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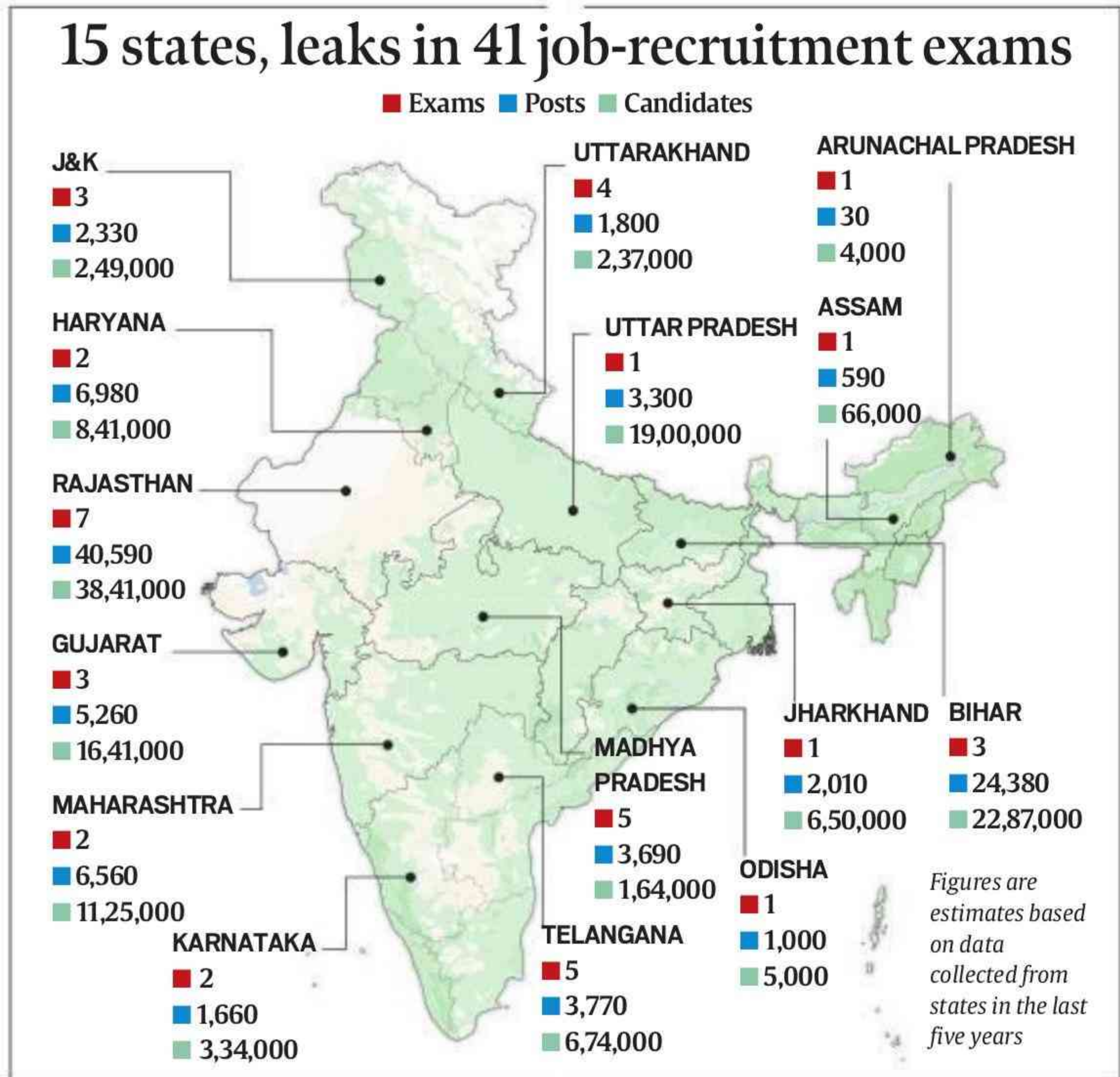
Training of **1 crore 50 lakh** youth under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, employment opportunities created



AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

The big all India exam leak

5-year fallout: Distress and despair hit 1.4 crore candidates; some wait 2 years plus; little action



10 years jail, Rs 1 cr fine: Bill in for Central exams...

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha to penalise "malpractices in public examinations" with jail term of 3 to 10 years and fine which can extend to over Rs 1 crore.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, is applicable to central recruitment and entrance exams conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), and

2024, is applicable to central recruitment and entrance exams conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

...but it's in states where the rot is wide and deep

SUKRITA BARUAH, ANAND MOHAN J, HAMZA KHAN & SREENIVAS JANYALA
NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI, BHOPAL, JAIPUR, HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 5

THE BILL introduced Monday says it will serve as a "model draft for States to adopt at their

discretion." This couldn't be more timely. For, it is in states that the problem of exam leaks is most acute — and widespread.

The Indian Express investigated 41 documented instances of leaks over the last five years in recruitment exams across 15 states — their governments cutting across party lines. What

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'CONG FAILED AS OPP, DIDN'T LET OTHERS BE ONE' PM slams Congress 'cancel' culture, predicts BJP sweep

'Can gauge nation's mood, NDA will get over 400 seats, BJP 370'

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

IN A blistering attack on the Congress, the primacy of its Gandhi family and what he called the party's "cancel culture," Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in arguably his last speech in the 17th Lok Sabha, said that he, and the nation, are convinced that the Opposition has resolved to remain in the opposition for



PM Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

decades while the BJP will return for a third term with 370 seats and cross the 400-mark for the NDA.

"Ek hi product baar baar launch karne ke chakkarmein, Congress ki dukaan tala lagne ki naubat aa gayi hai. (Congress shop is on the verge of closure in its attempts to launch the same product again and again)," Modi said in his more than 90-minute reply to the discussion on the motion of thanks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PLEA ON CHANDIGARH MAYOR ELECTIONS SC: Murder of democracy, prosecute returning officer

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

COMING DOWN heavily on the conduct of the returning officer during the Chandigarh mayoral polls on January 30, the Supreme Court said Monday that what happened during the election

was "mockery of democracy" and underlined that "we will not allow democracy to be murdered like this".

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud made the remarks while hearing the petition of AAP-Congress combine

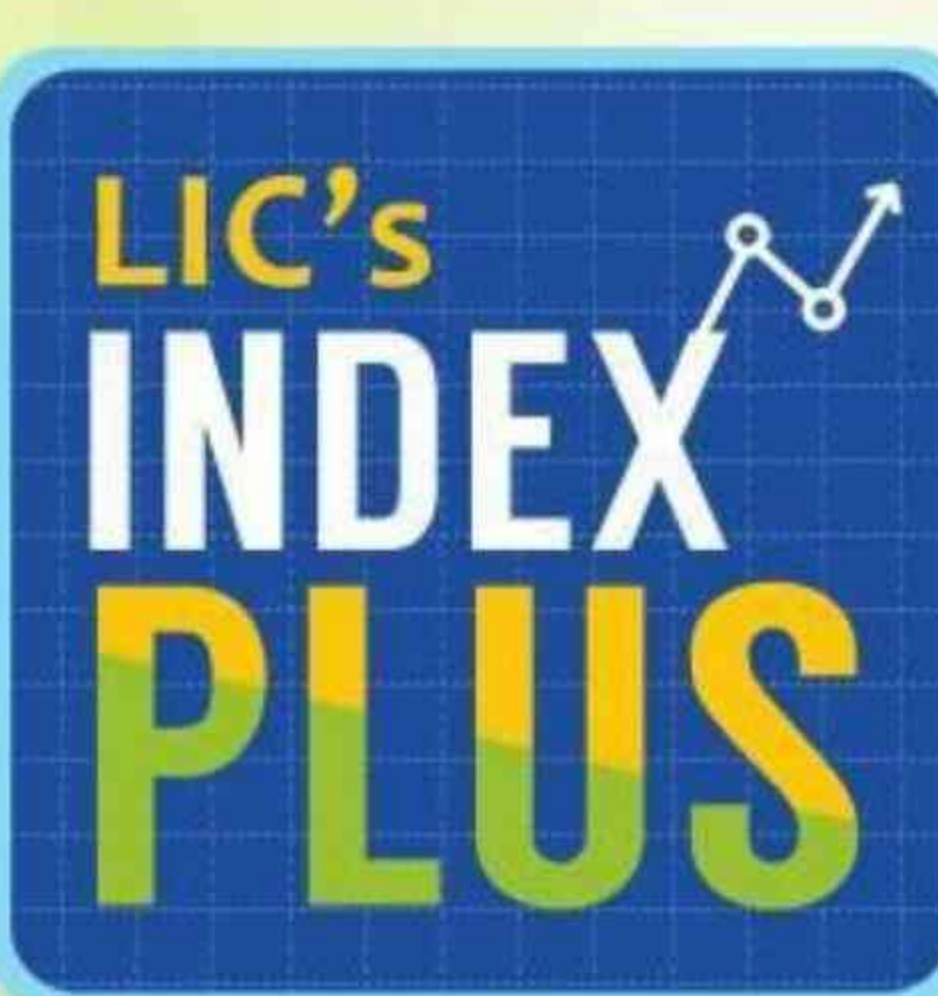
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योजना, कुरुक्षेत्र, इंडिया टुडे, प्रतियोगिता दर्पण, सामान्य ज्ञान दर्पण, गृहशोभा, चंपक, योजना समाचार

(अगर और कोई मैगजीन चाहिए तो डिमांड करे उपलब्ध करा दिया जाएगा)

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राष्ट्रीय संस्करण

Business Line (Delhi, Mumbai), Business Standard Delhi, Mumbai (Hindi And English), Economic Times (Delhi, Mumbai), Financial Express (Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi), Asian Age Delhi Hindu (Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, International, Thiruvananthapuram), Hindustan Times (Delhi, Mumbai), Times Of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi), Tribune (Delhi), Deccan Chronicle (Chennai) Mint (Delhi, Mumbai), Indian Express (Delhi, Mumbai), Telegraph Calcutta, The Daily Guardian, The Business Guardian, Millennium Post Delhi, First India, Hans Delhi, Statesman Delhi, Pioneer Delhi (English, हिन्दी), The New Indian Express (Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram), Editorial English जनसत्ता दिल्ली, नव भारत टाइम्स दिल्ली, अमर उजाला दिल्ली, राष्ट्रीय जागरण, हिंदुस्तान दिल्ली, हरिभूमि दिल्ली, संपादकीय हिंदी

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All

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WHY ABHISHEK BACHCHAN'S ROAD TO SUCCESS HAS BEEN SO BUMPY: BURDEN OF LEGACY OR BAD CHOICES? Over the years, Abhishek Bachchan, son of iconic actors Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan, has shown his acting chops, but the road to recognition has been quite bumpy for him

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EXPRESS AUDIO Hemant Soren's arrest, trend of acting DGPs, and Akhilesh's claim In 3 Things, we talk Hemant Soren's arrest, about the emerging trend of appointing acting DGPs in certain states, and about Akhilesh Yadav's claim of not being invited to the Uttar Pradesh leg of Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra

FROM PAGE ONE PM slams Congress 'cancel' culture

On the President's address, in a reference to Rahul Gandhi and his ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. The Prime Minister, who led the BJP to two resounding victories in the last two Lok Sabha elections, singled out the Congress for being responsible for the failure of the opposition and said he would return to power for a third term to set the tone for the country for the next 1,000 years. "I can gauge the mood of the nation, it will definitely give NDA more than 400 seats and the BJP at least 370 seats. And it's not very far. At most, 100-125 days are remaining," he said. "Abki baar," Modi said to the chants of his MPs, "abki baar 400 paar."

EXPLAINED Behind attack on Cong WHILE PRIME Minister Narendra Modi focussed his attack on the Congress, what stood out was his conscious omission of regional parties. The BJP has defeated the Congress twice in parliamentary elections, but it has struggled to defeat regional parties in state elections - an exception being the SP in Uttar Pradesh. PAGE 5

10 years jail, Rs 1 cr fine: Bill in for Central exams

National Testing Agency (NTA). The NTA conducts exams for admission to higher educational institutions, like the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for engineering, National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical, and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for undergraduate and post-graduate studies. Apart from these designated public examination authorities, all central ministries and departments, as well as their offices for recruitment, will also come under the purview of the new law when passed. The Bill, introduced by Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, provides punishment for "persons, organised groups or institu-

tion" indulging in unfair means for "monetary or wrongful gains". Candidates appearing for the exams have been left out of its purview. Section 3 of the Bill defines "unfair means" as "any act or omission done or caused to be done by any person or group of persons or institutions, and include but not be restricted to, any of the following acts for monetary or wrongful gain: leakage of question paper or answer key; participating in collusion with others to effect leakage of question paper or answer key; accessing or taking possession of question paper or an optical mark recognition response sheet without authority." Section 9 states that all of-

Murder of democracy, prosecute returning officer: SC

candidate for the mayor's post Kuldeep Kumar who lost to the BJP's Manoj Sonkar after the returning officer declared eight votes of the alliance invalid. After watching a video of the election proceedings, CJI Chandrachud, referring to returning officer Anil Masih, said, "What is he doing? It's obvious that he has defaced the ballot... This man has to be prosecuted. This is a mockery of democracy. It's murdering democracy. Is this the way he conducts an election? We are appalled by what has happened. We are simply appalled by what has happened." Agreeing to the request by Senior Advocate AM Singhvi, who appeared for Kumar, the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, ordered that the meeting of the newly elected body scheduled for February 7 be deferred pending further orders. It also asked returning officer Masih to be present before the court on February 19, when it will hear the matter again, "to explain his conduct as it appears in the video". "Is this behaviour of a returning officer? (He) Looks at the camera, faces the ballot and then obviously where there is a cross at

the bottom, he just keeps it in the tray. The moment there is a cross at the top, the man defaces the ballot and looks at the camera to see who is looking at him," CJI Chandrachud said. "Please tell your returning officer that the Supreme Court is watching... And we will not allow democracy to be murdered like this. The only thing, the great stabilising force in this country, is the purity of the electoral process, but what has happened here!" the CJI said as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the bench to not form an opinion without taking all facts into account. Mehta said, "Your Lordships have seen only one side of the picture." The CJI then said that the entirety of the video be produced before the court during the next hearing. Mehta agreed to do so. Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Sonkar, sought to draw the court's attention to some regulations regarding conduct of the election, but the CJI said, "We are not going to go by the regulations. We want our conscience to be satisfied. Otherwise hold a fresh election. We will direct who the returning officer shall be. Conduct a fresh election." Mehta once again urged the bench to not "form an opinion based on something said very selectively". But the CJI said, "Why is he (returning officer) looking at the camera like a fugitive? He has to be doing his duty. He looks at the camera and quietly he defaces the ballot." Singhvi said the issue can be resolved by holding fresh elections after sequestering the records. The bench agreed to the request. Issuing notice, the bench said in its order, "Prima facie, at this stage we are of the considered view that an appropriate interim order was warranted, which the High Court has failed to pass, in order to protect the purity and sanctity of the electoral process." "We direct that the entire records pertaining to the election of the mayor of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation shall be sequestered under the custody of the registrar general of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. This shall include the ballot papers, videography of the entire electoral process and all other material in the custody of the returning officer." Mehta said the returning officer had already handed them over to the Deputy Commissioner, Chandigarh, on

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It's in states where the rot is wide and deep

emerged was startling: The leaks derailed schedules of as many as 1.4 crore applicants, applying for a little over 1.04 lakh posts. So sweeping is the distress - among candidates, their families, and successive batches of candidates - that exam leak and disruption was a hot talking point in the most recent state poll campaigns. More so as it is linked to job vacancies at a time when the government employment pie is shrinking across states. In Rajasthan, the BJP trained its guns against the then ruling Congress, alleging the involvement of senior party functionaries in paper leaks. In Telangana, the Congress attacked the BRS government over leaks in TSPS-conducted examinations. Both defeated the incumbent. The issue even figured in the Prime Minister's poll speeches who, speaking in the coaching hub of Kota last November, alleged that the Congress had "sold papers for all exams" and guaranteed that all those involved in paper leaks will be put behind bars. The investigation by the newspaper's team of state correspondents covered a range of recruitment exams - from teacher eligibility tests in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to police recruitment examinations in Assam, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Jammu & Kashmir; from a forester recruitment examination in Uttarakhnd to engineer recruitment exams in Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan. Each leak was distinctive: in Assam, the question paper was

circulated on WhatsApp minutes after the exam started; in Rajasthan, a state employee allegedly stole the paper from a government office; in Madhya Pradesh, police claimed the accused managed to "hack into servers" of a private company in Mumbai tasked with conducting the examinations; and in Maharashtra, a student approached the police reporting a leak on social media. Whatever the nature of the leak, its cascading effects have taken many a toll. After the cancellation, the long wait In most cases, the wait for re-examination is long. Take, for instance, the Group-1 prelim examination conducted by the Telangana State Public Services Commission. It was held on October 16, 2022 but cancelled in March 2023 after a Special Investigation Team probing allegations of paper leak found credible leads supporting the allegations. The re-examination conducted on June 11, 2023 was also cancelled after some candidates approached the Telangana High Court alleging irregularities. More than 3.8 lakh candidates were competing for 503 posts to various departments through this screening exam, the first step of the selection process. The wait continues. In at least 15 cases, exams were held almost a year after the leak; in four cases, the wait for two years; and in seven cases, the candidates still wait. In Gujarat, almost 6 lakh candidates appeared in a recruitment exam for close to 4,000 posts of clerks and office assis-

Madan Dilawar told The Indian Express, "As per the CM's instructions, the SIT is investigating the paper leaks. And the facts which will come during the investigation will help in addressing the leaks." He said that only when the investigation is complete will the government be in a position to figure out the gaps and plug them. Arunachal Pradesh, too, witnessed public outrage over the function of the state public service commission following the 2022 leak in assistant engineer recruitment exam. The state government then constituted a one-man inquiry commission with a mandate to "investigate alleged question paper leaks" in various recruitment exams conducted by the APPSC during an eight-year period from April 2014 to August 2022. The Karnataka government had constituted a one-man inquiry commission headed by Justice B Veerappa following irregularities in the police sub-inspector recruitment examination in 2021. In the last week of January, Justice Veerappa submitted a 471-page report to the Chief Minister, which includes 28 witnesses and 325 documents highlighting irregularities in the recruitment process. He said the report also highlights areas where loopholes can be filled. Reporting by Arun Sharma, Jammu; Kiran Parashar, Bengaluru; Parimal Dabhi, Ahmedabad; Pallavi Smart, Mumbai; Avaneesh Mishra, Dehradun; Sukhbir Swach, Chandigarh; Santosh Singh, Patna; Sujit Bisoyi, Bhubaneswar; Abhishek Angad, Ranchi; Asad Rehman, Lucknow; and R Radhika, New Delhi

Maintain status quo on land where mosque was razed: HC to DDA

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE DELHI High Court Monday asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to maintain till February 12 "status quo" with respect to the land in Mehrauli where a mosque — Akhoondji Masjid — was demolished by the authority on January 30.

A single-judge bench of Justice Sachin Datta, listing the matter on February 12, said, "... it is directed that till next date of hearing, status quo shall be maintained in respect of land comprising new khasra numbers... situated in village Mehrauli... It is made clear the aforesaid order shall not prevent DDA/other civic agencies from taking requisite steps in adjoining areas/land for routine maintenance/restoration/other development works."

The order came in an application moved by the petitioner, managing committee of Delhi Waqf Board, seeking interim relief. Its counsel, advocate Shams Khwaja, argued Monday that demolition action has been taken "illegally" without following due process of law. He also argued that the action disregards a March 23, 2022, HC order where a "survey was directed" to be conducted with respect to the land.

DDA counsel Sanjay Katyal argued that the petitioner has "no locus to represent the Waqf Board", pointing to Delhi government's January 10 order wherein the Principal Secretary, Home Department (GNCTD), concerned has been appointed as the board's administrator till it is reconstituted. He further said DDA's action was taken pursuant to recommendations of the religious committee's January 4 meeting,

Revised plan to connect Aqua Line to Gr Noida West gets nod

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 5

IN A step closer to bringing Metro connectivity to Greater Noida West, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) Monday approved the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the extension of the Aqua Line corridor. The extension will have 11 stations starting from the existing one at Sector 51 (Noida) to Knowledge Park V (Greater Noida), (see map)

The DPR has been approved with slight changes in its alignment to ensure seamless connectivity. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was entrusted with preparing the modified report.

The project is expected to provide relief to residents of

THE PROPOSED ROUTE



Greater Noida West, who have been demanding public transport facilities for a long time.

"This project will provide ease of access to commuters in Noida, Greater Noida West and

Greater Noida via Vikas Marg and Noida-Greater Noida Link Road; this will also help decongest heavy traffic along these roads," said NMRC Managing Director Lokesh M.

He further said that the Noida Sector 61 station will serve as an interchange between the Aqua Line and DMRC's Blue Line. He added that the DPR will be sent for approval by the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Centre. As per the report, the total completion cost of the project is estimated to be Rs 2,991.60 crore, covering a length of 17.43 km.

In the earlier DPR, a foot overbridge was planned to connect Sector 51 (Aqua Line) and Sector 52 (Blue Line) stations. However, the NMRC sought changes, stating that the bridge would not resolve commuters' problem permanently owing to the 430-metre distance between the two stations. It said that even if there is a provision for travellers, it will be hard to encourage commuters to use the bridge.

Cong finalising names for each LS seat in Delhi

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE CONGRESS is in the process of finalising a panel of two to three potential candidates for each of Delhi's seven Lok Sabha seats in the run-up to the next meeting with the AAP over a potential alliance in the capital.

On Monday, Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely took part in a meeting of the Screening Committee with its chairperson and MP Rajni Patil in addition to members Sardar Pargat Singh and Krishna Allavaru. Senior Delhi Congress leaders, ex-MPs, former ministers and ex-MLAs were also present. "Irrespective of whether there is an alliance with AAP and on how many seats, we are in the process of screening and selecting a panel of a maximum of three and a minimum of two potential

candidates for each Lok Sabha seat," a senior party leader said. "Feedback from the ground as well as the state leadership is being collated and discussed with representatives from the Central leadership. The process is expected to be completed soon. We want to enter the next phase of alliance talks (with AAP) with our own choice of candidates," another senior leader said.

According to the leader, alliance talks for several states across the country are underway and those for Delhi were likely "any day". Lovely said the Delhi Congress will "fully honour alliance commitments", but the party will continue the process of selecting candidates.

AICC in-charge for Delhi Deepak Babaria, at the meeting Monday, said the Congress was "working towards strengthening the India Alliance partnership".

Airport arrests help bust fake visa racket

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

On September 7, 2023, Resham Singh landed at Delhi airport from Almaty, Kazakhstan, and presented his passport for arrival immigration clearance. During scrutiny, a residual gum mark was detected on one of the pages. On questioning, Resham revealed that a fake visa sticker was earlier affixed on the page, which he later removed.

Placed under arrest for tampering with his passport, the Punjab resident led police to Mangu Singh, who had allegedly promised to send Resham to Portugal in lieu of Rs 9 lakh, a part of which the latter's father had transferred into the agent's account. Delhi Police arrested Mangu, 41, last week from Punjab's Barnala.

Police said Mangu had been involved in sending at least 50 people abroad through fake and manipulated visas in the last one year. As part of its operation to crack down on such agents,

HOW IT OPERATED

■ Agent Mangu Singh promises to send Resham Singh to Portugal in lieu of Rs 9 lakh. Mangu arranges a fake Russian visa

■ Resham Singh travels to Almaty, Kazakhstan, and eventually to Russia where authorities deny him entry

■ Resham returns to Almaty and removes the fake Russian visa

■ At IGI airport, officials spot residual gum mark on

Delhi Police last week also arrested another man, Sunil Luna, 33, from Rajasthan's Nagaur.

Officials said Luna was also involved in similar dealings as Mangu, and had targeted almost an equal number of people, although they were not connected with each other.

Elaborating on how Mangu duped Resham, DCP (IGI) Usha Rangnani said, "The agent had



Accused Sunil Luna

the passport and question him

■ Resham confesses to his crime and lead police to Mangu, the mastermind of the operation

promised to send Resham to Portugal through an illegal way and arranged for a (fake) Russian visa for the purpose. Resham travelled to Almaty and eventually to Russia where immigration authorities refused him entry, forcing him to come back to Almaty... on reaching there, he removed the fake Russian visa."

An arrest warrant was issued and a three-member team of

Delhi Police's IGI unit was formed to arrest Mangu. During questioning, Mangu said he had worked in Malaysia between 2003 and 2013 where he came in touch with other agents, said police. He also confessed to having received Rs 3 lakh from Resham.

About Luna, the DCP said, "He used to provide fake Singapore visas to passengers in lieu of Rs 1.2 lakh each."

On how Luna's racket came to light, the DCP said, "On September 22-23, an Assam resident arrived as a deportee from Dubai... He had departed for Dubai on September 19 from IGI Airport on a UAE tourist visa but his entry was denied by Dubai Air Border Control on the ground of forged visa. During scrutiny of his travel documents, it was found that a Singapore sticker visa was affixed on the passport, which lacked security features. It was found to be fake."

The passenger was placed under arrest after which he revealed that his journey to Singapore was arranged by Luna.

OBITUARY

Lt Gen Gautam Dutt, VSM (Retd)
(29 Sep 1949 – 03 Feb 2024)
"Ex Engineer-in-Chief"

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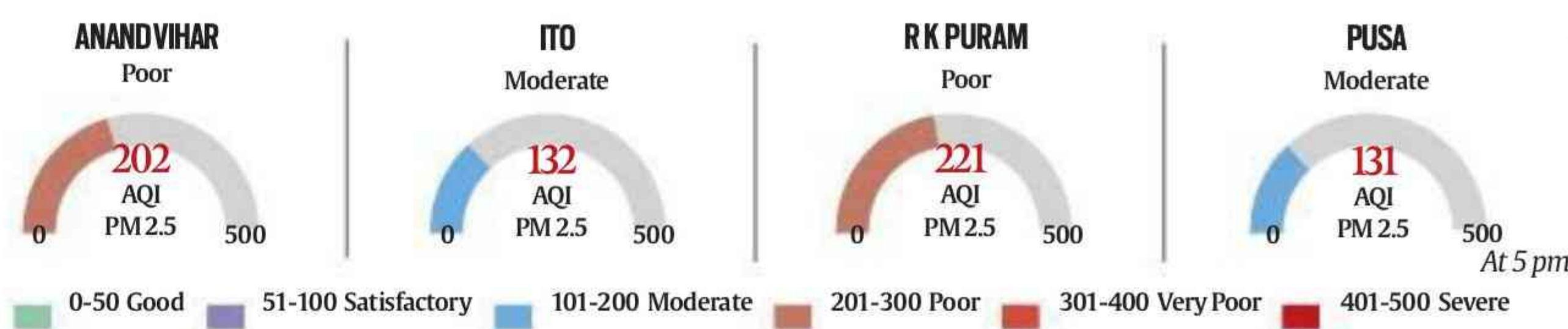
Tuesday, 6th February 2024

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Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour
Atishi, Education Minister, Delhi

Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

4 THE CITY



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: February 6
 Mainly clear sky becoming partly cloudy towards afternoon/evening.
MAX: 22 | **MIN: 9**
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FIRM TOLD TO PAY RS 500 CR; IT SAYS COUNTERCLAIM MADE AGAINST PWD

Design flaws, cracks, seepage in Pragati Maidan tunnel threat to life: PWD to L&T

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE MULTI-CRORE Pragati Maidan Tunnel project, readied ahead of the G20 Summit, is now a "potential threat to the life of passengers". The reason: water seepage, large cracks in cement/concrete and poor drainage. The construction and quality of the six-lane tunnel and its six underpasses are under the scanner of the Public Works Department (PWD), which has asked construction major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) — which executed the project — to deposit Rs 500 crore for "serious technical and design deficiencies".

Inaugurated in 2022, the 1.3-km long tunnel and the underpasses were aimed at providing hassle-free and seamless connectivity between Central, Southeast and New Delhi, and make the city's busy routes — Bhairon Marg, Ring Road and Mathura Road — signal-free. The project cost Rs 777 crore. It has run into trouble ever since. Water seepage has been a



The multi-crore tunnel project was inaugurated in 2022. Archive

persistent problem despite several repairs being undertaken. During the floods last year, the tunnel was closed for over a month owing to waterlogging. In response, an L&T spokesperson said: "PWD, Delhi, is an esteemed client and we value the long years of association we have enjoyed with them. However, L&T would like to state that a counterclaim of Rs 500 crore has been made by the company against PWD, Delhi."

The firm also executed the central vista redevelopment project. According to the notice issued by the PWD to the firm, the "fault in design" and "other quality parameter-related issues" can't be resolved without a "major revamp and maintenance/overhaul of the entire project". These include deficiencies in the integrated transit corridor that runs along Mathura Road, Bhairon Marg, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, and connecting

Mathura Road to Mahatma Gandhi Marg via an underground tunnel below Pragati Maidan. "... the most glaring (and) alarming issue was accumulation of water across various locations in the tunnel/underpasses. This issue, especially during the monsoon, rendered the entire project non-operation(al) for the public and ultimately ended up causing far more blockages and congestion along arterial roads of the en-

tire New Delhi area, which defeated the very purpose of this ambitious project," said the PWD. According to PWD, representatives from the construction company were aware of the issues and even accompanied government officials on multiple site inspections but did not address issues. Other major issues include:

- Continuous leakage noticed and identified from some expansion joints of the tunnel
- Large cracks in concrete/cement at various places
- Waterlogging, malfunctioning of drainage systems across the tunnel
- Damage and non-uniformity of a large number of kerbstones
- Patches of branch tunnel with IPTO parking not cleaned for a long time
- Missing saucer drains at various locations
- Water dripping from the tunnel's ceiling and unexplained seepage of groundwater under the concrete surface is damaging murals and paintings on the walls

Saying that the repair and maintenance cost should be

borne by the company, the notice added, "... in case your company fails to undertake remedial measures and the same is undertaken by the employed, then your company would be liable to pay costs of remedial measures along with an additional 20% of cost incurred (as damages)."

The PWD also said despite repeated communications and requests, the issues have remained "unaddressed for over two months". Pointing out that the public suffering due to these issues can be "misrepresented as an act of negligence on the part of the government", the PWD said: "... your repeated attempts at evading responsibility are unacceptable and they only make you liable under extant civil as well as criminal law..."

L&T has been asked to reply to the notice as to why it should not be banned from undertaking any government-funded construction projects in Delhi. "In the interim, your company is directed to immediately deposit a minimum token amount of Rs 500 crore... and... initiate repair..." said the notice.

Only six CT scan machines in Delhi govt hospitals for 3 cr residents: HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD & ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

EXPRESSING CONCERN that there are only six CT scan machines in all Delhi government hospitals to cater to the city's 3 crore population, the Delhi High Court Monday said the court wants to address structural issues affecting the health sector.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora asked Secretary (Health) Dr SB Deepak Kumar, who was in court, to submit his suggestions on the issues raised. It said, "... this court is of the view that a committee of experts needs to be constituted to suggest ways... to improve health infrastructure in Delhi hospitals. However, a detailed order shall be passed after suggestions have been received from the Health Secretary..."

On non-functioning equipment, the bench orally said, "In the last hearing, some officer had tried to portray the best bed ratio and everyone is being attended to in all respects. We don't agree with this... when a patient who did not get admitted to four hospitals lost his life... You have six CT scan machines for a 3 crore population (of Delhi)? We, sitting in this court, know the machines aren't working..."

Meanwhile, the court was apprised by advocate Santosh Kumar Tripathi that Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had filed a status report which says there are a lot of shortcomings including that of medicines, staff etc. He also said there is a major shortage of specialist doctors.

The report says only 1 in 4 posts of radiologists are filled — of 32 sanctioned posts, 25 are vacant. There are no paediatric sur-

geons in any government hospital. The report further says there is a significant shortage of paramedical staff, nurses, pharmacists, OT technicians, and lab technicians, with a 23% vacancy across these posts.

According to the minister, state government hospitals are staring at a situation where even new hospitals don't have sufficient staff to make them operational. He pointed to newly built facilities — Indira Gandhi Hospital in Dwarka, Burari Hospital, and Ambedkar Nagar Hospital — which have 2,400 beds but can utilise hardly 20% of their capacity due to large vacancies. "Even in existing hospitals... there is a vacancy of over 33% of the total sanctioned strength of doctors... leading to under-utilisation of existing infrastructure," he said.

In the report, Bharadwaj said he had requested the L-G and health department officials to ensure posts of specialists and general duty medical officers are filled through the UPSC; in the interim, doctors and paramedical staff should be appointed on a contractual basis. He said the Chief Minister had sent a similar request to the L-G. Bharadwaj, in the report filed through Tripathi, also said between September and October 2023, he had convened meetings with hospitals and the staff, but despite "inviting Secretary (Health) to each meeting, he did not attend a single one."

Denying this, Kumar said, "That's a factually wrong statement... Wherever I was not able to go, I took permission and sent my special secretary and somebody along. There have always been officials from our end accompanying the minister. I have been there in the meetings. The minutes... will indicate my presence."

The court listed the matter for next hearing on February 12.

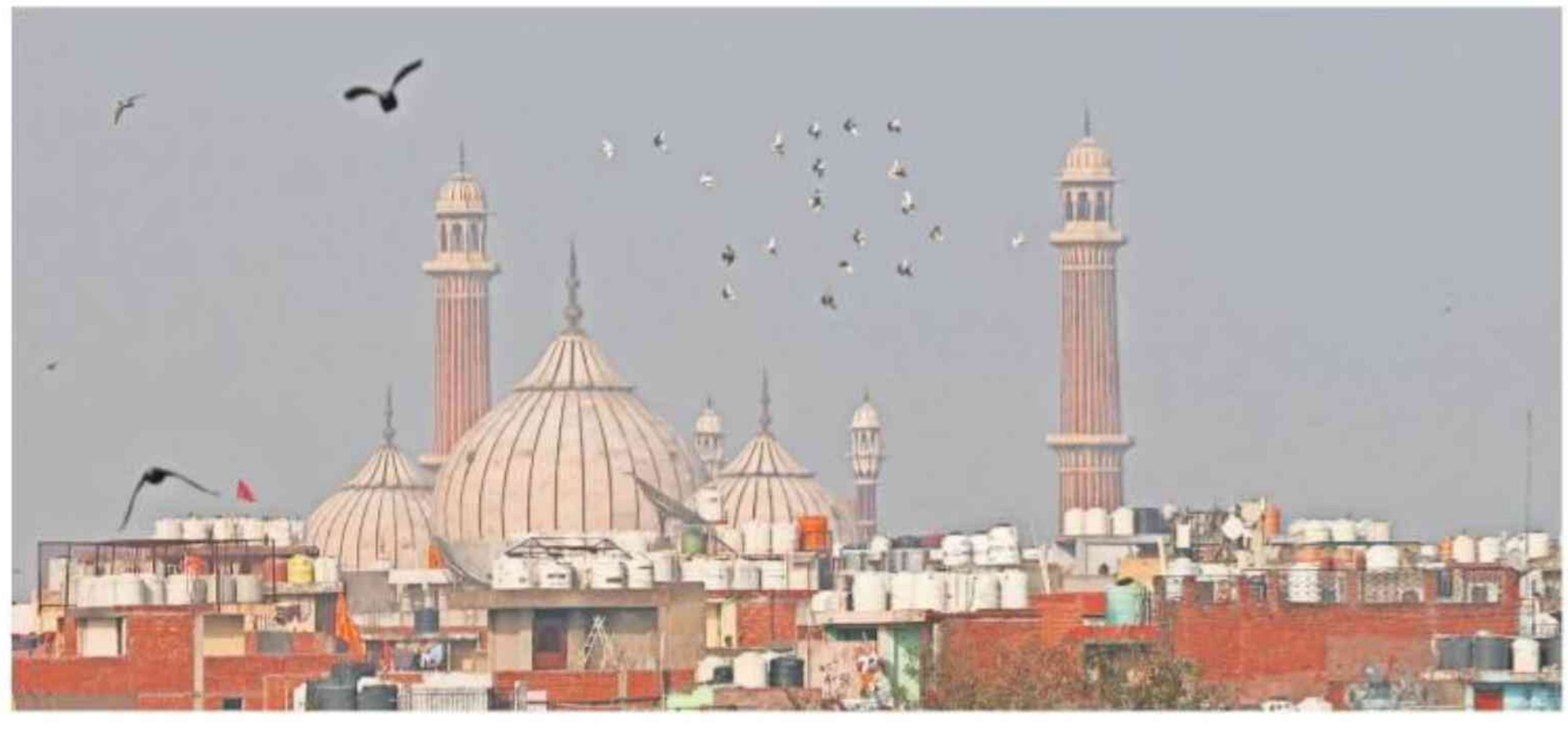
MBBS student 'dies by suicide' in hostel room

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

A 23-YEAR-OLD final-year MBBS student, was found hanging from the ceiling fan in her hostel room in Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), said officers on Monday.

Harsh Vardhan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), said that they were informed about the incident around 1.30 pm on Monday.

"Forensic teams have inspected the spot, but no suicide note was found. The friends and family of the deceased are being questioned to ascertain the reason behind her suicide," said the DCP.



A SUNNY AFFAIR

Delhi on Monday recorded a sunny and clear day after two days of rainfall. Praveen Khanna

HC refuses to quash summons against CM in defamation case

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

"WHEN A public figure tweets a defamatory post, the ramifications extend far beyond a mere whisper in someone's ears," said the Delhi High Court on Monday, upholding summons issued to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a criminal defamation case for retweeting an allegedly defamatory video posted by YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in 2018.

A single judge bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma observed, "The background of the petitioner, being a Chief Minister, necessitates an acknowledgment of the inherent sense of responsibility that comes with such a significant political role. As a leader with political standing and maturity, the petitioner is presumed to be aware of the potential impact of his actions, including retweets on the public perception."

Justice Sharma said that social media platform X serves as a "megaphone that amplifies messages and broadcasts them" to an extensive audience, and provides the ability to communicate with millions of people at the "stroke of a button".

The HC said though "every retweet of defamatory imputation would ordinarily amount to 'publication' under IPC Section 499" it is ultimately for the aggrieved person to decide "which retweet caused more harm to his reputation, lowered his moral or intellectual character or credibility among the members of society". It said the case was at the stage where the accused is being summoned, and the CM will have the "opportunity to raise contentions" before the trial court, which will be decided as per law...

Kejriwal announces free bus tickets for transgender persons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE DELHI government on Monday announced that bus service for transgender persons will be free in the city — along the lines of that for women.

Mentioning that a proposal will soon be passed in the Cabinet to implement the scheme, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "Just like women receive free tickets while traveling in buses, the transgender community will also be granted free tickets. Our government announced free bus travel for women in October 2019, and since then, approximately 147 crore free tickets have been provided."

The benefit will be provided on the basis of the certificate issued by the government, said transport minister Kailash Gehlot. Certificates recognising an individual as a transgender person are issued by district magistrate offices. "Transgender individuals will avail of free bus services based on data received from the Social Welfare Department. Discussions are underway with the Social Welfare Department to consider consolidating the entire data of

transgender individuals for the Transport Department. This initiative is expected to benefit thousands of transgender individuals in Delhi," said Gehlot.

According to the 2011 Census, the population of transgender persons in India is 4.87 lakh. The percentage of population in Delhi is 0.86%.

"The transgender community has been neglected by everyone to date. In the history of 75 years since Independence, no other government has done anything for the transgender community. They have been perceived with great disregard," said Kejriwal. The government said that the decision was taken because at present, there is no acknowledgement of individuals within the third gender community on bus passes, leading to a lack of representation.

Members of the community are compelled to choose between male and female genders when using bus passes, causing distress and discomfort as their true identity is not recognized, the government said in a statement. It also said that transgender persons are routinely "berated by conductors, especially when individuals from the community choose the female gender".

'NEITHER ETHICAL NOR LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE' Delhi HC rejects plea by woman to terminate 28-week pregnancy

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

WHILE DISMISSING a 20-year-old unmarried woman's plea seeking termination of her 28-week pregnancy, the Delhi High Court Monday observed that the "foeticide would neither be ethical nor legally permissible" since the foetus is "normal and viable" and there is "no danger" to the woman to carry on with the pregnancy.

A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad said, "A perusal of the report shows that there is no congenital abnormality in the foetus or any danger to the mother to carry on with the pregnancy that will mandate termination of the foetus. The petitioner would have to be induced for delivering the child and such delivery could be detrimental to the mental and physical health of the newborn since it would be a pre-term delivery. It could also be detrimental to the mother for her

Foetus is 'normal and viable', 'no danger' to the woman to carry on with pregnancy: Court

future pregnancies."

The HC said the woman's case is also not covered under the August 6, 2018, guidelines as per which medical termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks is permitted only in cases of "minor girls who are rape victims or when there are congenital abnormalities in the foetus". Justice Prasad said since the present case does not fall under any of the categories, so, the court is not inclined to accept the woman's prayer.

The court further observed that the woman is already seven months pregnant with a "healthy and viable foetus" and her prayer for a direction to AIIMS for "pre-mature termination of pregnancy/delivery of the child" cannot be acceded to since her case

does not fall within the "four corners" of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.

In this regard, Justice Prasad perused through the provisions of the MTP Act and noted that as per Section 3(1), pregnancy beyond 24 weeks may be terminated where there is any "substantial foetal abnormality" diagnosed by a medical board. Section 5 of the Act permits termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks "only if an opinion is formed in good faith" for saving the pregnant woman's life.

The HC said if the woman wants to approach AIIMS for delivery and future course of action, she is free to do so. It further observed that it is certain that AIIMS, "being a premier institute", would render all facilities and advise her. It also said that if the woman is inclined to give her newborn child for adoption, then she is free to approach the Union of India. The court directed the Union of India to "ensure the process of adoption takes place at the earliest and in a smooth fashion".



CM Kejrriwal

AWARDS WERE LEFT ON FOOTPATH BY WRESTLERS BAJRANG, VINESH IN PROTEST

At this police station's malkhana, unique 'case property' keeps cops on toes

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

ON A usual day, the duty charter of the Station House Officer of the Kartavya Path police station comprises looking after the security arrangements of Raisina Hills, managing heavy footfall at India Gate, and regulating traffic. But for the last month and a half, there has been a new matter of concern for him: The safekeeping of awards of national heroes.

On December 22 last year,

protesting against the election of a close aide of BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh — charged with sexual harassment of women wrestlers — as president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), Olympian Bajrang Punia had left his Padma Shri on the footpath and walked away.

A few days later, on December 30, Vinesh Phogat, after being stopped from reaching Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, left her Arjuna Award and Khel Ratna Award on the pavement of Kartavya Path in a similar manner.

On both occasions, the awards were picked up by police personnel and seized under Section 66 (take temporary charge of unclaimed property found in any public street) of the Delhi Police Act.

Even though WFI was later suspended, the wrestlers are yet to reclaim their awards, which are lying sealed and locked in the malkhana (storage room) of the police station along with other seized case properties such as knives, liquor and drugs.

An official said they have made two separate Daily Diary



Wrestlers Bajrang Punia (R), Vinesh Phogat (C) during their protest against ex-WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Archive

(DD) entries about the recovered medals.

"We have sealed all three awards in a cover and locked them in the almira. In malkhana, we cannot take any sort of risk and we are now taking extra care. In the past, we have seen many things getting misplaced from the malkhana of other police stations. Besides, anyone can replace them with a replica," the official added.

When contacted, Vinesh told The Indian Express: "I have returned my awards. Now they are the property of the government

and don't belong to me. Regarding what they are doing with the awards, I have not got any intimation or call from anyone, including Delhi police."

As a practice, after seizing the unclaimed property, police try to establish the identity of the owner and contact them after an intimation notice. Sometimes, the owner also approaches the police and submits an application to the ACP concerned along with the ownership proof.

But this time, the case is slightly different. "We are aware that these awards belong to

them (the sports persons), so we are not looking for the owner. But, we are waiting for them to get back their awards. We are discussing with the seniors about sending an intimation in the coming days," an official said.

Bajrang said no one has contacted him as yet. "It is not our property, it's theirs because we took it from the government and then gave it back to the government. Now, if they (Delhi Police) are handing it back to the government or not, I have no idea. Only they know and the government should know."

5 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

From China and Maldives to Gyanvapi and Mathura, Adhir questions Govt in Lok Sabha

Says Govt should stop scaring Muslims; On China, Rajnath says India not weak now

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE OPPOSITION in the Lok Sabha sought to corner the government on Monday over tackling Chinese influence in the region, inflation and growing communal atmosphere in the country.

During the debate on the President's address to Parliament, Opposition parties also alleged that the government was misleading people on development.

"Now that elections are here, you have gone under the shelter of Shri Ram. We all believe in Ram but do not patent Him. Do not make him a tool for elections. Mahatma Gandhi said Ram Rajya is not Hindu Raj but a divine kingdom... It is good that the Ram Temple has been built. But now there is a discussion on Gyanvapi mosque, Mathura. There are 20 crore Muslims in the country. It will be better if you stop scaring them," Congress leader of the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said.

Chowdhury called the Presidential address a BJP "election manifesto" and asked why it did not make a single mention of the country's security concerns. "I wish to ask the Defence Minister what is the situation in Ladakh. You said you will establish status quo ante. Where is it?"



Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury speaks in the House on Monday. PTI

Day by day the situation in Ladakh is worsening. About 2,000 sq km have been encroached... We have been demanding a discussion on China... What is happening in Maldives? Where was Aji Doval? Chowdhury said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took exception to Chowdhury's remarks and said, "I disagree with everything he has said about Sino-India relations. I condemn it... India is not weak anymore... India knows how to give a befitting reply. It is not good to put down one's own country in the House for no apparent reason. If it was their government, we would stand by them for the country."

To this, Chowdhury said, "For

the country, even we stand with you. You please fight. But you are not fighting. You are scared. That is why we are worried."

Chowdhury also questioned the government's narrative on development.

"What is viksit bharat? When we will become viksit bharat, I do not know... To confuse people they keep talking about fifth largest and third largest economy. But please tell people what is the per capita GDP. In 2023, our per capita GDP is \$2,600. Do you know what is the per capita GDP of the two countries you want to leave behind? Germany's per capita GDP is \$52,800 and of Japan it is \$30,900. In per capita income, we are placed at 142nd

rank," he said. NK Premchandran of RSP expressed disappointment at the President not mentioning minorities. "It is a political speech. Every section of society was mentioned in the speech, but not even a word was spoken about the minorities of the country. You are talking about inclusive development. What about the minorities? There was also total omission of the problems faced by the labour class... The secular-democratic fabric of the country is under threat," he said. Shiv Sena (Uddhav) MP Arvind Sawant raised the issue of Manipur. "The President spoke about culture and civilisation. But our civilisation was shamed in Manipur and the President did not mention a word about it. I feel sad. She spoke about Nari Shakti Vandan, but at the same time our sports women were humiliated, we must not forget. You say 25% people have been pulled out of poverty but you are giving free ration to 80 crore people. There is a paradox," he said. Pratima Mondal of TMC said, "It is astonishing there is no mention of Manipur and the humiliation suffered by women sportspersons. The country witnessed the rapists of Bilkees Bano being garlanded. Being the Constitutional head, a woman and a mother, madam President should have raised her voice."

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Framing LS poll battle, why Modi gave Cong undivided attention

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

WITH GENERAL elections just around the corner, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday turned to his preferred foe Congress, making the grand old party the centrepiece of his attack in his last full-fledged speech in Lok Sabha before the polls. The framing was all too familiar, from finding fault from Jawaharlal Nehru to Indira Gandhi and lampooning Rahul Gandhi who is the embattled Opposition party's last and constant hope.

It was as if Modi wanted the Lok Sabha elections to be framed as a battle between the BJP and the Congress, a political rival he has convincingly defeated twice in parliamentary elections and in countless state polls since 2014. The BJP has struggled to defeat regional parties in state elections — an exception being the Samajwadi Party (SP) in Uttar Pradesh — but has managed to trounce the Congress with ease. The BJP hence perceives the Congress as the weakest link in the alliance.

The Prime Minister's political attack was sharp, not necessarily fresh. What stood out was his conscious omission of regional parties, most of them the BJP's rivals. He hardly named any but focused all his jibes, barbs, and attacks at the Congress. He called the Nehru-Gandhi family a "shahi parivar (royal family)" without, of course, naming Rahul Gandhi, accused the Congress of trying to relaunch the same "product" again and again, and came down heavily on dynastic politics.

But why this sharp attack on the Congress? Congress leaders said the Prime Minister perhaps

wants to project the party as his main challenger although the BJP is up against regional parties in some states. They were surprised by the fact that Modi did not focus much on INDIA alliance. Speaking in the House in August last year, he called the bloc a "ghamandia (arrogant)" alliance in which "everyone wants to be the groom". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge posted on X, "The Prime Minister cannot sleep without mentioning the name of Congress. He spoke about nepotism, our leaders have sacrificed their lives for the country. I want to ask Modi ji, who from your party or your political ancestors sacrificed their lives for India's freedom, unity, and integrity?"

It was virtually his Lok Sabha poll campaign launch speech. And it was clear that he wanted to reinforce the Congress-BJP binary, the UP-NDA binary. He mentioned the corruption charges faced by UPA government... he talked about (Jawaharlal) Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Congress's so-called treatment of social justice icon Karpoori Thakur because we are talking so much about caste census and OBC representation," said a Congress leader.

"He has proved he is scared of Congress. He spoke about 370 seats for BJP and 400-plus seats for NDA... Despite such bravado, he somehow seems to feel that the Congress alone can challenge the BJP," said Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Another Congress leader, however, argued that the PM's speeches had always reflected the clash of two ideas that began in 1947. "The two ideas represented by the Congress and the RSS... The Sangh could never forgive Nehru for turning India into a secular state," he said.

Opp's targets Govt over black money, seeks white paper on Panama, Pandora

DIVYA A & DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

CONGRESS LEADER Digvijaya Singh on Monday raised concern over the reliability of EVMs and said the details of the software used in such machines should be placed in the public domain. He was replying to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha.

He also accused the Narendra Modi government of failing to bring back to the country economic offenders like Nirav Modi. "If they can bring back Lord Ram to the temple after 500 years, why can't they bring back Nirav Modi?" "Where are these people? You promised to bring black money back. Where is it?" he said.

"As many as 28 political parties have written to the Election Commission, raising doubts over the EVMs," he said, adding, "Is the EC objective? It could not find time to meet 28 parties in the last six months."

CPI(M) MP John Brittas accused the BJP of "using Lord Ram" for political gains. The Left MP said the PM should stick to his duties and go to Manipur. "The primary responsibility of the PM is to give 'pran' to citizens, not the Gods. He should obviously stick to his duties... he should go to Manipur and conduct a 'Pran Pratishtha' for citizens," he said.

TMC MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray also hit out at the government over unemployment and income inequality. He said he counted the words "Viksit Bharat" were mentioned at least six times and "amrit", including in "Amrit Kaal", about 10 times

in the President's address. "It is a make-believe situation," he said. He said the President said the government had given jobs to "lakhs of youth" but did not mention the exact numbers. "Should we take it as another jumla," he asked.

Ray said the President cited NITI Aayog to state that about 25 crore people had been lifted out of poverty in the past decade. "A series of lofty claims have been made in this report card of the government to carry out a disinformation campaign on the eve of Lok Sabha elections."

Another TMC MP, Nadimul Haque, accused the government of "federal terrorism" and said, "In the states where you can't win democratically, you deliberately starve them of funds."

Haque also demanded the government to bring out a white paper on black money, with regards to the Pandora, Panama and Paradise papers (as reported by *The Indian Express* in collaboration with ICIJ). "The government promised that black money will be recovered from tax havens abroad. In the Panama, Pandora and Paradise leaks, names of thousands of rich Indians were revealed, who had parked black money in different tax havens. I demand a white paper from the government on this issue," he said.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, too, hit out at the government over its record on federalism. "This government is anti-federal, anti-secular, anti-poor, pro-rich. It is anti-women, anti-MSME, anti-CPSUs, pro-corporates, anti-farmers and anti-labour, pro-Centre and anti-regional... There is a blatant attempt to undermine regional parties and local issues," he said.

Sanjay Singh not able to take oath in RS despite court nod, AAP MPs meet Chairman Dhankhar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

JAILED AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh was on Monday not able to take oath for his second term as a Rajya Sabha MP as it was not included in the list of business for the day, House sources said.

Singh, who is in ED custody since October in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, had moved court to be able to take oath and attend the ongoing Budget Session. With his term

ending in January, Singh was elected MP for a second term from Delhi. The court had on February 3 allowed him to take oath.

According to sources in the office of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Singh, who was suspended in July last for not obeying the Rajya Sabha Chairman's directions, would remain suspended till the Privileges Committee disposes of the matter against him. The fact that the suspension pertained to Singh's previous term does not impact matter before the Privileges Committee, said sources, adding



AAP MPs Raghav Chadha, N D Gupta, Sanjeev Arora with RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

there was no communication from the Rajya Sabha to the Chairman for consideration on

Singh's oath-taking. According to an AAP source, Singh was brought to the Parliament House Monday but was not allowed to take oath. Some members of the AAP met Dhankhar and were informed of the applicable rules and procedures, V-P office sources said.

Reacting to the development, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Article 99 of Constitution says oath shall be administered, every member shall take the oath. This privileges matter (against Singh) is related to his membership, which has expired."

Water pollution curbs: Bill allowing exemption to industrial units tabled

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE CENTRE on Monday introduced a Bill that would enable to prescribe the norms for nominating chairpersons of State Pollution Control Boards, exempt certain industrial units from restrictions, and decriminalise "minor offences" related to water pollution.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha by MoS for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey. It would be applicable to Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, and any other state that passes a resolution under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Currently, the Act prescribes

imprisonment of up to three months for not informing the State Board about abstraction of water from a stream or well in a substantial volume and not providing information about construction, installation or operation of disposal system. The Bill amends it to a fine between Rs10,000 and Rs15 lakh.

The Act states the chairman of the State Pollution Control Board will be nominated by the State government, to which the Bill adds "in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government". The Bill enables the Centre to "exempt certain categories of industrial plants" from the restrictions on new outlets and discharges. It also enables the Centre to "issue guidelines" on matters relating to grant, establishment of any industry, etc.



RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN HOUSE
PM Narendra Modi meets a group of religious leaders representing various communities at Parliament on Monday. ANI

SC order on Ram Temple was verdict, not justice: SP MP raises minority concerns

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE SUPREME Court order on Ram Temple was a verdict, not justice, Samajwadi Party MP from Moradabad S T Hasan told Lok Sabha on Monday even as he raised the issues of Kashi and Mathura. Hasan was speaking during the debate on the President's address to Parliament.

"The Supreme Court gave a verdict and the Ram Temple issue was resolved. It was a verdict and not justice, but it was resolved. Now the issue of another mosque has come up... Gyanvapi... then there will be Mathura... then Taj Mahal,

Qutub Minar and Delhi's Jama Masjid. When people make claims on 3,000 mosques, we have to think about what we are giving to our next generations, love or hate," he said.

Hasan said there were many appreciable things that had happened under the Narendra Modi government such as the sporting glory that the nation had achieved. He, however, raised flag over the message to minorities.

"...Certain legislations were passed which troubled the Muslims of the country and filled them with anxiety. For the first time a law, the Citizenship Amendment Act, was brought that discriminated on the basis of religion. Article 370 was removed



SP MP Syed Tufail Hasan in Lok Sabha on Monday. ANI

but Article 371 was not touched. We were told terrorism will be finished... but every second day there is an incident. The message that the Triple Talaq Bill generated led to people starting to have problems with hijab and azaan as well. Is it the same country we to-

gether bled for to get freedom. Where will it stop?" he said.

Hasan also raised the Israel-Palestine issue. "Our government announced support to Israel within five hours. No one supports terrorism. But if a state turns terrorist, kills women, children and elderly, is it not our duty to oppose that state. A message should have gone from our government and Parliament that this tyranny must end," he said.

He alleged the government had removed "modern teachers" from madrasas. "Maulana Azad scholarship was withdrawn. Why was the budget of AMU and Jamia Milia reduced? And then you say you do not discriminate on the basis of religion," he said.

Cong MP raises mosque demolition in RS, BJP MP seeks Places of Worship Act repeal

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

CALLING THE move "illegal", Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi in the Rajya Sabha on Monday raised concerns over the demolition of a heritage mosque in Mehrauli by the Delhi Development Authority on January 30.

Speaking during Zero Hour, Pratapgarhi said there had been a spate of demolitions of places of worship, including the Akhoondji mosque in Mehrauli and several 'mazars' across Delhi. He said while the government took French President Emmanuel Macron to Nizamuddin dargah on January 26, on the other hand,



Cong MP Imran Pratapgarhi, BJP MP Harnath Yadav. File

"on the instructions of the same government", the mosque and shrines were demolished. "The Prime Minister who took a selfie, smiling in the Sheikh Zayed mosque in Abu Dhabi, why can't he hear the screams of the 700-year-old Akhoondji mosque in Mehrauli being demolished," said

Pratapgarhi. He said DDA officials demolished the mosque, a madrasa, and a temple in Mehrauli at 5 am. "DDA, which was founded in 1957, is terming the Mehrauli mosque that is many hundreds of years older than it, an encroachment. Do development authorities not adhere to the Places of Worship Act, 1991?"

He also raised concerns over the New Delhi Municipal Council's recent proposal to move the heritage Suneehri Bagh mosque, which is near Parliament. "The mosque that the British who developed Lutyens' [Delhi] did not demolish, the NDMC wants to remove," he said. While it is not known when



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha, PTI

and roughly 50% of the integrated GST is shared with the states that is periodically readjusted to actuals. "If a state has to get 41%, it will be re-adjusted. If the state is to get 52% it is readjusted. The CGST is divided as per the advice of the Finance Commission," she said.

"I want to submit... Adhirji please understand, I don't have the right to change as per my whims and fancies... No way, I have no role," she said, adding, "Till six months ago... it was hunky dory and now it's not. Introspect, please... When the Finance Commission comes, please tell your needs, your requirements, your status and let them fix it."

6 GOVT & POLITICS



SARI POWER

THE SARI WALKATHON organised by the Ministry of Textiles, which has been enthusiastically welcomed by many BJP women MPs in their constituencies, saw its biggest success last weekend in Rajasthan's Kota, represented by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The event, meant to raise fitness awareness as well as support local weavers, recorded the participation of around 10,000 women from Uttarakhanda, Goa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Telangana, Kerala, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Gujarat, sporting their state's traditional saris. Birla, who flagged off the 2-km walk, termed it a "programme meant not only to encourage women but also to empower them".

VIRTUALLY, PERSONALLY

LAST WEEKEND, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud as the chief guest delivered the keynote address at the 72nd convocation at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. An unintentional mix-up of words by the CJ, who was virtually attending the event, left people amused when he said he wanted to "personally" apologise to Rajmata Shubhangini Gaekwad, the Chancellor of the university, for not being able to "personally" attend the event.

'MISSING' QUESTION

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN of Rajya Sabha Harivansh inadvertently skipped a question while presiding over the House on Monday. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar returned to the chair and clarified that the question was not taken due to "certain technical problems". As Opposition MPs protested, Harivansh clarified from his seat that the question just "slipped through the computer, it went ahead". When the Opposition MPs continued their protest, the Chairman expressed his confidence in Harivansh, saying there could not have been a Deputy Chairman with "better qualities and independence, more than I have". The skipped question was taken up later.

Champai govt wins trust vote, targets BJP as 'anti-Adivasi'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE JMM-led alliance won the trust motion in the Jharkhand Assembly comfortably Monday, getting 47 votes in its favour as expected in the House of 81. One JMM MLA was not present due to illness.

With the BJP managing 29 votes, the JMM used the motion to attack the party ruling at the Centre for the arrest of former CM Hemant Soren, describing it as the targeting of Adivasis. The trust vote was necessitated due to Soren picking Champai Soren to replace him as CM, just before his resignation and arrest by the ED.

The mood in the House was set from before the voting process began, when Governor C P Radhakrishnan gave his speech on the JMM-Congress government achievements at the start of the Budget Session.

The ruling coalition MLAs frequently interrupted him with slogans, with the Congress's Pradeep Yadav saying: "The works you are listing of the state government... it is to stop these works that they have set the ED and CBI after us." The other MLAs backed him, shouting: "BJP ke teen bhai (the BJP has three brothers): IT-ED-CBI."

Hemant Soren, allowed to vote in the trust motion by a special court, addressed the House in an emotional speech.

Soren vowed to resign from politics, even leave Jharkhand, if any proof of his alleged illegal acquisition of 8 acres of land was



Jharkhand CM Champai Soren with former CM Hemant Soren after the trust vote in Ranchi on Monday. ANI

tabled by the BJP in the Assembly. He said the same BJP which vowed Ram Rajya after the Ram Temple consecration had brought a government down in Bihar and "was trying the same" in Jharkhand.

His five-day ED custody on, he claimed the officials had told him not to speak in the House during the voting proceedings. "I told them to come to the Speaker and get a written order from him."

Attacking the Governor, Soren called the night of January 31 when he was arrested "the newest addition to the black nights and black chapters in the country's democracy".

Linking it to the JMM being a tribal party, he said: "I come from the Adivasi community and we don't have the 'intellectual capacity' as our Opposition. However, we know the difference be-

tween right and wrong. In a pre-planned manner, starting 2022, a plot was being written... with half-baked facts... and they arrested me."

Invoking Bhimrao Ambedkar, Soren said the freedom fighter had dreamt of equality between different faiths, castes. "But Ambedkar had to convert to Buddhism, and it seems Adivasis, Dalits, backwards and minorities will meet the same fate. There is hatred against these communities, and I don't know how they (the BJP) nurture this power to hate us so much."

He added: "I will not shed tears... You don't value the tears of Adivasis, Dalits and backwards..."

Champai said: "People talk about the mining scam, but the Adivasis and Moolvasis (natives) have not touched a stone, and

the same minerals were used in Gujarat, Delhi and Mumbai. Who has it affected? It has displaced the Adivasis and Moolvasis, leading to their social and economic oppression. Hemant Soren was at the forefront of solving these problems."

Referring to being dismissed as "Hemant Soren's No. 2", Champai said: "I say this with pride: I am the Part 2 of Hemant Soren..." Claiming no proof against Hemant Soren, he said: "Please don't erase the Constitution of B.R Ambedkar and protect democracy."

The BJP's Amar Bauri said while the ruling coalition MLAs used the word democracy a lot, they had not allowed the Governor to finish his speech. On Ambedkar taking up Buddhism, Bauri argued it was "an in-house religion", not "a foreign religion" like Christianity or Islam.

He went on to attack the Congress, while invoking the BJP's ties with the JMM in the past, saying: "I want to tell the Assembly it was the Congress who put Adivasi leaders Shibu Soren, Madhu Koda in jail, and now it is Hemant Soren... It was the BJP who sent Shibu Soren to the Rajya Sabha, it was the BJP who made Hemant Soren the Deputy CM (in 2014), not the Congress... Champaiji, please beware the Congress, they may land you too in jail."

Congress's Alamgir Alam said: "It was the Congress that brought freedom to the country and all the institutions that the BJP boasts of are the work of Congress governments."

'Nitish given time till 12th for floor test... The way BJP operates, have to be cautious'

THE CONGRESS Sunday flew all its MLAs in Bihar to Hyderabad, where the party is in power, ahead of the February 12 trust vote in the state. In an interview with MANOJ C G state Congress president and Rajya Sabha MP AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH talks about why the MLAs have been sequestered, seat-sharing talks in the state, and why he thinks that Nitish Kumar's exit from the INDIA bloc "is good in a way".



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH
CONGRESS BIHAR CHIEF

Why have you flown all Congress MLAs in Bihar to Hyderabad?

We have to be cautious if we have to stop the (Nitish Kumar) government from winning the trust vote. There is huge anger among their MLAs. But they want to prove the majority at any cost. You must have seen in Jharkhand also all the Opposition MLAs stayed together even after the oath-taking of the Chief Minister (Champai Soren). So, we are taking all precautions. The way the BJP operates, we also have to be cautious.

But sequestering the MLAs and taking them to Hyderabad also sends a message that the party doesn't have trust in its MLAs.

We have complete trust in our MLAs. In fact, it was their suggestion to stay together.

But some time ago we heard some of the Congress MLAs, seven to eight of them, were unreachable.

When I heard about that, I called all of them to Purnea (where Rahul Gandhi addressed a rally). Bhubesh Baghel had come to Bihar. So it was a false claim. When Ashok Choudhary was the state Congress president and the late Sadanand Singh was the CLP leader, they tried to break the party. But not even one Congress MLA switched sides. Yes, one or two MLAs went. Now the situation is different. I am the PCC president.

But all the MLAs did not turn up in Purnea.

Barring one, every MLA was there. Out of 19, 18 were there. Siddharth Saurav (Bikram MLA) could not come as he was unwell.

Now that Nitish Kumar has left INDIA bloc, you will have to rework the seat-sharing arrangement. Have the talks begun?

We will start discussions after the trust vote. You must understand who is scared. The Jharkhand CM was arrested. The Opposition has 44-45 MLAs. But

the new CM was sworn in after two days. Nitish Kumar was allowed to take oath within hours after he resigned. In Jharkhand, there was uncertainty for 48 hours. When all the MLAs reached the airport to fly out, the information came that the oath would take place the next day. That is one part.

Within three days after taking the oath, the Jharkhand government is seeking a confidence vote today (it will have the vote). In Bihar... Kumar still has not taken the floor test. It was first said the trust vote would take place on February 5, then changed it to the 10th and now it is said it would take place on the 12th. So who is scared and who is in a dilemma, you can understand.

Do you think there are problems in the BJP and the JD(U) and they are not confident?

What do you think? If there were no problems, why was the floor test pushed to the 12th? In Jharkhand, we did not seek a different date.

Is the Congress confident of getting more seats under the new arrangement on seat sharing? Will there be a repeat of the 2019 formula?

The Congress will get its legitimate share. We are confident. In 2019, the Congress contested nine seats. My son contested on the RLSP (Rashtriya Lok Samta Party) symbol. So, we contested 10 seats. Now, Nitish Kumar has walked out. In 2019, Upendra Kushwaha, Jitan Ram Manjhi, and Mukesh Sahani too were there. All of them are not with us. So, we have to rework the arrangement. FULL INTERVIEW www.indianexpress.com

Rahul: INDIA bloc will remove 50% quota cap if voted to power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 5

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi Monday promised a nationwide caste census and removal of the 50 per cent cap on reservation if the INDIA bloc forms the government at the Centre after the Lok Sabha polls.

Gandhi also launched a scathing attack on PM Narendra Modi, saying when the demand for caste census was raised and the time came to give rights to OBCs, Dalits and tribals, the PM stated there are no castes, but when it is time to get votes, he says he is an OBC.

Gandhi also alleged the BJP tried to topple the JMM-Congress-RJD government in Jharkhand as the CM was a tribal and congratulated all alliance MLAs "as that they stopped the BJP-RSS conspiracy and protected the government of the poor".

Gandhi claimed Dalits, tribals, and OBCs were made bonded labourers and their participation was lacking in big companies, hospitals, schools, colleges and courts. "This is the biggest question before India. Our first step would be to get a caste census in the country," he said.

Noting that more than 50 per cent reservation cannot be given under existing provisions, Gandhi promised that an INDIA government would "throw out" the 50 per cent cap on reservation.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra on way to Ranchi on Monday. PTI

"I am giving you a guarantee that backward sections of society will get their rights," he said.

Gandhi also came down heavily on the Modi government over what he said was an attempt to privatise PSUs in order to benefit its "crony capitalist friends".

The BJP, meanwhile, said Gandhi's "all Yatras have flopped". "He (Gandhi) travelled in three states and the Congress sunk in these states," MoS Nisith Pramanik said.

Refrain from using children in poll campaigns, EC tells parties

New Delhi: The Election Commission has asked political parties to refrain from using children during election campaigns "in any form whatsoever", saying there will be "zero tolerance" for it.

The advisory, the poll panel said, was in continuation of earlier directives to parties and candidates to address "plummeting levels of campaign discourse and to maintain respectful discourse towards Persons with Disabilities".

"Parties have been advised not to use children in election campaigns in any form whatsoever including distribution of posters/pamphlets or to participate in slogan shouting, rallies, election meetings, etc," an ECI statement said Monday. ENS

Assam introduces Bill to curb paper leaks, proposes 10-year jail

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 5

ON THE same day that Centre introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha to curb malpractices in government recruitment exams, the Assam government also tabled a similar Bill in the state Assembly.

Laying out the proposed punishments in case of malpractice in such exams, the Bill tabled on Monday - the first day of the Assam Assembly's Budget session - also sought to notify special courts to try offences under the Bill and to empower the government to designate a police officer, with the rank of deputy superintendent and above, to investigate such offences.

The Bill proposed the state government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, can designate and notify special courts that are not below a court of Additional District and Sessions Judge.

The Assam Cabinet had in October 2023 issued the Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Ordinance. The Bill introduced Monday also has the same name, and will come up for discussion later in the Assembly session.



Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary and CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday. PTI

an imprisonment up to three years and fine not less than Rs 1 lakh. For people, whether entrusted with conducting the exam or not, contravening the provisions of the law, the proposed penalty is imprisonment of at least five years, extending up to 10 years, and a fine of at least Rs 10 lakh that can extend up to Rs 1 crore.

Also, it proposed an examinee convicted under the Bill will be debarred from writing any public exam for two years. The Bill also proposes in cases of persons in organised crime acting in contravention to it, the court can make an order to attach the property of the person to recover "any wrongful gains".

PM event: Schools shut, college to close by noon in Margao today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, FEBRUARY 4

THE GOA government Monday announced that colleges in South Goa's Margao will close by noon on Tuesday in view of PM Narendra Modi's visit. The government further 'requested' the principals of colleges in Margao to depute students from their institutions to attend the PM's meeting in Margao.

A circular issued Monday by the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa, said: "In view of the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 06/02/2024, all the colleges in Margao shall be closed by 12 pm. In this connection, principals are requested to depute the students of their respective institutions to Margao KTC bus stand by 1 pm to attend the PM's meeting."

The NSUI's Goa unit condemned the notification. Naushad Chowdhari, NSUI's Goa president, said, "We appeal to the directorate of higher education to immediately withdraw this notification. This is a misuse of government machinery. The government is saying that it is compulsory for college students to attend the public meeting. The students are welcome to attend, but there should be no compulsion." Last week, the government had announced all schools in Margao would be closed on February 6.

Cong's UP woes mount, now ex-Priyanka team member praises PM for Ram Temple construction

MAULSHREESETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

THERE IS no end to troubles for the Congress in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. After INDIA bloc partner Samajwadi Party (SP) took it by surprise by unilaterally declaring candidates for 16 Lok Sabha seats, senior leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam, who has twice contested on a Congress ticket - from Sambhal in 2014 and Lucknow in 2019 - now appears to be sulking.

Krishnam, 59, who recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to invite them for the foundation-laying ceremony of 'Kalki Dham' in Sambhal district, has been all praise for the

BJP leaders since then. Kalki, believed to be one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, has an ancient temple in Sambhal, which Krishnam as its 'Peethadhiswar' is developing into a dham (pilgrimage).

While Krishnam maintained that his visits to the PM and Rajnath were merely to invite them for the Kalki Dham inauguration, and should not be seen as political meetings, Congress workers are worried because his statements - praising the PM for the construction of the Ayodhya Ram Temple while targeting his own party for not accepting the consecration invite - speak otherwise.

Krishnam in fact also said that Modi has "divine powers", adding that followers of Sanatan Dharma wanted him to lay the foundation of the Kalki Dham,



Acharya Pramod Krishnam. File

just like the PM had worked towards the construction of the Ram Temple.

He has also been targeting his own party for its decision to not attend the Ayodhya consecration ceremony, as well as Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra. He asked the party to correct its mistake in not accepting the Ram Temple invite, saying Lord Ram belongs to everyone. Then, he said that looking at the Yatra, it appeared that the Congress was preparing for the 2029 elections, not 2024.

Sources within the Congress said that while Krishnam - earlier a part of its Uttar Pradesh Advisory Council, formed to assist Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in her role as UP in-charge for the Congress - has always been vocal about expressing his thoughts, one of the reasons for his sulking could be the SP decision to declare candidates for both Sambhal and Lucknow, which Krishnam has been eyeing.

While the Congress has not accepted the SP list and is hoping to get at least Lucknow, this is not going to be easy.

The SP Sambhal candidate is sitting MP from the seat, Shafiqur Rehman Barq, and in Lucknow, the party sees a better chance for itself given that it stood second from there in 2019, though Krishnam too performed well with over 1.80

lakh votes; the winner was the BJP's Rajnath Singh. The SP has named its veteran leader Ravidas Mahrotra from there.

The 1.8-lakh votes for Krishnam were surprising given that the Congress had been decimated elsewhere in the state, winning just 1 seat (Rae Bareilly, with Sonia Gandhi as candidate), with even Rahul Gandhi losing from Amethi.

His hopes of getting a ticket notwithstanding, Krishnam, 59, and originally from Sambhal, does not have a promising electoral record. While in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, he had finished fifth in Sambhal, in 2019, he had come third.

What could hold Krishnam in good stead is his good ties with leaders of other parties, including the SP.

SC asks CJ to decide on judge's suo motu action against ministers in Tamil Nadu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday asked the Madras High Court Chief Justice to decide who should hear the suo motu proceedings initiated by a single judge against the discharge of some Tamil Nadu ministers in corruption cases.

Hearing applications filed by some of the ministers against whom the proceedings were revived, a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and P K Mishra ordered, "we deem it appropriate to say that the suo motu matters should be considered by the Honourable Chief Justice. He may either take the matter himself or to another judge as he may consider appropriate. Thereafter, the matter will proceed on merits."

The bench, however, clarified that its "order should not be construed as making comments on the concerned judges hearing the suo motu matters".

The matter before the SC pertained to corruption cases against two TN ministers KKRSS Ramachandran and Thangam Thenarasu being revived suo motu by a single-judge bench of Justice Anand Venkatesh in 2023.

Hearing their appeal against this, the SC had sought a report from the HC Registry.

Perusing the report, the bench said that it appeared that the single judge had asked the Registry to get the cases numbered whereas the appropriate way would have been to ask them to be numbered after permission from the HC Chief Justice who is the master of roster.

Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi appearing for the HC said that the CJ's approval was secured as per applicable rules. Senior Advocate A M Singhvi appearing for the appellants said such orders could create havoc.

SC notice to EC on duplicate voter entries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday sought the Election Commission's response to a plea raising the issue of duplicate voter entries in electoral rolls.

A bench of CJ D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notice to the EC on the plea filed by NGO Samvidhan Bachao Trust. Senior Advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the NGO, submitted that the electoral rolls were updated only in relation to individuals who had died or changed their place of residence.

She said that no steps were taken to address duplication of names in electoral rolls.

The SC directed the poll panel to file its response on the issue of non-mentioning of duplication in data collection by district officers.

Circle SASTRA Centre, R J Palace, Rai Kashi Nath More, Gya

CORRIGENDUM
With reference to the Auction Notice Pertaining to Punjab National Bank (Says) Published on dated 25.01.2024 on Page No.3 in The Indian Express, Point no 3 in the column of Terms and Conditions be read as "3. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on 15.02.2024@ 11:00 AM." Rest facts and figures will remain unchanged.

DASTI
IN THE COURT OF SH. BHUPESH KUMAR, DISTRICT JUDGE (COMM. COURT-05) ROOM NO.22, BLOCK-I, SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT, SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION (ORDER 5, Rule 20 of the CPC.)
CS (COMM) NO. 1071/2022
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK _____Plaintiff,
vs.
SH. RAJESH SINGH _____Defendants.
TO:
SH. RAJESH SINGH
S/O SH. CHANDAN SINGH R/O TA-235A, 1st FLOOR, GALI NO. 4, TUGHLAKABAD EXTENSION, DELHI-110019.
ALSO AT:- RZ-1/44C, MADHY MARG, TUGHLAKABAD EXTN., GALI NO.3, DELHI-110019.
ALSO AT:- L-2/54B, TOP FLOOR, UG, DDA FLAT, KALKAJI, DELHI-110019.

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted that above Suit FOR RECOVERY against the defendants. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the 12th day of MARCH 2024, at 10:00 O'clock, to answer the same, failing which the Suit will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 31st JANUARY 2024 to be published in English Newspaper "INDIAN EXPRESS".
NOTE : Defendant is informed to file WS within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of summons with advance copy of the plaintiff and filling of WS in commercial suit in 120 days period is mandatory and no extension can be granted. District Judge (Commercial Court)-05, South-East, Saket, New Delhi.

varthana Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)
Registered Office at : No. 5 BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website: www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone : 080-88455777. Branch Office : Bangalore : 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram -122018.

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
We hereby serve upon you this notice, the contents whereof you may kindly note: That you the Borrower along with Co-applicants/Mortgagors have approached and requested for grant of the credit facility from M/s Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Company") (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Limited). This Demand Notice issued on 22-01-2024, by the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec. 13(2) of the Act/R/W Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Borrower/ Co-Applicants/ Mortgagor No.5 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. At your request and instance, we granted you the following credit facilities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "credit facility"). The details are mentioned below.
Loan Account No: U22GUR-GUR-019905, U21GUR-GUR-018936, S19GUR- GUR-009163 and U23GUR023225. Sanctioned loan amount Rs. 7,22,000/-, Rs. 15,02,232/-, Rs. 80,98,460/- and Rs. 37,99,377/- Total Liability as on 22-01-2024 Rs. 1,14,92,043/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest), Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Applicants & Mortgagors : 1. M/s. Sri Om Sai Ram International School, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Jawahar Nagar, Mohinder Garh, Haryana - 123029. 2. M/s. Maa Saraswati Devi Shiksha Samiti, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Jawahar Nagar, Mohinder Garh, Haryana - 123029. 3. Mr. Ramesh Saini, S/o. Sher Singh Saini, H.No. 38/2, Mohalla Jawar Nagar, Mahendra Garh, Haryana - 123029. 4. Mrs. Nisha Saini, W/o. Dhara Chand Saini, H.No. 38/2, Mohalla Jawar Nagar, Mahendra Garh, Haryana - 123029. 5. Mr. Bhawani Sahai Bhanaram, S/o. Mohar Singh Saini, Ward No.2, Rawan Road, Near Modia Wala Mandir, Mohalla Saini Enclave, Namau, Haryana - 123001. Also at :- Mr. Bhawani Sahai Bhanaram, S/o. Mohar Singh Saini, H.No. 38/2, Mohalla Jawar Nagar, Mahendra Garh, Haryana - 123029.
That you availed of the above mentioned credit facilities from time to time and utilized the amount and Further, while availing the financial assistance you have given an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s)/documents(s). You have also created a mortgage by way of Deposit of Title Deeds/ Registered Mortgages creating security interest in favor of the Company which is more fully described in below Schedule.
That you continued to enjoy the above credit facility, however, you became irregular and failed to maintain the financial discipline, despite our repeated request and reminders from the officers of the Company you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities. The operation and conduct of the above said credit facility has become irregular and the debt has been classified as Non-Performing assets (NPA) in accordance with directives/ guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon accordingly Loan Account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 14-01-2024, and hereby recall the said loan / credit facility and call upon you to pay the entire outstanding balance together with interest and all sums payable by you under the said Agreement.
On account of defaults committed by you, you are jointly & severally liable to pay to us the total outstanding dues of 22-01-2024 Rs. 1,14,92,043/- with agreed contractual rate of interest, until the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, thereon.
Under the circumstances, we hereby call upon you to repay the above said entire dues of Rs. 1,14,92,043/- ((Rupees One Crore Fourteen Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Forty Three Only)) as on 22-01-2024 together with future interest from 20 January, 2024, at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges thereon within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this notice. If you fail to repay to the Company the aforesaid sum with further interest and incidental expenses, cost as stated above in terms of this notice U/Sec. 13(2) of the Act, the Company will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.
You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-section (13) of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below without obtaining written consent of the Company.
This notice is without prejudice to the Company's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law to recover its legitimate dues.
If you have any representations to be made in response to this, please mark the same to the Authorized Officer, M/s Varthana Finance Pvt Ltd., Varasiddhi, SBC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043.

Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Asset): All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Khewat No.253/245, Khatoni No. 273 Mustali & Kila No.162/2(12-9) Measuring 2 kanal (10890 Sq. Ft.) 7 maira (1907.75 Sq. Ft.) situated at Village Jawahar Nagar, Tahsil & District, Mahendragarh (Haryana) and bounded on: East By: Road West By: Other Property North By: Other Property/ Road South By: Other Property.
Date : 06.02.2024, Place: Gurugram Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA
2nd Floor, (A, B & F Wing) Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchari Parisar (GPOA), Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/233/2023 01.02.2024

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Versus
M/S RAVI KUNJ VASTRALAY AND OTHERS.

To,
(CD-1) M/s Ravi Kunj Vastralay and others, Proprietorship Concern Through its Proprietor Alakh Chandra Verma, Bari Bazar, Besides PNB, Munger, Bihar- 811201
(CD-2) ALAKH CHANDRA VERMA S/o Late Rajendra Prasad Verma resident of Mohalla-Lallu Pokhar, Kanth Colony, P.S. Kasim Bazar, P.O. and District- Munger Pin-811201
(CD-3) SURYA BHUSHAN KUSHWAHA, S/o Late Puna Mandal resident of Mohalla Lallu Pokhar, Kanth Colony, P.S.-Kasim Bazar, P.O. and District-Munger, Pin-811201
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA in OA/462/2021 an amount of Rs 3301305.00 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs One Thousand Three Hundred Five Only) along with pendentillie and future interest @ 14 % Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 02/12/2021 till realization and costs of Rs. 34,000 (Rupees Thirty Four Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 05/03/2024 at 10:30 am. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 01/02/2024
Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA

IN REMEMBRANCE
Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Jan 2024.
(a) 15727407Y Havildar Muke Ravindra Anand Rao
(b) 15671327M Naik Pradeep Lamba
(c) 15671963A Naik Shiv Shankar Ram
(d) 15680089M Havildar Santosh Kumar K G
(e) 15746389W Sigmnn Sunil Mahto
On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

Government of India Ministry of Tourism
GWALIOR BHUBANESWAR GOA NOIDA NELLORE
Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management
(An Organization of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India)
Govindpuri, Gwalior- 474011

Selection for the Post of Director
IITM is an autonomous institute (registered under the Societies Registration Act) of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India that was established in 1983. It is the premier institute in the country in the field of tourism education, training research and consultancy. It is a five campus institute with headquarters at Gwalior and other centers at Bhubaneswar, Noida, Goa and Nellore. It runs MBA (Tourism & Travel Management) & BBA (Tourism & Travel) courses from its campuses along with a large number of training programmes to cater to the needs to the market.
Director IITM is responsible for management of the institute and is required to drive it towards excellence and benchmark with the best in the world. Institute is in the process of selecting the Director. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for tenure of 3 years with possibility of further extension as per IITM Recruitment Rules and depending upon the merit of the case.
Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the post of Director of IITM on contract basis in the Pay Level-15 (7th CPC). Circular for this vacancy along with the details of pay scale related benefits, qualifications, other eligibility conditions and application form can be downloaded from www.tourism.gov.in or www.iitmt.ac.in. Completed applications shall reach Director (HRD), Ministry of Tourism, East Wing, 7th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36-Janpath, New Delhi – 110001 in a sealed cover subscribing in bold letter "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, IITM", so as to reach latest by 1700 hrs on 20.02.2024.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001
Ph. No. (Office) : 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax No. : 0612-2219385, E-mail : sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

SUBSEQUENT SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As Is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 27/02/2024 (Tuesday) for recovery of the dues of the borrower/guarantor, other details of the e-auction are as under.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Short Description of the immovable property	Reserve Price	
				EMD Amount	Bid Increment Amount
1.	Dhara Holiday LLP : Partners Shri Rahul Kumar S/o Late Ramesh Prasad Verma, Shri Rohit Kumar S/o Late Ramesh Prasad Verma, Smt. Swam Kiran W/o Shri Varun Kiran and its guarantor Pratibha Verma W/o Late Ramesh Prasad Verma, Smt. Pooja Kumari W/o Shri Rahul Kumar.	Rs. 4,62,58,847.06 as on 15.07.2021 plus accrued interest, charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc.	All that part and parcel of the property (flat) in the name of Smt. Pooja Kumari W/o Shri Rahul Kumar and Shri Rahul Kumar S/o Late Ramesh Prasad Verma, Deed No. 5247 dated 20.04.2018 at Flat No. 804, 7th Floor, (2BHK) Block-A, Sai Enclave, Vijay Singh Yadav Path, Mauza-Mustafapur, PS-Khagaul, Dist-Patna, Thana No.-36, Tazui No.- 5276, Khata No.-165, Plot No.- 179, Area - 1100 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: North- Flat No. 806, South - Flat No. 802, East-Flat No. 803, West- End Wall of Apartment, Property ID : SBINDHAFLT804	₹ 40,00,000.00	₹ 4,00,000.00

e-Auction Terms And Condition
1. Date of e-auction : 27.02.2024 (Tuesday) Time : 120 Minutes. Form 12:00 Noon to 02.00 PM, with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.
2. Website/portal for e-auction <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/lbapi/index.jsp>.
3. The General Terms and Condition are available on - <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-other>.
This publication is also a 15 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002
NB: 15 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice this E-auction sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service.
Date: 05.02.2024
Place: Patna
AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
A Govt. of India Undertaking
[Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Section 13 (4)]
Whereas : The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on below mentioned date calling upon the following borrower to repay the below mentioned amount in the notice to repay within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on following date.
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Canara Bank for below mentioned amount. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Branch Name & Address of Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice/Amount Dues & Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Juran Chapra (2821) Late Ram Prakash Pandit represented through his legal heirs Smt. Pinki Devi (Wife), Priti Kumari (Daughter), Priya Kumari (Daughter), Pranay Kumar (Son), Pallavi Kumari (Daughter) and Guarantor Smt. Pinki Devi W/o Late Ram Prakash Pandit	21.10.2023 Rs. 16,64,497.50 plus Int. & other charges 30.01.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Late Ram Prakash Pandit S/o - Late Jagannath Pandit, Khata No. - 162 Ka, Kharsa No. - 969, 970 (Part), Total Area -3.50 Decimal, Boundary - North - Shiviji Pandit, South - Gita Devi, East - Raj Kishore Thakur, West - Road Nagar Nigam Location - At - Mauza - Bela Chapra, PO + Ps - Industrial Area Bela, Anchal - Mushahari, Thana No. - 281, Ward No. -49, Dist. - Muzaffarpur
Barharia Branch (0992) M/s. Bishnu Khad Bij Bhandar Prop- Late Ram Adhar Yadav, Mortgagor- Late Shri Ramadhar Yadav S/o- Late Jatan Yadav, Legal Heir- Raj Kishore Yadav S/o- Late Ramadhar Yadav	19.09.2023 Rs. 14,73,789.71 plus Int. & other charges 31.01.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Late Shri Ramadhar Yadav, S/o. Late Jatan Yadav, Khata No. -386, Khesra No. - 4241, Tazui No. - 1012 Area -01-01-10 (K-Dh-Dhki), Thana No. -319, Boundary - North - Niz Pattidar, South - Hardeyal Yadav, East - Siwane Sadarpur, West - Sheo Baran Ahir. Location -Vill- Barharia Tole Pachrukha, P.S- Barharia, Dist-Siwan.

Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)

COMMISSIONERATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, GUJARAT
ADMISSION COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES (TECHNICAL), GUJARAT
L. D. College of Engineering Campus, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380 015.

DDCET-2024 examination for admission in the Second Year (3rd Semester) of Degree Engineering (B.E./B.Tech.) after Diploma Engineering and in the Second Year (3rd Semester) of Degree Pharmacy after Diploma Pharmacy for Academic Year 2024-25

For admission in the Second Year (3rd Semester) of Degree Engineering (B.E./B.Tech.) after Diploma Engineering and in the Second Year (3rd Semester) of Degree Pharmacy after Diploma Pharmacy on Government seats which includes all sanctioned seats of Government and Grant-in-Aid Colleges and unaided Colleges of Gujarat, the State Government has decided to carry out offline examination (DDCET-2024) for the academic year 2024-25. Gujarat Technological University will be nodal agency along with for smooth conduction of DDCET examination. The DDCET-2024 will conduct on 07.04.2024.

DDCET-2024 Eligibility:

- Students who have passed in Diploma from a recognized Board/University in the state of Gujarat in admission year as well as students who have passed in Diploma from a recognized Board/University across the country for 05% seats in Government Institutions. (Candidates appearing in the last semester will be eligible.)
- Candidates who have passed Diploma from a recognized Board/University in the State of Gujarat in the previous year and seeking admission in Degree Engineering/ Pharmacy.
- Students having Bachelor of Science and Diploma Vocational from a recognized Board/University in Gujarat state as per provision of AICTE Norms.
- Students who have passed in Diploma from Board/ University from outside State as per existing rules.
- Candidates who have appeared for the examination of the backlog subjects (Sem. 1 to 6) to complete the diploma engineering and backlog of 1st and 2nd year of diploma pharmacy to complete diploma pharmacy and the results are yet to be declared can also apply for registration. If candidate's result is declared by respective board/ university before merit preparation and fulfill eligibility criteria then he/ she will be considered in merit list.

Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria will not ensure considerations for admissions by committee.

For further details, please refer notifications related to admission rules issued by Government of Gujarat from time to time. All such notifications are available on official website of committee.

Registration Process:

- The candidate shall have to complete the registration process by uploading all relevant documents and paying registration fees (non-refundable) of INR 250/- through online mode only.
- There is no need to submit or verify any document in person. The entire process of registration for DDCET-2024 is completely online. INF/ABD/1545/2024

Important Dates:

- Registrations Opens: 06.02.2024 at 1.00 PM
- Registration Closes: 11.03.2024 at 12.00 Midnight
- Awareness Schedule: 07.02.2024 to 26.02.2024
- Admit Card download: 01.04.2024 to 05.04.2024
- Examination Date: 07.04.2024
- Result Declaration: Third Week of April-2024 (Tentative)

Exam Centre:

- DDCET will be conducted in exam centers spread across all districts. Candidates will be given the option to select any three exam cities in order of their preferences.
- The candidates are advised to visit the admission committee website, and through Log-in to online admission portal through their User ID and password regarding various announcements, verification process and other guidelines on day to day basis.

Note: According to the prevailing rules of AICTE, candidates with diploma engineering in any discipline can get admission in any discipline of degree engineering. The merit list will be prepared on the basis of DDCET-2024 score.

ONLINE FACILITIES BY ACPC FOR ADMISSION PROCESS

Type of facility	Activities available
Online Registration, Payment of Registration fees	Center Choice
Result of DDCET-2024	Examination, Downloading of Hall ticket and Downloading of Score Card of DDCET-2024 Examination
Payment of registration Fees for DDCET-2024 Examination	Notifications, Eligibility and merit preparation Rules, Advertisements and all types of announcements and updates related to entire admission process, e-Booklet etc.

Website : www.gujacpc.admissions.nic.in
www.acpc.gujarat.gov.in
Date: 04/02/2024 - Member Secretary

HELP LINE NO. (24X7) : 079-26566000

EIH Associated Hotels Limited
A MEMBER OF THE OBEROI GROUP
CIN : L92490TN1983PLC009903
Registered Office: 1/24, G.S.T. Road, Meenambakkam, Chennai - 600 027
Ph. : +91-44-2234 4747 Fax: +91-44-2234 6699
Website: www.eihassociatedhotels.in, email: isdho@oberoigroup.com

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED ON DECEMBER 31, 2023
(Rs. in Lakhs)

	3 months ended 31.12.2023 UNAUDITED	9 months ended 31.12.2023 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 31.12.2022 UNAUDITED
1 Total Income from operations	12,957.70	26,161.20	11,244.90
2 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (before Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,081.10	5,930.80	4,250.37
3 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,081.10	5,930.80	4,250.37
4 Net Profit after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3,787.70	4,421.10	3,016.79
5 Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	3,786.70	4,418.30	2,995.19
6 Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - Rs. 10 each)	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81
7 Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) in the audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2023		36,611.77	
8 Earnings per Equity Share on net profit after tax (fully paid up equity share of Rs. 10) :			
(a) Basic	12.43	14.51	9.90
(b) Diluted	12.43	14.51	9.90

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statements of Financial Results are available on the Company's website (www.eihassociatedhotels.in) and on the websites of the National Stock Exchanges of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).
- The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meetings held on February 05, 2024. The statutory auditors have carried out a limited review of these financial results.

VIKRAMJIT SINGH OBEROI
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN : 00052014
Mumbai
February 05, 2024

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

Friend tied to a tree, woman tourist 'sexually assaulted' in Bengal; 2 held

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 5

A WOMAN tourist was allegedly sexually assaulted as her male friend was tied to a tree and beaten up in Digha town of Purba Medinipur district Saturday night, police said. Hours later, the police arrested two persons.

According to police, the woman and her friend reached Digha Saturday night and were trying to find a hotel when they met the two accused.

"The woman and her friend were on a motorcycle and were looking for a hotel. They were asking about hotels when they met the accused. The accused took them to a secluded spot on the pretext of taking them to a hotel and then dragged them. They tied the man to a tree after beating him up. The woman was taken to another forest and allegedly sexually assaulted," said a senior police official.

The woman and her friend reportedly sought local residents' help and reached the nearest police station. Based on the woman's written complaint, Digha police arrested the two accused from a village of the coastal town Sunday.

"The accused were nabbed hours after we received the complaint. Prima facie, it appears two people were involved in the incident," Additional SP (Rural), Purba Medinipur, Shubendra Kumar told *The Indian Express*.

The accused have been remanded in police custody for 14 days. The incident evoked sharp criticism of the state government from Opposition parties. The BJP said its woman MLAs would be taking out a protest against the incident in Kolkata.

Leader of Opposition Sivendu Adhikari said, "We have been saying for a very long time law and order in Bengal has collapsed. Our women MLAs will protest against atrocities against women in the state during the Budget session."

Gandhi family can't fight from UP, says Anurag

New Delhi: No one from the Gandhi family is in a position to contest from Uttar Pradesh because the Congress party had opposed the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, I & B Minister Anurag Thakur said on Monday.

He said while the BJP has delivered on the ideological issues since its inception, the Congress and its friendly parties have consistently worked to see that the plans for the temple construction were obstructed. "No one from the Gandhi family is in a position to contest from Uttar Pradesh... because the Congress had done everything to obstruct the temple construction. It never refrained from it - be it by sending lawyers to oppose Ram Lalla or when its friendly parties trained guns on the kar sevaks," Thakur said.

Thakur also said the development works under the Narendra Modi government would lift the BJP's prospects in the southern states. **ENS**

NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY: MUIZZU

Indian troops will be sent back by May 10: Maldives President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALE, FEBRUARY 5

MALDIVIAN PRESIDENT Mohamed Muizzu Monday said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back from the island nation before March 10 and the remaining manning two aviation platforms will be withdrawn before May 10, as he articulated the need to bolster the Indian Ocean archipelagic nation's military capabilities.

In his maiden address to Parliament, Muizzu said the support of a large majority of the Maldivian citizens for his administration was for the "pledges to withdraw foreign military troops from the country." Soon after taking oath on November 17, Muizzu formally requested



Mohamed Muizzu flags need to bolster Maldives' military capabilities

India to withdraw 88 military personnel from his country by March 15, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

His government is also reviewing more than 100 bilateral agreements with India by the previous government.

The main opposition party,

the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), which holds a majority in Parliament, Sunday announced it would boycott Muizzu's address to Parliament, at this year's inaugural sitting.

He also said his administration would recover the lost area of the Maldivian territory, and terminate any agreements made by the state that might undermine the country's sovereignty, according to a release by the President's Office.

Muizzu told Parliament "diplomatic negotiations were underway for the withdrawal of Indian troops," the release said.

The President said his government has officially communicated that it will not renew the agreement enabling foreign nations to measure and map the Maldivian oceans and coastlines. After the latest round of bi-

lateral talks, India said on February 2 that a "set of mutually workable solutions" was agreed upon with the Maldives for continuing the operations of Indian aviation platforms in the island nation.

"...Is it a small blessing that we remain independent, under our own power? Even in the present times, there are people in much larger countries who are sacrificing limb and life to gain this right," the President was quoted as saying by *The Edition* newspaper. He, however, did not name any country.

The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the IOR and occupies a special place in its initiatives like SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Neighbourhood First Policy of the Narendra Modi government.

Zakir Hussain, Mahadevan, Chaurasia, Selvaganesh win big at 66th Grammys

Tabla maestro wins three Golden Gramophones

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THIS MOMENT, an eight-track pandemic project by Indo-jazz super group, Shakti, created by exchanging audio files over the Internet and discussing them through a WhatsApp group, has won the Grammy for Best Global Music Album at the 66th Grammys.

The famed outfit, currently comprising ace percussionist Ustad Zakir Hussain, British guitarist John McLaughlin, kanjira player V Selvaganesh, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan and vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, all of whom live in different parts of the world, has attempted to create an ethos that cuts across all cultures through intertwining of music from the East and West, dextrous improvisations, entrancing solos and massive precision.

"India, we are proud of you," said an emphatic Mahadevan while accepting the award with Selvaraj and Rajagopalan in a dazzling ceremony held at crypto.com arena in Los Angeles on Monday.

"The discovery, each time you sit as a group to play and perform, is like climbing Everest from different angles. Every time, it is a whole different point of view, marvelling at how you do the same but it's not the same," Hussain had said in a statement about the album that attempts to intermingle Eastern and Western sounds and North Indian classical music with Carnatic classical music.

Hussain, who was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan last year, won two more Golden Grammys - one for the Best Global Music Performance for the song 'Pashto' - from the album 'As We Speak', which was created in collaboration with flautist Rakesh Chaurasia (nephew of Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia), American banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck and noted composer and bassist Edgar Meyer. 'As We Speak' was also declared the Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.

Rakesh touched Hussain's feet on stage, before the tabla maestro, dressed in an all-white ensemble - a white kurta, trousers,



Ustad Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, V Selvaganesh and Ganesh Rajagopalan of Shakti during the 66th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. PTI

and an embroidered jacket - accepted the golden gramophone and said, "...Without love, without music, without harmony, we are nothing." 'Pashto' went on to beat Falu and Gaurav Shah's 'Abundance in Millets', a song about millets that also gave a Grammy nomination to PM Narendra Modi, whose speeches were included in the song.

It was a 1973 meeting between McLaughlin and Hussain through a Greenwich shop owner that led to the creation of Shakti - a world music band at a time when world music was not even a term that was easily identified. Also, comprising violinist L. Shankar and ghatam expert Vikku Vinayakram back then, the group was merging Indian music with jazz and creating a unique sound. While the audience all over the world was excited, the world of jazz purists frowned.

But Shakti was to find its groove to influence generations of musicians worldwide. The band disbanded in 1978 but Hussain and McLaughlin kept in touch, collaborating in 1984 for a short Shakti tour. But it was in 1997 when the Arts Council in

Britain contacted Hussain to reneue the band. The revised lineup had mandolin giant U Srinivas and flute legend Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia for a while. Mahadevan, Selvaraj, and Rajagopalan joined much later but brought a different vigour to the idea of common ground through varied styles.

Fifty years later, Shakti, with its new members and founders Hussain and McLaughlin embarked upon their 50th-year tour in January 2023 to celebrate the music they had worked hard on for half a century and released 'This Moment'. "This album is a crystallisation of five decades of love and dedication. Our musical evolution recorded here, is a revolution in the history of Shakti," McLaughlin had said in a statement last year.

US-based India-origin pianist Vijay Iyer, who was nominated with Arooj Aftab and Shahzad Ismaili for 'Shadow Forces' for the well-known Punjabi song 'Haayo rabba nayiyo lagda dil mera' in the Best Alternative Jazz Album category, was bested by 55-year-old American musician Meshell Ndegeocello for her album 'The Omnichord Real Book'.

U.P. BUDGET OUTLAY RS 7.36 LAKH CR; KERALA EYES Rs 3 LAKH CR INVESTMENT IN 3 YRS

UP govt dedicates Budget to Ram: 'It is for lok mangal'

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

DAYS AFTER the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the BJP government in UP Monday dedicated its Rs 7.36 lakh crore outlay Budget for 2024-25 to Lord Ram, saying it was inspired by "Ram Rajya" and was for lok mangal (public welfare).

Following the presentation of the Budget, CM Yogi Adityanath said: "Today's budget has been dedicated to Lord Ram and is for lok mangal (public welfare)."

"Budget ki shuruwat mein, budget ke madhya mein aur anth mein bhi Prabhoo Shri Ram hain... Ishke vichar mein, sankalpa mein, ek ek shabda mein Prabhoo Shri Ram hain (Lord Shri Ram is at the start of the budget, at the centre and in the end... Lord Shri Ram is in the thought, pledge and in every word of the Budget)," he said at a press conference.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath with Finance Minister Suresh Khanna in Lucknow on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

"Kyonki Shri Ram lok mangal ke pariyoaya hain, auryeh budget bhi lok mangal koi samarpit karte hue pradesh ke samagra aur santulit vikas ka Uttar Pradesh ka ek arthik dastavej hai (Because Lord Ram is synonym to public welfare, and this Budget is dedicated to it. This Budget is an economic document for the overall and balanced development of Uttar Pradesh)," he added. **FULL REPORT** www.indianexpress.com

Kerala: Higher edu overhaul, revision of NPS, land reforms

SHAJUPHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 5

THE KERALA Budget 2024-25, presented in the Assembly Monday by Finance Minister K N Balagopal, plans to convert the state into a medical hub, overhaul the higher education sector to attract international students and bring in necessary reforms in the land sector to attract investment in agriculture and industry.

It also plans to review the NPS and implement a 'revised scheme' for state pensioners.

Balagopal, however, did not announce new mega projects in the budget for the fourth year of the second consecutive regime of the LDF government helmed by Pinarayi Vijayan.

On the tax proposals side, the minister has mooted levying land tax from apartment dwellers (for their undivided share of land) and revising the fair value of land after 13 years.



Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal greets CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Monday. PTI

Banks would be levied a sum on loans given mortgaging land.

The minister said programmes are being planned to attract investment of Rs 3 lakh crore within the next three years. "The thrust areas will be short-term tourism projects, allied developmental activities around Vizhinjam seaport, which is likely to be commissioned this year, Cochin Ports, development of industrial corridors and IT and IT-enabled services. **FULL REPORT** www.indianexpress.com

'Shariat law not automatically applicable': Court upholds adopted son's right to inherit

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

A DELHI court on Saturday upheld the inheritance rights of an adopted son of a Muslim man who passed away. According to Muslim Personal Law, an adopted child is not granted the right to inherit the property of parents. However, the Court in this case noted that the deceased Zamir Ahmed had exercised his choice under section 3 of the Shariat Act and had chosen not to be bound by Muslim Personal Law on the subject of adoption.

Noting that Ahmed's adopted son will have all the rights and privileges as his biological son,

the court of Additional District Judge Parveen Singh held that "Muslim Personal Law/Shariat is not automatically applicable to a Muslim. It will only be applicable to a Muslim where a Muslim chooses /elects to apply the said law to himself by making a declaration as required u/s 3 of the Act".

The court was hearing a suit filed by one Iqbal Ahmed, the brother of the deceased man who was seeking share in his property in accordance with the Muslim Personal Law according to which one-fourth share of the property would go to the widow of Zamir Ahmed as the couple had no biological son.

The other people involved in

this suit were six brothers and three sisters of Zamir who claimed 3/4th share of the property wherein the brothers would get double the share as the sisters.

According to Muslim Law of inheritance, there are three classes of legal heirs: sharers, residuary and distant kindred. The court noted that of the 12 Quranic sharers, only the widow of the deceased has survived.

The court noted that since the deceased had elected not to be governed by Muslim Personal Law on the subject of adoption, the adopted son would now be a residuary instead of the siblings and was entitled to a share in the property along with the widow who was a sharer. **ENS**

Asst prof booked for 'raping' varsity student

Lucknow: THE PRAYAGRAJ police on Sunday registered an FIR against a 31-year-old assistant professor at Allahabad University on charges of rape and criminal intimidation based on a complaint filed by a 23-year-old graduate student. The woman alleged that the assistant professor has been harassing her for the past year.

She also alleged although she registered a complaint with the university authorities, no action was taken against the accused. ACP (Prayagraj) Rajeev Kumar Yadav said the medical examination of the woman was underway and a probe is on. The students' union has sought the suspension of the accused. **ENS**

Dispute with tailor in Damoh snowballs into protest, MP CM orders inquiry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 5

MADHYA PRADESH CM Mohan Yadav has ordered an investigation into an incident involving two communities in Damoh city, after a video emerged of a man making inflammatory speech outside the local police station. The Damoh SP has recommended the National Security Act be invoked against the man.

On Saturday, during a dispute that broke out between a local tailor and his customer over delay in stitching clothes, a cleric was allegedly manhandled. Following this, a crowd gathered outside the local police station

and demanded the arrest of the men accused of manhandling the cleric. One man from the crowd, identified as Akram Khan Rain, used a loudspeaker to make threats of violence if authorities did not take action in 24 hours.

Akram Khan and two of his associates were subsequently detained, Kotwali police station in-charge Anand Singh said. On the incident, he said, "A petty dispute occurred on Saturday between one Lallu Sharma and tailor Ansar Khan over the delivery of stitched clothes on time. Sharma and his associates misbehaved with one Hafiz (a cleric) when he intervened."

"Soon, a large number of people gathered at the police station

demanding to arrest and bulldoze the house of the accused (who misbehaved with the cleric) within two hours," he said.

The cleric and some others were also trying to pacify the crowd, Singh said, adding that based on a complaint lodged by the tailor, police had registered a case and arrested two Saturday.

A case was also registered against 30-40 people in connection with the gathering outside the police station. The case was filed under IPC sections 153A, 143 and 147, Singh said. Damoh Collector Mayank Agrawal said a magisterial probe has been ordered to look into what triggered the protest and to identify those responsible.

NOT A FOWL CRIME

A bird in hand is worth two in the news: When 'Gurjit da Kukkar' became talk of town

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
BATHINDA, FEBRUARY 5

IT WASN'T fowl as far as crimes go. Still, a recent seizure by the police in Balluana village of Punjab's Bathinda has become the talk of the town. After all, it isn't everyday that a "case property" rides in the lap of the official sitting in the front seat of a police car that is zipping all over the village to complete case formalities.

A tip-off on January 21 saw the Sadar police crack down on an illegal cockfight taking place on the outskirts of Balluana village. A video that went viral later showed hundreds of people running through nearby fields to escape the three-person raiding party. Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI)

Nirmaljit Singh said the team managed to arrest Rajwinder Singh Raju, one of the three organisers of the banned sport. The team also "seized" one injured prize fighting rooster and 11 trophies from the spot.

While Rajwinder was released on bail the very same evening, Gurjit da Kukkar or Gurjit's rooster, who is named after its owner Gurjit Singh, remained at the police station till next morning since it was case property connected to a banned sport and alleged gambling.

On the day it was seized, the police took the rooster in the official car to the local veterinary hospital for treatment of injuries sustained on its neck and legs during the illegal fight. After the bird's medical examination, the

rooster was relegated to police custody.

While in the custody of the police, the rooster was fed its "usual" diet of almonds and dry fruits, officials said. The bird, they added, was packed off to a Balluana-based breeder for "safe-keeping" the very next day. Stating that such roosters cost nearly Rs 20,000, the police said their owners spend at least Rs 1,000 per month on "special diet".

The police said, "Our team made multiple visits to ensure that special attention was being given to its feed."

Besides Rajwinder, the police also booked under Section 11 (prohibits causing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Jagsir Singh



The rooster seized by police in the cockfighting case in Punjab's Balluana village. Special Arrangement

and Gurjit Singh, the owner of the injured rooster, for organising the banned sport. All three

accused have been released on bail, the police said.

The law bans dogfighting,

cockfighting, bullfighting, bull racing and the use of certain species of animals in performances in circuses and films, among others. Under Section 11 of the Act, a first-time offender can be fined up to Rs 50. In case of a second offence within three years of the first, there is a punishment of up to three months in jail or a fine of Rs 100.

ASI Singh added, "The accused told us that spectators at the illegal cockfight had placed bets on the outcome. The bets ranged from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh. While no one has been booked at present, further investigation is on. If found guilty, they will be booked for gambling."

Meanwhile, officials at Sadar police station appeared miffed due to an avalanche of media en-

quiries regarding the rooster's security and "living" arrangements.

"Instead of appreciating the fact that we prevented a crime from taking place, the media is using the rooster for personal gains. After a while, we got tired of media queries on just the rooster. There were simply no questions on the case or the banned sport," said a Station House Officer (SHO).

The police said the rooster will be presented before a court as "case property" when a hearing on the matter takes place. "We will present the rooster in court whenever the hearing takes place," said the ASI.

On January 25, the Bathinda police later handed over the bird, which is still recovering from its injuries, to its owner, accused

Gurjit. To a question on the bird being handed over to the accused who was booked for cruelty against it, Bathinda police said, "We handed over the bird to its owner as per the law," said Sadar SHO Balwinder Singh.

What if Gurjit tries to get rid of the living evidence against him?

Another police official said, "We have taken photographs of the injured rooster. We also have other evidence against the accused. At the end of the day, Gurjit can do whatever he wants with the rooster, which includes eating it. That said, I don't think he will harm the rooster as he seems quite attached to the bird. Still, we cannot ask him to give us such a guarantee."

(WITHINPUTS FROM PTI)



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Demography and destiny

Committee on population growth should reshape policy, not get mired in old alarmist discourse



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PAYMENT BLOCKED

Regulatory measures — like RBI's action against Paytm — must seek compliance, but should not be excessive

LAST WEEK, THE Reserve Bank of India announced a series of measures against the Paytm Payments Bank. Under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the central bank barred the payments bank from accepting any deposits, undertaking credit transactions in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags, and others, after February 29. Action against the payments bank has been taken with the comprehensive system audit report and subsequent validation report of external auditors revealing "persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns". Shares of One97 Communications, which runs Paytm services and has a stake of 49 per cent in the payments bank, are down 42.35 per cent over the past five days.

This, however, is not the first time that the payments bank has found itself in the regulatory crosshairs. In March 2022, the RBI had directed the payments bank "to stop onboarding of new customers with immediate effect". In October last year, the central bank had imposed a Rs 5.39 crore fine on it due to deficiencies in regulatory compliance, including, as reported in this paper, its failure to "identify the beneficial owner in respect of entities" that came on board its platform for providing pay out services, and delaying informing on a "cyber security incident", among others. Following the central bank's actions now, with issues over new customers coming on board the platform, and non-compliance with KYC norms among others, sustaining existing financial relations or building new ones is likely to prove challenging for the entity. As per a note by analysts at Macquarie, "the bigger issue is Paytm has not been on the good books of the regulator and going forward, their lending partners also could possibly re-look at the relationships in our view."

Paytm is one of the largest fintech players in the country. As per the bank's website, it has over 300 million wallets and 30 million bank accounts. It has around 100 million KYC customers, and is also the largest issuer of FASTags. The central bank's actions will have an impact on both customers and merchants. On Sunday, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), fearing disruptions, advised small traders, vendors, hawkers, and others, to switch to other payment modes. However, the lack of compliance, the non-adherence to KYC norms despite the issues being repeatedly pointed out, is inexplicable. All entities must ensure compliance with the regulatory architecture. At the same time, the regulatory pushback, while ensuring compliance, must not be excessive. In the past as well, some questions have been raised over interventions in the area of payments such as e-mandates. Actions must be carried out in a transparent manner, acknowledging the implications for millions of users. Considering the rapid expansion of the digital economy, and especially financial transactions, regulatory interventions, while ensuring the stability of the financial system, must take care not to throttle innovation.

A COLLECTIVE LOSS

Akhoondji Masjid demolition raises questions of due process, underscores need to strengthen conservation mechanism

THE DEMOLITION OF the Akhoondji mosque in Mehrauli on January 30 by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as part of its anti-encroachment drive calls into question, yet again, the nature of due process and the lacunae that exist in cultural conservation. While its precise history remains unknown, the Akhoondji mosque, located in close proximity of the Qutub Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is believed to have been between 600 and 700 years old, built during the reign of Delhi Sultanate's Razia Sultana, and listed by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1920. The DDA has contended that it has followed due process in compliance with the directions of the Ridge Management Board — the structure's "encroachment" on Sanjay Van in south Delhi, a city forest the edifice predates by several centuries — is said to legitimise its actions. It is an argument that does not pass muster. The Delhi High Court has sought an explanation on why the structure was razed without notice, directing DDA to maintain status quo on the land until the next hearing on February 12.

This is not the first time that the DDA's anti-encroachment drive has come under criticism. Last year, its drive to clear unauthorised encroachments on government land housing protected ASI monuments in the villages of Mehrauli and Ladha Sarai had met with a pushback from several quarters. But the present case is particularly disquieting because it points to what a weaponisation of a rightful mandate might do to a significant part of Delhi's cultural heritage — its Islamic past. It also underscores the need to strengthen the conservation mechanism to address such questions. In a city like Delhi, with its wealth of heritage monuments, demolitions cannot happen in an arbitrary manner. In December last year, the New Delhi Municipal Council had asked for public opinion on a proposal to demolish the 150-year-old Sunehri Bagh Masjid, a Grade-III heritage structure near the Parliament, to ease the movement of traffic. While its fate still hangs in balance, it had, rightfully, initiated a larger conversation about the proposal. The DDA could have followed its example.

Any conversation about Delhi's history comes to rest on its storied past — the cities on whose foundation the modern metropolis rests, the rise and fall of dynasties that shaped its trust with power. But Delhi is also a city of survivors, a city that knows how to co-exist cheek by jowl with its *mandirs* and *masjids*, *jhuggis* and highrises, its pasts and its present. Any attempt to change that composite culture, or to shrink it, will be a collective loss.

MUSIC TO THE EARS

Golden Gramophones for Shakti and As We Speak are a triumph for world music and its possibilities

WHEN SHAKTI, THE free-spirited Indo-jazz supergroup, came to life over 50 years ago, keeping the concept of improvisation at its heart, many jazz purists were perplexed. Mainly because they didn't know what to make of the diverse East-meets-West sounds that were the brainchild of tabla exponent Ustad Zakir Hussain and British bassist John McLaughlin. The two had joined forces with violinist L Shankar and ghatam legend Vikku Vinayakram to find a common ground to create world music when the term hadn't been coined and many would loosely and somewhat disdainfully call it "fusion".

Shakti was an experiment that took time to make its mark. It slowly opened up a unique world of possibilities in an attempt to invite people to understand cross-cultural music. The music was an expression of each musician's experience, but with restraint; they always had to accommodate the other. This was more than just music. It was a life lesson. For something to be accepted, it has to stand the test of time. And Shakti has, for more than five decades. On Monday morning, the endeavour got the prestigious Grammy stamp for its Covid album — This Moment — an eight-track album, which is only the band's second in 50 years.

With founders Hussain and McLaughlin and new members of the band — vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, kanjira player V Selvaganesh and Vinayakram's son and violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan, Shakti walked away with the Best Global Music Album for their dazzling interplay of sounds. This year, Hussain was at the helm of another world music album — As We Speak — with flautist Rakesh Chaurasia, American banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck and noted bassist Edgar Meyer — which won the Best Global Music Performance for the song Pashto. The quartet also won the award for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Hussain's words on stage, just after Chaurasia touched his feet as a mark of respect, summed it up: "Without love, without music, without harmony, we are nothing."

IN HER SPEECH, while presenting the 2024 budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman promised a committee to study India's population growth to ensure that the nation is on target to meet the Viksit Bharat goal by 2047. Coming nearly 50 years after the brutal implementation of the population control programme in 1976, I hope this move reflects a shift in public discourse regarding the course of India's demographic transformation.

India is and will remain the world's most populous nation for the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, it does not appear to be the fearsome prospect it once appeared to be. Fertility has steadily declined to a level where two parents are being replaced by two children and all segments of the society have begun to adopt family planning. Moreover, India has learned not to let the burden of a growing population pose an obstacle to its continued economic growth. However, we have yet to adapt to the changes that population transformation brings. I hope this committee will focus on reshaping the policy agenda that rides the inevitable demographic wave and not be mired in the old discourse of population bomb. This will require focusing on several priorities.

First, we must recognise that India's demographic destiny for 2047 has already been written. The workforce of 2047 has already been born and will look very different from the workforce of 2024. Today 33 per cent of the population is aged 20-29, while 23 per cent of the population is aged 40-59. But in 2047, the proportion of the younger population will decrease, and the proportion of older working ages will increase, with each forming about 28 per cent of the population. To ensure that this growing proportion of middle-aged workers can keep up with the changing demands of an increasingly technologically driven economy, we must invest in continued skill upgradation and on-the-job training above and beyond formal education.

Second, all of India will not undergo de-

mographic changes at the same pace. Just as fertility decline first emerged in southern, more developed states, population aging will also be most visible in these states. Dependency burden, defined as the number of individuals ages 15-59 supporting children under 15 and older population above 60, will vary dramatically between states. For example, demographer P M Kulkarni estimates that in 2021, in Bihar, 44 working-age adults supported 100 dependents, while in Tamil Nadu, 50 adults supported the same population; this will flip with the worker-to-dependent ratio changing to 47 in Bihar and 24 in Tamil Nadu by 2051.

In short, the future of India's elderly and children will rest on workers' productivity in states we have historically considered demographic laggards, such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. How can we invest in the workers in these states to ensure the future welfare of all Indians? This will be the challenge that the newly formed 16th Finance Commission will face as it decides on inter-state allocations.

Third, as fertility declines, the burden of child care for women drops. My analysis of National Family Health Survey data, undertaken with sociologist Sojin Yu, shows that in 1993, an average woman spent about 14 years caring for children under age five, while that number dropped to eight years in 2021. However, time freed up from childcare has not been utilised in increased participation in the workforce. Unless we find ways of creating a welcoming labour market for women, we will waste the opportunity of turning a demographic dividend into a gender dividend. One of the best ways of expanding women's ability to participate in the job market may be to improve the availability of childcare, possibly through creative combinations of Anganwadi and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme. There is no reason why permissible MGNREGA works cannot include rotational provision of childcare under the supervision of a trained early childhood educator.

Fourth, a combination of rising numbers of elderly and a declining number of children to care for them means we must increase the ability of this older population to be self-sustaining. A combination of policies will be needed, including rising retirement age, enhanced old age pension schemes, and increased ability to sell land or homes, assets in which most of the wealth of the Indian elderly resides.

Historically, the population dialogue in India has been dominated by concerns about population explosion. However, it is time for us to move beyond the Emergency era fears and learn from the experiences of other countries. In its quest for rapid population control, China implemented a strict one-child policy, bringing it to a demographic cliff where the needs of its aging population have begun to drag down its economic growth. Relaxing the one-child limitation has been unsuccessful in increasing fertility. This suggests that India should refrain from a similar panicked reaction and let fertility decline continue at a natural pace. If demography is destiny, let us adapt to it with grace.

These complex challenges require multifaceted attention from demographers, economists, sociologists, and public policy experts. The move to set up a high-powered committee to evaluate the challenges posed by demographic transformation in conjunction with the 16th Finance Commission will allow its recommendations to flow into government spending priorities, creating a virtuous cycle.

The writer is professor at the University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research. Views are personal

A FARAWAY PEACE

Israeli ministers' proposal of mass Palestinian 'emigration' from Gaza is disquieting



CHINMAYA R GHAREKHAN

WHAT IS COMMON between the war in Ukraine and the war in the Middle East? Both are a case study in miscalculation. Vladimir Putin thought he would subdue Ukraine within a matter of weeks. Benjamin Netanyahu thought he would crush Hamas within a matter of days. Both wars have run into a kind of stalemate. Ukraine will simply not agree to any solution short of the complete withdrawal of Russian forces from what it regards as "occupied territories". Hamas is refusing to accept any proposal short of a permanent ceasefire and withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

Of course, there is a huge difference between the two wars. Putin's Ukraine war was unprovoked whereas Netanyahu had ample provocation when Hamas carried out a brutal attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. That trauma, however, does not and cannot justify Israel's no-holds-barred war on Gaza. South Africa's case against Israel accusing it of committing genocide on the Palestinians in Gaza cannot be dismissed.

Israel, by its disproportionate, indiscriminate and nonstop bombardments on civilian targets in Gaza has managed to do two things: Alienate world public opinion against it and generate unprecedented support for a Palestinian state. It has also managed to annoy its most powerful and indispensable ally by openly defying Joe Biden's call for restraint. Netanyahu has also caused fissures in Israeli society which is focused on getting back the Israeli hostages in Hamas's custody. Worse, differences seem to have emerged within his cabinet.

And what about President Biden? He too has failed in preventing the escalation of the

conflict into a wider war. Israel's northern border with Lebanon has become active with Hezbollah lobbing missiles into Israel. Iran's proxy — the Houthis — defiantly continues attacks on the Red Sea.

Netanyahu tells his people that war will continue until both objectives have been achieved: The destruction of Hamas and the return of hostages. His ministers of national security and finance have suggested what it inhumanly calls a humane solution — mass "emigration" of the Palestinian people from the strip. It will create space for settling Israeli citizens, naturally only Jewish citizens, in the strip. In other words, depopulate Gaza and repopulate it with Israeli settlements. This is the only way in which the first objective can be achieved. These statements of Israel's ministers must be taken seriously. They are in line with the early Zionists slogan: "A land without people for a people without land".

Which country will agree to absorb these "emigrants"? Egypt? No, thank you, will be Egypt's response. As it is, Palestinians are not popular in any Arab country; the governments are anxious to normalise ties with Israel, as some have done under the so-called Abraham Accords. The current war will delay the realisation of their desire but will not derail it. Already, reports suggest that secret talks between Saudi Arabia and Israel for normalisation of relations are continuing notwithstanding the war. Israel could endeavour to follow Britain's example of persuading one or two African countries to settle illegal migrants in return for a handsome financial reward.

Any proposal that calls for Arab states to deploy troops to monitor the Israeli-Gaza

border is a non-starter. No Arab country will offer to act as Israel's security guard. America has rejected Israel's idea to create a buffer zone on Gaza's side. Perhaps, the most practical proposal is the one Egypt is reported to have discussed with the main protagonists as well as with Qatar and the US.

It involves a phased exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, ending with a permanent ceasefire. A government of experts would be appointed — by whom is not clear — to run both the West Bank and Gaza. It would work with all parties and the Palestinian factions to agree on parliamentary and presidential elections. Israel is reported to have offered a two-month suspension of hostilities in return for getting back all the hostages. It is also willing to let the Hamas leadership emigrate to another country. But Hamas, in perhaps a miscalculation of its own, is insisting on a permanent ceasefire and withdrawal of all Israeli troops before returning the hostages. In this writer's view, the United Nations will have to be an indispensable part of any solution. Israel's allergy to the international organisation notwithstanding.

In the Middle East, one must always expect the unexpected. There surely are secret negotiations going on over all aspects of the highly volatile situation in the region. Let us hope that we will be pleasantly surprised one day when we hear about some breakthrough.

The writer is India's former permanent representative to the UN and author of Centres of Power: My Years in the Prime Minister's Office and Security Council

FEBRUARY 6, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

BJP'S CHARGESHEET

THE BHARATIYA JANATA Party and the Lok Dal have decided to submit a chargesheet to the President on March 6 against Mrs Indira Gandhi's regime, highlighting its failure on the economic, law and order, and employment fronts. Similar chargesheets are to be submitted against Congress (I)-run state governments to their respective governors between March 13 and 17.

ANDHRA PROTESTS

THE CONGRESS (I)-SPONSORED state pan-

chayat raj, cooperative societies and municipalities convention has decided to organise mass movements against the mandal setup in Andhra Pradesh. The convention, attended by 15,000 delegates, felt that the mandals would scrap the posts of samiti presidents whose term was yet to expire. The session pointed out that setting up mandals was not in the manifesto of the Telugu Desam Party.

MISSING DIPLOMAT

THE INDIAN DIPLOMAT suspected to have been kidnapped in Birmingham by a group of Kashmiri militants remains untraced

amidst mounting police concerns. The police and detectives are searching all possible houses, restaurants and public houses including pubs in Birmingham generally frequented by the suspected Kashmiri youths. It is feared that they might have taken their "catch" away.

CHANDNI CHOWK FIRE

A MASSIVE FIRE ravaged Moti Bazar in the Chandni Chowk area of Delhi destroying about 20 shops and causing damage of Rs 1 crore. Three buildings collapsed. There were no casualties among the residents.



11 THE IDEAS PAGE

What Pakistan needs & won't get

It needs a broad political consensus and a strong government, functioning without the army's interference, to deal effectively with its many challenges



SHARAT SABHARWAL

ON JANUARY 30, a special court in Pakistan convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment the former Prime Minister Imran Khan and former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the so-called cipher case. They were held guilty of mishandling and misusing a classified communication from the Pakistan embassy in the US to claim a conspiracy by the former army chief Qamar Bajwa with the Americans to oust Imran Khan from power.

The very next day, Imran and his wife were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in the Toshakhana case on the charge of misappropriating a jewellery set received by him as Prime Minister from the Saudi crown prince. The court has also debarred them from holding public office for 10 years. The hurried proceedings in both the cases and non-action against irregularities in the handling of similar gifts by other holders of high offices are reminiscent of Nawaz Sharif's summary convictions in the run-up to the 2018 election. More cases are pending against Imran Khan.

The above developments are further pointers that the coming election will be a mirror image of the 2018 polls. Imran Khan was the beneficiary of the army's support then and Nawaz Sharif was at the receiving end of their wrath. By a curious twist of fate, the roles have been reversed. Imran Khan's strong opposition to the army following his ouster and the rancour between him and the army chief Asim Munir have made him a persona non grata with the army. Since he gained considerable popularity thereafter, the army has fallen back upon its time-tested strong-arm tactics to put him and his party down.

The Election Commission has deprived Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of its evocative election symbol, a cricket bat, alleging irregularities in holding intra-party elections — a charge of which almost all political parties in Pakistan would be guilty. This will force PTI candidates to contest as independents with different election symbols, causing confusion among their supporters. Many PTI candidates faced difficulties in filing their nomination papers and getting them accepted by the returning officers. The party has found it tough during election campaigning. Its attempts to carry out campaigns on social media have repeatedly been met with widespread disruption of internet services, reportedly by the authorities.

In contrast, since his return from exile, Nawaz Sharif has got relief in the judicial cases against him. The supreme court has cleared the path for him to contest the election by upholding the retrospective application of a law passed during Shehbaz Sharif's prime ministership, which reduces the period of disqualification from holding public office, handed down to Nawaz by the apex court in 2018, from life to five years.

In view of the tight control of the army-led establishment on the electoral scene, the election campaign has remained lacklustre,



C.R. Sasikumar

with Bilawal Bhutto being the most active campaigner. He has been targeting Nawaz Sharif with an eye on reviving the PPP's fortunes in Punjab, where it had remained marginalised in the last two elections. PML(N) started its poll campaign barely three weeks before the election, with Nawaz Sharif ceding the limelight largely to his charismatic daughter, Maryam. The challenge for all the parties is to woo the voters below the age of 35, whose number has surged to nearly 57 million from around 47 million in the last election. They are disenchanted with the old-style politics and constitute the core of Imran Khan's support. A survey released by Gallup Pakistan recently shows Nawaz Sharif's popularity has gone up significantly since June 2023, but no appreciable decline in Imran Khan's following during the same period.

A not-so-latent actor in the ongoing political drama is the army chief, Asim Munir. Having consolidated his position within the army following the PTI violence against some army establishments in May last year, he has led from the front, including in areas such as economic management. The Shehbaz Sharif government gave him a prominent role in the newly created Special Investment Facilitation Council to attract foreign investment. In view of the large youth vote, he addressed a gathering of university students recently. Responding to a question about the inability of civilian governments to complete their five-year tenure (a phenomenon in which the army has been instrumental), he said that the

There is a widespread perception in Pakistan that no single party will get a majority, but that Nawaz Sharif is headed to become prime minister a fourth time. This will imply a role for the army in crafting the ruling majority by manipulating the legislators of the smaller parties beholden to it and the PTI members elected as independents. Nawaz Sharif is the most experienced and pragmatic politician. However, with his well-known proclivity to assert civilian supremacy, will he be the army's choice for the prime ministership and if so, how long will such an arrangement last?

tenure did not amount to a licence to misgovern for five years. His comment harked back to Pakistan's tradition of the army sitting in judgement over civilian governments.

There is a widespread perception in Pakistan that no single party will get a majority, but that Nawaz Sharif is headed to become prime minister a fourth time. This will imply a role for the army in crafting the ruling majority by manipulating the legislators of the smaller parties beholden to it and the PTI members elected as independents. Nawaz Sharif is the most experienced and pragmatic politician. However, with his well-known proclivity to assert civilian supremacy, will he be the army's choice for the prime ministership and if so, how long will such an arrangement last? We should get the answer to the first question in the coming days and weeks if PML(N) manages to get decent numbers.

Pakistan remains beset, inter alia, with a precarious economy, a rising wave of terror and vulnerability to climate-induced disasters. Its relationship with India remains fraught, that with the Afghan Taliban is close to a dangerous turn, and it had a serious clash with Iran recently — contained for now, but things could blow up again. It needs a broad political consensus and a strong government, functioning without the army's interference, to deal effectively with these challenges. The forthcoming election is unlikely to move it closer to any of the above goals.

The writer is a former High Commissioner to Pakistan

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The reason there cannot be political and policy stability in the country is not that we have a proportional representation system that will nearly always result in hung parliaments. It is that most of our top leaders have become incapable of seeing beyond their immediate personal interests." — THE KATHMANDU POST

The mark of a winner

Bharat Ratna to LK Advani is part of the Hindutva Fevicol, showcases BJP's capacity to rise above internal differences — a quality Congress lacks



VINAY SITAPATI

THAT PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Lal Krishna Advani are not fond of each other is hardly a secret. Rather like the relationship between Sonia Gandhi and P V Narasimha Rao, one felt the other sought to steal the party from what was rightfully theirs. The difference, however, is in the way Sonia Gandhi's Congress party treats Rao versus how Narendra Modi's BJP treats Advani. The Congress has underplayed the former prime minister's achievements, including liberalisation, while exaggerating his role in the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Modi may also have sidelined Advani, but he dutifully greets the 96-year-old on his birthday every year. And his government has just announced a Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour, for LK Advani.

This differing treatment of their own says a lot about why the Congress loses and why the BJP wins.

I met Advani around 2017 while researching for my book on the 60-year-old *jugalbandi* between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani. He had by then been relegated to the irrelevance of the Margadarshak Mandal within his party. Advani had read my first book, a biography of Narasimha Rao. That book began with the story of how the former prime minister's dead body was disrespected in 2004. Rao's body was not allowed into the Congress party headquarters in New Delhi. And soon after his cremation in Congress-ruled Hyderabad, the body was left unguarded, allowing stray dogs to pull at the funeral pyre. This affected Advani greatly. He asked me why the Congress treated its own so badly. He was perhaps reflecting on his own status.

He then said: "We also have differences in our party. But we don't treat each other like that."

I realised later that in that sentence, Advani had described the BJP's greatest strength — its Hindutva Fevicol. Like in any other grouping, many in the *sangh parivar* dislike each other. But they are trained to avoid washing dirty linen in public. BJP politicians abandon their party much less than legislators from other parties. And no matter what their real feelings are, the rituals of public respect are maintained. As the words "sangh parivar" indicate, it is an organisational structure based on a squabbling but united family.

PM Modi's decision to confer a Bharat Ratna on Advani is very much part of this Hindutva Fevicol, a show of respect for a family elder who did much to stymie him. Advani might have saved Modi from being sacked as Gujarat chief minister in 2002. But he was also the man who, in 2013, protested Modi being declared the

party's leader for the 2014 national elections. And when the BJP lost state elections in Delhi and Bihar in 2015, Advani became the Bahadur Shah-like figure around whom party dissidents gathered to launch a gentle critique "of the way the party is being forced to kowtow to a handful". Similarly, Vajpayee did much to end Modi's political career. He tried hard to sack Modi as Gujarat chief minister after the 2002 riots; he also privately blamed Modi for the 2004 electoral loss of his government. No matter, when Vajpayee died in 2018, the Modi government turned the funeral into a national event, with the prime minister accompanying the funeral hearse for six kilometres on foot.

Advani and Vajpayee also rose above their differences — with each other and with Modi. No matter what their private feelings, they never sought to split the party in their image or hurt its electoral prospects to further their self-interest.

These outward trappings of family unity are a product of a certain reading of Hindu history. In the RSS's telling, Hindus have lost to invaders because they fight with each other, rather than standing united. At *shakhas* — the daily building block of the RSS — the movement faithful discuss history lessons such as the third battle of Panipat in 1761. In their telling, the Afghan warlord Ahmad Shah Abdali was able to win because the local Muslims rallied behind him. The Maratha confederacy, on the other hand, was riven by internal disputes between the Peshwas, Holkars, Gaekwads, and the Scindias. They also received little help from the Jats, Rajputs, and Sikhs. The Hindu side lost because it lacked unity.

There might be factual inaccuracies with such a sweeping narrative but this lesson of history has been turned into an organisational ethic by the RSS and the BJP. To break the party would be to repeat the failings of the Hindu past. Stay united no matter what. Not all BJP leaders have adhered to this — Shankersinh Vaghela's rebellion in Gujarat in 1995, for instance. But these exceptions only prove the rule that the sangh parivar splits and breaks up much less than other parties. The couple may squabble, but they rarely divorce.

Modi's gesture to honour Advani despite their differences is very much part of this Hindutva Fevicol. It shows that Modi — like Advani — has internalised the importance of a public show of party unity. Others can learn from this gesture. Dravidian politics would be very different had Karunanidhi and M G R not divided the movement because of personal egos; the Congress would not be in the condition it is in, had it not gone through episodic splits and desertions. And, the INDIA opposition block might have a real chance if it focussed on unity rather than opportunity. Disagree within as much as you like, but present a united face without. It's why the BJP wins.

The writer is a professor of law & politics. He is the author of *Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi and Half Lion: How PV Narasimha Rao Transformed India*



SUKANTA CHAUDHURI

Gated communities of mind

Reforms require a school system built on equity, there can't be classroom at a click

THIS NEWSPAPER RECENTLY carried a number of articles on education. While differing in subject, they imply a consensus that India cannot provide quality education to all its youth. Of course, it is never phrased this negatively; rather as constructive, even upbeat proposals that take a fraction of the challenge as the whole. The writers tend to see education as an exclusive, not a public, good — exclusive to a class if not an individual. India has a vast middle class, a dream market for goods and services. This is also the dominant educated class, a thriving market for education as for consumer wares.

A fallacy thereby arises. One can enjoy the use of one's car or TV regardless of others. But one can neither draw nor bestow full benefit from one's education if the blessing is not widely shared. Manish Sabharwal and Ashish Dhawan ('Shastra and Shastra', IE, January 29) suggest selective development, even "overinvestment" in a few institutions so that they shine in world rankings and "help build industries". It is doubtful if industry, or any other sphere, can derive full benefit from outstanding management without matching support all the way down, or in a few centres of excellence can flourish in an otherwise dull milieu. The "percolation theory" does not work — this meritocracy is a gated community of the mind.

The authors cite China's strategy to ensure high university rankings. They might instead have considered a basic fact: Virtually China's entire population enjoys effective school education. So does every country star-

ring in global university rankings. By contrast, last month's Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) confirms the disheartening condition of India's schools.

One might argue for selective upgrading at the school level too. But that happened long ago. Our school system includes a large, exclusive and well-funded private sector. That has not reformed the educational scene generally. It is not a good precedent for further hierarchising our already hierarchic higher education system.

Every year, the JEE and NEET exams destroy some young lives because a staggering number of candidates are battling to enter a handful of institutions. If there were 230 IITs instead of 23, 10 times as many aspirants would find places. Of course, all 230 would not be of equal standard or eminence. Through inevitable academic selection, some would do better than others. But what we have today is a ghost of this model, with widening disparities.

Beyond lip service, India has consistently ignored the imperative role of a meaningful school education for all. The new National Education Policy has not taken off at the school level. Its truly game-changing proposal, an Early Childhood programme merging anganwadis with primary school, is in cold storage. It astonishingly accepts that all children need not attend full-time schools. The proposed top-of-the-class PM-Shri schools will number 14,500 — less than 1 per cent of all schools in India. A 2021 UNESCO report found a shortage of 11.16 lakh teach-

ers, with 69 per cent vacancies in rural schools and 1.1 lakh single-teacher schools (89 per cent of them in rural schools).

The latest ASER report reveals that 25 per cent of 14 to 18-year-olds cannot read a Standard II textbook; 43 per cent cannot do Standard III sums. Most students study humanities. This is hardly by choice: Few schools are equipped for science teaching.

It is simply unreal to talk of an exclusive world-class system in this milieu. But even when we admit the problem, our search for quick-fix solutions and our trust with technology make us resort to computers.

Digital learning is an immense boon. But the computer is not a magic wand. Some types of material and pedagogic practice lend themselves to digitisation, others do not. The endemic use of computers in evaluation has spawned the ubiquitous multiple-choice question, stunting students' capacity for connected thought. Contrary to Madhav Chavan's assertion (IE, January 18), there cannot be a "classroom at a click".

It is impossible to teach a child to read, write and count in an online mode. Hence, the grave danger that many children of the pandemic might grow up devoid of literacy or numeracy. When these children grow up, how will they join the workforce? How will India's economic ambitions accommodate them?

There is also the issue of digital access. By much fudging and glossing, we have convinced ourselves that we have enough smartphones for the educational needs of all

or most children. During the pandemic, the Education Ministry claimed that 85 per cent students availed of online classes. A parliamentary committee found the figure to be 30 per cent. Can two or more children share a smartphone to any purpose with the adults of the family? What about poor connectivity? Above all, would the educated elite accept a smartphone as an adequate device for their own children's learning needs? There is no escaping the bottom line: The nation cannot educate its children through quick fixes, cost-cutting and cherry-picking.

No developed nation has got where it has without effective school education for all its citizens. India would be rash to think otherwise. Effective schooling calls for enough capable teachers and infrastructure (including digital support) for all students. If this is assured, higher education would automatically fall into place. There would be no need to nurture certain institutions like hothouse plants by short-changing the rest. Rather, all institutions would compete for resources and privileges.

The public university system developed in 50 years of Independence had moved appreciably in this direction. It was frustrated by our failure to develop an adequate school system. For all our brave rhetoric, we have not built substantively on either front since then. We cannot put off the challenge any longer.

The writer is professor emeritus, department of English, Jadavpur University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A STALWART

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Bharat Ratna Advani' (IE, February 5). Unlike leaders of the Sangh Parivar who would never be apologetic about the Babri Masjid demolition, LK Advani, one of the tallest leaders of the BJP who brought the party in the mainstream is apologetic. This quality makes him different. He said, "If I had any apprehension that the incident (Babri demolition) could take place, I would not have gone to Ayodhya". He also had the courage to praise Jinnah and be proud of Hinduism without being anti-Muslim. Though he foresaw the possibility of curtailment of liberties, he could not have imagined the sellout of TV media to the ruling dispensation.

L.R. Murrnu, New Delhi

PROTECT CHILDREN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In the dock' (IE, February 3). Zuckerberg's apology in the US senate offers a peek into the "meta world" of online child abuse. Social media users encounter indecent child related content regularly but a majority of them turn a blind eye. The stakeholders, parents, government and social media corporations must identify and fulfil their due responsibilities. While parents can guide, counsel and keep a check on screen time, the government can work on enforcing child protection laws. These media giants should also have a civil and moral liability for inflicting trauma on children via media on their platforms.

Sagar Borade, Chhattisgarh

PLUG THE GAPS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Budget questions, no answers' (IE, February 5). Proposals such as a focus on the railways, doubling the number of airports, reducing corporate tax, and no changes in income-tax slab make it a budget with the haves in mind. The finance minister failed to include any big jump in allocation for farmers, women, youth and poor. The budget said nothing about the very real issues of unemployment, India's poor performance on human development indices and the effects of the downside in the global economy. Positive thinking regarding the economy has turned into toxic positivity.

SS Paul, Nadiya

WHAT FARMERS NEED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Neglecting the farm' (IE, February 2). Governments since independence have not tackled the issues of the farm sector. Resultantly, what ails the farmers remains to be resolved. The main problem is cost. The invested amount is not recovered when the produce is sold. Subsidies are not adequate. Farmers are not impressed by the terms used by experts. Only real assistance from the government in the preparation of the soil, seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, pesticides, agri-implements, harvesting, transportation of crops to the market and delivery at MSP may ease the difficult situation.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

EXPLAINED LAW

What's in Bill to stop cheating in job exams

Proposed law prescribes tough penalties for use of 'unfair means' in recruitment exams. What are unfair means, and what is the rationale for such legislation?

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE PUBLIC Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was introduced in Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill aims to prevent "unfair means" in order to "bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system".

What is meant by the use of "unfair means" in a public examination?

Section 3 of the Bill tabled in Parliament lists at least 15 actions that amount to using unfair means in public examinations "for monetary or wrongful gain".

These acts include: "leakage of question paper or answer key or part thereof" and colluding in such leakage; "accessing or taking possession of question paper or an Optical Mark Recognition response sheet without authority"; "tampering with answer sheets including Optical Mark Recognition response sheets"; "providing solution to one or more questions by any unauthorised person during a public examination"; and "directly or indirectly assisting the candidate" in a public examination.

indirectly assisting the candidate" in a public examination.

The section also lists "tampering with any document necessary for short-listing of candidates or finalising the merit or rank of a candidate"; "tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system"; "creation of fake website" and "conduct of fake examination, issuance of fake admit cards or offer letters to cheat or for monetary gain" as illegal acts.

Which exams are "public examinations" as defined in the Bill?

Under Section 2(k), a "public examination" is defined as any examination conducted by a "public examination authority" listed in the Schedule of the Bill, or any "such other authority as may be notified by the Central Government".

The schedule lists five public examination authorities: (i) the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the Civil Services Examination, Combined Defence Services Examinations, Combined Medical Services Examination, Engineering Services Examination, etc.; (ii) the Staff Selection

Commission (SSC), which recruits for Group C (non-technical) and Group B (non-gazetted) jobs in the central government; (iii) the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), which recruit Groups C and D staff in the Indian Railways; (iv) the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), which recruits at all levels for nationalised banks and regional rural banks (RRBs); and (v) National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the JEE (Main), NEET-UG, UGC-NET, the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), etc.

Apart from these designated public examination authorities, all "Ministries or Departments of the Central Government and their attached and subordinate offices for recruitment of staff" will also come under the purview of the new law.

The central government can add new authorities in the schedule through a notification as and when required.

What punishment does the proposed law provide for violations?

Section 9 of the Bill states that all offences shall be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable — which means that an arrest

can be made without a warrant and bail will not be a matter of right; rather, a magistrate will determine whether the accused is fit to be released on bail. A non-compoundable offence is one in which the case cannot be withdrawn by the complainant even when the complainant and the accused have reached a compromise, and a trial must necessarily follow.

Punishment for "any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences" can be three to five years in prison, and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh. If the convict fails to pay the fine, "an additional punishment of imprisonment shall be imposed, as per the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023," Section 10(1) of the Bill says.

Under Section 10(2), a service provider who is engaged to provide "support of any computer resource or any material, by whatever name it may be called" for the conduct of the examination can be fined up to Rs 1 crore, along with other penalties.

The Bill provides for harsher punishment in cases of organised paper leaks, where "organised crime" is defined as unlawful activity by a group of persons colluding in a conspiracy "to pursue or promote a shared

interest for wrongful gain in respect of a public examination".

Section 11(1) says the punishment for organised crime will be "imprisonment for a term not less than five years but which may extend to ten years" and a fine "which shall not be less than one crore rupees".

Why has the government brought this anti-cheating Bill?

There have been a very large number of cases of question paper leaks in recruitment exams across the country in recent years. An investigation by *The Indian Express* found at least 41 instances of paper leaks in 15 states over the last five years, in which the process of hiring for government jobs was disrupted. The leaks touched the lives of 1.4 crore applicants for about 1.04 lakh posts.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill says: "Malpractices in public examinations lead to delays and cancellation of examinations, adversely impacting the prospects of millions of youth. At present, there is no specific substantive law to deal with unfair means adopted or offences committed... It is imperative that elements that

exploit vulnerabilities of examination system are identified and effectively dealt with by a comprehensive Central legislation."

The Statement adds: "The objective of the Bill is to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination systems and to reassure the youth that their sincere and genuine efforts will be fairly rewarded and their future is safe."

"The Bill is aimed at effectively and legally deterring persons, organised groups or institutions that indulge in various unfair means and adversely impact the public examination systems for monetary or wrongful gains."

It clarifies that "Candidate as defined in the Bill shall not be liable for action within the purview of the Bill and shall continue to be covered under the extant administrative provisions of the concerned public examination authority."

The Bill, once it becomes law, will also serve the important function of being "a model draft for States to adopt at their discretion". This, the Statement says, "would aid States in preventing the criminal elements from disrupting conduct of their State level public examinations".

EXPLAINED EDUCATION

FIVE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2021-22 HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY

R RADHIKA
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE ALL India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22 report, released on January 25, found that 4.33 crore students are currently enrolled in a higher educational institute — up from 4.14 crore in 2020-21, and 3.42 crore in 2014-15.

The survey captured total student enrolment at eight different levels: undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD, MPhil, diploma, PG diploma, certificate, and integrated programmes. In all, 10,576 standalone institutions, 42,825 colleges, and 1,162 universities/university level institutions responded to the survey.

Female enrolment greater

The number of women enrolled in higher educational institutes has steadily increased. From 1.5 crore in 2014-15, there was a jump of 32% to 2.07 crore in 2021-22.

The biggest rise was seen at the PhD level. In 2021-22, the total PhD enrolment was 2.12 lakh of which 98,636 were women, up from 47,717, eight years ago.

Since 2014-15, 91 lakh more students have joined higher educational institutes as of 2021-22. Of these 55% were women. The proportion of women is highest at the PG level, where 55.4% are women.

GER and gender parity

The Gross Enrollment Ratio indicates how many students are part of the higher education system in a given population. The estimated GER for the age group 18-23 years in India is 28.4, the report said.

Among states and UTs, Chandigarh, at 64.8, boasts of the highest GER, followed by Puducherry at 61.5, and Delhi at 49.

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) shows the ratio of the female GER to the male GER. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the two genders; any number between 0 and 1 shows a disparity in favour of males, whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of females.

The survey observed that in 26 states and Union Territories, the GER was in favour of women. At the all-India level, the GPI was 1.01, and for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories, the GPI was 1.01 and 0.98 respectively.

Arts over sciences

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme had the highest enrolment, with 1.13 crore students out of the total of 3.41 crore who enrolled in UG programmes.

At the UG level, in 2021-22, the enrolment in Arts was 34.2%, followed by science (14.8%), commerce (13.3%), and engineering and technology (11.8%).

At the PG level, the highest number of students enrolled in the social science stream at 10.8 lakh. At PhD level, however, social sciences (26,057) stood at third spot after engineering (52,748) and science (26,057).

Primacy of govt institutions

Even though there are more private universities, students prefer government educational institutions. As many as 73.7% of all students attend government universities, only 58.6% of all universities.

Demographics

In the 2021-22 academic year, 1.07 crore students were estimated to have graduated from UG, graduate, doctorate, master's, and other diploma/certificate programmes. Among the graduates, 54.6 lakh or roughly 50.8% were women.

EXPLAINED WILDLIFE

Snow leopard count: why this Himalayan feat is the first step in securing the cat

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THERE ARE 718 snow leopards in India — in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) has estimated. The study, carried out between 2019 and 2023, is a major leap in the understanding of the species.

Snow leopards are believed to occupy around 1 lakh sq km of the higher Himalayan terrains in India. As recently as 2016, the cat's status was unknown in as much as one-third of its range. This went well with the legend of the "ghost of the mountains" built around the elusive cat's mastery of stealth and camouflage.

But for this 'ghost' to have a future — and since the future of most species is increasingly determined by human actions — knowledge of the cat's status across its range is necessary for framing the right policies. This is also a question of securing the future of Indians, because the snow leopard's habitat is where all major Himalayan rivers, which sustain life across much of the country, spring to life.

Yet, a national effort to count snow leopards across its range remained daunting.

The challenges

The first and foremost challenge is the unforgiving terrain snow leopards occupy. While the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti are their strongholds, snow leopards range all along the higher Himalayas, above the tree line between altitudes of 10,500 feet and 17,000 feet. Much of this habitat is not accessible by motorable roads, and its rarified air makes even routine fieldwork, such as locating suitable sites for placing camera traps, a test of endurance.

Analysing photos camera-trapped in the field poses the next challenge. Specialised software can identify unique individuals by comparing stripes or rosettes on both flanks from a pool of photographs. But unlike tigers, zebras, or even leopards, snow leopards do not yield to artificial intelligence.

For long, researchers have grappled with the issue of misidentifying individual snow leopards "as their spot patterns may not be easily recognised when their thick fur gets ruffled or when their body is photographed at different angles". To overcome this challenge, a global consensus of researchers recommended manual evaluation, using at least three marking patterns to differentiate between individuals, and employing multiple independent analysts for identification.



Future of the 'ghost' is in a way linked to the future of Indians. Lalit Kumar/File

NUMBERS IN THE WILD

Area	Camera trap locations	No. of unique individuals	Density estimates*	Estimated numbers
Ladakh	956	126	0.34	477
Uttarakhand	382	40	0.7-1.04	124
Himachal Pradesh	284	44	0.08-0.37	51
Arunachal Pradesh	115	8	0.26	36
Sikkim	99	14	0.40	21
Jammu & Kashmir	135	9	0.75	9
Total	1,971	241	-	718

*Per 100 sq km; Source: Status of Snow Leopard in India, 2023

across their habitat.

In Ladakh, camera traps were placed at 956 locations covering 8,604 sq km for 120 to 180 days. Based on their distinctive forehead patterns, 126 unique adult individuals were identified from 10,789 images. The population was estimated to be 477 across 47,572 sq km.

In Jammu and Kashmir, only 9 unique individuals were identified by deploying 278 camera traps at 135 locations. Even after dropping four individuals due to poor image quality and unfavourable capture angles, this data set fell short of providing a comprehensive estimate for the snow leopard population across 949 sq km, noted SPAI.

In Himachal Pradesh, 44 unique individuals were identified from 187 photos captured across 284 camera trap locations, leading to an estimated population of 51 over 25,000 sq km. From 41 unique individuals identified from 396 snow leopard photos, Uttarakhand estimated a population of 124 occupying 12,768 sq km.

Arunachal Pradesh estimated a population of 36 across 14,156 sq km, from 8 unique snow leopards identified from 115 camera trap locations. In Sikkim, 14 unique individuals were identified from 64 snow leopard photos captured from 99 camera trap locations. The estimated population was 21 snow leopards across 400 sq km.

The outlook

In the 1980s, a guesstimate of a global population of 4,000-7,500 snow leopards cited 400-700 individuals in India. In the 1990s, another guesstimate put 200-600 snow leopards in India out of a global count of 3,020-5,390. In 2016, India's leading snow leopard researchers came together to put the national estimate at 516.

The present count of 718 is consistent with the trend, and suggests overall population stability. Yet, this is just the beginning of understanding the elusive species, its dispersal, competitive land use patterns, and mortality trends.

Infrastructure development is causing a rapid influx of labourer camps in the higher Himalayas who often depend on scarce natural resources for fuel and food. Such migrations, along with a boom in tourism, have also led to garbage mismanagement which, in turn, is fuelling an explosion in the free-ranging dog population that competes with snow leopards.

The exercise

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) partnered with NGOs Nature Conservation Foundation and WWF-India to prepare India's snow leopard estimation protocol in 2019.

The groundwork was carried out in the next three years. In all, photographs collected from 1,971 camera trap locations led to the identification of 241 unique individuals, which was extrapolated to an estimated population of 718 snow leopards in India. This extrapolation is done as cameras cover a limited area, and do not capture all leopards

EXPLAINED CULTURE

Controversy over two age-old Assamese traditions, now with Gauhati HC

SUKRITA BARUAH
 GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 5

THE GAUHATI High Court Thursday directed district administrations concerned to prevent buffalo fights from taking place outside the stipulated time period in Assam, in response to a plea by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India. The court has admitted petitions by PETA India seeking a ban on the traditions of buffalo and bulbuli (songbird) fighting during Magh Bihu, even as the Assam government works towards their revival.

Old traditions

The fights are part of Assamese folk culture, associated with Magh Bihu, the winter harvest festival, which takes place in January. During Magh Bihu, buffalo fights, locally called *moh jui*, are held in different parts of

Assam, with Ahatguri in Morigaon district being the biggest centre. There, the fights have been conducted for many decades by the Ahatguri Anchalik Moh-jooj aru Bhogali Utsav Uddhapan Samiti, and draw huge crowds.

Bulbuli fights are an attraction at the Hayagriv Madhab Mandir in Hajo, around 30 km from Guwahati. Participants rear birds for around two weeks ahead of Bihu, before making them fight.

"The practice is very old, we cannot really say when it started. But it was held with great pomp by the Ahom rulers," Shiba Prasad Sarma, *doloi* (administrator) of the temple, told *The Indian Express*.

Stopped after SC ruling

The fights had been stopped after the Supreme Court's 2014 judgement which forbade the use of bulls as performing animals in *jallikattu* events in Tamil Nadu, and simi-

lar games elsewhere in the country.

The Court also directed the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to ensure that "the person in charge or care of the animal shall not incite any animal to fight against a human being or another animal."

In January 2015, the AWBI wrote to the Assam government seeking an end to animal and bird fights during Bihu celebrations, following which the government directed district administrations to prevent them.

Buffalo fights, however, continued to be held in some quarters in defiance of the prohibition, and the management of the Hayagriv Madhab Temple challenged the order in the Gauhati High Court.

An Assam govt-led revival

The Supreme Court, May last year, over-

ruled its 2014 judgement to allow *jallikattu*, *kambala* and bullock cart racing. In December, the Assam Cabinet started framing SOPs for the conduct of buffalo and bulbuli fights without "deliberate torture or cruelty" to the animals.

The subsequently released SOPs specified that buffalo fights will only be permitted in places where they have been "traditionally conducted" for the last 25 years, between January 15 and January 25.

The guidelines further prohibited human inflicted injuries, and banned the use of intoxicating or performance-enhancing drugs, and sharp instruments to instigate the animals.

The bulbuli fight SOPs required organisers to ensure that the birds are released in the open "in perfect condition" at the end of the game. The SOPs stated that any organisation violating the stipulations will

face a ban for the next five years.

This year, both buffalo and bulbuli fights were held during Magh Bihu with pomp. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma himself attended the events in Ahatguri and Hajo, and spoke of their revival as an effort to "preserve Assam's time-less Bihu traditions."

PETA's challenge

PETA India has now filed two linked petitions before the Gauhati High Court seeking the prohibition of both activities, as well as interim stay preventing any such fights from taking place during the proceedings.

In these petitions, they state that they investigated the events in both Ahatguri and Hajo this year. PETA claimed that in Ahatguri, owners slapped, pushed and shoved buffaloes; jabbed and struck them with wooden sticks; and pulled them

roughly by nose ropes, in order to instigate buffaloes to fight. They stated that the fights left many buffaloes with injuries, and that they lasted until one of the two buffaloes "broke away and fled".

With regards to the event in Hajo, PETA stated that the *bulbulis* "were illegally captured and incited, against their natural instincts to fight over food."

On Thursday, the court heard an interlocutory application by the petitioners stating that a buffalo fight event was scheduled to be held in Nagaon district on February 4, which would be outside the stipulated period specified in the government's guidelines.

The court observed that organising a buffalo fight beyond January 25 is *prima facie* in violation of the government's notification. It thus directed the relevant district administration to take necessary steps to prevent the event, in line with the SOPs.

13 ECONOMY

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹63,350	₹83.06	\$79.03	₹75,500

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg. Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 2

SENSEX: 71,731.42 ▼ 354.21 (0.49%) NIFTY: 21,771.70 ▼ 82.10 (0.38%) NIKKEI: 36,354.16 ▲ 196.14 HANG SENG: 15,510.01 ▼ 23.55 FTSE: 7,656.14 ▲ 40.60 DAX: 16,957.26 ▲ 39.05

International market data till 1900 IST

A 50-fold increase in imports of 'gold findings': trigger for pre-Budget duty hike

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

EXPLAINED The duty evasion

THE IMPORT duty for gold and silver bars is 15 per cent, while it was 11 per cent for gold and silver findings. So, importers were getting gold in the form of findings and coins, rather than bars. Due to the difference in HSN (Harmonised System of Nomenclature) codes for gold and silver bars as compared to gold and silver findings, importers were making use of the duty arbitrage to import gold in the form of findings and coins, rather than bars.

JUST A week before the presentation of Budget 2024-25, the Finance Ministry hiked import duties on a specific, relatively unheard category of the jewellery segment called gold findings, which are small components such as hooks, clasps, clamps, pins, screws used to hold the whole or a part of a piece of jewellery in place. Reason: a sharp surge of over 5,000 per cent in the imports of the gold findings this year.

The value of imports of gold findings rose to Rs 5,212 crore this financial year (up to January 6), over 50 times higher than imports worth Rs 102 crore seen in the previous year till January 31, a senior government official told *The Indian Express*. This prompted the ministry to raise import duty on gold and silver findings, alongside coins of precious metals, to 15 per cent, even as the import duty on the broader segment of gold and silver bars was kept unchanged.

"The duty on gold findings was raised as a sharp increase in their imports was recorded over the last two months, which reflected the misuse of the duty arbitrage with other gold items. There were concerns about evasion, so the duty was changed," the official said.

Gold and silver bars attract a 15 per cent import duty, while gold and silver findings earlier faced 11 per cent import duty. Due to the difference in HSN (Harmonised System of Nomenclature) codes for gold and silver bars as compared to gold and silver findings, importers were making use of the duty arbitrage to import gold in the form of findings and coins, rather than bars. Elevated gold price along with high import duty on the metal are seen as one of the key reasons behind the increased cases of smuggling.

The pre-Budget hike in import duty on gold and silver findings was done through levying Agricultural Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC) of 5 per cent and removing Social Welfare Surcharge (SWS) of 1 per cent. Earlier, gold and silver findings faced a 10 per cent levy of basic customs duty (BCD) and 1 per cent SWS, with the effective duty rate at 11 per cent.

Now, the government has

ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES FOR 2020-21 AND 2021-22

Manufacturing saw more employment, profits despite Covid pandemic blows

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE COVID-19 pandemic affected the number of factories and fixed investments in the organised manufacturing sector in the country but profits and invested capital recorded an increase, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2020-21 and 2021-22 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday showed. Employment in the manufacturing sector took a hit during the lockdown-affected year of 2020-21, but then recovered in 2021-22 to levels higher than pre-pandemic.

Total number of employees in over 2.50 lakh factories decreased in 2020-21 to 1.60 crore from 1.66 crore in 2019-20, while the number of workers employed in the factories reduced to 1.26 crore from 1.31 crore during the same period.

The employment numbers in factories then showed a pickup in 2021-22, with the number of employees rising to 1.72 crore, marking a compounded annual growth

ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES 2020-21 & 2021-22

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	CAGR For 2021-22
Number Of Factories	2,46,504	2,50,454	2,49,987	0.7
Number Of Workers	1,30,58,156	1,25,94,563	1,36,09,931	2.1
Number Of Employees	1,65,68,526	1,60,25,118	1,71,51,172	1.7
FINANCIALS				
Wages To Workers	2,28,90,520	2,22,61,548	2,64,55,930	7.5
Total Emoluments	4,91,72,897	4,83,89,031	5,60,82,801	6.8
Net Fixed Capital Formation	1,43,61,795	32,25,819	30,42,540	-54.0
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	4,16,71,537	3,13,61,805	3,30,07,225	-11.0
Profits	4,69,47,269	6,14,05,752	9,50,71,368	42.3

Value figures in Rs lakh Source: MoSPI

rate (CAGR) of 1.7 per cent from the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20. The number of workers, too, recorded an increase in 2021-22 to 1.36 crore, with a CAGR growth of 2.1 per cent over these two years. The employment in the corporate sector, which includes public and private government and non-government companies, rose by 1.6 per cent (CAGR) to over 1 crore in 2021-22. In the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20, it stood slightly over 97 lakh.

To be sure, workers include all persons employed directly or through any agency and includes both paid and unpaid workers engaged in any manufacturing process or in cleaning any part of the machinery or the manufacturing premises.

Employees include all workers and persons receiving wages and holding clerical or supervisory or managerial positions along with those engaged in purchase of raw materials or fixed assets for

the factory as well as watch and ward staff. Fixed capital investments took a sharp hit during the pandemic affected years. Gross fixed capital formation, an indicator of investment, declined by 11 per cent in 2021-22 to Rs 3.30 lakh crore from Rs 4.17 lakh crore in the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20. As against the lockdown-affected year, the GFCF picked up marginally in 2021-22, rising about 5 per cent from Rs 3.14 lakh crore in 2020-21. Gross capital formation,

which includes outlays on addition to fixed assets and net change in inventories grew 29.5 per cent to 7.02 lakh crore in 2021-22.

The ASI data is the principal source of industrial statistics and data for organised manufacturing. It relates to factories employing 10 or more workers using power and those employing 20 or more workers without using power.

The definition is slightly tweaked for states of Maharashtra and Rajasthan, wherein data is collected for factories employing 20 or more workers with power and factories having 40 or more workers without power. The survey also covers registered bidi and cigar manufacturing establishments. On a net basis, net fixed capital information recorded a decline of 54 per cent in 2021-22 as against the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20. The investment figures in the ASI surveys are in current prices terms. Profits in the manufacturing sector grew sharply for the pandemic-affected years, rising by 42.3 per cent (CAGR) to Rs 9.51 lakh crore in 2021-22 as against Rs 4.70 lakh crore in 2019-20.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

India's Jan services PMI hits 6-mth high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE SERVICES sector growth in India rose to a six-month high in January as new business expanded at a faster pace amid buoyant demand from domestic and external clients, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose to 61.8 in January, up from 59 in December, pointing to the sharpest rate of expansion in six months.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies. "India's services PMI rose to a six-month high in January. New business expanded at a faster pace and managers' expectation for future activity was strong. The new export business index accelerated, signalling that India's services exports remained robust," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.

Red Sea crisis: India turns to West Asia to replace crude supply from the US

SUKALP SHARMA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

INDIA'S CRUDE oil imports from Iraq touched a 21-month high in January as refiners turned to West Asia to replace volumes from the United States (US), which were disrupted due to the spurt in freight rates in view of the Red Sea crisis, an analysis of ship tracking data shows.

The US has been among India's top-five crude suppliers for some time now, with Indian refiners buying an average of 205,000 barrels per day (bpd) of US crude in 2023. However, in the first month of 2024, Indian refiners did not receive any US crude, according to preliminary data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler.

"Indian buyers had a mixed January when robust domestic demand and an almost complete lack of refinery turnarounds were sapped by panic buying as the Red Sea disruptions complicated the country's import options. With freight from the Atlantic Basin being prohibi-



Oil imports from Russia—currently India's largest supplier of oil—in January stood at 1.53 million bpd. File

tively expensive again, Indian refiners needed to turn towards options closer to home," said Viktor Katona, Lead Crude Analyst at Kpler. Unlike US crude cargoes, oil cargoes from West Asia to India usually do not cross the Red Sea's Bab el-Mandeb strait—where most of the attacks on commercial vessels have been concentrated—and go through the Strait of Hormuz instead.

India's oil imports from Iraq—

New Delhi's second-largest source of crude—in January stood at 1.19 million bpd, up by a fourth from December volumes, and the highest since April 2022. The disruption in supplies of US crude led to a boost in India's oil imports from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well. Oil imports from the UAE in January jumped nearly 81 per cent over December levels to around 326,500 bpd. Abu Dhabi is India's fourth-largest supplier of

crude oil. Oil imports from Russia—currently India's largest supplier of oil—in January stood at 1.53 million bpd, 5.6 per cent higher from the previous month. Crude imports from Saudi Arabia—India's third-largest supplier—were at 690,172 bpd in January, a tad lower than December's 706,759 bpd. In all, Indian refiners imported a total of 4.81 million bpd of crude in January, 9.3 per cent higher than December, the Kpler data shows.

In December, US crude supply to India was nearly 158,000 bpd. But with the Red Sea troubles and consequent surge in freight rates for oil flows between the West and Asia, US crude likely became unviable for Indian refiners, forcing them to turn to their traditional suppliers in the Persian Gulf. Also, with payment woes hitting deliveries of Russia's Sokol crude, particularly to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), there appears to have been little room for a ramp-up in import volumes from Russia.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

JFSL shares surge 13.91% on reports of acquiring PPBL wallet business

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

JIO FINANCIAL Services Ltd (JFSL), controlled by the Reliance Industries group, on Monday jumped by 13.91 per cent to Rs 289.05 on the stock exchanges following reports that JFSL is in talks to buy the wallet business of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), an associate of One 97 Communications Ltd (OCL).

However, shares of OCL—which runs the Paytm payment services—plunged by 10 per cent to Rs 438.35 in the wake of RBI curbs. It has now fallen by 43 per cent in the last three sessions.

According to market sources and media reports, Jio Financial and HDFC Bank are reportedly in talks to acquire Paytm's wallet business.

However, any acquisition of a wallet business or a payment bank will need the approval of the RBI. Jio Financial is yet to respond to a query from the stock exchange about the acquisition of

the wallet business. Jio Financial Services controls Jio Payments Bank through a joint venture with State Bank of India (SBI). Jio Payments Bank offered right issue of its equity shares in which SBI did not participate. Consequently, SBI's stake in the payment bank has reduced from 30 per cent to 23.02 per cent.

Paytm Payment Bank has over 30 crore wallets and 3 crore bank accounts, as per the information on the bank's website. It has over 10 crore KYC customers, with 4 lakh users added every passing month. The bank is the largest issuer of FASTag with over 80 lakh FASTag units issued. A payment bank can raise deposit up to Rs 20 lakh but it can't issue loans or credit cards.

In a big blow to Paytm's operations, the Reserve Bank of India last week barred PPBL from accepting deposits or top-ups in any of its key products—customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and National Common Mobility Card, among others—after February 29.

BRIEFLY

Airtel posts 54% rise in net profit in Q3

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel on Monday posted a 54 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,442.2 crore in the December quarter, mainly on account of growth in high value customers. PTI

BSE net profit doubles to ₹108 cr in Q3

New Delhi: BSE Ltd on Monday said its net profit doubled to Rs 108.2 crore in December quarter. The bourse achieved its highest quarterly revenue ever at Rs 431.5 crore in the October-December period. PTI

GST Officials detect 14,597 tax evasion in April-December

New Delhi: In a reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said a total of 14,597 cases of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion have been registered by central tax officers during April-December 2023. PTI

RBI MPC: Why repo rate may remain unchanged?

HITESH VYAS MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5



A few economists expect the RBI to announce some liquidity measures. File

THE RESERVE Bank of India's (RBI) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which is scheduled to meet from February 6 to 8, is likely to keep the repo rate—its key policy rate—unchanged for the sixth consecutive time at 6.5 per cent to meet the 4 per cent consumer price-based inflation (CPI) target. The committee is also likely to retain the monetary policy stance as 'withdrawal of accommodation'.

What is RBI expected to do in the upcoming monetary policy?

The rate-setting panel of the RBI is expected to keep the repo rate—the rate at which RBI lends money to banks to meet their

short-term funding needs—steady at 6.5 per cent in the policy decision which will be announced on February 8. If the RBI maintains the status quo in the upcoming policy, it would mark one full year of the repo rate remaining steady at 6.5 per cent. The central bank last increased the repo rate by 25

basis points (bps) on February 8, 2023, to 6.5 per cent. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.

The central bank is also likely to maintain the monetary policy stance as a 'withdrawal of accommodation', economists said.

The RBI's monetary policy will be announced a few days after the US Federal Reserve announced its monetary policy decision in which it left the benchmark interest rates unchanged at 5.25 per cent—5.5 per cent and suggested that there was no hurry to change rates.

A few economists expect the RBI to announce some liquidity measures to ease the tight liquidity condition in the banking system.

"Going forward, the upcoming RBI policy is expected to give some guidance on liquidity.

Currently the gap between incremental credit and deposit in FYTD (financial year till date) 2024 stands at Rs 3.6 lakh crore. Thus, near term pressure on liquidity cannot be ruled out unless RBI comes up with some measures to improve the durable liquidity of the system," said Dipanwita Mazumdar, Economist, Bank of Baroda.

Why is RBI likely to keep the repo rate unchanged?

The RBI has been maintaining that its aim is to bring CPI inflation to 4 per cent, and until that is achieved on a sustainable basis, its focus will be to remain disinflationary. In December, CPI inflation, or retail inflation, surged to a four-month high of 5.69 per cent in December driven by higher prices of food items such as pulses, spices, fruits and vegetables. RBI

has projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for FY24, with Q3 at 5.6 per cent and Q4 at 5.2 per cent.

"We maintain our view that the RBI MPC will keep the policy rate unchanged at the February 8 policy meeting at 6.50 per cent, sound optimistic on growth, recognize the sharp fiscal consolidation in the interim budget, and reiterate the commitment to the 4 per cent headline inflation target," Goldman Sachs said in a research report.

For FY24, the RBI's real GDP growth forecast is 7 per cent. A recent report by the finance ministry said that the country's economy is likely to grow at over 7 per cent in the coming years and is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world in the next three years, with a GDP of \$5 trillion. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Malkapur Municipal Council, Dist. Satara (Maharashtra) E-Tendering (Second Time)

Malkapur Municipal Council E-Tendering for work of Augmentation of Malkapur 24x7 Water Supply Scheme on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management system Portal website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> Date 05/02/2024 at 10.00 am to Date 23/02/2024 at 6.00 pm. If possible e-tender Date 23/02/2024 at 5.00 pm it will be opened on Date 23/02/2024 at 5.00 pm in front of the present contractors. Also the terms and conditions can be viewed on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sign/- (A.P. Mohite)	Sign/- (Pratap Koli)	Sign/- (Shri Manohar Shinde)	Sign/- (Sau. Nilam Yedage)
Water Supply Engg.	Chief Officer	Vice-President	President
Malkapur Municipal Council, Dist. Satara	Malkapur Municipal Council, Dist. Satara	Malkapur Municipal Council, Dist. Satara	Malkapur Municipal Council, Dist. Satara

Need to create safeguards for Independent Directors: CII

New Delhi: Industry body CII on Monday suggested putting in place "legal and procedural safeguards" related to the personal liability of independent directors, arguing that criminal prosecution should be initiated against them only in exceptional circumstances to keep the risks and rewards of the position proportionate.

The Confederation of Indian

Industry (CII) launched 'Guidelines on Appointment of Independent Directors and Process of Board Evaluation'. "While directors and officers liability insurance is mandatory for the top 1,000 entities by market cap as per the SEBI, it may be advisable for all listed entities to consider this protection for their directors," CII stated. PTI

राजस्थान राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड
 CIN: - U40102RJ2000SG016484 (राजस्थान सरकार का उपक्रम)
 Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Station, Suratgarh-335805
E-Tender Notice-1923RVU2324GL08022571
 E-tenders are invited for Design, Engineering, Supply, Retrofitting, Erection, Testing and Commission of DCS System for replacement of the existing SG-TG-STATION C&I control system installed at 250 MW Unit No # 1 at STPS, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvuni and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
 १९३२ सारा / सी / २३ / १२०२८ RVUNI/PR-3965 Chief Engineer

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING Government of Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 E-procurement T.No. CEI(AM)/AP/GNT/EP/26/2023/24, Dated: 05-02-2024
 Online tenders are invited by the Chief Engineer (AM) Guntur from the Reputed firms & Registered Civil and Electrical contractors for (i) Construction works at various Market Yards / Dairy costing of Rs.12,74,05,506/- approximately. E-procurement site opens for SI.No. 1&2 on 01-02-2024 @ 4.00 P.M and for SI.No.3 to 15 on 01-02-2024 @ 4.00 P.M (ii) For Design, Supply, Unloading, Erection, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Inspection, Start up, Training of 03TPD Ghee Plant at Madanapalli dairy. Any other information can be had from the www.tender.approcurement.gov.in or from the Chief Engineer (AM), O/o, Commissioner & Director of Agri. Marketing, Chittugunta Center, Guntur. Sd/- Chief Engineer (AM), O/o, Commissioner and Director of Agri. Marketing, Govt. of A.P, Guntur.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
 Tender No: RE - T NO. 84 & 85/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD
 RE-T NO. 84 Jai Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Augmentation of CWSS to Anakkara, Pattithar and Kappur Grama Panchayath - Re- Appropriation- Phase I - Design, Construction and maintenance of 12 MLD WTP at Pattithara and 5 L OHSR for Anakkara panchayath, supply and laying RWPM and CWPM, supply and erection of RW and CW pumps, Transformers and allied components. RE-T NO. 85 Jai Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Augmentation of CWSS to Anakkara, Pattithara and Kappur Grama Panchayath - Re- Appropriation - Phase II Design, Construction and maintenance of OHSR at Parakkulam in Kappur Panchayath Supply and erection of Clear water pumps, providing balance FHFTCS, Riddler main and distribution and allied works including LSGD road restoration works. EMD : Rs. 500000/- & 200000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 16540/- & 11025/-, Last Date for submitting Tender: 19.02.2024 03:00pm Phone : 0491-2544927, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
 Superintending Engineer PH Circle Palakkad
 KWA-JB-GL-6-2278-2023-24

14 THE WORLD



AFTER SWEEPING UP THREE AWARDS FOR RAP KILLER MIKE ARRESTED FROM GRAMMY EVENT

RAPPER KILLER Mike was taken away from Sunday night's Grammy Awards in handcuffs by police after sweeping up three of the music industry's biggest prizes for rap. Los Angeles police offered no statement on the matter and two press officers on duty said they had no information. *The Hollywood Reporter* reported he was detained for an unrelated misdemeanor charge. **REUTERS**

TOPOF THE WORLD



Yang Hengjun and his wife Yuan Xiaoliang, File

CHINA Court grants Australian writer suspended death sentence

Sydney, Beijing: A Beijing court on Monday handed Australian writer Yang Hengjun a suspended death sentence on espionage charges, threatening a recent rebound in bilateral ties that followed several years of strained relations between Beijing and Canberra. The sentence, handed down five years after Yang was detained in China and three years after his closed-door trial on espionage charges, shocked his family and supporters. It also threatens a recent warming of relations between Australia and China, which was marred by tensions over Covid-19 and security. **REUTERS**

IRAQ 8 local banks get ban from US dollar dealings

Baghdad: Iraq has banned eight local commercial banks from engaging in U.S. dollar transactions, taking action to reduce fraud, money laundering and other illegal uses of U.S. currency days after a visit by a top U.S. Treasury official. The banks are banned from accessing the Iraqi central bank's daily dollar auction, a main source of hard currency in the import-dependent country that has become a focal point of a U.S. crackdown on currency smuggling to neighboring Iran. **REUTERS**

SOUTH KOREA Seoul signs security deal with Saudi

Seoul: South Korea and Saudi Arabia on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding to expand defence cooperation, Seoul's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said, as Seoul looks to ink further arms sales in the region. The agreement will see the two establish a joint committee to form a working group for weapons systems research and development as well as production to continue cooperation in defence, DAPA said in a press release Monday. **REUTERS**

SINGAPORE Law gets passed to hold high-risk convicts after term

Singapore: Singapore on Monday passed a law to hold "dangerous offenders" indefinitely, even after they complete their jail sentences. The legislation applies to those above 21 who are convicted of crimes such as culpable homicide, rape and sex with minors, who are deemed to be at risk of reoffending upon release. In a speech in parliament, Law and Home Minister Shanmugam said: "An offender who continues to pose a real danger to others should not be released." The law means instead of being released after completing their prison terms, such offenders would need home minister to decide the release. **REUTERS**

'VIP access' for Infosys: Sunak under Opp attacks

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, FEBRUARY 5

THE UK'S Opposition Labour Party has claimed Infosys was effectively granted "VIP access" after a media report alleged the software services major was promised help to grow in Britain due to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's familial connection with co-founder Narayana Murthy.

A *Sunday Mirror* report based on a freedom of information (FOI) request said Trade Minister Lord Dominic Johnson discussed UK operations of Infosys during a meeting at their offices in Bengaluru during a visit last April. A readout of the meeting re-



Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty in Manchester. File

portedly said Lord Johnson "made clear that he was keen to see a bigger Infosys presence in the UK and would be happy to do what he could to facilitate that". "After the Tories handed bil-

lions in taxpayers' cash to cronies for duff Personal Protective Equipment, the public will wonder why an outfit so personally close to Rishi Sunak appears to have been granted this VIP access. There are serious questions to answer," Labour shadow minister Jonathan Ashworth said.

Sunak's wife, Akshata Murty, has 0.91 per cent stake valued at around 500 million Pounds in the IT business co-founded by her father and received millions in dividends in the past financial year.

A "steering brief" for the meeting is reported to have said, it "would be good to reassure them on prospects for the UK economy and remind them of the support we can provide".

Lord Johnson is said to have outlined to the Infosys executives, whose names were redacted in the FOI documents, the advantages for the multinational as a result of the UK's high-potential individual visa scheme.

This is the latest Opposition attack faced by Sunak's wife over her business interests after Labour raised questions over Akshata Murty's decision to liquidate an investment venture named Catamaran Ventures.

The personal finances of Sunak and his wife have previously also been under scrutiny when it was revealed that Murty had legal non-domicile tax status, which meant she did not have to pay UK tax on her Indian income.

HOPES OF TRUCE HIGH Blinken returns to West Asia as Hamas weighs ceasefire deal

US Secretary of State meets MbS, seeks to forge normalization deal with Israel

REUTERS DOHA, RIYADH, FEBRUARY 5

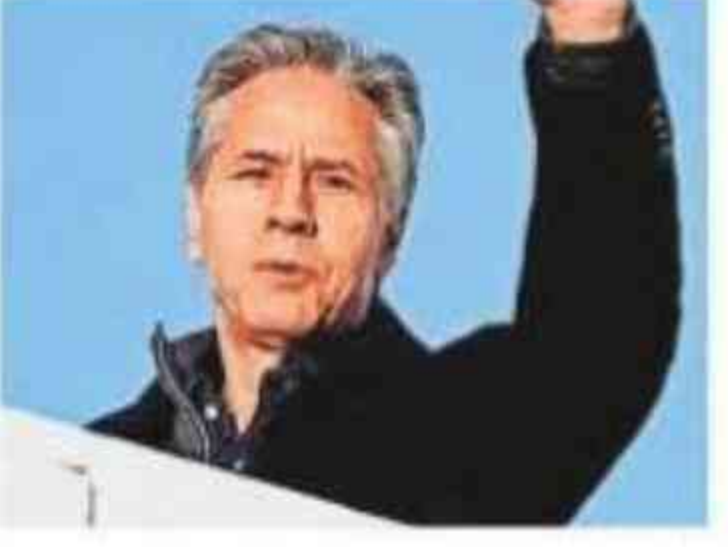
US SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken Monday began a West Asia tour in Saudi Arabia where he met the de-facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a US official said, as Washington sought to forge a Saudi normalization deal with Israel.

Gazans huddling under bombardment said they hoped Blinken's visit to the region would finally deliver a truce, in time to head off a threatened new Israeli assault on the last refuge at Rafah.

Blinken is also set to visit Egypt, Qatar, Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank this week and push to advance the talks with Hamas militants on a deal to free Israeli hostages.

His West Asia trip, fifth since Hamas's October 7 attack aims to try to reinforce the message that the US neither seeks war with Iran nor wants the conflict to spread further.

Blinken arrived in Riyadh at the start of his first West Asia trip since Washington brokered an offer, with Israeli input, for the first extended ceasefire of the war. The offer, delivered to Hamas last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators, awaits a reply from militants who say they want more guarantees it will bring an end to the four-month-old war.



Antony Blinken leaves for West Asia on Sunday. NYT

Drone strike on Syria US base kills 6 Kurdish fighters

Amman: U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces said on Monday that six of their fighters had been killed in an explosive drone attack by Iran-backed armed groups that came from areas of Syria's Deir al Zor under the control of the Syrian government.

Farhad Shami, a spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), said in a post on X that the drone struck an SDF commando academy at a U.S. base at Al-Omar oilfield, resulting "in the martyrdom of six of our Commando fighters."

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq - an umbrella group of Iran-backed Iraqi armed groups - Monday claimed responsibility for the drone attack on Al-Omar field on Sunday. **REUTERS**

Grammy Awards 2024: Taylor swift creates history; five Indians shine

RECORD OF THE YEAR: Miley Cyrus, *Flowers*
BEST POP SOLO PERFORMANCE: Miley Cyrus



ALBUM OF THE YEAR: TAYLOR SWIFT, *MIDNIGHTS*

SONG OF THE YEAR: Billie Eilish, *What Was I Made For?*

BEST NEW ARTIST: Victoria Monét

BEST AUDIOBOOK, NARRATION AND STORYTELLING RECORDING: *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times* - Michelle Obama



Zakir Hussain: Three Grammys - Best global music album for *This Moment*, best global music performance for *Pashito* and Best Contemporary Instrumental Album for *As We Speak*.



Rakesh Chaurasia: 2 Grammys: *As we speak*, *Pashito*



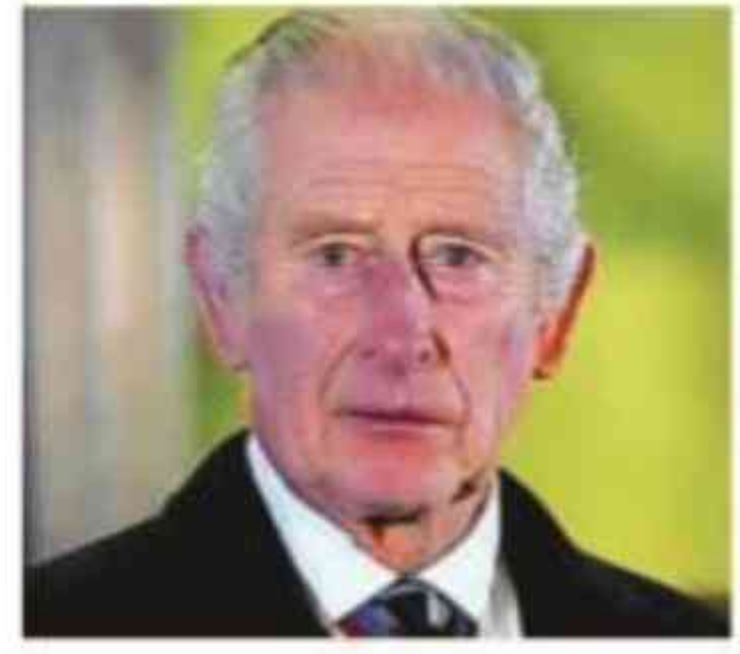
Shankar Mahadevan: *This Moment*



Ganesh Rajagopalan: *This Moment*



Selvaganesh Vinayakram: *This Moment*



King Charles, 75. File

King Charles diagnosed with cancer, postpones public duties

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, FEBRUARY 5

KING CHARLES III has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and has begun treatment, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

The palace says the cancer is not related to the king's recent treatment for an enlarged prostate last month. "Diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer," it said.

"His Majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties," the palace said.

"Throughout this period, His Majesty will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual."

It said Charles "remains wholly positive about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible."

Imran, Qureshi to do prison labour despite being high-profile convicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 5

PAKISTAN'S FORMER prime minister Imran Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi despite being high-profile prisoners will have to perform their prison labour inside the compound, according to a media report.

Both the leaders were convicted by a special court for a 10-year jail term in the cipher case



Former Pak PM Imran Khan; Shah Mahmood Qureshi

and have been imprisoned in Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala Jail, where their trial was held. Khan, 71, and Qureshi, 67, are

being kept separately as high-profile prisoners - in their capacity as a former prime minister and foreign minister, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

Khan is the founder chairman of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) while Qureshi is the vice chairman of the party.

Both the leaders are availing the facilities provided to inmates in a better-class prison similar to the ones they had before their conviction including access to an exercise machine, it said.

Broader reset: Zelenskyy signals shakeup of military leadership

ASSOCIATED PRESS KYIV, FEBRUARY 5

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he is thinking about dismissing the country's top military officer as part of a broader leadership shakeup, a possibility that has shocked the nation fighting a war to end Russia's invasion and also worried Ukraine's Western allies.

Meanwhile, four people were killed and at least one was injured in Monday's strike over the city of Kherson, the head of the local military administration said.

Zelenskyy confirmed in an interview with Italian broadcaster RAI TV released Sunday that he was thinking about removing General Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces. He said he was contemplating to ensure the country remains led by individuals who are "convinced of victory".

"A reset, a new beginning is necessary," Zelenskyy said. The review is "not about a single person but about the direction of the country's leadership."

"...you can't say here we replaced a single person... when we talk about this, I mean a replacement of a series of state leaders, not just in a single sector like the military," he said.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy awards serviceman during his visit to Zaporizhzhia on Sunday. AP

US Senate unveils \$118 billion Bill on border security, Ukraine, Israel aid

Washington: The U.S. Senate on Sunday unveiled a \$118 billion border security Bill that would also provide aid to Ukraine and Israel, which promptly slammed into opposition at the House of Representatives.

"I urge Congress to come together and swiftly pass this bipartisan agreement," Joe Biden said, also praising the migration measures in the Bill, which took months to negotiate.

However, House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson declared it "dead on arrival" if it reaches his chamber.

"This bill is even worse than we expected, and won't come close to ending the border catastrophe the president has created," he said on X.

Both Democratic and Republican backers of the Bill pledged to push ahead, despite opposition by Donald Trump as well. **REUTERS**

Nov polls in mind, Biden sets sights on Nevada



ASSOCIATED PRESS LAS VEGAS, FEBRUARY 5

PRESIDENT JOE Biden on Sunday ticked through a list of reasons he says a second Donald Trump presidency would be a "nightmare" for the country as he

urged Nevada Democrats to vote for him in the state's presidential primary this week and for his party at large in November.

Biden opened a campaign swing with a fundraiser where he focused on Trump's ample history of provocative statements - his description of Jan. 6 rioters as "hostages," his musing about a former top military officer deserving execution, his branding of fallen soldiers as "suckers" and "losers," his wish to be a Day One "dictator," his vow to supporters that "I am your retribution," and more.

Then it was on to a community center in a predominantly Black



President Joe Biden at an event in Las Vegas, Sunday. AP

section of Las Vegas, where he told his crowd of several hundred that "you're the reason we'll make Donald Trump a loser again."

Biden said the stakes were huge when he took on Trump in

2020 - "what made America America, I thought, was at risk" - and they are even larger now as a likely rematch looms.

He told donors at the private home in Henderson, Nevada, that if they came to Washington, he'd show them the White House dining room table where Trump, according to ex-aides, sat transfixed for hours in front of the TV as the rioters he'd fired up with his rhetoric stormed the Capitol.

"We have to keep the White House," he said, "We must keep the Senate" and win back the House. Accomplish that, he said, and "we can say we saved American democracy."

DALI'S NICKNAME ALSO POINTS TO INFLUX OF TECH EMPLOYEES WHO ARRIVED THERE SINCE RISE OF REMOTE WORK

Young Chinese flock to 'Dalifornia' to heal, escape from megacities

VIVIAN WANG DALI, FEBRUARY 5

TO FIND the dance circle in the bed-and-breakfast's courtyard, drive north from the bedsheets factory converted into a crafts market, toward the vegan canteen urging diners to "walk barefoot in the soil and bathe in the sunshine." If you see the unmanned craft beer bar where customers pay on the honor system, you've gone too far.

Welcome to the Chinese mountain city of Dali, also sometimes known as Dalifornia, an oasis for China's disaffected, drifting or just plain curious.

The city's nickname is a homage to California, and the easy-living, tree-hugging, sun-soaked stereotypes it evokes. It is also a nod to the influx of tech employees who have flocked there since the rise of remote work during the pandemic, to code amid the picturesque surroundings, nestled between snow-capped, 10,000-foot peaks in southwest China, on the shores of glistening Erhai Lake.

The area has long been a hub for backpackers and artists, who were lured by its cheap rents and idyllic old town, where ancient city gates and white-walled courtyard homes point to the history of the Bai ethnic minor-



Some of the new arrivals say they want to stay forever; others acknowledge they are looking just to try on an alternative lifestyle before returning to the city grind. NYT

ity, who have lived there for thousands of years.

But recently, Dali has filled with a different crop of wandering souls: young people from China's megacities, fleeing the intense lifestyles that so many of them once aspired to. Worn out by the high cost of living, cut-throat competition, record youth unemployment and increasingly suffocating political environment, they have turned Dali into China's destination of the moment.

"Young people who can't fit into the mainstream can only look for a city on the margins," said Zhou Xiaoming, 28, who moved from Shanghai three years ago.

Depending on your point of view, Dali, population 560,000, can feel like paradise or a parody.

A seemingly inescapable buzzword in Dali is healing. Healing yoga, healing camping trips, even healing coffee shops. At a co-working space on a recent Tuesday, about two dozen people listened to a presentation on combating loneliness. At the bed-and-breakfast's dance circle, participants were encouraged to rediscover their inner child.

The therapeutic atmosphere was especially thick at Veggie Ark, a sprawling complex north of the old town that houses the vegan canteen, yoga studios, gong lessons and a dye work-

shop. Eventually, it would also include a "self-sufficiency lab" that Tang Guanhua, 34, was building in the courtyard: a wooden dome, constructed by hand, that when completed would be powered by solar energy, and serve as an exhibition space for handicrafts made with local materials.

Some of the new arrivals say they want to stay forever; others acknowledge they are looking just to try on an alternative lifestyle before returning to the city grind.

Still, even the most cynical observer would admit that the city feels tangibly more open and relaxed than most other places in China. **NYT**

Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA)

Add- Rajbhavan Complex, Baner Road, Next to Sakal Nagar, Pune- 411 007 Phone No. 020-25608408/8268/8210.

E-tender Notice

On behalf of Hon. Director General YASHADA, Pune, Registrar, YASHADA, Pune invites bids for Construction of Center for Good Governance (CGG)- Residential & Academic Building at Baner YASHADA Campus, Pune work from Registered as well as unregistered Contractor, and full filling the qualifying criteria in **B-2 Tender Format** as per Maharashtra Government, Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Department Mantralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 22/10/2018. Bids document can be downloaded from website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. undersigned reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted. Brief Tender Notice and Other related information available on following web site.

1. Yashada's website www.yashada.org (Only Tender Notice)
2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in> (Tender Notice and Tender Document)

(Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum's published on above website)

**Registrar,
YASHADA Pune- 07**

SECTION 1 Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle, HP PWD Shimla HP NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle, HP PWD Shimla-3 on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh invites the Percentage Rate Bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of road under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for following work from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP PWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for this tender having amount up to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HP PWD.

District	REID	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Bid Security (Rs.)	
Shimla	XXIX	Construction of Bridge over Ghat river at Lakhotei Chp 75.243 cum. Double lane Bridge on Lakhotei, Kullu Shergang road (Pharwan Dubbi to Shergang) Over Ghat River at RD 590 and C/O approach road at RD 6/90 to 7/90 (SH- C/o sub structure, Super Structure, Road & Bitfall for both side approaches, Metalting and Tarring, Catch water Drain in RD 6/90 to 7/90). Under NABARD	9,60,28,943/-	Nil	9,60,28,943/-	24 months	19,20,600/-

2. Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 5000/- per package/job (non-refundable) only (Online) in favour of Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No. 1, HP PWD, Shimla.

3. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online on website [www.mahatenders.gov.in](https://mahatenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Applying bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in NABARD may obtain the same from the website: [www.mahatenders.gov.in](https://mahatenders.gov.in). Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CA can use the same in this tender.

4. Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

5. Submission of Original Documents: Nil

6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 16.02.2024 upto 10:00 hrs.

7. Only online submission of bids is permitted; therefore, bids must be submitted online on website [www.mahatenders.gov.in](https://mahatenders.gov.in). The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:00 hours on 16.02.2024 in the office of Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla-3 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids an extension of time will be given for the bids to be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

8. The bidder is not required to quote his bid for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities and the bidder is required to accept the rates in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

9. All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bits/Bolts/Washers etc. shall be arranged by Contractor at his own level.

10. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Superintending Engineer,
4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla-3,
Kangra at Tauda (H.P.),
E-mail: hp-sh3@nic.in

कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी

ई-अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:-14/RII/2023-24/RWD/KHUNTI, दिनांक-05.02.2024

कार्यालयक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पकेज का रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. कार्य का नाम :-

क्र. सं.	आईडीएन सं./पैकेज सं.	प्रस्ताव का नाम	पथ का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रयन की राशि (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कोट नं.
1	RWD-KHU-57PKG-09/2023-24	सोनाहात	सालुपुद से डीबाही तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=1.600 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	सागाटाइ से जोरदा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=3.180 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	पडुमाही से लादुवीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=1.100 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	सोसाही से रागाहीह भागा जोकोपीरी लडुवीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=5.970 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	दुदरुप से मेरडीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=2.250 कि०मी०)	15,73,20,068.00	11,47,000.00		
		सोनाहात	लादुवीह से बांकी पीठवली तक पथ का सागाटाइ तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=3.100 कि०मी०)			पेंडर करीब तिसार लाख बीस हजार अदरत सौ मात्र।	15 माह।
		सोनाहात	1.075 मारगिरी से उलोहीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=1.300 कि०मी०)				ग्रामीण।
		सोनाहात	1.029 से नगडा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=1.600 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	1.07 दुली से सारगडा नदी पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=3.400 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	703 से ओरदाह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=1.415 कि०मी०)				
		सोनाहात	1.040-702 से जसगा (दुगर) तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लं=1.620 कि०मी०)				

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 08.02.2024।

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 14.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 16.02.2024 अपराहन 3:30 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी, पिन-835210।

6. ई-निविदा प्रकोट का दूरभाष सं:- 9431170803

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी

PR 317861 Rural Work Department (23-24)_D

Office of Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

Address:- 9th Circle, HP PWD, Nurpur.
Mail ID hp-kan2@nic.in Phone No. 01893-220098
NOTICE FOR CORRIGENDUM

In continuation of this office Notice Inviting Tender No. SEIX/WS/WA-IPMGSY/ 2023-24- 8097-8167 dated 20-01-2024, the following corrigendum has been made for the below mentioned works:-

Sr. No.	Dist.	Group No.	Package No.	Name of road	Existing Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Corrected As Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in lacs)
1	Kangra	NFDM-01	HP04-337	Up-gradation of Baglamahki to Mandahli road Km. 0/0 to 5/30. (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-339	Up-gradation of Khaboli Dookna to Mahesu road Km. 0/0 to 10/0 (FDR Technology work).	4244.26	351.97	4896.19
			HP04-338	Up-gradation of Bunkhadi to Bana via Malva Goud Hat road Km. 0/0 to 12/35 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-340	Up-gradation of Sushet to Basari road Km. 0/0 to 11/0 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-336	Up-gradation of Dhadli to Danta road Km. 0/0 to 6/50 (FDR Technology work).			
2	Kangra	NFDM-02	HP04-347	Up-gradation of Jawalamuki to Bohana via Dandi Upper Ghatlun Km.0/0 to 14/50 (FDR Technology work).	5994.65	420.02	6414.67
			HP04-343	Up-gradation of Bagpi to Pashar Road 0/0 to 24/90 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-346	Up-gradation of Delvira to Salsar road 0/0 to 5/90 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-348	Up-gradation of Terahala to Marhola road Km. 0/0 to 13/80 (FDR Technology work).			
3	Kangra	NFDM-03	HP04-350	Up-gradation of Ghati Bridge Piplah Khu Bhand to Jakhara Khu Road. 0/0 to 5/90 (FDR Technology work).	5065.82	421.08	5507.79
			HP04-351	Up-gradation of Chahar to Khatoli road.0/0 to 9/45 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-352	Up-gradation of Bhagwan Samsar to Bani Road.0/0 to 10/0 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-350	Up-gradation of Jorali Kandi. 0/0 to Pharian Road.0/0 to 5/50 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-356	Up-gradation of Chahar to Khabli road.0/0 to 10/50 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-355	Up-gradation of Jorali Samsar Thangar Parian Chahar Road.0/0 to 5/50 (FDR Technology work).			
			HP04-328	Up-gradation of Khatira Talan to Kathar road. 0/0 to 7/85 (FDR Technology work).			

Pre-bid meeting on dated 26-02-2024 at 11.00 AM.
Other terms and conditions of the bid shall remain unchanged.

Superintending Engineer,
9th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Nurpur.
Date:-03/02/2024.

NO.SEIX/WS/WA-IPMGSY/2023-24- 8616-8646
5533/HP

HIMACHAL PRADESH Jal Shakti Vibhag Tender Notice

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nagrota Bagwan invites online tenders on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work, through online e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of tender form(Rs.)	Time Limit
1	A/R & M/O Sewerage Scheme to Nagrota Town Tehsil Nagrota Bagwan Distt.Kangra HP (SH- Operation and maintenance of Sewer Network, STP, 1.34 MLD Branch lines, Manholes Chamber Flushing tanks,Wet Well etc. for Five years.	2,38,12,855/- only	2,70,630/- only	1500/-	5 years

Last date of filing /Uploading the tender through e-tendering : 17.02.2024 upto 11:00 A.M and opened on same day at 11:30 AM The tenders and other details conditions can be seen from the website <https://tender.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division,
Nagrota Bagwan (H.P.)

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA) एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड

अल्पकालीन ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (5th Call) PR No. - 311952

अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 280/2023-24 दिनांक :- 03.02.2024

मुख्य अभियंता, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडीएन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रस्ताव का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रम (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	JH-M-DHN-06/2023-24	कलियासोल	1. गुवाहीह से नगाहीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=2.250 कि०मी०) आर०डी०ओ० रोड पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=2.250 कि०मी०) कलियासोल			
		कलियासोल	2. आर०डी०ओ० रोड पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=2.250 कि०मी०) आर०डी०ओ० रोड पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=2.250 कि०मी०) निरसा	1007.811		दस करोड़ सत्त लाख इकती हजार एक सौ रु० मात्र
		निरसा	3. आर०डी०ओ० रोड पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=2.250 कि०मी०) निरसा			
		निरसा	4. निरसा बरेन्दीया पीठवलीह से मदनपुर भागा पलायन तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=4.300 कि०मी०) निरसा			
		कलियासोल	5. कानाहीह से सालुक्पाडा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=3.420 कि०मी०)			

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:-07.02.2024

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 15.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:-16.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची, एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड।

6. ई-निविदा प्रकोट का दूरभाष सं:-

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

मुख्य अभियंता
जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची।

PR.No.311950 Rural Work Department(23-24);D

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA) एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड

अल्पकालीन ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (3rd Call) PR No. - 309833 dated 25.10.2023

अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 274/2023-24 दिनांक :- 03.02.2024

मुख्य अभियंता, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडीएन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रस्ताव का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रम (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	
1	JH-M-DEO-10/2023-24	सारवा	1. जिलासिया से कोरडीह मोड़ भागा गोकुलपुर, ताराटांड तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 3.350 कि०मी०) 2. गिरिकपुर से सनबादिया तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 2.825 कि०मी०) 3. रघुपुर मोड़ से मधुपुर मुख्य तलक भागा मुनबावी, दासडीह बड़े तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 4.400 कि०मी०) 4. नकाही से धावाडगाल तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 3.300 कि०मी०) 5. सरवा तीरनगर मुख्य पथ (खडी मोड़) से मुख्य पथ भागा सुकुमडीह, मिनडीह, नवावा, सनबादिया, रामबाब तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 6.500 कि०मी०) 6. धन्दा से नकाही भागा डांडी तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 3.550 कि०मी०) 7. पीठवलीह रोड से कोलहरिया भागा पुराना धाने, मंडलाहीह तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 3.450 कि०मी०) 8. कनकपडा मुख्य पथ से ततवाडी भागा सिन्ही, पिंडरा तक पथ का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। (लं= 6.057 कि०मी०)	1553.412		पेंडर करीब तिरन लाख इकती हजार सौ मात्र	15 महीना

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:-07.02.2024

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 15.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:-16.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची, एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड।

6. ई-निविदा प्रकोट का दूरभाष सं:-

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

मुख्य अभियंता जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची।

PR 317884 Rural Work Department(23-24)D

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA) एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड

अल्पकालीन ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (3rd Call) PR No. - 314092 Dated 22.12.2023

अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 275/2023-24 दिनांक :- 03.02.2024

मुख्य अभियंता, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडीएन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रस्ताव का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रम (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	
1	JH-M-DEO-11/2023-24	पालाजोरी	1. बलियापुर से मंडलाहीह, कुनजोरी, अरनबावी रागरवाह पथ तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं=6.885 कि०मी०) 2. जिनपुर से मंडलाहीह भागा मुनबावी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 2.755 कि०मी०) 3. सनबादिया से खरकी भागा हिशरु तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 2.915 कि०मी०) 4. तिलैया से धावाडगाल तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 1.750 कि०मी०) 5. सनबादिया से मिनपुर तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 4.010 कि०मी०)	1076.632		दस करोड़ सत्त लाख इकती हजार सौ सौ रु० मात्र	15 महीना
2	JH-M-DEO-12/2023-24	सोनाहराजोरी	1. आर०डी०ओ० रोड से बरेन्दीया भागा कडुवा दुदा, सारी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 3.000 कि०मी०) 2. आर०डी०ओ० रोड से खरकी भागा मदन तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 2.200 कि०मी०) 3. पीठवलीह रोड से नदीपन भागा धने कनकपडा मुख्य पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 2.910 कि०मी०) 4. पनडिप से खरकी मोड़ से बरेन्दीया भागा भावाहीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 3.700 कि०मी०)	1015.715		दस करोड़ सत्त लाख इकती हजार सौ सौ रु० मात्र	15 महीना
3	JH-M-DEO-13/2023-24	सारवा	1. आर०डी०ओ० रोड से बाराकोडा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 1.731 कि०मी०) 2. सारवा तीरनगर पीठवलीह मुख्य पथ से खरकी भागा बरेन्दीया तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 2.920 कि०मी०) 3. आर०डी०ओ० रोड से खरकी मोड़ से नदीपन भागा सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 4.430 कि०मी०) 4. सारवा तीरनगर मुख्य पथ से सनबादिया तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 1.875 कि०मी०) 5. सारवा तीरनगर मुख्य पथ सनबादिया से लोपान रोड भागा कनकपडा, सनबादिया तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं= 7.100 कि०मी०)	1149.407		दस करोड़ सत्त लाख इकती हजार सौ सौ रु० मात्र	15 महीना

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:-07.02.2024

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 15.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:-16.02.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची, एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड।

6. ई-निविदा प्रकोट का दूरभाष सं:-

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

मुख्य अभियंता जे०एस०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची।

PR 317886 Rural Work Department(23-24)D

कार्यालय अफीषण अभियंता वागपत वल्ल, उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद

कार्यालय परिसर, मण्डली विहार, गाजियाबाद-20102 ईमेल:-circlem@upavp.com

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण की सूचना

मण्डली विहार योजना, गाजियाबाद के विभिन्न सेक्टरों में एकल / दू-विड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत आवास ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-118/ पी०आर०आ०-50ई/०6, दिनांक 05.02.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित की गयी है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट www.upavp.com एवं कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखा जा सकता है।

अधीक्षण अभियंता

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

कार्यालय अफीषण अभियंता
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल (ग्रामीण), 18-ई०पी० रोड, देहरादून
दूरभाष :- १११-१३६-२६३६०१, फॉक्स लाइनेट संख्या :- U40109UR2001SG0225867

पत्रांक :- 284 / विद्युत मंत्रालय / उपकारिता दिनांक: 05 / 02 / 2024

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोस्तराधारकर्ता द्वारा अनुभवी / प्रतिष्ठित तथा उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा विद्युत अधिष्ठापन कार्य के लिए अधिकृत 'ए' क्लास लाइसेन्सीधारी टेंडरदार जो ईन्कम टैक्स, उत्तराखण्ड जी०एस०टी०, ई०पी०एफ० तथा ई०एस०आई में पंजीकृत हों से निम्न निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. ई-निविदा संख्या 80/EDCRDDUN/2023-24
2. ई-निविदा संख्या 81/EDCRDDUN/2023-24
3. ई-निविदा संख्या 82/EDCRDDUN/2023-24

उपरोक्त निविदाओं की अधिक जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखें।

(अधीक्षण अभियंता)

सूचना में त्रुटि एवं किसी भी प्रकार के अंतर को टिप की जाये। 1800 439 0425 तक 1912, कौनसे काले रंग का पत्र का प्रयोग करें। 2027 तक नवीन मूल्य www.upavp.com का। विद्युत वरी के रूप में का. 0.00 100 रु०, पत्र का 100-2000। प. टी.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Letter No. DRM/CIAGRA/PAY & USE/POLICY/2023 Dated: 02.02.2024

E-Auction Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Agra invites E-Auction as per categories given as under:

Category: Public Toilet Auction Catalogue No.: PNU-Agra-24-01

Asset Details: Manning of Public Toilet on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) basis at near Alit Chowk Agra Cantt. Station.

E-Auction Start Date and Time: Date:- 19.02.2024, Time:- 11.00

E-Auction End Date and Time: Date:- 19.02.2024, Time:- 11.30

Note:- Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

215/24 FA

North central railway @CPNCR @northcentralrailway www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

OFFICE OF UJJAIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Pradhikaran Bhawan, Bharatpuri Administrative Zone, Dewas Road, Ujjain - 456010

email-udaujain@gmail.com, website-www.udaujain.org

NIT No.: UDA/ET/24/19 Date : 03/02/2024

Notice Inviting Tender

Online tenders are invited on Percentage rate tender on key dates from the Contractor registered under centralized e-registration system in MP PWD. Tender documents can be purchased and details can be seen on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. The last date of Tender Purchase and submit Bid Online is 26/02/2024 17:30. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper

Name of work	CONSTRUCTION OF LADDU PRASAD UNIT NEAR ANNA KSHETRA OF MAHAKAL MANDIR, LOCATED AT NEAR MAHAKAL MAHA LOK PARKING, UJJAIN
Probable amount of contract (Rs.)	12,57,00,410.00
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1000000

16 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

Ishrat Jahan D/O Mohd Bashir R/O Mohalla Gujran Wala, Materialota, Punjab - 148023 have changed my name to Ishrat Parveen

It is for general information that I, Poonam Bai D/O Ishwar Singh R/O Rampura (116), Mahendragarh, Haryana-123021, have changed my name of my mother has been wrongly written as Krishna Devi in my 10th and 12th Class School Certificate Cum Marksheet. The actual name of my mother is Krishna Devi, which may be amended accordingly.

Ishafiq zehra, W/O Nasir raza, R/O flat no. 21D, DDA FLATS, POCKET-A, near mother dairy new-zafraabad, delhi-110032, have changed my name to shafiq fatma, for all, future purposes.

hitherto known as Bansil Lal Gera, R/O-59/9, First-Floor, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS SUBHASH GERA.

VAZID ALI, S/O SHABBEER AHMAD, R/O F-25, ABUL-FAZAL ENCLAVE-1 JAMIANAGAR NEW DELHI-110025, IN MY VOTER CARD MY DETAILS ARE INCORRECT-VAZID ALI ANSARI, S/O SHABBEER AHMED ANSARI CORRECT NAME ARE VAZID ALI, S/O SHABBEER AHMAD.

UMME FATAMA, W/O SYED AIZAZ AHMAD, ADD-278D/12, NEAR-JASWANT APARTMENTS OKHLA JAMIA-NAGAR SOUTH, DELHI-110025, changed my minor child name MOHAMMAD TAMIM to MOHAMMAD TAMEEM, for all, future purposes.

Swati W/O Rahul Mohita, R/O C-70, Ground Floor Ramprashtha Colony, Chander-Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed my name to SWATI MOHTA. Permanently.

Sushma Tomar/Sushma, W/O Shiv Shankar Sikarwar, R/O E-31, Chhatrapur-Extn. Mehrauli, New Delhi-110074, have changed my name Sushma Sikarwar, for all purposes.

SUNNY TAXALI, S/O NAVIN TAXALI, R/O, FLAT NO. 102, TOWER K RT-10, KALYPSO-COURT, JAYPEE WISH TOWN, NEAR-AXIS HOUSE, SECTOR-128, NOIDA, GAUTAM-BUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIRAAJ VARDHAN TAXALI.

SUMITRA DEVI, W/O BALJEET SINGH, ADDRESS: VPO. SAHAWAS DISTT. JHAJJAR HARYANA, PIN CODE-124146, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMITRA JAKHAR.

SOURAV, S/O. DORILAL SHARMA, ADD- GALI-17, E-2, 11, SHIV RAM PARK NANGLOI, WEST DELHI-110041, changed my name to SOURAV SHARMA, for all, future purposes.

SINI SIVAN KUTTY, W/O GIREESH NAIR, R/O B-112, GAUR CASCADES, RAJNAGAR EXTENSION, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201017, changed my name to SINI SHIVAAN NAIR.

Vikas S/O Late Jagbir Singh Dalal R/O E-304 Sispal Vihar Sona, Road Sector-49 Gurgaon Haryana-122018, have changed my name to Vikas Dalal

SHANKAR DAYAL SUMAN, S/O YOGENDRA PRASAD, R/O D-926, 5TH AVENUE, GAUR CITY-1, GREATER, NOIDA-WEST, SECTOR-4, SHAH BERI, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVNEESH GUPTA.

SHALINIE W/O MAHIPAL TOKAS, R/O T-7-3004 TATA PRIMAINT, SECTOR-72 SIKANDERPUR GURGAON HARYANA-122002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHALINIE TOKAS.

SAMITA SAGAR, W/O-KAPIL SHARMA, R/O-41, MADHUR JIVAN APARTMENT, PLOT-NO-34 DWARKA, SECTOR-10, DELHI-110075, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAMITA SAGAR SHARMA.

SAKSHI JAIN, W/O. AMIT JAIN, ADD-E-6/14, NEAR SEHEGAL PASTRY SHOP KRISHNA-NAGAR, EAST DELHI 110051, changed my minor child name AARADHYA to AMAYRA JAIN, for all, future purposes.

Rohit Gandhi, Son of, Surinder Kumar Gandhi, R/O House no-F-1218 Third Floor Chitranjan Park New-Delhi -110019, have changed my name to Rohit Kumar Gandhi Permanently.

Sanya Chandhok D/O Sh. Kanwal Nath Chandhok W/o Sh. Rohit Anand R/O A-3/1809, Tower-11, Purvanchal Royal Park, Sector-137, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. 201305 have changed my name to Sanyaa Anand for all purposes.

Rekha Gupta, W/o Chetan Gupta H.No.-1158, Shora Kothi, Kamia-Nagar, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110077, have changed my name to Rekha Gupta, for all future purposes.

Ranvir Kirit Rawat, S/O Late Shri Dhan Singh Rawat, R/O 57-58, UGF, Pocket-4, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name, from Ranvir Kirit Rawat to Ranvir Kiyrit Rawat, for all, future purposes.

Rahul Ganshyamji Mohita, S/O Ghanshyam Mohita, R/O C-70, Ground-Floor Ramprashtha Colony, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed my name to RAHUL MOHTA. Permanently.

LRK Luthra, S/O H.L. Luthra, R/O H-No H-3 Ground-Floor (front side) Panchsheel-Vihar Khriki-Ext Near-Khriki DDA-Flats Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017, my Name wrongly printed in Driving licence RK Luthra. The correct name is Ramesh Luthra, RK Luthra & Ramesh Luthra both name are same-person.

RAHUL VOHRA, S/O, Ravindra Kumar Vohra, F-101, Opposite-Aggarwal Heights, Uninav Heights, Raj-Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201017, have to changed my Name RAHUL KUMAR VOHRA, for all, future purpose.

Chetan Goel R/O 1158, Gali Jaipuria Shora Kothi, Subzi Mandi, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Chetan Gupta, for all, future purposes.

Bhanu Pratap Dhariwal, S/O Mr. Ashok Dhariwal, R/O 28/5 Jacumpura-Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Bhanu Dhariwal.

ABHULAL S/O BHAVSAGAR SHARMA, ADD-RZ-20A/347, GALLI-NO-9/10, JAGDAMBA-VIHAR WEST SAGARPUR, SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110046, changed my name to LAL BABU SHARMA, for all, future purposes

Ashok Saini/Ashok Kumar Saini, S/O Sultan Singh Saini, House no-2881, Second-floor Block-A, Green Field Colony Sector-42 Faridabad-121003, have changed my name to Ashok Kumar, Permanently.

MEENA SINGH, W/O Baldev Singh, R/O H. No-148, DDA Janta-Flats, Safdarjung-Enclave, Delhi-110029, have Changed My Name To MEENA RAWAT, For Future Purpose.

Mrs. Anuradha Jolly W/O Late Capt. Pramod Jolly R/O 434C, Sector-29, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Anuradha Singh on my remarriage to Lt. Col. Baljit Singh vide affidavit no. IN-UP4930419646629W, Dated 30.01.2024.

Monika Arora W/O Lalit Wadhwa R/O B-52, Ram Nagar, Om Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Monika Wadhwa after marriage.

Maneesh Yadav, S/O Shyambabu Yadav, R/O C-74, Street, No. 4, Shiv Bihar Karawal Nagar Delhi-110094, changed my name to Manish Yadav.

MOHAMMAD SHAMSHAD, S/O MOHAMMAD MUSLIM, R/O D-116, PRAVESH NAGAR MUBARAK PURI DABAS-NORTH WEST DELHI 110081, declare that name of mine and my mother has been wrongly-written as Shamshad and Amuneesha in my 10th-class marksheet. The actual name of mine and mother are Mohammad SHAMSHAD and Amrun Niola.

MINAXI GOEL, W/O AJAY KUMAR R/O QP-5, PITAMPURA DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANG MY NAME TO MEENAKSHI GOEL.

MATLOOB HASSAIN/MATLOOB MUSSALIM S/O Mehbub Hasan R/O E-49/1 Abul-Fazal Enclave Part-2, Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to MATLOOB HASAN, Permanently.

MANOJ KUMAR, S/O JAY BALLAB BHANDARI, R/O A-121, SECTOR-4, PUSHP VIHAR, SOUTH DELHI-110017, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANOJ KUMAR BHANDARI.

Kamal Bhalha S/O Satpal R/O B/605, Icon Apartment, Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) have changed my name to Kamal Kumar for all purposes.

Hiral Sameen Vyas, D/O - Piyush Pathak date of birth 30-09-1977, Residing at 0541, ATS Village, sector-93A, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201304, Post marriage changed name to Hiral Sameen Vyas, now I have changed my name to Hiral Vyas for all financial and non financial purposes.

GEETA JASWANT SINGH, W/O RAVINDRA TOMAR, R/O VILLAGE DHIKANA DISTRICT BAGHPAT, UTTAR PRADESH-250611, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GEETA TOMAR.

GARIMA, (Aadhaar Number-399824316372), D/o Shri. Rakesh, R/O-Ward, No. 12, Fartiya Tal Road, Loharu, Tehsil- Loharu, District Bhiwani (Haryana)-127201, have changed my name to Garima Kalkal for all, future purposes.

Anmol Singh Kohli s/o Satnam Singh, R/O 9/22A, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Anmol Singh, for all purposes

FAUZIA SHAHID, W/O AGHA IRFAN AHMAD SHAH, R/O B-1 THIRD-FLOOR, PLOT NO.6 BHASKAR COMPOUND, ABUL-FAZAL ENCLAVE-1, JAMIANAGAR OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, IN MY MARKSHEET MY NAME WRONGLY-MENTIONED FAUZIA SHAHID MY CORRECT-NAME IS FAUZIA SHAHID.

Dr. Sucharitra Picasso, W/O Ram Picasso R/O H.No-903, Hello Tower Omaxe Heights, Sector-86, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have changed my name to Sucharitra Picasso.

Dipali W/O No.17009841 NK Mote Ashok Ramchandra, R/O Lonarwadi, Tal-Kavathe Mahankal, Distt-Sangli, Maharashtra-416411, have changed my Name, from Dipali to Dipali Ashok Mote, vide Affidavit dated 03/02/2024, before-Notary Public-Delhi.

Anurag S/O Anand Singh, R/O Qtr No-579, R.K. Puram, Sector-6 Postal Sub, Delhi-110022, have changed my name to Anurag Panchal.

Dhruv S/O Rahul Verma, R/O H.No. 499, 1st Floor, Kanishka Residency, Ashoka Enclave-3, Sector-35, Faridabad (Haryana)-121003, have changed my name to Dhruv Verma.

Chetan Goel R/O 1158, Gali Jaipuria Shora Kothi, Subzi Mandi, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Chetan Gupta, for all, future purposes.

Bhanu Pratap Dhariwal, S/O Mr. Ashok Dhariwal, R/O 28/5 Jacumpura-Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Bhanu Dhariwal.

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GEETA JASWANT SINGH, W/O RAVINDRA TOMAR, R/O VILLAGE DHIKANA DISTRICT BAGHPAT, UTTAR PRADESH-250611, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GEETA TOMAR.

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Anmol Singh Kohli s/o Satnam Singh, R/O 9/22A, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Anmol Singh, for all purposes

OMVEER SINGH D/o Shri Ramesh Chander R/O 174, DDA Janta Flats, Pul Pehladpur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name to VEER SANGWAN for all purposes

Nishtha Grover Malhotra, W/O parimolj Malhotra, R/O-7, Sanskrit-Nagar sector-14 Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Nishtha Malhotra, permanently.

Nancy alias Nancy Kaur, D/o Harminder Singh, W/O Tanveer Singh Bhatia, R/O A-109, Ground-Floor, Lajpat Nagar-Ist, South Delhi-110024, have changed my name to Nancy Kaur Bhatia

Madan Lal S/O Khanchand R/O C-103 Neelamber Apartment Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name from Madan Lal to Madan Lal Khurana permanently

MANIK S/O RAJESH SHARMA, R/O Z-569, GALLI NO.19, PREM NAGAR-2, KIRARI SULEMAN-NAGAR, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to MANIK SHARMA.

Junaid Mohd S/O Mohd Abdullah R/O 1912, Gali Rajan, Kucha Chellan, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Mohammad Junaid S/O Mohammad Abdullah for all future purposes.

JITENDER SINGH, S/O NIRBHAYA SINGH, R/O P-31 GROUND FLOOR, VISHNU GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018. Have changed my name to JITENDER SINGH MATHARU for all future purposes.

Indresh Khan S/O Ajjit R/O H.No.132, New Ajanta park, near St Anthony School Khora Ghaziabad UP-201309, have changed my name to Idrish Khan for all future purposes.

Harpreet Singh Grover S/O Gurinder singh Grover R/O B-4A/12, Upper Ground Floor, near Geeta Mandir, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Harpreet Singh for all purposes.

Ganpat Cheeta Rawat S/O Deva Singh Rawat Resident of Village-Sopura, Post-Darawat, Block-Asind, Dist.-Bhilwara, Rajasthan-311301, have changed my name to Ganpat Rawat for all purposes and also declare that in my records, my father's and mother's name have been wrongly mentioned as Deva Cheeta and Phephi instead of their correct names Deva Singh Rawat and Fefi Devi respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Arun Garg S/O Om Prakash Garg R/O B-001, Skytech Matrot, Sector-76, Noida, G.B. Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name from Arun Kumar Garg to Arun Garg both are same person.

YASHPAL SINGH JAMWALS/O Sub Maj/Hony Lt (now Capt) Kuldip Singh R/O Vill. Dodharu, PO Lagru, Teh Khundian, Distt. Kangra H.P.176031 have changed my name from YASH PALL SINGH to YASHPAL SINGH JAMWAL vide Affidavit No: IN-UP42291990635908W dated 21.01.2024 before Notary Gautam Buddh Nagar (U.P.) for all future purposes

VISHNU KUMAR CHAUHAN S/O BANWALI RAL R/O 31946/232, CHANDER NAGAR, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VISHNU CHAUHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

VEER SINGH MAHAR S/O Late Bachan Singh R/O L-1-1818 Ground floor, Right portion Gali No 5, Sangam vihar, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062 That both the names Veer Singh Mehar and veer singh Mahar is one and The same person.

Sunil Kumar R/O Flat B-66, Star Apartment Sector-9, Rohini New Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor child aged 9 years from ATHARV to ATHARV TAYA.

Suman Sehrawat, W/o Sarvejeet, R/O 8/248, Ground Floor, Mehram Nagar, Delhi Cantt., Delhi-110037, have changed my name to Suman, permanently.

Sandeep Bindal S/O Om Prakash Bindal R/O House No 4500, Gali No-11, Jai Mata Market, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name from Sandeep Bindal to Sandeep Kumar Bindal permanently

Rizwana W/o Vijay Kumar R/O C-4/25-E, Gali No.7C, East Gamri, Sudamapuri, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Muskan for all future Purposes.

Pankaj Singh Mahar S/O Veer Singh Mahar R/O L-1, H.No. 940 Gali No. 18, sangam vihar, New Delhi -110062 That both the names Pankaj Mehar is one and Pankaj Singh Mahar The same person

Pinkii W/O Ajit Kumar R/O Village Sirsa Kheri, Near Harijan Chopal, Sirsa Kheri, PO-Nandgarh, Dist- Jind, Haryana-126101, have changed my name to Pinkii Rani

Birendra Singh S/O Thakur Singh R/O Vill- Himmatpur Nakaly, No Kunwarpur, Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand- 263139, have changed my name to Birendra Singh Deepa

Sanjeev Kumar S/O Dileep kumar Gupta R/O B-1341, 2nd Floor, Palam Vyapar Kendra Road, Choma (62), Gurgaon, Haryana- 122017, have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar Gupta

Pranjal Jain S/O Parveen Jain R/O H.No.J-5/5, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Pranjal Jain for all future purposes. 0040712067-1

Bather D/o Jai Singh and W/o Krishan Lal R/O Near Ravidas Mandir, Habri, Harbi, District-Kaithal, Kaithal, Haryana-136026, have changed my name to Bharti

Tabassum Ansari W/o Shri Md. Sagir Ahmad R/O House No.19,252, Block-19, Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091 have changed my name from Tabassum to Tabassum Ansari, both are one and same person.

Reena Verma W/o Sh. Deepak Kumar Verma W/O S-112A, Sunder Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have lost my Payment Receipt executed on 18.10.1972 by Smt. Katori Devi in favour of Smt. Sharda Devi and Payment Receipt executed on 21.09.1998 by Smt. Sharda Devi in favour of Sh. Sunil Gupta both W.R.T. Khasra No.473, Village Mandawali Fazalpur, ILLaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092 now Property No.B-121, situated at Shakarpur, Delhi. Finders may contact at above address.

OP Singh Bhardwaj, R/O H.N.1679, Sector-31, Housing Board Colony, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, has lost the Original Conveyance Deed 1679. Founder please return it to the mentioned address.

Hansa Gauri, W/O Jai Ram Jethwa, R/O 179-A, Ground floor, DDA Janta-flats, Paschim Vihar-Extension, New Delhi-110063 have lost my Original-documents Possession-Letter, Possession Slip, Site Possession-Letter, NOC of water and Electricity connection of above address

VISHAL DOGRA, S/O PRAVINDER DOGRA, R/O J-37/39, KISHAN KHUJI, LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092, HAVE LOST MY-ORIGINAL B.TECH MARKSHEET OF 3RD & 4TH SEMESTER-2016-2017, ROLL.NO. 1516121043, FINDER PLEASE CONTACT-8700976047.

My original Educational Certificates issued by NIIMS University, Jaipur, Rajasthan Enrollment-No.BN11/021 have lost. finder contact: Monika Rana D/O, Ranjeet Singh Rana R/O-701A, C-Block, 4th-Floor, Sundershan-Park, New Delhi-110015

Lost and Found: If in hereby informed to General Public that a bag containing various documents including 1. Original Sale Deed Vade R/O No. 5330 in Book No.1, Vol. No.15647 on Pages No.116 to 127 dated Registered on 06.08.2014 before Sub-Registrar-III, Delhi-6 & 2. Original Sale Deed Vide Reg. No. 5235 in Addl. Book No.1, Vol. No.10794 on Pages No.46 to 60 dated Registered on 01.08.2003 before Sub-Registrar Delhi in R/O One Shop at Ground Floor bearing No MR. No.342 Ward No. VI, Preeti Mahadev, Hans Quazi, Delhi-6 has since Mispaced/Lost in Transit for which an FIR was lodged on 02.02.2024 with Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi by Sh. Sagna Chandra S/O Sh. GM. Channana 342, Gali Preeti Mahadev, Hans Quazi, Delhi-6. 981132374 on return of above documents otherwise, the above said documents are treated to be Null & Void/Illegally held by him/her and it bears no intrinsic value for any further use. No further claim whatsoever shall be arisen except to him/her (founder) thereafter.

Lost and Found: I, Mummi Devi W/O Late Raj Kamal, R/O B-6/224, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi have lost my original Possession Letter of Plot No.-24, Block-B, Pocket-6, Sector-8, Rohini Delhi Measuring area 25.9, vide file No. F-7 (2020) 8 2LAB (R) anybody found original Possession Letter within 15 days date of publication please contact 9910370407 or Deputy Director LAB Rohini Vihar, Sadan INA New Delhi-110023.

Recruitment: US based MNC offering WFH opportunity looking for ambitious training provided people WhatsApp App message Name City Background on 9820925521 0050235976-1

Situation Vacant: Vipin Sandwani Advocate Ch. No. 122, Western Wing, The Hazari, Delhi. 110045

Others: Manoj Kumar (Advocate) Residence-Cum-Office: 705-A1, 4th Floor, Radha Krishna Apts. Ward No. 3, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030. Mob: 982923619

Public Notice: The public is informed that my client Mrs. Nita Gupta W/o Nitin K. Gupta, R/O 27-A, DDA Flats, Vikram Enclave, Maya Puri, New Delhi-64, is the daughter of Late Shri Suresh Pranjan Thakkar (alias Thacker), Flat No. 207, 2nd Floor, Huggi West (E-4) Cooperative Housing Society at Solvi, Vihar (West) Taluka, Vasai District - Palghar, Maharashtra. That my client is the owner of the above said Flat. That after death of her father/Original owner Late Shri. Suresh Pranjan Thakkar (alias Thacker), who died on 29.01.2016 and his death was registered with MCD Delhi Certificate No. MCD/OLR/02/21800491047 dated on 20.03.2018 and mother of my client, Late Smt. Kusum Thacker W/o Late Shri. Suresh Pranjan Thakkar, died on 04.01.2004 and death was registered with the Government of Maharashtra with death certificate registration No. is 02 dated 06.01.2004 and sister of my client Late Ms. Namrata Thacker Do Late Sh. Suresh Pranjan Thakkar who also died on 10.05.2013 and death was registered with the Government of Maharashtra, Death Certificate registration No. V584 dated 20.05.2013. That my client Mrs. Nita Gupta W/o Sh. Nitin K. Gupta, aged about 59 years old, is the only surviving member of the deceased and none other than is left in the family hence she is fully entitled of the said flat. Finally it is to be declared that if ever a person being a legal heir may file a suit within the period of fifteen days from the day of the public notice.

Public Notice: It is for general information that I, REETU SAINI DO LATE SH. RAJ KUMAR SAINI W/O SH. ANUJ SAXENA W/O H.NO. 1, SECOND FLOOR, GAUTAM NAGAR, VTC, ANDREWSGANJ, PO ANDREWSGANJ, S/O DISTRICT DEFENCE COLONY, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110049 declare that I got divorce from my husband SH. ANUJ SAXENA vide Court Decree HMA No. 129423 dated 26/07/2023. Further I have changed the name of my minor daughter namely SHANVI SAXENA aged 04 years and she shall hereafter be known as SHANVI SAINI in future for all purposes.

Public Notice: It is hereby informed that Mr. Devayan Shukla, Sarita Mehra, Siddharth Mehra, Sanjay Mehra has claimed to the Probate Court, Gurgaon, area measuring 100 sq.yds, Situated at Kalkaji New Delhi/Delhi 110019. Hereinafter, and has agreed to sell same to Mr. Sourabh Kumar Gupta. And now, Mr. Sourabh Kumar Gupta has approached the IDBI Bank Ltd for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Mr. Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, H-20, BASEMENT, BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

Public Notice: Public is hereby informed that Mr. Devayan Shukla and Veena Shukla, Mr. Shri Ashok Kumar Shukla both R/O H.No. E-41, Gali No.3, Subhash Vihar North Ghosia, Delhi-110053, have debarred and disinherited their son VIKAS SHUKLA, daughter-in-law, Veerayya alias Veenu Shukla and grandson Atharv Shukla, from all own properties both movable and immovable due to their misconduct. My clients have no control over their son, daughter-in-law and grandson who have no respect and regards my clients, any person(s) dealing with them will be doing at his/her/their own costs and risk, for which my clients shall not be liable and responsible for any act, deeds and things of Vikas Shukla, Veenu Vajpayee alias Veenu Shukla and Atharv Shukla.

Public Notice: The public is informed that my client Mrs. Nita Gupta W/o Nitin K. Gupta, R/O 27-A, DDA Flats, Vikram Enclave, Maya Puri, New Delhi-64, is the daughter of Late Shri Suresh Pranjan Thakkar (alias Thacker), Flat No. 207, 2nd Floor, Huggi West (E-4) Cooperative Housing Society at Solvi, Vihar (West) Taluka, Vasai District - Palghar, Maharashtra. That my client is the owner of the above said Flat. That after death of her father/Original owner Late Shri. Suresh Pranjan Thakkar (alias Thacker), who died on 29.01.2016 and his death was registered with MCD Delhi Certificate No. MCD/OLR/02/21800491047 dated on 20.03.2018 and mother of my client, Late Smt. Kusum Thacker W/o Late Shri. Suresh Pranjan Thakkar, died on 04.01.2004 and death was registered with the Government of Maharashtra with death certificate registration No. is 02 dated 06.01.2004 and sister of my client Late Ms. Namrata Thacker Do Late Sh. Suresh Pranjan Thakkar who also died on 10.05.2013 and death was registered with the Government of Maharashtra, Death Certificate registration No. V584 dated 20.05.2013. That my client Mrs. Nita Gupta W/o Sh. Nitin K. Gupta, aged about 59 years old, is the only surviving member of the deceased and none other than is left in the family hence she is fully entitled of the said flat. Finally it is to be declared that if ever a person being a legal heir may file a suit within the period of fifteen days from the day of the public notice.

Public Notice: It is hereby informed that Mr. Devayan Shukla, Sarita Mehra, Siddharth Mehra, Sanjay Mehra has claimed to the Probate Court, Gurgaon, area measuring 100 sq.yds, Situated at Kalkaji New Delhi/Delhi 110019. Hereinafter, and has agreed to sell same to Mr. Sourabh Kumar Gupta. And now, Mr. Sourabh Kumar Gupta has approached the IDBI Bank Ltd for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Mr. Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, H-20, BASEMENT, BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड
(बिहार सरकार का एक प्रकल्प)
CIN - U45201BR1975SGC001208
कार्य प्रमंडल, पटना-1
कार्यालय : 7, सरदार पटेल मार्ग, पटना-800015
मोबाइल : +91-9544402463 वेबसाइट : http://brpnpl.bihar.gov.in ई-मेल : spe-patna-1@brpnpl.co.in
Doc. No:- BRPNPL/PTI/C001/197

Short Notice of Request for Proposal
(केंवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड/केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/एम.ई.एस./सी.पी.एन.डी./सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के समुचित श्रेणी में निविदा संवेदकों से दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अर्थात् ऑनलाइन प्रोजेक्ट मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम हेतु सम्मानित सौंपदार कम्पनी से दर प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड में पूर्व से निविदा नहीं है, तब एकराज्या के पूर्व इन्हें निगम में निविदा कम्पनी अर्थात् अर्जा देनी होगी।

क्र. सं.	जिला	कार्य का विवरण	परिमाणु (Online Payment) (रु. में)	अनुमान की राशि (रु. में)	Bid Processing Fee (Online Payment) (रु. में)	कार्य की अवधि (माह में)
1	पटना	Maintenance of Existing Project management and monitoring system with new design, development, and implementation for running and upcoming projects under BRPNPL.	10,000/-	3.00	3540/-	60 Months

SCHEDULE:

Sl. No.	Activity	Duration
1.	Sale of Tender Documents.	From 12.02.2024 (10:00 Hrs.) to 19.02.2024 (16:00 Hrs.) (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
2.	Pre-bid Meeting.	16.02.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. (Meeting Hall of BRPNPL, 7, Sardar Patel Marg, Patna-800015)
3.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid.	20.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
4.	Last Date of Submission of Bank Draft, bid security and Hard copies of document in original.	22.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. at BRPNPL Office.
5.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid.	22.02.2024 at 16:00 Hrs. (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
6.	Date & Time for Technical Presentation.	To be informed later
7.	Date, time and place of opening of Financial Bid.	To be informed later to technically qualified bidder. (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

- संवेदक द्वारा परिमाण विवरण के अनुसार वेबसाइट पर प्रेषित प्रस्तावों पर ही इलेक्ट्रॉनिक निविदा पत्र को भर कर अपलोड करना है। अन्य सभी महत्वपूर्ण कागजात परिमाण विवरण के अनुसार/अनुमान की राशि को स्कैन कर ई-निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। इसकी **Hard Copy (मूल मूल)** दिनांक **22.02.2024 के अग्रिम 3:00 बजे** तक वरीय परियोजना अभियंता, बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लि., कार्य प्रमंडल, पटना-1 / उप मुख्यालय, कार्य प्रमंडल-1, बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लि., पटना में जमा करना अनिवार्य है।
- किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी अथवा शुद्धि पर जो वेबसाइट <http://brpnpl.bihar.gov.in> पर www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
- संपर्क पदाधिकारी का नाम:-
 - श्री सुशील करीम, वरीय परियोजना अभियंता, मो. नं.-8544402463
 - श्री अभिषेक कुमार, परियोजना अभियंता, मो. नं.-8800431376

वरीय परियोजना अभियंता
कार्य प्रमंडल, पटना-1
बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड
PR. No. 016691 (B&C) 2023-24

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

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

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, N/W: ROHINI DISTRICT COURT: DELHI
(General Administration Branch, N/W)
No. 2255 /GAB/NW/Rohini/2024 Delhi, dated the 2/2/24

Notice

Tenders/ applications are invited from the General Public for the allotment of 01 Canteen (2nd Floor, Rohini Court Building), 02 shops (No. 03-Stationery/ Law Books & No. 15-Stationery/ Courier Service) in Rohini Court Building, 24 Table Seats (23 Petition Writers (Hindi-03 & English-20) & 01 Stamp Vendor), 3rd Floor, Lawyers' Chamber Building, Rohini Court Complex & 09 Photocopiers purely on license basis for a period of one year (which may be renewed for one year and can be extended upto further 02 years).

The prescribed application form along with terms and conditions can be obtained from Room No. 400, General Administration Branch, N/W, Rohini Court, Delhi w.e.f 12.02.2024 to 26.02.2024 between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm against non-refundable cash amount of **Rs.1000/-** (for Canteen & Shops) & **Rs.600/-** (for Tables). In compliance of minutes of meeting of Building Maintenance Committee (North- West & North) dated 10.10.2023, the applicants who had purchased the forms pursuant to notification No.1202/GAB/NW/Rohini/2022 dated 20.09.2022 are given relaxation not to pay again for purchasing fresh applications forms. Last date for submitting Tender / Application forms is 29.02.2024. No application would be entertained after 03.00 pm on 29.02.2024. The Principal District & Session Judge (N/W) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons therefor.

Sd/-
Principal District & Sessions Judge, N/W
Rohini Court, Delhi.
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0330/23-24

Govt. of Bihar
Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited, Patna
(Regd. office: Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna)
GST No.: 10AAFCB2393H121, CIN- U74110BR20125GCO18889
email-civil.dept@bspctl.bihar.gov.in Contact No: 7763817981, 7763817977
(Department of Civil of BSPCTL)

Re-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No:- 05/PR/BSPCTL/2024
(Through e - procurement mode only- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Online e-Tenders are invited by Chief Engineer (Civil) from eligible and experienced Agency/ Firm/ Company/ State or Central Govt. Undertaking for the works noted below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	E.M.D	Cost of BOQ (Non-refundable)	Completion time
1.	Construction of IB Building(G+1) at Purnea.	Rs.2,27,25,700/-	Rs 4,54,520/-	Rs. 11,800/-	12 (Twelve) months

Bid submission start date and time:- From 15:00 Hrs of 17.02.2024 through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Bid submission end date and time:- On 15:00 Hrs of 23.02.2024 through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Date of opening of Technical Part: After 15:30 Hrs of 23.02.2024 through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Civil)
BSPCTL

For complains regarding corruption Vigilance Help Line toll free No.- 1064, and telephone -0612-2232630. Consumer can deposit electricity bills via Sahaz Vasudha Centre or via www.northbiharbill.org & bills.sbpctl.in

E-tendering introduced in BSPCTL for tenders above Rs. 10 lacs. For registration logon to www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and e -Procurement Help Desk Toll free no. 1800 572 6571, Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

PR. No. 016676 (B & C) 2023-24

Govt. of Bihar
Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited, Patna
(Regd. office: Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna)
GST No.: 10AAFCB2393H121, CIN- U74110BR20125GCO18889
email-civil.dept@bspctl.bihar.gov.in Contact No: 7763817981, 9264427334
(Department of Civil of BSPCTL)

Re-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No:-08/PR/BSPCTL/2024
(Through e - procurement mode only- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Online e-Tenders are invited by Chief Engineer (Civil) from eligible and experienced Agency/ Firm/ Company/ State or Central Govt. Undertaking for the work noted below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	E.M.D	Cost of BOQ (Non-refundable)	Completion time
1.	Reconstruction of damaged front side boundary wall at 132/33 KV GSS Katra	Rs. 22,49,730/-	Rs. 45,000/-	Rs. 5900/-	06 (Six) months
2.	Construction of new boundary wall (East side) at 220/132/33 KV GSS Sonenagar (New)	Rs. 18,15,920/-	Rs. 36,320/-	Rs. 5900/-	06 (Six) months
3.	Reconstruction of boundary wall in South side at 132/33 KV GSS Darbhanga	Rs. 17,61,600/-	Rs. 35,232/-	Rs. 5900/-	06 (Six) months
4.	Reconstruction of boundary wall in North side at 132/33 KV GSS Maharajganj	Rs. 23,63,700/-	Rs. 47,300/-	Rs. 5900/-	06 (Six) months
5.	Reconstruction of boundary wall in remaining portion at 132/33 KV GSS Mothari	Rs. 20,32,820/-	Rs. 40,700/-	Rs. 5900/-	06 (Six) months
6.	Tower protection work at Loc. No.-116 of 132 KV Raminagar-Valmikinagar-Surajpura (Nepal) Transmission line.	Rs.14,69,950/-	Rs.29,400/-	Rs. 5900/-	06 (Six) months

Bid submission start date and time:- From 15:00 Hrs of 17.02.2024 through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Bid submission end date and time:- On 15:00 Hrs of 23.02.2024 through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Date of opening of Technical Part: After 15:30 Hrs of 23.02.2024 through website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in
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Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Civil)
BSPCTL

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E-tendering introduced in BSPCTL for tenders above Rs. 10 lacs. For registration logon to www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and e -Procurement Help Desk Toll free no. 1800 572 6571, Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

PR. No. 016671 (B & C) 2023-24

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।
टॉल फ्री नं- 15545 या 1800 345 6268

Govt. of Bihar
BIHAR STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Bihar Government undertaking)Beltron Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna - 800 023, Bihar,(India)
Help desk No.0612-2281814, 2281815

पत्रांक : 678/2024

डाटा इन्ट्री ऑपरेटर के ऑन-लाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन की सूचना ।

बिहार स्टेट इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लि० (बिहार्न) मैनापुर एजेन्सी के माध्यम से राज्य सरकार के विभागों/कार्यालयों/निकायों के अधिकायकों को विरुद्ध संविदा के आधार पर डाटा इन्ट्री ऑपरेटर की सेवा उपलब्ध कराया जाती है। बिहार्न की एजेन्सी के माध्यम से सेवा देने के इच्छुक अर्थात् डाटा इन्ट्री ऑपरेटरों के ऑन-लाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन दिनांक 20.02.2024 (मंगलवार) से निगम के वेबसाइट <https://bsedc.bihar.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध लिंक के माध्यम से वे रजिस्ट्रेशन कर सकते हैं।

- शैक्षणिक योग्यता :-**
 - 10+2 पास एवं एक वर्ष का कम्प्यूटर कोर्स तथा हिन्दी या अंग्रेजी टाइपिंग का अनुभव रखने वाले अर्थात् अथवा 10+2 पास एवं BSDM (बिहार कोशल विकास मिशन) द्वारा 400 घंटे (DDEO) (डिप्लोमेटिक डाटा इन्ट्री ऑपरेटर) कम्प्यूटर प्रशिक्षित शैक्षणिक योग्यता रखने वाले सफल अर्थात्।
- उम्र सीमा:**
 - आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि को न्यूनतम 18 वर्ष एवं अधिकतम 59 वर्ष।
- परीक्षा शुल्क :-**
 - केवल बिहार राज्य के अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए - 250.00 (दो सौ पचास) रुपये।
 - बिहार राज्य की स्थायी निवासी सभी (असुरित/अनारक्षित वर्ग) महिला उम्मीदवारों के लिए - 250.00 (दो सौ पचास) रुपये।
 - दिव्यांग (40% दिव्यांगता या उससे अधिक) अर्थात् अर्थियों के लिए - 250.00 (दो सौ पचास) रुपये।
 - सामान्य आरक्षण कोटि एवं अन्य सभी उम्मीदवारों के लिए - 1000.00 (एक हजार) रुपये। (अर्थात् जो उपर्युक्त परीक्षा शुल्क के अतिरिक्त विभिन्न बैंकों द्वारा निर्धारित चार्ज भी देना होगा, जिसे ऑनलाइन मुद्रातान के क्रम में बैंक द्वारा स्वतः बैंक चार्ज के रूप में ले लिया जाएगा)
- ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र भरने से संबंधित तिथि एवं अन्य विवरण निम्नलिखित है :-**

Sl. No.	Date of Publication of Notice for registration	20.02.2024
2.	Start date of registration	20.02.2024
3.	End date of registration	15.03.2024

- परीक्षा का सिलेबस नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ओपन स्कूलिंग (NIO) के डाटा इन्ट्री ऑपरेटर के सिलेबस (कोड संख्या 336) के समान होगा। सिलेबस निगम के वेबसाइट <https://bsedc.bihar.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।
- कम्प्यूटर आधारित MCQ (Multiple Choice Question) परीक्षा एक घंटे की होगी जिसमें 60 वस्तुनिष्ठ MCQ प्रश्न पूछे जायेंगे जिसमें उत्तीर्णता हेतु 50% अंक लाना आवश्यक होगा। MCQ परीक्षा में नेगेटिव मार्किंग का प्रावधान नहीं रहेगा। MCQ परीक्षा के पश्चात उसी दिन कुछ अंतराल के बाद टाइमिंग की दृष्टत परीक्षा आयोजित की जायेगी। हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी दोनों के टाइपिंग की दृष्टत परीक्षा कम्प्यूटर पर ली जायेगी। प्रत्येक टाइपिंग परीक्षा टेस्ट के बीच उचित अंतराल होगा। हिन्दी टाइपिंग टेस्ट में 'मंगल' (Mangal Font) तथा रेमिंगटन गैल (Remington-Gail) की-बोर्ड (Key-Board Layout) पर ली जायेगी। दक्षता का स्तर अंग्रेजी में न्यूनतम 30 WPM (Correct Words) या हिन्दी में न्यूनतम 25 WPM (Correct Words) होगा।
- निर्धारित दक्षता स्तर पर महिलाओं, अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति अर्थात् अर्थियों को प्रत्येक स्तर के मुल्यांकन में 10% तथा दिव्यांग अर्थियों (रक्षित पदाधिकारी द्वारा प्रदत्त न्यूनतम 40% दिव्यांगता का प्रमाण पत्र) को 15% की अधिमानता दी जायेगी। परीक्षा उपरान्त अर्थियों के लिए कट ऑफ अंक निर्धारित कर पैल संघारित किया जाएगा।
- सेवा प्रदाता एजेन्सी, रजिस्टर्ड तथा गुणवत्ता परीक्षित अर्थियों का पैल संघारित करेगा। अधिकायकों प्राप्त होने पर इस पैल से अर्थियों को सेवा की मांग की जा सकती है। सेवा देने हेतु इन अर्थियों को एजेन्सी से परस्पर स्वीकार्य एपीएम करना होगा। एकराज्या में की व्यवस्था अर्थियों को बेहोली या अधिकायकों विभागों में नियुक्ति का आधार नहीं होगा।
- हिन्दी टाइपिंग परीक्षा के प्राप्तांक के अनुक्रम में मेधा सूची आधारित पैल बनाई जायेगी तथा विभागों/कार्यालयों/निकायों से प्राप्त अधिकायकों को विरुद्ध पैल से प्रतिनियुक्ति में 100 Point आरक्षण रोस्टर के अनुसार आरक्षण का ताम दिया जाएगा।
- ऑनलाइन आवेदन फार्म को अनुसार आवेदकों द्वारा निर्दिष्टानुसार फार्म भर जायें एवं कागजात/प्रमाण पत्र अपलोड करना होगा।
- उम्मीदवारों को फार्म भरने में पूरी सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए। अपूर्ण एवं गलत कागजात वर्णित स्थान पर upload नहीं करने की स्थिति में भी आवेदन अस्वीकार कर दिये जायेंगे।
- समय-समय पर इस संबंध में निगम के website <https://bsedc.bihar.gov.in> पर सूचनाएं प्रकाशित की जा सकती है। एडमिट कार्ड डाउनलोड करने पर परीक्षा की तिथि, समय एवं केन्द्र अंकित होगा।
- यदि कोई समस्या/शिकायत हो तो हेल्प लाईन नं० 0612-2281814, 2281815 पर कार्यालय अर्थियों में संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 16789 (Ni Ni) 2023-24

नरो से बचने की दृष्टि है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है। प्रबंध निदेशक

बिहार सरकार
Office of Principal
Government Engineering College, Samastipur
(Under the Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education Department of Bihar, Patna)
Corrigendum
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/INSTRUCTOR
Advt.No.- GEC/SAM/01/2024-25/ Corrigendum
With Reference to Advt.No.- GEC/SAM/01/2024-25 Dated. 31.01.2024 the advertisement is modified as follows:

Government Engineering College, Samastipur is going to conduct a walk-in-interview on date- 12.02.2024 (Monday) for the empanelment of GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/INSTRUCTOR in Computer Science department for the current academic session. Interested and eligible candidates may appear for the walk-in-interview with all their original academic certificates, category Certificate, Residential Certificate, a hard copy of CV, 02 sets of photocopies of original documents/certificates, and 02 recent passport size photographs as per the following schedule.

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

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
PR. No.016602(Sci. & Tech.) 2023-24
Principal
G.E.C. Samastipur.

बिहार सरकार
विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल संख्या-1, भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना
अतिअल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 64/23-24
(केंवल ई-निविदा पद्धति वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
(SBD)

वर्णित कार्य हेतु तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बीड (Double Bid) सिस्टम में ऑन लाईन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	आवृत्ति	अनुमान की राशि (रु. में)	निविदा कागजात का मूल्य (रु. में) (अप्रत्यक्ष/प्रत्यक्ष)	ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया शुल्क (रु. में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	SITC of 33/0.433 KV Substation (HT & LT Distribution panel, DG Set, Transformer etc at Vishweshwariya Bhawan, Patna	प्राक्सिलेन राशि	14.96 Crore	29,92,000/-	10,000=00	06 माह

As per Online requirement

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता, विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल संख्या-1, पटना।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि : दिनांक- 31.01.2024
- निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक- 20.02.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक केंवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।
- निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक- 21.02.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक केंवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।
- निविदा तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक- 23.02.2024 को 15:30 बजे। केंवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।
- निविदा वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी से तकनीकी बीड मुल्यांकन के पश्चात्।
- प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय : (क) दिनांक- 13.02.2024 को विद्युत अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल, दक्षिण बिहार, पटना। 15:00 बजे से। (ख) दिनांक- 15.02.2024 को मुख्य विद्युत अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना। 15:30 बजे से।
- निविदा की वधता की अवधि : 120 दिन।
- निविदा स्वीकृत करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता : सक्षम पदाधिकारी।
विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल संख्या-1
पटना।

PR- 016562 (BCD) 2023-24

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

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSAMB ROHTAK	COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS SYSTEM AT AGRO MALL, ROHTAK FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25	03.02.2024 16.02.2024	EMD 30,200/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9812100311 xenelectro-htak2023.hsamb@gmail.com

24718/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	HIRING OF VEHICLE (REFRIGERATED VEHICLE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF MILK PRODUCTS) FRESH BUTTER/ SFSMP/ MINERAL MIXTURE FROM MILK PLANT ROHTAK TO OTHER DESTINATIONS	03.02.2024 23.02.2024	AS PER DNIT	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	01282-278302 vitarohat@gmail.com

24714/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE BOLANGIR
e Procurement Notice

Sl. No.	Name of work	Construction of Govt. Upgraded High School Building at Jhartarva in Tarva Block of Subarnapur District.
1.	Name of work	Construction of Govt. Upgraded High School Building at Jhartarva in Tarva Block of Subarnapur District.
2.	No. of works	1(One) work.
3.	Time for completion varies from	15 (Fifteen) Calendar Months
4.	Approximate estimated cost varies from	Rs. 345.03 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir	BLGR-Online-45/2023-24	08.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M	22.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	21.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	23.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W.Circle, Bolangir
OIPR- 25118/11/0074/2324

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRA)
एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

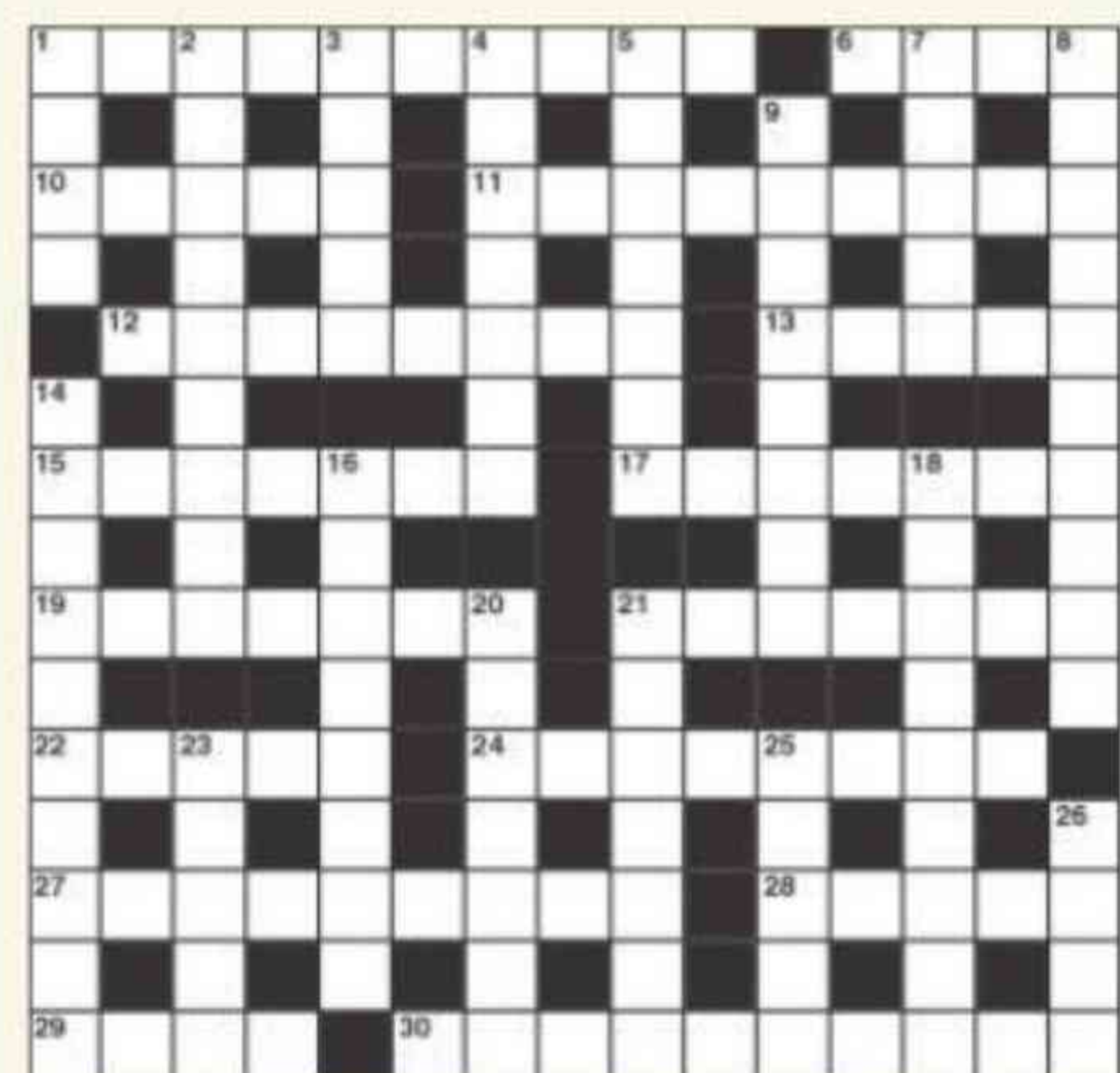
ई-निविदा संख्या:- 288/2023-24 दिनांक:- 05.02.2024
मुख्य अभियंता, जे०ए०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	आई०डी०के०आर० संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	प्रस्ताव का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्सिलेन राशि (रु. में)	कार्य आरंभ की तिथि (रु. में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि (रु. में)
1						
1	JH-M-DHN-09/2023-24	दृष्ठी 1	मोनियाडोह से सहायडीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 3.910 कि०मी०)	1262.777	15	मार्च माह
		दृष्ठी 2	परासा से बरसाकुली तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 5.880 कि०मी०)			
		दृष्ठी 3	आर०डी०ओ० रोड से जी०गु०पुर तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 4.458 कि०मी०)			
		दृष्ठी 4	अपरा से बेगमगिरा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 2.100 कि०मी०)			
		दृष्ठी 5	थागाडीह से चक्रकला तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं० - 3.320 कि०मी०)			

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 12.02.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 26.02.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 27.02.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, जे०ए०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची, एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड।
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

मुख्य अभियंता
जे०ए०आर०आर०डी०ए०, राँची
PR317940 (Rural Work Department)23-24'D

CROSSWORD 5280



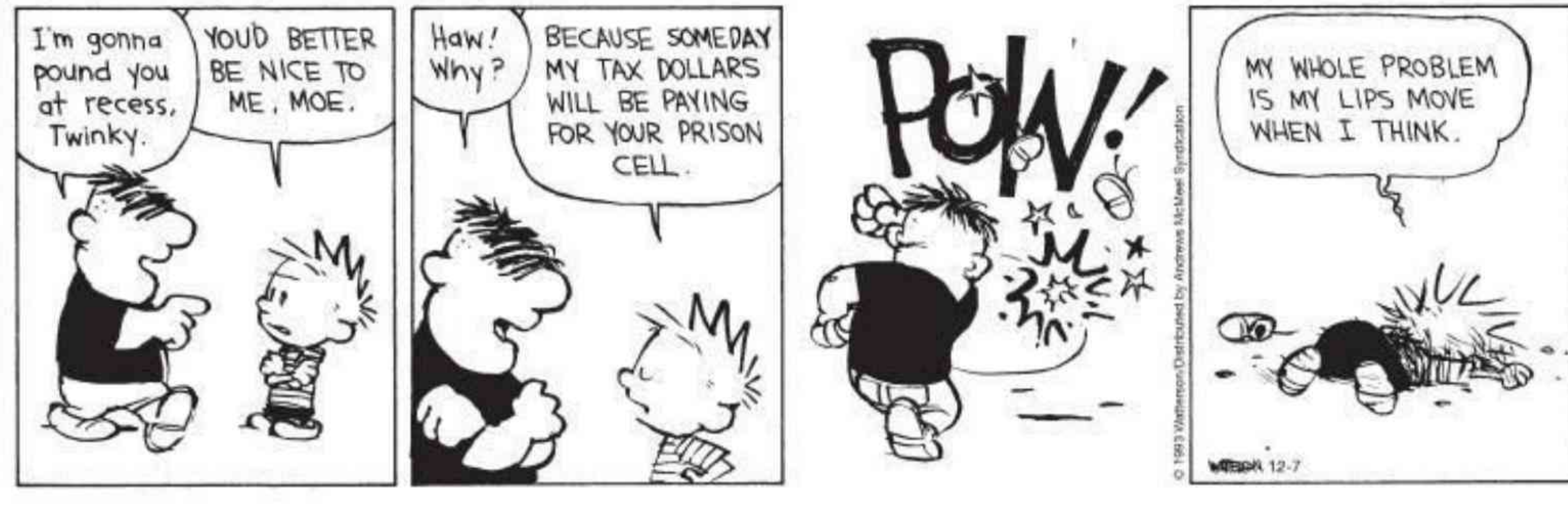
- ACROSS**
- Way out in the theatre perhaps (5-5)
 - The last of many complaints? Definitely! (2,2)
 - I held out for capital (5)
 - Create a fuss as Adam and Eve had to do (5,4)
 - Paper thrown at the match (8)
 - One transaction that's flawless (5)
 - Woodmen at play (7)
 - Magnificent morning for an old lady (7)
 - Change gears, points and lubricants (7)
 - Aviation spirit (7)
 - I complain when she returns (5)
 - One is not expected to live on them (4,4)
 - Insulting attack (9)
 - Not qualified to give the final figure (5)
 - Pretentious tunes? (4)
 - Just now - or just Christmas? (7,3)
- DOWN**
- Help a character in opera (4)
 - Musketeer's call for a non-share policy? (3,3,3)
 - What he does is appropriate (5)
 - New area to decline after rising charges (7)
 - Compulsive motoring (7)
 - Draw a small amount (5)
 - People having it agree - not to marry? (6,4)
 - He may not like women. Bet Alice can change him (8)
 - Horrid woman novelist on board perhaps (10)
 - Parliamentary terms? (8)
 - Very pleased with the lamp indeed (9)
 - At least he's private (7)
 - Effusive oil-producers? (7)
 - Going with some hesitation to tender (5)
 - People may decline to learn it (5)
 - Parking place for sport (4)

Solutions Crossword 5279 Across: 1 Jupiter, 5 Tacks, 8 Policeman, 9 Nor, 10 Rock, 12 Identity, 14 Ignore, 15 Legend, 17 Squirrel, 18 Item, 21 Ant, 22 Meditated, 24 Turns, 25 Parades. Down: 1 Japer, 2 Pal, 3 Tuck, 4 Remade, 5 Tenanted, 6 Continent, 7 Strayed, 11 Conductor, 13 Tremes, 14 Instant, 16 Held up, 19 Mids, 20 Str, 23 Ted.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & I Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Disperse the enemy strategically, but take him seriously (10)

TWAAI AKSSCL

AILTT HOPSCY

Answer: Disperse the enemy strategically, but take him seriously (10)
LUTUON:AWAV:ETILV:SLACKS:SPS:VSDHSA

SUDOKU 5464

Difficulty Level 3s
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.

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

SUDOKU 5464

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5463

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5463

A.P. CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Centre, Government, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)
NIT No. MAU61-ADMNIS/APWS/1/2022-4S/2nd call Dt: 29/01/2024

GEM TENDER NOTICE (Second call)

Name of Work: Engaging an agency towards maintenance for Happy Nest Website and related services (https://happyneestlive/) for the period of 1 year through Custom bid services in Gem. The bid can be downloaded on Gem portal from 06.02.2024 to 20.02.2024 up to 14.00 Hrs. Bid End date: 20.02.2024 up to 14.00 Hrs. Bid opening date: 20.02.2024 @ 14.30 Hrs. For further details please refer to https://gem.gov.in and https://crda.ap.gov.in Sd/- COMMISSIONER, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Notice For E-Auction

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj in terms of Railway Board letter dated 13.06.2022 invites bids through E-Auction module in IREPS for Parcel Scanners, Pay & Use, water Vending Machine, Parking and Rail Coach Restaurant at Prayagraj and Leasing of SLRs/VP in the following station/locations/Trains of Prayagraj Division.

COMMERCIAL PUBLICITY/ADVERTISEMENT:

S N : 1 E-Auction catalogue No : MSS-PS-24-2

Details of publicity: Contract for the work of Provision of parcel scanner machine for scanning of all outgoing parcel at Prayagraj (02 Parcel Scanner Machine) KANPUR CENTRAL JN. (02 Parcel Scanner Machine) Railway Station (Parcel Office). E-Auction Start Date & Time : 09.02.2024 at 12.30 Hrs

S N : 2 E-Auction catalogue No : PRYJ-RCR-24-02

Details of publicity: Contract for setting up & operation of Rail Coach Restaurant (Restaurant on Wheels) for period of 05 years at Kanpur, Gopindpur, Subedarganj, Prayagraj Chheeki, Aligarh Railway station.

E-Auction Start Date & Time : 19.02.2024 at 12.30 Hrs

Catering /MPS/WVM units

S N : 1 E-Auction catalogue No : PRYJ-MSS-WVM-24

Details of publicity: Water Vending Machines at Kanpur Central Railway stations for the period of 05 years. E-Auction Start Date & Time : 14.02.2024 at 12.00 Hrs.

S N : 1 E-Auction catalogue No : PRYJ-CNB-RW-158

Parking cum Access Control Rights

Parking Lot for Three Wheelers at location at Kanpur Railway Station in (Division PRAYAGRAJ). For 3 Years. E-Auction Start Date & Time : 06.02.2024 at 12.00 Hrs.

E-Auction catalogue No : PRYJ-ALJN-MX-24

Parking Lot for Two Wheelers, Three Wheelers and Four Wheelers at location at Aligarh Railway Station in (Division PRAYAGRAJ). For 5 Years. E-Auction Start Date & Time : 16.02.2024 at 12.00 Hrs.

E-Auction catalogue No : PRYJ-RW-160-24

Parking Lot for Three Wheelers at location at Prayagraj Railway Station in (Division PRAYAGRAJ). For 2 Years. E-Auction Start Date & Time : 19.02.2024 at 11.00 Hrs

Pay & Use toilets BOT basis

E-Auction catalogue No: PnU-SFG-Tol-35

Pay & Use toilets BOT basis at Subedarganj Railway Station for 15 years. E-Auction Start Date & Time : 19.02.2024 at 12.00 Hrs

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-auctioning i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and participating in e-auction. Important note: 1. Bidders, who wish to participate in the e-auction module should have valid Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) and same may be procured from any of certifying authority of controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India, details of same may be obtained from www.cca.gov.in. 2. Prospective bidders will be required to get themselves registered online at IREPS (Commercial Auction Module) 3. One time registration fee of ₹10,000.00/- and applicable GST (non-refundable) will be required to be paid online by the entity before participating in any commercial auction. 4. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding this e-Auction, interested bidders are advised to visit http://www.ireps.gov.in/epsn/jsp/common/learningCenter.jsp 5. Earning Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction, EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 6. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute right to these contracts any point of time (or for taking any decision) depending upon the circumstances if any. 7. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute right to short terminate these contracts any point of time (or for taking any decision) depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services. (para pertains to Leasing of SLRs/VP) 8. The successful bidder will also have to pay applicable GST as imposed by Govt. of India from time to time are applicable. Rail administration will not be responsible for this. 218/24(DG)

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown, was found dead dhuala Kuan Police Station, Delhi on 25.01.2024 in the area of P.S. Delhi Cantt., Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 51A dated 25.01.2024 at P.S. Delhi Cantt., Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: 40 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Hair: Black, Face: Oval, ID Mark: A tattoo mark of OM in right hand, Wearing: Green colour jersey, sweater and blue colour lower. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. SHO PS. Delhi Cantt., Delhi DP/1402/SW/2024 Ph: 011-25693161, 9810563274

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) Name: Sanjay, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 57", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Build: Thin, Wearing: Sweater, Shirt, Pant and Bared Feet, found in unconscious condition at Road No. 64, Khodi Colony, Tahirpur, Delhi admitted in GTB Hospital, Delhi where he died during the treatment on 31.01.2024 by 06.51 pm under area of P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 80A, dated 31.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Dead Body has been preserved in GTB Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 Hours if any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi DP/1429/NE/2024 (UIDB) Ph: 011-22583307, 8750870733

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

अभिव्यक्ति की अभिरुचि (Expression of Interest)

अमूल भारत स्टेशन स्कीम के तहत बीकानेर मण्डल के 15 स्टेशनों पर EOI (Expression of Interest) आमंत्रित करने हेतु 1. Hisar 2. Sriganganagar 3. Bhiwani 4. Sirsa 5. Hanumangarh 6. Suratgarh 7. Lalgarh 8. Churu 9. Sadulpur 10. Ratangarh 11. Charkhidadi 12. Kosi 13. Gogameri 14. Mandidabwali 15. Mahendragarh

- कार्य का नाम एवं लोकेशन
- जमा की जाने वाली बयाना राशि
- कार्य की समाप्ति अवधि
- EOI जारी करने की तिथि
- EOI प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय
- EOI खोलने की तिथि व समय
- वेबसाइट का विवरण एवं सूचना पट की स्थिति जहाँ EOI की सम्पूर्ण जानकारी देखी जा सकती है।
- नोडल अधिकारी (बिचद मण्डल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक)

मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक कार्यालय बीकानेर ई मेल - srdcmbkn@gmail.com

मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक (वाणिज्य) बीकानेर

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E- NIT No :- 06/2023-24, Dated: 05.02.2024
Name of Office: Executive Engineer, O&M Division, BBMB, Punjab Bagh, New Delhi-35.
Name of Work: White washing in residential double story quarters in BBMB complex at 220 KV S/Str. BBMB Delhi.
Document Downloading 05.02.2024 upto 15:30 hrs. onwards
Receipt of Bids online 04.03.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs.
Opening time 05.03.2024 15:30 hrs onwards
The detailed NIT including pre-qualifying conditions and EMD, please visit BBMB Website: www.bbmb.gov.in or https://etenders.gov.in
1512-PR TS-4 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-44-T-Ri-23-24-E3 Electrical work in connection with Repairing, Operation & CAMC of addressable Fire Alarm System at Rail Bhawan for three years.

Approx. Cost of the works in Rs. 59.88 Lacs

Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security: Rs. 119800.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 04.03.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender: 04.03.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 384/24

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI.

4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI -110001.
Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule) 1993 in the matter of TANO 206/2022 HDFC Bank Ltd. APPLICANT VERSUS RESPONDENT

M/S PHONE ZONE & ORS. DEFENDANT

1. Ms Phone Zone, 2. Mr. Ganga Saran S/o Mr. Khewat Ram, 3. Mr. Lakhvinder Kharbanda S/o Hanjinder Singh, All At: G-3 Krishna Plaza II Plot No 3 Sect 12 Dwarika New Delhi 76 Also At 60/3 Badi Patti Village Paprawat Najafgarh Jhalakara South West Delhi 43 Also At 1, 2 Gali No 10/30 Feet Road Sangam Mar Extension Najafgarh New Delhi - 43

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 29,10,695.85/- (Rupee Twenty Nine Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five And Eighty Five Paise Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 22.07.2024 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose :- (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the date of hearing case to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" (iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748478. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 01th day of Feb, 2024.

By Order of the Tribunal, Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

The Ambala Distt. Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd. Ambala G.T. Road Milk Plant Ambala City- 134007

Public Notice
New Price of Vita Lassi (Sweet)/Lite200ml

It is for the information of esteemed "Vita" patrons and general public that our rate of Vita Lassi Sweet (Lite)-200ml have been revised @ Rs.5/- per pouch w.e.f. 08.02.2024 morning. However, since we have stock of poly film meant for packaging of Vita Lassi Sweet (Lite)-200ml having old printed price Rs.7/- (Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh) & Rs.9/- (HP, Railway, Bus Stand). Now new revised rate of Lassi Sweet (Lite)-200ml will be Rs.5/- with revised price stamping for all areas. Till the exhaust of old stock of Lassi Sweet (Lite)-200ml film.

NEW PRICES WITH EFFECT FROM 08.02.2024 (Morning)

Particulars	Old printed rate	New Revised rate
Lassi Sweet (Lite) 200ml pouch	Rs.7/- (Hry., Pb, Chd.)	Rs.5/- (each pouch) for all areas.
	Rs.9/- (HP, Railway, Bus Stand)	

Sd/- In-charge (Marketing) 24726/HRY

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You are beginning to doubt whether a number of financial commitments are worth the bother. You'll have to settle bills for purchases or other obligations which are due to work out more costly than you feared. Partners have the advantage, so don't push issues you can't win.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You may prepare yourself for what could be a hectic day, but there's no reason at all why you shouldn't come through with flying colours, having gained in self-respect and confidence. Your optimism shines through in the end.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
The planets maintain their tense alignment today with an interesting aspect from Neptune to the Sun adding to the sense of confusion. Above all, you should observe the old rule that the more logical your approach, the happier will be the outcome.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Venus' helpful presence is boosting your morale, and whatever else happens today, it will be your sense of status and responsibility that is crucial to your well-being and happiness. A colleague at work may seem determined to disagree.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
These are uncertain times and you're not the only person to have financial cares, so stop being so self-indulgent. How about relaxing for a change and splashing out some of your hard-earned cash on a treat for you and your friends? Work still seems to be going slowly, so take it easy if you can.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Take domestic matters in hand and pay close attention to any and all possible causes of family friction. Some of the decisions that need to be taken may seem hard now but will be worthwhile in the long run. Your costs still appear to be rising, so keep an eye on unnecessary expenditure.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
It looks very much as if someone is trying to get the better of you, possibly without your being fully aware of what they're up to. In any event, your behaviour in the past will assure friends that you are now in the right. Family members may be unconvinced, though.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
With Mercury still pestering the Sun, it's doubtful whether you'll be able to give a straight answer to a straight question, but it doesn't matter as long as you know what you mean. There is so much still to be said in a treasured relationship, but you may not be able to say it yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
At all costs don't give other people the impression that you've been using them for your own ends, even if there has been a hint of exploitation in your relationships lately. There should be more room for give and take. In fact, the more you give, the more you'll receive.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Venus continues to confer its blessings on your finances, raising prospects for renewed prosperity. Hopefully the emotional traumas of the past will now be no more than distant memories. Remember the importance of discretion in relation to current relationships - and don't open your mouth when you shouldn't.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Your ruling planets, Saturn and Uranus, are currently making a rather powerful aspect to each other, and you may be under considerable pressure. But every cloud has a silver lining and even apparently major crises will bring welcome benefits in your direction.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
The planetary position is generally favourable, especially now that Venus and Jupiter are poised to help you on your way, and any difficulties you are currently facing are very much the result of your own bad management. So the solutions lie with you more than with the stars.

LOVLINA SUFFERS SHOCK LOSS BY DQ
Sofia: Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) suffered a shock loss by disqualification (DSQ) to Ireland's O'Rourke Aoife in the opening round of the 75th Strandja Memorial Tournament here on Monday. **PTI**

Bumrah stokes up the series

India ride on individual brilliance, chiefly the fast bowler's match figures of 9/91, to beat England by 106 runs and level the series, but concerns remain for hosts

VENKATA KRISHNA B
 VISAKHAPATNAM, FEBRUARY 5

AS THE clock struck 2:12 pm, Tom Hartley's off-stump went for a walk. On a sun soaked Vizag pitch, Jasprit Bumrah stood with his arms out-stretched before the rest of his teammates mobbed him for one final time here. On a pitch that hardly showed any signs of coming to life, it was befitting that Bumrah (match figures of 9/91) gave finishing touches to a Test that he had single-handedly put India in control from Day 2 onwards. And on Monday, with the help of R Ashwin, he helped India finally overcome the Bazball blues, posting a series-levelling 106-run win. After two rounds, it reads India 1, England 1. And when the series resumes after a nine-day break in Rajkot, it would need a brave punter to put money on which way this will end.

If the jubilant celebrations in the middle showed the magnitude of this win that comes sans Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Shami, there were loud cries in the dressing room too. Head coach Rahul Dravid, who wasn't known for his animated celebrations during his playing days, celebrated each England wicket on the final day pumping his fists with unbridled joy. What a difference one week makes.

As soon as they wrapped up the win, Dravid stood in the corner alongside skipper Rohit Sharma and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, engaging in a serious discussion. Despite the win that they have plenty to deliberate shows the potency of England's Bazball and lack of clarity over the availability of Kohli and Jadeja for the remaining three Tests.

"Just a little bit better than the last game?" Dravid said as to how the team is responding to Bazball challenge. "I think they're playing very well. It's not like wild sloggery. They are actually showing some very good skills. Some of the shots they are playing require a lot of skill and ability. You can't just come there and execute those things and just say, 'well, I want to play attacking and not have the skills to execute it'. So I think there's more to it than just attacking cricket. They know when to pull back, they know when to attack. So they're playing slightly differently, no doubt about it, but they've been very successful. They know how to find that balance and we know we're up against the challenge and we're looking forward to it," Dravid added.

This is why this win doesn't certify that India have turned a corner. Like in Hyderabad, even here India rode mostly on individual brilliance, starting from Yashasvi Jaiswal's 209 to Bumrah's 9/91, Shubman Gill's 104, Kuldeep Yadav's 3/71 in the first innings and Ashwin's 3/72 in the second after going wicketless in the first.

For India to consistently keep Bazball in check, they need the sort of collective effort that made them invincible at home in the past.

There are plenty of concerns to address and holes to fix before they can confidently put their hands up and say they have answers to what Bazballers throw-up to them. But for the time being, India can definitely breathe a sigh of relief that they have not let England run-away with a huge lead, which looked a possibility at one point in Vizag before Bumrah unleashed a spell for the ages.

"I have always known that it is going to be a tough series. They have a lot of experienced players. It is one of the things we forget looking at their squad, three of them closing on 100 games and 184 (for James Anderson). Their spinners are young. It has been tough. We would like to be 2-0, but considering the cricket being played on both sides 1-1 is a fair position to be in" the head coach said.

It is definitely a fair position. Unlike

STROKES OF BRILLIANCE

AFTER YASHASVI Jaiswal's 209 and Jasprit Bumrah's six-wicket haul in the first innings, as head coach Rahul Dravid mentioned, India were kept in the game by individual performances right through the second Test. Day 4 was no different with Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav and Shreyas Iyer providing moments on the field that helped India overcome Bazball.

ROHIT'S CATCH

It was a catch that halted England's charge. As Pope cut Ashwin ferociously, Rohit appeared to move towards his right, but as the ball flew to his left, he put his hand out to pull off a sensational reaction catch. That he managed it within a reaction time of just 0.45 seconds made it all the more special as Pope's stay ended at 23.

KULDEEP'S STRIKE

Even though wickets were falling at the other end, Zak Crawley was still going strong, until Kuldeep delivered a straighter one that kept low and had him pinned to the crease. While the on-field umpire gave not-out, Kuldeep convinced Rohit to send it to DRS, which confirmed three reds as Crawley was the fifth wicket to fall.

SHREYAS RUN-OUT

Although England's top-order was out of India's way, the lone remaining headache was Ben Stokes. Having single-handedly taken his team home from improbable situations in the past, India had to get him quickly before he got set. And as the England captain took off on a tight single, Shreyas Iyer's throw from square-leg had Stokes just short of the crease as India smelled victory.

Hyderabad, where India pressed the panic button under pressure, they resisted here. Having started Day 4 on Monday, needing 332 runs and nine wickets in hand in pursuit of a 399-run target that no team has chased ever before on Indian soil, England stayed true to themselves. As James Anderson revealed on Sunday, they had seen India to be vulnerable and not clear in their approach. So despite this being a daunting task, they still managed to create a bit of scare.

That England stayed back at the ground even three hours after the match ended, warming down with a game of football before they head off to Abu Dhabi for a six-day break showed how confident they stand in terms of their game.

India's vision is a bit blurred, more so in the absence of key players. Some like Shreyas Iyer are still fighting to keep their spot in the XI. Shubman Gill just about managed to save his career with a second-innings hundred. KS Bharat, the wicket-keeper, hasn't quite grabbed the opportunities. Axar Patel is nowhere close to what he was when England toured here last and is merely playing because he can make useful contributions with bat. The rest of the series will either leave India confident about the immediate future or shove them back to a state of worry, searching for players good enough at this level. The stakes are that high.



Jasprit Bumrah (L) took three more wickets on Monday to add to his game-changing six-wicket spell in England's first innings. **Reuters**

How India tripped Bazball as it sprinted to finish line

VENKATA KRISHNA B
 VISAKHAPATNAM, FEBRUARY 5

IT CAME down to a boxing bout, of sorts. England had landed a few Bazball-blows to leave India staggering and the 332-run target was shrinking rapidly. For most of the first session on Day 4, along with the bat-ball contest, it was mind games that delighted those who value the ebbs and flows of Test cricket. At one point, it seemed the decibel level was dropping. The Indians were getting nervous.

Jasprit Bumrah was seen off. Axar Patel was seen off, and with India reluctant to turn to Kuldeep Yadav, it was up to Ravichandran Ashwin, who was wicketless in the first innings and had his reputation dented a bit in the first Test.

Usually restlessly tentative at the start when he tries to feel bat on ball, first Test hero Ollie Pope was motoring along. Ashwin had chosen his angle of attack the same as in the first Test: from round the stumps. But this time, his over-spun deliveries were extracting more bounce off the Vizag track.

Around him, Indian desperation lay in the air. Deep-set fields, a wincing Rohit Sharma, a frowning Rahul Dravid framed this gloom. It was then that Ashwin broke through with a ball that not only drifted away with the angle but bounced on Pope, who was hell-bent on cutting it but couldn't ride the bounce. The ball flew to the left of first slip where Rohit pulled off a reflex gem that would have made Mark Vaughn purr in delight.

What will England do now? Joe Root stopped Pope near the boundary line; it wasn't just a punch of gloves and 'good luck, mate' chat but a pretty earnest chat. Root reverse-swept his first ball and the camera zoomed in on Ashwin: did he look taken aback or was it the realisation that it was game-face-on



R Ashwin took three wickets, including the crucial one of Ollie Pope. **PTI**

time again?

Root would step out, drive, and was almost over-the-top with his aggression. Unlike in Hyderabad, Ashwin started to slow things down here; more air, less speed. As Root charged again, Ashwin ripped a combo in: slower, flightier, away-drifter.

All three elements seemed to have done their bit in Root's downfall. Such was the all-out-attack mood he was in that there was no way he was going to pull out and tap it away - as he would later do on his way back to the hutch. Live, he went for the spectacular across-the-line heave, and to no one's surprise, it went into Indian hands to leave England 154 for 4.

Bazball was now under a cloud. The plan to take out the leading spinner had fallen short. But England did what they do best: regroup and rally. Zak Crawley and Jonny Bairstow kept at it. Bumrah tried to catch

SCORECARD

INDIA vs ENGLAND	
ACA-VDCA STADIUM, VIZAG	
Toss: India, chose to bat	
INDIA 1st INNINGS	396
ENGLAND 1st INNINGS	253
INDIA 2ND INNINGS	255
ENGLAND 2ND INNINGS (0/N)	67/1
Z Crawley lbw b Yadav	73 (132b, 8x4, 1x6)
R Ahmed lbw b Patel	23 (31b, 5x4)
O Pope c Sharma b Ashwin	23 (21b, 5x4)
J Root c Patel b Ashwin	16 (10b, 2x4, 1x6)
J Bairstow lbw b Bumrah	26 (36b, 5x4)
B Stokes run out (Iyer)	11 (29b, 1x4)
F Foakes c & b Bumrah	36 (69b, 4x4, 1x6)
T Hartley b Bumrah	36 (47b, 5x4, 1x6)
S Bashir c Bharat b Kumar	0 (8b)
J Anderson not out	5 (8b, 1x4)
■ Extras (8, 1b, 5, nb, 2)	12
■ Total (all out: 69.2 overs)	292
■ FoW : 2-95 (Rehan Ahmed, 21.5 ov), 3-132 (Ollie Pope, 28.2 ov), 4-154 (Joe Root, 30.6 ov), 5-194 (Zak Crawley, 41.6 ov), 6-194 (Jonny Bairstow, 42.4 ov), 7-220 (Ben Stokes, 52.4 ov), 8-275 (Ben Foakes, 64.6 ov), 9-281 (Shaoh Bashir, 67.3 ov), 10-292 (Tom Hartley, 69.2 ov)	
■ Bowling : J Bumrah 17.2-4-46-3, M Kumar 5-1-26-1, K Yadav 15-0-60-1, R Ashwin 18-2-72-3, A Patel 1-1-75-1.	
■ India won by 106 runs	

Bairstow in the way he did in the first innings with a length ball shaping away outside off. The response was two crisp fours. Crawley stood at the off-stump line, leaving stuff he didn't want to deal in, and using his tall reach to imperiously drive anything within it.

Enter Kuldeep to drive another knife through Bazball. Fresh from a confident out-

ing in the first innings, he got a ball to skid on from the leg-and-middle line. An alarmed Crawley abandoned his front-foot play and tried to rush back. Mistake.

Out of position, he flailed at it across the line and got rammed on the pad. The umpire felt it was missing leg, even Rohit seemed to think so but Kuldeep implored his captain to take the DRS. Crawley had to go. 194 for 5 but Bairstow was joined by Ben Stokes.

However, Bumrah would leave Stokes bereft of his partner with a screamer in the 44th over. The shiny side was outside, but this back-of-length ball tailed in sharply to startle Bairstow whose weak prod couldn't stop this from hitting his pad. He took the DRS but no luck; England 194 for 6 at lunch.

The second session threw the most puzzling visual of the day. The Pirate of England's adventurous ship, Stokes, in a daze. Shreyas Iyer rushed to his right, grabbed the ball, and had a sideways dart at the stumps to find an ambling Stokes just short of the crease. Iyer would show with his index finger how slim the margins were - Stokes would have known then it would be the margin of defeat too.

But this is England. Even with their captain abandoning them in a brain fade, Tom Hartley, who with his all-round ability has shown admirable fighting qualities, and Ben Foakes added 55 runs to reach 275 for 7 when Bumrah intervened. Again.

Sensing Foakes was all hard hands, he slipped in a slower one, and grabbed the return offering. What remained was the Ashwin watch - would he get to his 500th Test wicket - but it would be Bumrah who fittingly sealed the win by knocking out Hartley's off stump. The margin of victory - 106 runs - may not reveal the entire picture, but it is safe to say India have managed to weather a storm in Visakhapatnam, a city used to witnessing cyclonic storms

Did you hear that: Experts' verdict on Root, DRS and Team India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 FEBRUARY 5

DAY 4, START OF PLAY: England are 67/1 and require 332 runs to win with Zak Crawley (29) and Rehan Ahmed (9) in the middle.

1ST SESSION

Nasser Hussain on Zak Crawley: 'India is best place to bat at top of the order'

Jimmy Anderson had forewarned after Stumps on Sunday that even a target of 600 wasn't big enough to keep England from chasing it, let alone 399. Crawley and Ahmed live up to Anderson's claim, scoring at almost 4.5 runs per over. The former brings up his fifty.

Hussain on *Sky Sports*: "From where Crawley was a year ago - everyone calling for his head, and that he shouldn't be in the Test side - look at how he played in the Ashes, look how he's playing now. The reason he's been so confident is that he's playing in that attacking mindset England are asking of him. India is the best place to bat at the top of the order, it's not reversing, it's not spinning. He's playing beautifully at the moment."

Alastair Cook: 'Root is desperate to fit in with Bazball, struggles with tempo'

The spinners pave the way for India to steadily comeback. First, Axar Patel gets rid of Ahmed before Ravichandran Ashwin picks Ollie Pope and Joe Root in quick suc-

cession. Whilst Pope is sensationally caught at first slip by Rohit Sharma, Root's dismissal - just 10 deliveries in - looks skittish. He is deceived by flight and yet goes ahead with a slog, only to be holed at short third off a thick edge. "It was an ugly un-Root-like shot to end his innings," notes Mike Atherton in his post-mortem for *The Times*. Another former England captain is more lucid and critical in his assessment of Ben Stokes' predecessor.

Cook said on *BBC TMS*: "Joe Root is England's best batsman in all formats but he does struggle sometimes with the tempo of this Bazball era. He sees people in this side playing aggressive shots, and that is their style, and he's got 11,000 Test runs and he's brilliant, but he is so desperate to fit in with what Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum are doing and sometimes he doesn't get the balance right."

Ben Stokes on Crawley's DRS dismissal: 'Technology got it wrong on this occasion'

Just when England think they couldn't get any worse for them ahead of the lunch, Crawley is deemed LBW following a DRS by the Indians off Kuldeep Yadav's delivery from over the wicket. Turning the ball back in from the middle stump, the chinaman induces a shout for leg-before but the on-field umpire shakes his head, perhaps suggesting the ball is straying down the leg. But the hosts go upstairs again and the ball-tracker adjudges it was indeed hitting the leg stump. Stokes voices his opinion on the



Joe Root (L) was dismissed after mistiming a slog, while Zak Crawley was given lbw off a straighter one by Kuldeep Yadav after a contentious DRS call. **PTI**

matter afterwards.

He says in a post-match press conference: "Technology in the game is obviously there. Everyone has an understanding of the reasons it can never be 100 per cent, which is why we have the umpire's call. That's why it's in place. When it's not 100 per cent, I don't think it's unfair for someone to say 'I think the technology has got it wrong on this occasion.'"

LUNCH: Jasprit Bumrah flushing Jonny Bairstow plumb is the last piece of action from the opening session. India have reduced England to 194/6.

2ND SESSION
Stokes on Bumrah: 'Just have to hold your hands up and say, what a player!'

The Indian pace spearhead sees through

the game for India, getting the better of Ben Foakes and then uprooting Tom Hartley's off stump to seal the 106-run win.

It was Bumrah's six-wicket haul, his best figures in India, that gave the hosts a sizeable first-innings lead and it's only fitting that the 30-year-old - now the leading wicket-taker in the series - caps off the win and is adjudged as player of the match. Even the opposition skipper isn't reticent in his praise.

"Jasprit is obviously on the opposing side but sometimes you just have to hold your hands up and say, what a player," Stokes tells the broadcasters in his post-match address.

Nasser Hussain on *Sky Sports*: "Really, it was just the magic of Bumrah. He got a 3-fer today but that spell in the first innings blew away England for 250 on a really flat pitch."

"That ball he bowled to Ollie Pope and that spell he bowled in the end was the difference for me. Sometimes you can be critical of your own team, sometimes you can go, 'You know what, they were touched by a genius today.'"

Rohit Sharma in the post-match presentation: "Yeah, it is (a luxury to have Bumrah). I mean, look, he's a champion player for us. It's been a while, you know, that he's doing the job for the team."

Cook: 'India will be relieved more than anything'

The hosts level the series, by a much bigger margin than they lost by in

India will be relieved more than anything. They were under the cosh after the first Test. This Indian side can definitely be beaten again. England have got close here without any hundreds. They'll be disappointed.'

ALASTAIR COOK
 FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN

Hyderabad. However, there are still three more Tests to come and the last English captain to win a Test series in India thinks if anything, the win in Vizag would have come as a relief for the hosts.

"India will be relieved more than anything. They were under the cosh after the first Test. This Indian side can definitely be beaten again. England have got close here without any hundreds. They'll be disappointed," says Cook on *BBC TMS*.

India coach Rahul Dravid is all praise for the visitors as well, stating there's much more to their tactics than just the slang Bazball.

"They are playing very well. Whether you call it Bazball or whatever. I'm not sure how happy they are about it, but they are playing really good cricket."

"They've shown good skills. It's not like wild sloggery. Some of the shots they are playing require a lot of skill and ability. There's more to it than just attacking cricket."

Swing bowler from Rann of Kutch shining in U19 World Cup

PRATYUSHRAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

GROWING UP, Raj Limbani had two options, either focus on studies like his other siblings or help his father in farming. But unlike his brother and sisters, Raj moved to Baroda, 550km away from Dayapar, a village in Rann of Kutch, to chase his dream of playing cricket.

"From our village, Pakistan border is only 27 km away. So generally, the kids from our village go to Ahmedabad, Surat or Baroda for studies. But in Raj's case, it was different. In 2017, he moved to Baroda just to play cricket," father Basant Patel tells *The Indian Express*.

"I am a farmer, so I told him to go and chase his dream. But if it won't happen, our arandi's farm (castor) is waiting for you. But right from a very young age, he had this passion towards the game, that sometimes even we failed to understand. But seeing him now playing for India puts a smile on my face," he says.

The right-arm swing bowler Raj has picked up only five wickets in four matches, but he can take wickets with the new ball, which has given India an early burst that has eased the pressure on Indian spinners and helped them win all their matches in the tournament so far.

With no infrastructure and not a single turf wicket, Raj started bowling with a tennis ball. Once he made up his mind to be a professional cricketer, the tennis ball was replaced by heavy cork balls. Basant also recalls how his son has fought through the harsh climate of Kutch.

"We live in a desert. The weather is also very harsh be it summer or winter. I have seen him battling heat-stroke in the summers and dry cold of winters. But it never stopped him. Playing in the sand was also not easy and to buy any equipment, you will have to go to the nearest city, which is 100 km away," recalls Basant.

In 2010, Basant's elder brother Manilal Patel, who works in Gujarat Electricity Board took a transfer to Baroda after the family's



Father Basant, a farmer, allowed his son Raj to move to Baroda to pursue cricket.

eldest daughter completed her intermediate. Seven years later, Raj, the youngest among the four joined them but not for studies. He came to pursue his dream.

"My father took a transfer so that we can get a good education. The idea was that he



would don the role of the parent in Baroda, while my uncle would look after the farm. With three of us, it worked completely fine, but in 2017, when Raj came, instead of looking for a good school, we were looking for a good cricket academy," narrates Hardik

Limbani, Raj's cousin, who works in the thermal plant in Baroda.

"The famous Moti Bagh Cricket Club was only 4 kms away from our quarter. The cricket club is famous for producing the Pathan brothers (Yusuf and Irfan), then the Pandya brothers (Krunal and Hardik) and Deepak Hooda. We didn't have any hesitation at all," says Hardik. Digvijay Singh Rathore, coach of Raj says it is not the talent or his background that caught his eye but it was the thought clarity that impressed him the most.

"First time, I met him was during the U-16 camp. When you ask any kid what they want to become, the natural answer will be 'to play for India.' But this guy came with a diary, where he has written down everything," says Rathore.

"He has written it down that he first wants to play the U-16. In the first year of his U-19, he wants to attend the camp in NCA. Then he wanted to play the U-19 World Cup, followed by first-class cricket for Baroda, then India A and the last thing he mentioned was to represent India's senior team. You don't see such clarity in many budding cricketers. He has

ticked all the boxes so far and with the kind of hunger he has, there is a high chance that he will play for the senior team," adds Rathore.

Before the World Cup Raj Limbani was not the first-choice seamer for India. He was fourth in line after Naman Tiwari, Aradhya Shukla, and Dhanus Gowda. But it was his incisive spell of 7/13 against Nepal in the Asia Cup that helped him jump ahead of the rest.

Back in Dayapar, Basant Patel tries to finish all his work by 1 pm, so that he can rush back to his house and watch India's match.

"I have tweaked my routine a little for him. He has done his hard yards and I think credit must go to the coaches of Moti Bagh Club, who shaped his career. He once told me story of how Irfan Pathan was impressed by his bowling at the club. I don't exactly recall the year but it was before Covid. Before the tournament, Irfan Pathan was at the NCA with the team, and he had spent a good 10 or 12 days with them," says Basant.

Live: 1:30 PM: India U19 vs South Africa U19 Semi-final, Star Sports Network, Disney Hotstar

How Sikkim, Andaman fielded 'strong' teams at Natls

NIHAL KOSHI
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 5

WEIGH-INS and verification of men's freestyle wrestlers completed closer to midnight, finalisation of jumbo draws that resulted in a delayed start on Monday and a mega entry list of 325 wrestlers across weight classes, with certain categories comprising 34 wrestlers and 16 first-round bouts.

States like Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar, not known for wrestling prowess, fielded wrestlers named Rahul Rathi, Parvinder, Vinay Dahiya and Hritik Yadav. Mizoram, Meghalaya and Lakshadweep also had stronger-than-usual teams comprising a few wrestlers from powerhouse states. The entry list read pretty similar in women's freestyle, too, a day earlier. Pudukcherry, a lightweight in wrestling, finished third in the team championship.

Thirty-four teams, including institutional units Railways and Services, were represented on the final day of the Senior National Wrestling Championships as the Ad-hoc committee, with the mandate to run the sport, allowed those who turned up in Jaipur to participate — provided their papers, including licence book — were in order.

"We didn't stop anyone from competing at the Senior Nationals in Jaipur because this is the championship recognised by the sports ministry. We didn't want wrestlers to miss out on the opportunity. We welcomed every eligible wrestler. Even those who participated in Pune at the nationals conducted by the suspended WFI were given entry here. Some states had conducted two separate trials, one for Pune and one for Jaipur. In the end, only the best wrestlers will finish on the podium and be included in the camp, so the extra numbers don't matter," said an official.

Last week, the suspended WFI conducted its nationals in Pune, which was organised by its suspended president Sanjay Singh, a loyalist of former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who faces sexual harassment charges. The sports ministry had said the Pune nationals were unsanctioned while the one in Jaipur, conducted by the Indian Olympic Association appointed ad-hoc committee is the recognised one.

The state associations aligned with the suspended WFI didn't field teams in Jaipur, an official confirmed. So to ensure representation and to have strength in numbers, the ad-hoc committee contacted well-known coaches from the states that boycotted the Jaipur nationals and asked them to field active wrestlers.

"We don't know how the coaches selected the wrestlers they brought along, but at least there is maximum representation," said another official involved in conducting the Senior Nationals.

At the Pune nationals last week, Sanjay Singh had said that 25 state units had participated. Railways and Services, which attracts the cream of talent, didn't field teams in Pune.

ANIL DIAS
FEBRUARY 5

AFTER SHE returned empty-handed from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games three years ago, a distraught Manika Batra returned to the drawing board. Old associations were rekindled. And old ways were rejigged.

India's top women's table tennis player called on her old friend Aman Balgu, who runs an academy in Hyderabad. Not a fan of the pimped rubber Manika used, Balgu kept an open mind and saw the benefits of it. But to make it work, he made a subtle, yet profound, tweak.

"Manika came to me when she was already a well-established player. She was taught and ingrained in her that the pimped rubber is a defensive rubber, and the only way she can attack is to twiddle and smash," Balgu tells *The Indian Express*. "My idea was very simple, why use the backhand to just defend or just control the pace of the game? Why not use it to be aggressive?"

That laid the foundation for a change in Manika's style. "We've been able to beat top-20 players like World No. 5 Hina Hayata and World No. 11 Cheng-I-Ching but we need to do so more consistently. The whole part of evolving is adding new weapons to your game," Balgu says.

Last week, at the WTT Star Contender tournament in Goa, five of the six Indian women paddlers in the main draw used long pimples on the backhand. A couple of them used the same rubber at the Asian Games last year, too. All of them were inspired by Manika's approach, which helped her finish on the podium at the CWG six years ago.

To them, it didn't matter that by the time the next Games arrived, Manika's game was sorted out by her opponents. But as their results plateau — further reinforcing the fact that the long-pimped rubbers invariably trigger second-season blues — there are growing concerns over the viability of the strategy.

"Just by looking at the success that Manika and Sreeja (Akula) are having, youngsters nowadays will want to use the pimped rubber," says Sreeja's coach Somnath Ghosh, who runs his academy in Hyderabad. "It is my biggest concern."

The 'long pimple', is a rubber covered with conical-shaped bumps or thin and tall pips. Seen as a largely defensive rubber, when the ball comes in contact with it, the pips bend and put the opposite effect on the spin the ball came with. The shot simply goes back with the opposite spin regardless of whether it's played with a topspin or backspin motion.

While Manika has proven that it can get results against top players, Indian paddlers have yet to be consistent at the top. There are eight women in the top 200 of world rankings with only three of them in the top 100. Incidentally, the three in the top 100 — Manika, Sreeja Akula, and Yashashwini Ghorpade — all use long pimples.

But just like Manika — who was able to confuse her opponents in Jakarta but in Birmingham, it seemed like her opponents had figured her out — the rest, too, struggle

Popping the Pimple

Five out of six Indians in the women's singles main draw at the WTT Star Contender Goa tournament last week used long pimples but the players risk getting found out in the long run by better players, coaches are concerned



Manika Batra's success inspired other Indian paddlers to opt for the long pimple rubber, a rarity on the international circuit.

against top players, who have understood how the rubber works.

The top players have also realised that it was just a passive rubber and they could use their tireless attacks to tire out the opponent. It's essentially why Manika and no Indian have entered even the top 30 of world rankings.

"Coaches who are not bothered about their wards coming into the top 30 of the world rankings will encourage it. They are just happy with them doing well at the national well. But they don't see Sreeja's or Manika's game," Ghosh says. "They think that just by putting the pips they are getting points, but it's not true. They don't get that many points with long pips. Sreeja gets most of her points by attacking with the forehand, Manika twiddles."

Long before Manika made the rubber famous, it was Neha Aggarwal Sharma who first ventured into territory unknown, and started to use the rubber that not many Indians used or rather, knew how to.

Back in 1998, as an 8-year-old, Neha was asked by her coach, the renowned Sandeep Gupta, to try out playing with a pimped rubber on her backhand. Not one to question her coach, she agreed and together they went about on a journey of figuring out what exactly the long pips are capable of doing, how best to use it and what are the limitations of using it.

They even went to Switzerland for an eight-day camp with Dr Herbert Neubauer, largely considered the pioneer of this rubber and whose equipment the top players use today. Out there, he taught them the intricacies of the rubber and "added more weapons to the game," as Neha puts it.

"When I started using it, I was seen almost as an outcast," Neha tells this newspaper. "It became even more difficult when I was in the national team and the coaches didn't know about it. There were times at the national camp when I would just play with another bat. I even stopped playing with it for some time when the results were not going my way."

By the time Manika joined Gupta's training centre in Delhi as a youngster, Gupta had

to a large extent, figured out what all the rubber could do and realised it could be put to best use only if the player had a powerful forehand. One of the key weapons that Gupta was able to teach both Neha and Manika was 'twiddling', something that Manika has now made famous.

"We used the pimped rubber to reduce the speed of the ball and then change the grip mid-rally and use the plain side to attack. The shock effect of this variation confuses the opponents and gives us the point," Gupta explains.

However, barring Manika and to an extent, Sreeja, no Indian who currently plays with long pips has been able to do well and remain consistent mostly because top players can easily sort out the playing style of those who use these rubbers.

Being a passive rubber, the long pimples are generally used by players to defend. It gets extremely difficult against top players who are unrelenting and tireless with their attacks.

"We've always been passive and wait for the opponent to make a mistake. What if they don't make a mistake? We shouldn't be

PLAYERS WHO USE LONG PIPS:

- Linda Bergstrom (Sweden, WR 29)
- Manika Batra (India, WR 36)
- Xia Lian Ni (Netherlands WR 41)
- Sreeja Akula (India, WR 51)
- Suh Hyo Won (Korea, WR 53)

WHAT DO LONG PIMPLES DO?

PRODUCES THE opposite Spin. The space between two pimples gives the ball a wobbling effect. The surface of the rubber has less friction. The balls are played much flatter on the net and has less arch when it goes on the other side of the table. Players generally use no sponge under the rubber. No sponge makes the rubber slower.

waiting for them to make a mistake," says Manika's coach Balgu. It was this thought on which the idea that Manika should use her defensive rubber to attack, took flight.

"Now, we may be losing against lower-ranked players which would never happen earlier but at the same time, we're also beating the top players which we also never did. The ultimate goal is beating the top Asians, the Chinese especially, right? How do you do that if you don't have something in your bag to threaten the opponent," Balgu adds.

The wins over top-20 players give them hope that they are in the right direction. "The whole part of evolving is adding new weapons to your game," Balgu says.

As more and more Indian players turn to these rubbers, it gives rise to a question: is the potential upswing purely because of the equipment or has Indian TT indeed taken a giant stride?

Ghosh, Sreeja's coach, points to the fact that the reason China is the gold standard in international table tennis is because the players there are taught the same basics in all parts of the country.

"In India, 10 players have 10 different actions but in China, 1000 players have the same action. You will only see a minor tweak in their action. In India, different coaches in different parts of India have different schools of thought and teach the basics differently. We need a national centre where not only the youngsters but the coaches are also coached."

Before India can have a centralised coaching programme, they need to figure out which is the right way to go. Go pimped or fast?

Balgu, who has played with fast rubbers all his life, says that if used properly, the pimped rubbers could well make India a power house.

"We have this rubber, it's capable of much more than we ever thought. And we're yet to figure out everything it's capable of doing. We've got a headstart. If the other aspects of a player's game can complement it, India can become a powerhouse. We have an advantage as others don't try to play with it."

It's almost as if Balgu is reading out the verdict on the long-standing debate. In reality, though, the jury is still out.

RANJI ROUND-UP

Another poor batting show for Delhi, this time vs Baroda

DELHI produced yet another inept batting performance on Monday to end up with a single point against Baroda in a Group D match, thereby dashing hopes of a knock-out qualification in this year's Ranji Trophy. After Baroda declared their first innings at 435 for 9, Delhi started the day at 113 for 4, and they were all-out for 177. Baroda enforced the follow-on and Delhi crawled to 68 for 1 in 34 overs when the two captains decided to shake hands.

Brief scores: Baroda 435/9 dec. vs Delhi 177 in 56.2 overs (Ayush Badoni 44, Jonty Sidhu 40, Atit Seth 3/39, Bhargav Bhatt 3/18) 68/1 in 34 overs (Yash Dhull 39 not out)

Jharkhand pulverise Manipur by innings and 102 runs

JHARKHAND completed a comprehensive victory by an innings and 102 runs here on Monday to clinch seven points in their Elite Group A match of the Ranji Trophy on Monday. Jharkhand dominated the game

through the course of play on all four days as they dismissed Manipur for a paltry 170 in the first innings and took a massive 334-run lead as they piled up 504/5 declared. There was no change in fortunes with the bat for Manipur in the second essay despite skipper K Langlonyamba Meitan's 88, as they folded for 232 to hand Jharkhand a victory with a bonus point here at the Keenan Stadium.

Brief scores: Manipur 170 and 232 in 93.3 overs (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 88; Pankaj Raunak 4/22) lost to Jharkhand 504/5d by an innings and 102 runs.

Karun Nair slams ton for Vidarbha against Rajasthan



RAJASTHAN earned three points by virtue of first-innings lead of a mere 41 runs as they played out a draw against Vidarbha at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. In reply to the hosts Rajasthan's total of 432 for which they con-

sumed more than 130 overs, Vidarbha kept them on the field for about similar time duration, facing 125.3 overs to make 391. Karun Nair struck a 258-ball 112 with 12 fours to top score for Vidarbha while skipper and wicketkeeper-batter Akshay Wadkar made 59 and Yash Rathod scored 81.

Brief scores: Rajasthan 432 drew with Vidarbha 391 in 125.3 overs (Yash Rathod 81, Karun Nair 112, Akshay Wadkar 59; Manav Suthar 5/133).

Kerala's slender lead helps them gain three points

KERALA grabbed three points from their drawn contest against hosts Chhattisgarh for taking a slender lead of 38 runs in the first innings. The game ended when Chhattisgarh reached 79/1 in their second essay after Kerala set a 289-run target on the final day. Sachin Baby missed a century for the second time in the match as he was run out for 94 in Kerala's second innings after making 91 in the first. Baby's knock, combined with Mohammed Azharuddeen's unbeaten 50 took Kerala to 251 for five declared on the final day.

Brief scores: Kerala 350 and 251/5d in 18 overs (Sachin Baby 94, Mohammed Azharuddeen 50; Ajay Mandal 2/93) drew with Chhattisgarh 312 and 79/1 in 22 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 39; Basil Thampi 1/18)

Suresh, Pradosh shine as Tamil Nadu beat Goa

SURESH Lokeshwar (52) and Pradosh Ranjan Paul (65) struck half-centuries to help Tamil Nadu complete the formalities and win their Ranji Trophy Group C match against Goa by seven wickets, here on Monday. TN needed to score just 76 runs for the win after ending Day 3 on 61 for 1 from 26 overs. Overnight batters Lokeshwar and Paul completed their fifties but left the task of taking the team home to Baba Indrajith (7 not out) and Vijay Shankar (13 not out), as TN reached 142 for 3 in 49.5 overs chasing 137. Lokeshwar added 18 runs to his overnight score of 34 and he struck six fours during his 129-ball knock

Brief scores: Goa 241 & 168 lost to Tamil Nadu 273 & 142 for 3 in 49.5 overs (Suresh Lokeshwar 52, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 65; Darshan Misal 2/51) by 7 wickets.