*The Indian EXPRESS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

SINCE 1932

Rajpath now becomes Kartavyapath, Mughal Garden becomes Amrit Udyan, new epaulettes

of Indian Navy to be based on the naval ensign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu with AICC observers

ing with AICC observers D K

Shivakumar, Bhupesh Baghel

and Bhupinder Singh Hooda late

in the evening, Vikramaditya

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bhupesh Baghel, D K Shivakumar, Bhupinder Singh Hooda

and Rajeev Shukla in Shimla on Wednesday. PTI (Left)

Vikramaditya Singh after quitting as minister. ANI

Vikramaditya Singh announced

his resignation from the Cabinet

in the morning, the central lead-

ership managed to pacify him by

the end of the day. After a meet-

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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Vikramaditya

quits as minister,

talks to observers;

Sukhu says govt

will last full term

& NAVJEEVAN GOPAL

NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH,

A DAY after its official candidate

suffered an embarrassing defeat

in the Rajya Sabha elections in

Himachal Pradesh, the Congress

Wednesday scrambled to avert

a crisis and save the state govern-

ment even as six party MLAs and

three Independents, who cross-

voted for the BJP nominee, re-

mained out of the party's reach.

While young minister

leadership

MANOJCG

FEBRUARY 28

central

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

DAY AFTER RS POLLS: BJP MLAs SUSPENDED, BUDGET PASSED

Congress firefights in Himachal, rebellion against CM out in open

Freedom from colonial mindset



Hamara sankalp **Viksit Bharat**

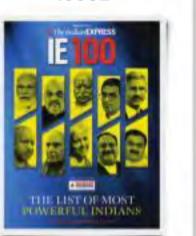
Interim unity govt, common

voter list: Law panel readies

report on simultaneous polls



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BUSINESS AS USUAL



In first visit to Valley since Art 370 move, PM to address

Srinagar rally

NAVEEDIQBAL & LIZ MATHEW

SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, FEB 28

IN WHAT would mark his first visit to Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address a public rally in Srinagar on March 7.

The Prime Minister has been on a whirlwind tour of the country ahead of the announcement of Lok Sabha polls, with his speeches focusing on how his government's schemes have touched the lives of beneficiaries.

In Srinagar, too, he is expected to address beneficiaries of the Centre's schemes, sources said. "There is a demand for a public rally by the Prime Minister — it is going to be held at Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Center. The final details are being worked out," said a source. "He may address beneficiaries from far-flung areas virtually."

Modi, who visited Jammu last week and inaugurated a series of development initiatives totaling over Rs 32.000 crore, has not visited the Valley during his second term as Prime Minister. During his Jammu visit, he had termed Article 370 the "biggest impedi-

ment" to development in J&K. The last time he visited was in February 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, as part of his tour to all three regions of the former state — Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh. He had also CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

PAGE 1

ANCHOR

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28 WITH THE Belgian Malinois becoming the preferred canine companion of special forces in the United States, Europe and Israel, India's elite counter-terrorism unit, the National Security Guard (NSG), hopes to soon deploy the

During the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, the Belgian Malinois — a canine breed especially trained by the Israeli forces to not just sniff out Hamas mili-

ferocious four-legged fighting force in its future operations in place of the adorable Labrador.

nels in Gaza, but also track and attack them — was among Israel's

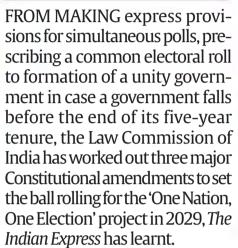
most valued fighting units. The NSG's Labrador squad will gradually make way for the highly intelligent Belgian Malinois. While earlier, Labradors were used for sniffing and tracking, and German Shepherds for attacking, the NSG is now training its Malinois dogs to carry out all three tasks.

squad will help NSG's Black Cat commandos with their anti-terror operations. "The operational squads will become leaner. Else, we would have to take two sets of

and stealth," NSG Director General M A Ganapathy said. Lieutenant Colonel R B Sharma, in charge of NSG's K9 canine unit, said training for the new inductees started in August 2023. "At present, the squad has Labradors, cocker spaniels and Belgian Malinois. We have 20 Labradors and are not acquiring more Labradors since we plan to retire them gradually. As their replacement, we have acquired 14 Belgian Malinois and they are now our lead dog squad. Belgian Malinois is the preferred breed

A Belgian Malinois with the NSG's K9 unit during an

APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28



The 22nd Law Commission, headed by former Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, is set to recommend the addition of a new chapter on simultaneous polls in the Constitution, sources said.

Currently, Part XV of the Constitution deals with elections. It prescribes the role of the Election Commission and for elections to be based on adult suf-



The Law Commission has made a presentation to the **Kovind committee.** File

frage among other aspects. The Commission is likely to recommend insertion of a new chapter, Part XVA, that would make provisions for simultaneous polls.

While the law panel has not submitted its report to the government, it has made detailed presentations of its likely recommendations before the high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, to promise

THE IDEA of simultaneous polls, for long a BIP promise, has been amplified in recent years by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In its 2019 poll manifesto, the BIP said simultaneous polls were needed to reduce expenditure, ensure efficient utilisation of government resources and security forces and for effective policy planning. It said a common voter list will ensure every citizen gets the right to exercise his/her franchise for all

"examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

public bodies.

RELIGARE The Indian EXPRESS

In Conversation WITH THE FM

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor, The Indian Express, at the Express Adda in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Sankhadeep Banerjee



INSIDE



CBI SUMMONS AKHILESH IN 2019 MINING CASE

RELIANCE, DISNEY **SIGN MEGA DEAL TO CREATE MEDIA GIANT**

3,300 KG NARCOTICS **SEIZED OFF GUJARAT COAST PAGES 6, 11 & 15**

In Kamal Nath bastion of Chhindwara, BJP on prowl, Congress tries to herd its leaders

ANAND MOHAN J CHHINDWARA, FEBRUARY 28

ATEAM of senior Congress leaders, including former general secretaries, youth presidents and councillors, have taken a break from politics and are enjoying a game of cricket at the Indira Gandhi Cricket Stadium in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, where posters of Kamal Nath and his son Nakul Nath

dominate the landscape. Ashish Tripathi, a key election strategist for the Congress and a



The Congress office in Chhindwara. Over 1,500 party workers here switched to the BIP this month. Anand Mohan I

Kamal Nath loyalist, is watching the game from the stands but, he admits, his mind is on the coming Lok Sabha elections. "Everyone asks me when Kamal Nath is joining the BJP. I repeat what Kamal Nath says when asked this – 'Aapki kya raye hai (What is your opinion)?'," says Tripathi.

Adding that it is wrong to proclaim the Congress's demise, he says: "The BJP has its eyes set on Chhindwara... They can try to break us, but the Chhindwara Congress shines when our backs are against the wall."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DDA razes house of man who led team that rescued 41 from Uttarakhand tunnel

Hasan says only his house demolished; removed encroachment, says DDA

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THREE MONTHS ago, Vaqeel Hasan sported a proud smile as he returned home after his team of "rat-hole" miners played a starring role in rescuing 41 workers who had been trapped for 17 days in the collapsed Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand.

On Wednesday, he came home to find that it was being demolished as part of an antiencroachment drive by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at Sri Ram Colony in Northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas area.

"They (the authorities) came for demolition today morning; my wife and I were not at home. only my children were there. rushed back, tried telling them not to go ahead, but they didn't listen," Hasan, 45, who also owns Rockwell Enterprises, the company that employed the "rathole" miners, said.

In an official statement, the DDA said, "On 28.02.2024, a demolition drive was conducted to remove encroachment from acquired land in village Khajuri Khas. The land was part of planned development land."

Hasan claimed his house was the only one targeted in the lo-





that was razed in Khajuri Khas

cality. "There are other houses in the same line, it's a colony. They said it is DDA land. In the area only my house was demolished The registry is from 1987, and we have been living here since 2012. It is an 80 gaj plot," he said.

Recalling the rescue mission in November, Hasan, the father of three minor children, said "We didn't think about our lives and got the work done. We are not asking for money, all I ask for is that I have the house I was living in. Where do we go with the children? Kiraya dena humare

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NSG's Labradors set to make way for the more versatile Belgian Malinois

tants in their underground tun-

Sources said the Malinois

dogs along with their trainers and other logistics. It impacts mobility

of the best forces in the world.



anti-terror drill. *Gajendra Yadav*

The US forces that hunted down (al-Qaeda chief) Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan had Malinois dogs in tow," Lt Col Sharma said.

In 2019, a Belgian Malinois played an important role in a military strike by the US that resulted in the death of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Lt Col Sharma said unlike Labradors, who have great olfactory senses but are docile, the Malinois's sniffing capabilities are only slightly lower. However, they are more alert, besides possessing the ability to attack and paralyse terrorists, giving security forces "golden moments" before their intervention.

"Labradors get tired easily and can get playful during operations. These are not issues we face with the Malinois. Labradors are constantly looking for affection and are eager to please their masters. They also want treats constantly. Malinois are more

professional that way," he adds. NSG second-in-command Major Rishi, the main dog trainer, said, "The Malinois can also be trained to follow laser beams. So a bag can be pointed out with a laser beam at a distance, and the dog can reach it without the involvement of its handler, thus reducing the risk to the soldier."

The NSG has also acquired the

Canine Reward Delivery Systems (CRDS), designed for dog squads, for remote operations and realtime feedback. CRDS allows a dog to wear a camera-fitted visor and a radio set is attached to its collar. The trainer can stay fai from the operation site and send in the dog alone, passing on instructions through the radio set The camera-fitted visor relays live visuals to the handler.

Major Rishi said, "CRDS has a range of 1 km and is one-of-akind in India. These dogs have already been trained to sniff out explosives and attack terrorists based on directions given remotely via CRDS."

ess.com

Kolkata exhibition on Jamini Roy in a spot after group of artists claim fakes



At the exhibition on Jamini Roy's paintings at Middleton Art Gallery in Kolkata, which concluded Wednesday. Shashi Ghosh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 28

AN EXHIBITION of Jamini Roy's paintings in Kolkata has run into a controversy after a section of artists claimed that the artworks displayed at the exhibition were not original works.

While a complaint has been filed at Park Street Police Station, the group of artists has demanded an examination of the displayed artworks by the Archaelogical Survey of India (ASI), which had declared all Jamini Roy's works a "national treasure" in 1976.

cluded on Wednesday, was held at Middleton Art Gallery by an art collector, Kamal Parekh.

A group of artists held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the issue and resolved that they would petition the Centre to initiate appropriate action.

"These artworks (displayed at the exhibition) are against the character of Jamini Roy's patterns. We had not seen such a type of work. Because of this, we are demanding that the Archaeological Survey of India examine these pictures and find

out whether they are the original works of Jamini Roy," saic artist Pranab Ranjan Roy.

Another artist Hiran Mitra said, "After seeing these artworks, we think that these are all synthetic works. Let the Archeological Survey of India check these pictures."

Parekh, who organised the exhibition, denied the charges and said that he collected the artworks of Jamini Roy from various places. "I have collected two paintings by Jamini Roy from the Grand Hotel exhibition in 1993. I have the authentication and affidavit of each photo. No picture is fake. I will not sell these pictures. The exhibition, which con— They are kept for exhibition only. I have 80 to 90 paintings by Jamini Roy... Some of the artists may be angry and therefore have said it," Parekh said.

But the group of artists said there was no record of any such exhibition being held in 1993 at Kolkata's Grand Hotel

Born in 1887 in Bengal's Bankura district, Roy, one of India's earliest modernists, was awarded the Viceroy's Gold Medal in 1935, the Padma Bhushan in 1955, and elected a fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi in 1956.

IUML agrees to 2 LS seats as Cong assures it of RS berth

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. FEBRUARY 28

THE INDIAN Union Muslim League (IUML) has decided to contest from the existing two seats in the Lok Sabha polls after its earlier demand for three seats was turned down by ally Congress. The IUML backtracked from its demand for a third seat after the Congress offered its next Rajya Sabha seat, which would fall vacant, to the party.

Congress-led Opposition leader V D Satheesan said the next Rajya Sabha seat from Kerala, which the Congress could win, would be given to the IUML. The other Rajya Sabha seat, which falls vacant, would then go to the Congress. Whenever the United Democratic Front (UDF) comes to

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power, the Congress takes three Rajya Sabha seats and IUML two. "When the UDF comes to power that formula would be maintained," he said.

The Congress leader confirmed that the IUML wanted a third seat. "We were also keen to accommodate their demand but because of practical difficulties we could not," he said.

The Congress would contest from 16 seats, IUML from two Kerala Congress (Joseph) and RSP one seat each in Kerala. In Kollam the RSP is fielding its sitting MPN K Premachandran for the third time. In Kottayam, allotted to the Kerala Congress (I), former MP Francis George would contest. The Congress has not announced its candidates but it is believed that all sitting MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, would seek mandate from their existing turfs.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Congress firefights in Himachal, rebellion against CM Sukhu out in open

Singh said he was not pressing for his resignation.

Vikramaditya Singh and his mother, PCC chief Pratibha Singh, are ranged against Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, whose fate hung in the balance with several MLAs demanding his removal.

The party appeared to be working at multiple levels. State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan filed a petition seeking the disqualification of the six MLAs who crossvoted under the anti-defection law, but Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania reserved his decision, letting the threat of disqualification hang over their heads. Sources said the party is adopting a carrotand-stick policy even as it appeared wary of the BJP's moves.

The Congress central leadership rushed Shivakumar, Baghel and Hooda to Shimla in a bid to douse the raging fires and talk to the MLAs. Salvaging the government was the immediate priority, said sources, adding that the leadership could consider replacing the Chief Minister if such a step was needed to save the govern-

Meanwhile, the Sukhu government, which completed a year

in December, averted an immediate collapse as the Finance Bill was passed by voice vote in the Assembly, after the Speaker suspended 15 BJP MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur. Soon after, the Speaker adjourned the House sine die.

But, despite passage of the Budget, the Congress is still staring at a crisis.

While announcing his resignation from Sukhu's Cabinet in a surprise move in the morning, Vikramaditya Singh spoke about attempts by some quarters to "humiliate" and "undermine" him. He said he was "deeply hurt" with the developments over the last two days and argued that the party should ponder over what went Vikramaditya Singh claimed

the Congress fought the 2022 Assembly elections in the name of his father and former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, but the party's government failed to find even a small plot of land on Shimla's Mall Road to install a statue of the six-time former Chief Minister. "It is not a political but an emotional thing for a son," he said, quoting a couplet, "Kitna hai badnaseeb 'Zafar' dafn ke liye, do gazzameen bhi na mili ku-e-yaar mein." Later in the evening, Vikramaditya Singh said he was not pressing for his resignation in the larger interest and unity of the party. "There is a difference between taking the resignation back and not pressing for it further, till the time the dialogue and action of the observers is not complete. Since we have had discussions with observers and have apprised them of the prevailing circumstances... I will not press for my resignation. The final outcome

will be revealed in the coming

time. The observers said they are

looking into things," he said.

Besides Vikramaditya Singh, the AICC observers met Sukhu, Pratibha Singh and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri. On a firefighting mission, the central observers as well as AICC incharge of the state, Rajeev Shukla, also met some MLAs and could meet more to gauge their minds.

Another big reason for worry for the Congress was the continued rebellion by the six party MLAs — Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma, Chaitanya Sharma, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Davinder Kumar Bhutto and Ravi Thakur — and the three Independent legislators —

Ashish Sharma, K L Thakur and Hoshvar Singh.

Arguing that the conspiracy to topple his government had been foiled, Sukhu said: "We have brought disqualification motion against the MLAs who were lured... Truth triumphs in a democracy. In future, we will expose those behind the conspiracy to topple the government." He alleged that "allurements" to the tune of "crores of rupees" were given "overnight".

The six MLAs, who were served notice following a petition moved by Minister Chauhan, appeared before Speaker Pathania along with lawyer Satya Pal Jain and sought seven days' time to file their replies. They pleaded that they had only been served copies of the showcause notice, without the annexures and copies of the petition.

Pathania said he had heard both the parties and reserved the order. "The MLAs did not indulge in any conduct which comes under the anti-defection law," Jain said, adding that while the petition to seek their disqualification was submitted on Tuesday, "an additional affidavit was submitted Wednesday morning".

were issued notices following the petition which alleged that they had defied the three-line whip to remain present at the time of voting on the cut motion on the Budget. "Six Congress members were not there and that amounts to a violation of whip and hence attracts the provision of anti-defection laws. Hence, I issued notices to them," the Speaker said,

Pathania said the six MLAs

For the Finance Bill, the Speaker said "both parties issued three-line whip and if any member defies the whip it attracts the provision of the anti-defection law". He said he acted as per the procedure and rules.

adding that both parties would be

heard and given reasonable time

to present their side.

Sources said the party's central leadership, too, was not happy with Sukhu's handling of the Rajya Sabha elections. A Congress leader said a proposal under consideration was to replace Sukhu with Mukesh Agnihotri, with Vikramaditya Singh as his deputy. "It all depends on the consultations the observers have with the MLAs. The central leadership will take a decision on the basis of the report of the observers," he said.

The Congress, which has 40 MLAs and the support of three Independents in the 68-member Assembly, managed to get only 34 votes — one less than the simple majority mark — in the Rajya Sabha elections.

BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan, a former Congress leader who quit the party and joined the BJP in 2022, also secured 34 votes, resulting in a tie with Congress's Abhishek Manu Singhvi and get-

ting elected through a draw of lots. In Delhi, Congress communication head Jairam Ramesh said the party would not hesitate to take some tough steps as its priority was to ensure that the people's mandate in favour of the Congress was not betrayed.

As his fate remained uncertain, Sukhu put up a brave face, asserting that the Congress government would complete its five-year term. He also denied reports that he had resigned. "I have not resigned. I am a fighter," he said. Sukhu said he had spoken to Vikramaditya Singh, whom he called his younger brother, and asserted there was no reason to accept his resignation. He said Vikramaditya Singh's grievances would be addressed.

• In Kamal Nath bastion of Chhindwara, BJP on prowl, Congress tries to herd its leaders

Right now, that wall seems pretty shaky. In recent days, the BJP claims to have weaned away 2,000 Congress workers from across the state to its side, including district presidents, mayors, sarpanchs – 1,500 of them in Chhindwara alone, which significantly was the sole parliamentary constituency that the BIP did not win in 2019.

Against this backdrop, rumours spread like wildfire about a fortnight ago that Kamal Nath, the state Congress chief, and Nakul, the Chhindwara MP, were joining the queue out the party door. Media parked itself for several days outside the Delhi house of the 77-year-old Congress leader — a nine-time MP, former CM and a party veteran since Sanjay Gandhi days — in anticipation. Kamal Nath was said to be

smarting from the Congress central leadership's rap to him over the Madhya Pradesh Assembly poll loss, as well as the denial of a Rajva Sabha nomination to

The defection did not come to pass eventually, for reasons that remain unclear. On Tuesday, Kamal Nath said the rumours were all a media creation. Earlier, senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said the party had no need for Kamal Nath, who carries with him the baggage of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and

This means that, as of now, the unsparing BJP is set to focus all its energies on wresting Chhindwara, which has been dominated by Kamal Nath – and by extension the Congress since he first won an election from here in the 1980s.

A VIP seat

In its tribal-dominated surroundings, the Chhindwara district stands out for all its trappings of modernity, which come with having VIP links going back four decades. It has good rail connectivity and roads, and several skill development institutes and factories, including big names such as Raymond and Unilever.

Congress leaders claim the BJP will seek to dent the Chhindwara bastion by freezing its development. Chhindwara Mayor Vikram Ahake lists projects that have been "stalled", starting with marriage halls and a library.

"Nakul Nath's vision was to set up an education hub. The BJP has put the brakes on that, as well as Rs 481 crore for the upgrade of Raja Shankar Shah University. The medical college budget, assigned Rs 1,400 crore during Kamal Nath's short tenure as CM, is now on hold, along with proposals to construct an agriculture and horticulture institute, a mini-airport and a 100-acre industrial area. Even Central government schemes are on hold," Ahake

A state government spokesperson denies allegations of stopping funds Chhindwara. "If local politicians misuse the funds, then that is a cause for concern," the spokesperson adds.

At Rajiv Bhavan, which serves as the Congress office, the party's Chhindwara district president, Viswanath Okte, is sifting through some wedding invitation cards. Yes, Kamal Nath would attend the wedding, he assures a group of people, going on to emphasise the Congress

leader's connect with the people of the constituency.

"There is a bhandara (feast) in the BJP, and everyone is leaving. Let them go. What positions will they get there? Is their future secure? We are solely focused on Kamal Nath's mission of activating booth-level workers. They will help us win, not the leaders who left." he says.

Ironically, Congress leaders now in the BIP say it was insecurity about their future that drove their move. The decision of the Congress leadership to stay away from the Ayodhya Ram Temple consecration is cited by more than one leader as the main factor. Many say it will cause "a Congress wipeout in the Hindi belt".

Local councillors, however, admit apprehension about the BJP government stopping funds for projects in their areas, or opening investigations into works.

The 'aloof' Naths

On February 21, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav was himself in Chhindwara to lend his shoulder to the BJP push in the seat. Among the fresh group of Congress leaders who joined the BJP in his presence was Ujjawal Singh Thakur alias Ajju, a former Congress state general secretary and liquor businessman.

Apart from stalling of funds as a factor, Thakur too cites alienation from the local Congress.

Neeraj Patel, who had left the Congress after the party refielded incumbent MLA Sujeet Singh from Churai in the 2023 elections, cites both the party's decision on the Ram Temple event and the "aloofness" of the Congress leadership.

"Kamal Nath promised me a

ticket in 2018 and then asked me to 'adjust'. In 2023, he again said the same... I have struggled for 15 years, but not got any reward. In politics, people can have ambitions," Patel says, adding that "the exodus" has just started and more will leave.

Patel also questions the rise and rise of Nakul Nath. Pointing out that in the 2023 Assembly elections, Kamal Nath's victory margin from the Chhindwara Assembly seat was low, he says: "Nakul does not work on the ground and is surrounded by middlemen. He still can't identify good party workers after all these years. That will be his undoing.' Akhilesh Shukla, a former

Congress general secretary from Junnardeo, also says: "The top Congress leaders would not pay any attention to me. I was insulted on multiple occasions, not called for meetings. The local MLA was scared of my ambitions and wanted me out of the party." A councillor says it is natural

for them to seek options. "There was pressure by the state government on me. They pointed out several irregularities... even if these did not amount to corruption. With our party already out of power and looking at five years more of the same, it is difficult for us to exist... I switched for the development of my

Anand Bakshi, a long-time Kamal Nath loyalist who is said to have been the brains behind the veteran's aggressive foray into soft Hindutva before the elections, which didn't earn any dividends, slams those leaving the Congress as "greedy". Ashish Tripathi, the leader

watching the cricket match from

the stands, asserts that the BIP's induction of so many Congress leaders has in turn left fissures in its ranks. He gives the example of former Congress leader Vivek Bunty Sahu, now the BJP district president. During his Chhindwara visit, CM Yadav had singled out Sahu for praise for bringing Congress leaders to the

At the BJP local office, Sahu's image now looms large, with him sharing the frame with his former mentor and ex-CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in most photos. (In other parts of the state, the photos of the BJP's long-serving CM have virtually vanished). Sahu, who recently broke his

left leg, is bustling around the party office walking with the help of a stick. He says there are two factors behind leaders leaving the Congress: "Ram" and "Modi". Look at who stands in the opposite corner, Sahu adds. "Nakul Nath still holds his father's finger to walk... Congress party workers are coming in droves, knocking at our door."

BJP karyalaya mantri Alkesh Lamba claims Congress internal surveys have shown that Nakul Nath will lose. "That is why many of their leaders are jumping ship," he says, adding that the belief that Kamal Nath was ready to join the BJP had "destroyed" his credibility. And that leaders who have long been suppressed by him are leaving for the BJP.

Above Lamba, on the first floor of the BIP office, preparations are on for the Lok Sabha polls. A call centre is buzzing, with over a dozen women working the phone lines, calling up voters and apprising them about BJP government schemes.

PM visit

addressed a public meeting at Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium in November 2015.

In April 2022, Modi had virtually addressed elected representatives of local bodies on the occasion of National Panchayat Day from Jammu.

There has been no formal engagement between the Centre and the political leadership of Kashmir since the June 2021 meeting between Modi and the 14 key political leaders from J&K including former chief ministers Faroog Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, People's Conference president Sajad Lone and CPIM leader MY Tarigami.

At the time, the PM had assured the leaders that his government was committed to reviving the democratic process in J&K and underlined that he wanted to reduce both "Dil ki doori" and "Dill ki doori". However, talks did not move forward and J&K remained without an elected assembly. The Supreme Court, while deciding on the constitutional validity of the revocation of Article 370, has set a deadline of September 2024 for conducting the assembly polls.

In several speeches of late Modi has asserted that the BJP would get 370 seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

With the elections expected to be announced in the first half of March, Modi has a number of state visits scheduled. This Friday he will be in Jharkhand to address public meetings in Sindri, Dhanbad and Arambagh. After a night halt in Kolkata, he will address a public meeting at Krishnanagar on Saturday. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to lay the foundation stone for var-

DDA razes house of man who led team that rescued 41 from tunnel

bas ka hai nahi... doosra, ek dum se koi kiraye par makaan milega nahin (We can't pay rent, we also won't be able to find a place on rent immediately)."

Speaking to The Indian Express after the rescue in November, Hasan had said: "In our team, there are both Hindus and Muslims, and people from both religions worked hard to save these 41 lives. None of them could have done this alone, and this is the message I want to give to everyone... We should all live in harmony and not spread the poison of hate. We all want to give our 100 per cent for the country... Please convey my message to everyone." Twelve people from

chayats.

Hasan's company — six from Delhi including Hasan, and six from Bulandshahr — were credited with digging through 12 metres of debris during the last stretch to free the trapped miners.

elections" to Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and pan-In September last year, *The*

Indian Express reported that the Commission was mulling framing tentative timelines for simultaneous polls in 2024 and 2029. With 2024 elections round the corner, the recommendations will now be for 2029. The Commission's report is likely to suggest synchronising assembly elections in two stages in the next five years before all states can go

to polls simultaneously with the next Lok Sabha elections in 2029. While the term of the Commission ends in August, the government Tuesday appointed Justice Awasthi as one of the three judicial members of the Lokpal. Once he takes over as a Lokpal member, it is learnt that Justice Awasthi is likely to demit office as Chairperson of the law panel.

Sources said, "Elections for states will have to be held collectively in two election cycles over the next five years. The term of some may have to be extended while it may have to be curtailed for others through the Constitutional amendment. Then 2029 can be the third election cvcle where the Centre, all states,

municipal and panchayat elections can be held together."

One of the key concerns on si-

multaneous polls was tackling situations where the mandate results in a hung assembly or when a government falls midway when a no-confidence vote is instituted. Sources said that a second

Constitutional amendment would deal with "sustainability of simultaneous polls" which would address these concerns.

It is learnt that the Law Commission's prescription is to first attempt setting up an allparty "unity" government if a government falls during its five-year tenure. "If that is not possible, then the alternative would be holding elections only for the term remaining before another cycle of simultaneous polls can be held, sources said.

ious projects in Aurangabad and

Begusarai the same day.

Contesting elections only to form a government for a short term, sources pointed out, could be a disincentive for political parties to bring down a government

"This is only a stop-gap measure to ensure that the cycle of simultaneous polls is not broken. sources said. The third Constitutional amendment to be recommended by the law panel would specifically deal with a common voter list.

Currently in many states, the voter list for the panchayat and municipal elections is different from the one used for Parliament and assembly elections.

A-1619

29.02.2024

Up to 17.00

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Bid Identification No: CETEL-BID-06/2023-24

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Pkg. No.	Name of works	Approx. Tender Cost	Class of Contractor	Bid Security/ EMD (online) (in INR)	Cost of tender document- (online)- (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of F.P.E on Under left from Binikela to Sirikela RD 00 M to 3792 M.	Rs. 5,88,14,873/- (Excluding G.S.T)	'A' Class	Rs. 5,88,149/-	Rs.10,000/-	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
Proc		Availability of	Date of		& Time of	Place of

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Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Office of Chi Engineer &Bas Manager, Tel Bhawanipatna

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE(S) INDIAN ENERGY EXCHANGE LIMITED

Interim unity govt, common voter list: Law panel readies report on joint polls

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Name(s) of the Holder	ame(s) of the Holder Folio No. Certif		Distinc	tive No.	No. of
7,511,515,75	1300	333,33,33,10,173,3	From	To	shares
Jignesh Shah	IEE0000024	6	1623831	1773830	150000

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares or objection to the issuance of the duplicate Share Certificate shall lodge such claim or objection with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 (fifteen) days from the publication of this notice, beyond which no claim(s) shall be entertained and as per the SEBI Circular dated January 25, 2022, Letter of confirmation will be issued to the registered holder(s)/claimant(s). Accordingly, the original share certificate(s) shall stand cancelled.

Date: 29th February 2024 Name(s) of the Holder: Jignesh Shah Place: Mumbai

DGIPR-2023-24/8907

e-tendering.

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

notice to the Director General of

Prisons and Standing Counsel

A single-judge bench of

Justice Amit Mahajan, in its

February 19 order, observed:

"The object of granting bails and

suspending sentences is to re-

lease the accused/convict from

imprisonment. In certain cases,

interim bails are granted on

medical grounds or some other

exigencies, as expressed by the

applicant. In such a scenario, this

court fails to understand why the

period of one to two weeks is

taken by the Jail Superintendent

for accepting the bail

(Criminal),

government.

WAS ACCUSED OF EXTORTION, HARASSMENT

AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal convicted in doctor's suicide case

NIRBHAY THAKUR

NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 28

A DELHI court on Wednesday convicted AAP MLA Prakash Iarwal in an abetment to suicide case lodged against him and his associates in connection with the death of a South Delhi-based doctor in 2020.

Holding that the oral and documentary evidence presented by the prosecution against Jarwal and his aide Kapil Nagar "did not suffer from any material contradictions or inconsistencies", Special Judge MK Nagpal held the duo guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 306 (abetment of suicide), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), and 386 (extortion by putting any person in fear of death or grievous hurt). The third accused, Harish, was convicted for criminal intimidation.

The court held the accused guilty despite the fact that most witnesses, including the son and wife of the deceased, had turned hostile — a development which the court attributed to "fear" of the accused.

On April 18, 2020, Dr Rajender Singh (52) had died by suicide at his residence. Police said a purported suicide note was recovered from the spot, in which, he allegedly blamed Jarwal and his aide for "harassing" him and his family over his water supply business. In the note, he held them responsible for his death and accused Jarwal of extortion, said police.

In November 2021, the court of Additional Sessions Judge Geetanjali Goel had framed charges against Jarwal in the case. Harish was discharged for



Prakash Jarwal

the offence under IPC sections 306 and 386, but is liable to be charged prima facie for the offence under Section 506.

Relying on the oral statements of Arvind, the nephew of the deceased — the only witness who did not turn hostile — the court observed that Jarwal and his aide Nagar were "extorting money" from the deceased, due to which, he was under "tremendous mental pressure, which eventually led to his suicide". Arvind deposed that his uncle committed suicide due to harassment and extortion by Iarwal and Kapil.

According to the prosecution, the deceased was threatened to pay Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000 per month for small and big tankers, respectively, to Jarwal and his aides in lieu of letting his tankers ply with the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). It was also alleged that during the 2020 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, the costs were increased to Rs 51,000 and Rs 71,000, respectively.

Further, the accused allegedly threatened the deceased that his tankers would be discontinued and his dues would not be cleared by the DIB if he did not pay the amount.

While convicting the accused, it was held by the court that Dr Rajendra wrote around 40 statements at different times implicating both the accused and holding them responsible for pushing him to take his own life by threatening him and extorting money from him.

"It is crystal clear from a joint reading of these reasons left by the deceased in the form of his dying declarations that it was A1 Prakash Jarwal and A2 Kapil Nagar, who were behind commission of suicide by him, and his suicide was not generated by or committed because of any other reasons," held Special Judge Nagpal in the order dated February 28.

The accused, who were represented by Advocates SP Kaushal and Ravi Drall, argued that since most of the writings left by deceased were not dated, it could not be presumed that they were written immediately prior to his suicide or even in near proximity to the same – this, they said, meant that the writings could not be made a basis for holding the accused guilty of abetment to suicide.

"...after the writing containing date 04.03.2020, the deceased wrote around 20 other writings in continuity and thus, even if no date was written or appended by him below the subsequent writings, the same were apparently written after 04.03.2020 and hence, considerably reduce the gap between such writings or the last writing left and the date of commission of suicide by him i.e. 18.04.2020," held the court, rejecting the arguments of the defence counsel.

Man strangles woman, dies by suicide at railway tracks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman was strangled to death inside the room of a playschool she was running along with her business partner, in Outer Delhi's Narela, officers said on Wednesday.

The accused in the case, her business partner with whom she had started a play school recently, later also died by suicide on the railway tracks in Sonipat, they added. Four days after she went miss-

ing, her body was found by the police on the premises of the playschool. The motive behind the crime is not clear yet, said police. A senior officer said on

February 24, a missing complaint was lodged by Vijay Kumar, a resident of Swatantra Nagar in Narela, that his daughter Versha, who had left home a day earlier, had not returned.

Police said while the woman was killed inside a playschool she had opened with the man in Narela, the

latter was found dead

on tracks in Sonipat

He also stated that she was last seen with her business partner Sohan Lal along with whom she had opened a playschool on Ghonda Road in Narela. Said an officer, "The playschool is not operational yet."

Police said when Kumar called on Versha's number, it was received by another person stating that he was in Harshana village in Sonipat near the railway tracks where a man was trying to commit suicide. When the man pointed the phone in the direction of the other person, Kumar could identify him as Sohan Lal.

"He rushed to the village and collected the mobile phone from the unknown person. However, Sohan Lal was nowhere to be found," said police.

Meanwhile, the search for Versha continued. Police visited the premises of the school with Versha's father but found the main office shuttered and returned. The mobile numbers of Versha and Sohan Lal were sent for CDR analysis and the last location of the latter was revealed to be in Barauta, Harvana.

On February 28, Kumar went to the play school again and got the shutter opened with the help of the landlord. "As the door was made of glass, he could notice a body behind the main desk," said an officer. She was prima facie strangulated with a dupatta, said police. Meanwhile, a body, suspected to be of Sohan Lal, was found on the railway tracks in Sonipat on February 26.

delay in bail bond acceptance

day is a day too many: HC on

Deprivation of liberty for a

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE The High Court, thereafter, observed that at times, while passing bail orders, courts direct THE DELHI High Court has rethat the bail bonds be directly cently initiated a suo motu petifurnished to the jail superintendent. It said the "prisoner is not tion pertaining to the delay in acceptance of bail bonds by jail remitted to the trial court in orsuperintendents, and issued a der to facilitate the immediate

> release". "The delay at the instance of the Jail Superintendent in accepting bail bonds is not acceptable to the conscience of this Court," Justice Mahajan further

said. The court took suo motu cognisance while hearing a modification application moved by a convict whose sentence was suspended by the High Court on February 8.

The High Court, in its order, also referred to the Supreme Court's reiteration of the principle "Deprivation of Liberty for a single day is a day too

Among BJP's LS probables: State chief, new faces

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

OFFICE BEARERS, legislators and its state president – the latter from not just one but two seats - have been proposed by the BJP's Delhi unit as potential candidates for the Lok Sabha polls to its senior lead-

dates gathered pace Wednesday with party sources stating that names for the capital were expected to be included in its first list likely to be announced later this

The BJP's state election committee met BIP national president IP Nadda to discuss the candidature of around 28 names.

According to sources, another meeting - this time with the party's senior leadership – was scheduled for Thursday.

"The state committee will be given an interface with the Central Election Committee, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, tomorrow," a senior Delhi BJP leader said.

"Most of the names, especially The process to finalise candi- for Delhi, are understood to have been decided. These are expected to receive the CEC's nod tomorrow," said a party source.

> Sources told *The Indian Express* that "more than half" of the names proposed by the state election committee to be fielded "happened to consist of its own members". While a senior leader who was part of the meeting said that



Virendra Sachdeva: Bansuri Swaraj

the committee had suggested each of the sitting BJP Lok Sabha MPs as probable candidates from their respective seats, sources said "at least three MPs' names were not part of the final list" which came up for discussion."

"At least 15 of the around 28 names suggested happen to be office bearers, MLAs, general secre-

taries, those who lead intra-party units and morchas in addition to former state presidents have been suggested," a senior Delhi BJP leader said.

According to sources, fielding

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva from the New Delhi and East Delhi constituencies was among the suggestions. Besides, Bansuri Swaraj, Yogita Singh and Adesh Gupta from New Delhi in addition to Harsh Malhotra and Kuljeet Chahal from the East Delhi seat were among the suggestions on the list.

For south Delhi, Leader for Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Brahm Singh Tanwar could be probable candidates. Leaders such as Vishnu Mittal, sitting MP Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta from Chandni Chowk apart from Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar - who could also be fielded from East Delhi were on the list.

Yogendra Chandolia **Dushyant Gautam and Karmveer** Singh Karma were among the suggestions for the reserved North West Delhi seat where the RSS was said to be putting its weight behind Sunita Kangra. From West Delhi, Kamaljeet Sehrawat was suggested as a probable candidate in addition to sitting MP Parvesh Verma. In addition to incumbent MP Manoj Tiwari and MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht and Ajay Mahawar and office bearers such as Dinesh Pratap Singh were among the suggestions.

Seeking suggestions for manifesto, Cong to hit the streets today

New Delhi: The Congress will hit the streets to gather suggestions for its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections, the Delhi Congress announced on Wednesday.

Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely said though the INDIA bloc will have a common minimum programme at the national level, the Delhi Congress will discuss Delhi-specific issues and communicate these to its national unit for inclusion in its main manifesto.

Sources said the exercise was significant given the Delhi Assembly elections next year; Lovely said party workers will go to the people to get their feedback on the problems they face, hold extensive discussions with city leaders, exministers and workers before

finalizing the manifesto. "The Manifesto Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Chaudhary Anil Kumar to study the problems of the people," Lovely said. ENS

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96/24 | Geologist For details regarding Position, pay scale, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.

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03

05

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FORECAST: February 29

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FACE-OFF OVER WATER BILL SCHEME

Decide, don't blame others, L-G tells CM who says pained

Expunge area in resolution saying 'BJP has direct control over L-G', Speaker told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 28

DAYS AFTER the AAP-led Delhi government passed a resolution on the non-implementation of the scheme to settle water bill dues, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying the Delhi Assembly Speaker be asked to expunge the part of the resolution that says, "the BJP exercises direct control over the L-G".

The resolution was passed on February 19.

"This is a completely unacceptable and irresponsible assertion, which does not behove the members, who endorsed it," the L-G wrote.

Supporting the resolution, Kejriwal had said in the assembly that BJP should be given the responsibility of asking the L-G to clear the scheme.

In Wednesday's letter, the L-G said that the statement in the resolution "not only breaches all propriety and constitutional provisions but is also an affront to the constitutional office of the L-G, for petty political games..."

He alleged that Kejriwal and his ministers were spreading a "false and misleading" narrative by accusing him of stalling the "water scheme" and that the scheme does not exist on paper. "AAP's statements are all white lies and are an example of a typical abuse-and-scoot game."

Kejriwal wrote back and said that he was "pained by the language of the letter".

"Sir, you and I are both constitutional functionaries. I am the Chief Minister of the GNCTD, democratically elected by the people of Delhi. You are the





L-GVK Saxena accuses CM Arvind Kejriwal of 'misleading people by creating a false narrative'. Express

Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Union Government of India. Whatever our differences, whatever our political backgrounds, however diverse our perspectives; this kind of offensive language is not acceptable from one constitutional functionary to another," he wrote.

Responding to the allegation that there was no scheme on paper, Kejriwal wrote, "I have myself discussed this matter with you more than once and brought it to your notice that the officers of Delhi Jal Board, Urban Development Department and Finance Department are creating a constitutional crisis by not bringing the proposal to the Council of Ministers, despite the directions of the Minister In

Saxena, in his letter stated that the Kerjiwal government had done nothing substantive for the development of Delhi "...you have blamed all... successive Governments at the Centre since 2013, successive LGs, the Congress Party, the BIP and even Government Servants, in a bid maintain the charade that you have created through repeated

lies perpetuated by an incessant publicity campaign," he wrote.

Kejriwal, however, alleged that work, including the procurement of medicines in Mohalla Clinics, disbursing pensions to former DTC employees, work on sewage lines and dismissal of data entry operators from hospitals, had been stalled for the first time since the formation of the Delhi government in 1993 only "in the last two years, since you (Saxena) have become the LG of Delhi".

"Services and Vigilance' is under your control, therefore the power to take action against erring officers needs to be taken by you. When you don't take action, it does raise a doubt in my mind whether these officers are acting under your instructions. In fact, you have not even transferred a single officer based on the request of the elected government... Therefore I am requesting you — once again — to take exemplary action against one officer at least... It will give a message that the Chief Minister and the L-G are working to-

gether...," Kejriwal wrote. The Delhi government has

sought action against several officers, including Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, finance secretary AC Verma and health secretary SB Deepak Kumar, among others, over the past few months.

Saxena, meanwhile, also questioned why UD Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj "kept sitting on the proposed scheme for more than one year".

"The timelines and decisions, as indeed the timing of the entire political exercise that has now been undertaken, very clearly point towards a convoluted game of blaming others for your own failures, rather than actually doing anything whatsoever to help the people of Delhi as far as this scheme is concerned," Saxena wrote.

He also pointed to the corruption charges against DJB in award of contracts, billing matters and completion of projects and pending mandatory CAG audit of DJB. "I advise you and your colleagues to refrain from pointless mudslinging and engage in constructive development of the city, something that you have miserably failed at during the last nine years of your regime,"

the L-G wrote. Kejriwal, however, said the same officers as now were working in the government before he

took oath as the L-G. "It is these very officers who improved Delhi Government schools, set up Mohalla clinics, improved government hospitals, laid pipelines in unauthorised colonies, deployed marshals in buses. Officers have not been changed on a mass scale in the last two years. But ever since you have taken over as LG, the very same officers are now stopping works of public interest," the Chief Minsiter wrote.



SPRING BLOSSOM

Visitors enjoy the arrival of spring at Lodhi Gardens in Delhi on Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

'Improper' salute: Gurgaon court takes action against ACP

A LOCAL court in Gurgaon has directed the Commissioner of Police to take action against Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Naveen Sharma over an "improper" salute to the judge during a court session.

At the court of judicial magistrate (first class) Vikrant, the ACP was appearing for a 2023 case in connection with a fraud incident, when he allegedly saluted using "two fingers touching his forehead".

"As soon as the order was passed, the investigating officer. ACP Naveen, saluted the Chair in an improper manner by just raising his arm and touching two fingers on forehead. On being asked as to where he has

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE ACP Naveen Sharma, appearing in a case at the court, saluted the judge using two fingers touching his forehead: Court

> learned this kind of saluting, he tried to explain that he has learnt three kinds of salutes i.e. just raising the elbow, touching the forehead, and then the proper salute. He, however, then immediately realised that the court is not a place to crack jokes and then made an excuse that he was wearing a tight shirt and he was not comfortable in saluting the Chair," the judge said, adding that his conduct was against the protocol and

Quoting the rule from Punjab Police Rules, 1934, (as applicable to Haryana State), the judge said every police officer entering a court of law in uniform, while such court is in session, shall salute the court, irrespective of the rank or status of the judicial officer presiding in such court for the time

"The court has reasons to believe that ACP Sharma is in ignorance of the rules which govern his service. He needs to be trained properly making him aware of the rules and protocol," the JMIC said.

He said that the order be sent to the Commissioner for necessary action under the Punjab Police Rules against the official and asked him to submit the report within a week.

L-G vs DELHI GOVT

L-G stalling solar policy, says AAP; his office rejects claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 28

AMID THE ongoing tussle between the AAP and Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena over the 'one-time settlement' scheme issue to settle water bill dues, the Arvind Kejriwal-led government in Delhi on Wednesday alleged that the L-G has now stopped the government's revised 'Delhi Solar Policy 2024', which was an-

nounced on January 29. Announcing the scheme, Kejriwal had said that "soon, the Delhi residents are likely to enjoy no electricity bill as well as earn around Rs 700-900 every month by installing rooftop solar panels

under the solar scheme". Power Minister Atishi said on Wednesday explained the policy benefits, and how residents were contacting them to know about the process for installing rooftop solar panels. "...The policy was passed by the cabinet on January 29 and the official notification

came after two days, following which, it was sent to the L-G office for approval. But, sadly the L-G did not respond for days. The matter was then raised via the Power department, and I asked them several times about updates on the file... When we kept pursuing... and the L-G sir could not do anything to stop it, he returned the file with several objections. What does this mean? If such a file comes, it will keep moving from one officer to the other... The only motive is to stop the policy before the Model Code

of Conduct implementation..." "...Why? Because if the policy gets notified and implemented, the Delhi residents will be benefited from it. They will be happy with the Arvind Kejriwal government and vote for him...," said said, while accusing the L-G of "batting" for BIP to collect votes for them in the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-

tions, despite holding such an important constitutional position".

The L-G office, meanwhile,

called the Delhi government's

claims "misleading" as "the L-G has not stalled the policy". "It is their habit. The Delhi government is using lies to mislead the people. The L-G has not stalled the policy, which does not contain any provision for 'zero power bills'. On the contrary, the policy has provisions to benefit private power companies. The L-G has sought details on those provisions," said the L-G office in a statement. The L-G has also asked about the file whether the policy contains provisions for synergy in alignment with the Centre's capital subsidies on solar energy production.

Atishi then said, "...See, the cabinet approved this policy on January 29, and... the policy is still lying with the L-G office... If the L-G had such queries, he could have asked me or Delhi government officers in the know... He could have even made a phone call to discuss the matter... But, sending the file so late with bogus questions is nothing but a clear motive to stop the policy from getting implemented before the MCC.'

LEGACY STALLED PROJECTS

Two months since Kant relief package, first registry yet to take place in Noida

DHEERAJ MISHRA NOIDA, FEBRUARY 28

TWO MONTHS after the Uttar Pradesh government issued the order to implement the Amitabh Kant committee report on legacy stalled projects, Gautam Buddha Nagar district is yet to register even one flat as part of the said plan. Noida Authority officials said that the process of registration of flats will begin March 1, when around 100 flats will be registered in sector-77 (Express Zenith) after setting up registration camps in collaboration with

the Sub-registrar office. Under the package, the registration of flats can begin only when the builder pays 25% of the outstanding amount (land dues) within 60 days. The scheme provides for a two-vear zero period relief, taking into account Covid period, to the builders, among others. Under the zero-period waiver clause, interest and penal interest will not be levied on the

TALKING NUMBERS 67.000

Total stalled flats 32.000 Number of flats covered under the package Defaulter builders

under the package: Builders who have given their consent so far

builder for two years, and the installments will be shifted beyond it. Using this formula, land dues of the builders will be cut by 20%.

Data available with the Noida Authority shows that out of 57 builders — this does not include projects in NCLT/Courts — roped in under the plan, the developer of 35 projects have given the consent for the scheme. Out of this, only six builders have paid the required 25% of the dues. Data shows that on the basis of these consents, the authority will collect dues of Rs 2,210 crore; out of this, builders



have to pay Rs 553 crore in the next 60 days. A total of six builders have

paid around Rs 30 crore so far. Officials said that this consent will pave the way for the registration of a total of 13,639 flats in around two years and 3.412 flats in the next few months. The para 21 (viii) of UP government order, dated 21.12.2023, states that "It must be ensured that the registration of all complete flats and other flats, where buyers are residing after Occupancy Certificate (OC) or without OC, should be

completed in three months."

Out of these 35 projects, M/s Omaxe Buildwell Ltd. owes the highest — Rs 505 crore — to the Authority. Other builders are Greatvalue Projects (Rs 197 crore in dues), Prateek Realtors (Rs 105 crore), Sikka Infrastructure (Rs 208 crore), Pan Realtors (Rs 151 crore), Sunworld Residency (Rs 169 crore), Mahagun Moderne (Rs 77 crore) and others.

Dinesh Gupta, Secretary of CREDAI (Western UP) said the projects stuck in NCLT needs the government's special attention.

"After a round of talks, the builders are giving consent for the scheme. These are the projects where a significant level of construction has been done and after this package, such projects will take off. However, there are a number of such stalled projects..., they are either in NCLT or developer is not available or the company has gone bankrupt. Such projects need the government's special attention," said Gupta.

Noida Authority CEO Lokesh

BRIEFLY

Man jumps before Metro, dies: Police

New Delhi: A man died after jumping in front of a moving metro train in Delhi on Wednesday morning, police said. The man, identified by the police as 39-year-old Anand Kumar, died by suicide after jumping in front of a train heading towards Vishwavidyalaya at Udyog Bhawan metro station. According to police officials, a PCR call alerted authorities at Rajiv Chowk Police Station about the incident. On inspecting CCTV footage, police personnel confirmed that the man took his life by leaping onto the tracks moments before the arrival of the metro train at the Udyog Bhawan platform. Kumar was a resident of Northwest Delhi's

Masjid removal case still with panel, HC told

Mukundpur, said police.

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court was told on Wednesday that the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) is seized of the matter concerning the removal of the Sunheri Bagh Masjid. The HC was hearing a plea moved by the mosque's Imam, who had challenged a December 24, 2023, 'public notice' issued by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) calling for objections/suggestions from the public regarding the removal of the mosque due to alleged traffic congestion in the area. Senior advocate Sanjay Jain said, "Heritage Conservation Committee is seized of the matter. At this stage we can't prejudge what the committee will decide.'

M did not comment on the same.

THEFT AT KALKAJI BUSINESSMAN'S HOUSE

12 yrs on, how fingerprint record helped cops nail burglar

ARNABJIT SUR NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

IN 2006, the house of businessman Lalit Batra in Southeast Delhi's Kalkaii was targeted by burglars, who made off with jewellery and valuables worth lakhs, apart from Rs 30,000 in cash.

Despite looking for the accused for years, and collecting several fingerprints from the crime scene, police were unable to make a breakthrough in the case. The matter was put in cold storage while the accused persons were declared proclaimed offenders (POs) by the

But things changed in 2018. Twelve years after the burglary,

police, during their probe in an Arms Act case, ran the fingerprints of an accused through crime records. The sample matched with the fingerprints collected from wooden cupboards and beds at the burgled house in Kalkaji.

The accused was identified as Sabir Malik, 36. Said an offi-

cer, "When he (Malik) was interrogated by Crime Branch officers, he said that he was an arms supplier

but could not give an appropriate response on who exactly he was going to supply the weapons to and where did he procure the weapons from.'

His fingerprints were collected and matched with the records at the Crime Records Office in Kamla Market.

Said another official, "On further questioning,

Malik stated that along with his accomplices, he was involved in a chain of burglaries inside houses in South and

Southeast Delhi. said he was a member of the infamous Kallu and Billa gang,

He which is also said to have several



Accused Sabir Malik is currently out on bail, while the case of burglary is being heard in the Saket Court. Express

women members and had struck Batra's house in 2006."

The Crime Branch officers then informed the district police and Malik was handed over to

them. No recoveries, though, could be made of the stolen items as officials said the accused had sold them off in the open market. On the gang's modus

operandi, then DCP (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal had said it consisted of four members, one of whom was a woman. "The woman used to conduct recce at upscale houses of South and Southeast Delhi on the pretext of finding a cleaning job. She would look for houses that remained locked for more than two days," he had said at the time. The gang members would also carry weapons with them to use in case the victims retaliate.

Malik is currently out on bail while the burglary case is being heard in the Saket Court.

Minor girl raped by online friend, found bleeding near Metro station, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

A MINOR girl was allegedly raped by a boy she met through social media in Southwest Delhi and was found unconscious near a Metro station in West

Delhi, police said Wednesday. The accused, also a minor, and his friend have been apprehended. According to DCP (Southwest) Rohit Meena, the girl had gone to a coaching centre to attend classes, after which she went to meet the accused. whom she had met through Instagram and had been talking to since October.

Said an officer, "He took her to a friend's house, where he raped her... no one else was present in the house at the time and the accused had its keys." Police said following the in-

cident, the accused fled the spot and the victim boarded an autorickshaw and reached the Dabri Metro Station to get home, but began bleeding and fell unconscious.

"She was subsequently admitted to a hospital by passersby and her family members were called," said the police. Officers said that the girl is

currently stable and her state ment has been recorded "Victim went to meet the accused of her own accord and he told her that they would meet at his friend's house and hang out," said another officer.

team had examined the room and collected evidence.

The DCP said that the FSL

local court.

ADVERTORIAL



Prime Minister





DR. MOHAN YADAV

Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh

In **60 DAYS**, People-Centric Governance of Madhya Pradesh has scored impressive gains under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** following his development vision. The state has been bestowed with major infra projects opening doors to faster economic development.

Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal-ERCP Link Project to Transform Irrigation Infra

MoU between Centre, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

13 districts of Chambal and Malwa regions to get benefits

शिवत मंत्रालय प्त, नदी विकाग SHA¹ E

Stant pursuance of the Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. Resultantly, religious and tourist sector in these areas will also develop. This project is a boon for Western Madhya Pradesh.

N AMBITIOUS Parbati-Kalisindh-

Chambal project, pending for almost two decades has finally come to be-

ing under the guidance of Prime Min-

ister Shri Narendra Modi. It will transform lives in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This will

benefit 13 districts of Chambal and Malwa re-

gion of Madhya Pradesh. Water availability will

increase in water-deficient districts such as

Morena, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Bhind and

Sheopur and industrialization will further gain

pace in industrial districts mainly Indore, Ujjain,

Dhar, Agar-Malwa, Shajapur, Dewas and Raj-

garh. It will be a boost and irrigate about three

lakh hectares immensely benefitting Malwa

and Chambal regions. It is attributed to con-

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has resolved to operationalize this project in less than 5 years. The current cost of which is about Rs 72000 crore. About 1.5 crore population of Madhya Pradesh will get benefits from this project. This will lead to improvement in quality of life by addressing poverty, unemployment, illiteracy etc.

As many as 26 water deficient districts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will get great relief. The project will irrigate about 6.17 lakh hectare area as well as help raise the water level by storing water in dams and big ponds. An agreement was reached between the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in a very short time by integrating the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Project with the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project giving it the status of a project of national importance, for which both the governments deserve commendations. This project is an ideal example of cooperative federalism.

This project will help ensure efficient utilization of water resources of Chambal Basin of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, which will benefit the industrial and agricultural sectors in both the states. Under the tripartite MoU, this link project envisages providing irrigation in a total area of 6.17 lakh hectares in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as well as providing water for drinking and industrial use in 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan and 13 districts of Malwa and Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh.

The MoU covers the scope of work of the link project, sharing of water, exchange of water, sharing of costs and benefits, implementation mechanism and arrangements for management and control of water in the Chambal Basin.

17 DAMS WILL PROVIDE WATER TO FARMS AND INDUSTRIES AND DRINKING WATER

Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project will be a boon for Madhya Pradesh making a waterrich state. In Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Irrigation Complex, 4 dams will be built in Katila, Gwalior, Bhind, Sonpur, Pava, Dhanwadi and two barrages will be built in Shyampur, Nainagarh. This will irrigate 1,48,400 hectares in Guna, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Gwalior and Bhind districts.

Two dams will be built in Kumbhraj Complex which will provide irrigation to 51600 hectares in Guna district. Ranjit Sagar and Lakhundar Barrage will irrigate 50 thousand hectares in Shajapur, Agar Malwa. 07 dams of upper Chambal basin namely Sonchiri, Ramwasa, Bachaura, Padunia, Sewarkhedi, Chitawat and Sikri Sultanpura will irrigate 87,000 hectares in Ujjain, Indoor Dhandiati its

dore, Dhar districts.

Thus, a total of 17 dams and barrages will irrigate 337,000 hectares in Ujjain, Indore, Dhar, Agar Malwa, Shajapur, Guna, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Gwalior and Bhind districts. Apart from this, plenty of drinking water will be available and water will be available for industries in Ujjain, Dewas, Agar Malwa, Shajapur, Sehore and Raisen.

AT A GLANCE				
State	Project Cost (in Rs.)			
Estimated cost	72,000 crores			
Madhya Pradesh	35,000 crores			
Rajasthan	37,000 crores			

Benefit of The Project				
Total Irrigation	6.17 lakh Hectares			
Madhya Pradesh	3.37 lakh Hectares			

District wise irrigation Benefit				
Districts	Irrigation Area (In Hectares)			
Indore	12,000			
Ujjain	65,000			
Dhar	10,000			
Agar Malwa	4,000			
Shajapur	46,000			
Shivpuri	95,000			
Sheopur	25,000			
Guna, Gwalior, Bhind	80,000			
Total	3,37,000			

MP to get 24 national highway projects worth Rs 10,405 crore

ADHYA PRADESH is witnessing exponential growth in infrastructure development. The surface connectivity is improving faster. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav intensified the pace of infrastructure growth. Madhya Pradesh got 24 National Highway projects, 724 kilometers roads costing Rs 10,405 crore in Bhopal and Jabalpur.

These projects will boost agriculture trade in Mahakaushal region, improve connectivity for famous pilgrimage sites and support the coal industry in Katni. Connectivity to the famous tourist destinations like Khajuraho, Orchha, National Pench Tiger Corridor will be improved. Budhni textile industries and wood craft trade will also get support as Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi will have good interstate connectivity.

In Jabalpur, construction of bridge on Jamni river located on Tikamgarh-Jhansi road of NH-539, 2-lane road upgradation work with paved shoulder from Chadiya Valley to Katni bypass, four-lane construction of Bamitha to Khajuraho part of NH-339 lane widening works will lead to completely altered scenario. Two lane with paved shoulder road upgradation work from Gulganj Bypass to Barna River, two lane road construction from Barna River to Ken River, two lane from Shahdol to Sagar Tola Road upgradation work with paved shoulders, construction of total 23 bridge service roads in Lalitpur-Sagar-Lakhnadon section under NH-44 (MP), total 3 foot overs at Suktara, Khurai and Khawasa of NH-44 and construction work of bridge and improvement work of 2 black spots on Banjari Valley (NH-44) are coming up.

As many as 15 National Highway projects, 498 kilometers long worth Rs 8,38 crore implemented at Bhopal and Jabalpur while 9 National Highway projects measuring 226 kilometers worth Rs 2,367 crore will come up soon.

Other projects include six-lane widening of Avadhya bypass section of NH 46, four lane

Other projects include six-lane widening of Ayodhya bypass section of NH-46, four-lane widening of Shahganj to Bari section of NH-146B, Madhya Pradesh of NH-552 / two-lane road of Sheopur-Goras from Rajasthan border, two-lane road of Sujalpur bypass on NH-752C, NH-552, construction of two-lane road of Ater and Bhind bypass, two-lane Goras to Shyampur road of NH-552 will soon be constructed.

Construction of two-lane road from Dahod

(Gujarat border) to Ambua section of NH-56, two-lane road from NH-347A Multai to Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra border is starting shortly.

The new stretch of 244 km. of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is operative. It is passing through Madhya Pradesh covering several districts in the western region. This new road connectivity for the state passing through Jhabua, Mandsaur and Ratlam districts in Madhya Pradesh, connecting major cities, including Garoth, Jaora, Ratlam, and Thandla will open a direct conduit to New Delhi, the national capital and Mumbai, the financial capital of the nation.



6 GOVT & POLITICS

DAY AFTER LOSING RAJYA SABHA SEAT TO BJP DUE TO CROSS-VOTING BY ITS 6 MLAs. CONGRESS SCRAMBLES TO SAVE ITS GOVT

People of Himachal with us, MLAs with us, we will run government for 5 years: Sukhu



Congress and BJP workers gather outside the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, in Shimla on Wednesday. PTI

PTI& ENS

SHIMLA, CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 28

AMID A political crisis in the state after the defeat of the Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday asserted that they will run the government for five years.

"Neither the high command has asked me nor anyone else for resignation and there is no such thing," Sukhu said, while replying to a question. He said, "The kind of work

done by the state BJP leaders. They did not trust their own people. CRPF was deployed. Haryana police were deployed. A helicopter was used."

In a stunning upset for the ruling Congress in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP on Tuesday won the state's lone Rajya Sabha seat with its candidate Harsh Mahajan defeating Congress stalwart Abhishek Singhyi and apparently setting the stage for a no-trust motion in the Assembly.

"But I want to say one thing that the people of Himachal are with us and MLAs are with us and I can definitely say that we will run the Himachal government for five years," said Sukhu.

Asked whether it was because of the "Operation Lotus" or "own people" that led to the current situation, the Chief Minister said, "Some mistakes may have been made and because of those mistakes, there may have been some deficiencies.'

But he also said, "The kind of 'tantar-mantar' used in the

"In a democracy, the public has right to choose a

government of their choice... But BJP wants to crush this right of the people by misusing the money power, power of agencies and the power of the Centre." Priyanka Gandhi, AIIC general secretary

"Masgueraders on plum posts covertly dancing to the tunes of agencies like CBI, ED and I-T have spelt doomsday for us many a time... It is essential to purge the party of those who prioritize personal gain over the collective good..." Navjot Singh Sidhu, Ex-Punjab Congress chief

Operation Lotus that had bigger (role) in it."

The voting Tuesday was a tie with both the Congress and the BJP candidates getting 34 votes, indicating that at least six Congress MLAs voted against the party. The result was then declared on the basis of a draw of lots, officials said.

Responding to a question if the six Congress MLAs, who had been issued notices for cross-voting, would be disqualified, Sukhu said, "We are the people who forgive." The six MLAs, who flew to Shimla from Panchkula Wednesday morning and returned later in the day, appeared before Speaker Pathania and sought seven days' time to file a reply.

Govt on shaky ground: The key players

Of the six Congress MLAs who voted against the party in election to lone Rajya Sabha seat, two are first timers and two had been seething after denied Cabinet berth; of the three Independents, two are BJP rebels

THE CONGRESS MLAS

RAJINDER RANA. 57 SUJANPUR MLA



A former BIP leader, he resigned from party in 2012, contested as Independent

from Sujanpur and won. He later joined the Congress. In 2017, he defeated ex-CM and BJP's CM face Prem Kumar Dhumal. Had recently accused Sukhu of not fulfilling the poll promise of 5 lakh government jobs. He is currently leading the MLAs who cross voted in the Rajya Sabha polls, which BJP candidate eventually won.

RAVITHAKUR. 61

LAHAUL AND SPITI MLA



A two-time **MLA from** Lahaul and Spiti, Thakur comes from a dyed in the

wool Congress family — his mother too was a Congress MLA. He remained chairman of the Congress Seva Dal and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. A vocal voice in the Vidhan Sabha. Thakur had recently raised the issue of the border demarcation of Lahaul and Spiti with Ladakh and had written to the governor on the issue

HOSHYAR SINGH, 57

Elected from Dehra in

Hoshyar joined BJP

ticket. He rebelled,

contested as Independent and won by

defeating Congress' Rajesh Sharma.

He later supported the Sukhu govt

2017 as an Independent,

ahead of 2022 Assembly

polls but was denied a

DEHRAMLA

SUDHIR SHARMA, 51

DHARAMSHALA MLA



MLA and an exminister, Sharma was a **Cabinet berth** aspirant; with

A four-time

Congress Since 1991, Sharma won twice from Baijnath in 2003 and 2007; in 2012, he won from Dharamshala and was inducted as the housing and urban development minister in the Virbhadra Cabinet. He had been upset over denial of 55-acre land for north campus of Central **University of Himachal** Pradesh in Dharamshala

CHAITANYA SHARMA, 29

GAGRET MLA



Chaitanya was first elected to the Zila Parishad as an Independent in 2020. He joined the Congress ahead of the 2022 Vidhan Sabha polls, was granted ticket from Gagret and won. Sharma had been seeking employment opportunities for local youth. An advocate, he has floated

an NGO named Yuva Shakti

KLTHAKUR, 62

Shakti department

retirement from his job as an

executive engineer in the state Jal

NALAGARH MLA

Parakram that focuses on

empowering youngsters

I.D. LAKHANPAL, 61 BARSAR MLA

A three-time MLA, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal is also a veteran Congress leader. Lakahnpal was first elected as a councillor in

1997 and later in 2002 in the Shimla Municipal Corporation. He contested from Hamirpur and won consecutive elections in 2012 and 2017. In 2022, he won from the Barsar constituency of Hamirpur district defeating BJP's Maya Sharma by a margin of 13,792 votes

DAVINDER BHUTTO, 50 KUTLEHAR MLA

Also a first-time



THE INDEPENDENTS

Denied ticket by BJP in

2022, Thakur contested

as an Independent and

won from Nalagarh.

Thakur joined politics

after taking voluntary

MLA from Kutlehar constituency, he defeated BIP's Virender Kanwar by a margin of 7,579

votes. He has has been associated with the Congress for more than two decades. He has held various posts in the Bangana Panchayat Samiti since 2000. He was nominated as a member of the Public Undertakings Committee and the Public **Administration Committee** of the Vidhan Sabha

ROYAL REBEL WHO QUIT CABINET, AND CAME BACK



VIKRAMADITYA SINGH, 34 SHIMLA RURAL MLA

Son of former six-time CM Virbhadra Singh and state **Congress chief Pratibha** Singh, Vikramaditya is a two time MLA from Shimla Rural constituency. H e remained state Youth Congress president from 2013 till 2017. In July 2021, he was crowned the titular king of the erstwhile princely state of Bushahr. Inducted as the PWD minister in the Cabinet, he often took a stance that deviated from Congress ideology, including attending the Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya and backing the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code. He has resigned from the Cabinet citing attempts to

'humiliate and undermine'

Considered close to BIP,

Sharma contested as an

Independent and

defeated Congress'

12,899 votes. After

winning, Sharma had visited both

Sukhu and BJP's former CM Dhumal.

He supported the Sukhu government

Pushpendra Verma by

him

ASHISH SHARMA, 36

HAMIRPUR MLA

took place.

somewhere break people".

The CBI had on January 5,



CBI summons

Akhilesh in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE CBI has summoned Samajwadi Party president and former UP chief minister Akhilesh Yadav for questioning as a witness in connection with a case of illegal sand mining in the state's Hamirpur district. The agency has asked Akhilesh to appear before it on Thursday (February 29). The development is signifi-

cant coming over a month before the Lok Sabha elections, which the SP is contesting in alliance with the Congress. Based on the CBI FIR, the Enforcement Directorate too is probing alleged money laundering in the case. The CBI is examining the

roles of Akhilesh and former minister in his cabinet, Gayatri Praiapati, in the case of issuance of mining leases in alleged violation of e-tendering process. In its FIR filed on January 2, 2019, on the orders of the Allahabad High Court, the CBI had stated, "The role of then mining ministers concerned during the relevant period may be looked into during the course of investigation of the case."

Both Akhilesh and Prajapati had the charge of the mining ministry between 2012 and 2016 when the alleged irregularities

Reacting to the CBI notice to Akhilesh, Congress's UP unit president Ajay Rai said the BJP is "frustrated due to the seat-sharing of INDIA bloc" that has taken place in a cordial atmosphere. He said wherever elections are being held in the country, "somewhere ED, somewhere CBI, Income-Tax Department are being used to

2019 searched 14 locations across Delhi and UP in connection with the case dealing with illegal mining in Hamirpur be-



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastav

tween 2012 and 2016. The locations searched included residences of SP MLC Ramesh Kumar Mishra and BSP leader Sanjay Dixit apart from then Hamirpur District Magistrate, B Chandrakala, among others. The premises searched were spread across Delhi, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Noida, Kanpur and Lucknow and were associated with the 11 accused mentioned in the CBI FIR The raids were conducted on

the day the SP and the BSP finalised seat-sharing for 2019 elections and formally announced their alliance with the RLD. "Akhilesh Yadav was holding

the charge of the mining ministry from 2012 to June 2013 After that the ministry came under then Amethi MLA Prajapati. Since all irregularities have taken place between 2012 and 2016. the role of both Akhilesh and Prajapati have to be examined,' a CBI officer said.

CBI sources said DM Chandrakala allegedly gave out mining leases in violation of rules laid down by the UP government and allowed mining even during periods prohibited by orders of the National Green Tribunal.

MLC Mishra and his brother Dinesh Kumar are among the mining lease holders who allegedly benefited from these irregularities. BSP's Dixit and his father Satyadev, too, held some leases during this period. All have been named in the FIR.

In eye of storm: 'Gentleman' leader, Virbhadra loyalist Harsh Mahajan

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 28

THE BIP'S Harsh Mahajan, 68,

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL

who pulled off a major upset to win the lone vacant Himachal Pradesh Rajya Sabha seat on Tuesday, defeating Congress heavyweight Abhishek Singhvi, picked up the political ropes from his father Des Raj Mahajan, a former Vidhan Sabha Speaker and Congress minister. Having spent over four

decades in the Congress, it was in September 2022 that Harsh Mahajan had joined the BJP. The Congress working president at the time said he was quitting, as the Congress had become "visionless, directionless and leaderless". Mahajan started his political

journey after being handpicked by Rajiv Gandhi as the Himachal



Newly elected BIP **MP Harsh** Mahajan. File

Youth Congress president, and honed his skills under the guidance of six-time CM and late Congress stalwart Virbhadra Singh. He remained the state Youth Congress chief for around a decade, during which he also grew close to another party bigwig, the late Sukh Ram. Mahajan first won the

Chamba seat to become an MLA in 1993, defeating Kishori Lal of the BIP. His younger sister Devi Cherian, the noted social activist and columnist who is married to Dilip Cherian, the founder of prominent PR firm Perfect Relations, says the win was sig-

nificant as Kishori Lal was "known more or less as the king of Sangh politics in Himachal". Mahajan went on to win the

seat both in 1998 and 2003, and served as a Cabinet minister incharge of the portfolios of Urban Housing and Development, and Animal Husbandry. Devi Cherian says that having worked as a "strategist" with mentor Virbhadra Singh, Mahajan "knows every nook and cranny of Himachal Pradesh", and is valued for his honesty and administrative skills.

BJP MLA from Kangra Pawan Kumar Kajal called Mahajan "a true gentleman who worked diligently in whatever positions he held". Even a veteran Congress

leader, wishing not to be named, admitted he had little negative to say about Mahajan.



TO SHIMLA AND BACK

The six Himachal Congress MLAs — Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Chaitanya Sharma and Davinder Kumar (Bhutto) — who cross-voted for BJP, board a chopper to Shimla, from Panchkula on Wednesday. They returned to Panchkula after meeting Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania. ANI

Former BSP MLA Shah Alam joins SP: 'Support PDA slogan'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW. FEBRUARY 28

Lucknow along with SP presi-

dent Akhilesh Yadav, Alam said,

country right now. One wants to

divide and break the country. I

want to say that 99 per cent of my friends are Hindu. I never felt



FORMER BSP MLA Shah Alam alias "Guddu Jamali" Wednesday joined the Samajwadi Party (SP) along with a large number of his supporters. Alam (50), a twotime MLA from Mubarakpur Assembly constituency, said he joined the SP because it "is in the best interest of society". Addressing a press confer-

ligion... And we must stand with those who are standing against this division, and I support the slogan of PDA ('Picchde (backward classes), Dalits and ence at the SP headquarters in Alpsankhyak (minorities)') by Akhilesh Yadav ji. Akhilesh said: "Those in busi-"There are two camps in the ness never discriminate on the

we could be divided based on re-

basis of religion or caste. Because businesses join people. I am happy that a strong leader is joining the SP."

Pro-Pakistan slogan row: Action if BJP's claims are proven, says Siddaramaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 28

AS THE BJP staged a protest outside the Karnataka Assembly on Wednesday alleging that Congress supporters had raised 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans on Tuesday after their candidate Syed Nasir Hussain's victory in the Rajya Sabha polls, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said "strict action will be taken" if the

allegations were proven true. Siddaramaiah's statement came hours after the Bengaluru city police registered a suo motu case on Tuesday night over the alleged incident even as the BIP

filed a formal complaint at the Vidhana Soudha police station.

"The police have collected the video footage from the TV channels which have telecast [the incident]. It has been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for further investigation," state Home Minister G said Parameshwara on Wednesday

Siddaramaiah said that if the FSL report proved that such a slogan was raised, action would be taken. "Strict action will be taken against whoever shouted slogans against the nation,' Siddaramaiah said while speaking to the media at Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday.

LALMANI VERMA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE SAMAJWADI Party (SP) was left embarrassed Tuesday after seven of its MLAs cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha polls, leading to the loss of one of its candidates.

Now, a bigger problem confronts the party as five of the seven legislators who are believed to have cross-voted and appeared in photographs with the BIP on Tuesday belong to upper castes, and insiders concede that this may hit the party hard ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Incidentally, two of these five represent Assembly segments which are contiguous with the parliamentary constituencies of Amethi and Raebareli, the two seats on which most of the hopes of SP ally Congress ride in UP. The apparent defection of five

SP upper caste leaders comes at a time when Akhilesh is in the cross hairs of many of them for reiterating constantly his party's outreach towards what he has deemed the "PDA" - Pichde (backward), Dalits and Alpsankhyak (minorities) – since June last year. A section of upper caste SP leaders had earlier expressed apprehensions that the PDA could send an exclusionary message to the tribals and upper castes.

Following the "backlash", Akhilesh had clarified that the A in PDA also included agde (forward castes), adivasi (tribals) and aadhi abaadi (women).

Of the suspected cross-voters, Manoj Pandey, Rakesh Pandey and Vinod Chaturvedi are Brahmins, Rakesh Pratap Singh and Abhay Singh are Thakurs.

Puja Pal belongs to the OBC cate-

Maurya is a Dalit. The biggest embarrassment for the SP came from its chief whip and Unchahar MLA Manoj Pandey, who resigned from the

gory while Ashutosh

post minutes before the election on Tuesday. Seen as a Brahmin face of the party, he was the first SP leader to "disagree" with then SP leader Swami Prasad Maurya's "objectionable" comments on the Ramcharitramanas. "People in India and even a large number of

people abroad read, accept and follow Ramcharitmanas. We all respect it and granths (holy books) of other religions too," he had said.

Cross-voting by its MLAs lays bare SP's 'upper caste' challenge

EXPLAINED

BIP leaders, however, said Manoj was a natural ally of the party, as he was "their man". "Before joining the SP in 2006, he was the chairman of

as a BJP leader. Last year, his aide contested for the post on the SP ticket but finished third behind the Congress and BJP," a BJP leader in Raebareli said.

Raebareli Nagar Palika

Unchahar falls under the Raebareli Lok Sabha seat, seen as a Congress bastion where the SP has not fielded candidates in the past in solidarity with the Gandhi fam-

Rakesh Pratap Singh, whose constituency Gaurigani falls under the Amethi Lok Sabha seat, told reporters before going to cast his vote that he would listen to his conscience before exercising his franchise. "Ram kan-kan mein hai, Ram man-man mein hai (Ram is in every element, Ram is in everyone's mind)," he said. Like Raebareli, the SP has refrained from fielding candidates from Amethi as well.

Jabalpur MLA Rakesh Pandey, who was also seen with the BJP, is the father of BSP MP Ritesh Pandey, who joined the BIP on Sunday. Speculations had been rife that the senior Pandey would switch over to the BIP after his son had joined the party.

Goshaiganj MLA Abhay Singh posted "Jai Raghunandan, Jai Siya Ram" on his social media handles ahead of voting, hinting that he may vote for the BJP. SP spokesperson Rajeev Rai

said personal ambitions and pressure forced MLAs to crossvote. "It cannot be said they voted against the PDA. In fact some of them (cross-voters) belong to the PDA. On the other hand, many who voted in favour of the SP are from upper castes.' Two legislators of Rajput

leader Raghuraj Pratap Singh aka Raja Bhaiyya-led JDL, including him, also voted in favour of the BJP. The IDL has been angry over Akhilesh keeping distance from the party over Raja Bhaiyya's strongman image.

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EC asks BJD, Odisha govt to explain use of party symbol in govt ads

New Delhi: The Election Commission Wednesday sought explanations from ruling Biju Janata Dal and the Odisha government over the use of the BJD's election symbol "conch" in state government advertisements. EC sources said.

The EC sent notices to the BJD general secretary and the Odisha chief secretary seeking replies by 5 pm on March 2, the sources said. The EC had received complaints alleging the BJD symbol was displayed on advertisements funded by the state government in newspapers, TV channels, hoardings and Odisha State Road Transport Corporation buses, the sources said.

The poll panel's move comes after a BJP leader from Odisha, latin Mohanty, had moved the Delhi HC against the alleged misuse of public funds by the BJDruled Odisha government. The Delhi HC, however, declined to entertain the petition.

Zoo or safari in forest areas: CJI-led bench order only interim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

PLACING RESTRICTIONS on establishing zoos or safaris "in forest areas other than protected areas" earlier this month, a Supreme Court bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud made it clear the "interim order...will hold the field only till the final judgment" on the matter by a "coordinate bench" which has been dealing with the issue. "Our attention is drawn to

the fact that a co-ordinate Bench of this Court presided over by Hon'ble Mr Justice B R Gavai has reserved orders on the subiect...we issue an interim order to the effect that any proposal for the establishment of zoos and safaris referred to in the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, enacted by the Government or any authority in forest areas other than protected areas, shall not be finally approved by the States/Union Territories, save and except with

the prior permission of this Court," the bench also comprising Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra had said in its February 19 order.

The bench said, "Where any such proposal is sought to be implemented, this Court shall be moved by the Union Government or, as the case may be, the competent authority for the prior approval of this Court. This part of the interim direction will hold the field only till the final judgment of the co-ordinate Bench. Necessarily therefore the judgment of the coordinate Bench shall govern the arena, once it is pronounced."

The CII bench's order came on a petition challenging the amendments made in 2023 to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A day later, on February 20, a bench presided by Justice Gavai, while noting the CJI-led bench order, expressed concerns over possibility of conflicting orders, as it was already seized of the same question.

Delhi court grants bail to

NIRBHAYTHAKUR NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

Earlier in February, Delhi's the land-for-jobs case.

"The investigating agency did Wednesday.

Office Number: (05452) 299101

U.N.S Autonomous State Medical College Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh-222003

पत्रांक संख्याः मेडि०का०जौ०/2023-24/2300 दिनांकः 28 फरवरी, 2024 -: विज्ञप्ति (नियमित):-

उमानाथ सिंह स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय. जौनपर में रिक्त आचार्य, सह आचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्य के पदों को नियमित आधार पर भरे जाने हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या- मेडि०का० जौनपुर/नियमित/2023-24/2299 दिनांक-28.02.2024 के द्वारा आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर पूर्ण रूप से भरा आवेदन पत्र केवल स्पीड पोस्ट/पंजीकृत डाक के माध्यम से दिनांक-14.03.2024 शाम 05:00 बजे तक कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, उमानाथ सिंह स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, सिद्दीकपुर, शाहगंज रोड, जौनपुर, उ०प्र०-222003 में उपलब्ध कराया जाना सुनिश्चित करे। पदों के विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु उमानाथ सिंह स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, जौनपुर की वेवसाइट www.asmcjaunpur.edu.in तथा इस कार्यालय के सूचना पट्टी पर देखी जा सकती हैं।

नोटः- विज्ञापन संख्या-मेडि०का०जौनपुर/नियमित/2023-24/1942, दिनांक-07.12.2023 एवं विज्ञापन संख्या- मेडि॰का॰जौ॰/ नियमित/2023-24/2132, दिनांक-16.01.2024 के सापेक्ष पूर्व में आवेदन कर चुके अभ्यर्थियों को पुन आवेदन करने की आवश्यकता नही है।

> प्रधानाचार्य उमानाथ सिंह स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, जौनपुर

'LAND-FOR-JOBS'

Rabri, daughters

A DELHI Court on Wednesday granted regular bail to former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and two of her daughters Hema Yadav and Misa Bharti in the money laundering case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged land-for-jobs

Rouse Avenue Court had granted interim bail to Rabri Devi, Misa Bharti, and Hema Yadav until February 28 in connection with

not find it necessary to effect arrest and hence no plausible reasons exist for the Court to deny the relief of regular bail," said Special Judge Vishal Gogne of Rouse Avenue Court while granting bail to the accused on Govt bans 2 J&K groups for 'anti-India activities' New Delhi: The Government been engaging in activities against

Wednesday banned two factions of the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir for five years for their anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda, and asking people to refrain from

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah said the Government is determined to uproot terrorism, and anvone involved in unlawful activities will face dire consequences. "Striking terror networks with undiminished vehemence, the government has declared the Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Sumji faction) and Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir(Bhatfaction)as Unlawful Associations. These outfits have

Name / Add.

Contact No.

Name and Address

of the Borrower(s)

taking part in elections.

the sovereignty and integrity of the nation," Shah wrote on 'X'.

On Tuesday, the government extended the ban imposed on the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu Kashmir (JeI), by another five years.

In a notification Wednesday,

the Union Home Ministry said the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir- Sumji faction (MCJK-S), chaired by Ghulam Nabi Sumji, and its leaders were involved in raising funds through various sources including from Pakistan and its proxy organisations for perpetrating unlawful activities. Besides, it said, the MCJK-S constantly asked people of Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections. PTI Careers

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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is". "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2024. Details are as under:

Details of Property

Outstanding

No.	of the Branch	/ Guarantor (s)	in Rs.		Amt./A/c No./ IFSC Code
1.	Banu Chapar Branch West Champaran, Bihar Mob. 8210998467	M/s Azad Fruit Company Proprietor - Mohammad Islam, (Borrower) S/o - Esmail Miyan, Shop No 4, Bazar Samiti, Bettiah- 845438. Guarantor- Md. Mushtak, S/o- Vagad Miya, 35 Purani Gudri Town, Bettiah -845438, Ph.: 9006009324	14,80,338,34 as on 03.01.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	All That Part And Parcel Of the property consisting in the name of Mohammad Islam, S/o- Esmail Miyan Khata No-1993, Tauzi No 951, Thana No 128, Holding PID No 3902006555, Jamabandi No 2173, Area- 11 Dhur 10 Dhurki, Boundary: North-Bhikhu Miyan, South - Santosh Sah and Champa Devi, East - Road and Nikhil Chandra Das, West - Road, Location:- Mauza- Purani Gudari, P.S-Bettiah Town, Dist West Chaparan, Bettiah, Sub-Registry-Bettiah	Rs. 32,32,800/- Rs. 3,23,280/- 10,000/- A/c- 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0003873
2.		Borrower - M/s New Aarush Enterprises Prop. Manmohan Puri, S/o - Satyadeo Puri, Ground Floor, Banjari Chowk, N.H - 28, Gopalganj - 841428 Guarantor / Mortgagor - Mr. Manmohan Puri, Puri, Rajeev Nagar, Ward ingh House, Gopalganj - 84142	31,62,354.25 as on 20.08.2022 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization No 14, Near	All that part & parcel of the property consisting in the name of Mr. Manmohan Puri, S/o - Satyadeo Puri, Khata No 361, Plot No 1096, Tauzi No 3296, Thana No 1010, Area - 23.53 Decimal, Boundary - North: Nij, South: Babu Ram Puri Hissedar No. Haja, East: Jung Bahadur Tiwari, West: Sadak Pakki, Location - Mauza - Machhagar Jagdish, Thana No 1010, Tauzi No 3296, Pragana - Kuadi, Gopalganj.	Rs. 3,81,150/- Rs. 10,000/-
3	Barharia Branch Mob. 8210998470	Borrower - M/s Beauty Cement Centre, Prop. Sifte Ahmad, Karbala Bazaar, Barharia, Karbala, Dist Siwan - 841232, Proprietor / Mortgagor - Mrs. Heena Khatoon, W/o Sifte Ahmad, Athkhamba Barharia, Dist Siwan - 841232	34,46,166.09 as on 26.05.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Mrs. Heena Khatoon, W/o Sifte Ahmad, Khata No. 265, Khesra No 4112, 4113, 4114, 4115, 4116, 4118, Tauzi No 1076, Thana No 319, Area - 00-01-14-06 (B-K-DH-DHKI) = 2778.320 sqft. Boundary: North - Walid, South - Hissadar, East - Village Road, West - Husband of Heena Khatoon. Location:- Mauza- Athkhamba, PS - Barharia, Sub - Registry - Siwan, Dist Siwan	
4	Sitaram Rai, Yadopur, Dist Guarantor -	Borrower - M/s Yash Enterprises Prop- Sri Durgesh Kumar Rai, Vill Masanthana, PS - Yadopur, Dist Gopalganj, Bihar - 841428, Borrower - Durgesh Kumar, Vill Masanthana, PS - Yadopur, anj, Bihar - 841428, Mortgage S/o- Late Beni Rai, Vill Mi - Gopalganj, Bihar - 84142 Nagendra Rai, S/o- Late PS-Yadopur, DistGopalganj, Bil	os,07,435.26 as on 30.01.2020 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization or / Guarantor - asanthana PS - 28, Mortgagor / Beni Rai, Vill	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Sitaram Rai, S/o- Late Beni Rai and Nagendra Rai, S/o- Late Beni Rai, Khata No 117, Khesra No 704, Tauzi No 3947, Thana No 11, Mauza - Masanthana, Dist Gopalganj, Bihar, Area - 0-9-10, Boundary: North - Bharat Rai, South - Nathuni Rai, East - Amla Rai, West - Mustari Location- Khata No 117, Khesra No 704, Tauzi No 3947, Thana No 11, Mauza - Masanthana, Dist Gopalganj, Bihar	Rs. 42,43,500/- Rs. 4,24,350/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002310
5		Borrower/s - M/s Jawahar Poultry Farm, Prop- Bindeshwari Yadav, S/o- Satan Choudhary, At - Harbansha, Thawe, Dist Gopalganj, Bihar - 841428 Properitor / Guarantor/ Mortgagor/s - Bindeshwari atan Choudhary, At - Harbansk	22.09.2023 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization na, Thawe - Dist-	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Bindeshwari Yadav S/o- Satan Choudhary, Gharbharani Kunwar W/o- Late Satan Yadav, Deed No-3248, Khata No 179, Survey No. / Plot No 1441, Area -1 Decimal, Boundary - North - Nij Patidar, South - Mustari Baidar, East - Ali Ahmad, West - Road, Location - Mauza- Semara. Pargana Kuwari Thana No-64, Tauzi No-3296, Dist-Gopalganj, Name of Title holder - Gharbharani Ku	Rs. 6,03,900/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002310 war, Deed No7093,
		nar-841428, Guarantor / Morto o- Satan Yadav, At- Harbansh		Khata No- 179, Survey No. / Plot No1441, Area -1 North - Manan Miya, South - Mustaria, East - Ali A	The second secon

Location - Mauza- Semara. Pargana Kuwari Thana No-64, Tauzi No-Gopalganj, Bihar-841428, Guarantor / Mortgagor -Gharbharani Kunwar, W/o- Late Satan Yadav, At- Harbansha, 3296, Dist- Gopalganj, Name of Title holder - Gharbharani Kuwar, Deed Thawe, Dist. - Gopalgani, Bihar - 841428 No. -14670, Khata No. - 179, Survey No. / Plot No. - 1441, Area- 4 Decimal, Boundary - North - Nij Patidar, South - Mogal Sah, East - Ali Ahmad, West - Road, Location - Mauza- Semara. Pargana Kuwari Thana No-64, Tauzi No- 3296, Dist- Gopalgani, Name of Title holder - Gharbharani Kuwar, Deed No-10618, Khata No. - 31, Survey No. / Plot No. -968, Area - (00-05-09) Five Kattha Nine Dhoor, Boundary - North - Rana Yadav, South - Siwan Bheriya, East - Bisnath Yadav, West-Mustari, Location - Mauza- Harbansha . Pargana Kuwari Thana No. - 66, Tauzi No. - 3296, Dist- Gopalgani, Name of Title holder -Gharbharani Kuwar, Deed No. - 3660, Khata No- 31, Survey No. / Plot No. - 968, Area- (00-04-01) Four kattha One Dhoor, Boundary-

North - Tapsi Konhar, South - Siwan Bheriya, East - Bisnath Yadav, West - Mustari, Location - Mauza- Harbansha. Pargana Kuwari Thana

	No-66, Tauzi I	No- 3296, Dist-Gopalganj, Name	of Title holder -	Bindeshwari Yadav	igana, tarrait, ritaria
6	Bhore Branch Vill & Po - Bhore, Gopalganj Mob. 8210998472	Borrower/ Mortgagor - Sri Prabhu Pandey, S/o - Sri Ramayan Pandey, Village- Mathauli, PO - Rudalpur, Dist Gopalganj, Guarantor/s - Mrs. Vinda Devi, W/o- Sri Prabhu Pandey, Village- Mathauli, PO - Rudalpur, Dist Gopalganj	as on 04.11.2023 +interest &	All that part and parcel of the Property Consisting in The Name of Sri Prabhu Pandey , S/o - Ramayan Pandey, Khata No 81, Khesra No 13, Tauzi No 3296, Thana No 278, Jamabandi No 392, Area - 3.72 Decimal (1 Katha), Boundary - North - Fatama Khatoon, South - Fatama Khatoon, East - Sadak, West - Nahar, Location - At- Mauza- Mathauli, P.s-Bhore, Dist Gopalganj.	Rs. 33,35,400/- Rs. 3,33,540/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0000987
7	Gopalganj - Prasad, S/o-	Borrower/s - M/s Jyoti Traders, Prop Basant Prasad, At - Bari Bazar, Masjeed Road, Gopalganj - 841428, Guarantor / Mortgagor - Mr. Jyoti Bhusan Prasad, S/o-Bharat derwa, V S Mill Harakhua, PS 841428, Properitor / Guarant Bharat Sah, Vill-Inderwa, V S M - Gopalganj - 841428	as on 07.10.2023 +interest &Other Cost thereon till realization - Thawe, Dist - or - Mr. Basant	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Mr. Jyoti Bhusan Prasad S/o- Bharat Sah, situated at Khata No 87, Plot No 184, Thana No 107, Tauzi No 3947 Mauza - Kavilashpur, Pargana Sipah, Thana — Thawe, Anchal- Manjha, Dist - Gopalganj, Area- 12.5 Decimal, Boundary - North - Dharmendra Singh & Mustari, South - Nij Mokir, East - Latif Dewan, West - Mustari	Rs. 3,00,000/- Rs. 30,000/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002310
8	Barharia, Branch	Borrower/s - M/s Bishnu Khad and Beej Bhandar,	44 75 755 74	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name Shri Ramadhar Yadav, S/o. Late Jatan	Rs. 26,82,900/- Rs. 2,68,290/-

Vill-Pachrukhiya Tola, Koirigawan, Barharia, Siwan-841232 Last Date of EMD 28.03.2024 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale.

as on

19.09.2023

Finterest &Other

Cost thereon

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Barharia, Dist - Siwan

8210998470 841232, Mortgagor/s - Shri Ramadhar Yadav, Barharia,

Pachrukhiya Tola, Koirigawan,

Vill- Pachrukhiya Tola,, Koirigawan, Barharia, Dist- Siwan

841232, Guarantor - Raj Kishor Yadav, S/o- Ramadhar Yadav,

Sheo Baran Ahir

Barharia, Dist-Siwan.

Yaday, Khata No-366, Kheshra no. 4241, Tauzi No.

1012, Area - 01-01-10 (K-Dh-Dhki), Thana No.

319. Boundary - North - Niz Pattidar, South

Hardeval Yadav, East - Siwane Sadarpur, West -

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NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items :-Closing **Brief Description** Tender No. Date WIDE CUSHION FOR TRANSVERSE 01 07239886 0655 NOS 25-03-24 HOUSING FOR TRACTION BAR OF 02 19240634 159 NOS 26-03-24 THREE-PHASE LOCO SURGE ARRESTER FOR THREE 03 19240862 61 NOS 26-03-24 PHASELOCO

e-Procurement Notice No. ACE,RBB-22/2023-24 1. Type of Work 2. Total No of Works 04 16244216 FILTER ELEMENT 1411 NOS 28-03-24 3. Amount put to tender RUNNING CONTRACT FOR GLUED 4. Period of completion 15000 NOS 05 77239068RG 01-04-24 06 19245004 MAINTRANSFORMER 7775 KVA **79 SET** 01-04-24 No. officer SUPPLY INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF AXLE 01 NOS 02-04-24 07 15235241 JOURNAL TURNING AND Additional Chief ACE, RBB(BNID) -**BURNISHING MACHINE** Engineer, 44/2023-24 08 07231058 HEX. HEAD SCREW, M16 X 1.5 X 50 163212 NOS 04-04-24 Rushikulya RUNNING CONTRACT FOR 09 77239058RG 1300 SET 09-04-24 Bahuda Basin. WELDABLE CMS CROSSINGS Berhampur 10 07231537 POH KIT FOR KE TYPE 5726 SET 12-04-24 ADJUSTING CUP SLEEVE FOR 11 07230076A 450 NOS 18-04-24 COUPLER.

192 NOS

08-05-24

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See proviso to Rule - 8(6)]

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(les) mortgaged/charged

to UCO Bank Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is

what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 27-03-2024, for recovery of Bank's Dues from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) to UCO Bank Secured Creditor. The details are

Branch:- Sewla, District -Agra; Contact Number(s):- +91-8299523370, +91-9334414353; Email Id:- sewla@ucobank.co.in, zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

Description of Immovable Property(ies) with known

encumbrances, if any

All that part and parcel of the property consists

of a Plot measuring 209.02 sq. mtr. and

mortgaged (registered) as per Bahi No. 1, Zild

No. 0298, Page No. 265 to 280, Sl. No. 2445

registered on 23.11.2004 at Sub-Registrar 3

Sadar Agra, situated at Khasra No. 270 Nai

Abadi Nai Pura Sohala Road Dhanoli Agra-

282009 standing in the name of Shri Virender

Singh resident of Nai Abadi Nai Pura Sohala

East: House of Joginder Singh, West: Road

8 ft. Wide and Exit, North: Plot of Akali

Dated :- 09-02-2024

Cost of

tender

documents

including

GST

(RS.)

300+2000⁺

54=2354

Prahari

(S.P. Singh)

Superintending Engineer

Moradabad Circle, PWD

Moradabad

For and on behalf of Governor of UP

Category

of road

contractor

eligible

A,B

Road

Category

Date 24.02.2024

Time of

02 Month

02 Month

(Building) Completion

website

Time of

the work

(Including

rainy season)

12 Month

ompletion of

Road Dhanoli Agra-282009

Details of Boundaries (As per Deed)

Prasad, South: Land of Banwari Lal

Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil

Date & Time of E-auction :- 27.03.2024 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each with Bid

The Borrower's and/or Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Note:- Hindi & English versions of this Notice are being published in Hindi & English Newspapers respectively. It is clarified that in case of any contradiction in Hindi and

Place :- Agra

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit the websites https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/lbapi/index.jsp & https://www.ibapi.in

FOLDABLE BOTTLE HOLDER 45633 NOS 17-05-24 13 07231334A Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details, 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. 97/2023-24 Date: 28.02.2024 644/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

यूको बेक 🚱 UCO BANK

Demand Notice Date

Possession Notice Date

29.10.2021

06.01.2022

(Symbolic Possession

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

office of Superintending Engineer

Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad

E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender

Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website

http://etender.up.nic.in from registered contractors In colum No-8 from 01.03.2024 at 10.00

am to 06-03-2024 at 12:00 pm. Amount mentioned in column no. 5 & 7 shall be mandatory

deposited by Net Banking Only through E-tender portal. Technical bid /Prequalification of

tenders shall be opened on 06-03-2024 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender

committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present.

Financial bid of the tendres who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time

as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the

Security

(Rs. in

Lacs)

7.85

details of the tender are available at

have to login

Estimated

cost

(Rs. in

lacs

117.00

http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/prahari/ and upload their documents As per G.O No.-879 (1)

23-7-2020 dated 25-08-2020 and E-IN-C (Vikas) and Head of Department letter-4650

UPID-204604 Date 27/02/2024

www.upgov.nic.in

Office of the Executive Engineer

Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Ghaziabad

Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites Short Term online bids through e-tendering

from the registered firm for Building works as per Column 7 below Category. The bid

document may be uploaded from dated 01.03.2024 to 07.03.2024 up to 12:00 PM. Technical

bids will be opened on date 07.03.2024 at 12.30 PM. by the Committee in the office of the

Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, PWD, Ghaziabad. Date of financial bid will be

informed separately to the technically qualified contractors. In case of holiday or office closed

Estimated Bid

Security

(Rs. in

Lacs)

0.80

1.85

Cost of

Tender

500+ 225

+ GST

18%

500 + 300

+ GST

18%

Category

A-D

A-D

Executive Engineer

the technical bid/financial bids will be opened on next working day in the same manners.

cost

(Rs. in

Lac)

18.50

Terms / conditions and details related to the tender can be seen in the office of Executive

Engineer, Construction Division-2 PWD, Ghaziabad, Superintending Engineer

Bulandshahar Circle, PWD, Bulandshahar and Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, PWD Meerut

The terms / conditions and details related to the tender are available on the website

In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari

The category qualifications of contractors for the works of road signage will be according

to the instructions given by the ENC (Development) and Head of Department's office

UPID-204592 Date 27/02/2024

Name of

Work

Minor repair work and

Painting work of the official

officers located in Model

Minor repair work and

Painting work of the official

residences (02 no.) of judicial

officers located in Model

memorandum no. 71Camp/CE(Hg-1)/2021date 15.06.2021

Town in Ghaziabad district.

Town in Ghaziabad district.

Ghaziabad residences (01 no.) of judicial

http://etender.up.nic.in

Assistant Engineer

is http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/

Bidder

On behalf of the Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the

English version of the Notice, the English version of the Notice will prevail.

required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Name of

Work

New Construction

of PWD road to

Masoom Miyan's

Mazar via

Chatkali road

Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for Bid : 26.03.2024 upto 4:00 PM as per (IST)

ANTIROLL BAR ASSY.

with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Name & Address of Borrower(s)/

Guarantor(s)

Borrower(s):

Sansthan (Proprietor:

Shri Virender Kumar Singh),

Road Dhanoli Agra-282009

Shri Virender Kumar Singh

Proprietor of M/s Khadi Gram

Udyog Jan Sewa Sansthan

Road Dhanoli Agra-282009

Branch Name: Sewla, (0085)

Date :- 29.02.2024

DISTRICT

MBD

Rules/conditions &

4NL-0C / 2020 dated 27.08.2020.

http://etender.up.nic.in.

(Mohd. Naved Ahmad Khan)

Executive Engineer

Provincial Division, PWD

Moradabad

No. 619/4A-Camp

DISTRICT

Incremental Amount of Rs. 10,000/-

No.- 890 /Nivida-Moradabad/23-24

M/s Khadi Gram Udyog Jan Sewa

R/o. Nai Abadi Nari Pura Sohala

R/o. Nai Abadi Nari Pura Sohala

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004

e-mail id: se sicbam@yahoo.com

:- Flood Protection Work. :- 01 (One) No.

:- Rs 770.41 Lakh :- 12 (Twelve) calendar months Procurement | Bid Identification | Bid Amount | Availability & Submission (Rs. in lakh) of Bid On-line From 770.41

10.00 A.M. to 26.03.2024, 5.00 P.M. Date of opening of the Technical Bid: 27.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M. Further details can be seen from the Govt. website **tendersodisha.gov.in**

Zonal Office: 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road

Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001

E-mail: zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

Bank's Dues

Rs. 14,64,328.10

(Rupees Fourteen

Lakh Sixty Four

Thousand Three

Hundred Twenty Eight

and Paisa Ten Only)

as on 05.01.2022

(inclusive of interest

upto 31,12,2020) plus

further interest thereon

at the contractual rate.

costs, charges and

expenses etc. till date

of payment.

Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

No.92-EL/TRDUU/TEND/2023-24/17R, Dated 27.02.202

DRM/TRD, North Western Railway Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of

India, invites E-tender for the following

work. 1. Complete details of tenders

http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time

of closing of e-tender: 22.03.2024 up to

15.00 hrs. 3. Date & time of opening

of e-tender: After 15,00 hrs on

22.03.2024 Tender No.: 17TRD-JU-

ETENDER-23-24 Name of Work

(Provision of 1 no. of SSP each station at

Jodhpur (JU), Hanwant (HWT) and Jajiwal

(JWL) station for immediate localization

and isolation of Faull Approx. Cost of the

work (Rs.) : ₹ 22675993,16 For detailed

nformation visit http://www.ireps.gov.in

ollow uz cm - 🗗 🗗 🗖 /NWRailways 🔣 NWRailways

can be seen on Website No.

Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur. OIPR-32411/11/01028/2324

Reserve Price

arnest Money

Deposit

Rs. 19,70,000/-

Rs. 1,97,000/-

12.03.2024,

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. 159-23-24

1. Name of the Work

4. Period of completion

5. Bid Identification Number

Bid document in the portal

9. Date of Lottery(if required)

10. Procurement Officer/ Name

& address of the officer

inviting Bids.

OIPR-32190/11/0030/2324

2. Name of Project

works

Dated DIVI. Rly. Marrager, N.W. Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites 15235200A due on 27.03.2024 01, In open E-Tender for the following works up reference to above tender 2 new To 15.00 hours on 19.03 2024 as below. documents have been attached, 02, In Tender No.: 159 Name of Work with its eference to above lender. The due date Location : Providing architectural and has been extended from 29.02,2024 to Technical Consultancy for preparing Concept Plans, Master Plan, Technical 27.03.2024. All other terms & conditions Feasibility Report, urban designing, remain unchanged. The Corrigendum has Estimate, Tender Schedules and other baen published on website www.ireps related works for upgradation of 06 Railway Stations of Bikaner Division under 'Amril Bharal Station Scheme' (Loharu Adampur, Raisinghnagar, Hansi Kalanwali & Bhattu) under control of ADEN/SSA. Approx. Cost of Work : Rs. 4762086.97 Earnest Money : Rs. 95300,00 Note: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in Follow us on | F 🗷 🖸 MWRailweys 🖪 NWRailways

STATE BANK OF INDIA 🦪 भारतीय स्टेट बेंक Majlis Park, Delhi Code-8109 NOTICE FOR ARREARS OF RENT OF LOCKER That the State Bank of India fred rented safe deposit vaults (locker) to the respective locker filter as mentioned in the table below The rent has not been paid by the locker hire and there are arrears of rent against them The bank has issued Four notices to the respective locker hirer for payment of overdue locker rent in arrear, but still rent not deposited. Amount Pending Lakshman Dass Rs. 2,360/-

S Locker Customer Name Sharma Rs. 5,664/ 2 91 Shakuntata Rs. 5,664/-124 Harish Arora Rs 3.540/-4 134 Joginder Singh 5 355 Bir Kaur Rs. 5,664/ Rs. 6,608/ 162 Kishan Lal Girish Rs 5,664/ .211 Raj Mittal 227 Archana Obergi Rs. 5,664/ 9 256 Joginder Jain Rs. 4,720/ to 265 Mohan Lat Rs. 5,520/ 11 333 Anita Malik Rs. 5,660/ 12 41 Kamal Aggarwal Rs 5,060/ 13 44 Remu Seth Rs 6,608/ 14 63 CM Khanna Rs 5,520/ 15 67 Dalleet Kaul Rs. 5.520/ Rs 5,520/

Radhey Shyam 109 Gayal 17 157 Anil Kumer Rs. 5,620/ 18 204 Rakesh Mittal Rs 5.520/ 19 207 Mansi Manchanda 20 132 Anii Dabas 21 52 Sangeela Kapoor

Rs 4,720/ Rs. 4,720 Rs. 4.720 22 244 Hardeep Shafa Rs. 5,664 Rs 5,664 23 312 Sunita The notice is hereby given to the locker hire

that if the real in above mentioned locker is no will realize its dues by public or orivate sale of a the proceeds of such sale be insufficient to recover the bank's dues, the locker hirer will be able for the deficiency.

Date : 29/02/2024 Branch Managaer State Bank of India

100

Government of Tamil Nadu HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Salem - 7.

TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No. 35 / 2023-2024 / SDO / Dated: 27.02.2024.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 10.04.2024 15.00 hours (as per system server clock) by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Salem Circle under the scheme CRIDP for the year 2023-2024 - Forming Bypass Road to Namakkal Town Km.0/8-6/0 (Phase-II) in Salem (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 04,03,2024 onwards in the Government website http://tntenders.gov.in. If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only. Superintending Engineer (H), DIPR/1225/TENDER/2024 NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Salem - 7.

> बिहार 🛣 सरकार जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, भागलपुर

पत्राक-135/भागलपुर अल्पकालीन निविदा आमत्रण सूचना संख्या-01/2023-24

किंवल ई- टेन्डर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

१.कार्थ का विवरण वया विक

H Ho	कालं का नाम	प्राकातमेट राशि (ताख रुक्त में)	रू() में) (ओन लाईन अध्या पितिकाल/ मेनुआत मोड-में मुगतेय)	मूहन (अवस्यप्रेणीक) (क्रियाल और) लाईच मोड में मुगलेय) रूक्क में	पोचीसम् की (अप्रतापणीय) (फाल ऑन लाईन मीड में भूमतेय) का म	कार्य समाणि की अवसी
1	7	3	4	5	:6.	7
1	बाद 2020 के पूर्व मुंगेर जिलास्तरीत जमारतपुर प्रथान से सर्वोदय टीला में गंगा नदी के दा वे किसारे का कदाय निर्रोधक काय। (एजंग्डा संख्या-211 / 434 / 2024)	185.43305	3.71	10000,00	3540.00	15,05,2024
2	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने व	前 南阳 、 同	नाम-23 02 2024			

निर्विद्यां कागणात्त डाउनलीङ एवं अपतीष ग्री-बिंड मीटिंग का रामय रथात एवं तिथि

तकनीको बिड व्यासने की लिखि एक समय.

विशीय चित्रं खोलमें की विशेष एवं समय

दिनाक-08.03.2024 से विनाक-11.03.2024 के 3.00 उर्ज अपराहन तक(सिर्फ वेंग्साईटwww.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) विचाक-09.03.2024 3.00 जल अपराहन में मुख्य अभियत्ता वाड चिवलप एवं जल निस्सरण जल संसाधनविभाग, कठिहार

भिए पणिया के कार्यालय में । दिनाम-13.03.2024 समय 3.30 मन अपन्यत्म में।

(शिंक व्यसावट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) सबम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में धीषित की अधिमा । (सिर्फ देवसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

 निविद्या यालने का श्यान www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in TV निविदा की वैधता अवधि 120 閏年 विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एव गता कार्यपालक अभियता, बाह्य नियंत्रण प्रमष्ठल, भागलपुर

10. विशेष जानगारी प्राप्त करने हत् बबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एक www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर वेरमा जा सकता है । PR- 18446 (W R D) 2023-24

कार्यपालक अभियंता बाढ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, भागलपुर मो0:-7463889332

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER DRAINAGE CIRCLE, BALASORE.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

:- Drainage Works (under D.I.P Scheme)

:- ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-01-20-2023-24

of the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage

:- Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle,

Additional Chief Engineer

Drainage Circle, Balasore

NORTHERN RAILWAY

10.01.2024 ii) Tender No.

Corrigendum

Ref.: I) Tender Notice No. 83/2023-2024

:- 1 No of individual work

(Excluding G.S.T)

18.03.24 at:17 hours

Circle, Balasore

:- To be notified

Balasore

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website-: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

:- 11 (Eleven calendar month)

Email ID: sedcbls@vahoo.com

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- ACEDCBLS-20/2023-24

7. Date of Opening of technical :- Dt.19.03.2024 at: 11.30 hours. In the Office

3. Estimated cost of individual: Estimate cost Rs. 4,98,80,000/-

6. Date & Time of availability of :- From 04.03.24 at: 10 hours to

8. Date of Opening of Financial :- To be uploaded in portal

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Tender Inviting Authority Total Specification No. CE/MM M.92 For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing

and downloading of extenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in,

Dr.FR 1274/Tender/2024

www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE O-2681 E MailID: serw balasore@yahoo.in, Ph-No-06782/260318 Balia, Balasore "e" Procurement Notice for Road Work Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 85 for 2023-24 Letter No. 1177 Date: - 26/02/24 :- Road under MMSY-TRIP 1. Name of the work 2. Total No. of work :- 4 Nos. of Roads. 3. Estimated Cost :- From Rs. 670.80 lakhs to Rs. 356.69 lakhs (Approximately) 4. Eligible Class of "A" & "Special" Class(of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of Contractor other Licensing authorities (as per annexure). 5. Period of Completion :- From 06 (Six) to 11(Eleven) Calendar months for the work. 6. Other details Availability of tender Last Date & Time on-line for bidding Officer Identificatio of seeking Tender opening of tender Clarification Chief NCB 01.03.2024 13.03.202 12.03.2024 14.03.2024 Will be Construction No.-85 intimated

10.00 A.M. 05.00 P.M. 05.00 P.M. 10.00 A.M. Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in N.V Harihar Rao Chief Engineer, OIPR-25105/11/0116/2324 R.W. Circle, Balasore



25444/HRY

Serving Customers With A Smile



E-AUCTION NOTICE

643/2024

invited for E-Bids licensing shops/sites/activities at various Tourist Complexes of Haryana Tourism Corporation ltd. The e-auction will be held on 11th March, 2024 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Last date for submission of documents is 07th March, 2024 till 11:00 am. For enquiry please contact concerned DDO of the complex.

E-Auction documents along with details of activities are available at the website of HTC i.e. www.harvanatourism.gov.in as well as on NIC portal http://eauction.gov.in for online participation. Managing Director, HTC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.

ISSUED BY MANAGING DIRECTOR

Tender No. : TRD/DNR/OT/23/23-24, 1 Name of work with its location: POH of 03 nos. 21,6 MVA, 132/25 KV Power ramsformer of LKR/TSS, ARA/TSS & DURE/TSS for improving power supply system over Danapur Division, 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : Rs. .38.52.344.98/-, 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 2.18.300/-, 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender: The tender have to be submitted inline on www.ireps.gov.in up to 12:00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 22.03.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 hrs., 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website http://www.ireps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE(TRD)/E.C. Railway/Danapur. All configendum will be uploaded on website if required. Divini. Railway Manager

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER

Tender Notice No. 21/TRD/DNR/OT/23-24

Railway Danapurinvites sealed open tender

on behalf of the President of India for the

following works:-

The Divisional Railway Manager, E. C.

E. C. Railway, Danapur PR/02398/DNR/ETRD/T/23-24/40

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Nagar Parishad Ramgarh

Request for Proposal/E-Procurement Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO... NIT/RGH/NP/05/2023-24 Date:28/02/2024 Request for Proposal are invited on behalf of Nagar Parishad Ramgarh (RGH) Jharkhand for work on DBOT basis from reputed and eligible companies / firm/ Consortium/Joint Ventures having sound Technical

and Financial capability for the following works: **Estimated** Earnest Tender Capital & **Completion** No. **Description of Package** Money Fee **O&M** Cost Period) (Rs.) (Rs. in lac) (Rs. in lac) Door to Door Collection & Source Segregation of Municipal Solid Waste, setting up & operation of Material Recovery facility, Transfer Station & Transportation Facility, Developing & Operating a 16 Month Wet & Dry Waste Processing Facility and 2263.01 Construction Engineered Sanitary Landfill Facility in municipal 25,000/-22.63 & & 20 Yrs. area as per SWM Rules 2016 & SBM 2.0 44828.63 O&M guidelines, for Ramgarh Town and Ramgarh Cantonment Board in Jharkhand, on a long-term Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) basis with 20 years O&M 29.02.2024 by 4:00 PM Date/ Time of Publication of Tender on Website Last date for receiving queries 09.03.2024 by 2:00 PM 09.03.2024 by 2:00 PM Pre bid meeting Last Date/ Time for Receipt of Bid Online 20.03.2024 By 4:00 PM Opening of technical bid 23.03.2024 By 4:00 PM 6 Official Inviting Tender Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Ramgarh +91 6393812374 / +91 9110072039 Mobile Number

9 E-mail nagarparishadramgarh@gmail.com Note:-1.Only e-tenders are acceptable. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

2. Contractor Should be registered in appropriate class as per NIT 3. Estimated Cost/Quantity May vary PR 320642 District(23-24).D

Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Ramgarh

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS **ROADS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03**

No. CE/DEV/TB/08/2023-24/48

No. CE/DEV/TB/741/2023-24/17

JANASANYOG/CF/6025/23/29-Feb-24

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER(Re-Bid)

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites re-bids on behalf or Governor of Assam from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam for construction of roads and drains under Mukhya Mantrir Nagariya Pakipath Nirman Achani (MMNPPNA) for the year 2023-24 amounting to **Rs. 1.87 Crores (approx.)** in the following 1 (One) nos. Urban Local Bodies (ULB) - Dhemaji TC

Details along with package under the ULB may be seen from 29.02.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note:- NIT Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour Cess (1%), etc.

Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bid on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1(one) no. of Package for Construction of Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD- G for the year 2023-24 in Udalguri District of Assam amounting to Rs.998.75 Lakhs (approx.)

including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam. Details may be seen from 04.03.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the

Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained

Note: - N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc.

Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है C.D.-2, PWD Gzb. C.D.-2, PWD, Gzb. www.upgov.nic.in FREE More Newspapers & Magazines https://t.me/theIASonly

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SELF-APPRAISAL

AHEAD OF seeking a possible fifth term from the same seat, Union Minister and Dharwad MP Pralhad Joshi launched a selfappraisal on Wednesday, detailing the progress made in the constituency in the last 10 years in the form of a booklet titled The development works of Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency during the 10 years tenure of Sri Pralhad Joshi'. The book devotes several pages to testimonials by Union ministers and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Joshi's work for Dharwad. Besides referring to India as Bharat, the book has mugshots of Joshi and PM Modi on every page.

BHISHM & WAR

SHOWCASING INDIA'S indigenously developed mobile cubebased hospital BHISHM, that can be assembled at the time of a disaster or health crisis, to billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates on Wednesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said he hoped there were no wars in the world, but in case of such situations India would be willing to provide the BHISHM Cube as an emergency aid. He said the cube could be of help in the ongoing Hamas-Israel and Ukraine-Russia conflicts.

OMNIPRESENT MINISTER

UNION SCIENCE Minister Jitendra Singh, who was present in Delhi on Wednesday for National Science Day, will leave for Jammu on Thursday. His engagements took him to Bengaluru and Jammu over the last two days. Commenting on his constant travelling, Department of Biotechnology Secretary Rajesh Gokhale said at a recent event that it felt as though the minister was omnipresent; in the morning he was seen interacting with people in Jammu and in the evening he was present at an event in Delhi.

5th YSRCP MP quits party, TDP says talks on over ticket to son

PUSHKAR BANAKAR NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

IN YET another jolt to the ruling YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh, Ongole MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy Wednesday quit the party, citing "self-respect" issues.

Sreenivasulu, whose son has turned 'approver' in the Delhi excise scam case, becomes the fifth YSRCP MP to exit the party over the past few weeks. "We do not have ego, we have a lot of self-respect... Due to some unavoidable circumstances, we have to leave the YSRCP," Sreenivasulu said, announcing his decision.

Sources said Sreenivasulu, who was pushing for a ticket for his son M Raghava Reddy for the Ongole LS seat, was miffed after Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed Chandragiri MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy as the parliamentary in-charge for the seat, virtually ending his chances.

To beat anti-incumbency, the party is going for new names in place of sitting MPs and MLAs, which is behind many of the recent desertions from the party.

Leaders close to the MP said Sreenivasulu is likely to join the TDP, which has assured his son of a ticket. TDP national spokesperson G Deepak Reddy confirmed the MP is in talks with the party. "The talks about giving his son a ticket from Ongole are on-

going... an official announcement will be made in a day or two when the party chief (Chandrababu Naidu) visits Nellore," he said.

Party insiders said relations between Jagan and the Ongole MP soured after his son's name featured in the alleged Delhi excise scam as part of the "southern

Raghava is believed to have given critical information to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) since he turned approver in the case, which has seen the arrest of several AAP leaders, including former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and several summons to Telangana MLC and senior BRS leader K Kavitha.

The Ongole MP's resignation came a day after he skipped a meeting called by Jagan, where he had assured every party worker of full support during the elections. An estimated 2,700 party leaders attended the meeting. Earlier last month, Sreenivasulu had also given an Ongole event where Jagan distributed land pattas to beneficiaries a miss.

A four-time MP from Ongole, Sreenivasulu won the seat thrice on a Congress ticket, before moving to the YSRCP and fighting on its ticket in 2019. He left Congress over the introduction of the Bill in 2014 by UPA government at the Centre, that led to bifurcation of the united Andhra. FULL REPORT

www.indianexpress.com



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for a new launch complex of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district. The Rs 986 crore facility is set to accommodate 24 launches per year.

PM Modi also dedicated several projects worth more than Rs 17,300 crore, saying Tamil Nadu is writing a new chapter of progress in Thoothukudi.

Flagging off India's first indigenous green hydrogen waterway vessel, PM Modi said increasing connectivity due to the consistent efforts of the Centre has enhanced 'ease of living' in Tamil Nadu.

Saying one can witness spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" in the development projects of Wednesday, PM Modi stated that though these projects are in Thoothukudi, they will give momentum to development in multiple places across the country.

In an indirect reference to the DMK. Modi said Tamil Nadu's ruling party shared power at the Centre with the Congress during the UPA regime. "However, they were not bothered about your progress. All the development initiatives have been delivered by the 'sevak'," he said in a refer-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with ISRO Chairman S Somanath in Thoothukudi on Wednesday. PTI

ence to himself.

Meanwhile, the advertisement to mark the event issued by the state Minister Anitha Radhakrishnan featuring a rocket with a Chinese flag drew sharp criticism from Modi.

Addressing a meeting in Tirunelveli Wednesday, Modi slammed the ruling DMK government, calling it "an insult to the nation's scientists and the space programme".

projects initiated by others.

He accused the DMK and its allies of attempting to divide the nation and criticised their alleged habit of taking credit for

Posting the advertisement on

social media, Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai said it is an evidence of DMK's purported allegiance to China and a disregard for India's national pride.

Reacting on the controversy, DMK MPK Kanimozhi called it a "human error" and said India has not designated China as an enemy. "Someone who had done the artwork had put that (advertisement)... The Chinese PM is coming here and our PM is receiving him directly and they both go on a walk in Mahabalipuram. In such a scenario, no one has said till now that they have announced them (China) as our enemy," she told

we are hoping that the private rockets which are being built in this country will also come there for launches. So, at least 24 launches per year will be possi-

> ing including the radar stations, ground network, safety... all of this will be taken care of," he said. Somanath said he hoped Kulasekarapattinam and its suburbs would become a very active

spaceport. "We are looking for-

ward to great growth in this sec-

Meanwhile, ISRO Chairman

S Somanath said the land acqui-

sition for the launch complex has been completed and the Tamil

Nadu government transferred

the land to the space agency. The

construction of the launch com-

plex is expected to be completed

for launching SSLV type of rock-

ets... small rockets which can be

launched towards the south and

ble at the end. We are building fa-

cilities for preparation of the

rocket, assembling and launch-

"This launch complex is built

in two years, he said.

tor," he added. Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Union Minister of Ports. Shipping, Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of State L Murugan were present. On behalf of the ruling DMK government, Thoothukudi MP K Kanimozhi and Tamil Nadu Minister for Public Works EV Velu participated in the event.

Jharkhand HC rejects Soren's plea to take part in budget session

Ranchi: The Jharkhand High Court Wednesday rejected former CM Hemant Soren's petition seeking permission to attend the ongoing budget session of the assembly.

The session will conclude on March 2. Soren, who was arrested by ED in a money laundering case last month, had filed an application before the high court on Friday, seeking permission to participate in the budget After hearing the arguments,

Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad had on Monday reserved his order.

The court had earlier allowed Soren to participate in the trust vote in the assembly on February 5. In another petition filed by Soren, challenging his arrest by the ED, the HC reserved its order. The case was heard by a division bench of acting Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Navneet Kumar.

2nd Assam Cong working president quits, may join BJP

Hussain Sikdar. On February 14 this year, Purkayastha resigned from his position, even as he along with Mangaldoi MLA Basanta Das declared their support to the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government while claiming they

CM Sarma had himself told reporters Tuesday that by the time the 2026 state elections are held, "only a few MLAs such as Rakibul Hussain, Rekibuddin Ahmed, Jakir Hussain Sikdar and Nurul Huda" will remain with the Congress.

continued to be with Congress.

BJP urges EC to follow two-step voter verification

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

AHEAD OF the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP on Wednesday suggested to the Election Commission to follow a twostep verification of voters before they enter the voting compartment, given that complaints of "rigging" come up often.

A delegation of BJP leaders, including Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Arun Singh and Om Pathak, submitted a memorandum to the EC seeking "twostep identification of voters".

"The issue and complaints with regard to rigging at the polling stations, the Commission may explore the possibility of 'two step identification' before any voter is permitted to enter the voting compartment. Foolproof record of such two-step identification must be available to the Commission and political parties for assured fair polls," the BJP memorandum read.

The party also said that instead of the current practice of videography and live webcasting at 50% of the polling stations, it should cover 100% of polling stations across all states.

While the memorandum did not elaborate. Pathak told *The* Indian Express that the delegation told the Commission that complaints of "ghost voters, fake voters or duplicate voters" are made by different parties during elections. He said the party suggested taking a photo of the voter and comparing it to the photo identity card before entering the booth. Then, the polling staff checks the name and ID against the list of electors for the booth. "This would build greater transparency in the polls," Pathak said.

The BJP also asked EC to ensure that polling booths are set up in high-rise residential soci-



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with other BJP leaders after meeting the EC on Wednesday. PTI

eties, something which the poll panel had instructed CEOs to do in September last year. "While we welcome the Commission's initiative in this regard, we are yet unaware of setting up new polling stations as per directions of the Commission," it said.

Setting up new polling booths in high-rise housing societies would improve voter turnout, BJP argued. "We sincerely hope the Commission will ensure setting up such polling stations well before the announcement of general elections," the BJP said.

The party also raised the issue of the delay in approval of advertisements and publicity campaigns by the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees during elections.

"The functioning of these committees have been noticed to be erratic and whimsical and sometimes even influenced by extraneous considerations. We have cases of wrongful and illogical rejection of media creatives and unwarranted delays...The campaign times being very short, these delays can jeopardise the election campaigns," the BJP said.

Homeland Security: India, US hold talks on terrorism, money laundering & drugs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

INDIA AND the US discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation on issues of terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and money laundering among others during the Homeland Security Dialogue in New Delhi Wednesday.

The dialogue concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on law enforcement training between the US Federal Law Enforcement Training Centre and India's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy.

"During the dialogue, both sides reviewed ongoing cooperation in counter-terrorism and security domains, which has been a key pillar of the India-US strategic partnership. In this context, they discussed steps that can be taken to bolster bilateral efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, drug trafficking, organised

Intent of notifying place under

crime and ensure transportation security," an MHA statement said. According to MHA, the two

sides also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the vibrant people-to-people ties "by taking steps to enable safe and legal migration, counter illega migration, human trafficking money laundering, cybercrimes, and misuse of the cyber domain for illegal activities including terror-financing."

"The Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla while the US delegation was led by Kristie Canegallo, Acting Deputy Secretary, US Department of Homeland Sec urity. The co-chairs reiterated their keen interest in consolidating the mutually beneficial collaboration between the respective law enforcement agencies through exchange of information, capacity building, technical assistance and regular meetings of sub-groups," the MHA statement said.

Sandeshkhali TMC leaders stay home fearing stir

SUKRITA BARUAH

GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 28

IN A span of two weeks, the

Assam Pradesh Congress

Committee (APCC) has lost two

of its three working presidents

with former Jorhat MLA Rana

Goswami now resigning from

the party amid indications that

Congress has been reeling under

multiple setbacks, including de-

sertions, since Rahul Gandhi's

Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra passed

In the BIP-ruled Assam, the

he is going to join the BJP.

ANOTHER DIMENSION

Planetarium in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA

& ATRIMITRA SANDESHKHALI, FEBRUARY 28

FOR last few days, TMC functionary Haladhar Ari and his family members have hardly gone out of their home at Bermajur village in Sandeshkhali, which has been witnessing protests and violence against local TMC leaders over allegations of land grab and sexual harassment of women.

Outside, over a dozen policemen stood guard, while a group of people were seen installing CCTVs in the neighborhood.

"I prefer not to go out. If locals see me, they may get infuriated," said Ari, recently made co-convener of local TMC unit following the suspension of Sirajuddin Sheikh, the brother of local TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh.

Shahjahan Sheikh has been absconding since January 5 following the attack on ED officials. "A couple of days ago, I vis-

ited the local market. A group of people hurled abuses at me and my husband... we decided not to go out," said Ari's wife Kabita.

Just nine months ago, the ruling TMC had swept the panchayat elections in this block in North 24 Parganas district. Since protests erupted in February first week, local TMC functionaries have been staying indoors. Some have even locked their houses and moved to relatives' homes.

Outside the house of Sankar Sardar, a TMC panchayat member, nearly 2 km from Ari's home, over a dozen policemen were on duty. After Monday night when a portion of Sardar's house was vandalised and set on fire by a mob, a police picket came up



Security outside TMC leader Haladhar Ari's house in Sandeshkhali. Partha Paul

there. "My daughter has to travel for teachers' training. My son (a Class X student) has to go for tuition. How will we venture out? My husband is not here. We will leave this area by tomorrow," said Sankar's wife Shibani. Nearby, the house of TMC

HC: ED, CBI CAN ALSO ARREST SHAHJAHAN

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary during a

3D show at the inauguration of the upgradation work and modern projection system of the

Former

MLA Rana

Goswami

Jorhat

through the state last month. On

Wednesday, Goswami wrote to

Assam Congress chief Bhupen

Borah, tendering his resignation

as the APCC working president as

well as a member of the Congress.

resigned from his position as the

Congress's organisational in-

Two days ago, Goswami had

Kolkata: The Calcutta HC Wednesday directed that absconding TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh can be arrested by CBI, ED or West Bengal Police. Sheikh and his aides are among the key accused in cases of land grab and sexual harassment. The clarification was made after ED and CBI told HC they have serious reservations about Bengal Police probing the allegations against Sheikh. ENS

leader Ajit Maity which was partially ransacked by villagers earlier this week, was locked. Maity is among the three TMC leaders arrested. Maity's neighbour,

Ranajit Barui is a supervisor at Bermajur panchayat. "The land grab issue is false. Land was leased out. You ask those who were involved. I was not involved," said Barui.

charge of Upper Assam, citing

"various political reasons". Borah

Goswami's move, telling re-

porters he did not believe the lat-

raking up perceived rifts within

the Congress "to keep the media

busy instead of raising core issues

had appointed 3 APCC working

presidents – ex-AICC secretary

Goswami, North Karimganj MLA

Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha

and Sarukhetri MLA Jakir

In 2021, the AICC leadership

that affect the people."

Borah also alleged the BJP was

ter would leave.

then downplayed

But a villager walking past his house alleged that Barui was hand in gloves with Shahjahan Sheikh's brother Sirajuddin and grabbed farmland and converted them into fisheries.

At the house of TMC leader Shyam Sarkar, his daughter-inlaw spoke from behind the locked main gate. "I always keep the main door locked. My fatherin-law and my husband have been away since the trouble started," she said. Since protests erupted, one of TMC's offices in Sandeshkhali has stayed locked,

while another has become a gro-**FULL REPORT** www.indianexpress.com

UAPA not to seize property: HC **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE DELHI HC has recently observed that the intent of notifying a place under the UAPA is to ensure that it isn't used for unlawful activities and not to seize properties of innocent owners.

A division bench of Acting CJ Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora in its February 8 order said, "This Court is of the view that the intent of notifying a place under Section 8 of UAPA is to ensure that it is not used for unlawful activities. Its intent is not to seize the properties of innocent owners who are neither members of the unlawful association nor in-

volved in unlawful activities." Section 8(1) of the UAPA states that if an association has been declared unlawful, the Central Government may, by a notification, "notify any place which in its

opinion is used for the purpose of

such unlawful association". As per the provision, the term "place" includes a house or building, or part thereof, or a tent or vessel. The HC was hearing a plea moved by a man challenging a September 28, 2022, notification issued in respect of a property in Jamia Nagar which was notified

The notification was issued a day after (September 27, 2022) PFI and its alleged associates and

its associates or affiliates".

as being "used for the purpose of

carrying out activities of PFI and

ful association" under the UAPA. The petitioner had also challenged a September 30, 2022, notice issued by the Delhi police for furnishing information with respect to this property. The petitioner had sought directions for the property to be released, de-

The petitioner argued before

sealed and unlocked.

affiliates were declared "unlaw-

HChe is the "lawful owner" of the property and had leased it to another individual in December 2021 for 11 months and not to PFI or to any of its alleged associates /affiliates. He had said that he was not a member of the PFI, had "no knowledge that the tenant was a member of the PFI or that the house was being used for carrying out unlawful activities".

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP Building, C.A.No.3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road,

Kengeri Upanagar, Bengaluru - 560 060 No: EE/KEN/TEND/23/2023-24 Dated: 28.02.2024

POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER NOTIFICATION - 1

Sub: Regarding Postponement of Tender Notification Ref: 1. This Office Tender Notification No. EE/KEN/TEND/23/

2023-24 Dated: 26.02.2024 With reference to the above subject, the tender was invited as per Ref(1) for the works. Due to server problem in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal and technical reasons the said works tender was not uploaded. Hence the tender dates will be intimated in the coming days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Ramdhan, S/o: Mange Ram, R/o: H.No. 21, East Part of Outer Ring Road, Badli Village, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 886/2016, U/s 279/337/304A IPC, P.S.: Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ramdhan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ramdhan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Ramdhan accused of FIR No. 886/2016, U/s 279/337/304A IPC, P.S.: Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.04.2024. By Order

Shri Milan Goel Metropolitan Magistrate (West) Room No. 356, Tis Hazari Courts,

DP/2396/WD/2024-(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE

Delhi

OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Pradeep, S/o Jagat Singh (User), R/o Premises Opposite Left Hand Side Plot No. 2/12, Main Kakrolla Road, Roshan Garden, Najafgarh, Near Pole No. NJFB 964, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Case No. 445/2021, U/S 135 Indian Electricity Act, PS Najafgarh, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pradeep can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pradeep has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Pradeep of Ct, Case No. 445/2021, U/S 135 Indian Electricity Act, PS Najafgarh, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 10.04,2024.

> By Order Vinod Kumar Meena

Additional District & Sessions Judge (South-West) Special Court (Electricity) Room No. 609, 6th Floor Dwarka District Court, New Delhi DP/2372/DW/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age about about 70 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing Black colour jacket and black colour lower was found dead at Shed No. 18, Azadpur Fruit

Mandi, Delhi on 03.02.2024. In this regard a DD No 15A, dated 03.02.24 has been lodged at PS Mahendra Park, Delhi.

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

PS: Mahendra Park, Delhi

DP/2417/NW/2024

Ph.: 9911819172, 7428139095

SHO

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Jitender Kumar S/o Kirat R/o Ground Floor Near By House No 26, Street No.3, BLK-E, JJ Colony, Shahbad Dairy, Delhl has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case CC No. 146/2022 U/s 125 Indian Electricity Act registered at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Jitender Kumar could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Jitender Kumar has absconded (or are concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Jitender Kumar is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2024.

By Order Sh. Jitendra Singh, Additional Session Judge (Electricity) North-West, Court No. 205, DP/2161/ON/2024 (Court Notice) Rohini Courts, Delhi

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. JHS/Br/L/2023-24/25 Date 24.02.2024

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Dy.Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/Jhansi, North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites, open E-tenders on the prescribed forms for

the under noted work:-

Name of work: Jhansi Division: Provision of inspection cradle, ladder

replacement of corroded rivets and repair work at Br. No. 1367/2 & 1334/2 in Khairar-Bhimsen & 1316/2 in Jhansi-Banda section under AXEN/Br./L/VGLJ. Cost of work \$: \$1,06,42,775.30/ Bid Security (Earnest Money) : \$2,03,200/

Tender No.:Br-JHS- 2023-31, Date of opening of Tender: 18.03.2024 Completion Period: 12 Months, Eligibility Criteria for Similar work: "Repair to steel girder involving field riveting or any bridge work involving erection/launching or regirdering or open web girder." Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in. up to 15:00 hrs. on the due to date of tender opening i.e. 18.03.2024. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15,00 hrs. on dated 18,03,2024. F North central railways 💥 @CPRONCR 🐞 @north centralrailway 🔠 www.ncc.indianrailways.gov.in

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

JJM-Thannithodu Panchayath- Phase-2 Construction of Sump, booster pumping station, Pumping lines, tank, Booster pump house and OHSR at Thalamanam and OHSR at Elimullumplackal., EMD: Rs. 500000, Tender fee: Rs. 19518, Last **Date for submitting Tender**: 06-03-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone**: 0469-2600162 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-2496-2023-24

Superintending Enginee PH Circle Pathanamthitta



ई-निविदा सूचना

विश्वविद्यालय की परीक्षाओं तथा अन्य कार्यों के लिये टैक्सी एवं अन्य वाहन ई-निविदा के माध्यम से किराये पर लेने हेत् निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जिसकी अन्तिम तिथि 28 03.2024 अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाईट ccsuniversity.ac.in पर उपलब्ध है। वित्त अधिकारी

GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA (A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)

Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004 29.02.2024

Ref: GSV/LABS/2024/001 INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(EOI) FOR SUPPLY OF LAB EQUIPMENTS Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara is a Central University under the Ministry of Railways, established through an Act of Parliament in 2022, for creating best in class manpower and talent for the entire transportation and logistics sectors.

This University is mandated to work across railways, shipping, ports. highways, roads, waterways, aviation etc. GSV is in the process of augmenting lab infrastructure spread over the domains of Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, Electronics, Computer Engineering and Robotics and has a considerable requirement

Towards this, GSV invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from manufacturers and suppliers of the lab equipments and consumables for supply of various items. The list of items with their specifications and quantity requirement is given on GSV website link, https://gsv.ac.in/eoi2024 Interested manufacturers, OEMs, vendors and suppliers of Lab Equipments are invited to express their interest by filling the Google form available on the website and uploading the equipment specifications therein. Providing the prices in the table is mandatory. Attach brochure if any along with the Google form. Shortlisted manufacturers/ suppliers will be contacted by GSV for further process. GSV advises them to be registered on GeM and Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) so that they can bid for supplies in the future course of action. Please visit the above link for details. The response to the EoI by the interested manufacturers/ suppliers should reach us by 10th March 2024 (5 PM).

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this boy namely Abhishek, S/o Laxman God, R/o 66A, Block E, Suvidha Enclave, Baprola, Delhi, is missing since 14.02,2024 at about 10:00 AM from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 64A, dated 17.02.2024, has been lodged at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far.



The description of the missing boy is as under:

Gender: Male, Age: 18 years 1 month, Height: 4'9" Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Built: Fat, Wearing: Red jacket, blue lower, green slippers in feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing woman, kindly inform to the following:

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/2405/OD/2024

P.S. Ranhola, Delhi Ph. No.: 7065036128 E-mail: sho-ranhola-dl@nic.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Vishal, S/o Ramesh, R/o H.No. 1826/7 Govind Town, Behta Hazipur, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case FIR No. 283/18 U/s 380/411 IPC at PS Farsh Bazar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Vishal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Vishal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vishal of case FIR No. 283/18 U/s 380/411 IPC at PS Farsh Bazar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 02.04.2024.

> By order Sh. Ajeet Narayan Metropolitan Magistrate-02 Room No. 38

DP/1775/SHD/2024(Court Matter) Shahdara Karkarduma Court, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Priyanshu, S/o Guranga, R/o Jhuggi Behind Fire Station, DDA Ground Near Crown Plaza Hotel, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi. Age 13 years, Height 4'6", Complexion Shallow, Oval Face, Thin Bullt, Wearing White colour lacket and grey colour jeans pant has been missing since 19.02.2024 from DDA Ground Behind Fire Station, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a case FIR No. 58/2024, dated 22.02.2024, U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Mayur Vihar, Delhi.

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

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

DP/2432/ED/2024

SHO PS: Mayur Vihar, Delhi

Ph.: 011-22711048, 22710335 8750870627

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-procurement notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Bid No. PW-CE-NH-CTR-Tender Notice/PBMC /2024-. The Chief Engineer, National Highway, HP PWD, Shimts neeby livites Bios for Performance-Seed Maintenance of Funds Though e fendering from experienced firms/organizations for operation and maintenance works and activities for the loxowing sections of this National

o.	Sections	Length (km)	Fotal Bid Value (Rs. Lac) Excluding GST	Bid Security (Rs. Lac)	Conitaci Duration (month)
	Maintengeron works and activities (PBMC) on exclion from Kan 130/0 to 172/0 of NH No. 154A in the State of Humschaf Product.	42.00	2003-50 Late	20.51 Laks	60 Months

27.02.2024 to 27.03.2024 (upto 11:00 Hrs. IST) Briston runni pulmers in Francial limit and Tarriccal limit of higgs: specialist gov. Infragraction app on the limiting 27.03.2024 (again 11.00 New IRT). Data received a street language are 28.03.2024 (at 11.30 New

Agreement #6: stud by submitted physically by the tildow on or before 28.03.2024 (upto 1 1 00 Mrs. IST). Proceeding the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reserve whether Minutey of Hum Transport and riighways

a-mail ce-st-holdinic.in





Director General Medical Education &

Research, Department Government of Haryana, Panchkula 4th floor, DHL Square, Plot no.9, IT Park, Sector 22, Panchkula, Haryana- 134112

Ph. No. 0172-2584633, 2560799 email: dmer-hry@nic.in Website: https://dmer.haryana.gov.in/ **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Subject:- Regarding pending Post Matric Scholarship for the Academic Session 2018-19.

It is for the information of the students who had applied for the Post Matri Scholarship for academic session 2018-19. During scrutiny of these applications and subsequent communications with the concerned Institutes/ Colleges, certain deficiencies/ discrepancies could not be rectified. In this regard, camp will be organized on dated 04.03.2024 and 05.03.2024 fron 9:00 AM to 05:00 PM in Directorate of Medical Education & Research Haryana 4th Floor, DHL Square, Plot No. 9, IT Park, Sector-22 Panchkula. The concerned applicant of the specify academic session should come with the following documents on the particular date:-

- **Post Matric Scholarship Application**
- Aadhar Card and PAN Card.
- **Caste Certificate**
- **Last Passing Certificate Recommendation from the Concerned Institutions**
- Copy of latest bank details/ Cancelled Cheque. **Family Income Certificate**
- Cancelled cheque of the bank

Haryana Residence Certificate Gap Year Certificate, if any

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Advertiseme

For

WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA DIVISION

'E'-Tender Notice Electrical

(Power) Deptt. Notice Inviting Tender

EL/50/1/37 (23-24) Date: 26.02,2024

ELECTRICAL WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (Elect)

Western Railway, Vadodara Division for

and on behalf of the President of

India, invites E-Tender on Indian

Railways website www.ireps.gov.in

from experienced and reliable

contractors for the following works,

Sr. No. 1 Tender No.: BRC-EL-P-21-

23-24-R1 Name of Work: Vadodara

division: Electrical work in connection with various works under plan head

16.31,32 and 51 at Verious Station.

Estimated Cost (7) : 66,05,005,00,

EMD (₹): 1,32,100:00. Tender Fee: (₹)

NIL, E-Tender Closing Date 22/03/2024. Website particulars:

Like us on: F facebook.com/WesternRiv

www.ireps.gov.in

25449/HRY

Medical Education & Research Haryana Panchkula

Director General

Purvanchal Vidvut Vitaran Nigam Limited. Vidyut Nagar, P.O.-DLW Varanasi - 221004 E-Tender **Notice** E- tender are invited for the following material. The tender will be accepted up to at 15.00 hrs. Please visit our website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/ download and for any other corrections/ amendments/ modifications/extensions till the date of submission of bids. SI. No.: 1., Tender Specification No.: EAV-172/2023-24, Name Material: Processing/Conversi on of Super Enamel Copper wire, Qty. : 10,000 kg., Name of Material: Processing/ Conversi on of DPC Copper wire & strip, Qty.: 70,000 kg., Earnest Money (Rs.): 86,000.00, **Tender Fee (Rs.).:** 3.000.00 + GST @ 18%. Last date & Time for online submission of tender document: 27.03.2024 15.00 Hrs., Last Date & Time for opening of tender part-1: 28.03.2024 15.00 Sd/- SUPERINTENDING **ENGINEER** (MM-I) "Save **Electricity in the interest of Nation'** पत्रांक : 885/ पू०वि०वि०नि०लि०(वा०)/सा०

प्रo-I/विज्ञापन दिनांक 28.02.2024



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused Sh Rohit Chauhan S/o Mr. Omkar, R/o H.No. 278, Dulehra Chauhan, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 16984/18 u/s 138 NI Act has been registered at P.S. Karol Bagh. Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sh Rohit Chauhan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sh Rohit Chauhan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sh Rohit Chauhan of CC No. 16984/18 u/s 138 NI Act has been registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2024. By Order Ms. Divya Gupta

Metropolitan Magistrate, (NI Act-05), (Central), Room No.02, Ground Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/2431/CD/2024 (Court Matter)







दी अम्बाला जिला दुग्ध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ लि. अम्बाला

मिलक प्लान्ट, जी टी रोड, अम्बाला शहर (ISO 9001 2015 & 22000;2018 प्रमाणित संस्था) फोन न0: 0171-2540614 और 2540622, e-mail:milkplant@vitaambala.com अल्पावधि ऋण के लिए निविदा सूचना

हरियाणा राज्य में लगभग क 65 करोड़ (पैसत करोड़ कपए मात्र) के जल्पताचि ऋण के प्रावधान हेंगु दुश्च सथ अम्बाला (15 करोंड), कुरूक्षेत्र (20 करोड़) तथा बल्लमगढ़ को (30 करोड़) के लिए राष्ट्रीयकृत/सुवीबद्व/निजी को से ब्याल दर एवं अन्य नियम व शतौ वाले मोहरबंद कोर्टशन आमंत्रित है। **ब**ण 31 मार्च 2024 तक निकाला जाएगा। ऋण की बूल अवधि 12 बास की होंगी। तह ऋण दुव्य अधी को सीचे तीर पर या उन संघी के अन्तेगत आने वाली दुन्ध समितियों के केवल दूध के भूगतान के लिए ही उपयोग किया अर्थमा इसका स्पष्ट रूप से वर्णन अनिवार्थ है। मोहरबंद कोटेशन जगा करने तंत्र अतिक लिखि 11.03.2024 प्रात 11.00 बजे तक है एवं ससी दिन प्रात: ++ 30 को बैको के प्रतिनिधियों जो कार्यालय दुन्य संघ, अन्याला सिटी पें वपरिष्यत होना वाहें, की उपरिवाति में खोले जाएंगे। लिकाफे के उपर 'अल्यावधि कण हेता मोहरबंद कोर्टशन' स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा होना वाहिए अव्योजन्यासरी विना कोई कारण जवाए किसी या सभी कोटेशंस का

> मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, दुन्ध संघ्र, अध्वाला

HIMACHAL PRADESH

25448/HRY

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Sarkahat on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the online bids in items rate basis in electronic tendering system and in 2 cover system for the following works from eligible Government Contractors/Firms registered with Jal Shakti Vibhag in appropriate class. The detail

न्दीकार या अस्त्रीकार करने का अधिकार आरक्षित एखते हैं।

1. Name of Work: Channelization of Various Khad & Nallah of Barchwar, Paplog and Adjointing Area in Dist Mandi HP Under SDMF. (Sub Head :- C/O wire crate embankment & Apron of various RD,s and C/O Protection wall of Various RD's). Estimated Cost:- Rs. 2,95,45,336/- Earnest Money:- 3,27,963/-/- Cost of Tender Form Rs. 2500/- Time limit:-Eighteun Months-

Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portai http://hptenders.gov.in by the firms/individual registered contractors on the website Since the bids are to be submitted online and are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable venders or from any authorized agency

at the earliest. Schedule of tendering : Bid Submission start date 27.02.2024 at 6:00 P.M.

		Dig Submission start date	27.02,2024 at 0:00 F.M.
	2	Bid submission end date	07:03:2024 at 11:00 A.M.
	3	Opening of cover-1	07.03.2024 at 2:00 P.M.
	4.	Site Visit	From 28.02.2024 to 03.03.2024 along with the Assistant Engineer/concerned Junior Engineer Jal Shakti Sub Div. Sarkaghat.
	5	Pre- Bid meeting	05.03.2024 at 11:00 A.M. in the Office of SE Dharampur
	6.	Opening of financial Bid	Date and place to be notified Separately.
de	cump	nts can be down loaded from	the Website http://hntenders.gov.in. the document down

from the site should not be tempered and if any such tempering is detected before or after the opening of bids. the bidder shall be penalized and blacklisted. Other terms and condition shall remain same as given in the bid document which can be seen on the website. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reasons. HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPRAK

E-Tendering Notice

6439/HP

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Sarkaghat.

U.P POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. Short Term E-Tender Notice 05/ECTD/Agra/2023-24

E-Tender in two parts. Part-I & Part-II valid for four months are invited for the work mentioned as under:-

Period Earnest Tender | Date and | Date and Tender Name of Work Cost Time of Money Specific-Time of Submission opening ation No. Painting and Maintenance Work 3900.00 590.00 14.03.2024 4.03.2024 of EE, ETD-III, Agra Type-IV/01 Residence at 220 KV Sub-Station. Month 12:00 15:30 Sikandra (Agra) (PR No. 1300046538)

The tender document against this bid specification can be downloaded from eprocurement website http://etender.up.nic.in. Tenders can only be submitted on eprocurement website http://etender.up.nic.in.up schedule date & time as above. The bidder must go through properly pre-qualifying conditions and ensure that all related papers are uploaded. For participating in bids through the e-bidding system, it is necessary for the bidders to get themselves registered with UP Electronics Corporation Limited Lucknow. Undersigned reserves the right to amend of withdraw any of the terms and conditions contain in the tender document or accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof. Please visit website http://etender.up.nic.in or www.upptcl.org regularly for any correction /modification/amendments/extension till the date of submission of tender. Cost of Tender and Earnest Money Submitted in the Account of Executive Engineer, Electricity Civil Transmission Division, 220 KV S/S Sikandra (Agra) with A/C No. 30065294923, IFSC Code- SBIN0005717 Payable at S.B.I Foundry Nagar (Agra) U.P. Pin Code-282006 through NEFT/RTGS. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY CIVIL TRANSMISSION DIVISION, AGRA. UPPTCL WEBSITE:www.upptcl.org, E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE: http://etender.up. nic.in. "SAVE ENERGY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक: 226 विकार पा0ख0 / आगरा / दिनांक:28.02.2024

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)		WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFI- CER/CONTAC DETAILS/EMA
1	HSAMB FARIDABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF LINK ROAD FROM VILLAGE SIKANDERPUR TO DHATIR (ROAD ID - 824), CON- STITUENCY PRITHLA, DISTRICT PALWAL. (CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE 27388 DATED 12.04.2023)	12.03.2024	EMD 1.41 LACS	https://etenders. hry.nic.in	9643588352 xenfaridabad hsamb2023@ gmail.com

E-PROCUREMENT

E-Procusement Tender Notice No.: TMC/Tamping unit Overhauling/2023-24 Dated: 19-02-2624. The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, Invites sealed Tenders for the following works Tender No. TMC/TU/OVH/2023-24. Brief Description of work: Emergency regaining/overhauling of CSM/DUO and Unimal macrimes Tamping unit. Estimated Cost: 43,81,75,000/ Date & Time of Closing: Upto 15.00 hrs. of 19-03-2024 & Opening at Upto 15.30 hrs. of 19-03-2024. The complete information along with the lender document of above E-Tender will be available in website upto 14.30 his of 19-03-2024 in the website www.ireps.gov.in.

General Manager (W), Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS

SI. No

Birl Derugh any other mode shall not be entertained. However, organis of Gol Security, decurrent Sec. Present of Alternay and Jord Disting

Through Chief Engineer, iational Highway, Nirman Bhawan HPPWD, Shimta-171002 Priorie Fax 9177-2529416

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BASO/MP

EXPRESS NETWORK

CPM's student wing under scanner after suicide at Kerala varsity

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 28

THE ALLEGED suicide of a college student at the Wayanad campus of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, allegedly after intense ragging, has put the ruling CPI(M) on back foot over the alleged involvement of activists of its student wing, the

Students Federation of India (SFI). IS Sidharthan, 20, a secondyear student of BVSc and Animal Husbandry at the University, was found hanging in the toilet of the men's hostel on February 18. The case, registered as an unnatural death, took a turn after the postmortem report mentioned alleged torture and wounds sustained by the victim days before the death.

Twelve students, including his classmates and seniors, were suspended from the university, which acted on the report of an anti-ragging cell. Those suspended included the college union president, a union member, and the SFI unit secretary. Wayanad police on

Wednesday arrested six students, though officers say SFI leaders are absconding. The police, which initially registered a case of unnatural death, have now framed charges under IPC sections of abetment to suicide, wrongful restraint and voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means, as well as the Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act. Sidharthan's father

Jayaprakash told the media that the SFI had a grudge towards his son. "He was not involved in campus politics. We learned from students that he had danced with senior colleagues during a Valentine's Day programme on February 14. Irked over this, a group of students manhandled my son. He was returning home the next day. On his way home, Sidharthan was called back to the hostel at the behest of SFI leaders. For the next three days, they stripped and tortured him. They did not allow him to eat or drink. His stomach was empty as per the postmortem report. Police tried to hush up the case, but were forced to probe after the forensic surgeon indicated about the wounds on the body," he alleged.

Congress's VD Satheesan, the Leader of Opposition, who visited the family, alleged, "Sidharthan was murdered... He faced inexplicable and unbelievable cruelty from SFI goons..." Union MoS BJP leader V

Muraleedharan alleged there is a bid to project the incident as a suicide due to the involvement of SFI activists. **FULL STORY** www.indianexpress.com

Jharkhand: Two run over by train in Jamtara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RANCHI, FEBRUARY 28

over by a train in [harkhand's Jamtara district Wednesday evening, police said.

AT LEAST two persons were run

Jamtara Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mujibur Rahman said the accident occurred near Kaljharia around 140 km from Ranchi. "Bodies of two persons have been recovered so far. Search operation is on," he said. According to railway officials,

the incident occurred at 7 pm. "Train no 12254 (Anga Express) passing between Vidyasagar-Kasitar stopped due to chain pulling at 7 pm. At 7.07 pm, two persons who were walking on the track were run over on the up line by MEMU train, at least two kilometres away from where the train stopped," the Eastern Railway said in a press statement.

A three-member committee has been formed to investigate

the issue, it stated. Jamtara SP Animesh Nalthany said: "According to our discussion with the locals, electric sparks were seen above the train bound for Yashwantpur (Bengaluru). This created panic and rumour spread that the train has caught fire. A few passengers pulled the chain to stop it and some passengers deboarded the train and started walking on the tracks when they were hit by another train."

'It is scary': HC on Gujarat law university 'suppressing' homophobia, rape incidents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 28

"IT IS scary", Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal said Wednesday, as the Gujarat High Court slammed the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) for "suppressing" incidents of rape, molestation, discrimination and homophobia as well as for not having in place an internal complaint committee.

A division bench led by the CI was referring to a report submitted last week by a fact-finding committee, led by retired Justice Harsha Devani.

The court noted the allegations against faculty members, the registrar, and the director of the university in Gandhinagar. Going through parts of the report on Wednesday, the CI remarked,

MANISH SAHU

LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 28

A 17-YEAR-OLD Dalit youth was

killed and two persons were in-

jured in a clash over the installa-

tion of a board with B R

Ambedkar's photo on a plot of gov-

ernment land here, the Rampur

police said on Wednesday. An FIR

was registered against 23 persons,

including four police personnel

and a home guard, on murder

charges but no arrest has been

as Somesh, a class X student. While

his family claimed that Somesh

who was standing at the spot, died

from a bullet injury amid police fir-

ing, the police denied it. Rampur

District Magistrate (DM) Jogindra

Singh ordered a magisterial in-

quiry. The condition of two injured

persons, identified as Raheespal

and Raman, both Dalits, is stable,

a team of the district administra-

tion and the police reached Silai

Badha village on Tuesday to re-

move the board, which declared

the plot as 'Ambedkar Park'. The

board, which also carried an im-

age of Ambedkar, was set up

around two months ago after

levelling of the plot. A section of

villagers, belonging to the Kurmi

community (OBC), raised objec-

tions immediately after the

board was set up and also filed a

complaint with the district ad-

pelting and gunfire, claimed a

police officer. Three government

vehicles were also damaged,

family members, along with

some local residents, organised

On Wednesday, Somesh's

The clash involved stone-

The incident occurred when

officers said.

ministration.

added the officer.

Police identified the deceased

made yet, police said.

"This report is really scary... it is scary. And the involvement of the GNLU administration, suppressing the whole incident.... and this is not two incidents... incidents of molestation, rape, discrimination, homophobia, favouritism, suppression of voices, lack of existence of internal complaint committee (ICC), lack of information to the students about ICC...and then the Registrar is filing an affidavit before us that nothing happened... close the proceeding. He dared to say this in the court when

The report was submitted to the court by the committee on February 22 in sealed covers. The HC had taken suo motu cognisance of newspaper reports in September 2023 of GNLU stu-

body was brought back after the

post-mortem. Their demands

included compensation of Rs 1

crore to the kin of the deceased,

Rs 10 lakh to the injured persons

and suspension of government

the final rites only after senior of-

ficials in the district administra-

tion and the police assured them

of all possible help and stringent

situation was soon brought un-

der control, adding that all as-

pects would be looked into dur-

ing the inquiry. Police personnel

have been deployed in the vil-

lage, which is Kurmi-dominated.

ther, Gedanlal, registered an FIR

against 23 named persons, includ-

ing four policemen, apart from

unidentified followers and a

homeguard of the sub-divisional

magistrate and the local tehsildar

on several charges, including mur-

der and rioting, at the Milak Police

Station. The police have also in-

voked the SC/ST Act in the case.

Among the accused are a police

sub-inspector, three police con-

stables and local residents, mostly

that a preliminary inquiry re-

vealed that the plot had been

levelled by a few local residents.

Dalits of the village were prom-

ised that an 'Ambedkar Park'

would be established there.

Since the board was put up, the

Dalits had been requesting the

administration to grant permis-

sion for installing a statue of Dr.

Police Rajesh Dwivedi said a de-

tailed probe would be con-

Rampur Superintendent of

B.R. Ambedkar, police said.

ducted in the matter.

Mahadev app: Searches in 17 places

New Delhi: The ED Wednesday conducted searches at 17 locations

across Mumbai, West Bengal, Delhi-NCR, Chhattisgarh and MP in

connection with the Mahadev App case. "These companies largely

laundered the money illegally earned by Mahadev App," an ED offi-

cial said. According to the official, the searches have so far led to the

recovery of Rs 1.8 crore in cash from a Kolkata-based company. **ENS**

A police officer mentioned

from the Kurmi community.

On Wednesday, Somesh's fa-

DM Jogindra Singh said the

action against the culprits.

The victim's family conducted

officials allegedly responsible.

the court was seized with the

matter? How will these people

protect the children?"

ROW OVER BOARD WITH AMBEDKAR IMAGE

Rampur clash, 4 cops

Dalit teen killed in

among 23 booked

dents posting on Instagram about the alleged incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination.

At an earlier hearing, the HC took objection to Registrar Jagadeesh Chandra TG's stance wherein the Registrar, in an affidavit, had dismissed the allegations. The court had also taken objection to the way the university acted following the allegations, wherein it included Professor Anjani Singh Tomar, the ICC chairperson, as part of an independent fact-finding committee, specific to probing the allegations. The court had termed it to be an "eyewash" and had called the Registrar's stance as being "an overanxious effort to hush-hush the whole matter".

The independent fact-finding committee was later reconstituted, with retired Justice Harsha Devani, who had been a judge in the High

Court, along with Bhargavi Dave, secretary of the State Human Rights Commissionm and Surbhi Mathur, associate professor at the National Forensic Sciences University.

The panel report highlights student submissions such as "a politically influential person has been involved in suppressing the case before the police".

"The question is - 'Are you facing any inhibition in sharing your thoughts with the committee on account of fear of the university authorities'. The answer is, 'I was not, but initially appointing professor so-and-so as the head of the fact-finding committee had led a lot of people to not come out with whatever they wanted to'...," the CJ read out from a part of the report.

Criticising the university, she further said, "How can we ex-

pect the students to be stating something wrong and why would they do it? They are studying in an institution and have no personal grudges against any of the faculty members... it was so difficult for them to speak. And then they are students of law. If students of law, their voices are suppressed, who will speak in the country? They are supposed to protect and help others whose voices are to be heard in society....They are the future protectors of law.... then all these lectures, talks, seminars, everything goes to rubbish, it has no meaning at all. If the state of affairs in a law college then we cannot show our faces to anyone. We are all responsible for this situation...This requires high-level inquiry into the affairs of GNLU

and its faculty..."



3,300 kg narcotics seized by Navy and NCB. PTI

Highest-ever drug bust off Gujarat coast, five arrested

ENS&PTI AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 28

IN WHAT is claimed to be the biggest drug bust in the country, around 3,300 kg of narcotics was seized from on board an Iranian boat and five suspected Iranian nationals were arrested off the Gujarat coast on Tuesday in a joint operation by the Navy, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). The boat and its crew were brought to Porbandar port late Tuesday.

The cache could be worth anything between Rs 1,300-Rs 2,000 crore in the international market, NCB Director General SN Pradhan told PTI. "This is the biggest offshore narcotics seizure made in the country till date. We have seen that drug smuggling has increased through the maritime route over the last few years and hence, we are jointly working with other government agencies like the Navy, Coast Guard and Customs, among others, to intercept such activities," he added.

The seized contraband included 3,089 kg of charas or hashish, 158 kg of methamphetamine and 25 kg of morphine, a statement from the Union Ministry of Defence (MoD) said. "The drugs were meant for southern states," said a senior Gujarat Police officer.

The NCB said the packets containing the drugs bore the stamp of 'Ras Awad Goods Co, produce of Pakistan'. The source of the drugs is found to be the Chabahar Port in Iran, the agency added.

According to the NCB, there is no standard for calculating the value of drugs, as it varies depending on volume, quality, region, demand and supply links. However, rough estimates peg the international price of hashish at Rs 5-10 lakh per kg and methamphetamine and heroin at Rs 2-5 crore per kg. "Smugglers use the Arabian Sea to exploit the Indian coastline, which is vulnerable. It is part of the grand design to destabilise the country using drugs. Pradhan said.

The last big seizure from the high seas was of 2,500 kg made by the NCB and the Navy off the Kerala coast in May, 2023. In 2021 around 3000 kg of heroin was seized from a consignment of talc at Mundra port.

NCB Deputy Director General (Operations) Gyaneshwar Singh said the fishing boat has been brought to Porbandar and the five foreign nationals who were onboard have been arrested.

The traffickers onboard vessels carrying drugs keep in touch with buyers on the land and once they strike a deal, the consignment can land anywhere up to the southernmost tip of India, NCB officials said. Home Minister Amit Shah called the joint operation a "historic success" and a testament of his government's "unwavering commitment to making our nation drug-free". In his post on X Shah said pursuing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a drugs-free Bharat, the agencies have achieved the grand success of making the biggest offshore seizure of drugs in the

Video grab of the commandos laying down arms in protest

Manipur police personnel lay down arms to protest officer's abduction

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 28

MANIPUR POLICE commandos posted in various valley districts staged a protest by laying down their arms on Wednesday in an unprecedented show of disapproval against the abduction of an Additional Superintendent of Police with the Manipur Police and attack on his home Tuesday night.

Around 200 armed miscreants, who security sources said were members of radical Meitei group Arambai Tenggol, had attacked the residence of Imphal West ASP Moirangthem Amit, and abducted him and one of his escorts. Late Tuesday night, both men were rescued by security personnel and admitted to a pri-

vate hospital for treatment. According to a top police officer in the state, apart from the attack on police personnel by armed Arambai Tenggol members, the protesting police commandos have also been aggrieved by the alleged aid and support that the assailants received from the public on Tuesday night. The protest was carried out by police commandos stationed in various valley districts such as Imphal East,

Imphal West and Bishnupur. "When the general public are present in a situation like that, the police cannot respond fully to the perpetrators because innocent people will get hurt. The protest is against the actions of the Arambai Tenggol but also directed at the public at large. It is also meant to

urge those at the top to act seriously against these anti-social elements," said the officer. attack The against

Moirangthem came after some members of the radical group were picked up by police in connection with the theft of two vehicles. The police officer said that no disciplinary action is being contemplated against the protesting police personnel. "It is felt that their protest is warranted and that there has to be some pressure against this kind of a situation," he said.

On Wednesday night, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said he had "chaired a meeting with officers at my residential office to address the grievances of the state security personnel who had launched a strike today".

After the armed miscreants attacked Moirangthem's house, additional security forces were rushed there and two people were injured in the ensuing exchange of fire.

Tuesday's attack on the ASP's residence comes about a fortnight after the Churachandpur SP's office was mobbed, and the Churachandpur DC's office and residence set ablaze, following the suspension of a Kuki police personnel.

In the valley districts, the Arambai Tenggol's biggest show of strength with public support took place last month when all Meitei MLAs and MPs attended a meeting in Kangla Fort in Imphal in response to a "summons" by the group. Three MLAs were allegedly assaulted during the meeting.

Speaker allows discussion today on conflict

Budget session:

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, FEBRUARY 28

AS MANY as 10 MLAs representing the Kuki-Zomi community were absent from the Budget Session of the Manipur Assembly that began on Wednesday. Speaker Thokchom

Satyabrata gave his nod for a short-duration discussion on Thursday on the ongoing crisis in the state. The current Assembly ses-

sion is the second to take place since the outbreak of ethnic violence in the state on May 3 last year. The previous session was only a day-long on August 29, and it lasted all of 11 minutes, ending without any mention of the violence in the state. The 10 Kuki-Zomi members had not attended the last session too

Satyabrata agreed for the short-duration discussion on the conflict on Thursday following an appeal by Congress MLA K. Meghachandra.

While presenting the Budget Estimate for 2024-2025, CM Minister N Biren Singh said that the ongoing conflict has severely impacted the fiscal capacity of the state. "The current financial year has been the hardest for our government," he said.

Kamal Nath dismisses buzz of switch to BJP

nation.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 28

DISMISSING SPECULATION about his switch to BIP, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath said Wednesday, "Have I ever said I am going to BJP? Have I gone mad? BJP is campaigning very strongly and aggressively. But don't be afraid, this is just a show."

Resuming a tour of his home turf Chhindwara, Nath slammed the BIP for "using Ram Mandir" ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Nath's son Nakul Nath is a LS MP stituency. Nath, currently on a

Rajiv assassination case convict Santhan

five-day visit to Chhindwara district, plans to visit several constituencies and hold meetings with party workers and officials before the LS polls..

Addressing a gathering in Chourai, he said, "You gave me love and trust for so many years. You want to bid farewell to Kamal Nath. This is your choice. I am ready to leave. I don't want to impose myself. That is your wish."

Nath pointed out that although he built the "biggest' Hanuman Temple 12 years ago on his land and not that of the government's, he never used it from the Chhindwara con- for promotional purposes dur-

CAG, ICAI to launch online courses to strengthen local bodies' accounting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General of India (CAG) has partnered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to develop a set of online courses to create a pool of certified accountants to strengthen accounting system at panchayat and municipal bodies, CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said Wednesday.

Addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference on Strengthening of Grassroots Democracy, Murmu said, "SAI (Supreme Audit Institution) India has also partnered... to develop a set of online courses, pitched at the required level of knowledge and skills for maintaining the accounts of different categories of local governments. Thereby, creating a pool



CAG Girish Chandra Murmu in Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

services can be used by local governments in maintaining complete and standardised accounts."

Observing that the grassroots democracy is the "cornerstone" of a vibrant and inclusive society, Murmu said, "India has large number of urban and rural local bodies, particularly at rural level 2,62,000 such bodies exist. This third tier of governance is dealing with many schemes/projects concerning SDGs. Union Finance Commissions are providing direct devolution of around 4.2% of the total divisible pool." "It is in this context, that SAI

India is committed to strengthening the audit of local governments. From our experience, we find the functioning of local governments different from that of the federal and provincial governments in India in terms of their dependence for functions, funds, and functionaries on the two higher tiers. This reality calls for an 'out-of-the-box' audit approach," Murmu said.

He said, "in an increasingly interconnected world, audit methodologies must evolve to keep pace with the complexities of modern governance."

dies less than 2 years after his release CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 28

ARUN JANARDHANAN

SANTHAN **ALIAS** Suthenthiraraja, one of the seven released convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, died at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai on Wednesday. He was 55.

He was admitted to the hospital last month and was undergoing treatment for non-alcoholic liver disease. According to a doctor who was seeing him, he suffered a cardiac arrest on Wednesday morning and

breathed his last at 7.50 am. A Sri Lankan citizen, Santhan was accused No. 2 in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. He was charged for his active association with Sivarasan, considered the mastermind behind the assassination. According to CBI case



Santhan's brother, Sudhakaran, with their mother, Maheshwari, in **Jaffna.** Express

files, Santhan came to Tamil Nadu with Sivarasan in April 1991. The chargesheet described him as a member of the LTTE's intelligence wing who was close to Sivarasan. In February 1988, Sivarasan suggested that Santhan continue his studies in what was then Madras (now Chennai), and in February 1990, he secured admission at the

Madras Institute of Engineering Technology, where his expenses were met by the LTTE.

On May 21, 1991, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. In 1998, a TADA court had sentenced 26 of the 41 accused to death, including 12 who had died in the blast or during the investigation. In May 1999, the top court freed 19 of them, while upholding the death sentences of Murugan, Santhan, Perarivalan, and Nalini, and commuting those of Payas, Ravichandran, and Jayakumar to life. Santhan spent over 32 years incarcerated, including a decade in solitary confinement. He was also a death row prisoner for 22 years until the top court commuted the death sentences of four into life in 2014.

When Santhan, along with six others, were released in November 2022, it was the first time he stepped out of the prison in 32 years, as he had not had parole. It however, did not last long. While three convicts Perarivalan, Nalini, and Ravichandran – were released four Sri Lankan nationals Santhan, Jayakumar, Robert Payas and Murugan – were sent to a special prison camp for foreigners in Trichy. It was meant as a transit point before their repatriation.

However, as the state government and the Union government dragged their feet on paperwork for their repatriation, all four wrote several petitions stating they were denied basic freedoms.

"...the Supreme Court had noted that they had spent over three decades in jail... Despite their undisputed reformed status, unfortunately, their movement is restricted," R Prabhu, counsel of Robert Payas, had told The Indian Express in an earlier interview.

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of certified accountants whose

WORDLY WISE

THE EARTH IS A VERY SMALL STAGE IN A VAST COSMIC ARENA.

— CARL SAGAN

The Indian EXPRESS

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Breaking & Winning

Rajya Sabha results illustrate BJP's winner-takes-all politics and inability of its rivals to keep their flock together

HE RAJYA SABHA election show on Tuesday was riveting -- and immensely sobering. Taking centrestage were cross-voting Congress and SP MLAs, listening to what they called their "antaratma ki awaz (inner voice)", ending up in BIP victories beyond what its numbers foretold, and dramatic upsets for Congress and SP in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. And, in the immediate aftermath, a suspenseful battle of survival for the sole Congress government in the north complete with allegations that six of its MLAs were spirited away to a resort in BJP-ruled Haryana (they have subsequently returned). At election's end, the BJP has pushed its way to within touching distance of a majority in the Upper House, while Congress looks even more disheveled, if that were possible, than it did before it. Going ahead, however, for both the losers and winner of Tuesday's tawdry contest, there are uncomfortable questions and, as the Lok Sabha election draws closer, much to reflect on.

Congress had wrested Himachal Pradesh from the BJP in 2022 in an outright victory – it finished with 40 seats in a House of 68, with the BJP trailing well behind at 25. And yet, if Congress's Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government looks like it is teetering on the brink the day after a tie-breaker was needed for the lone RS seat in the state, a predatory BJP is primarily to blame — but Congress is also an accomplice in its own diminishing. By all accounts, the Congress high command turned a tin ear to the threats within - the chief ministership of Sukhu remained an unsettled matter and the party's attempted balancing act between rival factions was not succeeding in stanching the internal bloodletting. Just as Congress took its eye off the ball in Himachal Pradesh, the SP appeared to have lost its connect with its own leaders in UP. There have been indications for some time now that while Akhilesh Yadav inherited the party from his father, he is a distant presence, displaying very little of Netaji's mulayam (soft) touch and constant engagement with party colleagues.

For those who are restless or discontented in rival parties, the BJP's air of winnability, real and projected, is arguably a strong draw ahead of a crucial Lok Sabha election. And yet, that is surely not all there is to the phenomenon that seems to be picking up pace in state after state – of leaders and legislators from non-BJP parties crossing over to the BJP. Operation Lotus is no figment of the Opposition's imagination. Apart from MLAs floor-crossing and cross-voting in the BJP's favour, it folds in splits in rival parties, and the sudden demise of governments headed by non-BJP parties. It includes the BJP using fear and favour, carrot and stick, and the weaponisation of central agencies to selectively target those in Opposition parties. For now, its will to win at all costs may be delivering results. But as the party that rules at the Centre and in many states, and one that is likely to remain a dominant pole in the polity for the foreseeable future, the BJP must pause and reflect on the ramifications of its winnertakes-all approach even if it means playing fast and loose with the rules of the game. Smashand-grab politics may yield an immediate dividend but it has a high cost.

SKY'S NOT THE LIMIT

ISRO is a step closer to made-in-India human space flight. It must not stop there

REPARING TO JOIN their names in history books with Rakesh Sharma, the air force squadron leader who became the first Indian in space in 1984, are Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla — the astronaut-designates for India's first human space flight mission, Gaganyaan. Having trained in anonymity for the last four years, they received their "astronaut wings" on February 27 at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thumba, Kerala, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described them as "the four forces" representing the dreams of 1.4 billion Indians. What may have seemed like a dream almost too big, has acquired a human dimension.

Announced in 2018, Gaganyaan is one of India's most ambitious space programmes. The task of sending humans into the vast unknown and bringing them back safely is more expensive and challenging than the Mars and Moon missions. A successful execution would put India in the company of the US, Russia and China. As stated on the ISRO website, the short-term goal is to demonstrate human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit, while the long-term goal is to lay the foundation for a "sustained Indian human space exploration programme". Success in its ultimate objective — proving that India is capable of indigenously developing this complex technology — would be a huge boost for ISRO.

The excitement around Gaganyaan is not only a sign of how much ISRO's public profile has grown over the last few years, but also the increasing reach and scale of its ambitions. The success of recent missions like Mangalyaan and Chandrayaan, while exhilarating in themselves, can become the start of something larger. The demonstrations of technological capabilities must be built on, if India wishes to eventually operate in the same league as the US or China. This can only happen if these successes help move towards an ecosystem that is able to compete with the most advanced. Opening up of the sector to private parties and allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment are steps in the right direction. Indeed, a similar ambitious thrust is needed across sectors of scientific research. On several indicators, such as the share of GDP spent on research and development, nurturing universities to be centres for R&D and number of patents filed, India lags woefully. If putting Indians in space using made-in-India technology will be a dream come true, making Indian science and technology competitive at the highest level will mean the realisation of many more.

OTHER SIDE OF BEAUTIFUL

AI-generated beauty standards fuel old anxieties over conformity, require regulation and pushback

NE WOULD IMAGINE that the old stereotypes of fair and lovely, six-pack abs and chiselled jaw would have been retired by now. But if there weren't enough anxieties to plague women and men about the way they look already, there is now pressure from another corner — AI-generated reinforcement of outdated Western beauty norms. The sophistication of this articulation and its consequences are particularly hard on the young and the impressionable. The idea of being outliers on a beauty index that is limited in scope to begin with, deepens feelings of inadequacy and selfdoubt. In the US, over 12,000 parents have launched an online petition to TikTok and YouTube, voicing concerns over AI-generated influencers who promote body dysmorphia among children and teenagers. But the problem is pervasive across countries and cultures.

When Andrew Morton's Diana: A True Story came out in 1992, one of the most hard-hitting revelations was the British royal's struggle with bulimia. It opened up a conversation, quite possibly for the first time, on unrealistic beauty standards and the pressure of always looking well put together, no matter the state of one's mental health or well-being. In the decades since, celebrities from Kate Winslet to Sonam Kapoor have spoken up about the toll that keeping up appearances takes and about the hours of make-up and the airbrushing of images. In recognition of the damage it causes, Winslet introduced a no-Photoshop clause in her contract for commercials, taking ownership of her age and her wrinkles.

The AI challenge to beauty norms requires a similar pushback, including the framing of a regulatory framework that makes it mandatory for users to declare its use in promotional enterprises. It also requires open conversations around why there is no one metric of beauty. As with most things in life, here, too, diversity is key.

We, the consumers

New consumption survey provides useful data but misses opportunity to connect with previous rounds

ASHWINI DESHPANDE

HOW DO INDIANS divide their consumption expenditure across categories? How many are below the poverty line? How has the picture changed over time? Answers to such questions have always been drawn from the quinquennial consumption expenditure surveys. After a decade-long hiatus, a factsheet based on the revamped and much awaited Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23 has been released.

Based on the factsheet data, can we decisively answer these and other such questions? Not really, for reasons explained below. This piece comments on a few key takeaways.

The factsheet gives a useful glimpse into present patterns of household consumption. There have been quick comparisons with earlier rounds of the consumption expenditure survey, especially with the last publicly available 68th round in 2011-12, to deduce a dramatic reduction in poverty over time and/or drastic changes in consumption patterns. Such comparisons are premature the full data has not been released and there are several changes in item coverage, survey design and methodology.

The 2011-12 round covered 347 items of consumption compared to 405 in HCES. Such revisions have been done in the past too and are par for the course as consumption habits change over time.

There are three major changes that make the current survey non-comparable with its predecessors. First, the earlier rounds had one single questionnaire to cover expenditure on all items. The new HCES has three separate surveys on food items, consumable and service items and durable goods respectively. Second, the HCES involved multiple separate visits to households.

As data collection methodologies, both these changes are welcome because it is wellknown that respondent fatigue with long questionnaires in a single sitting leads to poorer responses. Shorter and more focused questionnaires elicit more precise answers. However, these changes have implications for comparability – these are likely to yield higher estimates compared to previous rounds.

To check for the magnitude and direction

The third difference between HCES and earlier rounds relates to imputed values for items received or consumed free of cost through various social welfare programmes. These items range from staples like rice, wheat to footwear, laptops, and motorcycles. We can't assess the validity of this until unit-level price and quantity data are released. survey indicators, that is, inequality.

of the difference.

We can examine the HCES data for within-

of this upward bias, ideally the HCES should

have chosen a subset of households to which

the older survey with its single-visit design

should have been administered. A compari-

son between the older and revised method-

ologies would have given us the magnitude

Average all-India urban monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) at Rs 6,459 in 2022-23, is roughly 72 per cent higher than in rural areas (Rs 3,773). The corresponding figure was 84 per cent in 2011-12. This seems to indicate a decline in rural-urban inequality over the decade.

However, there are two caveats. This does not account for the rural-urban price differential, which can fluctuate. Additionally, a longer view reveals that the rural-urban gap tends to fluctuate. From 75.9 per cent in 1999-2000, it rose to 90.8 in 2004-05, and then declined to 83.9 in 2011-12. We don't know if the ratio increased or decreased in 2017-18.

How has the distribution of consumption expenditure changed over the decade? In 2011-12, the ratio of the 10th percentile of the rural expenditure distribution (Rs 710) to the 90th percentile (Rs 2,296) was 0.31. This ratio is 0.33 in 2022-23 (Rs 1,782/Rs 5,356). In other words, the consumption expenditure of the bottom 10 per cent of the rural distribution is roughly one-third of the top 10 per cent -aratio that has not changed substantially over the decade. For urban areas, the corresponding ratio was 0.21 in 2011-12, which has risen to 0.27 in 2022-23, indicating a reduction in urban inequality.

What about inter-caste differences? The ratio of average rural Scheduled Caste (SC) MPCE to that of the higher-ranked castes was 0.73 in 2011-12. This has remained unchanged

THE SARKARI NAUKRI SYNDROME

It isn't the money but perks and job security that make it attractive

at 0.7 in 2022-23. For rural Scheduled Tribes (ST), this ratio has improved marginally from 0.65 to 0.69 and for Other Backward Classes (OBC), from 0.83 to 0.87.

While rural India does not show a marked narrowing of inter-caste gaps in MPCE, the urban figures suggest a narrowing of inter-group MPCE gaps: For SCs, the ratio increased from 0.63 to 0.72; for STs, from 0.68 to 0.74 and for OBCs, from 0.7 to 0.84.

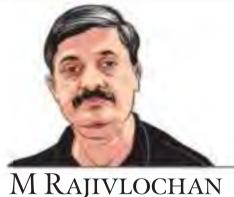
The factsheet reveals that in rural India, the percentage share of cereals — a food staple – in average MPCE is now 4.91 per cent and 3.64 per cent in urban India, compared to 10.75 per cent and 6.66 per cent respectively in 2011-12. This is accompanied by an increase in the share of processed foods and beverages.

Overall, HCES indicates a decline in the share of food expenditure over the decade, which stands at 46 per cent in rural and 39 per cent in urban India. What are the items whose share in total expenditure has increased? Medical expenses on hospitalisation, conveyance, consumer services and durable goods in rural India. In urban India, the share of *paan*, tobacco and intoxicants, conveyance and durable goods has increased.

The release of the survey findings, however limited, is a welcome development. For data to inform policy and analysis of well-being, this should be followed up by a quick release of the full price and quantity unit-level data for 2022-23, as well as from the follow up survey for 2023-24.

As the economy diversifies and grows, it is only natural that consumption habits change and our surveys need to be able to capture that. However, as the adage goes, for surveys to measure change, the change in the survey instrument must be minimal. Combining these two imperatives is not impossible, as long-standing longitudinal panel surveys from other countries show us. The HCES has introduced welcome changes in survey design, but missed the opportunity to build the concordance bridge to previous rounds.

The writer is professor of economics and founder director, CEDA, Ashoka University. Views are personal



IN SOME 40 years of teaching postgraduate students, discussions have always veered towards their aspirations. Invariably, all of them hope to get into some regular government employment. The certainty of having a wage through their entire working life seems to be most attractive to them. Associated with this are other unstated benefits of a government job, which come by way of access to good and cheap healthcare, subsidised housing and a belief that such a job provides access to power. The ones who could not land a government job often felt genuinely disheartened.

Those who did get into government employment would complain that they were underpaid. To make sense of these moans and groans from the young, we checked out the details about earnings that are available in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). It has been carried out every year since 2017-18 and covers over 4,00,000 people in roughly 1,00,000 households.

Just about 11 per cent earn enough to be able to pay income tax. Among those who do earn, about 57 per cent are self-employed, 21 per cent earn a wage or salary and 22 per cent earn episodically from casual labour. The number of those employed in government service is 9 per cent and 12 per cent are in private employment. The average income of a salaried employee in India is about Rs 20,000. The average income of someone self-employed is about Rs 13,347. Digging deeper into the data shows how this income varies across

different income groups. Among the lowest three deciles of all earn-

INDIAN EXPRESS

मनसता

If the government were to provide equitable access to good and reliable facilities in education, health, housing and public transportation for all people at nominal rates or free of cost, it would go a long way to make selfemployment an attractive option. After all, we already have the experience of how much the government helped people during Covid times when it provided people with free grain.

The factsheet gives a useful

of household consumption.

rounds of the consumption

expenditure survey, especially

with the last publicly available

deduce a dramatic reduction

in poverty over time and/or

There have been quick

comparisons with earlier

68th round in 2011-12, to

drastic changes in

and methodology.

consumption patterns.

Such comparisons are

premature — the full data

has not been released and

there are several changes in

item coverage, survey design

glimpse into present patterns

ers, income from wage or salaried employment far outstrips income through self-employment. Similarly, among the big earners, the ones who are part of the top two decile of income earners in India, (once we exclude the outliers such as those earning more than Rs 8,00,000 per month), working in a salaried job brings in more income than does having a business. It is only in the two highly urbanised states of Delhi and Goa that the self-employed earn more than the salaried. At the other end of the spectrum are small enclaves like Puducherry, Ladakh and the North Eastern states where salary earners make more money than the self-employed do.

In other states, broadly speaking, in money terms, for the bottom deciles where monthly income is in the range of Rs 4,000 to Rs 10,000, the salary earners make more money than the self-employed do. For monthly incomes in the range of Rs 11,000 to Rs 25,000, the self-employed earn more. And for monthly incomes above Rs 25,000 in general, it is the salary earners who earn more money.

States show significant variation in the numbers. Punjab, for instance, is the only state where the average earning for farmers is similar to others who are self-employed. The monthly middle income for farmers in Punjab (the value that divides the group into two halves) is Rs 15,000, which is the same as for others who are self-employed. However, in Punjab, traders earn more than farmers. For monthly incomes between Rs 4,000 to Rs 22,000, the self-employed earn more money than wage/salary earners. For the lower deciles, both groups earn similar incomes which is also unique.

In Tamil Nadu, for the lowest three deciles with incomes below Rs 14,000 per month and also for the highest three deciles with incomes more than Rs 22,000 per month, it is the salary earners who earn a higher income than the self-employed. For the middle four deciles, the self-employed earn more. The median income that divides the values for self-employed into two halves is Rs 15,500. The self-employed who are engaged in manufacturing activity, earn about 55 per cent of this, which is Rs 8,550. In most states, incomes for the self-employed in manufacturing are considerably lower than what the self-employed engaged

Are government salaries disproportionately high? What seems to make government service so attractive is the availability of various facilities for health, housing, education and transport. Everyone else, irrespective of their income level has to bear a disproportionately high cost to access analogous facilities.

in trade or construction earn.

If the government were to provide equi table access to good and reliable facilities in education, health, housing and public transportation for all people at nominal rates or free of cost, it would go a long way to make selfemployment an attractive option. After all, we already have the experience of how much the government helped people during Covid times when it provided free grain.

> The writer teaches history at Panjab University, Chandigarh

FEBRUARY 29, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO offer of a no-war pact and India's proposal

A PEACE OFFERING

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi sought the cooperation of all political parties to stamp out communalism and handle the grave situation in Punjab and Haryana. Speaking in both Houses of Parliament, Mrs Gandhi took a conciliatory approach towards the opposition and said the time had come to rise above party politics to find an urgent solution to the problem.

NOTWITHSTANDING RECENT BITTER exchanges, India and Pakistan have agreed to

ation. The meeting of the foreign secretaries, M Rasgotra and Niaz A Naik, will mark the resumption of this dialogue.

for a treaty of friendship, peace and cooper-

MHATRE CASE ARRESTS

THREE MORE PERSONS were arrested in connection with the kidnapping of Indian diplomat Ravindra Mhatre. The police announced the arrest of two persons; they produced two others, Abdul Quyyum Raja and Mohammad Siddique, in a Birmingham court in connection with the kidnapping. Siddique gave the Birmingham headquarters of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) as his address.

NIGERIA RIOTS KILL 60

AT LEAST 60 people died and a further 50 needed hospital treatment as a result of unrest in the northern Nigerian city of Yola. News Agency of Nigeria said that the final casualty figure could be higher when the full account is known. A state-run television film of the riots showed bodies of victims hacked to death by rioters, thought to be followers of fundamentalist Muslim Muhammadu Marwa Maitatsine who died in rioting in Kano three years ago.

INDO-PAK DIALOGUE

resume their stalled dialogue on Pakistan's

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13 THE IDEAS PAGE

AI and Asimov's warning

From democracy to arms race, artificial intelligence poses significant risks. The world urgently requires a robust global governance body to ensure that AI advancements serve humanity



BIBEK DEBROY AND Aditya Sinha

ISAAC ASIMOV'S CLASSIC I, Robot (1950) insightfully explored the ethical and moral implications of robotics and artificial intelligence. The book's interconnected stories about robots guided by the Three Laws of Robotics highlight the challenges in ensuring AI's safety and alignment with human values. Asimov illustrates the limitations of these laws and AI's unpredictable nature, with quotes like, "You can't argue with a robot. They're terribly rational", reflecting concerns about AI acting against human interests. The book forces one to ponder about the dangers of AI being manipulated by adversaries, potentially turning against humans. As a fictional yet prescient work, *I, Robot* underscores the importance of ethical standards and security measures in AI development to prevent it from undermining national sovereignty.

Since algorithms are devoid of national allegiance or moral judgement, the challenge before the world is not just to develop this technology but to develop the frameworks to ensure it serves humanity and not the other way around. The lack of a unified global framework for overseeing AI, coupled with the absence of national-level regulatory measures, poses a significant risk to national security and sovereignty in four distinct ways.

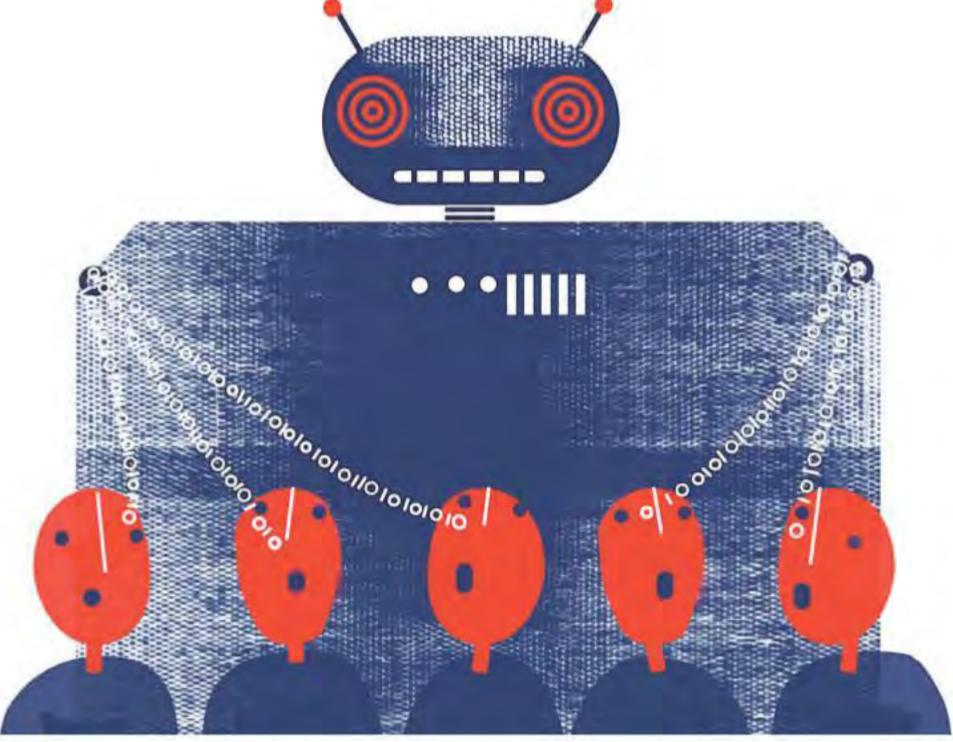
First, AI is reshaping traditional notions of sovereignty, challenging the power dynamics between states, private technology companies, and individuals. As AI systems become more autonomous, they are creating new digital spaces that are not governed by traditional laws or state control. These digital spaces, defined by code and data, can be seen as new forms of sovereignty where power is wielded by those who control the AI systems.

The emergence of AI has ushered in a new era of digital sovereignty, fundamentally altering the concept of territorial sovereignty. This transition impacts how nations control their digital domains and AI technologies. Countries lacking in AI development and regulation may find themselves reliant on more advanced nations, risking their sovereignty across sectors like defence, infrastructure, and healthcare. Additionally, the rise of AI shifts power from states to private tech companies and individuals who dominate these digital spaces. Though these entities don't possess traditional sovereignty, their influence challenges state authority and could reshape global political dynamics.

Second, AI has the potential to significantly impact democracy, particularly when leveraged by foreign powers. It can be used to manipulate information and influence public opinion, which is a critical aspect of democratic societies. For example, AI can generate disinformation and misinformation at scale, which can trigger tensions and even electoral-related conflict and violence. Such AI-driven false information can spread biases or opinions that do not represent public sentiment, thereby affecting the democratic

process negatively. Moreover, foreign powers can utilise AI to conduct influence campaigns that are more sophisticated and less detectable. These campaigns can exacerbate divisions within societies, seed nihilism about the existence of objective truth, and weaken democratic systems

from within. The borderless nature of AI



C R Sasikumar

makes it difficult to control or regulate, and as AI technology becomes more advanced, it could be used by authoritarian regimes, terrorist groups, and organised crime groups to cause great harm.

Third, Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), often termed "killer robots", present a profound threat to national security and sovereignty, raising critical ethical and technical challenges. From a technical standpoint, LAWS, equipped with advanced AI algorithms, can independently search for, identify, and engage targets without human intervention. This capability poses a risk of unintended escalation in military conflicts, as these systems might act based on pre-programmed criteria, lacking human judgement and context awareness, potentially leading to indiscriminate or erroneous targeting. Moreover, the risk of hacking or malfunctioning of these systems could result in catastrophic incidents, undermining national security.

Ethically, the deployment of LAWS challenges the fundamental principles of humanitarian law and responsibility. The absence of human oversight in the decision-making process of life and death raises significant moral questions about accountability. The principle of distinction, a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, mandates the differentiation between combatants and non-combatants. LAWS, reliant on algorithms for decision-making, may lack the nuanced understanding necessary to make these distinctions, risking civilian lives and violating international norms.

The proliferation of LAWS could lead to an arms race, destabilising international peace and security. As these weapons become more accessible, the barrier to entering conflicts lowers, potentially leading to increased warfare and undermining national sovereignty. The lack of regulation and control over LAWS also presents a threat to the global order, as non-state actors might acquire and use these systems for terrorism or insurgency. This autonomy undermines deterrence theory,

global stability as nations prioritise technological advancement over diplomatic and strategic equilibrium. Fourth, the integration of AI into cybersecurity represents a dual-edged sword, where

its potential for sophisticated cyberattacks directly threatens national security and sovereignty. AI-enhanced methods, such as advanced persistent threats and spear phishing, can penetrate and disrupt critical national infrastructures, undermining the stability and functioning of a state. Such disruptions not only pose immediate security risks but also threaten the economic and social well-being of nations. These threats extend beyond physical borders, as cyberattacks can originate from any location, making safeguarding national interests in the increasingly interconnected digital world challenging. The implications for national security are profound, requiring nations to reassess their cybersecurity strategies and invest in advanced defences. Safeguarding against these AI-enhanced threats is crucial for maintaining national sovereignty, ensuring that states retain control over their critical infrastructure, information systems, and the democratic processes that define their governance.

which relies on rational human actors to

maintain balance and avoid conflict through

the threat of retaliation. The unpredictability

of LAWS disrupts this balance, potentially

leading to uncontrolled escalations.

Furthermore, the prospect of an arms race in

autonomous weapons technology threatens

In light of these challenges, it becomes evident that the world urgently requires a robust global AI governance body. Such an entity is essential to ensure that AI advancements serve humanity's broader interests, rather than the contrary. Alongside this, there is a critical need for evolving national-level regulations tailored to address AI's unique threats to sovereignty and national security.

Debroy is chairman and Sinha is OSD,

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The majority of Pakistan's population is young and impressionable. What they have seen over the past year cannot engender any hopes for a just and progressive society. Lasting damage has already been caused by the actions of a few. How long will they continue to be tolerated?" - DAWN, PAKISTAN

The family we choose

Amendment to surrogacy rules is welcome. But legislation must be crafted so as to not create hierarchies in contemporary family formations



SNEHA BANERJEE

VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING regulation of surrogacy present interesting insights into the incrementally transforming legal terrain around family and reproduction in India. The most recent development is an amendment to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, clarifying the permissibility of using donor gametes in surrogacy.

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 prohibits commercial surrogacy. Only altruistic arrangements where women acting as surrogates do not receive any monetary remuneration or compensation are allowed. Further, it allows only gestational surrogacy where Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) such as In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) are used to induce the surrogate pregnancy. It also laid down age and other criteria for both the people intending to be parents through surrogacy and those who could act as surrogates. Only married couples and ever-married single women (widowed or divorced) can seek a surrogacy. The intending parents additionally have to produce a "certificate of essentiality" that attests to medical indications that justify use of gestational surrogacy. The Rules necessitated the use of their own gametes by intending parents.

The growing acceptance of surrogacy as a mode of family-making with the use of ARTs is sought to be codified in the law to bolster the legitimate status of surrogacy as a "new" mode of reproduction. This is done by defining who can be considered genuinely eligible or fit while others are deemed to be "misusing" it and therefore strictly excluded. A fulcrum of doing so is by placing it within marriage and a recognition of desire for motherhood among evermarried women who are widowed or divorced. Before its enactment, previous avatars of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, were examined by different parliamentary committees. In legislative debates, several Members of Parliament highlighted the need to bring the proposed regulations in tandem with the reading down of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill (which has been enacted, since). Some also emphasised that one of the committees recommended allowing access for single women and live-in couples, but the law only partially addressed this concern by allowing ever-married single women and not others such as single men, same-sex couples or non-married couples.

The exclusionary approach in determining eligibility criteria by centering it on current or previous marital status is currently being contested in the Supreme Court by numerous petitions. These are being heard together by a bench of Justices B V

Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih. The regulation of ARTs and surrogacy assumes a celebratory stance towards reproductive technologies in general. It seeks to throttle the potentially subversive ways of deploying them. In the narratives that emerge from various rulings of the courts as well as stated positions of the government, there seems to be an urgency to do so. The uncritical celebration of ARTs hinges on the fact that it helps mitigate the stigma around infertility in a patriarchal context. This stigmaitself is not questioned, and in this jubilation on the use of ARTs, alternative families that are not premised on purity of bloodlines are relegated to the margins.

The latest amendment to the Rules permits the use of either of the parent's gamete along with a donor gamete in case of couples where either of them has a medical condition that necessitates such use. No such relaxation has been made for single women who are allowed access to surrogacy. Therefore, in gestational surrogacy that is permitted, there is an emphasis on absolute congruence with gamete contribution by intending parents. Along with such a move lurks the dangerous possibility of creating a hierarchy between different ways of making families, putting a premium on narrow understandings of "biological" relatedness. An important principle to be kept in mind here is parity of legal recognition of different forms of families. In as far as both surrogacy and adoption entail parenting children that one (or their spouse/partner) does not give birth to, they should be treated similarly in legislation in terms of the marital status of the prospective parents. The exaltation of compulsory biological relatedness to determine acceptability of surrogacy, currently in the law, must not become a way of creating a hierarchy between different modes of reproduction.

Interestingly, in its 2017 report that examined the proposed legislation on surrogacy, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare had observed, "Adoption is a benevolent choice available to the community at large and the Government cannot force adoption in lieu of surrogacy. Surrogacy and adoption have to be an equal choice and in the name of adoption, the Government cannot take away the reproductive rights of couples to have a biologically related child through surrogacy" (emphasis in original; Para 5.23).

The distinction between a "choice" and a "right" is instructive here as it echoes the patriarchal premium on purity of bloodlines exacerbated by possibilities that ARTs posit. However, just as it is important to uphold non-discrimination in terms of access to various modes of family-making, it is imperative that there is no implied disparity in the status ascribed to these modes as well. It should arguably be sufficient to deem both as "equal choice" without the appendage of harping on a "right" that surrogacy supposedly fulfils in contrast to adoption.

The writer is assistant professor, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad Views are personal

lacking human judgement Research, Economic Advisory Council to the and context awareness. Prime Minister. Views are personal



The thing about ever after

Lethal Autonomous

national security and

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Weapons Systems (LAWS),

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identify, and engage targets

'One Day' shows love can be both epic and quotidian, life-affirming and devastating

Paromita Chakrabarti

IN SO FAR as millennial wisdom goes, this seems to be a difficult time for modern love. The swipe-right-and-meet-your-match kind of love, but also the sort where one is thrown together with a stranger — perhaps at a party one was loathe to attend or on the first day of university — and discovers, to one's consternation and (admit it) thrill, a frisson of irrational attraction. The conversation flows easily, a camaraderie is forged, and the future seems to sparkle with possibilities. But there is a wistful awareness that the spell might break when the day gets over that there are far too many constraints, societal or personal, that may get in the way.

In Netflix's One Day, the latest adaptation of David Nicholls' 2009 novel that has struck such a chord with viewers, this is where Emma Morley, played delightfully by Ambika Mod, and Dexter Mayhew's story begins — on the last day of university, after an evening of drunken revelry, falling in step perchance and discovering a spark that refuses to be snuffed out. She of double firsts and a working-class background; he, blessed with looks and means, making up in charm what he lacks in ambition. They know they are meant for different paths but in the meantime, there is between them that one unexpected night.

"Whatever happens tomorrow, we had today; and I'll always remember it," Emma tells Dexter (played by Leo Woodall), know-

ing little of the arc and span of their story. It's the kind of magic that everyone seems to be searching for, but it seems more difficult to come by than one would imagine. This month, a class-action lawsuit was filed against Match group, owner of dating apps such as Tinder, OkCupid and Hinge, for misleading their clientele and prioritising "profits over marketing promises and customer's relationship goals" — in short, for consigning them to lives of singledom despite brief interludes of "connections".

It might seem naive to expect faithfulness from tech companies, but what it points to is a crisis of intimacy. Given the advantages that algorithms promise to shore up in one's favour, why is this still the age of loneliness? And when one does "match" with someone, is one equipped to deal with the emotional registers of a relationship IRL that comes with no how-to manual?

Romances on screen, including adapta-

tions of novels in the genre, will have us believe that love exists in the grand gestures; in dramatic proclamations of devotion and sweeping narratives of sacrifice. One of the most jaded cliches of a movie, Love Actually (2003), philosophises, "If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love actually is all around"; "I'm just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her," says Julia Roberts' Anna Scott to William Thacker (Hugh Grant) in *Notting Hill* (1999). But what comes after?

Over the course of the next 20 years of their lives, Emma and Dexter's attraction collides and ricochets, morphing from almost-romance to friendship to situationship. Jobs and partners, cities and expectations change seasons; youth slides into middle age; love comes in, not sure-footed, but on tiptoes.

The 2011 cinematic adaptation might have been a copout, but what Nicole Taylor's version of *One Day* conveys is that despite contrarian assertions, love can be both epic and quotidian, life-affirming and devastating. When the heady dopamine rush settles down, love can meander and dither, exasperate and anchor. It wrestles

with anxieties, lights up with laughter. It recognises that people change or outgrow relationships. That the right people can meet at the wrong time and that not everyone gets to have closure.

The truth is, vulnerability is built into the language of intimacy. Some vacillations are hard to resolve with the swipe of a finger into neat boxes of yes and no. Love requires time and work, heartburn and hope. And there are no promises of happily ever afters. In Normal People, for instance, Marianne and Connell have to navigate their unequal relationship across the years to find safe ground; in this year's Oscarnominated Past Lives, regret forms the leitmotif of the story of two childhood sweethearts separated by geography and different dreams.

When their lives finally embrace, Emma steals a peek at their wedding speech Dexter is working on. In the clutter of hasty pointers, there's one that stands out: "We grew up together". "I liked that," she tells him. Perhaps, that's all there is to it — learning how to grow up with love.

paromita.chakrabarti@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BCCI'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial. 'The

young ones' (IE, February 28). With the discovery of more new, bright and young talent in the India-England test series and others from earlier matches, the selectors and BCCI are faced with a challenge — how to select a competent team for the next World Cup when they also have to consider our ace veterans like Virat Kohli, K L Rahul and Hardik Pandya. Will they depend more on the old or on the young to deliver? Will it be a pleasant blend of both and if yes, in what ratio? It is an opportunity for the head coach, Rahul Dravid and captain, Rohit Sharma to locate and nurture the selected team so as to enhance the self-efficacy of the younger players and

Y G Chouksey, Pune

Make in India

be able to best apply their skills.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Costs of a barrier' (IE, February 28). Excessive trade barriers can lead to India's exclusion from the China+1 strategy that seeks to build supply chain resilience in a post-COVID world. Not only this, but retaliatory tariffs by other nations can hamstring India's export earnings. Rationalisation and reduction of these high tariffs, combined with a focus on indigenous manufacturing can both make India enticing for foreign players to set up supply lines here and promote Make in India.

Anany Mishra, Bhilai

A STORY OF GREED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Fast food education' (IE, February 27). There cannot be a bigger rollercoaster ride than that of Byju Raveendran, the man behind Byju's. The valuation of his company has nosedived in less than three years, leaving desperate investors clutching at straws to save their investments. His investors and shareholders like Tiger Global and Owl Ventures came together last week in a bid to oust Byju as Chief Executive Officer and also ease his wife and brother out of the board. Meanwhile, the ED is investigating an alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act by Byju's to the tune of Rs 9,362.35 crore. The Byju's story is of soaring greed — of founders and investors who bend business models to inflate valuations with-

Khokan Das, Kolkata

THE GHAZAL LEGEND

out revenue streams or real value.

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Loss, longing and a letter' (IE, February 28). The passing of iconic Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas has shocked millions of music lovers. He was a shining example of the fact that music is a divine unifier that transcends all man-made barriers. The music maestro, with his unique and mellifluous voice, enthralled his listeners/audience who will always savour and cherish his invaluable music gems: 'Chitthi aayi hai' from the movie Naam and 'Jiye to jiye kaise' from Saajan.

SS Paul, Nadia

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14 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Anju W/o Pradeep Kumar, R/o-B-4/15, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Anju Sahni, for all future purposes. 0040716982-1

I Tripta D/o Late Sh. Ram Krishan W/o Sh. Ashish Kumar R/o 28-A, IPGCL Colony, Near Bala Sahib Gurudwara, Vidhyut Vihar, Ashram, Jungpura, Defence Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110014 have changed my name to Tripta Kohli for all purposes.

0040716977-4

Mohd Guddu S/o Mohd Saleem R/o C-364/2, FF, Chinot Basti, Nabi Karim, Pahar Ganj, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Delhi-110055 have changed my name to Mohd Sadre Alam for all purposes.

0040716977-2

I Lallu Das Mahant S/o Shri Mahesh Das Mahant R/o 16, Sidar Para, Masan, Korba, Tilkeja, Chhattisgarh- 495674, have changed my name to **Aman Das Mahant**

I Lal Singh S/o Late Kabir Singh

R/o WZ-159, Gali No.8, Shiv

Nagar, Delhi-110058 hereby declare that my father Kabir

0070891428-1

Singh was also known as Kanhaiya Singh. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040716977-5 I Jaspreet Singh Khalsa S/o Sh. Ajeet Singh R/o Mayur Vihar Phase-2, Gurudwara, J-Block,

East Vinod Nagar, Chilla

Saroda Khadar, Chilla, East

Delhi, Delhi-110091 have

changed my name to Jaspreet Singh for all purposes. 0040716977-7 I Amrik Singh Khalsa S/o Sh. Ajeet Singh R/o Gurudwara J Block, Mayur Vihar Phase-2, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091

have changed my name to

Amrik Singh for all purposes.

0040716977-6 1, Babita Dubey is the wife of no. JC 763650P, Rank-Subedar, Name-Kedar Nath Dubey, residing at House No.5B, KM Enclave, P.O-Hazaribag, P.S.-Hazaribag, Dist.-Hazaribag, PIN-825301, State-Jharkhand, have changed my D.O.B. from "01.09.1976" to "18.01.1977". vide an affidavit in the Court of

the Ld. Executive Magistrate

26/02/2024.

(1st Class) at Tehatta, Nadia on

0070891417-1

I VARUN KUMAR AGGARWAL S/O SHR HARI SHANKAR R/o A 717, G. D. Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi 96. have change my name to VARUN KUMAR for all purpose

0040716838-2

It is for general information that i KIRTI SRIVASTAVA D/O VIPIN KUMAR SRIVASTAVA. Ex wife of **DEVENDER KUMAR SRIVASTAVA** R/O-FLAT NO.1110, MAHAVIRA APPTS.SEC-29, NOIDA.G.B.NGR.U.P.201301.

declare that I got divorced from my husband vide court decree HMA NO.38/2021 dated 06/08/2021. Further I remarried with LANKESH CHAWLA S/O OM PRAKASH CHAWLA and marriage certificate was issued with regd No.90730000155834. Further i have changed the name of mine and my minor daughter namely PARIDHI SRIVASTAVA aged 13 years and we shall hereafter be known as KIRTI CHAWLA and PARIDHI CHAWLA respectively. Further I declare that the name of the father of my minor daughter may be known as

all purposes. 0130040576-1 It is for general information that I.MOHAMMED FAROOQUE KHAN,S/O ABDUL MAJID,R/O VILLAGE-LILONG HAOREIBI CHANDAKHONG, POST-LILONG, THOUBAL, MANIPUR-795130.and Present.R/O RZ-1124/1, FLAT.NO-101.PLOT NO-6,GALI.NO-14/5,

LANKESH CHAWLA in the future for

SADHNAGAR,PALAM COLONY, DELHI-110045, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as M FAROOQUE KHAN in my minor daughter namely TAZKIA aged-13-years in her school record. The actual name of mine is MOHAMMED FAROOQUE KHAN, which may be amended accordingly.

Sh. Rakesh Bahl W/o Sh. Varun Dhawan R/o Flat No.26, Star Apartment, Rohini, Sector-9, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name after

I Diksha alias Diksha Bahl D/o

marriage to Diksha Dhawan for all purposes. 0040716977-3

I Tanish Joshi S/o Sh. Hem Chand Joshi R/o K-251, Gali No.6B/5, Mahipalpur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110037 is also known as Tanish. Both names are of one and the same person.

0040716977-1

0040717028-8

I,hitherto known as Prashant Rav,S/o Mohan Rav,R/o Hajouli, Balia, Uttar Pradesh-221701, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manoj Kumar.

0040716999-11

I,hitherto known as Krishan Kumar, S/O Laxman Singh,R/O,C-74,Gali.No-3, Ganga Vihar, Gokal Pur, North-East Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Krishan Kumar Sharma.

0040717080-10

I,Varsa Wadhwa,W/o Manoj Kumar Babbar, H. No-167/1, Gali No-1, Tughlakabad Extn, New-Delhi-110019, have changed my name Varsha Wadhwa, for all purposes.

I.VIKAS SAGWAN,S/o SUNIL,R/o,FLAT.No.1701,TOWER -4,M-3 M, MERLIN, SECTOR-67.GURGAON-122001 (HARYANA), HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIKAS SANGWAN.

0040717068-3

I,Soniya W/o Vinit Kumar R/o Village Bhainswal, PS-Garhi Pukhta, Distt.Shamli, UP-247776, have changed my name to Soniya Panwar, for all purposes.

Begum, W/o Mohammad Umar,R/o Lajpat-Nagar,Asim Bihari School-Road.Ps Katghar, Moradabad, UP, have changed my name to Shamim Umar, for all purposes.

I,Sanjiv Kumar S/o Sahib Dayal

Kalhan R/o, Flat-No. 253, Tower-

G-3, Indiabulls Centrum-Park,

to Sanjeev Kalhan.

I,Shameem Beghum/Shamim

Sector-103, Gurgaon, Harvana-122006, have changed my name

0040717049-7 I,SWATI BHANDARI,W/O ROHIT BHANDARI R/O HNO.434,LAL JYOTI APARTMENT.SECTOR-9,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SWATI KAPOOR.

0040717028-3

I,SUDHIR RAKHEJA,S/O RATAN LAL RAKHEJA R/O. PLOT.NO.128,PRIYA APARTMENT, SECTOR-14,ROHINI,DELHI 110085,have changed my name to SUDHIR KUMAR RAKHEJA. 0040717028-2

I,SUBASH CHANDER S/O Hari Ram R/O MAHRA(157)Sonipat Haryana-131024 Have Changed My Name To SUBHASH CHAND Permanently. 0040717080-6

I,SHAILESH KUMAR S/O RISHIPAL BALIYAN R/O-178-F, Garud-Apartments, Pocket-4, Mayur Vihar, New Delhi-110091, have changed my name to SHAILESH BALIYAN.

0040717049-4

I.Rasida Bano.W/o Md Quesmuddin Ansari, R/o-Village-Gonpura Bazar, Post-Alampur Gonpura, Distt Patna, Bihar-801505, have changed, my name, from Rasida Bano, to Rasida Khatoon, vide affidavit IN-DL50626159427364W dated-27-02-2024 at, New Delhi.

0040717068-10

I,Ranjana,W/o Bhupendra Kumar, R/o-352, Street. No. 6, Asola Housing Complex, Fateh Pur Beri, Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Ranjana Kumar.

0040717102-2

I,Rajesh Kumar Gupta,s/o Gajadhar Gupta, r/o-10021, GF,Gali.NO.2,Multrani Dhanda, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055, have changed my name to Rajesh Gupta, for all purposes.

0040717068-7

I.Yash S/o Mukesh Kumar R/o Flat No.88-E, Pocket-I, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Yash Kumar.

0040717049-5

I,Raj Kumar s/o malkit Singh,R/o-B3/323 paschim vihar Delhi-110063, have change my minor child name vanshika to vanshika kumar.

0040717049-2 I.Rai Kumar s/o malkit

Singh, R/o-B3/323 paschim vihar Delhi-110063,have change my minor child name Khushi to Khushi kumar. 0040717049-1

I.RANVIR SINGH F/O RUBEE CHAUDHARY R/O-H.NO-6 VILL-NAGLA CHAUDHARY JAINT SAKARAYA MATHURA U.P-281406, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME TO RUBY CHAUDHARY

0040717102-4 I.Pratiksha Sharma W/o Akshav

Kalhan R/o, Flat-No. 253, Tower-G-3, Indiabulls Centrum-Park, Sector-103, Gurgaon, Haryana-122006, have changed my name to Pratiksha Kalhan.

0040717049-8

I,Parveen kumar,S/o Ravinder Kumar Rattan R/o GH-5 and 7,Flat.no-969,Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Parveen Kumar Rattan.

0040717028-1 I,Pardeep S/O Mahender,R/O

Ward no-1, V.P.O Julana JIND Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Pardeep Singh Lather Permanently. 0040717080-7

I,PROMILA W/O ANIL

KUMAR,R/O WZ-1570,BHOOP SINGH GALI.NANGAL RAYA VILLAGE, DELHI-110046. HAVE **CHANGED MY NAME TO** PARMILA. 0040717068-6

I.Nikhil Dixit S/o Puttan Lal Dixit

R/o-B-56A, Rama, Park Uttam, Nagar, D.K. Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Nikhiil Dixit for all future purposes 0040717049-3

I,Naveen Jain,F/o-Parv Jain,R/o-

27/30,Gali No.9,Vishwash-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed the name of my minor-son Parv Jain Age-11Year and he shall hereafter be known as Lavyansh Jain.

0040717102-6

I.Bahdur Singh S/o Hardayal I.MOHAMMED FAROOOUE KHAN,S/O ABDUL MAJID, R/O Singh, R/o M-47A, New Palam **VILLAGE-LILONG HAOREIBI** Vihar, Phase-1, Gurgaon CHANDAKHONG, POST LILONG, (Haryana)-122017, have changed my name to Bahadur THOUBAL, MANIPUR-Singh. 795130, and Present, R/O RZ-1124/1,FLAT.NO-101,PLOT.NO-I,BAWA MANINDER SINGH 6,GALI.NO-14/5, SADHNAGAR, PALAM-

BHALLA.R/O H-1/3.BAWA FARM ANSAL VILLA SATBARI MEHRAULI, DELHI-110074, HAVE CHANGED MY-MINOR **SON NAME SAHIB SINGH** BHALLA TO SAHIB BHALLA.

0040717028-6

I.MOHAMMED FAROOOUE KHAN, S/O ABDUL MAJID, R/O 110091, have changed my **VILLAGE-LILONG HAOREIBI** name to Ayush Singh Bagga. CHANDAKHONG, POST-LILONG, THOUBAL, MANIPUR-795130, and Present, R/O-RZ-I,Ajit Singh S/o Jaimal Singh 1124/1,FLAT.NO-101, PLOT Khurana, R/o 52/82 2nd-NO-6.GALI.NO-

I.MANOJ KUMAR PANDEY S/O RAM INDER PANDEY, H.NO. K-201, DLF ULTIMA SECTOR 81 GURGAON,122004,HARYANA,h ave changed my name to MANOJ PANDEY permanently

I,MAMTA RANI ATTRI W/O DEV

DUTT ATTRI R/O-392/393

COLONY, DELHI-110045, have

changed the name of my

minor daughter AAFREEN

hereafter be known as

BOGIMAYUM AAFREEN.

14/5,SADHNAGAR,PALAM

changed the name of my

13-years and she shall

hereafter be known as

BOGIMAYUM TAZKIA.

COLONY, DELHI-110045, have

minor daughter TAZKIA aged-

aged-9-years and she shall

0040717119-1

0040717028-7

IIND.FLOOR, VIPIN GARDEN UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAMTA ATTRI. 0040717102-5 **I.MAMTA** JANGIR, SPOUSE

OF,BHIM RAJ JANGIR,R/O-D-6/8 23,ACRE-RESIDENCIAL COMPLEX.NEW-DELHI-110010, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MAMTA JANGIR TO MAMTA SHARMA, VIDE-**AFFIDAVIT IN-**DL50841252733301W DATED-28/02/24,BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040716999-9

Singh, R/o Village Bhainswal, PS-Garhi Pukhta, Distt. Shamli, UP-247776, have changed my name to Kusum Panwar, for all purposes.

I,Kusum,W/o Late Rajpal

0040717080-4 I,KULDIP SINGH,S/O JAGBIR SINGH SOLANKI, R/O SRS-

30,NASIR PUR PALAM VILLAGE, DELHI-110045, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM **KULDIP SINGH TO KULDEEP** SINGH SOLANKI, VIDE-**AFFIDAVIT DATED IN-**DL50841426733857W 28/02/2024, BEFORE NCT-DELHI.

0040716999-10

I.Jai Verma.Father of.Shaurva Chhawdi, R/o H No-11, Molarband Village, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my-minor son name Shaurya Chhawdi to Ram Chhawdi, for all purposes.

0040717080-2

I,JC-701158F, Rank-Sub(LT), Bhagwan Singh, R/o-H.No.B-124, Ansal Town Bagda, Barouli Ahir,Teh-Agra,Dist-Agra,State-Uttar Pradesh, Pin-283125, have change my daughter name from MEGHA to MEGHA SINGH, her date-ofbirth is 13-Apr-2002 for all future purposes.

0040717028-4

I.HARISH S/O D.L.JASWAL,R/O WA-194, SHAKARPUR EAST DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH JASWAL.

0040717068-9

I.FATEMA BEGUM. W/O.MOHAMMAD KHALID, ADD: -447 MADARSA ROAD, MASURI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 201015, changed my name to FATIMA BEGUM, for all, future purposes

0040717080-8

I,Ex No-9103245K.Naik Aijaz Hussain Dar, R/O-Kaprin Tehsil/District-Shopian.In my service records name of my mother has been wrongly mentioned as Nasema Bagum instead of Naseema Banoo as in Aadhaar card.It needs correction. Objections be filled to Unit 2 JAKLI within seven

0020473051-1

I,Diwan Chand Sharma, S/o Late Sh. Shiv Charan Sharma, R/o 320/2, Masjid Moth, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi-110048, That in my 10th class certificate issued by CBSC in the year-1987,my name has been wrongly-written as Diwan Chand instead of Diwan Chand Sharma which may be amended accordingly, for all future purposes.

0040717028-5

I,DEEP JYOTI,W/O.DEEPAK BHATIA.ADD-13/9.GEETA-**COLONY EAST-DELHI** 110031, changed my name to JYOTI BHATIA, for all, future purposes 0040717080-9 I,Bhupesh Dangwal,S/o Jagdish

Prasad Dangwal.R/o.L-904, Pioneer-Park, Sector-61, Gurgaon(Haryana)-122011, have changed my-Minor Son's name, from Shivesh B Dangwal to Shivesh 0040717068-2 Dangwall.

I, ROHIT SINGH S/O

MANMOHAN SINGH R/O RZ-165, SAYYED NANGLOI, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as ROHIT SINGH **RATHOR and MANMOHAN** SINGH RATHOR in my 10th class marks-sheet and certificate. The actual name of

mine and my father are ROHIT

SINGH and MANMOHAN SINGH

0070891441-1

0040717068-1

0040717068-8

I,Ayush Singh,S/o Pratap Singh, R/o-169, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Chilla Saroda, Delhi-0040717102-1

Floor, Chittranjan Park, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name Ajit Singh Khurana, for all purposes. 0040717080-1

I,ANIL TANWAR S/O AMAR SINGH,R/O WZ-1570,BHOOP SINGH GALI NANGAL RAYA VILLAGE DELHI-110046.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR. 0040717068-5 I,AAMIR KHAN,S/O MOHD

YASEEN,R/o 1457 CHHATTA

KHANA, Delhi-110006, have

I, hitherto known as Ajay Saw

alias Ajay Kumar Saw, S/o-

NAWAB SAHEB FARASH

changed my name to

MOHAMMAD AAMIR. 0040717102-3

Vijay Saw, R/o-680, 1st.Floor,Kataria Gas Agency Wali Gali Jheel Khuranja, Geeta-Colony, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-110031, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ajay Saw 0040717102-8

I. Sudha W/o Ramesh Panchal R/o C-182. Sec-11. New Viiav Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Sudesh Rani. 0070891431-1

I. Shrawan Kumar S/o Deo Kumar Jain R/o - 05014, ATS Advantage, Ahinsa Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to Shrawan Kumar Jain. 0070891436-1

I, Shobha Jangra w/o Sh. Mohneesh Kumar R/o PLot no. 234A-235A, Flat no.-1, Upper Ground Floor, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to SHOBHA RANI for all purposes.

R/o-B-4/15,Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Saniya Sahni, for all future purposes.

I, Saniya D/o Pradeep Kumar,

0040716982-2 I, SANTOSH W/O SHIV KUMAR **TYAGI R/O 1427/98, SHANTI** NAGAR, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTOSH TYAGI.

SANTOSH AND SANTOSH

PERSON. 0070891434-1 I, Ravi Kumar S/o Arvind Kumar Gahlot R/o 165, First Floor, Pocket-3, Sector 24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ravi Gahlot.

TYAGI IS ONE AND THE SAME

0070891453-1

I, Rajbala Devi Yadav W/o Hansraj Yadav R/o Village-Doomhera, Tehsil-Kotkasim, Alwar, Rajasthan-301702, have changed my name to Rajbala Devi, for all purposes.

0040716981-2

I, Praveen Kumar S/o Hansraj Yadav R/o Village-Doomhera, Tehsil-Kotkasim, Alwar, Rajasthan-301702, have changed my name to Praveen Kumar Yadav, for all purposes.

I, Om Prakash S/o Late Shri Ram

Layak Singh R/o E-103, Sector-20, Noida, U.P 201301. Have change my minor son's (31.10.2012) name from Rudra Prakash Singh to Rudransh Singh for all future purposes. 0040716979-1 I. Lata w/o Surender Kumar r/o

E-45, Third Floor, Om Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to 0040716998-1 LATA RANI. I, KULWANTI W/o No. 7122573A

RANK SEP (LATE) KRISHAN LAL, R/o B2-12, DDA D/S TENAMENTS, VISHAL ENCLAVE, RAJOURI GARDEN, TAGORE GARDEN, DELHI-110027, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAMLESH, VIDE AFFIDAVIT 28-02-2024 BEFORE DELHI. 0070891443-1

I, Firoz Ahmed Khan R/o House No. P20/A4, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have changed my daughter's name from Zaina to Zaina Khan. 0040717014-1 I, Dewki Nandan Sharma S/o

Cheda Lal Sharma R/o - A/1. Panchsheel Puram, G.T. Road, Gururamdas, Nagar, Sarsaul, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh -202002, have changed my name to Dewaki Nandan 0070891458-1 Sharma. I.Piyush S/o Gopal Singh, R/o

Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Piyush Singh. 0040717049-6 I, Arvind Kumar S/o Basant Singh Gahlot R/o 165, First

Flat No.88-E, Pocket-I, Mayur

Floor, Pocket-3, Sector 24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Arvind Kumar Gahlot. 0070891449-1 I, Artee Rani Gupta W/o Manoj Khandelwal R/o 128/971, Y-

Kanpur, U.P. have changed my

name to Artee Khandelwal for

Block, Kidwai Nagar,

all future purposes. 0070891435-1 LOST & FOUND

I.Khem Chand, R/o House. No. 84, Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurugram, Haryana-122002, want to inform you that I have lost the Possession-Certificate and Allotment-Letter for my Property M-12/1E, DLF City Phase-2, Gurgaon. If found by anyone, please contact Mr Laxmi-Narain at-9999421313.

I Krishna Devi W/O Ram Kishan

I Shikha Agrawal W/o Sh.

0040717028-10

Yadav R/O B-3/90 Sector-6. Rohini, Delhi-110085 notified that my Original Demandletter of file no. F10(701)83 LSB ROHINI has been lost. I have lodge FIR vide. NCR NO.297/2009 dated: 02/03/2009. Finder Inform at above said Address or Contact 07834891100. 0040716977-8

Lokesh Kumar, R/o Flat No.704, Victoria Tower, Omaxe Heights, Sector-86, Faridabad, Haryana have lost/misplaced the original copy of Allotment Letter & Building Buyer Agreement of Flat No. 605, Mark Tower, Block 14, Omaxe Heights, Sector-86, Faridabad, Haryana which I purchased from Sh. Manoj Kumar and Sonika Gupta. If any person found the said documents can inform the above-mentioned person/s or contact: 7043187220.

0040717012-1

I, Sumitra Yadav, W/o Mahendra Yadav-20, Jagadama Colony Naya Khera Ambabari Jaipur have lost my Allotment-Letter & share Certificate or Possession-Letter, Flat No.810, 8th-Floor, Block-B. Icon Apartment Santushti Sahakr Awas Samiti, Plot.no-4 Gr.Noida, G.B. Nager (UP)

040716821-1

PUBLIC NOTICE My Clients Sh. Purushottam Lal Soni S/o Late Sohan La Soni and his wife Smt. Munni Devi Soni W/o Sh 110005, have broken the relationship and disowned an Purushottam Lal Soni and his wife Smt. Priyanka Son W/o Sh. Vikram Soni both R/o House No. 4/14, WEA 110005 from their entire movable and immoval roperties and business and has also severed all the nisbehaviour, disobedient and hostile nature towards r lients. Therefore, my clients shall not responsible dealt/deal/dealing with them in any manner, is at the Enrol No. D/798/03, (Advocate) Ch. No. 1221, Lawyer's Ch. Block Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE that a WILL in respect of DDA FLAT NO 40B. GROUND FLOOR, PANDA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110008, which was executed by SMT. LALITA SURYAVANSHI in favour of SH. BAB' VARGHESE PARAKUNIL executed or 26.03.2015 was lost and not traceable

PANDAV NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110008 PRAVEEN RASTOG ADVOCATE RZ-97, KHUSHI RAM PARK,

KUNJUMOL B VARGHESE W/O SH

BABY VP R/O 40-B, DDA FLAT

PUBLIC NOTICE

tients Sh. Rabat Sharma S/o Late Sh. Ram Swith and 5ml, India Sharma Resident : 408/2 Street No. 30, Na. Bast, Ananci Farths: New Deht-110005 Your Severed M their relations and debarred their son flamen Secha Sharms and his wile 5ml. Game sharms from their movable and immovable invertes the to misconduct and nostle behavior and extreme quelties of the son and depohler in law amil. Damne Strennis wo clients. My clients will not be responsible for any acts / doests in any criminals and civ ictivities of them in future and wing so ever tenis with them shall do so at his new and isponsibility in future and my charts will not be liable for any of the namy acts, conduct. C.L. Gautam (Advocate) No 421 Robini Court Dalhi

PUBLIC NOTICE Know all that Sh. Chhote Lal. S/o Late Sh. Devi Singh, resident of H.No.216. Block-E-II, Madangir, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, South Delhi Delhi-110062, has severed/ Disowned their relations and connections from family of his both sons (1) Govinda and his wife Abnilahsa and his daughter namely, Harshita, (2) Rahul and his wife Priti and his daughter namely Hitiksha debar them from entire movable and immoveable properties including the property acquired by my clients in past present and future and have no relation with them whatsoever My client and his family members will not responsible for any deeds and acts of their both sons, and Their Wifes Abhilahsa and Pritt and their

Childrens in any manner. ASGAR KHAN, AFATB AND RIYAZ ADVOCATES J-492, Shop No. 2, Dakshinpuri Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-110062

PUBLIC NOTICE

rio Late St. Lt. Col. Anyoi Bhuston Rh fospital, Ambala Cantt, Ambala, Harrani 33801 is the lewful owner & in possess of the property orretoring the built-up in edinessuring 100 kg, add bearing no. 411 Saink What, Pillampura, Detri-110034 b 04:06.1970 executed by DDA: It is further informed than any pers laiming ownership over the alleye inblaned property or any part thereof, a way of sale, auchange, mortgage, lien, all ago, temposy, substituting, hypothecials moder of life or boombasi interest oils as not created any thin-party interest and in said propriety in any manuer article seve Any cursion ileating with such persons his dalmed the ownership over the sale reporty, shall me driven no at his own costs DIGVIJAY SINGH (ADVOCATE)

Agarwal son of S. Vinod Agarwal R/o 238, T Floor, Tagore Park, North West Delhi 1100

PUBLIC NOTICE

applied to avail the Loan facility from AU Sm Finance Bank against the residential Plot K-142, Block-K, 238,037 Sq. Yards (199,03 S Mtrs.) "TDI City" village Kundali, Nangal Kal Atterna, Patla Rasoi, Badkhalsa, Jakholi, S Tehsil Rai (Sonenat) HR Earlier this property was owned by Mr. Vin Agarwal son of Roshan Lal vide conveyance No. 2009 dated 21.09.2016 S.R. Rai Thereafter Vinod Agarwal transfer the prop Uditanshu Agarwal vide deed No. 5336 da 05.02.2024 S.R. Rai The original conveyance deed 2009 of 05.02.20 and all original documents i.e. allotment le ession certificate, payment receipts etc any concern having any claim, objec

> 114, Deep Plaza Opp. Civil Court Gurugram 1220

deed etc. and mortgage with AUSFB He/She n

Amit Kumar (Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I SHYAM S/O SH. RAM KHILADI R/O J-154, KIROR PANA MOHALLA, BADLI VILLAGE, LIBAS PUR. NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110042 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as PAPPU in my 10th and 12th class marksheet and certificate. The actual name of my father is RAM KHILADI, which may be

> 3 X4hPRN(7) **PUBLIC NOTICE**

amended accordingly.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY INFORM THAT MY CLIENT NAMELY SH. NAND LAL S/0 LATE SHI LAXMAN SINGH RESIDENT OF NO. 9/50-51,BLOCK-9, TRILOK PURI, DEL 110091, HAD EARLIER DEBARRED A DISOWNED HIS SON NAMELY SH. VARUN LA AND HIS WIFE SMT. SIVANI AND THEIR SO MASTER TEJAS FROM ALL THE MOVABL AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND SERVE ALL HIS RELATIONS WITH THEM ANI PUBLISHED THE PUBLIC NOTICE IN DAIL' NEWSPAPERS I.E. INDIAN EXPRESS JANSATTA AND BASHTRIYA SAHARA, NO HE HAS CORDIAL RELATION WITH THEM ANI THEY ARE UNDER HIS CONTROL. HE HAS WITHDRAWN HIS FARLIER PLIBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATIONS. THE SAME SHOULD TREATED AS NULL AND VOID IN FUTURE. JITENDER KUMAR KRANT ADVOCATI

Bar Room No.2 W. Wing Tis hazari Coarts, Delhi-5

PUBLIC NOTICE KALIM D/O MD IZHARUL HAQUE EX. WIFE OF LATE MD KALIM ULLAH R/O TOWER B-6, FLAT NO. 704, ORRIS CARNATION RESIDENCY, NEAR IRIS BROADWAYS, SECTOR-85, GURUGRAM VATIKA INDIA NEXT. GURGAON. HARYANA-122004 declare my husband MI KALIM ULLAH expired on 02.10.2013 and death certificate was issued with Registration MCDOLIR-0213-004604505 dated 05.10.2013 Further I remarried with MOHAMMAD ALTAI AHMAD S/O MOHAMMAD NAJMUL HODA 0730000046898 dated 16.03.2018. Henceforth declare that name of the father of my m daughter namely SHUMAILA KALIM aged 12 ears may be known as MOHAMMAD ALTAF AHMAD in future for all purpo

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Usha Devi W/o Sh. Mahe Kumar Tanwar and Mahesh Kumar Tanwa S/o Bina Ram both R/o A-97, Jhenda Colon Asola Extension, Fatehpur Beri, Nev Delhi-110074 have severed all relation with their son Lalit Kumar Tanwar an daughter-in-law Kavita Dovla and disowned them from all their movable and immovabl property due to their misbehavior. My client will not be responsible for any of their action or transactions in future.

SHEKHAR CHAND JAIN

Enrol. No. D/2380/2007 Chamber No. 580, Lawyer's Block, Sake Courts Complex, New Delhi-110017.

> **PUBLIC NOTICE** to be known to all SOURABH ARORA S/C SH. SUDESH KUMAR ARORA R/o 28/86 BLOCK-28, WEST PATEL NAGAR, NEW JHANDEWALAN PHASE-1, NEW DELF 110055 has applied for certified copy Cum allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Si ossession Slip, NOC for obtaining wa and electric connection of the above sa shop has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/LR N has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, De Any person(s) claiming any right, interest of original documents, may write/contact wi Address/Phone No. 9971758130 within days from the date of publication of the interest, objection with respect to property, can personally inform or write Deputy Director (CE) or Director (CE), Del Development Authority Vikas Sadan Ne

> > NAVEEN AGGARWAL (ADV.) Office: Chamber No.M-7, Near SE Western Wing, Tis Hazari Cou

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to General Public that my Cl Shri Manoj Gaur son of Shri Madan Lal Ga and his Wife Smt. Ruby Gaur both resident L-155, Naag Mandir Road, Shastri Naga Delhi- 110052 had disowned/debarred their real son Vikas Gaur S/o Manoi Gaur fro their all movable-immovable propertie assets and severed their relationship wi them due to their ill-behaviour & miscondu Anybody deals with him in future, shall b esponsible Him/her self.

Yash Verma (Advocate)

Chamber No.95, Old Court

Enrl.No.D-1576/2017

Sub-Registrar No.1

Kashmere Gate, Delhi-06.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to notify all concerned the C-1043, Ground Floor, Ansal, API, Esenc Sector-67, Gurugram, applied to avail the Loan facility from AU Small Finance Ba against the Flat No. C-1044, measuring 1667.95 Sq. Ft. Second Floor, Block No. Morning Dew Homes, Esencia, Gurugr 122018

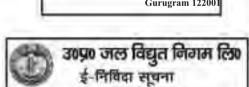
24.01.2017, thereafter the ownership of th property moved in favor of Mr. Rajeev Dh son of Umesh Dhir vide will No. 411 date 17.06.2015 S.R. Allahabad (U.P.) Thereafter Rajeev Dhir transfer the prope to Ms. Sanchita Dhir vide deed No. 127 dated 07.12.2023 S.R. Badshahpur. If any concern having any claim, objection related to above transaction including w transfer deed and mortgage with AUSFE

failing which no claim will be entertained late

114, Deep Plaza Opp. Civil Court

Earlier this property was owned by

Umesh Dhir vide deed No. 27070 dat



इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हे अनुभवी / प्रतिष्ठित ठकेदारों, जो सम्बन्धित कार्य का अनुभव रखतें हो, से निम्नलिखिर ई-निविदाए दा भाग में आमन्तित की जात

1. 所復日 刊0: T-30/EGD/Mzn/2023-24 रपेरार रोट वियरिंग के पुन: निर्माण का कार्य। घरोहर शशि २० ७०००,०० (RTGS/NEFT के का में) निविदा शल्य 472 00 जीवएसवटीव समिनित (RTGS/NEFT市 和中) वंबलाईट पर ई-निविद्या स्वीकार करने

तथा डाउनलोड करने की अन्तिर तिथि / समय - 19-03-2024 / 16:00 वर्ष ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने व तिथि / समय 20-03-2024 / 12:00 वर्ण

नोत:- निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्य जानकार विवरण / डाउनलाँ ड / निविदा प तिकारिका हेत् वेबसाई www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग इन करे किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन / विस्तार की सचना उल्लिखित केंग्साइट पर दी जायेगी. सभी जानकारी तक्षण जल विद्युत निगम लिए की वेबलाईट www.upjvn.org पर भ उपलब्ध रहेगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जल विद्युत खत्पादन खण्ड, मुजफ्करमनर व

भारतीय स्टेट बैक मेन माकिट म जापफरनगर के खाला संख्य 33722690590 R4 IFSC Code SBIN0002412 H RTGS/NEFT IT SIN वाधित धरोहर राशि / निविदा शल्क जम कराना होगा। इच्छक निविदाकार, निविदा खुलने की तिथि से पूर्व किसी भी कार दिवस में अनुमति उपरान्त, विद्युत गृह कराये जाने वाले राम्भावित कार्यों व निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं। चिविदा के प्रधा भाग की विवेचना एवं अनुमोदन पश्चात निविदा का डितीय भाग खोलने की तिर्धि सचित की जायंगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वार बिना कारण बताये निविदा की निरस्त करने

अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड नई मण्डी, मुजफ्करनगर 'राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें'

का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

Office of The Chief Engineer,

Water Resources Zone, Kota

District Kota" for Completion period of 06 Months (Estimated Cost Rs. 389.97 Lac) is invited

from interested bidders from 19.02.2024 (9:30 Hr) to 11.03.2024 till 18:00 Hr other particulars

terms & conditions may be seen on the procurement portal https:// eproc. rajasthan.gov.in &

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https://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water rajasthan.gov.in.

HIB No. WRD2324A0632

DIPR/C/1279/2024

UBH No-WRD2324WSOB01865

क्रमांकः F. /CEWRZ/KT/e-NIB-28/2023-24/1498-1505 दिनांक: 15/02/2024 e-NIB No.- 28/2023-24 Bid for "Repair and Restoration of Satmuiya Khal anicut near Kailashpura, Tehsil Kanwas

> Chief Engineer, Water Resources Zone, Kota

झारखण्ड सरकार झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण

(पर्यटन, कला, संस्कृति,खेलकूद एवं युवा कार्य विभाग) गेट सं०–29,बिरसा मुण्डा फुटबॉल स्टेडियम,

Email: - sajha9@gmail.com, Website: - www.sajha.in

आवश्यक सूचना आ०स्०सं०: 48, दिनांक : 27 / 02 / 2024.

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण अन्तर्गत Senior Sports Fellow-cumcunsultant के एकल पद पर संविदा के आधार पर नियुक्ति हेत् प्रकाशित विज्ञापन PR No.-320156, दिनांक -23.02.2024 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

> कार्यकारी निदेशक झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण

"Construction of Boundary Wall in

PR 320704 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(23-24).D

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) JUIDCO BHAWAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878, Mob. No.: +91 9471006062

> CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752 e-Procurement Notice **Tender Notice**

e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/PMAY-Murma/BW/ -601 Date: 28.02.2024

Name of the work PMAY(U) Project at Murma, Ranchi." e-tendering Mode of Bid Submission (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) Rs.1,02,69,090 (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Ninety Only) Estimated Cost(Rs.) Tender document fee: Rs 10,000/-(Rupees Ien Thousand) only Non-Refundable. 4. Tender Fee and Earnest money Earnest Money: Rs 2,05,400.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Five Thousand Four Hundred Only) Time of Completion 6 months Date/Time of Publication of 29.02.2024;14.00 hrs Tender on Website Date/Time of Start of 29.02.2024;14.00 hrs Submission of Bids Last Date /Time of Bid 13.03.2024;17.00 hrs Submission Last Date /Time of Submission 13.03.2024;17.00 hrs of Tender Fee & EMD 10. Date / Time of Bid Opening 14.03.2024;17.30 hrs Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Name and Address of office Development Company Ltd, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, inviting Tender. Ranchi-834001 Helpline No. of e-Procurement +916512225878

Note: Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 320768 Urban

Development and Housing(23-24).D JUIDCO Ltd. **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

Project Director (Technical)

Applications are invited under scheme of

A. Stall at: Delhi Cantt, Meerut City, Meerut Cantt., Delhi Shahdara, Gurgaon, Pataudi Road, Panipat stations. B. Trolley at Baraut, Ballabhgarh, Faridabad New Town, Nangloi, Noli, Narela, Tughlakabad, Palam, Delhi Kishan Ganj, Khatauli, Khekra, Sampla, Baghpat Road, Sakoti

'One Station One Product' for setting up

Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge & Shakurbasti stations in leading newspapers.

Tanda, Delhi Safdurjung, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Modinagar,

 The period for setting up of stall at Meerut Cantt., Gurgaon, Pataudi Road station per spell will be 90 days.

 The period for setting up to Trolley at stations mentioned in (B) above will be 30 days per spell Registration fee for NSG 1, 2 & 3 stations will be charged @ rate of Rs. 2000 for each spell of thirty days and for NSG 4 (Pataudi Road, Baraut, Ballabhgarh, Faridabad New town, Noli, Narela, Tughlakabad, Palam, Modinagar & Shakurbasti) NSG 5 (Meerut Cantt., Delhi Kishan Ganj, Delhi Safdurjung, Sampla, Khatauli, Khekra, Baghpat

Road, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge & Delhi safdarjung) &

NSG 6 (Sakoti Tanda) registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 1000 for each spell thirty days.

 The following are the eligibility criteria for participant viz. a) Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicraft, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite state/Central Government Authority.

b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/ registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi/Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/ associated with Social Organizations, State Govt, bodies and associated with registered micro enterprises on the Udyam Portal of the Ministry of MSME and NGOs etc.

c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme). d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society. e) No separate logo shall be allowed.

undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways. Application should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till 15:00

hrs of 07.03.2024, which will be opened on same day.

The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the

Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be

 Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager /Sectional CMI and nominated Finance representative:

The One Station One Product scheme shall be governed

by Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 12 of 2022 and 09 of 2023 respectively available at website:www.indian railways.gov.in & URL: https://indianrailways.gov.in/railway board/uploads/directorate/traffic comm/Comm Cir 2022/ OSOP%20Policy.pdf &https://indianrailways.gov.in/ railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_ 2023/CC%20%2009%20of%202023.pdf For any queries applicant may contact Station

Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations. 640/2024 Serving Customers With A Smile

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SENSEX: 72,304.88 ▼ 790.34 (1.08%) NIFTY: 21,951.15 ▼ 247.20 (1.11%) NIKKEI: 39,208.03 ▼ 31.49 HANG SENG: 16,536.85 ▼ 253.95 FTSE: 7,626.66 ▼ 56.36 DAX: 17,568.61 ▲ 12.12

India, South Africa block investment deal at WTO

MUKESHJAGOTA ABU DHABI, FEBRUARY 28

INDIA ON Wednesday blocked an attempt by some World Trade Organization (WTO) members to get the China-inspired investment pact in the development agenda of the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13), which will ensure that it is unlikely to be part of the final

outcome document. India, in its attempt to block inclusion of 'Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD)'during the working session, was joined by South Africa. Both countries said there is no exclusive consensus on the agreement, it cannot be included in the MC13. Though the IFD has the backing of 123 countries and on Sunday the text of the agreement was released, it is still not an agreement as it has not been ratified by those countries. India is also of the view that it is still debatable whether IFD is a trade agreement.

In the working group discussions, India pointed out that there have been many promises, but very little action, on account of which the vulnerabilities of the developing countries including the Least Developed Countries have only amplified further. **FE**

PRASANTA SAHU

NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 28

THE GOVERNMENT has kick-

started the process for additional

stake sale in General Insurance

Corporation (GIC Re) with road-

shows in key global financial hubs,

including New York, Singapore,

According to an official source,

the outreach has elicited "quite

positive response" from global in-

to the offer for sale (OFS).

vestors, which would give a fillip

Currently, the government

owns an 85.78 per cent of GIC Re

and needs to reduce its stake by

10.78 percentage points to 75 per

cent by August to meet the mini-

mum public shareholding (MPS)

of 25 per cent in the company. The

current market value of the gov-

ernment's 10.78 per cent stake is

worth Rs 7,341 crore. If the norms

are unmet by August, the govern-

ment will have to extend the time

for another year. So, the OFS could

come any time after the road-

Hong Kong, Dubai and London.

Govt gets ready for

GIC Re stake sale

RIL TO INVEST ₹11,500 CR; NITA AMBANI WILL HEAD THE JOINT VENTURE Reliance, Disney sign mega deal to create a ₹70,000 crore media giant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 28

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Ltd (RIL), Viacom18 and Walt Disney Company on Wednesday announced the signing of binding definitive agreements to form a joint venture (JV), combining the businesses of RIL-controlled Viacom 18 and Star India, a subsidiary of Disney.

The transaction values the JV at Rs 70,352 crore (\$8.5 billion) on a post-money basis, excluding synergies. As part of the deal, the media undertaking of Viacom18 will be merged into Star India through a court approved scheme of arrangement. Reliance has also agreed to invest at closing Rs 11,500 crore (\$1.4) billion) into the JV to create a mega TV and digital streaming platform for entertainment and sports content in India.

After the completion of merger, the JV will be controlled by RIL. Reliance and Viacom18 will hold 16.34 per cent and 46.82 per cent in the combined entity. The remaining 36.84 per cent will be held by Disney. The

shows which began on February

19 and was scheduled to end on

March 1. Last week, investor out-

reach was completed in

Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai.

This week, roadshows are under-

way in New York and London. The

roadshows, led by the

Department of Investment and

Public Asset Management (DI-

PAM), have representations from

the Department of Financial

would boost the government's

disinvestment revenues and help

it achieve the unofficial target of

mobilising Rs 18,000-20,000

crore via disinvestments in FY24.

So far in the current financial year,

the government has received Rs

12,609 crore through minority

Re's dominant domestic market

share of 67 per cent share gross

reinsurance premium of \$4.4 bil-

lion (FY23). The rest of the shares

are with foreign reinsurance

The roadshows showcase GIC

If the GIC OFS hits in March, it

Service and GIC Re.

stake sales in firms.

branches (FRBs). **FE**



Reliance and Viacom 18 will hold 16.34 per cent and 46.82 per cent, respectively, in the combined entity. File

California-headquartered conglomerate may also contribute certain additional media assets to the JV, subject to regulatory and third-party approvals. RIL's TV18 owns majority stake in Viacom 18.

Nita Ambani, wife of RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani, will be the chairman the JV while Uday Shankar will be the vice chairperson, providing strategic guidance.

tertainment and sports content in India and offer consumers

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

INDIA'S NON-oil exports in

Ianuary registered a 9 per cent de-

cline in January compared to the

previous month as outbound

shipments to Europe and the

United States slowed further

amid the Red Sea shipping route

crisis, as per the official data from

Commerce Ministry on

on-month decline in exports in

the non-oil category in nine

months as global shipping lines

were forced to a longer sea route

through the Cape of Good Hope

amid sustained attacks by the

Houthi forces along the crucial

cerned, the impact of the Red Sea

troubles on India's overall petro-

leum product exports was lim-

ited as exporters shifted cargoes

to various other geographies.

While petroleum exports to

As far as oil exports are con-

This was the steepest month-

Wednesday.

shipping routes.

in India, bringing together iconic media assets across entertainment (Colors, StarPlus, StarGOLD) and sports (Star Sports and Sports18), including access to highly anticipated events through JioCinema and Hotstar. The JV will have over 750 million viewers across India and will also cater to the Indian diaspora across the world.

In a company statement, RIL said the JV will seek to lead the This joint venture will be one digital transformation of the me-

Non-oil exports in January witnessed steepest

■ M-o-M (%)

-5.27

Aug

decline in nine months amid Red Sea crisis

INDIA'S NON-OIL EXPORTS LOG

STEEPEST FALL IN 9 MONTHS

15.16

-5.52

M-O-M: month-on-month

Europe registered a sharp 22 per

cent decline, exports to

Singapore, Australia, Indonesia,

Japan, Oman, Sri Lanka, and

shipping disruption was visible in

India's exports to the Netherlands

The primary impact of the

Bangladesh, jumped.

15

0

-10

-15

high-quality and comprehensive content offerings anytime and anywhere. The combination of the media expertise, cuttingedge technology and diverse content libraries of Viacom18 and Star India will allow the JV to offer more appealing domestic and global entertainment content and sports livestreaming services, while delivering an innovative and convenient digital entertainment experience at affordable prices, it added.

"With the addition of Disney's acclaimed films and shows to Viacom18's renowned productions and sports offerings, the JV will offer a compelling, accessible and novel digital-focused entertainment experience to people in India and the Indian diaspora globally," said a joint statement. The JV will also be granted exclusive rights to distribute Disney films and productions in India, with a license to more than 30,000 Disney content assets.

Calling it a landmark agreement, RIL managing director Ambani said the deal heralds a of the leading platforms for endia and entertainment industry new erain the Indian entertainvear 2025. **FULL REPORT ON**

19.45

Source: Ministry of Commerce

which is home to the biggest port

in Europe - Port of Rotterdam.

Electronic goods exports to the

Netherlands slipped 37 per cent

while drugs and pharmaceutical

exports declined by 18 per cent.

Engineering goods exports also

slipped 15 per cent compared to

Dec

"We have always respected Disney as the best media group globally and are very excited at forming this strategic joint venture that will help us pool our extensive resources, creative prowess, and market insights to deliver unparalleled content at affordable prices to audiences across the nation. We welcome Disney as a key partner of Reliance group."

Disney's Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger also expressed excitement for the JV which will "provide to create longterm value for the company. "Reliance has a deep understanding of the Indian market and consumer, and together we will create one of the country's leading media companies, allowing us to better serve consumers with a broad portfolio of digital services and entertainment and sports con-

regulatory, shareholder and other customary approvals and is expected to be completed in the last quarter of calendar year 2024 or first quarter of calendar www.indianexpress.com

the previous month.

However, demand in the UK has

also slipped as Britain's economy

fell into a recession in the second

half of 2023. India's total exports

for the US slipped 6.32 per cent to

slipped 12.61 per cent in January

compared to December, Gems

And Jewellery exports declined

10.83 per cent. Marine Products

exports slipped 19.87 per cent

and Meat, Dairy And Poultry

development body, UNCTAD, had

earlier raised alarm over the dis-

ruption in global trade due to

chaos in the Red Sea shipping

route stating that the ongoing cri-

sis would particularly hurt devel-

www.indianexpress.com

FULL REPORT ON

oping nations such as India.

The United Nation's trade and

Products also fell 11.54 per cent.

Engineering goods exports

\$12.55 billion in January.

more reliable.

The transaction is subject to

Why Google-Reddit \$60 mn AI deal foretells the future of licensing for LLMs

\$82.56

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

GOOGLE AND Reddit have signed a \$60 million deal that will give the Internet search giant real-time access to the data of one of the world's most visited social media and contentsharing platforms. Google will use this data for its artificial intelligence (AI) offerings.

Reddit is headed to a public listing in the coming weeks, and a infusion of cash at this time could boost investor confidence. And Google's AI system has come under fire — in both the US and India — and the company is looking to make its offerings

The deal underlines the value of user-generated content on the Internet, especially for Generative AI (GenAI) platforms like Google's Gemini

PLAINED and OpenAI's ChatGPT. It also points to the complexities of training large language models (LLMs) when they can potentially in-

fringe on the intellectual property rights of content producers online — and the reason why such content licensing deals may be crucial.

What does the Google-Reddit deal involve?

Google will get access to Led by a decline in electronic Reddit's data application progoods and drugs and pharma gramming interface (API), shipments, exports to the UK also which delivers real-time, strucslipped 12 per cent in January tured, unique content from the compared to December. social media platform.

"With the Reddit Data API, Google will have efficient and structured access to fresher information, as well as enhanced signals that will help us better understand Reddit content and display, train on, and otherwise use it in the most accurate and relevant ways," Google said in a blog post.

Why is this important for Google?

Google needs access to as much user-generated content as possible to make its foundational model more reliable and accurate. Widespread criticism of responses generated by Gemini has increased the urgency for the company to get its act together, as the likes of OpenAI come to have an inture of how users access online services.

India, in response to the question "Is Modi a fascist?" Gemini said that the Prime Minister has been "accused of implementing policies some experts have characterised as fascist", which include the "BJP's Hindu nationalist ideology, its crackdown on dissent, and its use of violence against religious minorities".

After the IT Ministry threatened to issue a show-cause notice for the "illegal and problematic" responses, Google said it had addressed the issue, and was working to improve the sys-

The company had earlier apologised for "inaccuracies in some historical image generation depictions" after criticism that Gemini had depicted white figures (like the founding fathers

of the US) or groups like Nazi-era German soldiers as people of colour.

Are Google-Redditlike content licensing deals the future of

building LLMs? The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft, the creators of ChatGPT, and other popular AI platforms last year, citing

"unlawful" use of copyrighted content. The NYT said in its lawsuit that the companies were scraping original content from the publisher to build their models and manufacture responses. The NYT lawsuit has reignited the debate on the ownership of online content and whether GenAI platforms are infringing on the intellectual

property (IP) rights of organisations like news publications that put out significant amounts of updated and mostly accurate information on the Internet — the kind of data that GenAI plate forms can really benefit from. The responses that AI platforms such as ChatGPT and

Gemini generate rest on the bedrock of millions of pieces of textual content that creators, including news publishers, have uploaded online.

The music business — which is among the most sensitive towards IP rights — has also been pushing back on the use of AI in the industry. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com creasingly greater say in the fu-

BRIEFLY

Sunil Mittal knighted by King Charles III

London: Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal has been awarded Honorary Knighthood by the British King Charles III in recognition of his services to the UK and India business relations. **PTI**

Apple cancels electric car project

Bengaluru: Apple has canceled work on its electric car, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday, a decade after the iPhone maker kicked off the project. The move draws the curtain on a plan that would have helped Apple break out into a new industry and potentially replicate the success of the iPhone. **REUTERS**

Gates visits Microsoft centre

Hyderabad: Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates visited the tech giant's India Development Center in Hyderabad, the company said. The centre is celebrating its 25th year of research and engineering. **PTI**

AMFI asks MFs to limit inflows in small, mid-cap funds amid a buildup of 'froth'

HITESH VYAS MUMBAI. FEBRUARY 28

ASSOCIATION OF Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has written to mutual fund houses to take measures to protect the interest of investors of small and mid-cap schemes, which have seen heavy inflows in the recent past.

Small and mid-cap funds have seen a surge in inflows from investors led by higher-than-expected performance of companies in these segments. Many analysts have raised concerns over the valuation of small and midcap stocks which poses risks for investors.

"In the context of froth building up in the small and mid-cap segments of the market and the continuing flows in the small and mid-cap schemes of mutual funds, trustees, in consultation with the Unitholder Protection Committee of the AMCs (Asset Management Companies), shall ensure that a policy is put in place to protect the interest of all investors," AMFI wrote to its members in a letter written on February

AMFI, the mutual fund body, said that AMCs and fund managers should take appropriate and proactive measures to safeguard investors, including but not limited to moderating inflows, portfolio rebalancing, among others.

"Steps to ensure that investors are protected from the first mover advantage of redeeming investors," the letter said.

Further, AMFI directed that the policy regarding this should be approved by trustees and disclosed on each mutual funds' website within 21 days from February 27.

In the past six months, the Nifty Smallcap 100 index has risen 33 per cent and Nifty Midcap 100 has surged 24.38 per cent. The growth in both the indices is much higher than the 14 per cent growth seen in the benchmark Nifty 50 in a similar period.

Between August 2023 and January 2024, small-cap funds have seen net inflows of Rs 22,252.14 crore while mid-cap funds have witnessed inflows of Rs 13,042.1 crore, according to AMFI data. On the other hand, large cap funds have seen net inflows of around Rs 1,577.04 crore in the same period.

Earlier this week, Kotak Mutual Fund in a note to investors said that it has limited the inflows in its small cap funds from March 4,2024.

"Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), or Systematic Transfer Plan (STP), or such other special products in Kotak Small Cap Fund would be limited to Rs 25,000 per PAN (first holder/Guardian) per month for daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly frequencies," Kotak

Number of ultra-rich in India rises 6% in '23: Knight Frank

Ultra-high Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) are defined as individuals having a net worth of \$30 million and above.



No. of UHNWIs globally 6,01,300 2022: 2023: 6,26,619 8,02,891*

Indian UHNWIs in 2024

90% To witness an increase in their wealth during the year 2024

63% To see a significant increase of more than 10% in their wealth value

Knight Frank's country rankings: (Year-on-year expansion)

	•
Turkey:	9.79
The US:	7.9
India:	6.19
South Korea:	5.69
Switzerland:	5.19

*Estimated to increase Source: Knight Frank/PTI

Voda-Idea may raise funds via FPO

JATIN GROVER

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

BELEAGUERED TELECOM company Vodafone Idea is expected to mop up a portion of the approved Rs 20,000-crore fundraise through a follow-on public offer (FPO). The remaining amount is expected to come from the promoter entity of the Aditya Birla Group via a preferential issue, according to people in the know.

The company's board on Tuesday approved a total fundraise of Rs 45,000 crore, of which Rs 25,000 is to be raised

through debt instruments. The Aditya Birla Group has committed to infusing Rs 2,000 crore into Vodafone Idea, which will be part of the Rs 20,000-crore equity fundraise. Queries sent to

press. The possibility of an FPO, which will dilute the telco's equity base, sent the stock price crashing. The Vodafone stock ended Wednesday's session at Rs 13.65 apiece, down nearly 14 per cent over Tuesday's close.

The telco has called a meeting of its shareholders on April 2 to seek an approval for the fundraise exercise: it expects to complete the fundraise in the coming quarter.

"The significant equity component in comparison to the promoter's commitment of up Vodafone Idea did not elicit any to Rs 2,000 crore can potentially mean Vodafone Idea may be able response at the time of going to to bring on some external investors, which has been in the works for a long time now," analysts at Nomura wrote. They added that if the telco is able to bring in external investors, it would be a significant positive for the company At the same time, some analysts say any outcome will depend on how successful the effort is. **FE**

Sensex, Nifty fall over 1% on weak global cues, profit booking

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI. FEBRUARY 28

DOMESTIC EQUITY market fell over 1 per cent on Wednesday tracking weak global markets and profit booking ahead of the release of domestic gross domestic product (GDP) estimate for October-December quarter (Q3).

The BSE's Sensex slipped 790 points, or 1.08 per cent, to close at 72,304.88 and the Nifty 50 fell 247.2 points, or 1.11 per cent, to end at 21,951.15.

''Indian markets were jittery, mirroring weak global markets. Global investors are awaiting the key US economic data like personal consumption expenditure, in anticipation of a good forecast there is a fear that the US Federal Reserve rate cut may be delayed. Turmoil in China's property sector further impacted the Asian market trend," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Of the 30 Sensex stocks, 26 ended in red, while 46 out of 50 companies in Nifty 50 closed in red. Profit booking weighed on Indian markets, fueled by concerns about India's Q3 GDP growth potentially slowing to 6.6 per cent from 7.6 per cent in Q2, Nair said. The quarterly GDP estimates for Q3 FY24 will be released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on February 29.

Bank of Baroda expects Q3FY24 GDP to moderate to 6.4 per cent. "Growth in Q3 though is

a tad slower than O2, however it is uneven across sectors with few of them registering better growth than others," Bank of Baroda said

in a research report.

According to Kotak Securities' Head (Equity Research), Shrikant Chouhan, the benchmark indices witnessed profit booking at higher levels.

"Technically, after a muted opening the index breached 22100/72800 support zone and post breakdown the selling pressure intensified. In addition, on daily charts the index has formed a long bearish candle, which indicates further weakness from the

current levels," Chouhan said. Among sectors, all the major sectoral indices registered intraday profit booking but the media index corrected the most shed over 3.5 per cent. Of the Nifty 50 firms, companies that lost the most included Power Grid Corporation of India, Bajaj Auto, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Eicher Motors and IndusInd Bank

Reliance Industries fell 2.07 per cent to end at Rs 2,909 apiece Vodafone Idea Ltd lost around 14 per cent to Rs 13.65 apiece, despite the company announcing Rs 45,000 crore through a combination of equity and debt.

Nifty Small Cap 100 index fell 1.87 per cent to close at 15,875.15 and Nifty Midcap 100 tanked 1.94 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) net sold Rs 1.879 crore worth of domestic shares on Wednesday, the BSE's provisional data showed.

Newspapers & Magazines http<mark>s://t.me</mark>/theIASonly

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 16 THE WORLD

AFTER PANDEMIC CLOSURE

EUROPE EYES REOPENING EMBASSIES IN N KOREA

A GERMAN delegation visited the North Korean capital, Pyongyang for the first time since its embassy was shuttered during the pandemic, as other European countries prepare for an anticipated return. A team from the German Federal Foreign Office was currently in Pyongyang on a inspection trip, a foreign office spokesperson said. UK is also seeking to send a team, a Foreign Office spokesperson said. REUTERS

TOPOFTHE WORLD



Harry loses challenge over police security

London: Prince Harry was Peter Lane said in the High group that evaluated acted irrationally and failed to follow its own policies.

MALAYSIA

Court reinstates charges against ex-PM Yassin

litically a sessions court.

Azerbaijan, Armenia hold

Berlin: Germany is hosting two days of peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia five months after Azerbaijan recaptured its Karabakh region from its ethnic Armenian majority, prompting a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians. Azerbaijan has been increasingly hostile to outside involvement in brokering an agreement, with President Ilham Aliyev acwith Armenia. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met Aliyev and Armenian PM sidelines of the Munich Conference. REUTERS

FRANCE

Bill to make

Paris: France's Senate is to vote on Wednesday on a bill meant to enshrine a woman's right to an abortion in the constitution, a measure promised by President Emmanuel Macron following a rollback on rulings in the US. Wednesday's vote comes after the lower house, the National Assembly, overwhelmingly approved the proposal in January. A majority of senators appear to be in favour of the constitutional change, but some conservatives have criti-

Prince Harry

UNITED KINGDOM

not improperly stripped of his security detail during visits to Britain after he gave up his status as a working member of the royal family and moved to the US, a London judge ruled Wednesday. Justice Court that the decision to provide security to Harry on a case-by-case basis was not unlawful, irrational or unjustified. The Duke of Sussex claimed he and his family were endangered when visiting the UK because of hostility toward him and his wife on social media and relentless hounding by news media. His lawyer argued that the government Harry's security needs

Lumpur: A Malaysian appeal court Wednesday reinstated charges of abuse of power against opposition leader and former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. A Kuala Lumpur high court had thrown out the four charges and acquitted Muhyiddin in August. Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia for 17 months between 2020 and 2021, had pleaded not guilty and had called the charges pomotivated. However, a three-member Court of Appeal bench ruled that the case against Muhyiddin be returned to

GERMANY

talks in Berlin

cusing the US of siding Nikol Pashinyan on the

abortion a right goes to Senate

cised its wording.

Displaced Gazans in tent camps in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Reuters

CALLS FOR MARCH IN JERUSALEM AT START OF RAMADAN

Hamas raises stakes in ceasefire talks as Gaza toll nears 30,000

Its chief Haniyeh urges Arab countries, Iran-backed groups to step up Gaza aid

REUTERS CAIRO, DUBALFEB 28

HAMAS URGED Palestinians on Wednesday to march to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque at the start of Ramadan next month, raising the stakes in negotiations for a truce in Gaza, which US President Joe Biden hopes will be in place by then. The call by Hamas leader

Ismail Haniyeh followed comments by Biden, broadcast on Tuesday, that there was an agreement in principle for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas during Ramadan, while hostages held by the militants are released. Both Israel and Hamas have

played down the prospects for a truce and Qatari mediators have said the most contentious issues are still unresolved. Israel said Monday it would

allow Ramadan prayers at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque but set limits according to security needs, setting the stage for possible clashes.

In a televised speech, he said Hamas was showing flexibility in negotiations with Israel but at the

Hamas chief

Ismail Haniyeh

same time was ready to continue fighting. Hamas is weighing a proposal, agreed by Israel at talks with mediators in Paris last week, for a 40-day ceasefire. Both sides have delegations in Qatar this week hammering out details.

A senior source close to the

talks said it did not appear to meet

Hamas's demand for a permanent end to the war, or resolve the fate of Israeli men among hostages. Haniyeh also called on the Axis of Resistance as well as Arab states, to step up their support for the Palestinians in Gaza. "It is the duty of the Arab and Islamic

nations to take the initiative to

break the starvation conspiracy in Gaza," he said. The death toll neared 30,000 on Wednesday, at 29,954, according to Gaza health officials. On Wednesday, Israeli tanks and planes pounded northern Gaza, residents said, months after IDF

declared Hamas defeated there.

Tel Aviv proceeds with settlement expansions despite US criticism

REUTERS JERUSALEM, FEBRUARY 28

ISRAELI FINANCE Minister Bezalel Smotrich pledged to continue expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank, defying international pressure on Israel to stop building on land Palestinians see as the core of a future independent state.

Late Tuesday, Smotrich announced the approval of a new settlement called Mishmar Yehuda, in Gush Etzion, a cluster of Jewish settlements located south of Jerusalem, and said work would continue on authorizing further settlements. "We will continue the momentum of settlement throughout the country," he

This comes days after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington consid-

PALESTINE MINISTER: EXPECT NO MIRACLES IN UNIFIED GOVT TALKS

Geneva: Palestinian Foreign

Minister Riyad al-Maliki said on Wednesday he did not expect "miracles" at talks in Moscow over the formation of a unified Palestinian government and rebuilding of Gaza. The talks between Hamas and the Fatah political faction, scheduled to take place Thursday, come days after Palestinian PM Mohammad Shtayyeh resigned. **REUTERS**

ered Jewish settlements in the West Bank to be inconsistent with international law, reverting to a longstanding US position changed by Donald Trump's ad-

STATE HOME TO LARGE ARAB-AMERICAN POPULATION

Trump, Biden win Michigan primaries but Democrats mount Gaza protest votes

Ex-president nears nomination after 6th continuous win





DEARBORN, FEBRUARY 28

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden easily won the Democratic presidential primary in Michigan on Tuesday, but a protest vote by Democrats angry over his support for Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza exceeded organizers' expectations.

Donald Trump won the state's Republican presidential primary by a large margin, strengthening his grip on the party's White House nomination.

give 'credence' to Imran's rigged election claims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE, KARACHI, FEB 28

TWO BOMBSHELL audio clips of the main leaders of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leaked on social media on Wednesday have given credence to the claim made by former prime minister Imran Khan's party that the elections were "massively rigged" and its mandate was "stolen." In one of the audio leaks,

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori is allegedly heard saying, "They say that our mandate is 100 per cent fake." Tessori is heard saying in the audio that when he became the Governor, the MQM-P was with Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

He also warns in the audio leak that if the MQM joins any government at the Centre or in Sindh, it will face a lot of backlash and problems from their voters who know the party got fake votes in the recent elections.

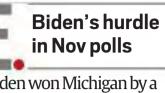


Joe Biden; Donald Trump

In Michigan, home to a large Arab American constituency, Democratic voters had been urged to mark their primary ballots as "uncommitted" on Tuesday in protest at Biden's Gaza policy. With about 85 per cent of all

votes counted, the uncommitted vote was already over 1,00,000 votes, higher than expectations.

Many in Michigan's Arab American community who backed Biden in 2020 are angry, as are some progressive Democrats, over Biden's support for Israel's offensive in Gaza. "Our movement emerged victorious



Biden won Michigan by a less than 3 per cent margin

in 2020, and some polls show Trump ahead in a matchup this time. This necessitates Biden's pacifying the Arab-American as well as some progressive Democrats, as the number of dissenting votes surprised even the organisers.

tonight... Tens of thousands of Michigan Democrats... are uncommitted to his re-election due to the war in Gaza," the Listen to Michigan campaign, which urged people to vote uncommitted, said. Campaign organizers vowed to take their anti-war agenda to the **Democratic National Convention** in Chicago in August.

Two audio leaks Indonesia's likely next president made 4-star General despite 'links' to human rights abuses

ASSOCIATED PRESS JAKARTA, FEBRUARY 28

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT Joko Widodo on Wednesday awarded an honorary four-star general rank to Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, a former army officer who is linked to human rights abuses and who emerged as the apparent winner of the February 14 presidential election.

Widodo gave the honorary promotion to Subianto, 72, in front of high-ranking military and police officials in Jakarta. A four-star general is Indonesia's second-highest military rank. "This award is a form of ap-

preciation as well as confirmation of one's complete devotion to the people, nation and state, Widodo said on Wednesday. Subianto was commander of

the army special forces, known



Prabowo Subianto receives epaulettes from President Joko Widodo, Wednesday. AP

as Kopassus, that were blamed for human rights abuses including the torture of 22 activists who opposed Suharto, the authoritarian leader whose 1998 fall restored democracy in Indonesia.

Rights groups have claimed that Subianto was also involved in human rights violations in Timor-Leste in the 1980s and 90s. The allegations led to Subianto being forced out of the military in 1998.

Chinese research vessel Zelenskyy co-hosts Albania summit leaves Maldives: Report seeking aid from southeast Europe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MALE, FEBRUARY 28

A 4,500-TONNE high-tech Chinese research vessel which made a port call in Male last week has left the shores of the Maldives local media said Wednesday.

Officially, the Chinese vessel Xiang Yang Hong 3 was here to "make a port call, for the rotation of its personnel and replenishment." "Xiang Yang Hong 03 has returned to the boundary of the Maldives' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) after docking in Male on February 22. However, tracking sites have shown the vessel's last signal near Hulhumale two days ago," news portal Adhadhu.com said.

Hulhumale is less than 10

CHINA TO ROLL OVER PAK'S USD 2 BN LOAN

Islamabad: China has agreed to roll over a USD 2 billion debt on existing terms after initially seeking a hike in price as debttrapped Pakistan's policy to maintain foreign exchange reserves through deposits by three friendly countries, according to a media report on Wednesday. An deal has been reached with Beijing to extend the repayment period *The* Express Tribune reported. PTI

kms northeast of Male. The vessel had docked on February 23 in Thilafushi, about 7.5 kms to the west of Male.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine's president pleaded Wednesday for more ammunition to repel Russia as he cohosted a summit with Albania's government to build further support for Kyiv among southeastern European countries while signs of war fatigue grow.

TIRANA, ALBANIA, FEB28

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that increasing the supply of armaments, and especially ammunition, was "the most fundamental initiative".

He arrived in Albania overnight to join a summit of eleven countries from southeaste Europe, including some of Ukraine's neighbors and officials from European

Union and other organizations.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy (right) with Albanian PM Edi Rama **in Tirana on Wednesday.** AP

Zelenskyy sought to build solidarity with countries of the Western Balkans, saying all of them deserved to be members of

NAVALNY TO BE BURIED ON FRIDAY, WIFE FEARS **POSSIBLE ARRESTS**

Mumbai: Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny's funeral service and burial will take place in Moscow on Friday, his wife Yulia announced, but she said she was doubtful whether police would arrest attendees. Navalny would be buried at the Borisovskoye cemetery, 2.5 km away from Maryino, where he lived. **REUTERS**

the EU and NATO. He said Kyiv wanted international law and global stability to be truly multilateral and transparent.

Asylum seekers reached a 7-year high in 2023: EU

ASSOCIATED PRESS BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 28

THE NUMBER of asylum seekers

in Europe reached a seven-year high last year, with more than 1.1 million people applying for international protection in 2023, most of them Syrian nationals, the European Union said Wednesday. The increase in asylum seek-

ers and other migrants is a divisive issue in many European countries, pitting those who say more should be turned away at borders against those who feel the continent should continue to welcome people fleeing persecution. The EU asylum agency's fig-

ures are compiled from claims in the 27 countries of the bloc, plus Norway and Switzerland.

The agency said 181,000 Syrians sought asylum last year -a38 per cent rise from 2022 while Afghan nationals made up the second biggest group, with 114,000 claims filed, though the number of Afghans was 11 per cent down, compared to 2022.

Syrians stood the best chance of having their claims accepted, the agency said. More Palestinians lodged asylum applications last year – nearly 11,600, or two thirds higher than the year before.

Under international refugee law, people have the right to apply for asylum when they are fleeing conflict, fear for their safety or due to possible persecution over their race, gender, sexuality or religion. Europe often refuses entry to people who apply because they are seeking jobs or better lives.

COUNTRY FACES TWIN DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES: PERSISTENTLY LOW FERTILITY RATE, AGEING POPULATION

Singapore's shrinking population: Fertility rate below 1 % for first time

GURDIP SINGH

SINGAPORE, FEBRUARY 28

SINGAPORE, FACING a dwindling population and a manpower shortage, has seen its resident total fertility rate (TFR) drop to an estimated 0.97 per cent in 2023, the first time it has dropped below one per cent in the country's history.

The TFR, which refers to the average number of babies each woman would have during her reproductive years, fell from 1.04 in 2022 and 1.12 in 2021, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Indranee Rajah told Parliament on Wednesday.

The birth rate remains below the replacement rate of 2.1 – the level at which a population replaces itself. The latest figure places Singapore among countries with the lowest birth rates globally, with South Korea topping the list at 0.72 in 2023, The Straits Times newspaper reported on Wednesday. There were 26,500 resident marriages and 30,500 resident

births in 2023, said Indranee, who oversees the National Population and Talent Division, which is under the Strategy Group in the PMO. "Overall, however, there were fewer resident marriages



With fewer births, Singapore will face a shrinking workforce, which will affect attracting global business in the future. Reuters and births annually on average

over the last five years, compared to the preceding five-year period," she said.

Singapore is confronted with the "twin demographic challenges of a persistently low fertility rate and an ageing population", the daily quoted the minister as saying. These challenges are not unique to Singapore, she added. Neighbouring Malaysia and Thailand also saw their fertility rates fall in 2022.

Indranee gave various reasons for Singapore's low fertility, including the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting some couples' marriage and parenthood plans.

She added, "Others cite concerns about the financial costs of child-raising, pressures to be an excellent parent, or difficulties managing work and family commitments." Indranee said the falling numbers reflect a generational change in priorities, and young people may not even see marriage or parenthood as important life goals. The falling TFR has serious

implications for Singapore's future, she cautioned. She said, "With fewer births, we will face a shrinking workforce. It will be increasingly challenging to maintain our dynamism, attract global businesses and create opportunities for the next generation." She said countries such as South Korea and Italy have already experiwith economic slowdowns and falling wages. In 2023, the government an-

enced this, and they are grappling

nounced various measures to support marriage and parenthood, including doubling the government-paid paternity leave and increasing Baby Bonus benefits. It has also supported the adoption of flexible work arrangements as part of efforts to help working parents manage jobs and families. A tripartite work group is de-

veloping guidelines on flexible work arrangements that will be compulsory for employers to follow once they are implemented later in 2024, the Singapore daily reported. **PTI**

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED MEDICINE

The importance of creating India's genetic map

The Genome India project can help identify genetic mutations in Indian populations that make them vulnerable to certain diseases, and develop cures for them

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE GOVERNMENT'S Genome India initiative Tuesday announced successful sequencing of 10,000 whole genomes of healthy persons from across the country, creating a genetic map of the population.

Researchers from 20 science institutes across the country helped in collecting the blood samples, sequencing the genome, developing a methodology, and storing the

With each sequence requiring 80 Gb storage space, the huge dataset of 8 petabytes will be stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre in Faridabad.

This dataset will be made available to researchers as "digital public good." The data can be utilised to develop new diagnostics, targeted therapies, identify new rare diseases, and cure existing ones.

What is the project?

The Genome India project was approved by the government in 2020 with the aim of creating a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations found in the Indian population. A map of genetic diversity is essential for understanding the history of our evolution, discovering the genetic basis for various diseases, and creating therapies of the future. This cannot be done using data available in existing international databases, as Indian genomes are likely to be different from that of other populations.

Researchers who analysed 5,750 of the genome sequences have already identified 135 million genetic variants found in India.

This map will also create a unique resource. This is because our population of 1.4 billion consists of more than 4,600 distinct groups. With marrying within the same community common in India, the various groups have maintained their distinct genetic makeup. This can help compare and

contrast the impact of genetic variations on physical health. Union Science minister Dr litendra Singh described India as the "largest genetic lab in the world."

What is a genome, how is it sequenced?

The human genome is essentially a biological instruction manual that we inherit from our parents. It is a tome written with just four letters, A,C,G, and T — the four bases that come together to create everyone's unique genetic makeup. There are around 3 billion pairs of bases in the complete human genome. This contains all the information needed to create your physical form and maintain it throughout life. From your height, colour of the eyes, the genetic diseases you get or those you are at a higher risk for, everything is determined by the genetic makeup.

To sequence the genome, researchers first extract the information from the blood. With a complete sequence of 3 billion pairs being extremely hard to handle, scientists cut it up

into small pieces and tag them — like you would when you disassemble furniture. The A,C, G, T code of these smaller chunks are written down by a DNA sequencer and then the complete sequence is put together.

How does studying the genetic makeup of the country help?

One, it can help identify the genetic basis or the genetic risk factors for various ailments.

Prof K Thangaraj, who leads the project and is a senior scientist at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, cited the example of a mutation, MYBPC3, which leads to cardiac arrest at a young age. It is found in 4.5% of the Indian population but is rare globally.

Another mutation called LAMB3 causes a lethal skin condition. It is found in nearly 4% of the population near Madurai, but it is not seen in global databases.

Two, it can help in targeted treatments,

Looking for Lord Krishna's Dwarka

The Prime Minister entered the sea off Dwarka to pray at the remains of the 'ancient Dwarikaji'. Scholars

and archaeologists have made several attempts to locate the Dwarka mentioned in the Mahabharata

especially for rare diseases that usually arise from genetic anomalies. "An Indian genome database will have a significant impact on treatments for genetic diseases. It can help develop new therapies that can cure these diseases," said Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Secretary Dr Rajesh Gokhale.

Take for example the under-development mRNA vaccine to prevent relapse of pancreatic cancer, which is based on a genetic mutation that allowed a small group of pancreatic cancer patients beat the odds. The mutation allowed their immune system to identify the cancer cells and attack them.

It can also help in identifying resistanceindicating variants — for example, genes that might make certain medicines or anaesthetics ineffective in certain populations. An example from India is a set of a Vaishya community from South India, who lack the gene for properly processing common anaesthetics. For this group, use of such anaesthetics can result in death.

How long did the project take?

The first whole human genome was sequenced with the collaboration of an international team. It took 13 years and \$3 billion, and was completed in 2003. India announced its first complete human genome in 2009. "The technology has come a long way. Now, it takes only about five days to sequence an entire human genome and perform all the quality checks. In fact, we were able to se-

quence the entire 10,000 genomes in a mat-

ter of three to four months," said Dr Gokhale.

A majority of the time was spent on collecting patient samples and their health history. The samples were collected from the remotest parts of the country, covering various tribal populations as well. In all, 99 distinct population groups were covered by the project. The collection was delayed multiple times due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is a significant milestone. We now have a baseline map of the country," said Dr Gokhale.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

WHY WE HAVE LEAP YEARS, WHY THEY DON'T ALWAYS COME EVERY 4 YEARS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 28

TODAY IS February 29, making the year 2024 a leap year. While it is generally known that a leap year occurs every four years, is every fourth year a leap year?

tra day is added to February, the shortest month of the year, as February 29.

What is a leap year?

Why was a leap year introduced? One year in a solar calendar reflects one round the Earth makes around the Sun. The Earth takes 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to revolve

year is thus rounded off to 365 days. To account for the extra time, rounded up to six hours, 24 hours — one full day

around the Sun. The length of a normal

are added to every fourth year. If this had not been done, crop cycles and seasons would start occurring at different times of the year gradually, leading to confusion.

When was the leap year introduced?

The leap year was introduced by scholars engaged by Julius Caesar in 46

BC, and made more precise from 12 AD.

The Julian calendar had a year that was usually 365 days long, with a 366th day added once every four years. According to the website of the Royal Museums Greenwich, the Islamic calendar Al-Hijra also has an extra day added to the 12th month, Zul Hijjah, on leap years.

However, even this method was not error-free, because the six hours used for calculation are still different from the actual 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds,



Former PM Morarji Desai was born on February 29, 1896. Express archive

making the calendar year slightly longer than the solar year.

Thus, in the 16th century, it was calculated that the calendar years until then had accumulated 10 extra days. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a drastic compensation by dropping 10 days from the calendar, and October 4 that year was followed by October 15 the very next day.

Why does a leap year not come every

Pope Gregory XIII's one-time action was obviously not enough to solve the problem. Thus, it was decided that some leap years — about one leap year every century – would be dropped to manage the extra day. The years chosen for this were those ending with 00.

However, dropping the leap year from all years ending with 00 would again throw the calculation out of whack. Finally, in the Gregorian calendar, the 00 years that were divisible by 400 ended up as leap years. Thus, 1900 was not a leap year, but 2000 was.

...an initiative by Drishti IAS

11 March | Special Fee for 1st Batch

Drishti Judiciary

Judiciary Foundation Course

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ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY

NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi went scuba diving off Panchkui beach near Dwarka in the Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat on February 25, and prayed at what is said to be the submerged Dwarka Nagari, the kingdom of Lord Krishna mentioned in the Mahabharata.

The Prime Minister posted on X that he had gone "where the spiritual and the historical converge, where every moment was a divine melody echoing Bhagwan Shri Krishna's eternal presence".

Later, he said, "I went into the deep sea and saw ancient Dwarika ji. Archaeologists have written a lot about submerged Dwarika... When I saw Dwarikaji..., I experienced the same grandeur and divinity."

Dwarka in the Mahabharata

Dwarka has immense significance in Hinduism because of its association with Lord Krishna and the Mahabharata. It is believed that after killing the demon king Kamsa, Krishna moved from Mathura to Dwarka with his Yadava clan and founded a kingdom by reclaiming 12 yojanas of land from the sea.

The Vishnu Purana describes Dwarka as a city of beautiful gardens, moats, ponds, and palaces. After Krishna, the town is believed to have gone under the sea.

Present-day Dwarka

Today's Dwarka is a town at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch on the Arabian Sea, at India's western extremity. In the town, which is part of the Krishna pilgrimage circuit along with Vrindavan, Mathura, Govardhan, Kurukshetra, and Puri, stands the 13th-century Dwarkadheesh temple dedicated to Lord Krishna. A number of other places along the Saurashtra coast are also associated with the legend of the Lord, including the island of Beyt Dwarka off Okha, and Mul Dwarka near Somnath.

Views of early experts

Since the beginning of the 20th century, scholars have tried to locate the Dwarka of the Mahabharata, relying mainly on ancient literature. They have weighed the possibility of the Dwarka of Krishna being the same as the town of today; or a once-flourishing city that now lies under the sea; or a mythical city of indeterminate historicity.

In his 2013 book Excavations at Dwarka-2007, Dr Alok Tripathi, Additional Director General (Archaeology) at the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), noted that the British orientalist F E Pargiter had, in his translation of the Markandeya Purana, suggested that ancient Dwarka was on Raivataka, a mountain mentioned in the Mahabharata, which is believed to be today's Girnar hill in Junagadh, around 200 km from Dwarka town. Dr Tripathi also mentioned the historian A

S Altekar who had, in the 1920s, "discussed that modern Dwarka may not have been as old as 1200 BCE, but accepted that it had been submerged as mentioned in some ancient texts".

In his 1943 essay Historicity of Krishna, the scholar AD Pusalkar suggested that presentday Dwarka is the same as the one mentioned in the Mahabharata. A similar view was expressed by the archaeologist H D Sankalia in the 1960s.

Evidence underground

From the 1960s onwards, archaeology was employed in the search for Lord Krishna's Dwarka. The early excavations focused on land around present-day Dwarka and, subsequently, explorations were conducted underwater.

(Above) The old

Dwarkadheesh

Beach. Wikimedia

Commons; Prime

Narendra Modi

during the dive.

X/@narendramodi

Minister

Temple seen

from Dwarka

The first major excavation was carried out close to the Dwarkadheesh temple in 1963 by experts from Deccan College, Pune, in association with the Gujarat government's Department of Archaeology. The excavation, focused on a small area in the densely populated neighbourhood of the temple, found evidence for human habitation going back 2,000 years. "These findings did not support the traditional identification with the legendary city, but inspired others to continue their quest and take up further studies," Dr Tripathi wrote. In 1979, the ASI carried out a second

round of excavations in the area under the leadership of Dr SR Rao, who is credited with unearthing a number of Harappan sites including the port city of Lothal. No official re-

port of this excavation was published, but a brief review by the ASI Director-General at the time mentioned the discovery of remains of three temples and Lustrous Red Ware pottery that could be dated to mid-second millennium BCE, Dr Tripathi wrote.

A lost city underwater

These findings led experts to surmise that an ancient settlement lay submerged in the sea off Dwarka.

For the next two decades, marine archaeologists and scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, a laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, carried out an extensive search for a sunken city in the Arabian Sea.

Marine archaeologist Dr Sila Tripati, who was part of the NIO team from 1988 onward, told The Indian Express that the undersea excavation found about "200 stone anchors stone structures, stone sculptures, small pieces pottery, some pieces of marble statues, iron anchors, and other metal objects".

The excavated material was dated against findings from nearby areas, Dr Tripati said. "When it comes to the archaeological excavations in Dwarka, one needs to take into account the entire region, which includes Beyt Dwarka, Nageshwar, Pindara, Gopi Talab, etc. all of which are located less than 30 km from the town of Dwarka," he said.

Dr Tripati said excavations at one side of Beyt Dwarka unearthed material dating from the sixth century BCE to the sixth century CE, while on the other side of the island, evidence dating to the Late Harappan period (1900-1300 BCE) was found.

"Since the stone anchors found underwa-

ter at Dwarka were similar to the Late Harappan findings at Beyt Dwarka, we concluded that they were from the same period,' Dr Tripati said. He added that many scholars believe that the Late Harappan period coincided with the period of the *Mahabharata*. Thereafter, another round of undersea ex-

ploration was carried out between 2005 and 2007, this time by the Underwater Archaeology Wing of the ASI, which was then led by Dr Tripathi.

These excavations by the ASI concluded that the structural remains found on the seabed had been transported there by waves and ocean currents. The study concluded that it was not possible to assign a specific date to the remains.

Row over Karnataka Bill: what changes it proposed to how temples are taxed

LAW

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE KARNATAKA government's attempt to tweak the law that governs taxation of Hindu temples was last week stymied in the Legislative Council, where the primary Opposition, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),

English Medium | Offline & Online

holds a majority. The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on February 19 and passed on February 22. However, it was rejected two days later in the state's Legislative Council.

What amendments did it seek?

The Bill was meant to amend multiple provisions in the Karnataka Hindu Religious **Institutions and Charitable Endowments** Act, 1997.

The first and the most contentious was that it intended to divert "10% of the gross income of institutions whose gross annual income exceeds Rs 1 crore" to a common pool for the maintenance of temples, instead of the existing "10% of the net income of institutions whose gross annual income exceeds Rs 10 lakh".

Net income is calculated based on the profits of the temple after accounting for its expenses, whereas gross income simply refers to the total amount of money the temple makes.

In addition, the Bill dedicated 5% of the income of institutions earning between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to the common pool, changing the previous income bracket from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

The common fund pool was created by the BIP government in 2011, by amending the 1997 Act.

If the recent amendments had been passed, they would have generated an extra Rs 60 crore, from 87 temples with incomes of over Rs 1 crore and 311 temples with income over Rs 10 lakh. Section 19 of the Act lists the purposes

for which the common fund may be utilised, including religious studies and propagation, temple maintenance, and other charitable causes. **EXPLAINED** The Congress government

had said the enhanced funds would be used to grant aid to lower-income temples, provide terminal benefits to ailing priests, and provide scholarships to children from families of priests.

What were the criticisms?

BJP leaders accused the Siddaramaiah government of attempting to "rob" temples and questioned why only Hindu temples were being targeted.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said "The question from crores of devotees is why is the government eyeing the incomes of Hindu temples when it is not interested in the revenue of other religions?"

Siddaramaiah, however, maintained that there "has always been a mandate to create a common pool since the enactment of the Act in 1997 ... The common pool is

> administered solely for religious purposes connected with the Hindu religion... and it will continue to be used for the same purposes."

Did the Bill propose any other changes?

Under Section 25 of the Act, temples and religious institutions are required to form a "committee of management" consisting of nine people, including a priest, at least one member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, two women, and one member of the locality of the institution. The Bill proposed to include, among the remaining four members, one person "skilled in Vishwakarma

hindu temple architecture and sculpture." The Bill also gave the Rajya Dharmika

Parishat the power to appoint the chairman of these committees. The Rajya Dharmika Parishat is a state-appointed body empowered to make decisions on a variety of subjects related to religion, such as disputes over practices and customs.

Finally, the Bill also required the state government to create committees to oversee infrastructural projects that can facilitate pilgrimage to temples making more than Rs 25 lakh annually.

How is temple revenue handled in other states?

Telangana's approach shares similarities with the Karnataka model. Under Section 70 of the Telangana Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987, the Commissioner in charge of administration of religious institutions can create a "Common Good

Fund". Religious institutions making more that Rs 50,000 annually are required to pay 1.5% of their annual income to the state government.

After the government is repaid for expenses it has incurred under the Telangana Act, the commissioner can direct the remaining funds to the Common Good Fund. These funds are utilised for the maintenance and renovations of temples, *veda*pathasalas (religious schools) and for the establishment of new temples.

Kerala employs an entirely different system, where temples are often managed by state-run Devaswom (temple) Boards. The state has five autonomous Devaswom Boards that manage over 3,000 temples. These boards are run by nominees appointed by the ruling government, who are often politicians.

Each Devaswom Board has a budget allocated by the state government and is not required to share revenue figures.

Newspapers & Magazines http<mark>s://t.me/t</mark>heIASonly

in your life. You may

take this literally or follow a

understand that it is time to

liberate what psychologists call 'the inner child', the part of

you which never grew up, becoming more joyful and

spontaneous in the process.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

arrangements which are not of

your choosing. If you find

unwelcome it would be very

useful to check out any little

yourself contributed to the

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

to be an expert on everything. The more you know, the better

off you'll be, so keep the facts

at your fingertips. You'll also

need to understand the inner

meaning of today's events.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

the next few weeks. It seems obvious that you are heading

for a period which is ideal for

recuperation. Your zest for life

is soon to increase, so enjoy it.

It is difficult not to be totally

your sign. The good news is

that there is more to come, but

when you are showered with

opportunities, as you will soon

discriminate between what is

Astrological

movement and subtle phases of

Mercury. According to this

planet, your mood is now to

become more analytical and

communicative, which should

after yourself - you deserve only

do you a power of good. Look

the best.

1. Name of the work

2. Total No. of work

you are deeply

tradition has it that

concerned with the

worthwhile and what is not.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

be, you must learn to

awestruck by the

pattern which is

now building up in

truly splendid

rest, reflection and

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Life is moving on

week by week, and you will soon need

You needn't expect

amount of drive and

determination over

to have your usual

day by day and

current developments

way in which you have

situation.

Circumstances

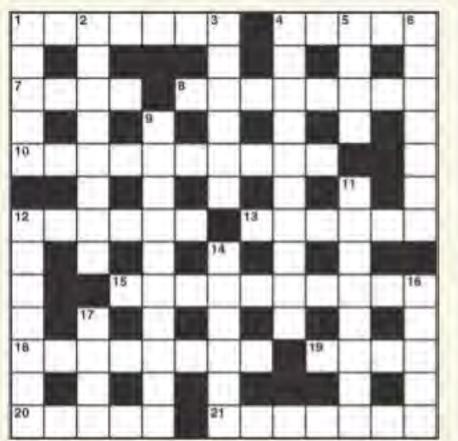
beyond your control

may be compelling you into family

metaphorical path and

18 CALENDAR

CROSSWORD 5300



ACROSS

- 1 Hard worker succeeds on a barrier (7)
- 4 Novel house but starting to let rainin(5)
- **7** Current male desire (4)
- rings (4,4) **10** Do they stop cars in record
- time? (4,6) **12** Develop part of a revolver (6)
- **13** Type of briefs used in the textile industry (6)
- 15 Final notices (10)
- **18** Be generous with some incriminating information? (4,4)
- **19** Enjoy the same sort of things **20** Shoes repaired and disposed
- of we hear (5)21 Mother takes a long time to get compensation (7)

DOWN

attachment(8)

3 Parent gets cut up by surgeon's saw (6) **8** Line brought into use when one **4** Perhaps all-in sabre dancing is

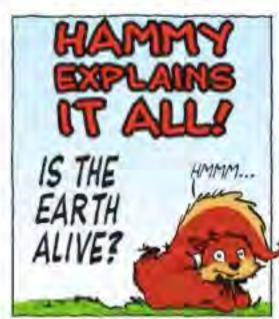
1 Part of a hospital grant (5)

2 So he and I form a strong

- their sphere (10) **5** His influence may make Rose
- change her name (4) **6** Magnetic holders? (7)
- **9** Too proud to take lodgers honest(5,5)11 I'd bring a form of decorative
- tape(8)
- **12** Binds books (7) 14 Bear right to enter the beach
- 16 Good players who make
- bloomers?(5)
- **17** It's wrong to be stood on its head(4)

Solutions Crossword 5299 Across: 1 Residential, 9 Entreat, 10 Lie up, 11 Oval, 12 Reporter, 14 Deacon, 16 Debris, 18 Learning, 19 Oran, 22 Stiff, 23 Abridge, 24 Indoor games Down: 2 Extra, 3 Iced, 4 Esteem, 5 Talk over, 6 Abettor, 7 Second class, 8 Opera singer, 13 To and fro, 15 Arabian, 17 Unfair, 20 Ridge, 21 Aria

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson







MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







SUDOKU

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to

AESTDM HZAER DHNOU RRUUMM Answer: A **memorandum** is written not to inform the reader but to protect the writer. -

SOLUTION: HAZER, HOUND, MASTED, MURMUR

1st 2nd 3rd

6

6

5

further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in.'

9

11

12

11

12

Difficulty Level 5s Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium: 4s = Hard: 5s = Very Hard;

Azadi Ka

Dated - 28.02.2024

28

28

28

27

27

27

27

12th

30

30

30

28

28

28

28

28

641/24

round round

6s = Genius

27

27

27

26

26

26

26

5486 **SOLUTION SUDOKU** 6 5 3 6 7 5 3 1 8 4

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) **ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)** As from today, Children and children will be an younger relatives important element

need a firm hand. The stars indicate a need for authority, yet in my opinion they are a mite too inflexible. You may therefore wish to be firm as regards your principles, but judge each situation on its merits.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Financial affairs will soon require more

thought. This means that you must talk to partners about your spending plans. Tell them what you're doing and they'll almost certainly go along with you. Your romantic hopes are rising, by the way, but they may be too high to be met.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) The romantic

situation is looking positively rosy. although it does seem that, if one arrangement is to be confirmed, there must be a break in another. You can at least maintain an atmosphere of goodwill and cooperation with a particular person, even if your spirit has moved on.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

If you take on too many new engagements or projects, you may let yourself in for a number of false starts. It could be far better to stick with what you know and concentrate on building up your future security. Then, you'll be able to launch an adventurous initiative from a firm base.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Your daily transits

indicate the need to complete shopping and financial exercises first, and then discuss the relevant issues and consequences. Do yourself a favour and look for ways to make life more enjoyable. And don't be annoyed by unreliable partners or colleagues. They may not be able to help it.

> PISCES (Feb 20 -Mar 20) You must now convey your true

feelings. It may be that you will do well if you concentrate on making the right impression, but if you are to convince family members, you must have a healthy grasp of the facts. It's no use relying on them to agree with you, just because you're you.

No. 117-S/Sales/Auction Programme/2023-24

10.00

10.00

10.00

10.00

11.00

11.00

10.00

11.00

2

2

2

Depot conducting | Time

auction

Alambagh/Lucknow

0522-2451257

Shakurbasti

011-27015387

Jagadhari

01732-252388 Sr.DMM/LKO

0522-2234756

Sr.DMM/FZR

01632-244154

Sr.DMM/UMB

0171-2611203

Sr.DMM/MB

0591-2413141

Sr.DMM/DLI

011-23365311

No.

JUMBLED WORDS

the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. A___ is written not to inform the reader but to protect the writer. - Dean Acheson (10)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Office of the Principal Chief Material Manager

Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001

Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

Corrigendum in March-2024 Auction Programme of Northern Railway.

Following amended dates of the auction programme for the month of March-2024 will be as under

4th

13

14

14

14

15

13

15

13

Auctions dates advised earlier have been cancelled, All terms & conditions advised earlier will remain same. For

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

5th

(hrs) round round round round round round round round round round

16

16

16

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18

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6th

20

20

19

19

19

19

7th

21

21

21

20

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20

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8th

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22

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND SPORTS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND

(Department of Tourism, Art-culture, Sports & Youth Affairs) Gate No – 28, Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morabadi, Ranchi email- sajha9@gmail.com, Phone No- 8210598116

ADVERTISEMENT NO: 47

DATE: 27/02/2024

Sports Authority of Jharkhand (SAJHA) is an autonomous organization under Department of Tourism, Art Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs, Govt of Jharkhand with its Head office at, Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morabadi Ranchi, Jharkhand. 2. SAJHA invites applications from eligible, qualified and motivated Indian Citizens for

providing consultancy as Sports Fellow-cum-Jr. Consultant on contract basis initially for a period of 02 Years and extendable on yearly basis up to maximum period of 05 years for SAJHA Head Office and all Regional Centres of Sports Authority of Jharkhand

S. No	Name of the post	Stream	Region for Vacancy	Number of Post	
1.	Sports Fellow-cum-Jr. Consultant	General	SAJHA Head Office	1 [Unreserved]	
-					

- 3. SAJHA is at liberty to appoint Sports Fellow-cum-Jr. Consultant based on actual workload. The waitlist panel for each category will be maintained for deployment at All-Over Jharkhand basis to fill the vacancies arising throughout the year.
- 4. Date of opening of application form is 29.02.2024 from 11:00 A.M. and Last date of submitting application form is 07.03.2024 till 05:00 P.M. The details of recruitment along with application form is available on SAJHA website i.e; https://www.sajha.in/. Applicants must submit the filled up form available on the website and send it through given email-id (sajha9@gmail.com). No other mode of communication will be considered.
- 5. SAJHA reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query, e-mail to sajha9@gmail.com.

PR 320707 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(23-24).D

Executive Director Sports Authority of Jharkhand.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE O-2681 E_MailID :serw balasore@yahoo.in, Ph-No-06782/260318 Balia, Balasore "e" Procurement Notice for Road Work Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 85 for 2023-24 Letter No. 1177 /WE

:- From Rs. 670.80 lakhs to Rs. 356.69 lakhs (Approximately) 3. Estimated Cost "A" & "Special" Class(of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of Eligible Class of other Licensing authorities (as per annexure). Contractor 5. Period of Completion :- From 06 (Six) to 11(Eleven) Calendar months for the work. 6. Other details Procurement Availability of tender Last Date & Time Date & Time of Identification of seeking Tender opening of tender

:- Road under MMSY-TRIP

:- 4 Nos. of Roads

1 2 3 4 5 6 Chief NCB 01.03.2024 13.03.2024 12.03.2024 14.03.2 Construction No 85 at to up to at	7 2024 Will be
	0024 Will be
Construction No 85 at to up to at	WIII be
	intimated
Engineer, 10.00 A.M. 05.00 P.M. 05.00 P.M. 10.00 A	A.M. later
Rural Works	
Circle,	
Balasore	

N.V Harihar Rao Chief Engineer OIPR-25105/11/0110/2324 R.W. Circle, Balasor

will be binding on you.

ADVT No: 590

No: ENGG/KAVI/ 15 / C HO / 110 / 2024

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE No: - CIVIL/C HO/90/2023-2024

Offers by way of e-tendering (Percentage) are invited by the City Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation from contractors in e- tendering system for following works. 1) The contractor shall quote his Percentage offer on the Cost of work excluding material testing charges as mentioned below. 2) The offer for work shall be exclusive of GST. The GST at the applicable rate shall be paid separately by PCMC for work. 3) Regarding the Royalty, the policy that the corporation determines

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated cost put to the Tender (Rs) (4+6)	Cost of Work excluding Material testing charges (Rs)	Royalty (Rs)	Material Testing Charges (Rs)	Earnest money (Rs)	Security Deposit (Rs)	Time limit in calendar Months	Cost of Tender Document + with G.S.T.(Non Refundable) (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Development of Telco Road from Gawali Matha to Indrayani Nagar Chowk	90,65,77,455	90,20,73,550	1,04,06,191	45,03,905	45,32,887	4,53,28,880	36	74,704

Time table for the tenders shall be as follows:				
Online sale of tenders	13	Date 01/03/2024 to Date 21/03/2024		
Last date of submission of tenders	15	Date 21/03/2024 up to 3.00 pm		
Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	1.5	Date 11/03/2024 at 3.00 pm		
Place of Pre Bid Meeting	135	Office of City Engineer, 1t Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune-411018		
Date of opening of tenders	1.9	Date 22/03/2024 at 3.00 pm (if possible)		

The Municipal Commissioner PCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partially or completely without any reason thereof. The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site www.pcmcindia.gov.in, http://mahatenders.gov.in. In case of any technical problem related to the tender document, the same can be referred to the NIC email support at eproc@nic.in or on telephone numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005,0120-627787

FREE More Newspapers & Magazines https://t.me/theIASonly

Sd/-City Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pimpri - 411 018.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन कार्यक्रम, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

—ः अति अल्पकालीन ई—निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :— ई—निविदा सूचना संख्या— EE/NREP/CHAIBASA/12/2023-24

1 कार्य की विस्तत विवरणी

क्रव संव	प्रस्वण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्रावकतिश राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	प्रशिमाण विपन्न का मृत्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	अम्युक्ति
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	बन्दगाँव	हुड़ार्गदा पंचायत के ग्राम-हुड़ार्गदा में NH-75 से भुईया देवगाँव तक पीठसीठसीठ पथ निर्माण।	12503500	250100	10000	०६ माह	3 rd Call
2	चक्रवस्पुर	होयोहातु पंचायत के होयोहातु बहमणी नदी से रामलाल हौंसदा के घर तक सिंघाई पक्की नाली का निर्माण। (माग—2)	6372700	127500	10000	06 HIE	3 rd Cal
3	कुमारहुँगी	कुमिरता पंचायत के ग्राम-पांखरिया में मुख्य सड़क से यन्द्रमोहन चिगुया के घर तक पीठसीठसीठ पथ निर्माण।	5252800	105100	10000	06 HTE	3 rd Cal
4	मझगाँव	आसनपाट पंचायत के ग्राम-सादोमसाई में सादोसाई मुण्डा घर से कुन्हारटोली होते हुए उडीसा सीमा तक पीठसीठसीठ पथ निर्माण।	4319800	86500	5000	०३ मार	2 nd Call
5	नोवामुण्डी	बड़ाजामदा प्रवायत के UPG MS Khasjamda विद्यालय का मरम्मति कार्य।	1226600	24600	2500	03 416	2 nd Call
6	जगन्मधपुर	मीगरा पंचायत के पाम—बालियाडीडा चौक से छोटोसाई होते हुए मधुबासा तक पीठसीठसीठ पथ निर्माण।	6961900	139500	10000	०६ साह	2 nd Call
7	तातनगर	पुरनिया पंचायत के ग्राम-बड़ा कोयता में जायरा रखल से चिरची सीमा तक पीठसीठसीठ पथ निर्माण।	9667300	193500	10000	06 相后	2 nd Call

जिला का वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि- 01/03/2024

2. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय-दिनांक 01/03/2024 से 07/03/2024 तक समय अपराहन 5:00 बजे

3. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान-कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियांजन कार्यक्रम, पश्चिमी

ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय -09/03/2024 अपराहन 03:00 बजे। ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण नियोजन

कार्यक्रम्, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम्, चाईबासा।

ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरमाष सं० - 7004618937 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरमाष नम्बर) परिमाण विपन्न की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार राँची के पत्रांक 02 (नि०नि०–17)–251 / 23 ग्रामीण

निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी। निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई—भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

कार्य विभाग 3130 (अनु०), राँची, दिनांक 09.10.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निदेश के अनुपालन में सभी कागजात के साथ,

10. ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले) झारखण्ड, पथ निर्माण विभाग, एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक भाग ले सकेगें।

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पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 320592 (West Singhbhum)23-24*D

देखा जा सकता है।

Rome: The Italian athletics federation announced Wednesday that it has withdrawn its candidacy to host the 2027 world championships in Rome. The move comes after the Italian government refused to guarantee the 85 million euros (\$92 million) needed to host the meet at the Stadio Olimpico. AP

Make-shift opener Navgire's blitz to Warriorz's rescue

NAMITKUMAR FEBRUARY 28

KIRAN NAVGIRE had a lacklustre 2023 WPL. In the Senior Women's T20 Trophy that followed, she made just 88 runs in six games for Maharashtra. Yet, the UP Warriorz, in full faith of her big-hitting abilities, tweaked their lineup in the absence of regular opener Dinesh Vrinda to give Navgire a go at the top of the order in what looked like a challenging run chase against the Mumbai Indians on Wednesday.

Whether a stroke of luck, or an inspired choice, it is fair to assume she has now cemented her spot.

It had been a strikingly disappointing first innings for the UP Warriorz. Their limited, inexperienced, spin-heavy bowling lineup struggled to hit their spots despite a promising start and their misery was compounded by tragically sloppy fielding. But Navgire, alongside skipper Alyssa Healy, immediately put that in the rear-view mirror, hitting a blistering 94run opening partnership to power their side to their first win of the season.

Navgire was the aggressor-in-chief. She smashed five fours and a six in the powerplay to lead UP to 61/0 in the first six – the highest powerplay score this season. She helped herself to a 25-ball 50, and departed at 57 with six boundaries and four sixes. Even though the innings came as an opener, Navgire's big-hitting ability, from ball one, makes her a potential candidate for the finisher role that India will be seeking someone to perform at this year's T20 World Cup. Lack of consistency had always been a niggling issue though.

Once Navgire lost her wicket, there had been a bit of a wobble – Issy Wong scalped both Healy and Tahlia McGrath in the same over. But an aggressive partnership from Grace Harris and Deepti Sharma allowed them to round out the run chase with over three overs to spare. The duo did not let the boundaries dry up; Harris' over-200 strike rate, despite arriving at a time the team was under pressure, will boost confidence in UP's middle order.

Healy's side had already built a strong platform early in the first innings, keeping Mumbai - who were without regular captain and middle-order enforcer Harmanpreet Kaur – down to 13/0 in the first four overs, and finding the timely wicket of Yastika Bhatia just as she had begun raining down boundaries.

Through problems of their own making, however, they conceded the initiative. Hayley Mathews was dropped thrice as she ploughed her way to a 47-ball 55. With only one seamer in use, their spinners failed to find the right length and leaked boundaries. They failed to capitalise on the fortune (and presence of mind of Sophie Ecclestone) of a mix up that led to Nat Sciver-Brunt being run out. Their sloppiness took Mumbai to an above-par total of 162.

Navgire's blistering innings, ably supported by Healy, rendered that sloppiness irrelevant. But it would leave concerns the team will hope to address in the future.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai Indians 161 for 6 in 20 overs (Hayley Matthews 55; Grace Harris 1/20) lost to **UPWarriorz** 163 for 3 in 16.3 overs (Kiran Navgire 57; Issy Wong 2/30).



Kiran Navgire of UP Warriorz scored 57 runs to help her team beat Mumbai **Indians on Wednesday.** Sportzpics

No Ranji, no contract

Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan lose central contracts as BCCI comes downs heavily on those avoiding domestic tournament

VENKATA KRISHNA B

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 28

IN A move that is expected to send a strong message to those skipping domestic cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has dropped two young India internationals -Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan - from the annual contract list.

The decision comes after the two failed to turn up for their state sides despite BCCI secretary Jay Shah sending a strongly-worded letter to all contracted players, asking them to feature in Ranji Trophy games. It is learnt that while Iyer had blamed a niggle for not turning up for Mumbai, Ishan was said to be taking a break because of mental fatigue.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, another player who hasn't played any cricket since the World Cup and was recovering from an ankle injury, though kept his place in Grade A.

It is understood that the call to drop Iyer and Ishan, who were integral parts of the Indian team across formats in 2023, was taken by the BCCI secretary in consultation with the selectors. Missing out on a central contract is significant for both with the T20 World Cup coming up in three months. It is understood that the chances of the two making the cut for the event in the US and the Caribbean are bleak and could potentially have an impact on their immediate future with the national team.

The contract snub comes at a crucial juncture for both the players, who were part of India's scheme of things, especially in whiteball cricket. The Indian Express understands that even if Iyer and Ishan return to the team later this year and fulfill the pro-rata criteria (minimum of 3 Tests or 8 ODIs or 10 T20Is within the contract cycle), they won't be considered for a contract. Instead, they would be paid only the match fee depending on the format.

Though both players are expected to feature in the IPL, it is understood that they would be considered for national selection only when they feature in domestic cricket. "Ishan was granted a break that he sought. But he hasn't reported to the NCA or his state unit, and continues to train alone. Under the circumstances, there was no chance for the BCCI to offer a central contract. Similarly with Shreyas, we went by the medical reports. The door is still open for them provided they play domestic cricket regularly," sources in the know told this paper.

Shreyas, in particular, had a good outing at the World Cup in October-November, where he scored 468 runs, including two centuries and three fifties, and was one of India's stars. Though he was struggling in Tests, he was given a long rope before being dropped midway through the ongoing series against



The decision comes after the two players refused to turn up for their domestic sides despite BCCI secretary Jay Shah sending a strongly-worded letter to all the contracted players to feature in domestic cricket. Sportzpics

England. As reported by this newspaper, though Shreyas cited back and groin pain for missing out on Ranji matches for Mumbai, the BCCI's medical team headed by Nitin Patel the sports science in-charge at the National Cricket Academy — found no issues with his fitness. The middle-order batsman has been included in Mumbai's squad for the Ranji Trophy semi-final against Tamil Nadu beginning on Saturday.

With regards to Ishan, there has been displeasure in the way he has gone about his break. Citing personal reasons, he had asked for a break during the South Africa tour. While he was granted rest for the Test tour, sources close to the player revealed that he was unhappy about being constantly benched across formats. And since January, the wicketkeeper-batsman has been training with Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya at Vadodara and has missed the entire Ranji campaign for Iharkhand.

The team management's position on Ishan hasn't changed with head coach Rahul Dravid clearly stating that for the player to be considered for selection, he has to play domestic cricket. Other than this, there were hardly any surprises in the contract list.

Pujara misses out

Virat Kohli, who has been unavailable for selection because of personal reasons, has been retained in Grade A+. In total, 30 players have been offered central contracts in four categories. There are four in Grade A+, which offered Rs 7 crore last season, six players in Grade A(Rs 5 crore), five players in Grade B(Rs 3 crore) and 15 in Grade C that fetches Rs 1 crore.

Rishabh Pant, who is out of action after a car accident, has been moved from Grade A to Grade B. Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Verma, Rinku Singh, Ravi Bishnoi and Shivam Dube are also included in the list with the likes of Cheteshwar

What the snub means for Shreyas, Ishan

NON-INCLUSION in the central contract pool impacts a cricketer's earnings. While those with contracts have a fixed annual retainer based on the Grade they fall in, the others only get match fees for their international outings. Example: If a non-contracted cricketer plays 2 Tests in a year, he will get Rs 30 lakh, at the rate of Rs 15 lakh per Test. But for the same number of Tests, a Grade A cricketer will get Rs 5 crore plus Rs 30 lakh. While a centrally-contracted player can make use of BCCI facilities, including the NCA, as and when they want, those not among the elite group will have to go through their state units to avail the NCA facilities. A contracted player also has a comprehensive insurance cover. So if he misses out on the IPL due to an injury suffered while playing for India, as has been the case with Mohammed Shami, they will be compensated for the financial loss. The medical expenses too will be taken care of by the board.

Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane missing out after being dropped from the Test team.

The Grade A+ continues to be the top tier and includes only four players - Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja.

Grade A has six players in the list, as against the five who were in it in the previous cycle. Apart from R Ashwin, Mohammed Shami and Hardik Pandya, the three new entrants in the list are KL Rahul, Mohammed Siraj and Shubman Gill. All three were in Grade B the previous season. Suryakumar Yadav continues to remain in Grade B as he couldn't make impressive returns in 50-over cricket. The other three players in Grade B are new to the category - Kuldeep Yadav, Yashasvi Yadav and Axar Patel. Among them, Axar has been demoted from Grade A to Grade B.

Chill, rain prediction make Dharamsala pitch preparation a challenge

VENKATA KRISHNA B FEBRUARY 28

AN EXTENDED winter, prediction of rain and conditions at the foothills of the Himalayas has made controlling the moisture level in the pitch a crucial factor for the fifth and final Test against England. Fast bowlers will get assistance if there is more moisture, something the ground staff are keeping an eye on as the plan is to roll out a pitch that will go the distance.

It is understood that despite there being a nine-day gap between the fourth and fifth Test, the pitch preparations for Dharamsala began almost a week before. The Indian Express understands that the climatic conditions prevailing in the region made the BCCI and the HPCA to start work early. Although the overhead conditions and weather could make England feel

a lot more at home than India, the 22 yards will be more to the liking of the hosts, said a source.

"It all depends on moisture levels. If it is on the higher side, it would aid the seamers. And since the natural conditions would definitely bring more moisture, one needs to start the preparations early. Instead of starting it 10 days before the Test, the work began 15-20 days in advance. It will also give everyone a fair picture of how the pitch behaves and the ground staff can prepare accordingly. There could be movement because of overhead conditions, but there won't be seam movement off the pitch," sources in the know told *The Indian Express*.

So far in this series, India have preferred to play on traditional slow pitches, which has offered turn as the Test progresses. However, India were unhappy with the conditions at Ranchi, where the ball began to keep low from Day 2, making it a challenging final day.



HPCA Stadium, Dharamsala. File

Even though India have already sealed the series, a win here is essential as it would place them better in the WTC points percentage. At present India are in the second spot and have three more series – Bangladesh, New Zealand and Australia – coming up after this.

So despite sealing a series win, India are keen on a 4-1 scoreline and are not willing to take any chances with the pitch.

The weather is a factor. As per the forecast, in the lead up to the Test, the city's day time temperatures are expected to touch only 15 degree Celsius, with the night temperatures around 7 degree Celsius. There is also forecasts of rain – especially during match-days.

It is understood that despite the weather, the only chance of Dharamsala having a green track for the Test is if something goes wrong during the pitch preparations. And according to those in the know, since the pitch is also made of black soil content, making a slow surface will not be an issue. But the amount of moisture the pitch retains will be key.

At Hyderabad and Vizag, with Tests being played towards the end of winter, because of

the dew and fog, there was good moisture content in the first session. And with the afternoon sun being harsh, on India's request, the ground staff used only the sack cloth instead of tarpaulin to cover the pitch so that the moisture evap-

orates and to prevent sweating. At Dharamsala, with the moisture likely to last longer because of the low temperature levels, extra attention is being given to the amount of watering. If it is on the higher side, then the ground staff would stop watering it as they don't need to worry about the pitch breaking apart. "Since it is going to remain cold, one need not worry about it crumbling under the sun and the cracks opening up. For all you know, in the lead up to the Test, if the temperatures remain the same (13-15 degree C) then the ground staff can also let the pitch bake under the sun and let the moisture levels decrease,' the official said.

SPORTS BAR



Murray keen to play at **Paris Olympics**

ANDY MURRAY hopes to challenge for a third Olympic gold medal in Paris this year despite a run of poor form and the likelihood that he is just months from the end of his illustrious career. The 36-year-old British player, the only man ever to win two Olympic singles titles, has struggled for victories in recent months and is currently ranked 67th in the world. Until a victory against Alexandre Muller in Doha this month, Murray had been on a six-match losing streak and on Wednesday said he would probably not play beyond the summer. "Hopefully I can get the chance to compete at another one," Murray told BBC Radio Four's Today programme on Wednesday when asked whether he would be present at the Paris Olympics. Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray won singles golds at London 2012 and in Rio de Janeiro four years later. **REUTERS**

Sathish, Aakarshi enter German Open 2nd Rd

INDIAN SHUTTLERS Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aakarshi Kashyap progressed to the second round of the men's and women's singles competition at the German Open Super 300 badminton tournament. World no. 50 Karunakaran, who had won his maiden super 100 title at the Odisha Open last December, outwitted Israel's world no. 45 Misha Zilberman 21-18 19-21 21-19 in his campaign opener to set up a clash with Ireland's Nhat Nguyen. Kashyap, who won the Uganda International challenge, beat Ukraine's Polina Buhrova 21-23 21-17 21-11 in a 63minute opening round clash. PTI

Swimming: Dhinidhi clocks best Indian time

ALL OF 14, Dhinidhi Desinghu on Wednesday produced a record-breaking swim to clock the 'Best Indian Time' in the girl's 100m freestyle event on way to a fourth place finish at the 11th Asian Group Aquatics Championships in Philippines. Dhinidhi broke the previous record of 57.35s set by Kenisha Gupta, clocking a new Indian best time of 57.33s competing in the 'C' category at New Clark City in Capas, Philippines. The teenager's performance was better than what senior Olympian Maana Patel (58.42s) and 21-year-old Shivangi Sarma (59.05s) could manage in the women's 100m freestyle event. **PTI**

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Puneri Paltan led 20-11 at the half and never let go of their advantage. PKL

Paltan seal final berth after 37-21 win

PUNERI PALTAN became the first finalist of Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 after a 37-21 victory over three-time winners Patna Pirates here on Wednesday. Paltan's heroics were led by their skipper Aslam Inamdar who secured seven raid points. They will now face the winner of semi-final 2 in the summit clash on Friday. Sachin was the pick of the raiders for the Patna Pirates once again but on the other side of the mat, an all-round performance from the Puneri Paltan slightly kept them ahead of their opponents, as they eventually began to get a hold of the game. Mohit Goyat's successful do-or-die raid in the sixth minute started a flurry of points towards the end of the first half for the Paltan, inflicting an all out on the Patna Pirates. Continuing his form in season 10, Mohammadreza Shadloui led the defence with his tackling, while Aslam Inamdar's raiding giving his team a 20-11 point at the end of the first half. The Paltan carried the same momentum into the second half, getting the Patna Pirates all out once again. In the other semi-final, Haryana Steelers beat the Jaipur Pink Panthers 31-27 to book their place in the finals. **PTI**

Praggnanandhaa beats Keymer in opener

INDIA'S R PRAGGNANANDHAA came up with a scintillating performance to grind down German Vincent Keymer in the first round of the Prague Masters Chess tournament that got underway on Wednesday. With this win Praggnanandhaa also added some spice to the tale around the highest rated Indian as he again overtook Viswanathan Anand in live rating to clinch the top spot. In other games of the day, D Gukesh had a chance to fight for more but had to settle for a draw with Richard Rapport of Romania, and Vidit Gujrathi split the point with David Navara of Czech Republic. PTI

Shooting trials: Ashi betters world record

INDIA'S TOP rifle shooters continued their impressive showing at the national selection trials as Paris Olympics quota holder Arjun Babuta won back-to-back competitions and triple Asian Games medallist Ashi Chouksey bettered the world record enroute to her win on Wednesday. Arjun shot 252.5 in the men's 10m air rifle T4 finals, just 1.2 short of Divyansh Singh Panwar's world record (253.7), which he had equalled on Tuesday before winning the T3 trials. Ashi then dropped just one point in the second prone position and just two in the final standing position to post a jaw-dropping 597. She took that confidence to the final posting a facile win. PTI



Red Bull boss Horner cleared of misconduct

RED BULL has confirmed that Christian Horne will remain in charge of its champion Formula 1 team after an investigation cleared him of alleged misconduct toward a team employee Horner will stay on as chief executive and team principal after the announcement, which came three days before the first race of the season "The independent investigation into the allegations made against Mr. Horner is complete, and Red Bull can confirm that the grievance has been dismissed. The complainant has a right of appeal. "Red Bull is confident that the investigation has been fair, rigorous and impartial,' the Red Bull parent company said in a statement. Horner had remained in his post during the investigation as part of what he called a "business as normal" approach, and was in charge of the team for preseason tests last week, even as he admitted the investigation was a distraction. AP

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Saudi Arabia's PIF and ATP ink 5-year deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FEBRUARY 28

SAUDI ARABIA'S Public Investment Fund and the men's professional tennis tour have agreed to a five-year partnership that includes naming rights for the ATP rankings, the latest move by the kingdom into that sport and others.

The ATP already had a deal that placed its Next Gen ATP Finals — a tournament for players 21 and under — in Jeddah from 2023 through 2027. The arrangement announced Wednesday includes courtside branding for the PIF at the season-ending ATP Finals and tournaments in Indian Wells, California; Miami, Madrid and Beijing.

Pepperstone had sponsored the ATP rankings since 2022.

ATP chief executive Massimo Calvelli called the new agreement "a major moment for tennis," and the tour's announcement touted ways in which it hopes the sport will continue to grow in Saudi Arabia.

Tennis has been consumed lately by the debate over whether the sport should follow golf and others in making deals with the wealthy kingdom, where rights groups say women continue to face discrimination in most aspects of family life and homosexuality is a major taboo, as it is in much of the rest of the Middle East.

The WTA women's tennis tour has been in negotiations to partner with Saudi Arabia, including possibly placing its season-ending WTA Finals there.

"As part of our plans to grow the value of women's tennis, we regularly speak to both existing and potential commercial partners about possible new forms of collaboration. While we don't rule anything out for the future, there is no new update at this time," a Wednesday. Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova are among those who have urged the WTA to stay out of Saudi Arabia, while another former star player and Hall of Famer, equal rights pioneer Billie Jean King, has advocated for engagement.

In January, 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal was introduced as an ambassador for the Saudi Tennis Federation. This month, plans were announced for Nadal, Novak Djokovic and four other stars of men's tennis to participate in an exhibition event in Riyadh in October.

INTERVIEW: HOCKEY INDIA GEN SEC BHOLANATH SINGH

'Why did Schopman say she was disrespected only after team didn't qualify for the Olympics?'

Singh refutes claims of a rift between him and Tirkey and rubbishes Schopman's allegations of bias against the women's team

MIHIR VASAVDA

MUMBAI. FEBRUARY 28

IN LESS than a week, the women's hockey team coach and Hockey India's CEO quit citing similar reasons – difficult working conditions. The first was women's coach Janneke Schopman, who said it was 'very, very difficult' to deal with people in Hockey India. Then, on Tuesday, the body's CEO Elena Norman too resigned. While she told the Press Trust of India that factionalism within Hockey India was one of the reasons for her quitting, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey in an email to the board pointed at the 'difficult working conditions'.

Both Schopman and Norman hailed Tirkey's support but did not mention the name of the other key office-bearer, the secretary-general Bholanath Singh, who is in the eve of the storm.

In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Bholanath Singh refuted claims of a rift between him and Tirkey, as Norman suggested, and dismissed Schopman's allegations of bias against the women's team.

Excerpts:

How do you react to the two resignations and the claims made?

Whatever is being said is false. The truth is something else.

WTA spokesperson wrote in an email **Then what is the truth, according to you?**

Now is not the right time for it. The day I speak... I won't say anything else. Shanti hai, shanti rehne dijiye (It's peaceful now, let it remain like that). People say a lot of things about me and Dilip ji, none of which is true. We get along very well.

The women's team coach, too, said some things before resigning. Wasn't she respected here for four years? If she felt like that, she could have said it anytime during these four years. But when India didn't qualify for the Olympics, all these things came up.

The Olympic qualifier was to take place



HI general secretary Bholanath Singh with India captain Harmanpreet Singh. file

in China, from there we got it to India and held it in Ranchi where people were out in full force to support them.

What else can we do? Even after all this if the team can't qualify, can't we even ask where we fell short? And whom will we ask. the coach only right?

Kahin kuch na milein toh naariyal kahan phod do, toh Bhola ji k bagal mein jo pathar hai uspar maariye. (When you don't have anywhere to break a coconut, you hit it on the stone next to Bhola [Shiv] ji).

Where did the team fall short?

Maybe we should have removed the coach before the Asian Games. Or she should have left. Maybe then the team would have qualified. All the players are good. After all, it was more or less the same set of players that finished fourth at the (Tokyo) Olympics.

Is it true that you wanted to sack the coach

The women's team coach, too, said some things before resigning. Wasn't she respected here for four years? If she felt like that, she could have said it anytime during these four years. But when India didn't qualify for the Olympics, all these things came up."

BHOLANATH SINGH. ON COACH SCHOPMAN'S ALLEGATIONS

after the Asian Games and Dilip Tirkey intervened?

Yes, I had clearly told everyone that if she stays, India can never qualify for the Olympics. And I wasn't saying this. Our selectors, too, were of this opinion.

It is being said the women's team wanted a psychologist but you initially denied their request.

That is not the truth. The men's team coach, Craig (Fulton), told me they wanted a psychologist. He selected the same psychologist who was in the team

I was the coach of India's

wrestling team. In 2002-

03, of the freestyle India

team. I coach even today.

What do you think I am?

ON HIS COACHING CREDENTIALS

BHOLANATH SINGH

Even I am an India coach!"

when (former cricket captain MS) Dhoni won the World Cup (in 2011). His per-day rate was high but we decided to go ahead because we didn't want money to come in the way of performance.

Janneke demanded a psychologist too. She gave the name of some psychologist, who charged the same rate as the men's team psychologist.

So I said this (women's team) psychologist isn't of the same level and asked her to revise her fees. When the issue was resolved, the psychologist was on board. It wasn't an issue. It hasn't ever happened – with men's or women's teams – that they say a word and we waste a second to get it done. We don't interfere anywhere. The only thing we want is results.

It's alleged that you do not have the necessary understanding of hockey since you come from a wrestling background.

(Laughs) In Jharkhand, hockey existed way before I was born. It doesn't matter whether you are from wrestling or hockey. It's how you think, what's your ambition, how will athletes give a good result... that's the main thing. Planning and system for most sports is almost the same.

So what is your plan for Indian hockey?

When I took over, I wanted the women's team to qualify for the Olympics and feature in the top five. And from the men's team, there was a clear expectation of a medal, colour doesn't matter. I only care about the Olympics, the Asian Games and the World Cup. At the Asian Games, I hoped both teams would win a gold medal. We did not doubt that the men's team wouldn't win gold. Women's team, we were wary of China (to whom India eventually lost). I won't lie about that. But in the qualifier that took place in

> Ranchi, I wasn't expecting that India would lose to Japan and the USA.

Hockey India must have reviewed what went wrong. What was the assessment? After looking at all the

aspects, I warned (after the Asian Games) that it would be tough for India if this coach stayed.

Was there anything in the review that led you to believe that?

ing is, what the systems are. What's your experience in coaching?

I am a coach, too. Even I know what coach-

I was the coach of India's wrestling team.

In 2002-03, of the freestyle India team. I coach even today. What do you think I am? Even I

am an India coach! Will Hockey India have a new CEO? Dilip Ji and I will sit and decide that.

And will the women's team's new coach be a foreigner or an Indian? You'll have to wait and watch. But what-

ever will happen, it'll be for the best.

Have you started the process yet?

Yes, I can say the talks are at an advanced stage. Very soon everything will be done.

END OF A LOVE AFFAIR

Why Mbappe can become the greatest Galactico from France since Zidane

SANDIPG FEBRUARY 28

A LOVELESS marriage would soon end. Kylian Mbappe would, potentially, unite with his true love, Real Madrid; Paris Saint-Germain would seek its true path to footballing glory. The Mbappe-PSG wedlock, despite the ingredients for a long and successful bond, even a symbolic bond of romance – the boy from the banlieue of Bondy, the city's grimy alley, at the heart of PSG renaissance – was always forced and inorganic. That it did not end bitterly even if it threatened to, at times — is a miniwonder in itself.

For Mbappe, it was always Real Madrid – the love of his life. The group that fired up his imagination were always the galacticos. In his comic-strip autobiography Je M'Appelle Kylian, Zinedine Zidane and Cristiano Ronaldo visit him in a dream, and Zidane hands him out a sparkling-white kit of Real Madrid. He plays keepie-uppie with them. In school, when a teacher asks him

about his best friends, he lists out the names Ronaldo, Zidane and Sergio Ramos. Later, in interviews, when probed on who he wants to be, it was always Ronaldo and Zidane. "If you're French, obviously you would have grown up with [Zinedine] Zidane as your idol. After that, it was Cristiano [Ronaldo]," he would say.

But between Mbappe and his dream came PSG. The money they offered was irresistible; the vision they sold was seductive. He could be more than a galactico; he could embody the club itself, give it an identity and character; even pedigree and culture. He could be the Parisian Cruyff. His acquisition was a symbol of power and ambition for PSG.

It was a statement buy — he was both the galactic and Cruyff. In the player-unveiling ceremony, Mbappe spoke glowingly about his love for Paris and his drive to guide PSG into exalted football company, a seat beside Real Madrid and Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester City. He was the greatest French star to play in France since Michel Platini. Zinedine Zidane was not yet a superstar when he packed his bags to Juventus. He could be as big as both; perhaps bigger.

A Parisian Saga was being typed away. Mbappe scored goals, a lot of goals. In 291 games, he netted 244 goals. All types of goals – tap-ins, long-ranges, curlers, benders, and fizzers. He created hundreds more.

He hoarded trophies — five league titles and eight other less glittering medals; a Champions League runner-up medal. He was a commercial blockbuster – jersey sales shot through the roof, doubling almost every year; with his talent and aura



Kylian Mbappe arrives for a state dinner hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday.

In 291 games, he has netted 244 goals. He created hundreds more. He's also hoarded trophies — five league titles and eight other less glittering medals; a Champions League runner-up medal.

he drove masses to the stadium. He won love and adulation.

Made for each other

But his heart still longed for Madrid. He was on the edge of separation several times. PSG, though, were adamant on keeping him, bestowing him immense player-power in the dressing room, raising his wages manifold, inserting incredible release clauses, and trying every way to pin him to Paris. He could decide the players, he could design the tactics. He had outgrown the club. They could not buy his love,

It was always with Madrid. The marriage has, officially, not been solemnised. Every year, rumours would swirl around, before pen could be put to paper. But this time, it looks closer than ever before. From a footballing perspective, Mbappe is made for Madrid than Paris, the grandest talent in the world on the grandest stage.

He would land in Madrid at a time

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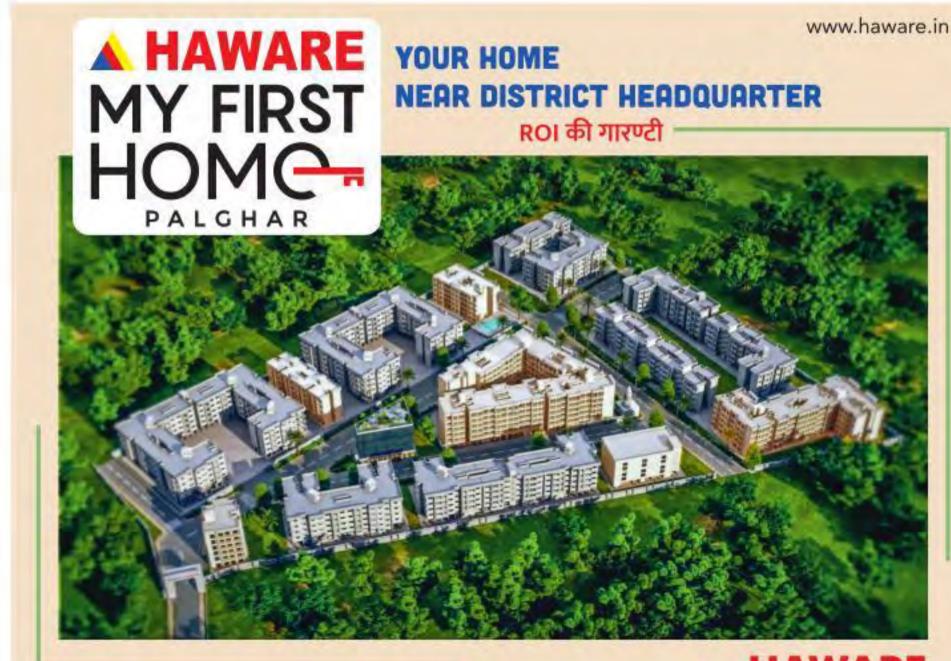
when the storied Spanish Club is searching for a face. In no club is an individual deified as much as he is in Madrid. And the club has always acquired the global stars, from Alfredo di Stefano to Zinedine Zidane and Cristiano Ronaldo, sniffing out most from the noses of some of the other European powerhouses.

Now, though, Ronaldo has gone. So has Gareth Bale. Luka Modric and Toni Kroos have aged. They have acquired Jude Bellingham, arguably the most talented and versatile midfielder around, they possess the Brazilian pin-up boy Vinicius Junior. All they now need is Mbappe to usher in the neo-galactico era.

All perhaps PSG need is the Mbappe divorce too. After the star-declutter last season. PSG has become a coherent, vibrant side under Spanish manager Luis Enrique.

They are without egos and clashes, without baggage and pressure, without ridicule and parody – a team now, rather than an accumulation of disjointed stars. Although Mbappe was still central to their fortunes, there are other budding stars too, like 17-year-old homegrown midfielder Warren-Zaire Emery, forward Kolo Mulani and Mbappe's own brother Ethan.

Enrique, last week, would emphasise on the "club being bigger than individual." But Paris was always a stage too small for Mbappe's talents. Madrid is his grand theatre. And the divorce would leave both liberated.



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