We have also made our strategy. We are using kites to shoot down the drones," Ramandeep Singh Mann of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non political) said.

Some farmers said that locally made armour was purchased at ₹2,000 a unit to protect oneself from rubber bullets, which, they claimed, were fired by Haryana Police. Farmers also used safety goggles to protect their eyes from the gas emitted by the tear gas shells. Sports gloves helped them to remove the tear gas shells from their protest site.

"Tennis balls are handy to bring the drones down. We used stones on Tuesday but that left several people injured," Parteek, a young farmer, said. The protesters stationed water tankers at the site and used wet jute sacks to reduce the effect of tear gas shells.

Ambala deputy commissioner Shaleen asked the Patiala administration to take action against farmers flying kites, alleging the use of Chinese strings. Patiala deputy commissioner Showkat Ahmed wrote to Shaleen, asking Haryana Police to "refrain from such acts and restrict them within their (Haryana) territory".

IT MINISTRY LOOKS TO BLOCK PROTON MAIL ON REQUEST OF COPS FROM TN

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NEW DELHI: The IT ministry has decided to issue an order blocking end-to-end encrypted email service Proton Mail on Wednesday at the request of the Tamil Nadu police over a hoax bomb threat sent to at least 13 schools in Chennai on February 8, HT has learnt.

The decision to block Proton Mail was taken at a meeting of the 69A blocking committee on Wednesday afternoon. HT could not ascertain if a blocking order will be issued to Apple and Google to block the Proton Mail app. The final order to block the website has not yet been sent to the Department of Telecommunications but the MeitY has flagged the issue with the DoT.

During the meeting, the nodal officer representing the Tamil Nadu government submitted that a bomb threat was sent to multiple schools using ProtonMail, HT has learnt. The police attempted to trace the IP address of the sender but to no avail. They also tried to seek help from the Interpol but that did not materialise either, the nodal officer said. During the meeting, HT has learnt, MeitY representatives noted that getting information from Proton Mail, on other criminal matters, not necessarily linked to Section 69A related issues, is a recurrent problem.

Mob targets armouries in strife-torn Manipur, 1 shot dead by forces

HT Correspondent
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AMID THE ETHNIC CLASHES, MOBS HAVE LOOTED WEAPONS FROM STATE ARMOURIES AT DIFFERENT PLACES

NEW DELHI: Two armouries of the Manipur police were targeted by mobs in the Imphal East district on Tuesday night, prompting the security forces to open fire on the crowd, resulting in the death of at least one man, officers aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

According to officers, a crowd gathered outside the Manipur Police Training College (MPTC) in Pangei village and 5 India Reserve Battalion (IRB) headquarters in Chingarel, looking to storm the armouries and loot weapons.

"There were two different mobs outside both places. At around 9pm, the control room received information about the mob that entered the 5IRB. Within an hour, there was another information about crowds trying to barge inside the armoury of MPTC. Central Security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. But when that did not deter the mob, some bullets were fired," said an officer aware of the matter.

In an official statement, the Manipur police said that one person, who was part of the mob, died in firing by security forces.

"In order to repel violent mobs including armed miscreants trying to storm MPTC, Pangei, security forces resorted to use of legal force. During the incident, one person succumbed to injuries and three persons sustained injuries," the statement said.

It added: "In connection with the incident of arms looting case of 5th IRB...Manipur Police have arrested six persons."

The police said that they have recovered four Insas Rifles, one AK Ghatak, 2 magazines of SLR and 16 small boxes of 9 mm ammunition, which were suspected to have been looted from 5th IRB armoury.

Amid the ethnic clashes, mobs have looted weapons from state armouries at different places. A total of 5,682 arms and 650,000 pieces of ammunition were reported looted by the mobs. Of this, Manipur police have recovered less than 1,800 arms and just around 23,000 ammunitions, according to state police data.

Govt-certified auditors can assess environment projects: Ministry

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The audit will encourage "self-compliance" of environmental norms, the government said.

NEW DELHI: Government-certified environment auditors can review projects and activities approved by the environment ministry, to ensure that norms and stipulated conditions are complied with, according to a draft notification issued by the ministry last month.

The audit, the draft notification added, will encourage "self-compliance" of environmental norms by industries and also keep a check on pollution.

"Authorized Environment Audit means Environment Audit undertaken by registered Environment Auditor under the extant notification; and prior to the extant notification, Environment Audit undertaken by government recognized Environment Auditor, and/or by the Environment Auditor duly engaged by the Government or its agencies," the draft notification titled "Environment Audit Notification" and published on January 29 said.

The notification also said that a registered environment auditor refers to a certified environment auditor who is registered with the ministry for undertaking such exercises.

However, it is not mandatory for entities to opt for government-certified auditors.

The proposed third party (first part is government, second party is the company) environment audit is exclusively a voluntary mechanism and not intended to be made mandatory for those entities who want to continue within the existing framework, the draft notification said.

"The proposed third party environment audit is not an alternate to the existing system of compliance and monitoring through government agencies but is only to supplement the efforts of the government agencies, which will continue with their existing role of random inspection and verification," the ministry said.

According to Debadityo Sinha, lead - Climate & Ecosystems at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, "currently, companies receiving environmental clearances are required to submit self-compliance reports, but enforcement of this has been dismal". "Introducing an independent audit mechanism for environmental compliance may help address this issue to some extent. However, the effectiveness of this mechanism will largely depend on the independence and diligence of these third-party auditors. The role of the ministry is crucial in ensuring that audit reports are of high quality, verifiable, and transparent. It should not be used by project proponents to simply ease the process of doing business, as has been observed with the quality of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports," he said.

According to the government, the environment auditors will be assigned to a particular project randomly through a computer-based online software programme integrated with the Parivesh portal of the environment ministry.

The draft notification will be taken into consideration on or after March 29, after the expiry of a period of 60 days since the draft was published (January 29).

{ REFERRED TO AIIMS } MHA STATUS REPORT

Yasin voluntarily gave up medicine, HC told

HT Correspondent
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Yasin Malik

NEW DELHI: Yasin Malik, the incarcerated chief of banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), had to be referred to AIIMS, Delhi after he voluntarily stopped taking medicines prescribed for his cardiac and kidney ailments and also refused medical tests in jail, the Union home ministry informed the Delhi high court on Wednesday.

Malik was given appropriate treatment at AIIMS on Tuesday following which he returned to the custody, the ministry informed, adding the doctors also advised him to take medicines prescribed and take the tests prescribed on time.

"It is submitted that on 13.02.2024 the intimate complained of dizziness. Accordingly, he was examined by the jail doctors, whereupon it was discovered that the inmate has voluntarily and as per his own wish stopped taking the prescribed medicines since around past 10 days. The patient also denied BP, PR Temp, SpO2 ECG Examination..." a status report, submitted through advocate Rajat Nair, informed the court.

Malik has been serving a life sentence in a terror-funding case in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019.

The report said: "It is stated that in AIIMS appropriate treatment and investigations were done and the inmate returned back to custody after treatment and advised to take medicines prescribed and give PT-INR test timely. Accordingly, medicines have been provided by the jail dispensary to the inmate."

The report was filed before a bench of justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta in response to Malik's plea, seeking proper treatment for his ailments in AIIMS or any super-speciality hospital in Delhi. The bench dismissed his plea on Wednesday.

Tributes pour in as India marks fifth anniversary of Pulwama terror attack

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Forty CRPF personnel were killed after an explosive-laden car rammed into a convoy of the paramilitary force in Pulwama. AP

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday led the nation in paying tributes to the 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, who were killed in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, saying their service and sacrifice for the nation will always be remembered.

"I pay homage to the brave heroes who were martyred in Pulwama. Their service and sacrifice for our nation will always be remembered," Modi said in a post on X on the fifth anniversary of the terror strike.

Union home minister Amit Shah also paid homage to the bravehearts, saying the "nation will forever remain indebted" to them. "I bow to the valorous martyrs of Pulwama, who laid down their lives for our motherland. Their supreme sacrifice will always be remembered," he wrote on the micro-blogging site.

The CRPF personnel were killed on February 14, 2019 after a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a convoy of the paramilitary force in Pulwama on Srinagar-Jammu national highway. Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) had claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a retaliatory attack, the Indian Air Force (IAF) targeted terror camps in Balakot in Pakistan on February 26, 2019, neutralising a "large number" of terrorists and destroying their infrastructure.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar also paid tributes to the brave soldiers who were killed in the attack "...Their courage motivates us to keep up our vigil against cross-border terrorism," he said on X.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge also remembered the bravehearts. "The country will always be indebted to them for their supreme sacrifice dedicated to the defence of India," Gandhi wrote on X.

Kharge posted: "We pay our sincere tributes and salutations to the indomitable courage and valour of the Pulwama bravehearts. The nation shall forever be indebted to their supreme sacrifice. Lest We Forget."

Jammu & Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha said: "...The nation will forever remain indebted to their exemplary courage, supreme sacrifice, and selfless service to the motherland."

Party chief, Cong's former Maha CM among BJP's RS candidates

Smriti Kak Ramachandran
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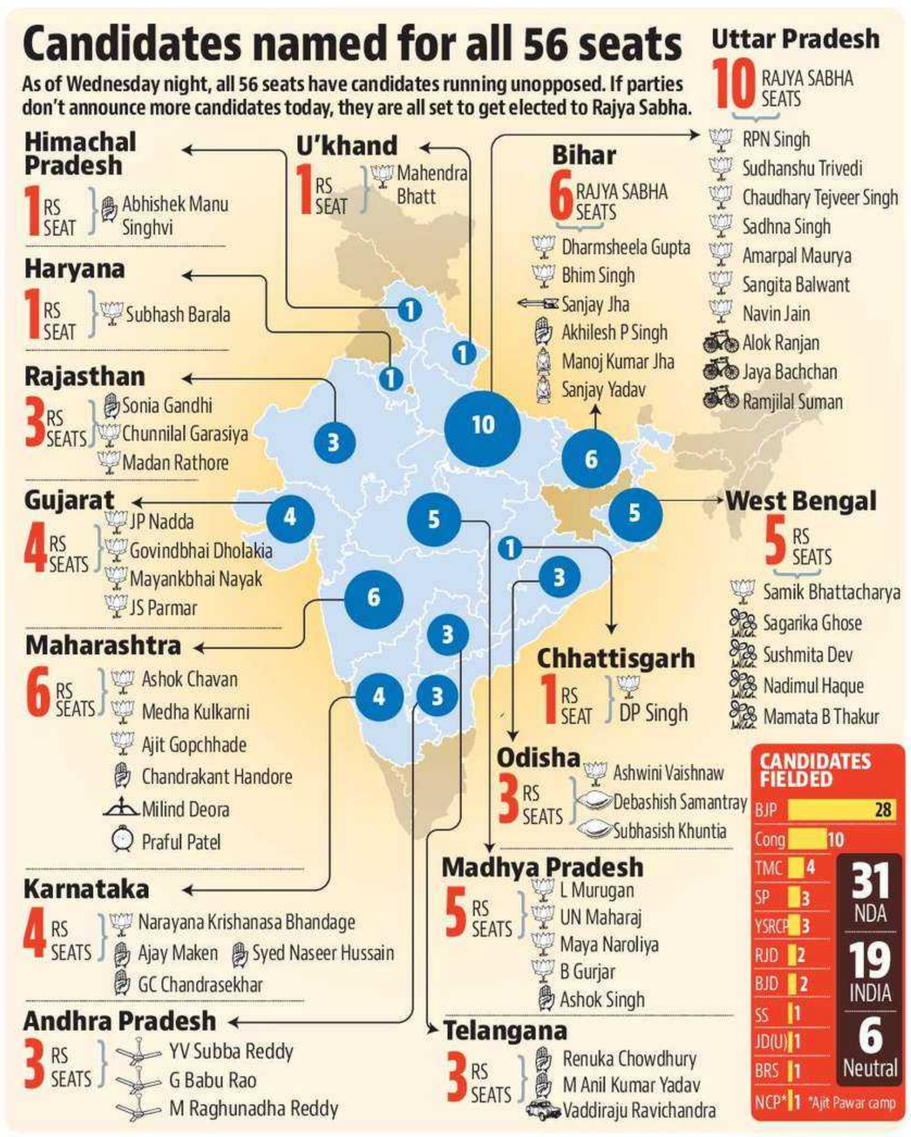
NEW DELHI : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday nominated party chief JP Nadda, two sitting Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and L Murugan, and recently inducted senior leader Ashok Chavan to the Rajya Sabha, naming 12 candidates for the February 27 polls to the Upper House.

With this, the party has announced 28 candidates for the 56 seats that go to the polls. All of them are likely to be elected unopposed.

The BJP named Nadda from Gujarat, Union railway and IT minister Vaishnaw from Odisha where the ruling Biju Janata Dal is backing his candidature, Chavan from Maharashtra, and Union minister of state for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy Murugan from Madhya Pradesh. The list signalled that the generational shift effected by the party since 2014 will continue with newer faces platformed at the state and central level. Of the 28 candidates announced, only four – Nadda, Vaishnaw , Murugan and party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi (from Uttar Pradesh) – will contest for a second term.

In Maharashtra, where six seats are up for grabs, the party named Chavan, who joined the BJP from the Congress a day earlier, former lawmaker Medha Kulkarni and long-time Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) member Ajit Gopchade. The BJP's ally, the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, named former Congress leader Milind Deora as its nominee. The Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party named former Union minister Praful Patel as its nominee.

The ruling three-party alliance is set to bag five seats and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi is likely to win one -- the Congress's nominee Chandrakant Handore. To be sure, there could still be a twist in Maharashtra in case one of the NDA parties decide to test the Congress's numbers in the aftermath of Chavan quitting. The grand old party now has 43 MLAs and 42 are needed to secure a seat. Technically, cross-voting is not barred in Rajya Sabha polls.



"I thank PM Modi, Union HM Amit Shah, party president JP Nadda, deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and other leaders. I feel that the opportunity they have given me shows the faith BJP has in me," Chavan said after the announcement of his candidature. In Madhya Pradesh, where five seats are falling vacant, the BJP named Murugan, Dalit seer Umesh Nath Maharaj, backward class woman leader Maya Naroliya and farmer leader Banshilal Gurjar. The BJP is set to bag four seats and the Congress one.

"I want to express my gratitude to the BJP leadership for giving me the opportunity to be a Rajya Sabha MP for the second term," Murugan said.

In Gujarat, where four seats will go to the polls, the party named Nadda, diamond baron Govindbhai Dholakia, BJP's OBC leader Mayankbhai Nayak and surgeon Jashvantsinh Parmar. The BJP is likely to win all the four seats it has named candidates for.Thanking the party for his nomination, Nayak said: "I express gratitude to crores of BJP workers and all the leaders for honouring a booth worker like me. In my entire life, I never thought that I could get such a big opportunity."

The BJP's choice of candidates across states indicated that grassroots workers and lesser-known faces who represent a cross section of castes and communities are being given a place at the high table. This is also in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instruction to his party colleagues to contest at least one direct election.

The party -- which is riding high on the women's reservation bill -- named five women in its list of 28 candidates.

"With the nominations, it is now clear that of the nine ministers whose terms ended, only two are being sent for a second stint in the Upper House, while several of the remaining seven are likely to face a content in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls," said a party functionary, requesting anonymity.

This functionary said the PM had indicated on several occasions that those with multiple Rajya Sabha terms, barring a few exceptions, will have to contest Lok Sabha polls.

"There are some members who have responsibilities in the government or the party that will leave them with little time to nurture a constituency and run their campaigns, so they will be exempt from contesting even though they have been members of the Upper House for more than two terms," the functionary said. Union ministers whose terms end between April and July include environment minister Bhupender Yadav (Rajasthan), education minister Dharmendra Pradhan (Madhya Pradesh), health minister Mansukh Mandaviya (Gujarat), minister of micro, small and medium enterprises Narayan Rane (Maharashtra), minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan, minister of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy Parshottam Rupala (Gujarat) and minister of state for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Karnataka).

There is speculation that Pradhan will contest in the Lok Sabha elections from Odisha, Yadav from Haryana, Rupala and Mandaviya from Gujarat, Muraleedharan from Kerala, and Chandrashekhar from either Kerala or Karnataka.

"The candidates who have been nominated for the Rajya Sabha polls will bring a healthy mix of experience and diversity to the Upper House. They fit in with the social engineering model and will be the leaders for the next phase of party, post 2024," said the functionary quoted above. The leader cited the examples of Amarpal Maurya, an OBC leader, and Sangeeta Balwant from the extremely backward classes community in UP being nominated.

SC seeks 'way forward' from TN on restarting Sterlite plant

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Tamil Nadu and it's pollution control board to suggest a "way forward" to restart the Sterlite copper smelting plant owned by Vedanta in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi. "You are shutting down an industry. We are not a banana republic. We are a republic governed by the rule of law," said the bench.

The plant by Sterlite Copper, the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources, a global mining and metals conglomerate, has remained shut since 2018 over alleged violation of environmental norms and protests by the locals against its operation.

"The national interest cannot be overlooked. As it is, there are only a few copper smelters in the country. The nation should not lose this asset...suggest a way forward. The easiest thing is to shut a plant. But we want you to suggest a way forward as to what would subserve the public interest best," a bench, headed by CJI Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, asked the senior counsel appearing for the Tamil Nadu government and the state pollution control board. According to the bench that also comprised justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, the state and the pollution board should propose a way out instead of the court "shoving an order down everybody's throat".

"What's the best modalities to subserve the larger public interest? We understand your concerns and we will put the most

The plant has been shut over allegations of violations of environmental norms.

stringent conditions on them...The people and the community in Tuticorin must also have confidence and we acknowledge it. The state government can do it and our order can help in achieving that further. They can do business only if you are on board. Which company can operate if the state government is not on board," the bench told senior counsel Gopal Sankaranarayanan and CS Vaidyanathan, who represented the state and the pollution board respectively in the matter.

The bench further proposed the constitution of a committee, comprising experts on pollution control and environment, which it said can submit the report on copper smelter operations, conditions for operations and reparations payable for environmental harm. While Sankaranarayanan said that his instructions are repeated violations by Vedanta do not warrant a relook at the closure of the plant, Vaidyanathan said that the company should rather sell its plant and shift elsewhere. Both the lawyers, however, acceded to the court's nudge to hold consultations with the authorities yet again and revert on Thursday when the matter will be heard again. Senior counsel Shyam Divan appeared for Vedanta.

At one point of the day-long hearing, Vaidyanthan urged the bench to look beyond the 2018 show-cause notice of the state pollution control board enumerating the grounds of violations, adding larger public interest required to be considered.

But the bench retorted: "You are shutting down an industry. We are not a banana republic. We are a republic governed by the rule of law. They (Vedanta) may be violators, but you will have to follow fairness. You cannot show five grounds for shutting them down and later say there are 20 other grounds that a court must consider."

It added: "The order of the Madras high court (affirming the shutdown notice in 2020) was thoroughly wrong. They were not hearing an appeal, but a writ petition filed by the company...and you cannot say that 'I will sustain my order on some other grounds'...You cannot say these are bad apples and so for other reasons, we will shut them down."

Tens of thousands of protesters had taken to the streets of Thoothukudi in May 2018 against a proposed expansion of Sterlite's 400,000-tonne annual capacity smelter. After the protests turned violent and police opened fire, 13 protesters died. A week later, the state pollution control board and the state government ordered the plant shut for alleged pollution.

Ex-PM Shastri's grandson quits Cong

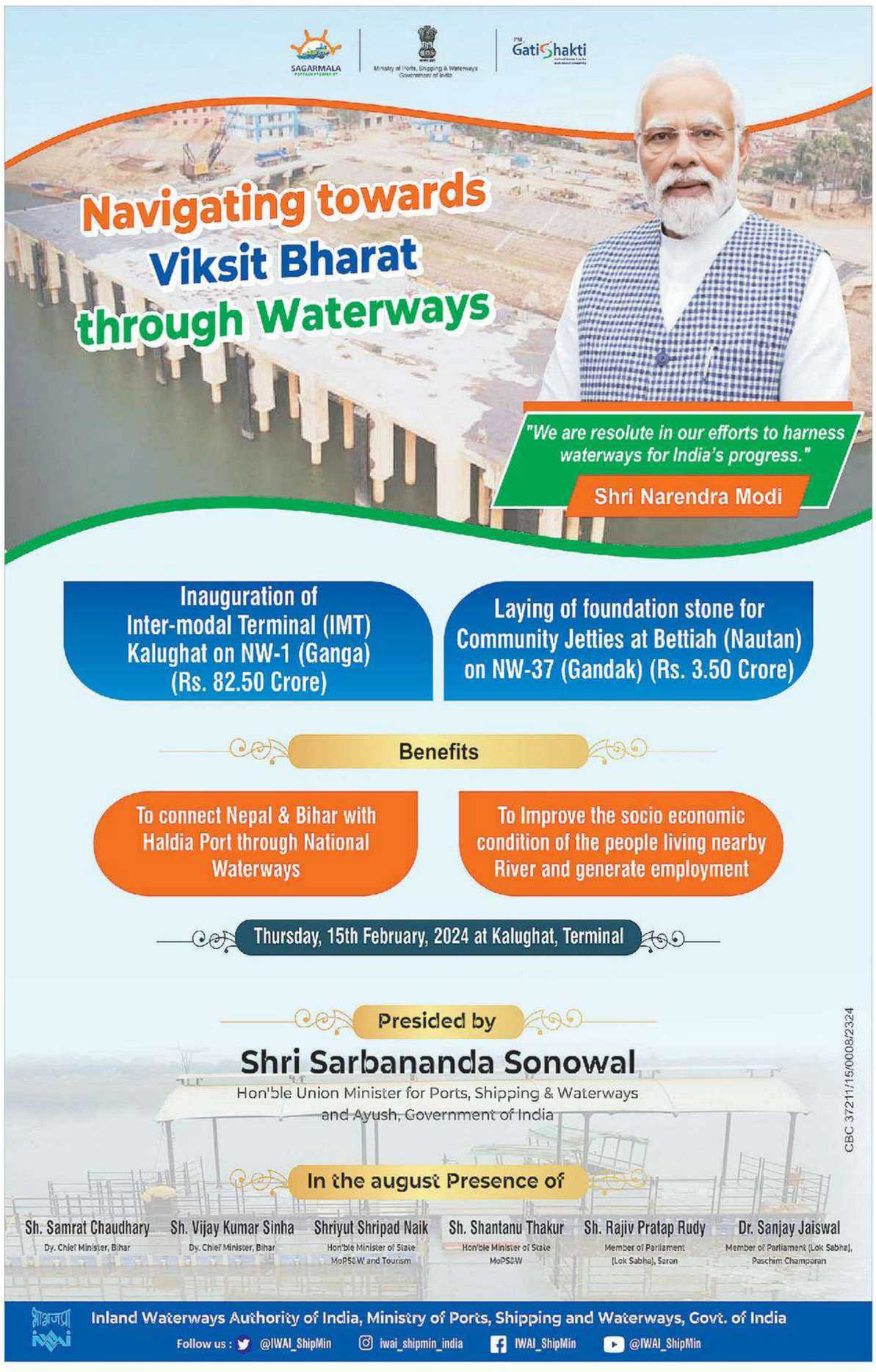
NEW DELHI: Vibhakar Shastri, grandson of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, resigned from the Congress on Wednesday.In a post on X, Shastri said, "Hon'ble Congress President Shri Kharge ji! Respected Sir, I hereby tender my resignation from the primary membership of Indian National Congress, Regards, Vibhakar Shastri."

6-yr-old kidnapped, raped in UP: Police

MUZAFFARNAGAR: A six-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped and raped in a village in Muzaffarnagar of Uttar Pardesh , police said on Wednesday. The FIR was lodged based on the complaint filed by the survivor 's uncle, said police.A case was registered against an unidentified person under the Pocso Act, police said.

Vacancy in EC after Pandey's retirement

NEW DELHI: Anup Chandra Pandey on Wednesday demitted office as an election commissioner on attaining the age of 65 years, creating a vacancy in the three-member Election Commission. He had joined the commission in June 2021. His retirement comes days before the EC is to announce the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls.



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CHANGE OF NAME

I, TUSHAR S/O, Laxman Das R/o H No V 306 Gandhi Colony Faridabad have changed my name to Tushar Pasi for all purposes.

I, SHAKIRA W/O Zahiruddin Saifi R/O RZ-24/254, Gali No.16, Jagdamba Vihar, West Sagarpur New Delhi-110046 have changed my name to Sakira Begum for all future Purposes

I, HARISH Tiwari S/o Ram Chandra Tiwari R/o J-1, House No.- 214, Gali No.-13, Sangam Vihar, Pushpa Bhawan, South Delhi New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Harish Chandra for all purposes

I SUGANDHA devi D/O Avadh Naryan Jha, R/O C-336, Nehru Vihar, Delhi - 110054, declare that my fathers name is wrongly written as Avadh Narayan Jha in my Pnb MetLife policy no 22174475. The actual name of my father is Avadh Naryan Jha.

I GOPIKA Aggarwal D/o Sh. Manish Agarwal R/o KD-23, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad UP. have changed my name to Gopika Agarwal for all future purposes.

I MEHAK Goyal W/o Pulkit Mittal R/o B-4/32-33,1st Floor,Rohini, Sector-17 Delhi-110089 has changed my name after marriage from Mehak Goyal to Mehak Mittal for all future purposes.

I, RAHUL Mittal, S/o Ashok Kumar Mittal, Father of Krit R/o H.No. 316, First Floor, Ashoka Enclave 3, Sector 35, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana 121003, have changed my minor son name from Krit to Krit Mittal

I, ANIL Sharma S/o Ramdas Sharma, R/o H.No. 114 Radhey Shyam Park, Sector-5 Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,U.P.-201005 have changed my name from Anil Sharma to Anil Kumar Sharma. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Anil Kumar Sharma for all future purposes.

I, ATEEV Kumar Mathur, S/o Shri Ravi Kumar Mathur, R/o 3315, Eternia Tower, Mahagun Mezzaria, Sector 78, Noida, UP-201301 solemnly declare that my name has been mentioned as Ateev Mathur in my son Adhrit Mathur Passport. I declare that both names Ateev Mathur and Ateev Kumar Mathur belongs to me as one and the same person and I want to change my name as Ateev Kumar Mathur in my son passport and also for all future purposes.

I, RAKESH Kumari spouse of Kunwarpal Singh, R/o A-26, Shalimar Garden Extn.-2 Sahibabad,Ghaziabad U.P.-201005 have changed my name from Rakesh Kumari to Surem as per Affidavit dated 14.02.2024.

I RIDDHI Mehta Gautam W/O, Amit Gautam R/o E 51, Ground Floor, Vipul World , Sohna Road , Gurgaon have changed my name to Riddhi Mehta.

I, JYOTIPRASAD Yogyanarayan Dwivedi, S/O Late Shri Yogyanarayan Dwivedi, R/O B-204, Jm Aroma, Sector 75, Noida 201301, Uttar Pradesh, have Changed My Name to Jyotiprasad Dwivedi.

I, MAYURI Chadha W/o Sh Rohit Motiani R/o Flat No.60, Pocket. B-08, Sector-04, Rohini Delhi-85 have changed my name to Mayuri Motiani for all future purposes.

I SHAKIR Husain S/o Hafijur Rehman R/o H.No-6/683 Dabur Talab Sangam Vihar Loni District Ghaziabad UP. I have changed my name From Mohammed Sakir S/o Hafiz Rahmna to Shakir Husain S/o Hafijur Rehman for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANKUSH Gupta S/o Sh. Narender Gupta R/o H.No.A-3/33, Sec-5, Rohini Delhi-85 have changed my minor son's name from Gourang Gupta to Gaurang Gupta for all purposes.

I, NEHA Sharma D/o Sh. Subhash Chander Sharma R/o H.No. 12-13, Ist Floor, Pkt-15, Sec-24 Rohini Delhi have declare that Neha Khankra, Neha Bhimra & Neha Sharma is one and same future person.

I, MD Masoom Raza S/o Md Asif R/o F-90, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave-2, Okhla, New Delhi-25 state that both the names Md Masoom Raza S/o Md Asif and Mohammad Masoom Raza S/o Mohammad Asif are of same person and shall hereafter be known as Md Masoom Raza S/o Md Asif.

I JHARNA Rani Mandal Maity W/o Bishnu Pada Maity R/o Vill-Dhalgoda P/o-Astichak P/s-Egra Dist-Purba Medinipur WB-721422 have changed my name to Jharna Rani Maity.

I, VINAY Bhatnagar S/o Mr. Virmesh Chander Bhatnagar R/o House No. 221, Gali No. 07, Budh Vihar Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201009, My name written Vinay Bhatnagar S/o Bramesh Bhatnagar in other documents, Vinay Bhatnagar S/o Mr. Virmesh Chander Bhatnagar and Vinay Bhatnagar S/o Bramesh Bhatnagar is one and same person, My correct Father Name is Mr. Virmesh Chander Bhatnagar.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, NO 5251671L HAVCLK Narender Singh, R/o Bassai, Mohindergarh (Haryana), inform that my parents name & Date of Birth wrongly mentioned in my Army Service Records as Rohtash Singh (Father) Suman Devi (Mother), DOB (02.09.1958) instead of correct name Rohtash (Father), Suman (Mother) DOB (01.01.1959).

AFFIDAVIT
I, LOUIS PAKYNTEIN, Rank Ex-NK. No. 4354558A R/O- Lapalang, Shillong East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya-793006, P.O- Rynjah,. That my wife's actual correct name is "MARY BINOYA LAPASAM" and her date of birth is 23/11/1964. Vide affidavit before the Notary Meghalaya on 8/2/2024.

I VARINDER pal kaur d/o ram singh r/o 251/ q5 , wz- block, lane no 1, varinder nagar, west delhi, delhi-110058 have changed my name to varinder kaur

I, MUKESH Kumari alias Mukesh W/o Mr Niranjan Singh R/o h.no-649/s-2, gulmohar park, Shalimar garde, extn-1, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, U.P-201005 have changed my name to Mukesh Devi for all future purposes

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I, ROHIT Kumar Kushwaha S/O Lallo Ram Kushwaha, Flat no 51C Pok-10B Jasola D.D.A Flat New Delhi 110025, have lost original possession slip (File No L321(772)/2011/DDA10/1L) of my above property. If any body finds please return.

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I HAVE Lost my Original Lease Deed Documents Flat No. 6, Block-A, Hathi Khana, Azad Market, Delhi - 110006, Original Lease Deed Registration No. 2162 Addl Book No. 1, Volume No. 4439 On Pages 118 to 126, Dated 01.06.1985. Finder Please inform to Veena Sehgal W/o. Ranbir Sehgal on mentioned above address

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I MOHAMMAD Shakir S/o Mohd Yameen R/o 385, Lane No. 19, Jafrabad, Delhi-53 hereby declare that both the names Mohammad Shakir & Mohd. Shakir belong to me.

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
IN THE COURT OF MS. SUKHVINDER KAUR, LD. PRINCIPAL JUDGE NEW DELHI DISTRICT, FAMILY COURT, PATIALA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI
Case No. HMA 47/2021
SWATI MEHROTRA ....PETITIONER
Vs
DIVYANK BAJPAI ....RESPONDENT
To,
DIVYANK BAJPAI
S/O SH. YOGESH NARAYAN BAJPAI R/o FLAT NO. 17, CHILLA DHARMENDER APARTMENTS MAYUR VIHAR EXTENSION, NEAR FAIZAR SWEETS AND SHIV MANDIR, DELHI-110091
THE DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT ABOVE NAMED
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **15th Day of March, 2024** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **31st Day of January, 2024.**
Seal
Principal Judge Family Court New Delhi District Patiala House, Delhi

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43 yrs on, court gives verdict in Behmai massacre

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KANPUR: Forty-three years after group of dacoits killed 20 people, most of them upper-caste Thakurs, in Behmai village of Kanpur, sharpening social fault lines and bringing their leader Phoolan Devi in the limelight, a court in Uttar Pradesh delivered its verdict, giving life sentence to one of the last two surviving accused.

Seventeen accused in the case have died after the special anti-dacoity court started the hearing in 2011. Phoolan Devi, the prime accused in the case, who surrendered in 1983, and then became a Samajwadi Party lawmaker, died in 2001. Only two accused — Shyam Babu and Vishwanath — attended the court proceedings in the case. Three others, Ram Ratan, Man Singh, and Ashok, are absconding. "Shyam has been given life imprisonment, and the court acquitted Vishwanath, finding him a minor at the time of the crime," public prosecutor Raju Porwal said.

On February 14, 1981, a group of dacoits stormed the UP village, dragged out all the men from their houses, lined them up and shot them dead. It was the first time that dacoits, mostly Mallahs, joined hands to take on the Thakurs of 84 villages, who allegedly supported the upper-caste dacoit gang of Shriram and Lalaram, and to avenge Phoolan Devi's rape.

The families of the victims said they do not feel that justice has been served as the legal battle prolonged for decades.

"My father, Dashrath Singh, regularly attended the court proceedings till 1990. After his death, my mother, Hardeyi Devi, would go to court hearings. However, she too lost hope in 1996. I do not know how to react to this verdict, I feel the justice was not given to us," Kalloo Singh, whose uncle was one of the victims, said.

Girish Narayan Dubey, the defence lawyer, blamed the prosecution for the extended legal proceedings. "While the defence never sought even one adjournment, the prosecution kept looking for deferment," he said.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Additional taxes inevitable

Substitution of ST opposed

Dacoits massacre 22 in UP village

ROBOT

FEBRUARY 16, 1981: HT reported the murder of what was initially believed to be 22 people by dacoits in Behmai.

{ MEET ATTENDED BY TOP ECONOMISTS }

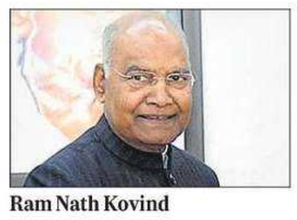
Kovind-led panel holds talks with experts over research on poll cycle

Saptarshi Das
saptarshi.das@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former president Ram Nath Kovind-led high-level committee on One Nation, One Election on Wednesday held deliberations with top economists on details of a research paper — Macroeconomic Impact of Harmonising Electoral Cycles — on the subject, attracting mixed reactions from experts on holding simultaneous polls, people aware of the matter said.

The committee sought the experts' view on simultaneous polls as the research paper, co-authored by chairman of the 15th finance commission NK Singh and chief of systemic division issues at International Monetary Fund (IMF) Prachi Mishra, pointed at wider implication of harmonising elections on the economy, besides economising time and resources.

Both Singh and Mishra were among the 13 economists present in the meeting called by the Kovind-led panel, one of people who attended the deliberations said, requesting anonymity.


Ram Nath Kovind

The research paper was discussed in the meeting, the person said. "Some people had questions on the [research] methodology. Even though most people were in favour, there were some who did not appreciate the idea of holding simultaneous polls," the person added, declining to divulge specific details of the meeting and views of individual experts.

HT reported about the research paper when it was first presented to the committee on January 28. The paper expounded simultaneous elections would precipitate higher economic growth, and give government more fiscal space to invest on welfare works and infrastructure development.

The research paper explained that apart from the expenses factors, there are wider economic ramifications of simultaneous polls on gross domestic product (GDP) growth, fiscal deficit, welfare programmes, and law and order.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from research institutions such as the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), and the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP).

In a separate meeting, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi presented his party's views before the Kovind-led panel on holding the simultaneous polls. Last month, Owaisi had opposed the idea, describing it as a "solution searching for a problem" and saying the proposal to hold the three-tier polls in the country simultaneously would be a "disaster" for Indian democracy and federalism.

TN House passes resolutions against delimitation, 'one nation, one poll'

Divya Chandrababu
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly on Wednesday adopted two resolutions moved by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government opposing the scheduled delimitation exercise for redrawing of poll constituencies in 2026 and the Centre's proposed "one nation, one election" policy.

Calling it a "decisive stand" against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union government's "authoritarian agenda", chief minister MK Stalin in assembly hailed the passage of the two resolutions as "a watershed moment for Tamil Nadu".

"We refuse to be treated as second-class citizens and have unanimously passed two resolutions: one to shield our state from unfair delimitation exercise, ensuring that we are not punished for our socio-economic progress and successful population control measures; and another staunchly opposing the undemocratic One Nation One Election fantasy, which threatens the very fabric of our diverse democracy," Stalin said.

The resolution on the delimitation exercise said if it was to be held for "unavoidable reasons", the population of 1971 census should be the criteria for carrying out the process and not the one scheduled in 2026.

The debate around delimitation, an exercise of redrawing boundaries of assembly and parliamentary constituencies based on population proportion, was reignited after the passage of women's reservation bill in Parliament in September last year

MK Stalin

after the Union government said the law would be implemented after the delimitation process is completed in 2026 based on the decadal census which is pending since 2021. "Due to unavoidable reasons, if the number of seats on the basis of population were to increase it shall be maintained at the present ratio of the constituencies between the States in the State Assemblies and both Houses of Parliament fixed based on the population of 1971," the resolution said.

Southern states such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala fear their political representation might reduce if the exercise was held. Elaborating his stance on delimitation, Stalin drew a comparison of Tamil Nadu and Bihar — the two states, he said, had almost the same population in 1971. "Today, Bihar's population is 1.5 times more than Tamil Nadu. If delimitation comes into force, Tamil Nadu's representation in Parliament will be lesser than many north Indian states. Delimitation could be a conspiracy to reduce the number of Parliament seats from southern states like Tamil Nadu," the DMK chief said.

On the proposed simultaneous polls in the country as part of "one nation, one election" policy, Stalin described it as "impractical" and "against the basic feature" of the Constitution of India. "The one nation one election is out-and-out impractical and it is against the basic feature of the Constitution.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam also supported the resolution on the delimitation exercise. On the second resolution, AIADMK MLA Thalavai Sundaram said the "one nation, one election proposal could be completed in 10 years".

The BJP opposed the resolution on one nation, one election. The party, however, backed the resolution against delimitation exercise. "We agree with the concerns of states in South India that have achieved certain socio-economic standards should not suffer in the delimitation process...," BJP legislator Vanathi Srinivasan said in assembly.

SC issues circular on adjournments

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a circular ending adjournment in certain categories of cases, including bail and laid down new rules under which each lawyer to a case can seek adjournment only once and in no circumstance is a case to be adjourned consecutively on two occasions.

The drastic changes brought about by the new guidelines are in line with the thoughts recently shared by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud last month when he presented "adjournment culture" as a challenge to the legal system and spoke of emerging into a "culture of professionalism".

"Circulating letters for adjournment in fresh and regular hearing matters is not permitted," the circular said.

In matters where notice has been issued, the top court's instruction said, "No letters for adjournment shall be entertained in cases relating to bail/ anticipatory bail, where exemption from surrendering has been granted, where interim order is operating in favour of the party who seeks adjournment, and where suspension of sentence has been sought for." In all other cases, the letter of adjournment will be entertained a day before the case list's publication.

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The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1	Annual Surfacing on Sundernagar Dharanda road KM 0/0 to 5/810 SH: Providing and laying 25mm thick bituminous concrete including profile correction layer in KM 1/0 to 2/0 and 3/0 to 5/810) (V.R)	39,41,988/-	15.02.2024	78,900/-	26.02.2024
2	Annual Surfacing on Sundernagar to Keran road KM 0/0 to 2/0 and Nalani Sangari road KM 0/0 to 1/300 (SH: Providing and laying 25mm thick bituminous concrete including profile correction layer) (V.R)	34,14,311/-	15.02.2024	68,300/-	26.02.2024
3	Annual Surfacing on Pungh Kapahi via Patsal road KM 0/0 to 9/300 (SH: Providing and laying 25mm thick bituminous concrete including profile correction layer in KM 0/0 to 3/0) (V.R.)	31,03,925/-	15.02.2024	62,100/-	26.02.2024
4	Annual surfacing on Nihri to Bara road KM 0/0 to 1/010 and Jachh Pressi Pangna road KM 4/0 to 8/0 (SH: Providing and laying 25mm thick bituminous concrete including profile correction layer) (V.R).	51,83,565/-	15.02.2024	1,03,000/-	26.02.2024
5	Annual surfacing on Slapper to Jarol via Kandar road KM 0/0 to 5/0 (SH: Providing and laying 25mm thick bituminous concrete including profile correction layer in KM 0/0 to 5/0) (PMGSY).	51,73,199/-	15.02.2024	1,03,500/-	26.02.2024

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website **WWW.hptenders.gov.in**.

Executive Engineer
Sunder Nagar Division
HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175018
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

DPR HP-5905

U.P. State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDA Complex, A-1/4, Lakhanpur, Kanpur- 208024
Website: www.onlineupsida.com

Notice regarding invitation of Public Objection(s) / Suggestion(s) on Amendment of Layout of Industrial Area EPIP Agra.

1 (a) Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) intends to Interchange of Social Facility Space (S.F.S.) Plot with Commercial Plot resulting change in area & land use (Total sector area remained same). This revision got approved in 45th Board Meeting of UPSIDA dated 13.02.2024.

2 A copy thereof will be available at the Regional Manager Office of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, Administrative Building, EPIP Shastripuram, Sikandra, Agra between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days and also available at **website: www.onlineupsida.com**

3 Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA at Administrative Building, EPIP Shastripuram, Sikandra, Agra within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning above subject or to be emailed at **rmupsidaagra@gmail.com** Any person making the Objection(s) / Suggestion(s) should also give his/her full name & address, Email id and contact number.

(Regional Manager)
U.P. State Industrial Development Authority, **Agra**

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
ROAD DEPARTMENT
TIME EXTENSION FOR E-TENDER

The tendered works mentioned under by Road Department of Pune Municipal Corporation are hereby giving the time extension for the tender process. All the terms and conditions of the tender mentioned under are available for scrutiny in the uploaded tender documents at no cost.

Sale of e-tender documents - 15/02/2024 to 16/02/2024 up to 03:00 PM
Last date of submission of e-tender -15/02/2024 to 16/02/2024 up to 03:00 PM
Date of opening of e-tender-20/02/2024 at 3:00 PM

SR. NO.	DEPARTMENT	TIME EXTENSION OF TENDER NO	Name of Work
1.	Road Department	PMC/ ROAD/2023/384	CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT OF D P ROADS FROM NIBM 18M DPROAD TO 15M DP ROAD VIA SURVEY NO 29 33 32 36 35 IN KONDHAWA ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PPP MODULE AGAINST DEVELOPMENT CREDIT NOTE UNDER PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

1. The sale of the above mentioned tender is available only online. i.e. on www.mahatenders.gov.in
2. All the others condition remains unchanged.

Sd/-
Supritendent Engineer (Road)
Pune Municipal Corporation
Pune-411005

Advt No. 3/1830 dt. 14.02.24

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Plot No. 15-A, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

SCHEME FOR THE AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP TO OUTSTANDING PERSONS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE

Offline Applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for the award of Junior and Senior Fellowship for undertaking research oriented projects in the field of Performing, Literary, Plastic Arts and New Areas related to Culture.

Applications are invited for the year 2022-23 with effect from dated **15th February, 2024**. There are 200 Junior & 200 Senior Fellowships for this year. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and Application Module are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture Government of India and CCRT.

www.indiaculture.nic.in

www.ccrtindia.gov.in

31st March, 2024 is the last date for submission of applications.

ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

CBC 09127/12/0010/2324

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number: 9646123323)

Tender Inquiry No. PPR - 07/2024 **Dated: 14.02.2024**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/ intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st March 2024 to 9th June 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.mstcecommerce.com** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (**www.Powermin.nic.in**) and PFC Consultancy Limited (**www.pfcindia.com**). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **www.mstcecommerce.com** from 14.02.2024 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **www.mstcecommerce.com**

C127/24 32460

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

MSME
MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम
Development & Facilitation office

G20 भारत 2023 INDIA
वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्
ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office
Govt. of India, Ministry of MSME
Okhla, New Delhi -110020

Invites applicants on First Come First Serve basis

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MDP)

Sl. No	Name of the course	Course content	Tentative dates and duration	Venue	Contact Person
1.	**MDP on Digital Marketing**	Digital branding, Content Design, Content marketing, Website Design, SEO, E-mail Marketing, Community building, Influencer Marketing, Productivity Tools, Lead Generation.	**26th February to 01st March, 2024 (5 Days)**	MSME-DFO, Okhla, New Delhi-110020	Sh. Sunil Kumar, Assistant Director, +91 9896341610
2.	**MDP on Digital Marketing**	Digital branding, Content Design, Content marketing, Website Design, SEO, E-mail Marketing, Community building, Influencer Marketing, Productivity Tools, Lead Generation.	**26th February to 01st March, 2024 (5 Days)**	MSME-DFO, Okhla, New Delhi-110020	Dr. B.P. Singh, Assistant Director, +91 9868021511
3.	**MDP on Digital Marketing**	Digital branding, Content Design, Content Marketing, Website Design, SEO, E-mail Marketing, Community building, Influencer Marketing, Productivity Tools, Lead Generation.	**19th February to 23rd February 2024 (5 Days)**	Br. MSME-DFO, Connaught Place, (Opposite Haldiram, L-Block) New Delhi-110001	Shri Anil Kumar, Assistant Director, +91 9810363093

- **Course Fee**: Rs. 400/- per participants (No Fee for SC/ST/PH/ Women participants).
- The MDP Course at Sl.No.2 is exclusively for SC participants.
- **Eligibility:** Owners/Owners-cum-Manager and Supervisory level personal of Micro & Small Scale Enterprises and serious candidates with business attitude.
- **Minimum Age**: 18 years and above.
- **Minimum Qualification:** 10+2 and above.
- **Admission:** Batch of 25-30 Candidates will be shortlisted on first come first serve basis.
- **Last Date for receiving application:** 25.02.2024 for MDP on Digital Marketing at Sl. No. 1 & 2.

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office
Shaheed Capt. Gaur Marg, Oppt. Okhla Indl. Estate,
Okhla, New Delhi – 110020
E-mail: dcdi-ndelhi@dcmsme.gov.in, Website: www.msmedinewdelhi.gov.in
Office Phone No. 011 -26838269, 26838068, 26838118

CBC 25113/12/0237/2324

ICMR भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद

"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"

Adv .No. ICMR/Tech-Rect/TO-B&C/01/2024-Estt. **Dated: 31st January 2024**

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR TECHNICAL OFFICER POSTS

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an Autonomous Organization, under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. ICMR is dealing with biomedical/health research in various areas, in collaboration with National/ International agencies, through its Headquarters at New Delhi and 27 Institutes/Centres and various field stations, situated across the country.

2. ICMR invites online applications, **from Indian Citizens**, to fill up following **Technical Officers Group'A' positions** under ICMR Hqrs. New Delhi for appointment on regular basis under Direct Recruitment **with all India transfer liability under the Council**:-

Name of Post & Category	Stream and No. of posts	Pay Scale	Age
Technical Officer-B (Unreserved)	Bio-Medical Engineering - 01	Pay Level-10 of Pay Matrix (Rs.56,100-1,77,500) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible from time to time	Not exceeding 35 years
Technical Officer-C (Unreserved)	Civil Engineering -01	Pay Level 11 of Pay Matrix (Rs.67,700-2,08,700) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible from time to time	Not exceeding 45 years
	Electrical Engineering -01		
	Computer/Information Technology Engineering -01		
	Artificial Intelligence Engineering -01		
	Programmer -01		
	Mechanical/Mechatronics/Instrumentation Engineering -02		

Notes:

1. Posts are identified suitable for Persons with Benchmark Disability.
2. The last date of receipt of online applications is up to **08th March, 2024 till 5.30 PM**.
3. For essential eligibility criteria and other general terms and conditions. Please visit website of ICMR i.e. **www.icmr.nic.in**.

CBC 17152/12/0042/2324 **Assistant Director General (Admin)**

SC verdict on electoral bonds today

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will on Thursday morning deliver its verdict on a clutch of petitions that have contested the validity of the electoral bond (EB) scheme of political funding.

A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, and comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, will rule on the legal sanctity of the EB scheme ahead of the general elections, which is expected to take place in the coming months of April and May.

The bench had on November 2 reserved its judgment in the matter even as it observed on the day that the EB scheme suffers from "serious deficiencies" and added that the Union government ought to consider designing a new tailor-made system which balances proportionality and paves the way for a level playing field instead of "putting a premium on opacity".

THE BENCH ON NOV 2 HAD OBSERVED SERIOUS HOLES IN THE ELECTORAL BOND SCHEME AND HAD RESERVED ITS ORDER THEN

However, in response to a question from the bench, the government refrained from making a statement that it was prepared to make suitable amendments in the Companies Act to ensure that profit-making companies could make political donations, which will be capped at a fixed percentage of their profits.

Representing the Centre, Solicitor general (SG) Tushar Mehta said during the November 2 hearing that making laws was a legislative function and that he could not commit nor was he of the view that donations had to be a percentage of profit of a company. Mehta also produced a letter signed by the chairman of SBI to support his claim that not even the Union government has access to information about EBs and that, should the court decide that more safeguards needed to be included in the scheme, RBI could be the only designated bank to issue EBs.

On November 2, the bench also directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to submit within two weeks complete information on each and every donor and contributions received by political parties through EBs till September 30.

Under the 2018 EB scheme, bonds are available for purchase at any SBI branch in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore and can be bought through a KYC-compliant account. Every party registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act and having secured at least 1% of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or state election has been allotted a verified account by ECI.

The five-judge bench heard the matter on three consecutive days when it picked holes in the 2018 EB scheme flagging a spate of "flaws" while the Centre mooted two suggestions in its endeavour to defend it.

First, the Centre said the court could consider substituting SBI with RBI as the statutory bank for issuing EBs and keeping accounts; and second, the court could criminalise any instance of breach of confidentiality regarding donors.

While the court remained of the tentative view that the EB scheme did not appear to augur well with the need for transparency when such donations could very well be kickbacks, the Centre maintained that confidentiality is necessary so that no political party gets to know as to which entities have not donated to it but have given funds to some other party.

No wildlife clearance for projects in sanctuaries without compliance certificates, says nat'l body

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Project proposals in and around wildlife sanctuaries and national parks will not be considered for wildlife clearance unless states submit certificates of compliance to the conditions prescribed by the standing committee of the national board for wildlife (NBWL) for previously permitted projects, the committee has decided.

The minutes of the standing committee of NBWL's 77th meeting released on February 7 revealed that there is hardly any compliance of the precautionary conditions prescribed by NBWL for infrastructure and development projects that have been allowed to come up in national parks and sanctuaries.

"The Standing Committee decided that the compliance of conditions of the project proposals recommended or approved by the Standing Committee in the last two years shall be monitored by the Regional Offices of the Ministry. The Chief WildLife Wardens shall give the compliance certificates within one month and thereafter within one month the Regional Offices of the Ministry shall submit the compliance reports to the Ministry... the Standing Committee decided that the Ministry shall inform all the States that the project proposals shall not be considered unless certificate of compliance of conditions in case of previously recommended/approved project proposals have been received," the minutes said.

In the last five years, 718 project proposals in wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas have been granted wildlife clearance by NBWL. However, the certificates of compliance are not being sent by the state chief wildlife wardens, the minutes said.

HS Singh, NBWL member and a retired Gujarat forest officer, said the situation on the ground is quite serious.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No:234 **Short term e- Tender Notice** Date: 13/02/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites online e-bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below.
Tender No : 31/EE(Civil)/MB-II/Chinyalisaur/2023-24
Name of work: Hill slope protection work behind Dharasu Power House of Maneri Bhali Project Stage-II at Dharasu,(Uttarkashi).
Estimated cost :- Rs. 1,82,84,459.34(excluding GST)
Date of availability of bid document on website : 15.02.2024 from 5:00 PM
Last Date for submission of Tender : 29.02.2024 upto 05:00 PM
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our e- Procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office:- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact No. 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ- 2348/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 2,30,000 No. 11 KV Composite Polymer Disc Insulators (Tongue & Clevis type), EMS 45 KN as per PSPCL, specification no. QQ-2348/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 14.02.2024 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C121/24 32446

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Dy. CE/Hydel Project PSPCL, Patiala Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 314/HPs/ED-II/RSD-133 **Dated: 09.02.2024**

Dy. CE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 1 no Oil Filtration Set for turbine and generator oil at RSD Shahpurkandi.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 20.02.2024 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C122/24 32448

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite **E-TENDER** on prescribed form for the following works up to **12:00** hrs. on **07.03.2024**. The details of the Tender is as under:-

S.N.: 1	Tender No.: PRYJ- Sig-72- 2023- 24
Name of Work: Comprehensive AMC of IPIS items [Make M/s AVDS] over Prayagraj division for three years.	
Approx Cost of work (Rs.) : 68,13,051/-	**Bid Security (Rs.) :** 1,36,300/-
Cost of Tender Form : 0/-	**Completion Period:** 36 Months

Date of Closing of tender: 07.03.2024, 2. Availability of tender form: Tender forms are available on **www.ireps.gov.in** 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. **3. Time date & place of opening of tender:** Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre-determined date at **12:30 hours**. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day.

276/24 (P)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 24/10 **Dated: 13.02.2024**
E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, **The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit)** invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

S. N.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	64231058C	Taper Roller Bearing 31315	10 Nos	14.03.2024
2	64231050C	Hyd elbow 90 Degree out of free cutting steel	50 Nos	14.03.2024
3	50231469	Telephone Magneto Desk	745 Nos	06.03.2024
4	60235060A	Contact less wheel measurement Gauge	1 Nos	22.03.2024
5	60241030	Clean silica sand	1786 MT	01.04.2024
6	64245007	Tamping Arm	48 Nos.	04.03.2024
7	64245039	DOUBLE PUMP, VIBRATION MOTOR	734 Nos.	19.03.2024
8	64245069	Tungsten Carbide Tip Tamping Tool	166 Nos.	19.03.2024
9	64245071	Tungsten Carbide Tipped Tamping Tool	10 Set	13.03.2024
10	64245059	Tungsten Carbide Tamping Tool	10 Set	11.03.2024
11	64235064C	Contactor	07 Nos.	18.03.2024
12	64235091C	Semi-Finished P B Bush	204 Nos.	15.03.2024
13	64235087C	Dummy No. 6 & 4	1824 Nos.	13.03.2024
14	64235098B	Bush	232 Nos.	21.03.2024
15	20233581	SET OF SPARE FOR SNADER	365 SET	12.03.2024
16	40233188 (e-RA)	SET OF 120 AH VRLA BATTERIES	411 Set	11.03.2024

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** Fory any change/corrigendum in tender, please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/change will be published in news paper.

269/24(K)

@northcentralrailway North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

DELHI STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(AN UNDERTAKING OF GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
AAPURTI BHAWAN, 7-9, ARAM BAGH,
NEW DELHI-110055

E-procurement Tender Notice
Tender I.D. No. 2024_DSCSC_253632_1

e-Tenders are invited from leading contractors for **sale/ lifting of empty cartons of IFL/IMFL/BEER/Country Liquor** from the liquor vends of the Corporation situated in Delhi/New Delhi for the period from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025. Tender forms can be downloaded from the website **http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** upto 11.30 A.M on 29.02.2024. Schedule of e-tender is as under:-

Last date and time of submission of bid on : 29.02.2024 upto 11.30 P.M

Date and time of opening of technical bid on : 29.02.2024 at 3.00 P.M

Date and time of opening of financial bid on : 01.03.2024 at 3.00 P.M

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0342/23-24 **GENERAL MANAGER**

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the PESB advt. No. 7/2024 dated 23.01.2024 vide which application for filling up the vacancy to the post of **Chairman and Managing Director**, SJVN has been invited, it is informed that the date of vacancy for post, wherever appears, **may be read as 01.02.2024** instead of 01.03.2024. Other T&C contained in the aforesaid advertisement will remain unchanged.

For details log in to website
http://pesb.new.nic.in

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: office.sscih@gmail.com

GeM Bid Notice

It is hereby informed that a **GeM bid No. GEM/2024/B/4613387 dated 12.02.2024** has been uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of **Bid for Services - Monthly Basis Cab & Taxi Hiring Services for KSSSCI.** All interested service providers/bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Pre-bid Meeting:- Date: 16.02.2024, Time: 02:00 pm

Note: 1. EMD Submitted for the previous bid through **RTGS/ NEFT** will be accepted and held valid for this Bid. However, **UTR No. and a scanned copy** must be uploaded with this **GeM bid. 2.** In case of Re-bids, the affidavits submitted in the previous bids (with the same terms and conditions) will also be accepted. **3.** The meeting will be conducted through video link for which please email a request at least 1 day prior to the indicated date and time to **office.sscih@gmail.com** and you will receive a confirmation and link to join.
The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute **www.cancerinstitute.edu.in**

Advt No:- KSSSCI /PRO-44/2023-24 Director

Office of the Superintending Engineer,
2nd Circle, P.W.D., Nainital - 263002
Phone/Fax : 05942-235728/ 232030 E-mail : sepwdntl@rediffmail.com

Letter No.: 714/41M 2/ Dated : 14.02.24

National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)

Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites e-tender (two bid system). For further details please log on to https://www.uktenders.gov.in from 16.02.2024

Sl. No.	Name of work	Earnest money (in Lakh Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form	Validity of tender	Time of completion	Contractor's category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Renewal with SDBC of A- Bhowali Nainital Tanki Kibury Pangoot motor road (SH 63) in Km 1, 9, 10, 19 to Km 27 B- Nainital Kaladhungi Bajpur Doraha Motor Road (SH 13) in Km 10, under AR Year 2024-25	5000 +18% G.S.T.	5.65	120	9	Registered in Class "A" and above in any State Govt./ Central Govt. under taking,in Road works.
1	Renewal with SDBC of Kathgodam Hairakhan Sanni Bend Simalya Bend motor road (SH 103) in Km 10 to Km 37 (27 Km) under AR year 2024-25	5000 +18% G.S.T.	9.67	120	12	Registered in Class "A" and above in any State Govt./ Central Govt. under taking,in Road works.

Superintending Engineer,
2nd Circle, P.W.D. Nainital

MADHYA PRADESH URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH)
Amarkantak Bhawan, Press Complex, M.P. Nagar, Bhopal-462011
E-mail : mapurdep@gmail.com, Telephone : 0755-2763060
(CIN No. U75110MP2015SGC034139)
NIT No. MPUDC/PMU/2024/1282 **Dated : 14.02.2024**

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION CUM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (DIRECT)

M.P. Urban Development Company Limited invites "Request for Qualification cum Request for Proposals For Selection of Consultant For Feasibility Study and Preparation of DPR For Integrated Urban Development of Chitrakoot, District Satna in Madhya Pradesh" from all eligible consulting firms/NGO. The detailed RfP document with all other relevant information is available on **https://mptenders.gov.in** (Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company Limited - MDB Tender no. 2024_MPUDC_332032).
The document is available online from 16.02.2024 from 02:00 PM. The proposal should be submitted online by 19.03.2024 at 14:30 hours.
The undersigned reserve the right to accept or reject any or all proposal or withdraw the notification without assigning any reason.
M.P. Madhyam/113802/2024 **DY. PROJECT DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL)**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER (LABOUR)
LABOUR DEPARTMENT, GNCT OF DELHI
5- SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI- 110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

HIV Act, 2017 has been enacted to prevent and control the spread of HIV and for protection of Human Rights of Persons affected by the said virus and syndrome. Vide Judgement dated 26.09.2023 (Copy of the judgement is available on the website of Labour Department, GNCTD i.e. **www.labour.delhi.gov.in**), Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter civil Appeal No. 7175/2021, titled "CPL Ashish Kumar Chauhan (Retd.) Vs. Commanding Officer & Ors. has directed to ensure compliance of various provisions of the aforesaid Act including section 19 and 20 of the HIV Act 2017, in regard to designation of a complaint officer, in all the factories, industrial establishment, commercial establishment, shops, plantations, commercial offices, professional organizations, and all other bodies falling within the definition of "establishments" (under section 2(f) of the HIV Act) which reads as follows:

"establishment' means a body corporate or co-operative society or any organization or institution or two or more person jointly carrying out a systematic activity for a period of twelve months or more at one a more places for consideration or otherwise, for the production, supply or distribution of goods or services:"

All the above mentioned establishments are advised to comply with the various provisions of the Act applicable to them.

(S.C. Yadav)
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0341/23-24 **Additional Labour Commissioner**

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
Office of Chief Engineer (O&M), Kumaon Zone, 220KV S/s, Campus, Kamaluaganja, Haldwani-263139
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Phone No. 7088117917

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender of following work and the last date of submission of e-bid (Online/Offline) is **01/03/2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.**

1. Shifting of fire hut, renovation of store shed, construction of approach road for fire hydrant control room and other miscellaneous renovation works at 132KV S/s, Kathgodam under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/32/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69539_1).**
2. Supply and installation of Current Transformers and Potential Transformers of various ratings for improvement of metering accuracy at 132KV Substation, Bhowali under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/33/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69540_1).**
3. Supply and installation of Current Transformers of various ratings for improvement of metering accuracy at 220KV Substation, Haldwani under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/34/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69541_1).**
4. Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 110 Volts Low Maintenance Lead Acid (LMLA) battery bank and battery charger and related miscellaneous works at 132KV Substation, Bhowali under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/35/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69543_1).**
5. Construction of false ceiling with gypsum plasterboard and installation of fire smoke detection system at 132KV Substation, Bhowali under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/36/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69544_1).**
6. Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electronic surveillance system at various substations premises under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/37/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69545_1).**
7. Supply and replacement of 145KV CT and CVT at 132KV S/s, Almora, 132KV S/s, Ranikhet and 132KV S/s, Pithoragarh under O&M Division, PTCUL, Almora against **E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/38/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_69546_1).**

For more details please visit E-Tender Website *www.uktenders.gov.in* and E-Tender information is available at PTCUL Website *www.ptcul.org*. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000.

Letter No.: 313/CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/E-Tender
Date : 14.02.2024

Chief Engineer (O&M)
Kumaon Zone, PTCUL, Haldwani

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Meerut Circle, P.W.D., Meerut

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

No. 257 /11 Cashier(PD Baghpat)-M.C COMPETITIVE BIDDING Dated: 23 /01 /2024

The S.E. Meerut Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Meerut on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites bid on SBD Basis online through UPPWD E-Tender Website http:@etender.up.nic.in for the construction of work detailed in the table given below. The Bidder is advised to examine carefully all instructions including addendum/amendments to ITB, conditions of contract, contract data, forms terms, technical specifications, bill of quantities etc. in the bid document. rate bids on SBD Basis online for the construction of work detailed in the table given below and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class "A" Road Category.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakh)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	In financial year 2023-24 Widening and Strengthening Work of Baraut Aminagar Sarai Road (MDR) Km 3 to 24.650 (Length Km 21.650) Under State Road Fund in District Baghpat	2841.83	42.63	2000.00+ (300+18% GST=2714	15 Months
2	In financial year 2023-24 Widening and Strengthening Work of Baghpat Muradnagar Road (ODR) Km 15 to 22.825 Under State Road Fund in District Baghpat	1884.00	30.00	2000.00+ (300+18% GST=2714	12 Months

➢ The Rate taken in the BOQ including all taxes except GST,

Bids must be published/download online 11:00 AM on date 16-02-2024 and submitted online through UPPWD e-tender Website http;/etender.up.nic.in on or before 14:00 PM on dated 22-02-2024 and the technical bids will be opened online date 22-02-2024 at 14:30 PM and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O. Govt Order No. 879/23-7-2020-176(सा0)/06 date 25.08.2020 is applicable and Contractor has to submit the bid on Prahari App also for which the link is available on www.roc.uppwd.gov.in

All terms & conditions can be seen on website http:/etender.up.nic.in

(Atul Kumar) Executive Engineer PD PWD Baghpat

(Jagdish Prasad) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER Meerut Circle, P.W.D. Meerut

UP 203177 Dt. 13.02.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता मेरठ वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

पत्रांक 443 /11 कैशियर–मे0वृ0(प्रा0ख0बागपत) 23–24 दिनांक :–03.02.2024

1. महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से उ0प्र0 लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई–टैण्डरिंग के माध्यम से दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा प्रतिशत दर पर आमंत्रित की जाती है।

2.

क्रम सं0	जनपद	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (जी0एस0टी0 रहित) (रू0 लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (रू0 लाख में)	5 वर्षीय अनुरक्षण की लागत (रू0 लाख में)	निविदा का मूल्य	कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि	अनुरक्षण अवधि	अधिशासी अभियन्ता का पता	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता का पता	मुख्य अभियन्ता का पता	पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	बागपत	वित्तीय वर्ष 2023–24 में नाबार्ड वित्त पोषित आर0आई0डी0एफ0 योजना के अर्न्तगत ग्राम जोनमाना से विजयभव कॉलिज से नहर पटरी होते हुये ट्योढी सम्पर्क मार्ग पर नव निर्माण का कार्य।	246.12	14.31	18.45	2000+ 300 +GST (18%)= 2714	12 माह	5 वर्ष	प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 बागपत।	मेरठ वृत्त लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मेरठ क्षेत्र, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	श्रेणी ए में पंजीकृत (मार्ग)

3. बिल ऑफ क्वान्टिटी में लगाई गयी दरें सभी करो को जोड़ते हुये तथा जी0एस0टी0 करों को छोड़ते हुये लगाई गयी है।
4. निविदा में मांगी गयी धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा शुल्क प्राप्त (कॉलम नं0 5 एवं 7 के अनुसार) ऑनलाइन के माध्यम से भुगतान ही मान्य होगा। धरोहर धनराशि केवल ई–टेण्डर पोर्टल साईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध गेटवे के माध्यम से नेट बैंकिंग/आर0टी0जी0एस0 द्वारा जमा कर तथा निविदा अभिलेखों में निर्दिष्ट अन्य अभिलेख अपलोड कर बिड जमा की जा सकती है।
1. निविदा ऑनलाइन दिनांक 16.02.2024 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है एवं दिनांक 22.02.2024 की अपरान्ह 14:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। उक्त निविदा की तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 22.02.2024 को अपरान्ह 14:30 बजे खोली जायेगी तथा अर्ह निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय बिड कार्यालय आदेशानुसार निर्धारित समय, दिनांक एवं स्थान पर खोली जायेगी। शासनादेश संख्या 1/2018/3070/78–2–2018/42 आई0टी0/2017 (22) दिनांक 03.01.2018 में निहित व्यवस्थानुसार निविदा की तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बिड खोले जाने के उपरान्त निविदादाता द्वारा मूल अभिलेख व्यक्तिगत रूप से विभाग/कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत किये जाने है। निविदादाता द्वारा मूल अभिलेख प्रस्तुत न किये जाने की दशा में शासनादेश में निहित प्राविधानों के अनुरूप कार्यवाही की जायेगी।
2. निविदादाता सम्बन्धी शेष सभी शर्ते http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
3. धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क का भुगतान इन्टरनेट बैंकिग के माध्यम से किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. ई–निविदा जो http//etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जाएगी उसका विवरण लोक निर्माण विभाग, उ0प्र0 के चाणक्य सॉफ्टवेयर में उपलब्ध सॉफ्टवेयर पर भी निविदा डालने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय से पूर्व अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
5. निविदादाता को शासनादेश संख्या 879(1)/23–7–2020, लो0नि0 अनुभाग–7, लखनऊ दिनांक 25.08.2020 के क्रम में निविदा प्रकिया हेतु चाणक्य सॉफ्टवेयर में प्रहरी एप्लीकेशन का उपयोग कर आवश्यक अभिलेख अपलोड करने होंगें।

(अतुल कुमार) अधिशासी अभियन्ता प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0, बागपत

(जगदीश प्रसाद) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, मेरठ वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ

UP 203179 Dt. 13.02.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

SONIA TO ENTER RS

drasekhar was nominated from Karnataka while Ashok Singh of Gwalior was fielded from Madhya Pradesh. The youngest of the lot, M Anil Kumar Yadav who hailed from a Youth Congress background, was fielded from Telangana.

The elections to 56 seats in the Rajya Sabha is scheduled on February 27. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is expected to bag 31 seats, the Biju Janata Dal two and the YSR Congress party by three. The Congress is likely to retain 10 seats. Its partners in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, the Samajwadi Party, the Trinamool Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, are likely to win three, four and two seats, respectively.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra and leader of Opposition Tikaram Jully were present when Gandhi filed her nomination papers in the Rajasthan assembly building.

Gandhi will fill the seat that will fall vacant in April after former prime minister Manmohan Singh completes his Rajya Sabha tenure. He is unlikely to return to public life.

"We heartily welcome the announcement of respected Sonia Gandhi ji as the Rajya Sabha candidate from the Congress Party, who renounced the post of prime minister. Today her announcement as Rajya Sabha candidate from Rajasthan is a matter of happiness for the entire state and with this announcement all the old memories have been refreshed," Gehlot said on X.

The BJP, on its part, dubbed Gandhi's shift to the Upper House as an admission of the looming defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Two senior Congress leaders considered close to Gandhi maintained that due to her health issues, she opted out of entering the Lok Sabha contest. The former Congress chief began her parliamentary stint by fighting from Bellary in Karnataka and Amethi in Uttar Pradesh in 1999, winning both seats but retaining the latter.

In 2004, she shifted to Rae Bareli as her son Rahul Gandhi made his Lok Sabha poll debut from Amethi. She won the elections in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

Her entrance in the Rajya Sabha also sparked speculation about Priyanka Gandhi Vadra contesting the election from Rae Bareli. A functionary from her office, however, added that no decision has been taken so far.

Gandhi will be the second member of the Nehru-Gandhi family to enter the Rajya Sabha after former PM Indira Gandhi, who was a member of the Upper House from August 1964 to February 1967.

Out of the 10 candidates, Chowdhury, who represents the Kamma community in Telangana, is the second woman face.

"During the Telangana elections, she campaigned very hard. The Congress also needs to reach out to the Kammas especially since the state is led by a Reddy (CM Revanth Reddy). It is a small community in Telangana but her nomination is also a signal for the community in Andhra Pradesh," said Ghanta Chakrapani, director of the BR Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad.

Handore, who unexpectedly lost the municipal council elections in Maharashtra in 2022 due to cross-voting, is a Dalit and Yadav hails from the other backward classes (OBC). Their nomination is in sync with the Congress's outreach to these two communities.

The renomination of GC Chandrasekhar, a Vokkaliga by caste, also assumes significance, especially after the BJP forged an alliance with former PM HD Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular). Vokkaligas are the core vote bank of the JDS even as the Congress is trying to win over the community that has a strong presence in the Old Mysuru belt.

Singhvi and Maken's nominations were on expected lines. Maken is a key aide of Rahul Gandhi and had contested from Haryana in 2022 but lost to Kartikeya Sharma due to cross voting.

Singhvi, one of the Congress's ace legal brains, represented West Bengal the last time with the support of the Trinamool Congress. With the Congress reduced to zero in the Bengal assembly, Singhvi was shifted to Himachal Pradesh.

While Hussain is considered a trusted lieutenant of Kharge, Ashok Singh's nomination surprised many. Singh lost four Lok Sabha polls including a by-election.

If no more candidates are announced, all 56 candidates will be elected unopposed and the Congress will win its quota of 10 seats. Till now, no party has fielded any extra candidate, but the Congress has a narrow margin in Maharashtra, where 41 votes are needed for a candidate to win and the party has 43 members.

The BJP by Wednesday had announced all 28 candidates set to be elected unopposed. The RJD, BRS, Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP faction too, announced their candidates.

FARMERS' PROTEST

jit Singh Dallewal and Sarwan Singh Pandher, who are leading the agitation. Goyal and Munda were both part of the first two rounds of talks with protesters, held on February 8 and 12 respectively, while Rai was present during the first.

Dallewal, convener of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sidhupur), said they will take a call on the future of the protests depending on the outcome of Thursday's meeting.

"We will not compromise on what we have demanded," he said, referring to a raft of demands – a law on minimum support prices (MSP), debt waivers, jobs for relatives of people killed during the 13-month-long farmers protest in Delhi between November 2020 and December 2021, compensation for the farmers injured in Lakhimpur Kheri in October 2021, and the withdrawal of cases registered against protesting cultivators.

A string of major farmers' unions lent their support to the ongoing protests on Wednesday, swelling an agitation that has so far been backed by fewer groups than the 2021-21 stir. The Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of 37 farm unions, said they supported the ongoing protests. Both played key roles in the protests on Delhi's fringes three years ago and have joined the current protests citing the "condemnable use of violence" against farmers.

BKU (Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokri Kalan slammed the police action.

"We stand with them in solidarity. To prove it, our supporters will hold *rail roko* (stop trains) at as many places as we can," he announced. The organisation will block train tracks in Punjab between 12pm and 4pm on Thursday, he said, a day before the larger nationwide strike planned for February 16.

Harinder Singh Lakhowal, chief of BKU (Lakhowal), said the action was taken "at the Centre's behest".

"Why are they using tear gas shells on a peaceful protest ?" asked Lakhowal.

SKM will, meanwhile, meet in Ludhiana on February 18 to decide its next course of action.

Farmers and police, for their part, continued to clash at the Punjab-Haryana border on Wednesday.

Police personnel lobbed tear gas shells and rubber bullets at protesting farmers as they tried to breach the deep cordon of security put in place to keep them from marching to Delhi, 200km south of the Shambhu border.

Agitators on Wednesday however said 65 farmers were injured as the police baton-charged the farmers, a day after similar scenes unfolded at the Punjab-Haryana border.

Haryana home minister Anil Vij defended the use of force against the farmers.

"When these groups (farmers) marched from Amritsar, the Punjab government did not make any effort to stop them anywhere on the way. This means they want to create chaos in Delhi" Vij said.

Senior SKM leader Azad Palwa, from Jind, said the protesters were sitting near Khanauri border when police resorted to lathicharge to disperse them.

"Our vehicles were damaged by the police. The Haryana Police is behaving like terrorists with Haryana and Punjab farmers. Nearly 15 farmers from Jind were detained by the police," he said.

A couple of hundred kilometres away from the melee, Delhi appeared to better adapt to the police's stringent arrangements to stop farmers from entering the Capital.

Vehicular movement, especially in central and south Delhi, was relatively smoother. Key stretches near Singhu and Tikri borders, which are the focus points of the police's measures, reported massive snarls during morning and evening peak hours, as did commuters travelling between Delhi and Noida.

"The farmers were scheduled to reach Delhi on Tuesday. Although the protesting farmers were contained at the Punjab-Haryana borders, we received inputs that some political and non-political groups in small numbers may march to central Delhi. Accordingly, instructions were issued to put barricades at strategic locations in the city and intensify the checking of vehicles. The arrangements disrupted vehicular movement and caused bottleneck congestion on roads leading to the police pickets. As commuters used alternate routes to avoid traffic snarls, the volume of traffic increased on those roads as well," said a senior traffic police officer.

MODI IN UAE

leading up to the centenary of India's independence – for the country but also for its faith and culture.

"The temple is an example of global unity and communal harmony...it reflects the depth of ties between India and the UAE," he said on the second of his two-day trip to the country. "It is a symbol of the shared love between the people of India and the Arab world."

The temple that is spread across 27 acres was built for an estimated ₹700 crore.

Around 1.8 million bricks were used for the temple, which features seven main spires – each representing an emirate in the country.

Modi spent a chunk of his speech talking about India-UAE ties, saying that the world saw the relationship as an example of mutual trust and cooperation. He said in recent years, the bilateral ties scaled new heights, but added that India didn't see the relationship only in contemporary circumstances,

"The roots of these relations are thousands of years old, the Arab world played the role of a the bridge for trade between India and Europe in ancient times...In Gujarat, where I come from, the Arab world was a leading business centre for traders. New possibilities are born from the confluence of civilisations, and new streams of art, culture, and literature spout forth," he said, speaking in Hindi.

"That's why this magnificent temple in Abu Dhabi is so important. The temple has pumped new cultural energy into our ancient ties. This is not just a shrine, it is a symbol of the shared heritage of humanity...a spiritual reflection of India-UAE ties," he added.

Modi – who referred to the opening of the temple as a golden chapter – offered water and prayers in the virtual Ganga and Yamuna rivers at the temple before proceeding to inaugurate the building located in Abu Mreikhah, near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway. He inscribed "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" on marble slab, using a hammer and chisel, and engaged with children who crafted miniature art pieces.

The event was attended by a raft of religious figures, including the Pramukh Swami and Swami Brahmaviharidas, and the UAE minister of tolerance and coexistence, Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, who hailed the contribution of the UAE government. "Your (Modi's) visit to UAE is a clear indication of the depth of the friendship, trust and cooperation that has long existed between the UAE and India and strengthened by you."

Modi stressed the importance of diversity, noting that the temple's walls feature scriptures from Hindu texts, Egyptian hieroglyphs, and verses from the Quran and Bible.

He said Sikhs were taking care of the langar, people of all faiths had worked on constructing the temples, the Bohras had built the wall of harmony at the entrance of the temple, and the 3D experience was courtesy members of the Parsi community.

"We do not see hatred in diversity, we consider diversity as our specialty...In this temple, we will see a glimpse of diverse faiths at each and every step," Modi said.

"Amid global conflict, this reaffirms our faith in humanity... Members of every religion and sect have come forward to build this temple. The seven pillars of this temple represent the seven emirates. This is the nature of the Indian people. Wherever we go, we respect and imbibe their culture and values."

He said the UAE, which till now was known for the Burj Khalifa, Future Museum, Sheikh Zayed Mosque and other hi-tech buildings, had now added another cultural landmark to its identity.

"I am confident that a large number of devotees will come here in the times to come. This will also increase the number of people coming to the UAE and increase the people-to-people ties between the two countries," Modi said.

He added that the temple took forward the UAE president's vision of "we are all brothers".

Modi hailed the contribution of the UAE government. "If there is anyone who has the biggest and the most significant role in making this grand temple a reality, then it is none other than my brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed...The government of UAE has wholeheartedly worked to fulfil the aspirations of crores of Indians. It has not only won the hearts of Indians living in the UAE but also of all 140 crore Indians," he said.

He said during his first visit to the country in 2015, he discussed the desire for this temple with Mohamed bin Zayed. "As soon as I made the proposal, he accepted it instantly, and provided a large plot of land for the temple," he added.

During a visit in 2018, Modi continued, he was shown two models for the temple – one based on ancient Vedic traditions of India, another without any Hindu features. When the plans were showed to Mohamed bin Zayed, Modi said, the UAE president said the temple should be magnificent, and should look like a temple

"This is not a small thing, this is something very big...the temple reflects the grand thinking of Mohamed bin Zayed," Modi added.

In his speech, Modi invoked his poll slogan of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas to underscore the importance of inclusive development, and said that temples made by BAPS reflected ancient values with modernity.

"Just last month, the centuries-old dream of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya was fulfilled. Ram Lalla is seated in his home...the whole of India and all Indians are still immersed in that celebration," Modi said.

"Our immense pleasure in Ayodhya has been further enhanced by the wave of happiness received in Abu Dhabi today. It is my good fortune that I have been a witness to the grand Shri Ram temple first in Ayodhya, and then to this temple in Abu Dhabi," he added.

Modi cited Swami Brahmavihari having said earlier that the PM could have become a temple priest.

"I do not know whether I am fit to be a priest of a temple, but I feel proud of being the priest of Maa Bharti," Modi said amid slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram".

IEA AGREES TO DISCUSS INDIA'S REQUEST TO BE A FULL MEMBER

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Member states of the International Energy Agency (IEA), an inter-governmental organisation comprising 31 industrialised countries, agreed on Wednesday to begin discussions on the Indian government's request to become a full member of the body.

The IEA, which provides policy recommendations and analyses on the global energy sector, works under the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) and was established after the 1973-1974 oil crisis to help member states to respond to major energy supply disruptions.

India joined the IEA as an associate member in 2017.

Ministers from the IEA's member countries made the announcement in a joint communique after the body's ministerial meeting in Paris during February 13-14.

The decision to start discussions on India's request to become a full IEA member recognises the country's "strategic importance in tackling global energy and climate challenges", the IEA said in a statement.

India made a formal request for full membership to IEA ministers in October 2023. "India becoming an IEA member would mark a huge, consequential change in international energy governance. As the world's most populous country, India is set to play an increasingly central role in efforts to safeguard energy security, drive inclusive energy transitions, and combat climate change," the statement said.

The IEA's 31 member states and 13 associate members represent 75% of global energy demand. In the next three decades, India is poised to see the "largest energy demand growth of any country" as industrialisation and urbanisation surge and per capita income rises, the IEA said.

"India is the world's fastest growing major economy. Sustained growth needs energy security and sustainability," Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quoted as saying by the International Energy Agency.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused **Anis S/o Sh. Khalil, R/o- H. No. D-17, Gali No. 14, Chouhan Banger, Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 236/2019 U/s 323/342/452/392/411/34 IPC P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Anis** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anis** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anis** of case **FIR No. 236/2019 U/s 323/342/452/392/411/34 IPC P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **19.03.2024.**

By Order
Ms. Ayushi Saxena
Metropolitan Magistrate-05
Room No.07, Distt. Shahdara
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/574/NE/2024 (Court Matter)

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

Global e-Tender Notice

No.2024/RS(WTA)-149/Tender/548 **New Delhi, dated 14.02.2024**

Subject: Global e-Tender No:WTA-548 opening on 18.03.2024 for Procurement of Wheel for 3-Phase WAG9 locomotives to drawing No.1209-01-111-003 Alt.-5, and Wheel for 3-Phase WAP7 locomotives to drawing No.1209-01-111-070 Alt Nil with specification IRS-R-34-15 of May 2015.

Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for Procurement of Wheel for 3-Phase WAG9 locomotives to drawing No.1209-01-111-003 Alt.-5, and Wheel for 3-Phase WAP7 locomotives to drawing No.1209-01-111-070 Alt Nil with specification IRS-R-34-15 of May 2015. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website **http://ireps.gov.in** for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids. Any further corrigendum to this tender will be uploaded on the website **http://ireps.gov.in** only and not in print media.

DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (M)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001
Tel No.011-23073191 E-mail ID: drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in 496/24

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Rahamtullah** S/o Ishmatullah R/o H.No. 156/1, 2nd Floor, Village Hauzrani, Delhi **Permanent Add.:** New Street, Kabul, Afghanistan has committed the offence vide FIR No. 58/14 dated 17.05.2024 u/s 21/29 NDPS Act. P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rahamtullah** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rahamtullah** has been absconded. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rahamtullah** accused in FIR No. 58/14 dated 17.05.2024 u/s 21/29 NDPS Act. P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.04.2024.**

By Order: Sh. Gaurav Gupta
Ld. Addl. Session Judge (Spl. Judge, NDPS Court)
Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/1804/Crime/24

Himachal Pradesh
Public Works Department

Corrigendum No.:- 2

The following **revised** schedule is to be followed for the tender invited by this office vide letter No. SE-NH-SHA-WS/Tender Notice/2023-24-1971-76 dated 30.01.2024 for the below mentioned work in the State of H.P:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work
1.	Maintenance works and activities (PBMC) on section from km. 65/0 to km 76/0 of NH-154A in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

1. Deadline for submission of bid : 26.02.2024 (11.00 AM) instead of 14.02.2024
2. Date of opening of Technical Bid : 27.02.2024 (11.30 AM) instead of 15.02.2024

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Superintending Engineer
National Highway Circle
HP, PWD, Shahpur

DPR HP-5890

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
Website: http://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: humanresource.sscih@gmail.com
http://5.9.173.183/ssci_faculty01_feb2024 Mobile No-8787269552

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR RECRUITMENT AGAINST BACKLOG VACANCIES

(Advertisement No. KSSSCI/ER-17/2023-2024, Dated 09.02.2024)

The Institute invites online application on prescribed from the post of Assistant Professor in the department as mentioned below under special recruitment drive for backlog vacancies against reserve for schedule cast category from domiciles of Uttar Pradesh through Direct Recruitment Basis in details visit Institute website.

Start date of online payment of fees to start the application process	15.02.2024
Last date for online payment of fees to start the application process	16.03.2024
Last date for filling and submitting online application process.	21.03.2024
Last date for receipt of hard copy of application	31.03.2024

Web link to see the detailed advertisement: http://5.9.173.183/ssci_faculty01_feb2024: Website:http://cancerinstitute.edu.in

Note: Privies advt. no. KSSSCI/ER-08/2022-2023, dated 04.01.2023 are hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons and if any applicant, who had applied against those advertisement, still wants to apply, s/he may submit fresh application against this advertisement.

Advt No:- KSSSCI / ER-17/2023-24 **Director**

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | pfrda पेंशन निधि विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY | Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
B-14/A, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI BHAWAN, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI – 110 016.

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for appointment as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust), New Delhi** on **Contract /Deputation basis** for an initial period of three (03) years, which may be extended for another period of two (02) years, if the Authority so desires. The details of eligibility criteria, mode of selection, emoluments and application form etc. are available on PFRDA's website i.e. www.pfrda.org.in as well as NPS Trust's website i.e. www.npstrust.org.in and also on the website of National Career Service www.ncs.gov.in.

Corrigenda/ Addendums/ Notices (if any) relating to this vacancy notification shall be issued only on the website of PFRDA/NPS Trust.

The last date for receipt of application is **04 April, 2024 (Thursday)**.

Sd/-
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER
HR Department

Please visit our website www.pfrda.org.in for complete information or scan the QR code

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number 9646123323)

Tender Inquiry No. PPR-06/2024 **Dated: 14.02.2024**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three-part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/ intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st March 2024 to 9th June 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.mstcecommerce.com** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (**www.Powermin.nic.in**) and PFC Consultancy Limited (**www.pfcindia.com**). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **www.mstcecommerce.com** from 14.02.2024 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **www.mstcecommerce.com**

C126/24 32459

UJVN Limited

UJVNL
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 231 **Dated : 13/02/2024**

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Vaysi Dam, Juddo Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd. invites online bid from interested party's Brief summary of tender is given below.

NIT No. : 15/EE(E&M)/Vyasi Dam/2023-24

Name of work : Annual operation of Dam related control system & associated equipment of Vyasi Dam at juddo.

Estimated cost : Rs. 63,00,000.00 (GST extra)

Date of Availability of bid document : 14.02.2024 from 16:00 hrs on website

Last date of submission of : 06.03.2024 upto 16:00 hrs bids on website

For fuller & further details kindly visit e-procurement portal http//uktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer (E&M),
Vyasi Dam, Juddo

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, इटावा

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

1. ई - निविदा सं0 :- 200 / EDCE / 2023-24 विद्युत वितरण खण्ड प्रथम, इटावा के अन्तर्गत आने वाले विभिन्न 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्रों से पोषित क्षेत्रों में आकस्मिक स्थिति में क्षतिग्रस्त होने वाले तार व पोल को बदलने तथा जर्जर लाइनों की मरम्मत एवं अन्य अनुरक्षण का कार्य। **2. ई - निविदा सं0 :- 201 / EDCE / 2023-24** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय सैफई, इटावा के अन्तर्गत आने वाले उपखण्ड जसवन्तनगर से पोषित क्षेत्रों में क्षतिग्रस्त 33 केवी0 केबिल बाक्सों को बदलने का कार्य मय आपूर्ति सहित। **3. ई-निविदा सं0 :- 202 / EDCE/ 2023-24** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय सैफई, इटावा के अन्तर्गत आने वाले उपखण्ड जसवन्तनगर से पोषित क्षेत्रों में क्षतिग्रस्त 11 केवी0 केबिल बाक्सों को बदलने का कार्य मय आपूर्ति सहित । **4. ई - निविदा सं0 :- 203 / EDCE / 2023-24** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड तृतीय सैफई, इटावा के अन्तर्गत आने वाले उपखण्ड जसवन्तनगर से पोषित क्षेत्रों में आकस्मिक स्थिति में क्षतिग्रस्त होने वाले तार व पोल को बदलने तथा जर्जर लाइनों की मरम्मत एवं अन्य अनुरक्षण का कार्य। **5. ई - निविदा सं0 :- 204 / EDCE / 2023-24** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड प्रथम, इटावा के अन्तर्गत आने वाले 33/11 केवी0 उपकेन्द्र, रामलीला से पोषित 11 केवी0 तहसील फीडर पर प्रसिद्ध नीलकण्ठ मन्दिर के पास स्थापित 100 एवं 25 केवीए0 परिवर्तकों को शिफ्ट करने का कार्य। उक्त ई-निविदा **दिनांक 25.02.2024 को 01:00 बजे** तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड़ की जा सकेगीं एवं अगले कार्यदिवस **दिनांक 26.02.2024 को 03:00 बजे** खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा शुल्क / ई0एम0डी0 धनराशि एवं अन्य नियम व शर्तों का समस्त विवरण उ0प्र0 शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध होगा।

पत्र संख्याः- 514 वि0वि0मं0इ0/ई-निविदा विज्ञापन अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
दिनांकः 14.02.2024 विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, इटावा

"सुनहरा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएं"

PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

pstcl
Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No.: U40109PB2010SGC033814, www.pstcl.org
O/o: Dy. CE/TS (Design), Telephone: 0175-2207774
Email: se-trd@pstcl.org

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Tender Enquiry No.	STQ-7076
For Procurement of 2 Nos. dry air generators for Power Transformers.	
1. Last date & time for submission of tender	: 12.03.2024 upto 11.00 AM
2. Date & time for opening of tender	: 14.03.2024 at 11.00 AM

Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from Punjab Govt. e-tendering website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app**. Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspapers. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.

Sd/-
32417 **Dy. CE/TS (D), PSTCL, Patiala**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact no. 96461-17604, 96461-17659)

Tender Enquiry no.1624/MAMC/O&M/PC-2513 Dated: 13.02.2024

Chief Engineer/O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the **Procurement of Safety/Control Devices & Consumables for Window/Split AC's, Water Coolers, Package AC's and Air Washer Systems of GHTP, Lehra-Mohabbat,** Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **13.02.2024 from 1700 hrs.** onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

GHTP-11/24 32453

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्लॉट संख्या–01, सैक्टर–नॉलेज पार्क–4, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, गौतमबुद्धनगर
वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई–मेल: authority@gnida.in

पत्रांक : अर्बन सर्विस/2024/2011 दिनांक : 14/02/2024

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

प्रभारी (निविदा सेल), ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा की ओर से ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–अर्बन सर्विस/2024/2010 **दिनांक 14.02.2024** के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम सं0 01 से 10 तक अंकित कार्य की ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई–निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट **www.greaternoidaauthority.in** पर ई–निविदा लिंक एवं ई–पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाईटें देखते रहें।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम/वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	Invitation for Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected locations at Greater Noida. (Package-I)	To be quoted by Bidder
2.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-2)	To be quoted by Bidder
3.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-3)	To be quoted by Bidder
4.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-4)	To be quoted by Bidder
5.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-5)	To be quoted by Bidder
6.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-6)	To be quoted by Bidder
7.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-7)	To be quoted by Bidder
8.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida, (Package-8)	To be quoted by Bidder
9.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-9)	To be quoted by Bidder
10.	Invitation of Selection of contractors to construct, install, maintain and manage Unipoles at selected location at Greater Noida. (Package-10)	To be quoted by Bidder

उक्त कार्यों की निविदा **दिनांक 15.02.2024** से **29.02.2024** को **सांय 05:00** बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त ई–निविदाओं की प्री–क्वालीफिकेशन **दिनांक 04.03.2024** को **प्रातः 11:00 बजे** खोली जायेगी।

उप महाप्रबन्धक (अर्बन सर्विस)

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The Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

Lost in the MSP debate

Challenges facing agricultural policy go beyond the minimum support prices debate

A bunch of farm unions have resumed their protests demanding that the Centre introduce a law to offer guaranteed minimum support prices (MSP). The protest is generating more noise due to restrictions on highways than the nuances of agricultural policy in India. While representatives of the Centre, including the agriculture minister, are trying to resolve the situation through dialogue, it is extremely unlikely, if not impossible, that any law offering guaranteed MSPs for all crops can even be considered since the fiscal implications of such a law would subsume a very large part of the budget.

That said, are the farmers being irrational in demanding a guaranteed MSP? This question must be answered in the wake of a systemic viability crisis in Indian agriculture in past decades. Not being able to get remunerative prices for their crops is at the core of this crisis, which is only becoming worse with climate-induced shocks becoming more frequent. While asymmetry in the economic power of producers and buyers (local traders or corporates) has made things worse for farmers, the government's proactive approach to control food inflation via policies such as export bans has not adequately helped. Be that as it may, most experts agree that food inflation is too sensitive an issue, both for poor households, and by extension, the political fortunes of the government of the day, to be left to the vagaries of the free markets. What does this mean for the desired course of agricultural policy in India?

A just and forward-looking agriculture policy should focus on three things. One, securing farm incomes is essential to reducing India's poverty and inequality challenge as the sector still employs almost half of India's workforce. Two, the allocation of precious fiscal resources in agriculture must strike a careful balance between short-term income support and long-term sustainability and growth. And three, agricultural policy should seek a healthy interaction of farmers and larger food markets rather than make the latter completely redundant in production decisions.

Whether or not India can have such a policy will depend on a sustained political engagement with all stakeholders in Indian agriculture including the millions of farmers. Animated debates and protests about legal MSPs guarantees are a red herring that distract from this larger challenge.

India-UAE relations look beyond diaspora

To say that the Ahlan Modi (Welcome Modi) event in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday was a grand event would be an understatement. The carefully curated spectacle and the temple inauguration the next day were evidence of the deepening friendship between India and the UAE. Both nations perceive a confluence of interests in the relationship. With Indian diaspora amounting to 3.5 million, the UAE has been a major source of jobs, and thereby remittances. And that has been a key prism through which New Delhi has viewed Abu Dhabi. The big shift that has taken place in recent years is that the relationship has become independent of domestic politics, and reflects the churn in global politics as well as transformations in West Asia.

New Delhi sees Abu Dhabi as a gateway to West Asia and has cultivated the Emirates as such: In 2015, Prime Minister (PM) Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Abu Dhabi in three decades, and he has since visited the UAE seven times. In 2022, both countries signed a free trade deal promising to double bilateral trade to $100 billion. The optics apart, the two countries concluded eight agreements, including on energy, and digital transactions. They also signed an intergovernmental framework on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, even though the war in Gaza is casting a shadow over its future.

The India-UAE partnership also has to be seen in the backdrop of a churn in the region where most Gulf States are eyeing a future beyond fossil fuel and a strategic regime guaranteed by the US. India, with its consistently high growth, is seen as a safe investment destination, and a source for essentials. History, diaspora and soft power are enablers in furthering this relationship, and Delhi has been smart to ride the wave.

{ INCIDENTALLY }

Gopalkrishna Gandhi

Posthumous-isation of the Bharat Ratna

The national honour should be bestowed on people when they are alive, and not when they are holding high public office

This column has been spurred by the award, posthumously, of the Bharat Ratna on three individuals — Chaudhary Charan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and MS Swaminathan – all three wholly deserved and entirely laudable and indeed, "saluted" by the Opposition Congress. The only question the conferment raises is: Why were they not honoured with the Ratna all these years, whether by the two United Progressive Alliance governments or the two National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ones? Surely these three Ratnas deserved to be told in their lifetime that a grateful nation regards them as indeed that, officially!

Indira Gandhi, daughter of the then Prime Minister (PM) Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to C Rajagopalachari, the first Bharat Ratna, on August 15, 1954: "We are all so happy that you are the first Bharat Ratna. You have been widely recognised as a '*ratna*' of Bharat for many years but it is a good thing that it has been made official!"

Fifty three individuals have so far been decorated with the Bharat Ratna, 18 of them posthumously. I stress "so far" because over the last few days, the recognitions have been coming thick and fast and before this column goes to print, we may well have news of more.

Before I say more on the subject, some statistics.

The fifty three individuals have been conferred by successive presidents but with the PMs concerned being, in almost all of them, the principal "mover". The tally of the *ratnas* (jewels) per PM is: Nehru (1947-1964) including the one to himself, 13; Gulzarilal Nanda's transitional incumbency (1966), one; Indira Gandhi's first prime ministership (1965-1977), including the one to herself, three; Indira Gandhi's second prime ministership (1980-1984), two; Rajiv Gandhi (1984-1989), two; VP Singh (1989-1990), two; Narasimha Rao (1991-1996), six; IK Gujral (1997-1998), four; Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999-2004), seven; Manmohan Singh (2004-2014) three; Narendra Modi (2014-) ten.

The maximum number of Bharat Ratnas (13) stands awarded in the tenure of the (so far) longest serving PM, Nehru, closely followed by the next highest number (10) in that (so far) of our present PM, Narendra Modi. Allowing that the scheme itself came into existence in 1954, in terms of "density" the score of the two PMs, Nehru and Modi, is the same – 10 in 10 years.

But where PM Modi leads is in the number of Bharat Ratnas awarded posthumously. Of the 18 Bharat Ratnas that have been awarded posthumously, his score is seven. The next highest being that of Rao — three.

The numerics over, I move to what may be called semantics.

Two developments have affected the Bharat Ratna scheme's original lustre: One, the posthumous-isation of the decoration. To take this development first: This was enabled in 1955 through Government of India Gazette Number 222 dated January 15, 1955, making its retroactive operation valid. One may infer from the circumstances surrounding it that the posthumous application was meant to be more of an exception than the rule. It took more than 10 years for this "relaxation" to be operationalised. That was done when President Radhakrishnan conferred it, the first posthumous one, on Lal Bahadur Shastri within hours of the then PM's death in Tashkent on January 11, 1966. It took 10 more years for the second posthumous Bharat Ratna to be announced by PM Indira Gandhi. She had chosen former Congress President K Kamaraj for the honour — something she may not have done in his lifetime.

The posthumous application of the Bharat Ratna with very Congressist roots has now come to stay and has in recent times, overtaken the "in-lifetime" ones. Of the 10 Bharat Ratnas conferred under Modi-led NDA governments, seven have been posthumous. Questions of "deservability" arise inevitably. In the swelling ranks of its posthumous prime ministerial recipients can VP Singh and Chandra Shekhar be left out? And Bihar's late chief minister Karpoori Thakur having been conferred it, can CN Annadurai and the incomparable EMS Namboodiripad be forgotten? Nearer our times, M Karunanidhi and Jyoti Basu? Acharya Vinoba having got it posthumously, can the acharyas, JB Kripalani and Narendra Deva be forgotten? Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh, political thinkers, having got it, posthumously, should not EVR, the Periyar?

The stormy petrel Aruna Asaf Ali having got it, can the no-less-if-not-more "stormy" Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay remain omitted? Congressmen may scream at the thought but which socialist and democrat would have Rammanohar Lohia be forgotten? This is the "trouble" with retrospectivity and the political impulses of power. How many omissions do you notch up against the commissions?

The second development that has affected the *ratna*'s lustre is the touch of ego on it. Both Nehru and Indira Gandhi would have added to their and the *ratna*'s lustre if they had not accepted it during their incumbencies. Their getting it was almost like garlanding oneself. If posthumous conferrings raise questions of omissions, incumbent conferments raise questions of commissions. Maulana Azad is believed to have said when offered the Bharat Ratna while he was a Cabinet minister: "*Hum dene vaalon mein hein, lene vaalon mein nahin.*" (We are the ones who confer, not the ones on whom it is conferred).

I would like to round off by saying: Let in-lifetime recognitions be the norm for the Bharat Ratna, the posthumous option being the exception. And let no "giver" dream of becoming the "receiver" until she or he has relinquished office. Grace, independent of office, bedecks the ornament.

The internationally esteemed and nationally respected former PM, Manmohan Singh was recently praised by PM Modi in Parliament. Perhaps he was offered the Bharat Ratna and with characteristic modesty, he declined. But may not those many who have seen him as a "*ratna*" have the satisfaction of greeting him on its becoming official?

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, a former administrator, and diplomat, is a student of modern Indian history. The views expressed are personal

Fifty three individuals have so far been decorated with the Bharat Ratna, 18 of them posthumously, among them Charan Singh (right) and Vajpayee PTI

On the Kyiv front, the West is losing ground

Harsh V Pant

Kartik Bommakanti

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky recently replaced his top military commander, General Valerii Zaluzhnyi, with General Oleksandr Syrskyi, an experienced Ukrainian ground forces commander. This change at the apex of Ukraine's military leadership is significant as Kyiv is reeling under military pressure from the Russian forces at this stage of the war. A former commander of the Ukrainian forces, Syrskyi is not a completely anonymous or non-controversial choice as he is considered responsible for failing to defend Bakhmut, which came at the price of considerable Ukrainian combat casualties. Nevertheless, he is widely respected for his command competence which he demonstrated in the robust defence of Kyiv following Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022. To his operational distinction, he added another feather to his cap — the successful counter-offensive mounted by Ukrainian ground forces that led to the capture of Kharkiv, liberating it from Russian control. Despite the heavy bloodletting involved in defending Bakhmut, Syrskyi's strengths outweigh and offset that single blemish on his operational and command record.

At the strategic level, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) member countries are becoming increasingly divided over support for Ukraine. This has manifested itself, especially in the case of the United States (US) failing to complete the delivery of a robust military aid package for Ukraine. Republican members of the House of Representatives have blocked a $110 billion aid package for Kyiv. This presents a serious problem for Ukraine's war effort against Russian military advances. As a result of the gridlock in the US Congress, Kyiv has been compelled to ration the use of ammunition and ordnance, rendering its defences weaker and halting the possibility of any sustained advances the Ukrainian forces might make against Russian positions in eastern Ukraine. These developments come against the backdrop of Ukraine's failed counter-offensive, which was launched last July and is now gravely and perilously compounded by the possibility of losing American military aid. Ukrainian battlefield performance and successes hinge on American military aid. As Jake Sullivan, US national security advisor (NSA), made clear: "There is no alternative to these (American) funds."

Consequently, Ukraine runs the risk of losing additional territory, let alone recovering the region of Donbas and Crimea, which make up 20% of Ukraine's territory that Moscow seized in 2014. This would be a direct consequence of aid drying up completely with Kyiv conceding greater Russian gains in the western part of Ukraine, which it presently controls. The only silver lining is that the European Union (EU) aid of 50 billion euros to Ukraine has been released following Hungarian leader Viktor Orban's decision to lift his veto on further assistance to Ukraine. This EU aid, however, is geared primarily toward meeting Ukraine's economic needs, keeping its government running and infrastructure afloat: It can do little to meet Ukraine's war effort against Russia's rejuvenated military campaign. Ukraine's military has not captured any significant territory since the final months of 2022.

Three developments at the level of tactics are starting to unravel the Kyiv military campaign. First, the possible loss of the city of Avdiivka in eastern Ukraine, which the Russians are poised to capture. Russian artillery strikes are already outgunning and even outnumbering Ukraine's artillery capabilities around Avdiivka and other areas on the frontline. Second, Ukrainian air defences are depleting rapidly, preventing Kyiv from defending and intercepting Russian missiles and drones that are devastating critical infrastructure. Third, as the delay in Congressional funding persists, Ukrainian air defences cannot intercept Russian jets executing strikes against targets in western Ukraine, which they were able to do earlier. Strategic gridlock and policy paralysis in Washington are seriously threatening not just hard-won military gains, but imperilling the defence of territory in western Ukraine, which would have been hard to conceivably fathom even a few months ago.

Given the ammunition and ordinance scarcity facing Kyiv and the imperative to conserve strength for future battles, Ukrainian forces may be compelled to give up territory in the east and fall back on positions that are more vital, especially in the west of the country. Disheartening and even demoralising as this may be for Ukraine, it is the most credible option available now, unless Washington overcomes the deadlock on Capitol Hill that would lead to the release of funds to service the desperately needed assistance Kyiv requires.

It is no wonder that Russian President Vladimir Putin seems more convinced than ever that time is on his side and all he has to do is wait out the US where Donald Trump is already suggesting he would "encourage" Russia to attack any Nato member that fails to pay its share of the organisation's budget. In his recent interview with the former *Fox News* journalist Tucker Carlson, Vladimir Putin confidently asserted that Russia is "ready for dialogue" and "willing to negotiate" because he views this as a moment when the tide of war seems to be turning in his favour and Nato beginning to realise that defeating Russia on the battlefield will be impossible. From this position of strength, Putin can argue that "sooner or later this will end in agreement".

Ukraine's military campaign is indeed faltering but it is also the West's political strategy that is unravelling.

Harsh V Pant is vice president for Studies at Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi. Kartik Bommakanti is senior fellow, National Security and Defence, ORF. The views expressed are personal

{ KAO KIM HOURN } SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN

It is certainly the right of India. But we have to focus on assisting the people of Myanmar. We should not penalise them.

on the Centre's decision to suspend Free Movement Regime between India and Myanmar

HT

Rethink road safety, look at behaviour of people

Globally, two people die every minute due to road traffic crashes. The 2023 World Health Organization report notes a slight decrease in the number of road traffic deaths, yet road safety remains a persistent global health crisis with over 3,200 people losing their lives every single day and pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users bearing the brunt of it.

Citizens are usually blamed for a crash. However, this mindset fails to assess if the road design is safe to begin with. Humans make mistakes but should not lose their lives for it. Evidence suggests that the most effective way to prevent road deaths is a systematic approach that shifts the responsibility of safety from the individual to the policymakers, engineers and people designing the roads.

Pawan Mulukutla

Tanushree Venkatraman

The "safe systems approach" adopts a holistic strategy of designing roads based on how people behave. Most of the roads in urban India today are designed primarily to improve traffic flow, while most people in India either walk, cycle or use public transport.

Providing space for pedestrians to walk, stop and cross safely can also help reduce conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles and improve traffic flow. Simple elements like refuge islands, median refuges (places for people to stop before crossing), pedestrian crossings, and signages can be provided to enhance safety and minimise conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians. Countries like Sweden, which adopted this approach from 1994 onwards were successful in reducing road fatality rates by 55% (1994-2015). It is also estimated that more than one million deaths could be avoided annually if countries were to adopt this approach.

Road safety in our cities can also be enhanced by reducing the total volume of vehicle kilometres travelled, which will reduce the risk of crashes and provide safer access to pedestrians and cyclists. An increased emphasis on shifting to public transport will help reduce the exposure to everyday risks for drivers, passengers and other road users. The co-benefits also include increased physical activity for commuters and a reduction in carbon emissions. This can be categorised as the avoid-shift-improve (ASI) framework, which simply means, avoiding growth in vehicle kilometres travelled, shifting trips to safer and more sustainable modes like public transport, and improving the condition of transport in terms of safety, time, cost and comfort.

Speeding initiates deadly crashes. The faster the vehicle travels, the greater the possibility of a crash and the consequences for the people involved. Every 1% increase in mean speed produces a 4% increase in the fatal crash risk and a 3% increase in the serious crash risk. Speed management in India, unfortunately, involves reviewing and revising speed limits based on the intended speed at which the driver should drive and not the design speed that the road permits. A more nuanced approach where speed management goes beyond assessment by focusing on critical elements like looking at the design of the road, the way people move and what causes motorists to speed in the first place would enhance safety significantly.

Road safety demands a paradigm shift towards a more comprehensive and proactive approach. By adopting a holistic strategy that considers human behaviour, designing streets with pedestrian safety in mind and promoting sustainable modes of transport, we can mitigate the persistent global health crisis of road traffic crashes. It is time we collectively commit to rethinking road safety, acknowledging it as a shared responsibility that can only be addressed through collaborative, systematic and innovative approaches. The lives saved, injuries prevented and communities strengthened will serve as a testament to the transformative power of adopting a holistic and forward-thinking perspective on road safety.

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EDITOR: KUNAL PRADHAN

WORLD

US defence chief released from hospital

WASHINGTON: US defence secretary Lloyd Austin was released from hospital on Tuesday, after undergoing treatment under general anesthetic for bladder issues as he battles prostate cancer, the Pentagon said. Austin's latest health scare came weeks after it emerged the 70-year-old had kept recent hospital stays secret and had not promptly informed President Joe Biden of his cancer diagnosis, sparking widespread criticism. AFP

French court upholds Sarkozy conviction

PARIS: A Paris appeals court ruled that ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy was guilty of illegal campaign financing over his failed 2012 re-election bid, confirming a previous ruling by a lower court. Sarkozy was sentenced to a one-year prison sentence on Wednesday, half of which suspended, that can be served via alternative means such as wearing an electronic bracelet without going to jail. REUTERS

Saboteurs hit Iran pipeline disrupting gas supply

TEHRAN: Two explosions struck gas pipelines in Iran early Wednesday in an act of "terrorism and sabotage" that disrupted gas supplies in three of the country's provinces, state media reported.The saboteurs hit pipelines in the cities of Borujen in the Chaharmahal province and Bakhtiari, and Safashahr in the southern province of Fars, Aghli said, adding that there were no casualties in the explosions or the ensuing fires. AFP

Shehbaz set to become Pakistan PM after deal for coalition struck

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: A political stalemate in Pakistan, after an inconclusive election, ended with Shehbaz Sharif chosen to lead the country again, while efforts were underway on Wednesday to get the second-largest party to join the government to ensure stability.

Sharif, 72, who was prime minister for 16 months until August, was late on Tuesday named by his party and coalition allies to head the nuclear-armed nation despite his elder brother and three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif winning a seat in the assembly and being favourite to be sworn in for a fourth term.

Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam said in a post on X that her father did not want to run a minority coalition government having had clear majorities in his three previous stints as premier. Their Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party controls only 80 seats in the 264-seat parliament but has been promised support by six other parties for a majority.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the second largest, backed the choice but did not commit to joining the government, indicating it would support a minority government from the outside.

There is still a lot of negotiating to go, however, including a likely return to the presidency for his father, Asif Ali Zardari.

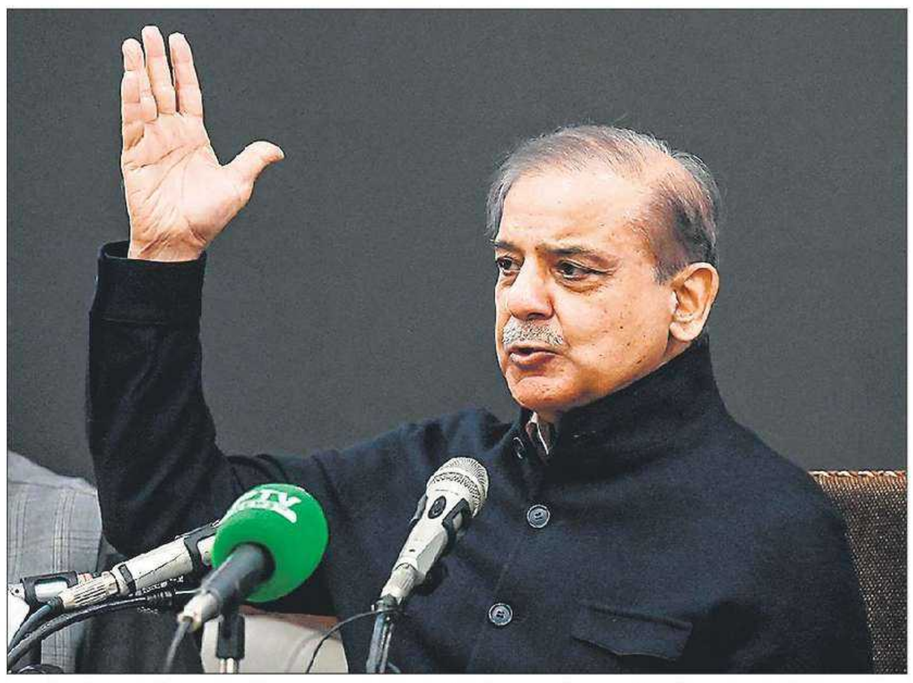
If PPP doesn't take any ministries, that would make the administration effectively a minority government – a copy of the previous alliance but on a "weaker footing", said analyst Amber Rahim Shamsi.

Media reports said discussions were underway on the composition of the new federal cabinet of the coalition government with the possibility of a 25-member lineup in its initial phase.

Leaders from MQM-P, including Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal, Aminul Haque, and Khawaja Izharul Hasan, are being considered for key positions within the federal cabinet, according to PML-N sources.

Pakistan's stock market cheered the overnight news that ended the stalemate after the February 8 vote, with the benchmark index rising as much as 2% on Wednesday — its biggest such gain since the delayed election results over the weekend.

Officials in both PML-N and PPP said they had formed internal committees to discuss the modalities of government formation and the agenda included getting PPP to join the administration and take cabinet positions.



Leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party Shehbaz Sharif speaks during a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday. AFP

"They are trying their level best but we are not joining the cabinet up until now," PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said.

Analysts say that Pakistan needs a stable government with political authority to be able to take tough decisions to help pull the country out of its economic crisis.

"Coalition governments can't work on this principle that one partner takes up all the load and the other partners watch the match from the sidelines and galleries," PML-N secretary-general Ahsan Iqbal told Geo TV late on Tuesday.

"Everyone has to play the match together. This is why I am hopeful that this is a mature leadership that knows the problems the country is facing," he said, when asked about PPP joining Sharif's government.

The nuclear-armed nation of 241 million people is grappling with an economic crisis amid slow growth and record inflation, along with rising militant violence.

It narrowly averted a sovereign default last summer with a $3 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund, but the lender's support ends in March, following which a new, extended programme will be needed.

Negotiating a new programme, and at speed, will be critical for the new government.

It could also face new political tensions with independent members of parliament, backed by jailed former premier Imran Khan, forming the largest group in the legislature. This group is at loggerheads with the powerful military and alleges that the vote was rigged.

Khan is in jail on charges of corruption and revealing state secrets, and his party was barred from contesting the election, forcing members to run as independents.

UKRAINE SAYS DRONES HIT A RUSSIAN SHIP IN THE BLACK SEA

Bloomberg
letters@hindustantimes.com

KYIV: Ukraine's military said it destroyed a Russian warship off the south coast of Crimea, the latest in a string of operations targeting Kremlin navy vessels in the Black Sea.

Ukrainian military intelligence said a special unit sank the Caesar Kunikov, a Russian large landing ship off Alupka in occupied Crimea, according to a video published by Ukraine's military intelligence on the X social media platform. Naval drones were used in the attack, it said.

The Russian vessel "was upgraded to a submarine," the Defense Ministry said in a separate X post. The landing ship was in Ukrainian waters, it said.

Airborne attacks on Ukraine from Russian maritime unit can be ruled out "for a long time," Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for Ukrainian military intelligence said in Kyiv. The ship carried ammunition and most of the crew perished after the strike four kilometers off the coast.

Russian military-focused Telegram channels said the crew was safe. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on the Ukrainian attack, referring questions to his country's Defense Ministry, news agency RIA Novosti reported. The ministry reported downing six drones over the Black Sea overnight, without elaborating.

Hamas joins Cairo truce talks as Israel, Lebanon trade strikes

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

GAZA STRIP: Negotiations to pause the Israel-Hamas war headed into a second day in Cairo on Wednesday, as Israel launched a series of deadly strikes on Lebanon, stoking fears of a wider conflict.

Mediators in Egypt were hoping to secure a ceasefire that would see more hostages released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, as Israel prepares for a full-scale ground incursion into the Gaza Strip's crowded far-southern city of Rafah.

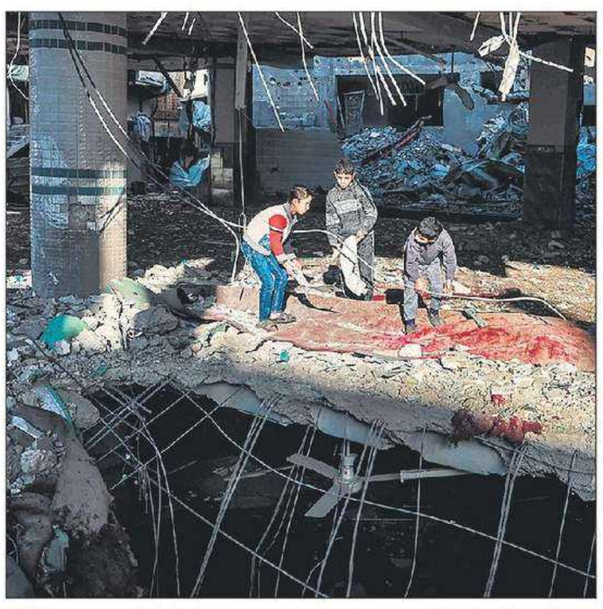
A Hamas source told AFP that a delegation was headed to Cairo to meet Egyptian and Qatari mediators, after Israeli negotiators held talks with the mediators on Tuesday.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas urged Hamas to "quickly complete a prisoner deal, to spare our Palestinian people from the calamity of another catastrophic event".

CIA director William Burns had joined Tuesday's talks with David Barnea, head of Israel's Mossad intelligence service, which Egyptian media said had been mostly "positive".

Israeli media reported Wednesday that Netanyahu told his delegation not to return to the talks unless Hamas softens its demands. "In Cairo, Israel did not receive any new proposal from Hamas on the release of our captives," Netanyahu said in a statement. "A change in Hamas' positions will allow progress in the negotiations."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was in Cairo Wednesday for talks with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, criticised Israel for "its policy of occupation, destruction and massacre".



Children search debris near a mosque destroyed during Israeli bombardment in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. AFP

He added, however, that Turkey was ready for cooperation with Egypt to rebuild Gaza.

"We will continue to cooperate and stand in solidarity with our Egyptian brothers to put an end to the bloodshed in Gaza," he said, adding Turkey was determined to step up talks with Egypt at all levels in order to establish peace and stability in the region.

With regional tensions high, Israel launched strikes on Lebanon hours after fire from Lebanon wounded seven people in northern Israel, according to the Magen David Adom emergency service.

The strikes in south Lebanon killed four civilians including two children and wounded nine other people, a Lebanese security source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Since the outbreak of the Hamas-Israel war on October 7, more than 240 people have been killed in Lebanon, most of them Hezbollah fighters but also including over 30 civilians.

Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has traded near-daily fire with Israeli troops since the outbreak of the Gaza war, with tens of thousands displaced on both sides.

The potential for mass civilian casualties in Rafah triggered urgent appeals — including from close allies — for Israel to hold off sending troops into the last major population centre they have yet to enter in the conflict.

Rafah, where more than 1.4 million Palestinians are trapped, is also the main entry point for desperately needed relief supplies.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said any military operation "could lead to a slaughter".

Terrified civilians have been locked in a desperate search for safety.

"My three children were injured, where can I go?" Dana Abu Chaaban asked at the city's border crossing with Egypt, where she was hoping to be allowed across with her bandaged-up sons.

Pressure has grown on Egypt to open its border to Palestinian civilians, hundreds of thousands of whom have sought shelter in makeshift camps by the border where they face outbreaks of disease and a scarcity of food and water.

US President Joe Biden has said civilians in Rafah "need to be protected", calling them "exposed and vulnerable".

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted "complete victory" cannot be achieved without the elimination of Hamas's last battalions in Rafah.

As talks continued in Cairo, the Israeli military has kept up its bombardment of Gaza, with strikes on both Rafah and the southern city of Khan Younis, where there has been heavy fighting.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that 104 people had been killed overnight.

Fears were also growing over southern Gaza's Nasser hospital, where a nurse said snipers were killing people, sewage had flooded the emergency room and drinking water had run out.

The Hamas attack that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people in Israel, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

At least 28,576 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israel's response, according to the latest health ministry figures.

Indonesia's Prabowo claims victory in presidential polls

Reuters
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JAKARTA: Indonesian defence minister Prabowo Subianto declared victory in a presidential election on Wednesday after unofficial vote counts showed him with a huge lead, and on course for a single-round win in his third attempt at the presidency.

Political veteran Prabowo, a former special forces commander, trounced his rivals, winning about 58% of votes according to four pollsters, based on "quick count" ballots at samples of voting stations nationwide. The number of votes tallied ranged from about 86% to 95% as of 1400 GMT.

Appearing before supporters alongside his running mate, the incumbent president's son Gibran Rakabuming Raka, Prabowo, 72, declared the outcome "a victory for all Indonesians", in a rousing speech that drew roars and applause.

Prabowo Subianto AFP

"We are grateful for the quick count results. All the calculation, all pollsters including those on our rivals' side, the figures showed a Prabowo-Gibran win in one round," he said.

"We will assemble a government consisting of the best sons and daughters of Indonesia."

Rivals Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo trailed with about 25% and 17% respectively, according to the independent pollsters conducting the sample counts, which in previous elections have proven to be accurate.

A preliminary count by the election commission was far slower and showed Prabowo securing 57.7% of votes with about 6% of ballots recorded.

The contest pitted the two popular former governors against the pre-election frontrunner Prabowo, who was feared in the 1990s as a top lieutenant of Indonesia's late strongman ruler Suharto.

Anies and Ganjar urged the public not to draw conclusions on the outcome and to await the official result, which is expected by March 20 at the latest.

To win in a single round, a candidate needs more than 50% of votes cast and at least 20% of the ballot in half of the country's provinces. If no candidate wins a majority, a runoff between the top two finishers will be held in June.

NORTH KOREA FIRES SEVERAL CRUISE MISSILES OFF EAST COAST

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

SEOUL: North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles on Wednesday, Seoul's military said, part of a string of weapons tests this year that have accompanied increasingly aggressive rhetoric from leader Kim Jong-un.

So far this year, Kim has declared South Korea his country's "principal enemy", jettisoned agencies dedicated to reunification and outreach, and threatened war over "even 0.001 mm" of territorial infringement.

Pyongyang has also ramped up weapons tests, including cruise missiles, an "underwater nuclear weapon system" and a solid-fuelled hypersonic ballistic missile.

"Our military detected several unknown cruise missiles over the waters northeast of Wonsan around 09:00 today (local time) and South Korea-US intelligence authorities are conducting a detailed analysis," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

{ MYANMAR }

New conscription law to take effect in April

BANGKOK: Myanmar's ruling military plans to call up young people for mandatory service from April and also require retired security personnel to serve, media reports cited a junta spokesman as saying, as the army struggles to crush an anti-junta insurgency.

The Southeast Asian country has been in turmoil since the military seized power from an elected government in a 2021 coup and plans by the junta to call up more people to fight point to the military being under growing pressure.

Last Saturday, Myanmar's junta declared a law governing mandatory military service would be enforced for men aged 18 to 35 and women aged 18 to 27 for up to two years. On Tuesday, it said this would begin in April.

"We are working to implement the conscription after the new year holiday in April," junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun told BBC Burmese, referring to Myanmar's most important holiday, known as Thingyan. He said medical checks would be conducted and each intake would number about 5,000. REUTERS

BIDEN BLASTS TRUMP'S 'DUMB' NATO REMARKS

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday condemned "dumb" and "shameful" comments by Donald Trump on Nato, in one of the incumbent's most blistering attacks yet on his likely Republican rival in November's election.

The 81-year-old Democrat accused his predecessor of bowing to Russian President Vladimir Putin, after Trump said he would encourage Moscow to attack Nato members who failed to meet financial commitments.

"For God's sake, it's dumb, it's shameful, it's dangerous, it's un-American," Biden said in a televised address.

"Can you imagine a former president of the United States saying that? The whole world heard it. And the worst thing is he means it," he added.

Biden said the comments by Trump, a Republican, made it more urgent that Congress pass his long-stalled funding request to support Ukraine's defence against Russia. "The stakes were already high for American security before this bill was passed in the Senate last night," he said. "But in recent days, those stakes have risen. And that's because the former president has sent a dangerous, and shockingly, frankly un-American signal to the world."

On Saturday, Trump complained during a political rally in South Carolina and recounted what he said was a past conversation with the head of "a big country" about a potential attack by Russia. "No, I would not protect you. In fact I would encourage them (Russia) to do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay," Trump said he told the leader.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

UNCERTAINTY IN QATAR

turn of events.

Last December, Qatar's Court of Appeal commuted the death sentences awarded to the men — Gupta, Captains Navtej Gill and Saurabh Vasisht, Commanders Purnendu Tiwari, Amit Nagpal, BK Verma and Sugunakar Pakala, and sailor Ragesh — and sentenced them to prison for varying durations ranging from three years to 25 years. Tiwari is expected to return soon.

Gupta's wife Rekha was visiting her parents in Agra when her phone rang in the early hours of February 12. The voice on the other end of the phone line spoke in a gentle tone.

"Congratulations, Rekha ji. Sanjeev ji is back in India."

It was India's ambassador to Qatar, Vipul (he uses one name), breaking the news to the retired officer's wife.

The brief call ended a 531-day ordeal. "There was no time for small talk. It was around 3 am and I was on my way to Noida," Rekha said.

She taught at a Doha school for more than four years before returning to India in May 2022, months before the navy veterans were detained in August of that year. The Guptas moved to Doha in January 2018 after the retired commander was offered a job at Dahra Global that involved training Qatari naval officers.

It was only around 15 hours before the Indian diplomat made that call to Rekha the navy veterans got to know they were about to be released.

"It was around 10am Doha time when the prison guards walked up to my room and ordered me to pack my bags. They said nothing more. That was the first indication of a possible release. The Indian ambassador was waiting for us outside the detention facility. He said, 'you are all going to India'. We were aware of the talks between the two governments at the highest levels but never thought we would be released so quickly. I felt on top of the world," said Gupta, who was commissioned into the navy in 1991.

Seventeen months earlier on August 29, 2022, the navy veterans were picked up by the Qatari police from their homes in a midnight swoop.

It was past 11pm and Gupta had just finished watching a few episodes of the popular web series Mirzapur on television when the bell rang. Within minutes, Gupta and the others were whisked away to the detention facility from where they walked out on February 11, 2024.

"It was a bolt from the blue," he said. "Several policemen came to pick us up. Neither we knew why they were there nor where we were being taken. The way we were escorted to the facility was not pleasant. It was very intimidating. I couldn't call my wife or anyone. I was able to speak to her only after 35 days."

Both countries have still not revealed the charges against the men, or the conditions for their release.

The initial months were a complete blackout for the veterans who were clueless about what was going on in the outside world, Gupta said.

"I experienced anxiety and hopelessness during that time. Fear of the unknown was killing us. After six months, we learnt things were moving and hope of some relief started building up. Things improved after we were allowed to meet our families and consular access was granted. We knew the Indian government had swung into action."

Some of the cells in the facility had an attached bathroom, but not Gupta's.

"I won't call it a cell because we have a different perception of a cell. It was not like what they show in Hindi films. The facilities in the detention centre were good."

In the 531 days Gupta was there, he read 42 books and spent four hours daily meditating and practising yoga.

"Were you counting the books you read there," Rekha asked Gupta, a clear indication that the couple still have much to talk about.

The *Courage to be Disliked* by Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga, and *Yoga and Stress Management* by Acharya Yatendra were among his favourite reads. He used a torn piece of paper as a bookmark.

"I used to read seven hours daily. The books, meditation and yoga took care of 11 hours. This routine started after staying there for around two months. The routine really helped me stay sane in isolation."

Military training also came in handy. "Initial military training gives you a lot of physical and mental strength. What we call ragda-patti (rigourous training) in fauji jargon really helped. It helped me survive there for so long," Gupta said.

The captivity, however, did inflict psychological challenges.

"As a naval officer, whenever I heard someone talk about anxiety, depression or hallucinations, I thought they were weak people. But I experienced all of it there. I would hallucinate that I was escaping from the facility and then somebody would come from behind and put me back in."

What about the charges? How did he deal with it?

"Look, the charges were never revealed to us. Even today, I don't know why they locked us up there. There was nothing to link us to espionage. It is the easiest allegation to make against a military officer or a veteran. It's easy for people to believe that. They won't believe as easily if a civilian was involved. In our case, it was only hearsay and guesswork."

Has the meaning of freedom changed and what were the lessons learnt during captivity?

"Absolutely, I interpret freedom differently now. Spending even 30 minutes with your loved ones whenever you want is freedom. Just being able to be with them. As far as learning goes, I realised it is important to prioritise family over work. That was something I never did. I also learnt that patience pays. My biggest realisation was that India is the best country in the world."

If it were not for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direct intervention, the government's deft handling of the matter and India's diplomatic flourish, the navy veterans would still be in captivity, he said.

When he deplaned at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on February 12, Gupta prostrated himself on the aero bridge with his eyes closed in a gesture of reverence to his homeland.

"I'm a free man because of what my country did for me."

Government of Maharashtra
Other Backward Bahujan Welfare Department
First Floor, Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032

NOTICE FOR E-TENDER

Other Backward Bahujan Welfare Department, Government of Maharashtra invites proposals from reputed and. experienced companies to provide age & standardwise various sports Kit in VJNT Ashram Shala in the state or Maharashtra. For the detailed tender document, interested bidders should visit **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Tender Submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposal is 29/02/2024 at 5.00 pm.

Date 14/02/2024

Sd/-
(Anshu Sinha, I.A.S.)
Principal Secretary
Other Backward Bahujan Welfare Department

DGIPR/2023-2024/ROC 8290

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)

E-mail : sepwdusn@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 457/23 एम–04/2023 दिनांक : 13.02.2024

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0 रूद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई–टेण्डरिंग द्वारा टू–बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 20.02.2024 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर धनराशि (रु0 लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	वर्ष 2024–25 में वार्षिक अनुरक्षण के अन्तर्गत सरदारनगर बन्नाखेडा मार्ग पर बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य। (यू0एन0–6) (मुख्य जिला मार्ग)	6.45	5000.00 + 18% GST	90 दिन	06 माह	केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के विभाग/उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी A में पंजीकृत
2.	वर्ष 2024–25 में वार्षिक अनुरक्षण के अन्तर्गत ढकिया–गुलाबो–पैगा–मुकन्दपुर मार्ग पर बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य। (राज्य मार्ग सं0 105)	4.06	5000.00 + 18% GST	90 दिन	06 माह	केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के विभाग/उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी B एंव उच्चतर में पंजीकृत
3.	वर्ष 2024–25 में वार्षिक अनुरक्षण के अन्तर्गत सरदारनगर– बाजपुर–केशोंवाला–बन्नाखेडा–बैलपडाव–कोटाबाग–कालाढूंगी मोटर मार्ग पर बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य। (राज्य मार्ग सं0 61)	3.85	5000.00 + 18% GST	90 दिन	06 माह	केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के विभाग/उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी B एंव उच्चतर में पंजीकृत
4.	वर्ष 2024–25 में वार्षिक अनुरक्षण के अन्तर्गत जंगीनाला मार्ग (रामराज मार्ग) के किमी0 4 से कोसीकांटा मार्ग पर बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य। (मुख्य जिला मार्ग)	3.01	5000.00 + 18% GST	90 दिन	06 माह	केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के विभाग/उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी B एंव उच्चतर में पंजीकृत

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE

TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender (Online tenders) are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/sole agents for the purchase of following items:

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

S. No.	Equipment/Tender Id Ref. No.	Quantity	Department	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Due date of receipt of EMD & Bid	Due date of Opening of tender
1.	Human Anti-haemophilic Factor VIII Recombinant (monoclonal purified nanofilter) 250 IU 2023_GMCH_78262_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/528-MED/2023	150 vials	Pharmacy	17720/-	28.02.2024	29.02.2024

TENDER NOTICE

S. No.	Equipment/Tender Id Ref. No.	Quantity	Department	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Due date of receipt of EMD & Bid	Due date of Opening of tender
2.	Cardiac Tables. 2024_GMCH_78900_1 GMCH/PB-II/PA-IV/237685	250 No.	Central Store	5000/-	06.03.2024	7.03.2024
3.	Levosalbutamol sulphate 1.25 mg and Ipratrapium Bromide 500 mcg in 2.5 ml unit dose Respules 2024_GMCH_78983_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/Med-351/2024	65800 respules	Pharmacy	16500/-	06.03.2024	7.03.2024
4.	Human Milk Fortifier 1 gm sachet 2024_GMCH_78984_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED-485/2024	20000 sachet	Pharmacy	17700/-	06.03.2024	7.03.2024
5.	Inj Fentanyl Citrate 50 mcg/ml, 2ml amp (IM, IV) 2024_GMCH_79160_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/87-MED/2024	36000 amps	Pharmacy	19000/-	06.03.2024	7.03.2024
6.	Inj Oxytocin IP 5 IU/ml (SC, IM, slow IV) 2024_GMCH_79161_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED-173/2024	56000 amps	Pharmacy	18200/-	06.03.2024	7.03.2024

Terms & Conditions:

- Tender documents for the above item can be obtained from website.
- The Competent authority reserves all rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
- Tender Document of GMCH, after duly signed & stamped, along with original brochure of the manufacturer and EMD, in the shape of FDR/DD, Bankers Cheque/bank Guarantee, (separate for each item), must be submitted in physical form, in the office of Procurement Branch, Room No. 228, Block-D, first Floor, GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh on or before the dates as noted against each item by 1400 hours on any working day. Tenders without submission of EMD and Tender Document in physical form shall be rejected straightway.
- The tenders must be submitted online on or before the dates as noted against each item by 1400 hours. The bid guarantee and technical bid will be opened on due date at 1500 hours. No tender shall be accepted in physical form.
- Opening of Price Bid to be intimated to all the qualified bidders separately.
- The tenderer can approach the Computer Programmer-cum-Nodal Officer, e-tendering, GMCH-32, Chandigarh on any working day, in case any query/clarification regarding e-tendering process (Ph No. 0172-2601023-27 Extn, 2112) or (Ph. No. 0172-2740641) of IT Dept., UT, Chandigarh.
- The information regarding these tenders are also available at the following websites-
  http://gmch.gov.in
  http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep/app

Medical Superintendent
for Director Principal

Govt. Medical College Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh

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A quiz on the week's development.

Prayagraj Nagar Nigam
1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Prayagraj-211001, Uttar Pradesh

NIT NO 1010 ENV/2024 DATE 14/02/2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

This is to inform to all prospective bidders having the required qualification mentioned in the EOI document that Municipal Corporation Prayagraj invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Operation and Maintenance of Community & Public Toilet in Prayagraj.

Schedule for EOI

S. No.	Activity	Date	Time
1	EOI Document Availability	16/02/2024	14:00 hrs onwards
2	Last date of EOI submission	24/02/2024	up to 15:00 hrs
3	EOI opening Date	24/02/2024	16:00 hrs onwards

For more details, please visit the website at http://www.etender.up.nic.in

(Uttam Kumar Verma)
Environment Engineer
Prayagraj Nagar Nigam

पत्रांक : मेमो दिनांक 14.02.2024

मुख्यालय "गौरा देवी पर्यावरण भवन"
उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
46 बी, आई0टी0 पार्क, सहस्त्रधारा रोड़, देहरादून
E-mail : msukpcb@yahoo.com Ph.No.: 0135-2607092

पत्रांक : यू.के.पी.सी.बी/एच.ओ./एन.ओ.सी.(पी.एच.)–7930/2023–24/1582 दिनांक : 14.02.2024

पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई के लिये सूचना

श्री नवीन सिंह परिहार, पुत्र श्री खीम सिंह परिहार, निकट पेट्रोल पम्प माल रोड, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर **द्वारा ग्राम सियामल व करूली, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर में प्रस्तावित सियामल व करूली सोपस्टोन माईनिंग (क्षेत्रफल–4.406 है०)** की पूर्व पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई का प्रस्ताव उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, देहरादून के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया है। प्रस्ताव के लिये राज्य स्तरीय पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण (SEIAA) द्वारा Terms of Reference निर्धारित किये गये हैं, जिनके अन्तर्गत प्रस्तावक के द्वारा ड्राफ्ट पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट एवं पर्यावरण प्रबन्धन योजना तैयार कर प्रस्तुत की गयी है। पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के अनुसार उक्त प्रकार की परियोजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई का प्राविधान है, जिस हेतु 30 दिनों का नोटिस समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से जन साधारण के संज्ञानार्थ दिया जाना आवश्यक है। लोक सुनवाई हेतु "पैनल" की संरचना उक्त अधिसूचना के अनुरूप निम्नवत् है :–

1. जिलाधिकारी, जनपद बागेश्वर या उनके द्वारा नामित/अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि जो जिला स्तरीय अधिकारी हो – लोक सुनवाई के अध्यक्ष।
2. उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के प्रतिनिधि।

प्रस्ताव से सम्बन्धित जमा समस्त अभिलेख (i) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, 25–सुभाष रोड, देहरादून (ii) मुख्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, गौरा देवी पर्यावरण भवन, 46–बी, आई0टी0 पार्क, सहस्त्रधारा रोड, देहरादून (iii) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, आवास विकास कालोनी, हल्द्वानी, जनपद नैनीताल (iv) कार्यालय जिलाधिकारी, बागेश्वर (v) कार्यालय, जिला पंचायत, बागेश्वर (vi) जिला उद्योग केन्द्र, बागेश्वर में उपलब्ध हैं, जिनका कोई भी इच्छुक संस्था/व्यक्ति अवलोकन कर सकता है। ड्राफ्ट पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट एवं सारांश की प्रति **www.ueppcb.uk.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध हैं।

श्री नवीन सिंह परिहार, पुत्र श्री खीम सिंह परिहार, निकट पेट्रोल पम्प माल रोड, तहसील एवं **जिला बागेश्वर द्वारा ग्राम सियामल व करूली, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर में प्रस्तावित सियामल व करूली सोपस्टोन माईनिंग (क्षेत्रफल –4.406 है०)** की पूर्व पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई **दिनांक 16.03.2024 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से परियोजना स्थल में तत्समय कोविड–19 के संदर्भ में विद्यमान SoP के अधीन सोशल डिस्टेसिंग, आवश्यक रूप से मास्क का प्रयोग, थर्मल स्क्रीनिंग एवं हैंडवाश व सेनेटाइजर तथा अन्य सुरक्षात्मक उपायों के साथ निर्धारित की जाती है।**

अतः सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि सम्बन्धित परियोजना के प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में अपने मौखिक, लिखित, सुझाव, टीका टिप्पणियों एवं आपत्तियाँ इस कार्यालय अथवा बोर्ड के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, आवास विकास कालोनी, हल्द्वानी में इस सूचना से सम्बन्धित विज्ञापन प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर प्रेषित् कर सकते हैं अथवा लोक सुनवाई के समय भी प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

सदस्य सचिव
उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता मेरठ वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ

ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

पत्रांक 442/11 कैशियर–मे0वृ0(प्रा0ख0बागपत) 23–24 दिनांक :–03.02.2024

1. महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से उ0प्र0 लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई–टैण्डरिंग के माध्यम से दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा प्रतिशत दर पर आमंत्रित की जाती है।

2.

क्रम सं0	जनपद	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (जीएसटी0 सहित) (रू0 लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (रू0 लाख में)	5 वर्षीय अनुरक्षण की लागत (रू0 लाख में)	निविदा का मूल्य	कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि	अनुरक्षण अवधि	अधिशासी अभियन्ता का पता	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता का पता	मुख्य अभियन्ता का पता	पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	बागपत	वित्तीय वर्ष 2023–24 मे नाबार्ड वित्त पोषित आर0आई0डी0एफ0 योजना के अर्न्तगत ग्राम हलालपुर से सिलाना सम्पर्क मार्ग पर नव निर्माण का कार्य।	64.61	5.23	4.84	2000+ 300 +GST (18%)= 2714	6 माह	5 वर्ष	प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 बागपत।	मेरठ वृत्त लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मेरठ क्षेत्र, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	श्रेणी ए एवं बी में पंजीकृत (मार्ग)
2		वित्तीय वर्ष 2023–24 मे नाबार्ड वित्त पोषित आर0आई0डी0एफ0 योजना के अर्न्तगत ग्राम कनाला से ग्राम मुकिमपुरा तक सम्पर्क मार्ग नव निर्माण का कार्य।	95.66	6.78	7.17	2000+ 300 +GST (18%)= 2714	6 माह	5 वर्ष	प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 बागपत।	मेरठ वृत्त लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मेरठ क्षेत्र, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	श्रेणी ए एवं बी में पंजीकृत (मार्ग)
3		वित्तीय वर्ष 2023–24 मे नाबार्ड वित्त पोषित आर0आई0डी0एफ0 योजना के अर्न्तगत ग्राम दोघट (हरि सिंह की समाधि) से ग्राम चितमखेड़ी तक सम्पर्क मार्ग पर नव निर्माण का कार्य।	133.32	8.67	9.99	2000+ 300 +GST (18%)= 2714	12 माह	5 वर्ष	प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 बागपत।	मेरठ वृत्त लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मेरठ क्षेत्र, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	श्रेणी ए एवं बी में पंजीकृत (मार्ग)
4		वित्तीय वर्ष 2023–24 मे नाबार्ड वित्त पोषित आर0आई0डी0एफ0 योजना के अर्न्तगत ग्राम खयराना मिलाना मार्ग से मोहम्मदपुर खुंटी सम्पर्क मार्ग पर नव निर्माण का कार्य।	42.25	4.11	3.16	2000+ 300 +GST (18%)= 2714	6 माह	5 वर्ष	प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 बागपत।	मेरठ वृत्त लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मेरठ क्षेत्र, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	श्रेणी ए, बी एवं सी में पंजीकृत (मार्ग)
5		वित्तीय वर्ष 2023–24 मे नाबार्ड वित्त पोषित आर0आई0डी0एफ0 योजना के अर्न्तगत ग्राम कुर्डी से ग्राम नांगल तक सम्पर्क मार्ग पर नव निर्माण का कार्य।	66.28	5.31	4.97	2000+ 300 +GST (18%)= 2714	6 माह	5 वर्ष	प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0 बागपत।	मेरठ वृत्त लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मेरठ क्षेत्र, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ	श्रेणी ए एवं बी में पंजीकृत (मार्ग)

3. बिल ऑफ क्वान्टिटी में लगाई गयी दरें सभी करो को जोड़ते हुये तथा जी0एस0टी0 करों को छोड़ते हुये लगाई गयी है।
4. निविदा में मांगी गयी धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा शुल्क प्राप्त (कॉलम नं0 5 एवं 7 के अनुसार) ऑनलाइन के माध्यम से भुगतान ही मान्य होगा। धरोहर धनराशि केवल ई–टेण्डर पोर्टल साईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध गेटवे के माध्यम से नेट बैंकिंग/आर0टी0जी0एस0 द्वारा जमा कर तथा निविदा अभिलेखों में निर्दिष्ट अन्य अभिलेख अपलोड कर बिड जमा की जा सकती है।
1. निविदा ऑनलाइन दिनांक 16.02.2024 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है एवं दिनांक 22.02.2024 की अपरान्ह् 14:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। उक्त निविदा की तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 22.02.2024 को अपरान्ह् 14:30 बजे खोली जायेगी तथा अर्ह निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय बिड कार्यालय आदेशानुसार निर्धारित समय, दिनांक एवं स्थान पर खोली जायेगी। शासनोदश संख्या 1/2018/3070/78–2–2018/42 आई0टी0/2017 (22) दिनांक 03.01.2018 में निहित व्यवस्थानुसार निविदा की तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बिड खोले जाने के उपरान्त निविदादाता द्वारा मूल अभिलेख व्यक्तिगत रूप से विभाग/कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत किये जाने है। निविदादाता द्वारा मूल अभिलेख प्रस्तुत न किये जाने की दशा में शासनादेश में निहित प्राविधानों के अनुरूप कार्यवाही की जायेगी।
2. निविदादाता सम्बन्धी शेष सभी शर्ते http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
3. धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क का भुगतान इन्टरनेट बैंकिग के माध्यम से किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. ई–निविदा जो http//etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जाएगी उसका विवरण लोक निर्माण विभाग, उ0प्र0 के चाणक्य सॉफ्टवेयर में उपलब्ध सॉफ्टवेयर पर भी निविदा डालने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय से पूर्व अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
5. निविदादाता को शासनादेश संख्या 879(1)/23–7–2020, लो0नि0 अनुभाग–7, लखनऊ दिनांक 25.08.2020 के क्रम में निविदा प्रकिया हेतु चाणक्य सॉफ्टवेयर में प्रहरी एप्लीकेशन का उपयोग कर आवश्यक अभिलेख अपलोड करने होंगें।

(अतुल कुमार)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
प्रान्तीय खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0, बागपत

(जगदीश प्रसाद)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
मेरठ वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, मेरठ

UP 203180 Dt. 13.02.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR
MORAND GANJAL AND HOSHANGABAD BARRAGE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)
SANAWAD, KHARGONE (M.P.)

Email Id- ceispnvdasand@gmail.com **TEL. NO. 07280-234608**

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER (First Call)

NIT No. 10 /W/Shaheed Ilap Singh MLIS/2023-24 **Sanawad, Dated : 07/02/2024**
TENDER NO. .....

Online tender of the following work has been invited on the e-Procurement system Portal website **http://mptenders.gov.in** Tender details are as below :-

Name of Work	**Execution of Shaheed Ilap Singh lift micro irrigation project as "Turnkey contract" for irrigation in 26890 Ha. Up to 2.5 Ha. Chak as per detailed scope of work (But not limited to that).**
Probable Amount of Contract	**525.22 Crore (excluding GST)**
EMD	**50.00 Lakh**
Cost of Tender Documents	**50,000/- (Fifty Thousand Only)** (Non-Refundable)
Date of online Purchase of Tender Documents	**09.02.2024, 17:30 Hrs. to 27.02.2024, 17:30 Hrs.**
Online Submission of bid	**09.02.2024, 17:30 Hrs. to 27.02.2024, 17:30 Hrs.**
Date of Opening of EMD and Pre-qualification	**29.02.2024, 10:30 Hrs. onwards**

The tender documents can be purchase only online from the above website after making online payment using credit card of internet Banking Account. .
Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal

(H.R.Chouhan) Project Director,
Morand-Ganjal & Hosangabad Barrage (P.M.U.)
Sanawad, Distt. Khargone

G-24216/23

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING & AGRICULTURE FOREIGN TRADE, UTTAR PRADESH.
4TH FLOOR, KISAN MANDI BHAWAN, VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW-226010

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Directorate of Agricultural Marketing & Agriculture Foreign Trade (DAM&AFT), Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) in two bid system (Part-1 Technical Bid & Part-II Financial Bid) from following experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the pre-requisites criteria to work as 'Geographical Indication(GI) Technical Facilitator' for GI registration of important Agri and Processed Agri Products of Uttar Pradesh under IPR:-

1- Private Agencies and Firms/NGO/Society/Company.
2- Government/Autonomous bodies under central or state government eg. Universities/ KVK/Institutes/ Department/ Society.

The EOI Document containing the details of qualifications, criteria, submission requirement brief objectives & scope of work etc. can be downloaded from the website ***www.upkrishivipran.in.***

Further details, if any, may be obtained from Deputy Director, (DAM&AFT), CUG No. +91- 87659 58583 . during working. hours. Last date of submission of EOI is **15 March,2024 upto 18.01 hrs** . Sealed envelope containing EOI along with Document Fee Rs.1000/- (Non-Refundable) and Processing Fee Rs. 5000/- (Non-Refundable).

Director,
Agricultural Marketing &
Agriculture Foreign Trade, UP.

UP 203324 Dt. 13.02.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता एवं मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी
गाँधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, स्वशासी समिति, भोपाल

Phone : 0755-2540590, 405000 Fax : 0755-2541376 Email : deangmc.bpl@yahoo.co.in

क्रमांक 6470/एम.सी./4/स्था/राज/2024 भोपाल, दिनाँक 13/2/2024

विज्ञप्ति

म.प्र. शासन चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग मंत्रालय भोपाल के ज्ञाप क्रमांक एफ 2-06/2018/1-55 दिनांक 07/04/2018 मध्यप्रदेश स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय चिकित्सकीय आदर्श सेवा नियम 2018, म.प्र. शासन चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग के पत्र क्रमांक एफ 1-9/2018/55-2 दिनांक 29.06.2018, संचालनालय चिकित्सा शिक्षा के पत्र क्रमांक 1134-38/स्था/अराज/2018 दिनांक 18.12.2018, संचालनालय चिकित्सा शिक्षा के पत्र क्रमांक 172/स्था/अराज/2019 दिनांक 05.02.2019 एवं संचालनालय चिकित्सा शिक्षा के पत्र क्रमांक 2101/स्था/अराज/2022 दिनांक 21.10.2022 के अर्न्तगत स्वाशासी संस्था गांधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय भोपाल के अधीन निम्नलिखित **चिकित्सकीय संवर्ग** के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति की जाना है। आवेदन करने की पात्रता उन्हीं अवेदकों को होगी जो शासन द्वारा निर्धारित शैक्षणिक अर्हताएं पूरी करते हों।

विज्ञापन की संपूर्ण जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय भोपाल मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाईट **www.gmcbhopal.net** पर उपलब्ध है। योग्य उम्मीदवारों की सूची एवं साक्षात्कार की तिथि गांधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, भोपाल की website पर उपलब्ध कराई जाऐगी, इस हेतु website का अवलोकन करे।

आवेदन पत्र डाक द्वारा/व्यक्तिगत रूप से अधिष्ठाता गांधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय भोपाल के कार्यालय में जमा किये जा सकते हैं। किसी भी स्थिति में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जाऐगा।

आवेदन शुल्क चिकित्सकीय अधिकारी **अनारक्षित वर्ग के लिए 3000 एवं आरक्षित वर्ग के लिए** 1500/- प्रति आवेदन, का आवेदन शुल्क (IMPS/NEFT/UPI) आनलाईन माध्यम के द्वारा गांधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय के खाते **Account Name :- CEO & Dean Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal. Bank Name :- State Bank of India Account No:- 10625211248 IFSC Code : SBIN0010140** में जमा कराना होगा।

शुल्क संचालन की रसीद आवेदन पत्र के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा
(डिमांड ड्राफ्ट स्वीकार नहीं होंगे)

आवेदन पत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 29/02/2024 सायं 5:30 बजे तक
अधिष्ठाता कार्यालय गांधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, भोपाल

सीधी भर्ती – चिकित्सा अधिकारी – कुल 11 पद

क्र.	पद	अनारक्षित	अ.जा.	अ.ज.जा.	अ.पि.व.	ई.डब्लू.एस.	कुल
01	चिकित्सा अधिकारी	-	-	04	05	02	11

शैक्षणिक अर्हता :– एम.बी.बी.एस/एम.सी.आई द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय/संस्थान से स्नातक परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण **(नोट :– इन पदों में बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक यूनिट के पद सम्मिलित है एवं प्लास्टिक/बर्न यूनिट में न्यूनतम 01 वर्ष का कार्य अनुभव प्राप्त अभ्यर्थी को 01 पद हेतु प्राथमिकता दी जावेगी।)**

वेतनमान :– 15600–39100+5400 (राज्य शासन द्वारा समय समय पर स्वीकृत वेतमान एवं अन्य भत्ते आदि देय होंगे।)

अधिष्ठाता एवं मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी
गांधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, स्वशासी समिति, भोपाल

जी–24224/23

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (MTDC)
(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)

Mafatlal House, 1st floor, H.T. Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Mumbai-400 020
Tel.: (9122) 41580992 (Elect) / 41580997 (Civil)

E-Tender Notice No. MTDC/Works/2023-24/54-58

Tenders for following work on Percentage Rate (B-1) are invited by the Managing Director, MTDC Ltd, Mumbai from eligible Contractors as mentioned in Detailed Tender Notice for below mentioned works.

No.	Name of Work	Cost of Works (In Lakh)
1	Establishment of Science Laboratory & Allied development works at MTDC Reserch Cenrtre Building at Durgatekdi, Lonar, Dist. Buldhana (Electrical Works)	243.86
2	Up gradation of MTDC's IISDA at Tarkarli, Dist. Sindhudurga	291.68
3	Up gradation of MTDC Resort Wardha, Dist. Wardha	333.85
4	Various tourism development works at Tipeshwar, Dist.Yawatmal .	354.29
5	Establishment of Science Laboratory & Allied development works at MTDC Reserch Cenrtre Building at Durgatekdi, Lonar, Dist. Buldhana (Civil Works)	539.52

E-tender Schedule

1	Download start and Submission date of E- Tender from Website.	Download from 15/02/2024 @15.00 hrs. to 29/02/2024 @15.00 hrs.
2	Submission of Hard Copy of e-tender document.	After 29/02/2024 @16.00 hrs. and on or before 02/03/2024 16.00 hrs.
3	Opening Date of Bid	On 02/03/2024@16.00 hrs (if possible)
4	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	On 20/02/2024@11.00 hrs
5	Corrigendum	Corrigendum/Further notices in regards to above tender will be given Online only.

1. **http://MTDC.co**
2. **http://mahatenders.gov.in**

Sd/
Superintending Engineer
MTDC Ltd, Mumbai

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 8288

Sebi seeks Irdai input on Esops to Rashmi Saluja

Under scrutiny is the amount involved for incentivising a single employee

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Depending on the outcome of its probe, Sebi will set out the observations for approving the Burmans' open offer. REUTERS

MUMBAI: The battle for Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) has taken a new turn, with the market regulator seeking the views of its insurance counterpart on REL's insurance unit issuing hefty stock options to Rashmi Saluja, who chairs both companies.

On 4 January, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) wrote to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) for its detailed views and comments on the grant of Care Health Insurance Ltd stock options to Saluja. The letter from Sebi's corporate finance department stated the matter is of high importance given the amount involved for incentivising a single employee; and the Burman family's planned takeover of Religare.

Depending on the outcome of its probe into the issue of the stock options, Sebi will set out the observations or conditions for approving the Burmans' open offer, the letter said. Mint has seen a copy of the letter.

According to InGovern Research, a proxy advisor, Saluja's overall compensation may be close to ₹700 crore, including employee stock options (Esops) of Religare and Care Health totalling ₹480 crore; Religare Finvest Esops worth ₹150-200 crore; and a salary of ₹42 crore. The stock options became the centre of a controversy after the Burman family, which has mounted an open offer for Religare, unleashed withering criticism on Saluja and Religare over the matter. The Burman family, which now controls over 25% in Religare, had criticized Saluja for drawing "excessive" compensation and called for regulatory intervention. The Religare board and Saluja have rejected all allegations of impropriety. In a statement on 20 November, the Religare board said that the issue of Esops was "in full conformity with the guidelines of the insurance regulator applicable to insurance companies".

"You are requested to provide comments on the same interns of the stated Act and the regulations of Irdai at the earliest, so as to enable us to process the draft letter of offer... The information may be shared on a regulator to regulator basis," the letter said.

In January, the dispute worsened after the Burmans cried foul over REL subsidiary Religare Finvest Ltd granting stock options worth ₹150-200 crore totalling an 8% stake to Saluja.

Saluja has been credited with turning around the fortunes of Care Health after she took over as chairperson of the fraud-hit Religare group. Its premium income has grown fivefold during the period, making it the country's second largest standalone health insurer. It underwrote a direct gross premium income of over ₹5,479.38 crore during the April-January period of this fiscal, compared to ₹4,138.74 crore in the same period last year, a 32.39% jump.

InGovern had claimed last year that Care Health had issued the Esops to Saluja despite Irdai's objection. Emails seeking comment sent to Sebi, Irda, Religare, the Burmans and Saluja did not elicit any response.

Govt eyes customs duty review for a mfg boost

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The Centre on Jan 31 slashed customs duties on various components from 15% to 10%.

NEW DELHI: The government will soon undertake a comprehensive assessment of customs duties on key inputs for manufacturing of finished products such as garments, jewellery, metal items and leather goods to enhance cost competitiveness in both domestic and overseas markets, three officials said on Wednesday.

As a matter of principle, tax proposals were not considered in the interim budget on February 1, but a comprehensive review of customs duties in the light of various free trade agreements (FTAs) is due and is expected after May, the officials said, requesting anonymity.

"If some specific changes are required urgently to safeguard any particular sector, a decision could be taken even earlier after thorough scrutiny and stakeholders' consultations," one of them said. In order to encourage domestic manufacturing, the government did rationalise import duties on various mobile phone components a day before the interim budget, he added.

The government on January 31 slashed customs duties on various components from 15% to 10% that included battery covers, front and back phone covers, main lens, sealing gaskets, SIM sockets, screws and other mechanical items of plastic and metal for cost competitiveness of finished products and greater ease of compliance.

The issue of duty inversion in the light of FTAs signed way back in 2010 was raised by various stakeholders. The issue has also been flagged by a parliamentary panel earlier this month, a second official said. "The committee is of the view that failure to address this issue could lead to severe negative consequences for the manufacturing industry," he said.

The panel observed that exporters faced unequal competition in many markets due to duty inversion faced by them in many products where raw material imports attracted higher duties compared to finished goods, he said. For example, in the engineering goods sector, about 80% of total copper tubes and pipes were imported at zero duty under the India-Asean FTA, but their raw materials – such as copper cathode and copper scraps -- attracted higher import duties (5-2.5%). A similar situation is seen in the chemical sector, he added.

Domestic leather manufacturers are also facing high duties (between 5% and 30%) on imports of key components, including toe caps, heels, soles and wet blue crust chrome, tanned and value-added leather. Global brands such as Geox, Clarks, H&M, Ecco, Hush Puppies, etc are keen to shift their manufacturing base from China to India, but they insist that manufacturers must use specific components only available abroad, a third official said. A similar situation is faced by the Indian textiles and jewellery sectors, he added.

"Customs duties are not meant for revenue generation. These are calibrated to encourage domestic manufacturing, check dumping of foreign goods, and control prices of essential commodities," the official said.

PAYTM PARENT CONFIRMS IT HAS RECEIVED NOTICES FROM THE ED

Gopika Gopakumar & Gireesh Chandra Prasad
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MUMBAI: Paytm parent, One97 Communication Ltd, confirmed on Wednesday that it has received notices from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), requesting information on customers who have conducted business with its group companies.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma, owner of Paytm, informed the stock exchanges in a filing that the company has furnished the necessary information and documents to the investigating agency.

"The company and its associate have continued to provide such information, documents and explanations to the authorities as is being required by them. We would also like to clarify that our associate Paytm Payments Bank Ltd does not undertake outward foreign remittance," said the company.

The clarification came a day after Mint reported that the ED has initiated a probe into suspected breaches at Paytm Payments Bank following a referral from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The Enforcement Directorate is currently verifying the information it has received from RBI. "The next step will depend on the outcome of this verification," said a person aware of the developments.

As of Wednesday, ED is yet to file an enforcement case information report (ECIR), a formal entry of a complaint lodged by the agency.

A second person, also seeking anonymity, said regulators attached with the ministry of corporate affairs are not yet involved in this case as it pertains to alleged breach of the money laundering law, and not company law.

On January 31, RBI had imposed restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank, prohibiting credit transactions, further deposits, or top-ups in customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, and FASTags after 29 February.

WPI inflation eases in Jan on falling food, manufacturing costs

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Food price inflation was down to 3.8% in the reporting month from 5.4% in Dec 2023. REUTERS

NEW DELHI : Wholesale inflation, as measured by the Wholesale Price (WPI) Index, eased to 0.3% in January 2024 from its December 2023 print of 0.7% – a moderation that was the result of a fall in food inflation and continuing contraction in prices of manufactured goods.

The January WPI print is also lower than the 0.6% forecast by a Bloomberg poll of economists.

While January 2024 is the third consecutive month of growth in wholesale inflation after contracting for seven consecutive months, a month-on-month analysis shows a different picture.

In sequential terms, WPI contracted in January 2024, making it the second consecutive month of sequential contraction. This shows that prices are actually falling in the economy and the annual growth in WPI is just on account of a base effect. To be sure, the extent of monthly contraction has come down from 1% in December 2023 to 0.3% in January 2024.

Food price inflation was down to 3.8% in the reporting month from 5.4% in December 2023. However, on a month-on-month basis, food prices deflated 1.1% in January, after contracting 2.2% in December.

Inflation in Primary articles, constituting 23% of the WPI basket, was down to 3.8% in the reporting month from 5.7% in December 2023. Inflation of Primary Food articles, (it has a weight of 15.3% in the WPI basket) slowed to 6.8% in January 2024 from 9.4% a month ago. While inflation for paddy moderated to 9.6% in the reporting month compared to 10.5% a month ago, pulses and vegetable prices continued to stay elevated at 16% and 19.7% in the reporting month.

The onion inflation dropped drastically to 29% in January from 92% a month ago and 109% in November 2023, cushioning elevated prices of other categories within primary food articles. Inflation of Crude and Petroleum , also in the primary articles category, increased for the third month to 4.13% in January 2024, from 1.2% a month before. The prices had contracted by nearly 10% in November 2023.

Crude petroleum prices have been volatile in 2023-24. Prices of manufactured products, constituting more than two-thirds of the WPI basket contracted by 1.1% in January 2024. "Core is still in a deflationary mode (January 2024: -1.0%) and this is the eleventh consecutive month of deflation due to the lower input costs (especially of commodities) in the manufacturing sector," said Sunil Kumar Sinha, Senior Director & Principal Economist and Paras Jasrai, Senior Analyst at India Ratings and Research in a note commenting on the WPI data.

"In view of retail inflation still being higher than RBI's comfort level, India Ratings and Research expects RBI to maintain a pause on the policy rate in the near term" they added in the note.

16th FC prioritises consultations with states

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THE COMMISSION WILL RECOMMEND A DEVOLUTION FORMULA FOR TAX REVENUES BETWEEN CENTRE AND STATES

NEW DELHI: The 16th Finance Commission (XVI-FC) that held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Arvind Panagariya in New Delhi on Wednesday stressed the need for wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders, particularly the states.

The commission will recommend a devolution formula for tax revenues between the Centre and states, and also suggest measures to augment states' resources for local bodies besides reviewing the existing arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives.

In its first meeting, the XVI-FC discussed its terms of reference (ToRs) and "acknowledged the need for wide ranging consultations with various stakeholders, including state governments, local bodies, ministries of Government of India, and experts," a finance ministry statement said.

The XVI-FC recognised that it will be carrying out detailed analytical work and would require to rope in all the expertise that it can garner, including that from leading research organisations, leading think tanks and other organisations working in the area of fiscal federal relations, it said.

The commission will make its recommendations available by October 31, 2025, covering an award period of five years commencing April 1, 2026, it said.

The government on January 31 announced that it had appointed three full-time and one part-time member of the XVI-FC.

The full-time members are former expenditure secretary and former member of the 15th Finance Commission Ajay Narayan Jha, former special secretary (expenditure) Annie George Mathew, and Artha Global's executive director Niranjan Rajadhyaksha.

State Bank of India (SBI) group chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh is a part-time member.

The government in December appointed former vice-chairman of NITI Aayog and Columbia University professor Panagariya as chairman of the XVI-FC.

The order of Panagariya's appointment came about a month after the government on November 29 announced ToRs for the commission, which also asked the body to suggest measures for augmenting states' resources for local bodies, besides reviewing the existing arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives.

RBI clamps down on credit cards for commercial use

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Commercial cards are used to make payments to vendors or merchants. ISTOCKPHOTO

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has halted businesses from paying each other via credit cards, by ordering card networks Visa and Mastercard to stop all such payments.

Businesses typically pay their vendors by bank transfers or commercial credit cards, sometimes mediated by fintechs. The latter are called business payment service provider (BPSP) transactions, now suspended by RBI.

While the exact reason for the abrupt move is not known, Arpit Ratan, co-founder and chief business officer of Signzy, a digital banking infrastructure provider, said that RBI's concern seems to come from the fact that certain recipients of card transactions may not be registered merchants, something that is not allowed by the KYC regime. KYC stands for know your customer.

"In case of peer-to-peer transactions, cards were never allowed, and even today you cannot pay some individual by your card. On the other hand, business-to-business payments were to be made through fund transfers like RTGS (real-time gross settlement), NEFT (national electronic fund transfer), cheques, etc," said Ratan. Cards are meant to be used at physical and online merchants, and there is an entire KYC process to follow when merchants are registered and onboarded, he added.

A person aware of the development said RBI is likely looking at the extent of use of such products.

Commercial cards issued by banks are used to make payments to vendors or merchants. Before fintechs entered with new products, companies used to make individual payments to their vendors and suppliers on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis through traditional banking channels. Then, the BPSPs took on the job of distributing these payments on behalf of the company.

Banks issue cards based on the KYC details of companies, but there is no such check on the merchants who receive these payments, the second person cited above added.

According to a third official, a senior private sector banker, transactions may not be affected as corporates would shift these card payments to alternate banking channels like RTGS or NEFT.

The central bank likely suspects that some entities use the BPSP route to transfer amounts to individuals without KYC instead of merchants, a fourth person said.

While the circular refers to commercial cards, there are retail use cases, too. For instance, an individual cannot pay another using his credit or debit card, but has to use fund transfers or the ubiquitous UPI (Unified Payments Interface).

Skills for loans in various financial inclusion schemes

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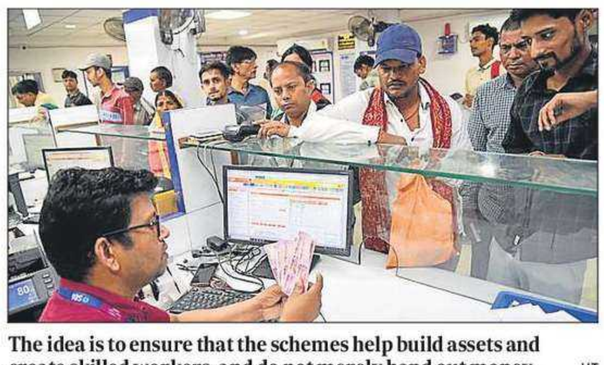

The idea is to ensure that the schemes help build assets and create skilled workers, and do not merely hand out money. HT

NEW DELHI: Individuals seeking loans under the government's various financial inclusion schemes may have to come prepared with mandatory skills training, a senior government official said. The idea is to ensure that the schemes help build assets and create skilled workers, and do not merely hand out money.

To enable this, the government plans to use the PM Vishwakarma scheme as a template for other financial inclusion schemes as well, financial services secretary Vivek Joshi said. This will include digital identification; a three-stage selection process for beneficiaries at the village, district and state levels; and upgradation of skills. PM Vishwakarma imparts skills training to beneficiaries and then gives them loans.

"Skill will be an important component of financial inclusion schemes, and if beneficiaries do not upgrade their skills, they will not be entitled to collateral-free soft loans," Joshi said.

An official aware of the development said that to make productive use of the financial support given under social schemes, skill upgrades would be rewarded through capital support to segments and individuals. While this is not being done for all schemes currently, financial support is extended only on evaluation of business proposals from the targeted segments, the official said, requesting anonymity.

Queries sent to the finance ministry on the above issue were unanswered till press time.

Apart from future schemes, some ongoing ones—such as Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India and PM SVAnidhi—will also pivot to the PM Vishwakarma scheme's model, the official said. Mudra Yojana provides financial support to income-generating small business enterprises in the manufacturing, trading and service sectors, including activities allied to agriculture. Stand Up India facilitates loans from banks to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women for setting up greenfield enterprises. PM SVAnidhi (PM street vendor's atmanirbhar nidhi) provides working capital loans to street vendors to help them move up the economic ladder and help formalise the segment.

And PM Vishwakarma, launched by the Centre on 17 September 2023, aims to provide skill upgradation training to artisans and craftspeople. It also offers collateral-free loans with interest subvention support to those who complete the training, so they can build brands and have improved access to markets.

Experts said the approach is not new, and has been used in the Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGS), but expanding this to other financial inclusion schemes could be challenging.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1 Fishes in shallow water (5)
8 A letter I composed is well expressed (8)
9 Man of affairs? (5)
10 Case involves every one in a trial (3,5)
11 Highest tree by the way (5)
12 Means justification? (3)
16 King is rattling good sport (6)
17 Give way concerning a fast time (6)
18 Happy to be back from Italy again (3)
23 It's rolled back for the opening (5)
24 Having responsibility in attack (2,6)
25 Worker constantly striking (5)
26 A firm grasp of what hunger strikers aim to do (4,4)
27 Being stupid I upset Anne (5)

DOWN

2 Perhaps he is link in foreign capital (8)
3 A sign of wrong and right we hear in a puzzle (8)
4 Glutton takes an age to finish a bird (6)
5 Respond to a trace of difference (5)
6 Bottle-opener and drinks in packs (5)
7 Ocean bed? (5)
12 Food produced in layers (3)
13 Dull but not raining (3)
14 Senior citizen (8)
15 Prepare for take-off? (8)
19 An impressive time of the year? (6)
20 Getting drunk is not free (5)
21 A nut case it's said involved in a row (5)
22 Port and orange (5)

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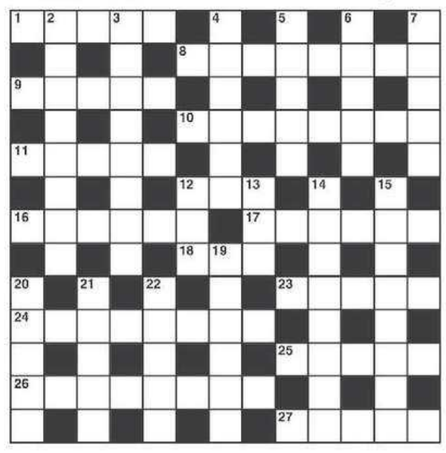


QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 Planet second from the sun (5)
8 Salad based on cabbage (8)
9 In pursuit of (5)
10 Afflicted (8)
11 Incidental remark (5)
12 Not many (3)
16 Nevertheless (4,2)
17 One after another (2,1,3)
18 Betrayer of a cause (3)
23 Look fixedly (5)
24 Inopportune (8)
25 Have benefit of (5)
26 Frenzied excitement (8)
27 Careful consideration (5)

DOWN

2 Gushing (8)
3 Constant (8)
4 Perfectly (2,1,3)
5 Run counter to (5)
6 Accidental success (5)
7 Pigs (5)
12 In support of (3)
13 Quick understanding (3)
14 Strict disciplinarian (8)
15 Quadruple (8)
19 Very nearly (3,3)
20 To lead (5)
21 Pursue stealthily (5)
22 Self-satisfied smile (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16782)

CRYPTIC

QUICK

{ SUDOKU }

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★

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

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

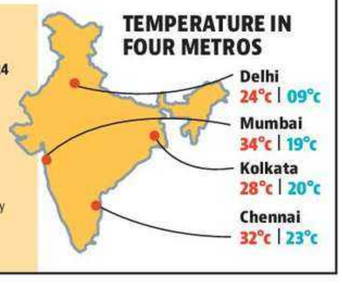
{ WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE ■HIGH ■LOW

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Moderate fog	Shallow fog	Fog mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later
24°c | 09°c	25°c | 08°c	25°c | 08°c

ALMANAC
Today is 15th February 2024
- 04 Shaban, 1445
- 21, Magha, Shukla Paksha, 06
- Samvat 2080
- **Sunset:** Thursday at 06:10 p.m.
- **Sunrise:** Friday at 06:59 a.m.
- **Moonrise:** Thursday at 10:27 p.m.
- **Moonset:** Friday at 12:13 a.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS



After Vizag fightback, another Bazball test for depleted India

It's 1-1 in the series, but India haven't quite found all the answers to England's questions going into crucial Rajkot Test

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RAJKOT: Heading into the first Test in Hyderabad, the local association marketed it as a marquee series and gave it a festive feel – *chai*, cricket and *biryani*. The pre-series predictions were that the hosts would romp home; pundits said 4-1, because England's risk would bring India some reward.

On match eve, Virat Kohli dropped out for personal reasons, England won the opening Test through Ollie Pope's ambush, and even though the series is now level on 1-1, the general feeling is of the hosts having to play catch up.

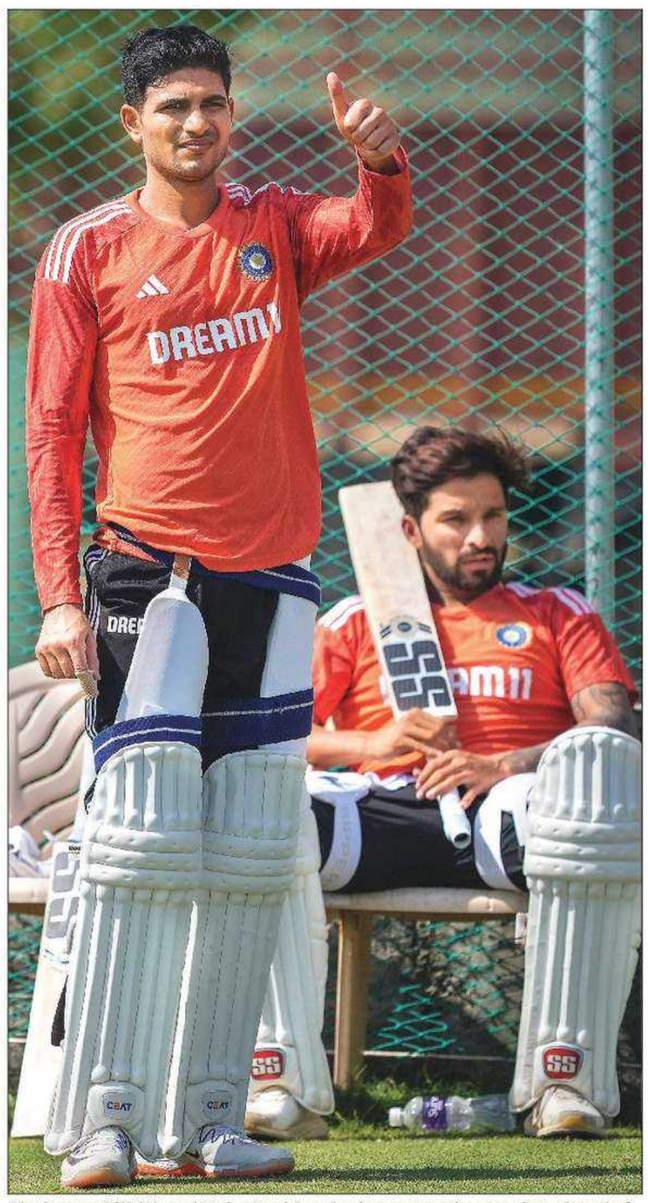
The swag Indian teams carry at home comes not just from their phenomenal record — no Test series lost in 12 years — but also due to the presence of batting heavyweights. Kohli bustling into the training arena, earplugs in place and wearing tattoos.

Cheteshwar Pujara, with no such gait but his powers of concentration would become evident as he settled into a net session. There's no Kohli for the rest of the series, and India have taken a huge call by not sending an SOS to Pujara, who is right here in Rajkot, but getting ready for Saurashtra's next Ranji encounter against Manipur starting on Friday.

Instead, India are set to reward Sarfaraz Khan's domestic exploits with a Test cap on Thursday; also to young Uttar Pradesh wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, who has clocked only two first-class seasons. There is nervousness among the decision-makers over whether the young crop will be able to provide adequate cover for seasoned players, especially Kohli and KL Rahul. Of course, India may not admit that.

"Such a time (transition) is inevitable, whether it comes after two years or five. The new players come with a lot of first-class experience. It is good that they are getting an opportunity at home," said Ravindra Jadeja, who has been passed fit on return from hamstring injury that forced him to miss the second Test. "Rather than Australia and South Africa, it is ideal for them since they have an idea how the pitch would behave."

The only trump card in India's batting kit is Rohit Sharma. The captain has been busy having one-on-one sessions with many of the players. Not just Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sarfaraz, but also bowlers, including Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj. Body language suggested discussions revolved around how to counter England's batting blitz.



Shubman Gill (L) and Rajat Patidar during a practice session ahead of the third Test against England in Rajkot on Wednesday. PTI

It's a testimony to Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum that they have forced India to alter their plan. The Rajkot pitch will be, if not the usual one ideal for a run-fest, anything but a square turner. India remain wary of their batting inexperience vis-a-vis England's batting belligerence. The pitch has some grass cover, but a lot of it may be to bind it. It may turn out to be a typical spinning wicket which would not break up in a hurry, but once it does, batting in the second innings could become challenging.

The biggest reason Bazball retains its flavour two Tests into the series is because England batting has been able to neutralise the threat Indian spinners usually pose. "Their style is aggressive. They play differently, so it takes some time to get used to it," said Jadeja.

So far, Indian spinners have taken fewer wickets than their England counterparts (23 to 33), have an inferior average (38.39 to 33.9) and conceded more runs per over (4.18 to 3.48). The onus is on the spin attack to bounce back.

There has been criticism of Rohit Sharma's defensive fields for spin at different stages of the series. Jadeja explained that a lot of it was tactical, a counter to what England were trying to do. "When they bat aggressively, occasionally they would connect, sometimes they would not. But they will play the same way.

"As a bowling unit, our plan is to do differently from what they are trying to do," he said. "If they are playing their shots, we don't want to allow that and concede runs. We want to set the fields and stop them from scoring."

The proof is in the pudding, but England have certainly forced India to think. Stokes will play his 100th Test, but played it down: "Milestones...eh, they are what they are."

India's only area of dominance in the series so far has been fast bowling. England played Mark Wood in the first Test and James Anderson in Vizag. But their performances were overshadowed by Jasprit Bumrah's sizzling pace and reverse swing. To counter that, England are getting Wood and Anderson to join forces here. Getting Wood in could work well against India's inexperienced batters who may not have played such high pace before. A dose of short-pitched bowling may be in the offing for the likes of Sarfaraz, and Jurel, if he plays.

England captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum inspect the pitch. PTI

Sarfaraz Khan, who is likely to make his Test debut on Thursday, during a fielding drill ahead of their third Test against England in Rajkot. AP

Bumrah misses practice

BCCI media manager said Bumrah had joined the team at Rajkot, but the speedster did not turn up for training on Wednesday. Named vice-captain for the remaining Tests and given his bowling form, it would be a strange move if he does not play. It is equally unusual that Bumrah opted not to train at the venue on any of the three days in the lead up to the Test.

India will lift the T20 WC under Rohit, says Jay Shah

RAJKOT: It will be Rohit Sharma and not Hardik Pandya who will be leading India at the upcoming T20 World Cup in the USA-West Indies, BCCI secretary Jay Shah, speaking on the occasion of renaming of the SCA stadium to Niranjan Shah stadium, said.

"We may have lost the final of the ODI World Cup. But we won hearts there by winning 10 matches in a row. I would like to say that I am confident that India will lift the T20 World Cup under Rohit Sharma's captaincy at Barbados," Shah said.

Shah's comments came in the presence of chief selector Ajit Agarkar, head coach Rahul Dravid and Rohit himself.

India's white-ball captaincy has been up for debate with the selectors naming Hardik Pandya as skipper in January 2023. He had proved his leadership credentials in IPL, having led the Gujarat Titans to the title in their maiden season (2022). GT, under Hardik, also made the final in 2023. At the same time, Rohit's IPL form declined. The change of guard seemed to be a natural progression. "Hardik will continue to be the vice-captain at the T20 World Cup. Hardik got injured at the ODI World Cup, so who else would we hand over the captaincy to?," Shah said.

In light of a number of players skipping Ranji Trophy, Shah said they are putting a policy in place to put an end to this practice. "I am going to write a letter, which I have already communicated over the phone that when your coach, captain or the chief selector wants you to play red-ball (Ranji trophy), you have to play," he said. HTC

Dhruv, a super fit keeper and an aggressive batter

Rasesh Mandani
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RAJKOT: There's no worse feeling in the world than attending a practice session with the knowledge that you are on the verge of being dropped. KS Bharat cut a desolate figure during India's training at Rajkot as he looked on while Dhruv Jurel went through the paces with the gloves.

Skipper Rohit Sharma was micro-managing the gap between Jurel, and the first and second slips, which can be replicated in the Test starting on Thursday.

A diving catch taken by the 23-year-old Jurel to his right and ahead of Sarfaraz Khan at first slip earned applause from the skipper. Given India's inexperience in batting, they can always rethink and give Bharat one more chance. But indications are that the team management is determined to press the transition button and one among the younger lot they are willing to invest in is Uttar Pradesh wicketkeeper-batter Jurel. He also had an extended hit in the nets.

Jurel is the son of a Kargil veteran, and his father wasn't all that keen that he pursued a career in cricket. So stubborn was the boy at 14, he locked himself in the bathroom demanding that he be allowed to buy a cricket kit. As all sweet family stories go, his mother came to the rescue despite financial constraints.

The Agra-born cricketer has already made a name in IPL with several impact innings for Rajasthan Royals. A Test debut on Thursday would give Jurel a chance to justify that early obstinacy to his parents.

Only in his third year in first-class cricket, Jurel doesn't have a mountain of runs – 790 runs at an average of 46.47 in 15 matches. But he has passed the test at every level he has competed in.

"I have seen him as the coach of UP, last year. In one match, we did not have an opener. He raised his hand and scored a big innings," said Ajay Ratra, the former India stumper. "There's a lot to like about Dhruv. He is supremely fit, a good wicketkeeper, and a batter who can hit his strokes when required."

Jurel fitting the bill with the requirements of present-day Test cricket, being able to bat aggressively when required in the lower-middle order, gives him the edge. Rishabh Pant's return from accident, at least as a long-format keeper, is still far away. Ishan Kishan has clearly drifted away from the team management's list and has shown no inclination yet of wanting to battle it out in Ranji Trophy to win his place back.

KS Bharat was always seen as a stop-gap arrangement. Although the consensus is that his keeping is technically sound, he doesn't have a fifty to show in seven Tests.

"Disappointed is a strong word (for Bharat). I would not use that. Young players take time to develop at times. As a coach, you want players to grab the opportunities. Bharat's keeping has been good while he'll also agree that with his batting he could have done better," Rahul Dravid said after the Visakhapatnam Test, giving the clearest indication yet that they were running out of patience.

Ratra was also one of the India A coaches recently in South Africa when Jurel was playing. "They were very impressed with him during the intra-squad red-ball match in South Africa when all the India players were playing. His fifty was praised a lot," he said.

Jurel got another 69 against South Africa A and a fifty very recently against England Lions. These are all matches watched closely by the selectors and the emphasis to unearth a keeper who is efficient with the bat is clear as Pant takes time to return.

But keeping to spinners of the quality of R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the heat of Test cricket will be Jurel's real Test if he plays against England. "His wicketkeeping is something I would call sound. And yes, he can keep well to spin too. In South Africa, he had kept to Axar Patel," said Ratra.

More than anything else, Jurel has the burning desire to chase his dreams. His childhood episode with his parents is proof enough.

Virat void that caught India on the wrong foot

Somshuvra Laha
somshuvra.laha@htlive.com

KOLKATA: Transitions don't come with a notice, especially when it's a team sport as layered as cricket. Ticking over two years now, a feeling has grown that the time to prepare for a future without Virat Kohli could arrive any day. Till it did last month in Hyderabad, albeit for only a few matches, but startling every stakeholder in its wake. More so because Kohli was shaping up to hit his gold standard of batting with an average of 55.91 last year.

Considering the unprecedented, extended and alarming dry spell that he had to endure preceding 2023, there couldn't have been a bigger reaffirmation of India's blind faith in Kohli. But what it also perhaps did was subconsciously postpone the need to find a rightful heir apparent anyway.

Cut to when Kohli has made himself unavailable for the entire series, India's batting is waiting to become a microcosm of this dilemma. The start at Hyderabad, which at 80/1 was calming anyway, carried more promise because KL Rahul was to come. And as long as he was at the crease, India's batting still had a sense of context and purpose.

At Visakhapatnam though, Shreyas Iyer offered no comfort at all. Now that neither Rahul nor Iyer are available for selection, the question of who will fill the considerable boots of Kohli is becoming even more inevitable, if not downright unsettling.

Which is a bit strange for India have always managed to roughly coincide the departure of one batting legend with the arrival of another. Rahul Dravid to Cheteshwar Pujara, Sachin Tendulkar to Virat Kohli, VVS Laxman to Ajinkya Rahane—the passing of baton was pretty seamless to account for roughly three decades of middle-order pre-eminence.

But now suddenly there are two voids and a half, the latter destined to worsen into a headache because like it or not, Kohli will retire one day. And this series has managed to offer a disconcerting peek into that future. With three Tests still to go, the exact degree to which Kohli's absence might hurt India is yet to be ascertained. But some numbers are already revealing. In the two Tests so far, India averaged 41 for the No 4 position. With Kohli, at home, it was 63.34 since 2015.

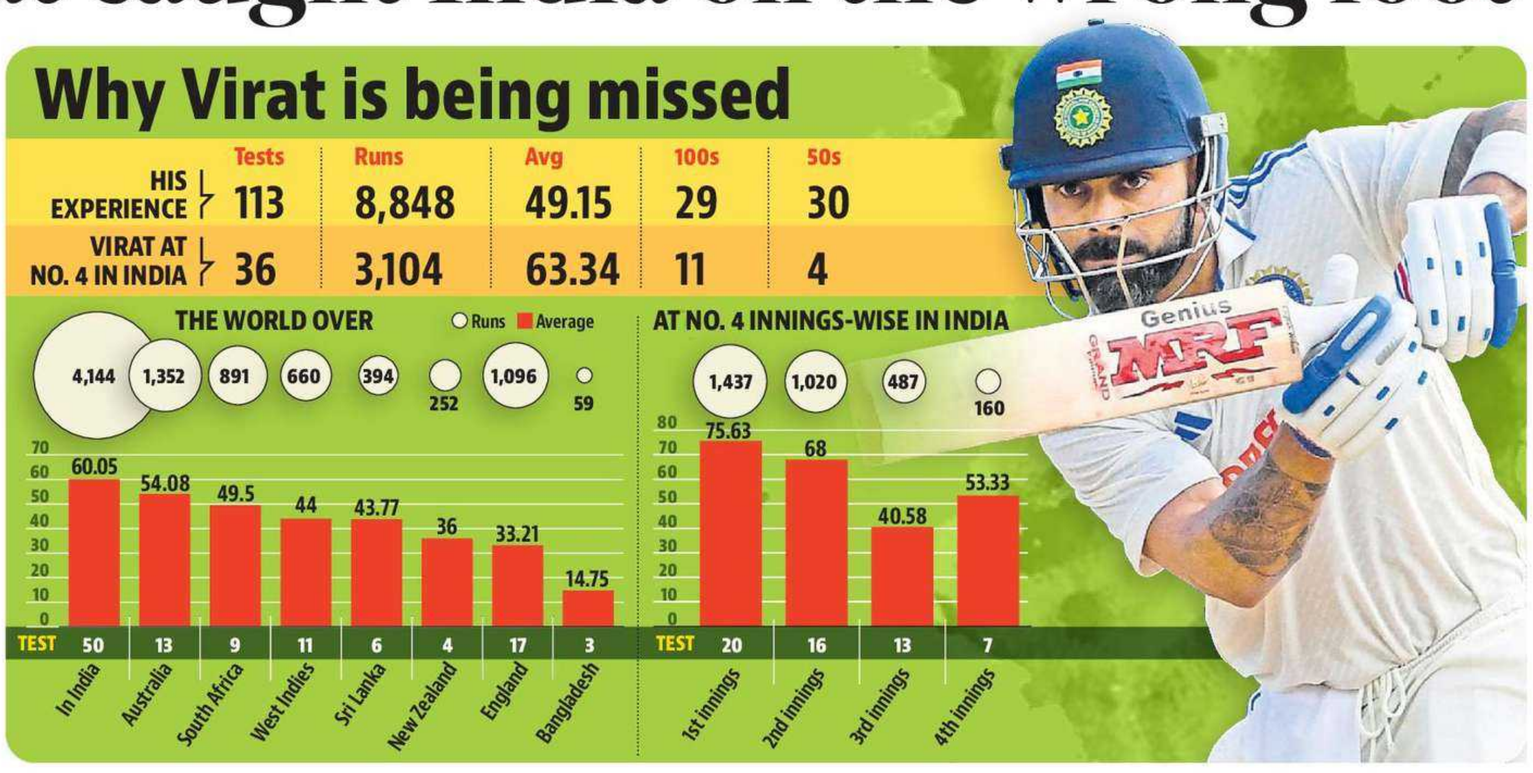
It still doesn't reveal much so here's more. Eight hundreds and three fifties coming at No 4 in 27 Test wins at home works out to at least a fifty every four innings for Kohli in a winning cause. That fourth innings average of 53.33 at home—better than even Tendulkar's 46.94—speaks highly of the skill required to last on tricky crumbling pitches, something India lacked at Hyderabad.

Most convincing, however, is Kohli's first innings dominance. If a drawn series opener at Rajkot in 2016 had given a glimmer of hope to England, Kohli was quick to extinguish it with an authoritative 167 in the second Test at Visakhapatnam. Fourth Test of that series, England charted the 400-run peak at Wankhede, only to watch Kohli scale 235 and guide India to 631 in an innings and 36-run win. It's not coincidental that five out of seven times India has piled up 600 plus in the last 10 years, Kohli has scored at least a hundred to it, four of them double hundreds. India seem to be in desperate need of similar first innings assurance, now more than ever.

Problem is, they seem to be running out of proven options. When Rahul isn't scoring big runs at the unlikeliest of venues (read Centurion, that too twice in two Tests) he is at the NCA nursing either a niggle or a strain. Iyer still doesn't have a commendable body of work and now it seems he neither has the fitness to stay in the race. Rishabh Pant could have been a temporary but extremely viable substitute but no one can still put a finger on an exact date of return. Which leaves only Shubman Gill as a long-term option even though there is still no consensus on whether he should open, stick to coming at one down or stake a claim as the future No 4.

Even if he is, Gill hasn't even come close to match the numbers Kohli started producing a year into his career. If a steady high 40s average through 2012 to 2015 laid down the foundation of a great career in the making, Kohli had raised the bar 2016 onwards, raking in 1000 plus runs three years in a row at an average of 66.59. What helped anchor this was a spectacular average of 81.84 at home in the same phase, bulk of which came against dilapidated bowling attacks but still had to be scored from scratch.

There is no doubt Kohli has long been the main man to have raised the ceiling of India's dominance, particularly at home. He knows how to grind out difficult phases and is particularly effective with his risk-free but rewarding brand of batting. It was almost a given that if India bat big, Kohli is invariably at the heart of it. To lose that edge in such a vital series has been nothing short of sobering.



Sakshi, Bajrang talk of fresh protest

NEW DELHI: Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia alleged chief Sanjay Singh used devious means to get the ban on WFI lifted by UWW and threatened to restart their agitation. UWW on Tuesday lifted the provisional suspension on India but directed the national federation to provide written guarantees that there would be no discriminatory action against the protesting trio of Punia, Malik and Vinesh Phogat.

Ramkumar shocks top seed Nardi

BENGALURU: Ramkumar Ramanathan made a comeback to shock top seeded Luka Nardi to enter the singles quarter-finals of the Bengaluru Open. Ramkumar, a wildcard, beat the Italian 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Netherlands beat India in Pro League

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's hockey team lost 1-0 to world No.1 Netherlands in the FIH Pro League in Rourkela. Felice Albers' 27th minute field goal proved to be the difference. This was India's fifth loss in six games in the nine-team tournament.

Longer drives, soaring higher: Aditi Ashok's mantra for 2024

A revamped game saw her zoom to world No. 39 in 2023. Teeing off 2024 in Saudi Arabia, Aditi says she is on track to win on LPGA Tour

Joy Chakravarty
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

RIYADH: Aditi Ashok is coming off an incredible 2023, one in which she soared from 194th in the world ranking to finish the year at a career-best 39th. And as she starts her new season at this week's Aramco Saudi Ladies International, the Bengaluru ace is confident 2024 will be even better.

The 25-year-old narrowly managed to keep her card on the LPGA Tour in 2022 after finishing 99th in the Race to CME Globe, which led to a lot of introspection and hard work over the offseason. It all paid off spectacularly as she started 2023 with a win in Kenya, and bookended it with another win in Spain to finish fourth in the Ladies European Tour's Race to Costa Del Sol.

In between, she had a solid season on the LPGA. With just six top-10s in her first six years on the Tour, she nearly doubled that number with five top-10s during the year, including a playoff loss in the LA Open, and was 41st in the Order of Merit despite playing only 20 tournaments.

The only disappointment was the silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games. Silver is not a colour to scoff at, but Aditi shot a 5-over 77 in the final round – her worst round of the season – to lose grasp on what seemed like a sure-shot gold for India.

Speaking to Hindustan Times ahead of the $5 million Aramco Saudi Ladies International, where she finished second last year against a stacked field that included superstar Lydia Ko, the eventual champion, Aditi said she needed to do something dramatic with her game for 2023 to happen.

"It was a breakthrough year for me. I did win in my rookie season, so you can call that a breakthrough year as well, but this felt the same. I had five top-10s on LPGA last year, which just showed how much improvement I made in that one year and I didn't even play as much as I could (20 events); because of the Asian Games, I took a few weeks off," said Aditi.

"It was very satisfying to see how much the hard work in the offseason made a difference. Sometimes you work hard, but you just don't see the gains. And last year, I got to see the gains of all that three, four months of speed training and just trying to hit the ball further.

"I was a short hitter and now I'm closer to average. It's not a big difference, but it's huge for me because instead of hitting my third shots from 80-100 yards, I'm now chipping from 30-40 yards and giving myself more birdie chances. I am hitting shorter irons into par-4s compared to a hybrid. And I have also improved considerably in my greens in regulation."

Driving Accuracy, rather than Driving Distance, always used to be the key stat for Aditi, who is blessed with one of the best short games in the business. But after 2022, she sat down with her coach Gaurav Diwan and singled out lack of length as the main reason for her lack of better results.

"Until the end of 2022, I never really put myself in a position to win. I was never really sniffing the leaderboard. And that was my goal for 2023. It made me think hard on what I needed to fix in my game," said Aditi.

"I always felt happy I could drive the ball straight. I was forced to change and try new things. I shifted the focus to my driving, and specifically to improve my swing speed. It was not natural for me to walk into the driving range and practice drives. I'd rather spend more time on the putting green or short game area.

"I worked hard in the gym and with speed sticks and added nearly five miles speed to my swing. It meant I was getting an additional carry of almost 15 yards in the air.

"I haven't won on LPGA yet, but I know I am on the right track. I know I can win in the US. The victory in Spain gave me so much confidence. I just have to stay patient."

Like every good golfer, Aditi has had her fair share of narrow misses, but the one at Hangzhou left her disappointed. And it wasn't for her own sake.

"That was so disappointing. It took me a bit to get over that because at Hangzhou you were not just playing for yourself," said Aditi, who also narrowly missed out on a podium finish at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, where she finished fourth.

"When I finished second in Saudi, or LA, I am sure only die-hard golf fans felt bad. It's not the same when you play for your country and when everyone is expecting a gold medal. I knew it meant a lot more to people and young kids back home, who would never have watched golf otherwise but sat through the telecast.

"Some days you play great and some days you don't. It's human nature to question a five-over, but we don't question why we shot a 10-under. That final round was one of the worst rounds I shot last year, and I told myself it was just a bad day. Maybe, it was my bad luck that it came on the final day when I was trying to win.

"The year finally felt a lot better when I won in Spain, my first win on European soil."

(A more detailed interview of Aditi Ashok will be published in Monday's Fairways & Greens newsletter)

Pep hails De Bruyne as City cruise towards last-8 stage

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

COPENHAGEN: Pep Guardiola hailed Kevin De Bruyne's form "extraordinary" after the Belgian was involved in all three goals as Man City beat Copenhagen 3-1 to close in on the Champions League quarter-finals.

De Bruyne's early opener was cancelled out against the run of play by Magnus Mattsson. Bernardo Silva restored City's lead before half-time, but they had to wait until stoppage time to add further punishment for the hosts when Phil Foden turned home De Bruyne's cut-back.

De Bruyne was sidelined for five months by a hamstring tear suffered on the opening night of the Premier League season in August. But since his return last month, the 32-year-old has scored two goals and provided seven assists in seven appearances. "Extraordinary," said Guardiola of De Bruyne's statistics. "The biggest players love to appear in the biggest stages. It's the hour of truth when you are in the last 16 of the Champions League and we start well." The English champions have now won 11 consecutive games in all competitions as they stay on course to repeat last season's treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup.

Jack Grealish had been surprisingly handed just his second start of the year by Guardiola, but the England international lasted just 15 minutes before he pulled up with a suspected groin injury.

In Leipzig, an incredible solo goal from Brahim Diaz secured Real Madrid a 1-0 win away at RB Leipzig.

Leipzig were energetic but wasteful early, while Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin made numerous saves after the hosts controversially had a goal disallowed for offside. The German club were made to pay early in the second half when Diaz opened the scoring. Drafted into the side in place of the injured Jude Bellingham, Diaz danced past three Leipzig defenders before curling an inch-perfect shot inside the far post.

Man City's Kevin De Bruyne (2R) celebrates after scoring the opening goal against FC Copenhagen on Tuesday. AFP

{ BADMINTON ASIA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS }

PV Sindhu makes a winning return as India defeat China

HT Correspondent
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Twice Olympic medallist PV Sindhu made a winning return to the circuit on Wednesday as she played her first match in four months since retiring in the second round of the French Open in October.

The world No.11 beat Han Yue 21-17, 21-15 in 40 minutes to earn her fifth win in as many meetings against the world No.8. The victory helped India beat China 3-2 in Group W of the Badminton Asia Team Championships at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

Sindhu had pulled out of the circuit after sustaining a knee injury in October following a title-less 2023. The former world champion showed that she was not just regaining her form but also her confidence as she won the opening game without losing the lead. The 28-year-old then turned around a 10-13 deficit by winning 11 of the next 13 points to give India a 1-0 lead.

But the team went 2-1 down when Tanisha Crasto/Ashwini Ponnappa and Ashmita Chaliha lost the next two clashes. While Tanisha and Ashwini went down 19-21, 16-21 to doubles world No.4 to Tan Ning and Liu Sheng Shu, Ashmita lost the second singles rubber 13-21, 15-21 to world No.9 Wang Zhi Yi.

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand levelled the scoreline with a 10-21, 21-18, 21-17 victory against Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min but 17-year-old Anmol Kharb displayed brilliant maturity to beat Wu Luo Yu 22-20, 14-21, 21-18 in an hour and 18 minutes to hand India the match.

Initially it looked like the pressure was getting to the teenager as she lost the second game and trailed 1-5 at the start of the third. But the reigning national champion stuck to her game plan of keeping the shuttle in play and wrapped up the match with three straight points.

This was the first time India have defeated China in a women's team event but the latter are not fielding their strongest team with top players like Chen Yufei and He Bing Jiao not participating. Both teams qualified for the quarter-finals that will be played on Friday.

Later, India men defeated Hong Kong 4-1 in Group A to also qualify for the quarter-finals with a tie left.

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ, CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425
Address: SUDA Bhawan, 7/23, Sector-7, Gomati Nagar Extension, Lucknow

Tender Notice Invitation Date: 13/02/2024

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **following Medical Equipments**. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No. & Date	Items Name	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids
1	GEM/2024/B/ 4569987 Dated: 10-02-2024	Plasma Expressor	19/02/2024 at 03:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	02/03/2024 upto 15:00 PM	02/03/2024 at 15:30 PM
2	GEM/2024/B/ 4569624 Dated: 10-02-2024	Flexible Fiber Optic Video Bronchoscope	19/02/2024 at 02:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	02/03/2024 upto 14:00 PM	02/03/2024 at 14:30 PM
3	GEM/2024/B/ 4570386 Dated: 10-02-2024	Analog Mammography Unit	20/02/2024 at 03:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	02/03/2024 upto 16:00 PM	02/03/2024 at 16:30 PM
4	GEM/2024/B/ 4570992 Dated: 10-02-2024	Ultrasound Scanning Machine	20/02/2024 at 02:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	02/03/2024 upto 16:00 PM	02/03/2024 at 16:30 PM
5	GEM/2024/B/ 4626348 Dated: 13-02-2024	Spy Glass DS Camera Controller	20/02/2024 at 03:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	05/03/2024 upto 15:00 PM	05/03/2024 at 15:30 PM
6	GEM/2024/B/ 4626021 Dated: 13-02-2024	Anaesthesia Scavenging System	20/02/2024 at 02:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	05/03/2024 upto 15:00 PM	05/03/2024 at 15:30 PM

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website **www.upmsc.in**. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates. **Managing Director, UPMSCL**

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (OPERATION & MAINTENANCE), GARHWAL ZONE, 26-CIVIL LINES, ROORKEE

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. Invites the following e-tenders. **1.** Procurement of Battery Charger & Battery Set for 132 KV Substation Chudiyala against e-tender specification **No.CE/GZR-31/2023-24.** Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is **13.03.2024** upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on **14.03.2024** at 15.00 hrs.
2. Supply of current Transformers (CT) at 220KV Substation Piran Kaliyar and 132KV Substation Bhagwanpur under 220KV O&M Division Piran Kaliyar against e-tender specification **No.CE/GZR-32/2023-24.** Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is **13.03.2024** upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on **14.03.2024** at 16.00 hrs.
3. Supply of Circuit Breakers (CB) at 220KV Substation Piran Kaliyar against e-tender specification **No.CE/GZR-33/2023-24.** Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is **14.03.2024** upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on **15.03.2024** at 15.00 hrs.
Details of E-tender can be obtained from E-tender website **www.uktenders.gov.in** and information of E-tender can be seen from PTCUL website **www.ptcul.org**. For any assistance on e-tendering, please contact on Mb. No.+91-8899890000.

CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)
No. 203 /CE(O&M)/GZR/Advt. **Dated: 14/02/2024**
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

Due to transportation constraint dates of walk-in-interview are being postponed. The revised dates are as below:-

S.No	Health Units	Previously Scheduled Date	Revised Date
1	Meerut Health Unit	16.02.2024 (Friday) [10:00 Hrs.-12:30 Hrs.]	01.03.2024 (Friday) [10:00 Hrs. - 12:30 Hrs.]
2	Panipat Health Unit	17.02.2024 (Saturday) [10:00 Hrs.-12:30 Hrs.]	02.03.2024(Saturday) [10:00Hrs.- 12:30 Hrs.]
3	Jind Health Unit	17.02.2024 (Saturday) [15:00 Hrs.-17:30 Hrs.]	02.03.2024(Saturday) [15:00Hrs.-.17:30 Hrs.]

No. NR-DLIOPERS (GENL)/466/2020-O/o DPO/A/DLI/NR/22409/P-9 (Gaz) Date: 14.02.2024
(Abhijit Gupta)
Divisional Personnel Officer/NDLS
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 502/24

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-7

The last date of the bid submission of E-Tender for "Construction of 132 kV and 66 kV bays and installation of 3x20 MVA, 132/66 kV Transformer at 132 kV Substation Simli" against tender specification No. PTCUL/E-tender/(C&P-I)/SS-08/2023-24 is hereby extended **upto 01.03.2024 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (Tender id no. 2023_PTCU1_62908_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000.

RO No. 252/HQPU/PTCUL Dated: 13.02.2024 **Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)**
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
9th Circle Public Work Department Dehradun
Website: http://pwd.uk.gov.in, E-mail: sepwdddun09@gmail.com

Letter No.: 984/1 C-9/2024 Dated: 14/02/2024

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
e-tender Notice (Short term)

The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand invites short term tender in two bid system for the following works. Information regarding tender shall be available on **https://www.uktenders.gov.in** from **date 17.02.2024.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	Validity of Tender (In Days)	Period of Completion (In Month)	Contractor Category of Registration
1.	Under the deposit item, construction work of underpass between Shri Manhat Indresh Hospital and Shri Gururam Rai Medical College on Lalpul to Kargi road in Dharampur assembly constituency.	28.00	5000 + 18% GST	120	18	Registerd in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./ State Govt/ any Govt. Undertaking
2.	Under the state plan, km 16 hectometer (2-4) of MBSD in Sahaspur assembly constituency of Dehradun district, internal road in Ramgarh of Singhniwala Shishambara, km 21 hectometer (2-4) from the main road in Hasanpur Kalyanpur to the forest, km. Gram Sabha Sabhawala situated in 26 Hectometer (4-6) from the main road from Isaak's kiosk to Primary School, internal road of Jatowala situated in 28 Hectometer (2-4) and Gram Sabha Majri situated in Hectometer (8-10) km Reconstruction work by interlocking tiles of internal roads from the tree to Giani's house and from Anwar's house to Abdul Qadir and Alias' house to Hanif's house in Gram Sabha Khushhalpur.	3.70	5000 + 18% GST	120	12	Registerd in 'B' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./ State Govt/ any Govt. Undertaking
3.	Under the state plan, construction work of a bridge in place of the green bridge connecting Deepnagar and Kedarpuram located under Dharampur assembly constituency of Dehradun district.	4.30	5000 + 18% GST	120	12	—do—
4.	Under Honorable Chief Minister's announcement number 57/2020, construction work of ring road up to Dakota Chanchak and Mothrowala main road in Cantonment Clementtown Cantt under Dharampur assembly constituency of Dehradun district.	4.72	5000 + 18% GST	120	12	—do—

Note:- The Tender Invitation Notice is being issued in anticipation of the administrative approval and financial sanction of the works.

Centre for Railway Information Systems
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021
Tel.: 24106717, 24104525

Tender No. 01245038, **Subject:** Procurement of System Software, Onsite Help desk and OEM Man days for 1 years for Indian Railway Native IoT based Yield Analysis Telemetry, Recording and Control (IR-NIYANTRAC) project. **Date of Opening:** 07.03.2024 (15:30 HRS) Tender Documents can be downloaded from Website **www.ireps.gov.in**. For future modification/ extensions pl. see **www.ireps.gov.in**.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. SNT-JU-22-2023-24, Dt: 13.02.2024

Open E-tender is invited by DRM (S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. **(1) Name of work**: S&T Indoor and Outdoor works in c/w provision of Double distant signals in LN-(Ex)-MJ (Ex) section of Jodhpur Division of NW Railway **(2) Estimated cost of the work:** ₹ 17598835/- (R/O) **(3) Address of the NIT Issuing office:** Sr. DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur. **(4) Bid security to be deposited:** ₹ 238000/- **(5) Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** 05/03/2024 Upto 15:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS, Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. **(6) Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated:** www.ireps.gov.in **Note:** This is a E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website. 196-DP/24

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
8TH CIRCLE, P.W.D. NEW TEHRI
E-Mail: sepwdtehri@rediffmail.com

पत्रांकः 1022/01 सी० (श्री केदारनाथ-धाम)-8/23 दिनांक : 13.02.2024

Short Term E-tender Notice

Superintending Engineer 8th Circle, PWD New Tehri on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand invites E-tender (Two bid) for the following work under district- Rudraprayag. All information about tender shall be available in e-GPS https://uktenders.gov.in on 17.02.2024.

S. N.	Name of Work	Bid Security (in Lacs)	Validity of Tender (in Days)	Tender fee	Completion period (in Months)	Qualification
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Construction of veterinary Hospital, Transit Hostel, Shedes for pack animals with Basic amenities at Gauikund. (Office & guest House, Post Mortem room, plateform etc. work)	1.55	120	4000.00 + 18% GST	06	Registered Category **"C"** & above for building work in state/centre Govt. of India.
1.	Construction of veterinary Hospital, Transit Hostel, Shedes for pack animals with Basic amenities at Gauikund. (Shed No. 1 & Boundary wall etc. work)	1.25	120	4000.00 + 18% GST	06	Registered Category **"D"** & above for building work in state/centre Govt. of India.
1.	Construction of veterinary Hospital, Transit Hostel, Shedes for pack animals with Basic amenities at Gauikund. (Shed No. 2, Compost Pit & pathway etc. work)	0.85	120	3000.00 + 18% GST	06	Registered Category **"D"** & above for building work in state/centre Govt. of India.

Superintending Engineer
8th Circle, PWD New Tehri

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