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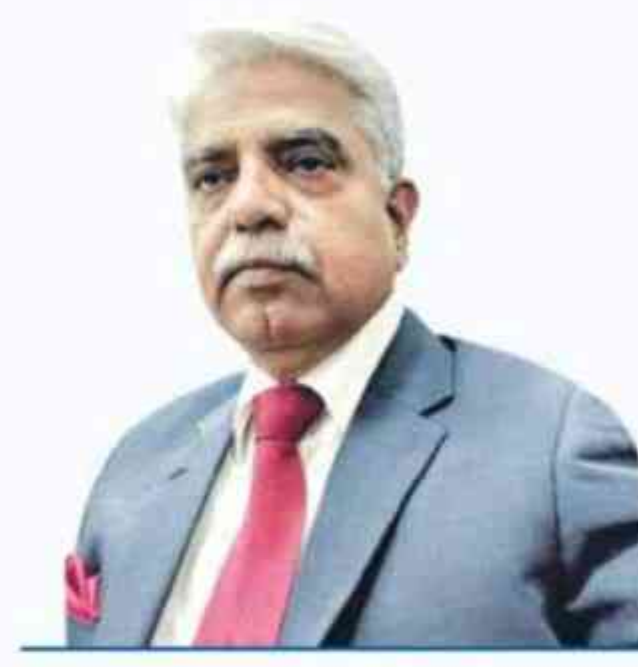
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Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu

MALDIVES SC relief for Muizzu against impeachment

Male: In a respite for Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, the Supreme Court Thursday ordered the suspension of a recent amendment to Parliament's standing orders that had made it easier for the opposition lawmakers to impeach the president and the vice president, local media reports said. The constitution declares that an impeachment motion against the president or vice president requires the vote of two-thirds of the members of Parliament. However, the House had recently amended its standing orders to make it easier to submit an impeachment motion by lowering the number of votes required for it. **PTI**

JAPAN Fukushima plant leaked radioactive water, none hurt

Tokyo: Highly radioactive water leaked from a treatment machine at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, but no one was injured and radiation monitoring shows no impact to the outside environment, the utility operator said on Thursday. A plant worker found the leak Wednesday morning during valve checks. The machine has been idled for maintenance work. An estimated 5.5 metric tonnes (6 tonnes) of radioactive water—enough to fill two ordinary backyard swimming pools—leaked out through an air vent, but no radioactive water escaped the compound. **AP**

RUSSIA Officials reject poll bid of leader who flayed war

Moscow: Russia's main election authority on Thursday refused to allow a politician opposing Moscow's military action in Ukraine on the ballot for the upcoming presidential election. Boris Nadezhdin, a local legislator in a town near Moscow, was required by law to gather at least 100,000 signatures in support of candidacy. The Central Election Commission declared more than 9,000 signatures submitted by Nadezhdin's campaign invalid. **AP**

TAIWAN US, Australia Japan conduct drills in SCS

Taipei: Warships from the US, Australia and Japan have held joint drills in the South China Sea in defiance of Beijing, which claims sovereignty over virtually the entire strategic waterway. The US 7th Fleet that oversees most US Navy operations in the region said the guided-missile destroyer USS John Finn and combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords carried out operations with navy ships from Japan and Australia on Wednesday and Thursday. Beijing objects to foreign naval operations in the area. **AP**

RESULTS TO BE OUT TODAY

Pak polls: Sharif party in tough fight with candidates backed by Imran

Huge turnout despite violence during polling; mobile Internet services downed across country

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 8

JAILED EX-PREMIER Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party-backed independents were Thursday posing a tough challenge to candidates from three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's party in the crucial Punjab province, according to initial trends of the general elections marred by sporadic violence.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had deprived jailed 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician's party of the electoral symbol of 'bat', forcing it to field independent candidates.

The polling started at 8 am and continued without any break till 5 pm. The polling percentage is not yet known. In the 2018 elections, overall voter turnout across the nation was 51.7 per cent.

Private TV channels began reporting results on the basis of partial counting, which showed that Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and PTI-supported independent candidates were neck-in-neck in the most populous Punjab province, which sends almost half of the representatives to the National Assembly.



Voters at a polling station in Islamabad on Thursday. Former PM Nawaz Sharif casts his vote in Lahore. Reuters

Sharif and his younger brother Shehbaz were leading in their respective seats from Lahore.

In Sindh, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidates were leading in most of the constituencies, with its leaders Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari ahead in their constituencies. But the situation in Karachi, the capital of Sindh with 22 National Assembly seats, was different and Muttahida Quami Movement and PTI candidates were performing

better. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, independent candidates supported by the PTI were leading. Balochistan, which is the largest province but sends only 15 lawmakers to the parliament, showed mixed results and none of the party was in the clear lead.

Sharif has expressed confidence that his party would win elections. The ECP said it has resolved 76 poll-related complaints. Soon after the voting started, mobile services in Pakistan were

suspended due to the "deteriorating security situation".

Despite the suspension of cellular and internet services, a large number of people across Pakistan exercised their right to vote to elect lawmakers for national and provincial assemblies—on 855 constituencies.

At least 12 people, including 10 security personnel, were killed on the election day as the forces repulsed 51 terrorist attacks aimed at disrupting the polling. **PTI**



Nawaz Sharif casting his vote in Lahore. Reuters

EXPLAINED
E Magic number: 133 seats

TO FORM a government, a party has to win 133 seats in the 266-member National Assembly (NA). Election to one seat has been postponed following the death of a candidate.

Xi dials Putin, urges 'close strategic coordination'

REUTERS
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 8

CHINA'S PRESIDENT Xi Jinping told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the two countries should pursue close strategic coordination and defend the sovereignty, security and development interests of their respective countries, state media said.

During a phone call with Putin on Thursday, Xi said both sides should resolutely oppose interference in internal affairs by external forces, state broadcaster CCTV said. The two countries should also cultivate new dynamics of cooperation and maintain the stability of the industrial chain and supply chain, Xi was quoted as saying.



ICELAND VOLCANO ERUPTS AGAIN

Lava spills onto the road at Grindavik, Iceland, on Thursday. A volcano in southwestern Iceland has erupted for the third time since December and sent jets of lava into the sky. The eruption on Thursday morning triggered evacuations. **AP**

Israel intensifies strikes on Rafah, Blinken says civilian death toll in Gaza too high

REUTERS
DOHA/TEL AVIV, FEB 8

ISRAELI FORCES bombed areas in the southern border city of Rafah where more than half of Gaza's population is sheltering on Thursday, a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a proposal to end the war in the Palestinian enclave.

The rejection followed intense diplomacy to end the four-and-a-half-month conflict before a threatened Israeli assault on Rafah.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that pushing into Rafah on the border with Egypt would "increase what is already



People block road as they protest delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and demand immediate release of hostages, at Kerem Shalom crossing, Israel, on Thursday. Reuters

a humanitarian nightmare with untold regional consequences." Israel says it takes steps to

avoid civilian casualties and accuses Hamas militants of hiding among civilians.

Zelenskyy removes top general: 'Move to ensure victory'

REUTERS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 8

BRITISH PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak declined on Thursday to apologise for a gender identity jibe at opposition leader Keir Starmer, which drew criticism in the light of the widely reported recent murder of a transgender girl.

Sunak's Conservatives, trailing badly in opinion polls ahead of an election this year, have increasingly sought to weaponise identity politics and cast the Labour Party as excessively liberal or "woke". On Wednesday, Sunak said Labour's leader had changed course on "defining a woman", during a parliamentary exchange that the mother of the murdered girl, Brianna Ghey, had been invited to watch.

Sunak's team said the prime minister had been trying to illustrate how Labour had changed its mind on major policies. However, political opponents immediately accused Sunak of insensitively exploiting a family tragedy. Ghey's father told Sky News he had been shocked and felt Sunak should apologise. Asked about his comments, Sunak told reporters: "I've nothing but the most heartfelt sympathy for her entire family and friends. But to use that tragedy to detract from the very separate and clear point I was making about Keir Starmer's proven track record of multiple U-turns on major policies because he doesn't have a plan, I think, is both sad and wrong, and it demonstrates the worst of politics." **NYT**

BOLOGNA BECOMES FIRST ITALIAN CITY TO IMPOSE SPEED LIMIT, CITING SAFETY & LIVABILITY, BUT MANY ARE NOT HAPPY

Land of Ferrari and Lamborghini has new speed limit: 30 km/hour

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO
BOLOGNA (ITALY)

WHEN BOLOGNA became the first major Italian city to impose a speed limit of 30 kilometers, or 20 miles, an hour, Luca Mazzoli, a local taxi driver, posted a sign in his cab warning passengers of the change.

He had to, he said grumpily the other day, "to explain why I am driving so slowly."

Since the limit became enforceable in mid-January, it has taken longer for Mazzoli to get from Point A to Point B, he

claimed, meaning that he has picked up fewer passengers and has found himself stuck in traffic more often.

"A city has to move," he said.

Critics of the measure say that Bologna risks slowing to a standstill since it became the first major Italian city to join a growing group of municipalities, including Amsterdam; Bilbao, Spain; Brussels; and Lyon, France, that have lowered speed limits from 50 kilometers per hour, about 30 miles per hour, in the belief that the change will lead to safer, healthier and more livable cities. Bologna's mayor, Matteo



Near the Piazza Maggiore and the tower of the Palazzo del Podestà, Bologna, Italy. NYT

Lepore, included the new speed limit among the campaign promises that helped to get him elected in 2021. Referring to the lower limit, he said, "Driving at 30 is part of a vision of a more democratic and more sustainable use of public space," where neighborhoods put children and older people first, and investments favor bike paths and public transportation to work toward carbon neutrality.

What's more, he added during an interview in his art-filled office in City Hall, Italian cities had been built over centuries and were unsuited for a glut of automobiles. There is also the question of

safety. Slower speeds made for fewer deaths, Lepore said, noting that there had been about 60 traffic-related fatalities in the greater Bologna area in 2022.

But persuading the locals has been a bumpy ride. Bologna is the capital of a region that is home to the makers of some of the fastest and most glamorous cars in the world, including Ferrari, Lamborghini and Pagani.

There have been protests, both on the streets and on social media (memes and all), and a petition to hold a referendum on the new speed limit has accumulated just over 53,000 signatures.

The petition was begun by Guendalina Funi, a student at the University of Bologna who was concerned that her daily 25-mile commute into the city would increase substantially. She said that the new limit was "difficult to maintain" and would eventually deter people from visiting Bologna. "The city risks losing out," she said. Other protesters said that the real safety risk was having to pay attention to the speed limit on the dashboard.

"People are very angry," said Giorgio Gorza, who heads a citizen's group that has been organising protests. **NYT**

India does not trust US to lead, played smart by staying close with Russia: Haley

LALIT KJHA
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 8

INDIAN-AMERICAN Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has said that India wants to be a partner with the US but considers it "weak" and is playing "smart" by staying close to Russia from where it gets a lot of their military equipment.

"I have dealt with India too. I have got to say, I have dealt with India too. I have talked with (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi. India wants to be a partner with us. They don't want to be a partner with Russia," Haley, 52, said.

Haley, the only Republican candidate in the race for the party's nomination against Donald Trump, said that New Delhi has played smart in the current global situation and stayed close to Russia.

"The problem is, India doesn't trust us to win. They don't trust us to lead. They see right now that we're weak. India has always played it smart. They have played it smart, and they have stayed close with Russia because that's where they get a lot of their military equipment," Haley, a former US ambassador to the UN, said. "When we start to lead again, when we start to get the weakness out and stop putting our head in the sand, that's when our friends, India, Australia, New Zealand, all of

TOP COURT TO HEAR TRUMP APPEAL

Washington: The US Supreme Court on Thursday will hear former President Donald Trump's appeal to remain on the 2024 ballot. The court will be weighing arguments over whether Trump is disqualified from reclaiming the White House because of his efforts to undo his loss in the 2020 election, ending with the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. **AP**

them will — and Israel, Japan, South Korea — all of them want to do that. Japan gave themselves a billion-dollar stimulus to become less dependent on China," Haley, a former governor of South Carolina, said. "India gave themselves a billion-dollar stimulus to become less dependent on China," she told Fox Business News, adding that the US needs to start building up its alliances.

Haley also said China is not doing well economically and is preparing for a war with the US. "They have been preparing for war with us for years. That's their mistake," she said. Haley was born Nimarata Nikki Randhawa in South Carolina to immigrant Sikh parents from Amritsar, Punjab. **PTI**



Sunak's transgender jibe at Opp leader stirs row, he says won't apologise

REUTERS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 8

BRITISH PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak declined on Thursday to apologise for a gender identity jibe at opposition leader Keir Starmer, which drew criticism in the light of the widely reported recent murder of a transgender girl.

Sunak's Conservatives, trailing badly in opinion polls ahead of an election this year, have increasingly sought to weaponise identity politics and cast the Labour Party as excessively liberal or "woke". On Wednesday, Sunak said Labour's leader had changed course on "defining a woman", during a parliamentary exchange that the mother of the murdered girl, Brianna Ghey, had been invited to watch.

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British PM Rishi Sunak

mind on major policies. However, political opponents immediately accused Sunak of insensitively exploiting a family tragedy. Ghey's father told Sky News he had been shocked and felt Sunak should apologise.

Asked about his comments, Sunak told reporters: "I've nothing but the most heartfelt sympathy for her entire family and friends. But to use that tragedy to detract from the very separate and clear point I was making about Keir Starmer's proven track record of multiple U-turns on major policies because he doesn't have a plan, I think, is both sad and wrong, and it demonstrates the worst of politics." **NYT**

FM TABLES WHITE PAPER ON ECONOMY IN PARLIAMENT

Polls ahead, Govt says economy turned stagnant in 10 yrs of UPA

Sitharaman: It was a crisis, mending economy step by step was huge task

White Paper red-flags NPAs, scams and policy freeze, skips growth years credit

UDIT MISRA & ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE FRAMING of the White Paper on the Indian Economy couldn't have been more overtly political: the paper, authored by the Union Finance Minister, starts off saying "when we formed the government." This is an unusual departure from tradition, said at



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. PTI

least two former Finance Secretaries, adding that, institutionally, the Ministry isn't synonymous with the Government. This sets the tone for the paper which then goes on to flag the worst of the economy during UPA's decade-long tenure. From bad loans to high inflation, a slew of corruption cases to policy paralysis, the paper's political imperative is clear: to draw the battle-lines in the run-up to the campaign for 2024. Its tone echoes Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sharp attack on the Congress in his Parliament speeches earlier this week.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE UNION Ministry of Finance said Thursday that the decade-long UPA rule under the Congress-led government — 2004-05 to 2013-14 — turned India "from a healthy economy in 2004 to a stagnant economy in 2014". It was marked by strained public finances, corruption scams, double-digit inflation, ailing banking sector following excessive lending during the boom phase, and policy uncertainty that marred India's business climate and dented its image.

The 59-page 'White Paper on the Indian Economy' tabled in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said when the Narendra Modi government assumed office in 2014, the economy was in a "fragile state"; public finances were in "bad shape"; there was economic mismanagement and financial indiscipline, and widespread corruption.

"It was a crisis situation. The responsibility to mend the economy step by step and to put the governance systems in order was enormous," the White Paper said.

The document prepared by the Ministry of Finance said the

Union of States becoming Union over States: Kerala CM as Opp joins protest

AISWARYA RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE PROTEST at Jantar Mantar Thursday by the Left-ruled Kerala government against what it called the Centre's "discrimination" in allocation of funds, and for "safeguarding the constitutional rights of states", turned into a unity show of INDIA bloc parties minus the Congress which is the Opposition party in the state.

At the protest, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, were State ministers and Left MPs and MLAs, as well as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who lashed out at the BJP government. Also present was



Arvind Kejriwal, Sitaram Yechury, Pinarayi Vijayan, Bhagwant Mann, D Raja and Farooq Abdullah with other leaders at Jantar Mantar. Abhinav Saha THE PINARAYI VIJAYAN INTERVIEW PAGE 7

Kejriwal's party colleague and Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Singh Mann, Tamil Nadu

DMK leader P Thiaga Rajan, DMK leader Tiruchi Siva, National Conference

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RBI leaves repo rate unchanged, food inflation uncertainty persists

GDP growth for FY25 projected at 7%: Governor Das



Shaktikanta Das in Mumbai, Thursday. PTI

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8

THE SIX-MEMBER Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday left the repo rate — the rate at which the RBI lends to banks — unchanged at 6.5 per cent

for the sixth time in a row as uncertainty over food inflation continues to pose a threat to inflation. The RBI projected real GDP growth at 7 per cent and consumer-price based inflation (CPI) at 4.5 per cent for FY2025. Its growth estimate for FY2025 is lower than the 7.3 per cent projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) for the ongoing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



I killed, 4 injured as Metro station wall collapses in Delhi, falls on road below

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

A PORTION OF a wall at the Gokulpuri Metro Station in northeast Delhi collapsed and fell on the road below, killing a 53-year-old man on Thursday. Four people were injured in the incident.

According to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), the incident occurred at 11.04 am.

The dead person was identified as Vinod Kumar Pandey, 53, a resident of Karawal Nagar. According to his son, Pandey was



At Gokulpuri Metro station after the wall collapse on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3

on way to work on his scooter when the debris fell on him.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Free movement along border with Myanmar being suspended: Shah

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI, FEB 8

DAYS AFTER announcing that a fence would be built along the entire 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar for better surveillance, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Thursday that the government has decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar to ensure internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic



'Move to secure North-East states'

structure of North-East states bordering Myanmar.

He said the Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended the immediate suspension of the FMR.

In a post on X, Shah said, "It is Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's resolve to secure our borders. The Ministry of Home

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Two killed in Srinagar were neighbours in Amritsar, moved out to earn a little extra

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 8

AMRITPAL SINGH and Rohit Masih, who were killed in a militant attack in Srinagar on Wednesday evening, had arrived in the Valley earlier that day — the former after spending the winter at home and the latter for the first time. Both men came from poor families in an



The body of Amritpal Singh, who was killed in Srinagar, arrives at his home near Amritsar on Thursday. PTI

Amritsar village and had taken up work in Jammu and Kashmir to support those at home.

Singh, 31, died on the spot while Masih, 27, succumbed to his injuries on Thursday morning in a Srinagar hospital. Sources said the suspected militants fired at them just outside their rented accommodation at Shaheed Gunj.

Both hailed from Punjab's Chamryari village and were neighbours.

Late on Wednesday, Harjinder Singh Khaira, Station House Officer, Ajnala police station, went

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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ORION AND THE DARK MOVIE REVIEW: GENIUS WRITER CHARLIE KAUFMAN PUTS HIS EXISTENTIAL STAMP ON NETFLIX'S ODDEST ANIMATED FILM YET

EXPRESS AUDIO Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code: All you need to know

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Polls ahead, Govt says economy turned stagnant in 10 yrs of UPA

UPA government inherited a 'healthy economy ready for more reforms' in 2004 but made it non-performing in its ten years. Despite having taken the reforms earlier in 1991, the then government did not undertake reforms after coming to power in 2004, it said.

owed about Rs 8.6 lakh crore to banks," it said. The White Paper went on to quote former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, from his written response to a Parliamentary Panel in 2018: "a larger number of the bad loans were (sic) originated in the period 2006-2008."

short-term populist measures, the white paper said capital expenditure -- which finances public investment in infrastructure -- was deprioritised in those 10 years, thereby creating long-term constraints for the economy and compromising its growth potential.

Kerala CM leads protest in Delhi

chief Farooq Abdullah, T Thirumavaiyan of the VCK, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal, besides Left leaders Sitaram Yechury, D Raja and Binoy Viswam. The protest by the Kerala government came a day after the Congress government in Karnataka staged a similar sit-in at Jantar Mantar against "injustice" done to the state in devolution of taxes and grants-in-aid over the past few years.

White Paper red-flags NPAs, scams and policy freeze

It's not a surprise, therefore, that the paper skips references to what the UPA has often prided itself on: GDP growth in its first term at over 8.8 per cent during 2004-05 to 2008-09 as per compound annual growth rate (CAGR) based on the old 2004-05 base year.

'Free movement along Myanmar border being suspended'

Affairs (MHA) has decided that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar be scrapped to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar.

Two killed in Srinagar were neighbours in an Amritsar village

Like him, many carpenters from Amritsar go to Kashmir to make wooden houses. They earn more there than in Punjab. Masih leaves behind a sister, a father who is too old to work, and a mother employed as a labourer to help the family make ends meet.

RBI leaves repo rate unchanged, food inflation a worry

fiscal. The government, in the Interim Budget for 2024-25, said the nominal GDP -- without excluding the pace of inflation -- is likely to grow at 10.5 per cent. Announcing the policy, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, "Taking into account this growth-inflation dynamics and the fact that transmission of the cumulative 250 bps (basis points) policy rate hike is still underway, the MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent."

Wall collapse

The injured were identified as Ajit Kumar, 21, a resident of Ghaziabad; Monu, 19, and Sandeep, 27, both from Gokulpuri; and Mohd Tazir from Loni. A case under sections pertaining to causing death by negligence and endangering life and personal safety of others has been lodged at Gokulpuri Police Station.

SECURITY AROUND MINORITY CLUSTERS REVIEWED

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bhiduri and Inspector General of Police (IGP) V K Briedi held a virtual meeting with all deputy commissioners and district police chiefs to review security arrangements around minority clusters and other critical areas. ENS



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Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

ONE KILLED, 4 INJURED AS METRO STATION WALL COLLAPSES IN GOKULPURI

'Daughter got engaged 2 days ago': How celebrations turned into grief for family

ANKITAUPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

SHIVAM PANDEY, 22, is inconsolable. Only a couple of days ago, his family was celebrating the joyous occasion of his sister's engagement. But on Thursday, their world came crashing down as they learnt that the head of their family, 53-year-old Vinod Kumar Pandey, was killed after a portion of the wall at the Gokulpuri Metro Station fell on him.

"My father was just crossing the road like any other person. He didn't know this would happen out of the blue," said Shivam, who, after receiving information about the accident, reached the Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital in Dilshad Garden where he was told about his father's demise.

"I got to know about my father after reaching the hospital," said Shivam while waiting to receive

his father's body.

A resident of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Colony of nearby Karawal Nagar area, Vinod was headed to work when the incident took place at 11 am. He worked as a nice delivery agent, according to his family members.

Hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur, Vinod had been working in a wholesale shop for years now. Back from his hometown only two days ago following his younger daughter's engagement, he was busy preparing for her wedding scheduled in April.

He is survived by his wife and three children — two daughters and son Shivam, who has studied till Class 12. His elder daughter is married and stays with her husband in Karawal Nagar here.

His elder son-in-law, Vikas Mishra, said Vinod was driving a battery scooter when "an entire block of metro wall" fell on him. Shivam's mother still lives in



(Clockwise from top) Mohd Tahir, Monu, Ajit and Sandeep at the GTB Hospital. Express

Sultanpur and hasn't been told about the incident yet.

GTB hospital officials said Vinod was brought dead while

four other persons injured in the accident are being treated for leg

injuries at the Department of Orthopaedics.

According to police, those injured are out of danger. Two motorcycles and as many scooters were damaged in the collapse.

The survivors said they were grateful they were wearing helmet at the time of the incident. One of them is 24-year-old Mohammed Tajir who said his helmet broke into two parts. "I was passing through the area after picking up medicines for my mother from a nearby pharmacy when suddenly, a huge boulder fell on my head and I lost consciousness for some time. Then, a PCR van came and took me inside. I then regained consciousness and saw my broken helmet and scooter lying on the road," said Tajir, who underwent a CT scan to assess the impact of the collapse on his head.

Other survivors are Sandeep Kumar, Monu and Ajit who sell

chains and zips near Gokulpuri and play drums at wedding ceremonies. They were passing by on a bike when they saw a huge chunk of debris falling.

"We were on the bike on our way home after doing some chores when suddenly, a huge slab collapsed. When we saw it, we tried to dodge it and ended up ramming into the divider," said Ajit. Sandeep said he is having difficulty in sitting and standing but is happy that doctors have assured him that his health would gradually get better.

Ajit, 21, has suffered a fracture and will undergo a surgery to get an implant inserted in his right leg.

Sandeep and Monu are residents of Gokulpuri while Ajit lives in Balram Nagar in Ghaziabad. All three are distant relatives.

Speaking with *The Indian Express*, Ajit's cousin Deepak Kumar said he is the sole earning

member of the family and that the accident will hamper his income.

Lying on a stretcher at the GTB Hospital, Monu said as soon as the incident happened, police officials arrived from the nearby police station and picked them up.

According to Sandeep, Monu had a helmet on while Ajit, who was sitting in the middle, was not wearing it.

The helmet, though, could not save Vinod's life. "What can a helmet do if such a huge concrete slab falls on a person..." questioned Shivam, surrounded by loved ones trying to console him.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has announced Rs 25 lakh as compensation to the family of the deceased. It also announced Rs 5 lakh as compensation for the grievously injured and Rs 1 lakh for those who received minor injuries.

Last inspection a month ago, no problem was reported



At the site of the accident on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

DEDICATED STAFF to monitor maintenance at each station, regular inspections around once in two months, and daily visual assessments — the portion of the wall at Gokulpuri metro station that collapsed escaped all these checks, only to fall on the road below and kill a 53-year-old man on a scooter, late Thursday morning.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that inspection of this station was done roughly a month ago, but no issues were reported.

Each station has dedicated staff to monitor operations and maintenance, which includes the maintenance of civil infrastructure, the source added.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) suspended two members of the civil department — a manager and a junior engineer — after the incident, and has ordered an inquiry.

"There is a Civil Maintenance department in Operations and Maintenance headed by an Executive Director level officer, and officials are deputed for each station and other civil structures. Inspections of the civil structures are done regularly to ensure their safety," DMRC said in response to questions posed by *The Indian Express*.

"Since the commencement of operations in 2002, DMRC has maintained an impeccable safety record. The exact reasons behind this mishap are being analysed and a thorough investigation is being carried out," DMRC said, adding that a prescribed and scheduled inspection procedure is laid down for civil structures with detailed checklists, which are reviewed

Each station has dedicated staff to monitor operations and maintenance, which includes the maintenance of civil infrastructure

at appropriate levels.

The Gokulpuri Station falls on the DMRC network's Pink Line, which, at over 57 kilometres, is the longest in the city and traverses 38 stations between Majlis Park near Azadpur and Shiv Vihar in Northeast Delhi.

The station was opened for passengers in 2018 and the average daily footfall is approximately 15,000, DMRC said.

"The incident is very unfortunate. No report has been made about any infirmity in the structure," an official said.

From Friday, DMRC officials have been ordered to conduct "vigorous safety checks" across the entire network.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has also ordered the constitution of a committee to inquire into the incident.

Meanwhile, operations on the line were stopped between 11.12 am and 11.23 am, minutes after the incident.

"Train services were restored from 11.23 am through a single line working between Maujpur and Shiv Vihar, a small section comprising three stations only. Normal services were restored... after barricading the affected platform area from 2.53 pm onwards. Gokulpuri station, which was closed during this period, was also reopened at 2.53 pm with access... towards the affected area remaining closed," DMRC said.



A MATCH
A FILM BY
JAYANT DIGAMBAR SOMALKAR

In association with





13

February 2024



07:00 PM



Gulmohar Hall, The India Habitat Centre

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Confirmation SMS will be your ticket, Limited seats available for first-come-first served basis.

Followed by a discussion with Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, The Indian Express



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Here are some comments shared by our readers about the unique format of the Indian Express Club.

"The discussion post-screening is amazing and meaningful. As a film buff, I cannot afford to miss the Indian Express Film Club events".

Shalini Kaushik
Advertising Professional



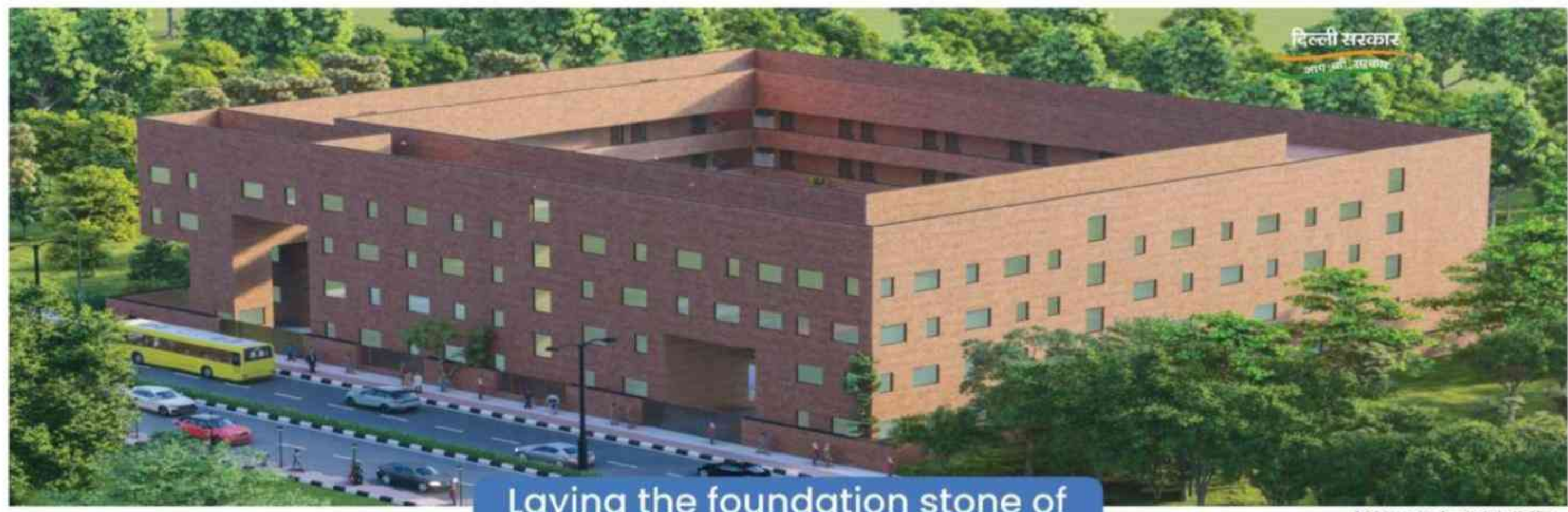
It's a great place for all movie lovers to share their views about films. We get to know so many different interpretations of how the audience perceives a scene. If the Indian Express Film Club is showing a movie, it's a must-watch. I always have a great time here.

Pulkit Gupta,
Doctor





— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

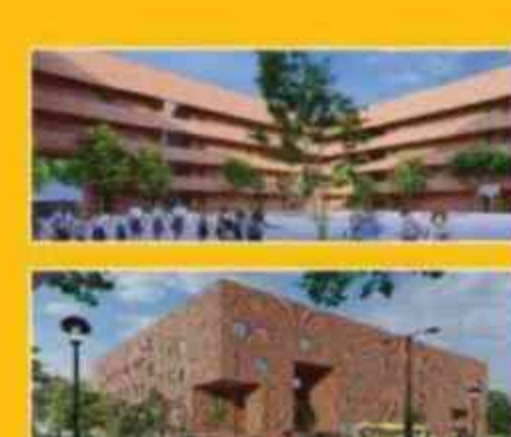


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गुरु गोबिंद बहादुर

Laying the foundation stone of

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

of Government Girls/Boys Senior Secondary School, Mayur Vihar, Phase III



DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0132/23-24

Highlights

- School to benefit more than 2700 children of Kondli-Gharoli area of East Delhi
- More than 50 Classrooms
- 5 state-of-the-art Labs, 3 Libraries with rich collection of books
- Office & staff rooms & Activity rooms
- Toilet blocks on every floor and lift


Friday, 9th February 2024

Chief Guest

Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Atishi, Education Minister, Delhi



Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi



An Ongoing Journey Of Progress And Unity

The struggles and triumphs of our forebearers have paved the way for the vibrant, independent Sri Lanka we proudly celebrate today, says **Valsan Vethody**, Consul General for Sri Lanka (Mumbai)

The pursuit of Independence has been a collective struggle shared by nations worldwide, transcending challenges posed by both monarchies and colonial powers. Sri Lanka, with its extraordinary 2,500-year history and distinct civilisation, stands as a testament to this enduring journey. Throughout the ages, our resilient kings confronted the formidable task of safeguarding our sovereignty against foreign invaders. It has been 76 years since our nation secured freedom from a 450-year-long period of European colonial rule. Even in the aftermath of gaining Independence, we confronted almost three decades of adversity, countering efforts by specific international forces driven by geopolitical motives to destabilise and fragment our nation through acts of terrorism.



VALSAN VETHODY
Consul General for Sri Lanka (Mumbai)

This struggle for unity is deeply ingrained in the tapestry of our unique history, reflecting the unwavering spirit of the Sri Lankan people. The echoes of resistance and determination resonate through time, illustrating our steadfast commitment to safeguarding our nation. As we reflect on our storied past, we draw inspiration from the resilience of our forebearers and get strengthened in our patriotism. The enduring struggles and ultimate triumphs of our forebearers have paved the way for the vibrant, independent Sri Lanka we proudly celebrate today, marked by commendable socio-economic indicators. As we reflect on our storied past, may the invaluable lessons of history continue to serve as guiding beacons, steering us through the ongoing journey of progress and unity.

Adani Ports Puts India On The International Maritime Map

Adani Ports has expanded its presence globally through acquisitions and partnerships, particularly in key regions such as the Middle East and the Indian Ocean

Twenty-five years ago, the Adani Group developed its first port at Mundra in Gujarat – marking the beginning of a historical journey, not only for the group but also for India's international maritime trade. Today, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), a part of the globally diversified Adani Group, has evolved from a port company to an Integrated Transport Utility providing end-to-end solutions from port gate to customer gate. APSEZ is the largest port developer and operator in India with seven strategically located ports and terminals on

the ability to handle 500,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) annually, the Adani logistics business is growing rapidly. APSEZ's ports-to-logistics platform comprising port facilities, and integrated logistics capabilities, including multimodal logistics parks, Grade A warehouses, and industrial economic zones, puts it in an advantageous position as India stands to benefit from an impending overhaul in global supply chains. Adani Ports has expanded its presence globally through acquisitions and partnerships, particularly in key regions



Adani Ports has bolstered its global footprint with Colombo Port's West Container Terminal

the west coast (Mundra, Tuna, Dahej, and Hazira in Gujarat, Mormugao in Goa, Dighi in Maharashtra and Vizhinjam in Kerala) and seven ports and terminals on the east coast of India (Haldia in West Bengal, Dhamra in Odisha, Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kattappalli and Ennore in Tamil Nadu, and Karaikal in Puducherry). It represents 27% of the country's total port volumes, thus providing capabilities to handle vast cargo from both the coastal areas and the hinterland. The port facilities are equipped with the latest cargo-handling infrastructure, which is not only best-in-class but also capable of handling some of the largest vessels on Indian shores. The ports can handle a diverse range of cargo. Over the years, APSEZ has grown to become a provider of integrated port infrastructure services and Mundra SEZ in Gujarat is a landmark. Spanning over 8,000 hectares, the Mundra Economic Hub offers investment options as the largest multi-product SEZ, Free Trade and Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) and Domestic Industrial Zone. The company's integrated services across three verticals, i.e. ports, logistics and SEZ, have enabled it to forge alliances with leading Indian businesses making APSEZ an undisputed leader in the Indian port sector. Through its subsidiary, Adani Logistics Limited, APSEZ operates three logistics parks at Patli in Haryana, Kila-Raipur in Punjab, and Kishangarh in Rajasthan. With

such as the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. These international operations position it as a key player in the global maritime industry. Outside India, APSEZ operates Haifa Port in Israel, and it is also developing a transhipment port in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Recently, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) announced that it would be funding, to the tune of USD 553 million, the Colombo West International Terminal Private Limited (CWIT) – a consortium of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd., Sri Lanka's leading enterprise John Keells Holdings (JKH) and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. The port of Colombo is the largest and busiest transhipment port in the Indian Ocean. It has been operating at more than 90% utilisation since 2021, signalling a need for developing additional capacity. The new terminal will cater to growing economies along the Bay of Bengal, taking advantage of Sri Lanka's prime location on the major shipping routes and its proximity to the expanding markets.

The Adani Group's vision extends beyond mere business pursuits to encompass nation-building efforts. Through initiatives like skill-building programs and the development of quality infrastructure, the group aims to contribute to the long-term development and sustainability of the nation. By aligning with the objectives of local governments, they seek to ensure that their endeavours benefit communities and facilitate holistic growth.

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN: L45300DL187600080171

e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender No.: IRCON/J&K CELL/JAT/14/1014/K-BO Tender/Water/563 Dt: 07/02/2024
e-tender for and on behalf of Northern Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Supply, installation and commissioning of raw water treatment system for potable water supply in Khari Yard (Package: Raw Water Treatment/Khari)".

Estimated Cost of the Work ₹34.80 Lakh (including all taxes)
Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission 27.02.2024, 15:00 Hrs (IST)

For further details, visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Compendium, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Chief General Manager/Banihal, USBRL Head Office, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, P.O. Sainik Colony, Jammu, J&K-180011

Container Corporation of India Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC New MDP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate
(Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020

(E-Tendering Mode Only)
Online tenders in Single Bid system are invited for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 01 NO. FULLY ELECTRONIC PITLESS LORRY WEIGHBRIDGE 80MT CAPACITY PLATFORM SIZE 18M X 3M AT ICC/DADR, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P. only through e-tendering mode. The tender document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online mode from the website (www.tendercard.com/CCL).

E-Tender No. CONIA/1/TECH/WWW/MT/IC/DR/2024
Name of the work Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01 no. Pitless Fully Electronic Lorry Weighbridge 80 MT capacity platform size 18M x 3M at ICC/DADR, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.
Estimated Value of contract Rs. 24,07,200/- (inclusive of GST)
Earliest Money Deposit (*) Rs. 48,144/- (through e-payment)
Cost of Tender Document (*) Rs. 1000/- (inclusive of all taxes and duties) through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee Rs. 1480/- (inclusive of 18% GST) through e-payment which is Non-refundable
Date of Sale (On Line mode) From 09.02.2024 at 16:00 Hrs to 29.02.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time of Submission of tender (On Line mode) 01.03.2024 up to 16:00 Hrs. (E-Tendering Mode Only)
Date & Time of opening of tender 04.03.2024 at 16:30 Hrs.
*Through e-Payment CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor. For complete details is login to www.tendercard.com/CCL
Group General Manager/Technical (Area-1)

Form No.15
Before The Debts Recovery Tribunal
Wing A,B & F (2nd Floor) Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchari Parishar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.
O.A No. 313 of 2023
Punjab National Bank APPLICANT
VS
M/s Ankit Rice Mill..... DEFENDANTS
SUMMONS
ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULE, 1993.

To,
1. M/s Ankit Rice Mill through Prop. Gopal Chaubey S/o Late Suresh Chaubey R/o at Katipura, PO+PS-Barahat, District-Bankha, Pin-813103.
2. Gopal Chaubey S/o Late Suresh Chaubey R/o at Katipura, PO+PS-Barahat, District-Bankha, Pin-813103.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 Of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for the Recovery of a sum of Rs. 75,30,665.00 (Rs. Seventy Five Lakh Thirty Thousand Six hundred Sixty five Only).

The Above mentioned Defendants are, therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised Agent in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 15th March 2024 10:30 AM. (Forenoon) as to why Reliefs Prayed for by the Applicant Should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 02nd day of February, 2024.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Patna

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
A Govt. of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION, CIRCLE OFFICE,
3rd Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001, Ph. : 0612-2320180, Email : npacopat@canarabank.com

PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION

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 provision 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 / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 11.03.2024. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Name / Add. Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower (s)/Guarantor (s) / Mortgagor (s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) /EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt./A/c No./IFSC Code
1	Patna Exhibition Road Branch Mob. 8210998432	1. Mrs. Naureen Razi, (Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor) D/o Mr. Sayed Md. Raziuddin, 2. M/s Haji Bhai Stores Pvt. Ltd., (Borrower), Ptd. Rameez Razi and Mrs. Fanoos Jabeen, (Director and Guarantor - Haji Bhai Stores Pvt. Ltd.) All Resident of 303, Hussain Apartment, Kabari Gali, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001	Rs. 88,77,151.55 as on 31.10.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Property 1 - All that Part and Parcel of Residential Flat Property in the name of Mrs. Naureen Razi, situated in "Royal Regency Apartment" Flat No. - 402 (4th Floor), Super Built up Area - 985 sqft situated at, Maa Mansa Puram Devi Sai Mandir, Mauza - Saiempura Dumra Mohalla - Samanpura, Plot No. - 395, Khata No. - 134, Tauzi No. - 15194, PS - Shastri Nagar, Patna - 800014. Boundary of Flat No. 402 - East - Lift / Common Passage thereafter, Flat, No. 401 & 403, West - Setback of Building, South - Flat No. 404, North - Open space of Building	Property 1 - Rs. 38,93,000/- Rs. 3,90,000/- Property 2 - Rs. 38,37,000/- Rs. 3,84,000/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002004
2	Patna Exhibition Road Branch Mob. 8210998432	1. M/s Colour Zone, Proprietor - Fanoos Jabeen, 2. Smt. Fanoos Jabeen, Both S. M. Raziuddin, W/o Address of Flat No. 303, Hussain Apartment, Kabari Gali, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001 3. Sri Syed Mohammad Raziuddin S/o Late Mohammad Nazim, Flat No. 303, Hussain Apartment, Kabari Gali, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001 Dr. Syed Ghazanfar Hussain, South - Setback of the Apartment, East - Set Back of the Apartment, West - Set back & Generator Room of the Apartment. Boundary of Flat - North - Branch Road, South - Shiv Kunj Apartment, East - Maqbool Apartment, West - House of Ainul Aiam Advocate	Rs. 65,76,855.51 as on 31.10.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	All Part and Parcel of Flat Property in the name of Mrs. Fanoos Jabeen, Situated at Flat No. - 01, Ground Floor of Hussain Apartment in Kabari Gali, P.S. - Gandhi Maidan, Exhibition Road, Dist. - Patna, Pin - 800001, Standing over part of Municipal Survey Plot No. - 822, Patna Municipal Corporation Holding No. - 1256/003, thereafter Holding No. - 380 Old & Holding No. 655 & 655 A, New Holding No. - 1256/001, Ward No. 2/18 (Old), New Ward No. 28, Sheet No. 30, Zone - 5 Government Land Valuation List Serial No. - 267, Area (Flat) - 593 sqft. Boundary of Flat - North - Passage of the Apartment & Car Parking of	Rs. 22,82,000/- Rs. 2,29,000/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002004
3	Purnea Branch H.O. Post Box No-36, Bhatta Bazar, Purnia, Bihar-854301 Mob. 8210998620	Mr. Roshan Goswami (Borrower) S/o Raju Goswami, Ward No- 11, Parora, Near Harihar Complex, Purnea, Bihar Mrs. Poonam Devi (Co-Borrower) W/o Raju Goswami, Parora, K. Nagar, Purnea, Bihar - 854304	Rs. 18,00,129.72 as on 06.02.2024 + interest & other Cost thereon till realization	Sale Deed No. - 8241 Dated- 17/06/2008 All that part and parcel of land and building Measuring 4 Decimal 2 Kari Covered Under Khata No. - 1931 (Part), Khesra No. - 9814 (Part), Thana No. - 24, Tauji No. - 1/1308, Situated At Mauja- Bithnauli Khemchand, Anchal - K. Nagar, Thana- K. Nagar, Pargana - Dharampur, Sub - Registry + District - Purnea in the name of Poonam Devi W/o Raju Goswami. Boundary - North - Gopal Paswan, South - Niz Vendor, East - Kacchi Rasta, West - Niz Vendor	Rs. 24,10,000/- Rs. 2,41,000/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
4	Kishanganj Branch 1st Flr. Besides Khadim's, Chrupatti Rd. Kishanganj Bazaar Road, Kishanganj, Bihar - 855108 Mob. 8210998608	M/s Hotel New Satpal, Prop. - Mrs. Satwant Kaur (Borrower) W/o Sardar Narendra Singh, Hotel New Satpal, Shastri Marg, Ward No- 18, Station Road, Kishanganj, Bihar- 855108 Sardar Narendra Singh (Guarantor) S/o Late Inder Singh, Hotel New Satpal, Shastri Marg, Ward No- 18, Station Road, Kishanganj, Bihar - 855108	Rs. 28,83,979.39 as on 06.02.2024 + interest & other Cost thereon till realization	Sale Deed No. : (1) 9523 Dated- 19.08.1988, (2) 1800 Dated- 30.03.1990, (3) 997 Dated- 13.03.1991 & (4) 192 Dated 02.03.1995 All that part and parcel of land Measuring 03 Katha 09 Dhur 4 25 Dhurki = 9 Decimal Covered Under Khata No. - 22 & 440 & 586 (old) / M.S - 10 (new), Plot No. - 246 & 247/248 & 249 / 250 (old) / M.S - 37(new)-[KA, KHA, GA, GHA, ANGA, CH, CHH, JA, JHA, TA, THA] & M.S - 38 (New) - [KA, KHA, GA, GHA, ANGA], Thana No- 460, Tauji No- 07, Ward No - 13 (Old) / 14 (New), Situated At Mauja - Kasba Kutubganj, District - Kishanganj, Bihar in the name of Sardar Narendra Singh S/o Late Inder Singh. Boundary (combined & All Above Mentioned Sale Deed) North - Raju Sweets, South - Municipality Road, East - Anand Bhawan, West - Satyapal Singh	Rs. 1,54,14,800/- Rs. 15,41,480/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
5	Madhepura Branch 1st Floor, Main Road, Madhepura, Bihar 852113 Mob. 8210998611	1. M/s Aditya Hospital, Prop- Mrs. Meera Kumari, W/o Pramod Kumar Pawan, Ward No- 04, Near P.S. College, Madhepura, Bihar 2. Mrs. Meera Kumari (Borrower) W/o Pramod Kumar Pawan, Jay Prakash Nagar, Ward No- 06, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113 3. Mr. Sumit Anand (Co-Borrower) S/o Pramod Kumar Pawan, Jay Prakash Nagar, Ward No- 06, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113 4. Mr. Pramod Kumar Pawan (Guarantor) S/o Late Aditya Pd. Yadav, Sunaina Niwas, Jay Prakash Nagar, Ward No- 06, Madhepura, Bihar - 852113	Rs. 22,86,619.93 as on 06.02.2024 + interest & other Cost thereon till realization	S.M.T Deed No- 11812 Dated- 22/09/2022 All that part and parcel of a land and building Measuring 4.367 Decimal = 01 Katha Covered Under Khata No. - 9 (Old) / 26 (New), Khesra No. - 4464 (old) / 2513 (New), Thana No. - 61, Touji No. - 468, Situated At Mouza + Thana + Anchal + District - Madhepura, Bihar in the name of Mr. Pramod Kumar Pawan S/o Late Aditya Prasad Yadav. Boundary - North - Niz, South - Niz, East - 12 Kari Road, West - Khesra No. 4464	Rs. 1,03,40,000/- Rs. 10,34,000/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362
6	Kurtha Branch Mob. 8210998553	Borrower - M/s Pawan Sut Mini Rice Mill, Prop. - Mr. Dinesh Tiwari, S/o Sri Baban Tiwari, Prop. Cum Mortgagor - Mr. Dinesh Tiwari, S/o Sri Baban Tiwari, Address of both are Vill- Maura, P.O- Chandra Kalithi, P.S - Chenari, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar, 821106	Rs. 23,00,531.26 as on 06.02.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	The property is situated at Mauza- Maura (462), Khata No- 13(Survey)/13 chak, Plot No- 43(survey)/6 chak, Haika No-02, P.S- Chenari, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar, Extent of Area- 10.00 Decimal Boundary : North - Awadh Bihari Tiwari, South - Pappu Tiwari, East - Niz Mokir, West - Niz Mokir Name of Property Holder - Mr. Dinesh Tiwari S/o Sri Baban Tiwari	Rs. 19,65,000/- Rs. 1,96,500/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0001939
7	Dibhiya Branch Mob. 8809088505	Sri Birendra Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh, R/o Vill Siwan, Post Dhanej, Dist. - Rohtas, Kargahar, Bihar- 821007 Mortgagor : (i) Sri Birendra Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh (ii) Ajay Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh, (iii) Rahul Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh, (iv). Raghu Vanish Singh Son of Late Ram Janam Singh All Are Residing At Vill Siwan, Post Dhanej, Dist. - Rohtas, Kargahar, Bihar - 821007 Kachha Rasta. Property Holder - 1. Birendra Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh, 2. Ajay Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh, 3. Rahul Kumar Singh S/o Raghu Vanish Singh and 4. Raghu Vanish Singh S/o Late Ram Janam Singh	Rs. 10,60,460.71 as on 06.02.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Property 1 - Residential Land & Building situated at Mauza - Siwan, Thana No. - 78, Khata No. - 371, Khasra No. - 1369, Thana - Kargahar, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar - 821107. Extent of Area- 2.5 Decimal, Boundary : (Actual) North - Mishi Singh, South - 3' Wide Gali & Dharmendra, East - Niz, West - 13' Wide Kachcha Rasta Property 2 - Residential Land situated at Mauza - Siwan, Thana No. - 78, Khata No. - 371, Khasra No. - 2194, Thana- Kargahar, Dist - Rohtas, Bihar - 821107, Extent of Area- 43 Decimal, Boundary: (Actual), North - Khobhari Sah, South - 21 feet Wide Kachcha Road, East - Bishwanath Singh, West - 31 feet Wide	Property 1 - Rs. 9,92,000/- Rs. 99,200/- Property 2 - Rs. 24,25,000/- Rs. 2,42,500/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0001737
8	Sasaram Branch Mob. 8651488414	M/s Mishra Enterprises, Prop. Santosh Kumar Mishra Address : Vill - Budhua, PO - Raipurchore, PS - Shivsagar, Dist - Rohtas, Bihar - 821123, Mr. Santosh Kumar Mishra, (Proprietor Cum Mortgagor) S/o Late Mahendra Mishra, Address : Vill + PO - Raipurchore, PS - Shivsagar, Dist. - Rohtas, Bihar - 821123	Rs. 27,69,722.00 as on 06.02.2024 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Emt of Residential Property Situated At Mauza - Budhua, Thana No. - 380, Khata No. - 23, Survey Plot No. - 20 Me, Halka No. - 07, Dist. - Rohtas, Bihar in the name of Sri Santosh Kumar Mishra Son of Late Mahendra Mishra, Total Extent Of Area - 15 Decimil. Boundary (Actual) - North - Vacant Plot, South - Ramsagar Bind, East - Road, West - Vacant Plot	Rs. 11,72,000/- Rs. 1,17,200/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002315

Last Date of EMD 08.03.2024 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank



Celebrating 76 Years Of Independence

Land Of Endless Opportunities

Sri Lanka's commitment to open trade makes the island nation one of the most promising business destinations in Asia

Sri Lanka's central location in the Indian Ocean, straddling trade routes from the East to the West, made it a popular trading hub in ancient times and acts the same today. Sri Lanka's export sector is led by dynamic business leaders who are steadfastly committed to safeguarding the island's reputation as a reliable supplier in the international marketplace. Sri Lanka's export sector is mainly comprised of merchandise exports and export of services.

Sri Lanka has entered into Free Trade Agreements with India, Pakistan, Singapore, and Thailand. Additionally, the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) between India and Sri Lanka and the China-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (CSLFTA) are two proposed trade agreements which will be signed soon.

India is the third largest export destination for Sri Lanka. The total export value from Sri Lanka to India was USD 829.7 million in 2023 and total imports from India to Sri Lanka for the same period were USD 3,171.78 million. India is the first import origin for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's main export products to India in 2023 were animal feed, pepper, areca nuts, petroleum oils, non-alcoholic beverages, insulated wires & cables, cloves, pulp of wood, waste & scrap of paper and paper boards. Its main import products from India in 2023 were sugars, sugar confectionery & bakery products, pharmaceutical products, knitted fabrics, woven fabrics, yarn, chillies, and paper & paper products.

Apparel is Sri Lanka's major merchandise export to the world. It has three decades of experience and it strongly promotes ethical working conditions, free of child & forced labour, discrimination, and sweatshop practices. A flagship green destination, Sri Lanka is the only outsourced apparel manufacturing country in Asia which complies with EU GSP+. It boasts three top-rated apparel companies amongst the world's 50 most important suppliers.

Sri Lanka prides itself on manufacturing several value-added rubber products by processing raw rubber. This range of rubber products made in Sri Lanka is internationally acclaimed and accepted for quality and durability.

Sri Lanka is also an emerging ICT/BPM hub. Its Island of Ingenuity (IOI) brand has rapidly gained fame for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Business Process Management (BPM). Sri Lanka's ICT/BPM sector is progressively contributing to the Global Value Chain while



Tea is Sri Lanka's biggest export

the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka is blessed with a large fishing ground filled with the most delicious bounties of the Indian Ocean.

In place of the customary processed food products that are high in sugar, salt and fat, Sri Lankan processed food and beverages are mainly based on natural fruits, vegetables, and cereals like rice and millet that are naturally gluten-free. Sri Lankan processed food and beverage sector covers a wide range of products including coconut, vegetables, and fruit-based products, concentrates and juices, semi-cooked food, confectionery, bakery products, ready-to-serve food, beverages, animal feed, and preparations of cereals and flour.

Sri Lanka's agricultural practices, agro-industries, and manufacturing companies have expanded their product range to meet global quality standards in processing, packaging and green manufacturing. Certifications include ISO Standards, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), USDA Organic, Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS), 'Halal' certification, and 'Kosher' certification.

Historically, Sri Lanka was attractive to the Western nations for its spice riches. Today, it exports the most sought-after cinnamon, pepper, cloves, cardamoms, nutmeg, mace and vanilla. These spices grow in abundance all over the island in fertile and diverse soil types and varying temperature conditions. In addition, Sri Lanka also supplies a range of essential oils and oleoresins derived from homegrown spices. Sri Lanka is also the only supplier of true cinnamon to the world.

All tea grown in Sri Lanka is now 100% ozone-friendly. This is a distinction which no other tea-producing nation can boast. All Ceylon Tea is entitled to bear the new 'Ozone Friendly Pure Ceylon Tea' logo, certifying that it has been produced without the use of any ozone-depleting substances.

Sri Lanka is virtually a 'Treasure Island', enriched with an astonishing range of vividly coloured gemstones. These were positioned amongst the priceless exhibits in the Royal Museum of Great Britain. A precious and enticing spectrum of Blue Sapphires, Star Sapphires, Rubies, Star Rubies, Alexandrite, Spinel, Cat's Eyes, Garnets, Zircons, and Tourmalines of unsurpassed quality and quantities have been dotingly delivered in an uninterrupted continuum since the biblical days of Solomon & Sheba to this date from the gem rich soil of the phenomenally blessed island nation.

WHY INVEST IN SRI LANKA

- 1st Port in South Asia - Colombo Port (WB, S&P Mkt. Intelligence 2022)
- 1st South Asian country to trial 5G technology in 2022
- Best Transshipment Hub in South Asia
- Boasts the safest cities for women travelling alone (Women Solo Travel Index 2022)
- Ranked 17th in Top 20 Places to Travel (Readers' Choice 2022)

serving many Fortune 500 companies in the world.

The inherent uniqueness of Sri Lanka's Electrical & Electronics industry is its ability to provide end-to-end delivery of products and services. Electrical & Electronics manufacturers and service providers in Sri Lanka, at present operate within the domains of Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS), Electrical & Electronics Component Manufacturing, Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM), and Design Services, coupled with R&D.

Endowed with delicious seafood as a tiny island surrounded by

Heaven On Earth

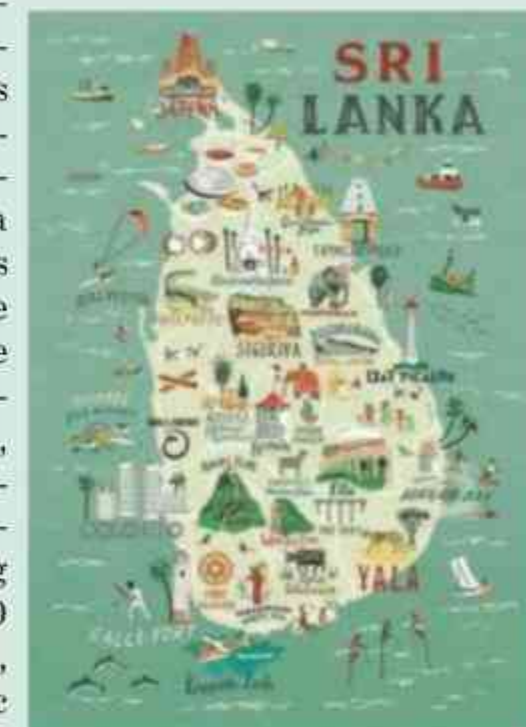
On February 4, 2024, Sri Lanka unfurled its 76th Independence Day celebrations, highlighting the country's multitude of travel and holiday options to visitors from across the world.

This island nation which resembles a teardrop in the Indian Ocean, offers everything the modern traveller seeks -

from golden sun-kissed beaches to numerous picturesque locations. Here is a land that houses some of the world's more sought-after natural resources, cultural wonders and heritage sites dating back to 2,500 years. Besides, its exotic wildlife, adrenaline-inducing adventures and delectable culinary trails are guaranteed to liven up the experience of any holiday seeker.

Despite the many challenges the past years have posed, be it social, cultural or political, Sri Lanka Tourism, the apex body responsible for promoting the destination globally and enhancing its tourism offerings, has forged ahead with plans to ensure the industry is sustained. The administration has done everything in its capacity to ensure revenue generation. As the National Tourism Organisation, it has contributed in many ways to promote Sri Lanka as one of the best tourist destinations in the world, by conducting global campaigns, participating in overseas travel and trade fairs, hosting international journalists and initiating new projects to attract global travellers.

It has been a difficult journey, but as a result of the relentless promotional efforts, Sri Lanka Tourism together with the industry stakeholders has achieved its target of bringing the maximum number of tourists to Sri Lanka in 2023, capping a perfect year. It now aims to double these numbers in 2024. Touché!



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Growth, the way
it is meant to be.

We have consciously extended
our scale beyond our businesses,
to help the country overcome
economic challenges; to ensure people
live a good quality of life, uninterrupted.
We believe scale can lead to
goodness, and this is what drives us to
growth. Because, the more we grow,
the more lives we can touch.



PROTESTERS WERE FROM 140 VILLAGES IN NOIDA, GREATER NOIDA

Farmers protest at Delhi-Noida border, leave after assurance

Panel to look into demand for higher compensation on land acquired

DHEERAJ MISHRA NOIDA, FEBRUARY 8

FOLLOWING THE call by three farmer organisations to march to the Parliament, hundreds of farmers of Noida and Greater Noida from around 140 villages in the state came together to protest against the Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Authority, and the Uttar Pradesh government, for allegedly not accepting their demands related to compensation for their land.

Though the farmers had planned to walk up to the Parliament in the Capital, they were stopped by Noida Police at Dalit Prerana Sthal. Following talks with the police and representatives of the Gautam Buddha Nagar administration, the stir, which started around 1 pm, was called off after around six hours even as farmers said they will continue their protest at their respective places in Noida and Greater Noida.

Among assurances given to the farmers were formation of a high-powered committee to look into their issues, and a meeting with the police commissioner later in the day. "A high-powered committee has been formed, where all the farmer issues related to Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Authority will be discussed in detail," Sukhbir Khalifa of Bharatiya Kisan Parishad, one of the organisations leading the protest, said. The other organisations were Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Sangathan and Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha. The committee would comprise an MP, an MLA, CEOs of all three authorities, NTPC CMD, and the Industrial Development minister. On the meeting with the police commissioner, Rupesh Verma, district president of Kisan Sabha, said, "The meeting has completely failed and re-

mained inconclusive. In the end, it was decided that another round of meetings with CEOs of three authorities will be held."

The protest also created a huge traffic jam in the city, especially on the roads leading to Delhi with the police installing barriers at all the borders connecting Noida with the Capital.

'Not left with any land'

Subodh Yadav, 34, who joined the protest, said his 12 bigha land, which was in his father's name, was acquired in 2013 by the Greater Noida Authority, which gave him a 6% developed plot as compensation. "It has been around seven years since we have been fighting but we are yet to get the additional 4% plot. Hum kisi se kuchh maang nahi rahe hain, ye hamara haq hai (We are not asking for anything, except what is rightfully ours). After fighting for years in court, they gave us an additional 64.7% compensation. On my land, Gaur city and Amrapali housing societies have been developed while we are here on the road," said Yadav, a resident of Itaihdavillage.

Surender Kasana, 43, resident of Badauli village, said around 70 Bigha of land of his family, belonging to his father and three uncles, was acquired by the Noida Authority in 2007. However, he is yet to get additional compensation and 10% plot. "Now, we do not have any land left. I have two children. How will I take care of them?" said Kasana.

A Noida authority official said the demands were discussed in previous meetings and were forwarded to the government.

"The board discussed both the major demands of the farmers, which is 10% developed plot and additional compensation, in its earlier meetings and the proposal has been forwarded to the UP government to take a final call..." said the official.



During the protest in Noida on Thursday. Cajendra Yadav

Protest leads to traffic snarls on several stretches, commuters stuck for hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOIDA, FEBRUARY 8

TRAFFIC IN the national capital crawled for hours, with commuters complaining of congestion, inadequate arrangements, and police restrictions on arterial routes between Noida and Greater Noida amidst the farmers' proposed march to the Parliament on Thursday.

Though police denied any congestion in the district, commuters claimed to have witnessed restrictions on Pari Chowk, service lanes along the Noida Expressway, and various sectors on route leading to the Mahamaya flyover near the Uttar Pradesh-Delhi border — where the march was contained by security personnel, spilled over across Gautam Buddha Nagar.

"The Kalindi Kunj border witnessed major traffic issues. All other Delhi borders did not face heavy congestion. However, because we had diverted the traffic already, it did not create major congestion at other places within the city. The traffic police had issued an advisory, so commuters took that into account," said Anil Kumar Yadav, DCP (Traffic).

Commuters who ended up spending hours in the crawling traffic, however, complained of "evident mismanagement" by the



A massive traffic snarl on the DND Expressway on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

Noida traffic police. "Instead of effectively managing and regulating the vehicles of protesting farmers, police blocked access to the Noida Expressway at many points on the service lanes connecting residential areas to it," Jyoti Singh, a corporate employee who resides in Greater Noida and works in Noida, complained. "Police personnel standing

next to UP public buses, heavy machinery, and barricades had no answer when asked which route drivers should take to reach Noida. I had to drive via Greater Noida West, and travelled for over two hours to reach work, which usually takes 45 minutes," she said. Shashi Kaushik, a resident of a high-rise in Sector 137 along the Noida Expressway, also com-

plained of heavy congestion due to "poor" traffic mismanagement. "The exit points of service lanes were randomly restricted, and there was chock-a-block traffic for several hours between the Amity University and Mahamaya flyover," he alleged. "No police officers were present to regulate the bumper-to-bumper congestion, which was made worse by two-

wheelers... Many even took the wrong side to head back towards Pari Chowk on the Expressway."

The Delhi traffic police, meanwhile, said that heavy traffic was witnessed on the DND, Chilla, and Ghazipur borders; as Sarita Vihar in South Delhi witnessed several vehicles heading towards Noida through Kalindi Kunj getting stuck for hours.

WHAT ARE THE FARMERS DEMANDING

The farmers in Noida and Greater Noida, whose lands were acquired for various projects, have three major demands:

10 PER CENT OF THE DEVELOPED PLOT: The protesting farmers are demanding 10% of residential plots for their families on the developed land as compensation for their land acquired by the authorities for different developmental projects. Currently, the Noida Authority grants the farmers 5% plot of the total acquired land, while the Greater Noida Authority gives them 6%, and Yamuna Authority 7% plot as land acquisition compensation.

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION: Farmers are demanding additional monetary compensation on the basis of 2011 Allahabad High Court order, where a full bench had decided the Writ Petition by upholding the acquisition with regard to several villages of Noida and Greater Noida and directed additional compensation of 64.7% to the farmers whose lands had been acquired by the Noida and Greater Noida authorities. The order of the Allahabad HC was later upheld by the Supreme Court.

JOBS: Farmers are also demanding jobs and medical facilities for their families along with permission for commercial use of allotted plots. This, especially, is in terms of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) over the land it acquired from them in the 1980s, to set up a power project in Dabri.

-DHEERAJ MISHRA

Posing as passenger, cop nabs pickpocket at station

ARNABJIT SUR NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8



Accused at the railway station's ticket line.

ON FEBRUARY 7, a man stood in the ticket line of the Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, his mobile phone peeking out of his back pocket. A 23-year-old man spotted it, placed himself behind the passenger, and reached out to grab the device. Next he knew, the pickpocket was overpowered by another man standing right behind. What he didn't know, though, was that the passenger that he was trying to target was a policeman and the mobile phone, abait to catch him. The person behind was another cop.

Head Constable Surjeet and Constable Pritam came up with the idea when an ITBP Constable, T Samuel, approached police alleging he was robbed of his phone while trying to board a train. The two cops had been camping at the station for a week as part of their drive to catch

pickpockets. Officers said at least four incidents of theft of cell-phones had been reported near the lift of the station.

When Samuel approached the police Wednesday, his phone's location showed that the device was present on the premises of the station. Surjeet then kept his phone in his back pocket. "The accused spotted it and headed to the ticket counter while Pritam followed him. After five minutes, he jumped the queue and took away Surjeet's phone, moments after which Pritam overpowered him," said another officer.

DCP (Railways) KPS Malhotra said the accused was identified as Shabad, originally a resident of Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.

MCD passes Rs 16,000-crore budget

Decision was taken amid chaos during its second presentation on Thursday

SAMAN HUSAIN NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE MUNICIPAL Corporation of Delhi (MCD) passed its budget for the financial year 2024-25, totalling Rs 16,000 crore, amidst chaos during its second presentation on Thursday.

The House session witnessed disruptions from the opposition BJP councillors, with Mayor Shelly Oberoi passing the budget in the absence of MCD Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti. In the previous financial year 2022-23, the corporation had recorded an income of Rs 9,506.58 crore. For the upcoming fiscal year, the corporation anticipates an increase in the tax collection, aided by geo-tagging of properties, with an aim to hit a Rs 2,000-crore boost.

In addition to revenue from property tax, revenues from car parking, advertisement, and trade

licensing is also expected to rise. Meanwhile, claiming that the budget was passed through an "illegal passage" in the absence of the Commissioner, a Delhi BJP delegation submitted a memorandum to L-G V K Saxena.

The Delhi government's contribution to the MCD for teachers' salaries is set to increase to Rs 1,500 crore — reflecting a slight uptick from the previous year. The health department's budget has also seen an increase, focusing on improving MCD hospitals to align with the Delhi government standards. A substantial allocation is earmarked for sanitation in the upcoming fiscal year, with an aim to tackle long-standing garbage issues.

Efforts include the deployment of vacuum-based battery-operated cleaning machines as well as plans for waste management. Furthermore, initiatives to improve air quality through the promotion of e-vehicles and

charging stations are also on the agenda. There are provisions for road improvement projects worth Rs 1,000 crore, along with a 100-time increase in the Mayor's discretionary. Additionally, Rs 15 crore was allocated for the maintenance and construction of gau sadans for the welfare of cows.

To enhance transparency, the MCD plans transition from a single-entry accounting system to a double-entry one, along with efforts to digitise all transactions. Special provisions for repairing corporation buildings and addressing road safety concerns, including dark spots, have also been outlined. The corporation aims to incentivise the councillor's attendance with a proposed allowance of Rs 25,000 per House meeting, while allocating Rs 10 crore for the purpose.

The MCD plans doorstep delivery of government services and revenue-generating measures such as renting school play-

grounds and auctioning illegal parking sites. Utilisation of AI for maintaining roads, monitoring garbage, and managing parking areas are part of the budgetary initiatives. These include using AI for prompt road cleaning and equipping parking spaces with FASTags, and a new app for parking areas.

"Today, we passed the budget amidst the ruckus created by BJP councillors... Our biggest achievement is there has been no change in the budget presented by the MCD Commissioner," said Oberoi.

The initial proposal for the budget was put forth by the Commissioner during the Special Budget Meeting of the House on December 8 last year.

The budget presentation was labeled as the "Commissioner's and officers' budget"; and in response, leaders of the AAP-led MCD had pledged to conduct over 200 meetings to gather public opinions and input for the final budget.

'GREEN AREAS ARE LUNGS OF CITY' HC disposes of plea to stop demolition, says no illegal structure on public land

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

"RIGHT TO health, right to breathe, and right to heritage and culture have to be harmonised and balanced," said the Delhi High Court on Thursday, while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), seeking directions to authorities including the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to desist from demolishing the 'Ashiq Allah Dargah', including the 'Baba Farid' chillagah and other nearby historical monuments, in Mehrauli or Sanjay Van.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said in the order, "This Court is of the view that undoubtedly life in its expanded horizons includes all that gives meaning to a man's life, including his culture and heritage, and the protection of that heritage in its full measure.

However, this Court takes judicial notice of the fact that Delhi is one of the cities that are worst affected by pollution..." It said Mehrauli and Sanjay Van are marked as "green/forest areas" in the city's Master Plan, adding that green areas are the "lungs of the city", and all statutory authorities have to put in efforts to ensure that "no illegal or unauthorised construction is carried out on this public land".

The HC, after examining photos in PIL, said that it was apparent that some of the structures located in the midst of thick forest have been "renovated recently, and are occupied by certain families".

The petitioners' counsel argued that the area where the Ashiq Allah Dargah is, has been barricaded by police as well as public access has been restricted... raising "serious apprehension of its impending demolition". He argued "the dargahs and surrounding monuments ought to be protected".

At Garden of Five Senses, pre-wedding shoots in comfort soon

GAYATHRIMANI NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

FULLY FURNISHED changing rooms, makeup rooms that will accommodate five-six persons each with attached washrooms, a common room and a drawing room — the Garden of Five Senses in Delhi's Chhatrapur will soon get a mega revamp, in a bid to make an exclusive facility to promote pre-wedding, bridal, and other kinds of film shooting.

A senior official said that the Garden is one of the popular destinations for "pre-wedding photoshoots" in the Capital. "On an average, we see two to five

pre-wedding shoots and filming every day. This goes beyond 10 during the peak wedding season, especially in winter — between October and March-end... Shooting for web series, short films, documentaries, and feature films also take place. But, there is no proper changing room for brides at present," said the official.

To ensure that women are safe, the department will also develop a dedicated 1,500-square-foot (approximately) facility for bridal shoots. According to officials, the air-conditioned facility will be fully furnished with sofa, chair, and table sets.

"At present, women struggle to change clothes... The plan has



The Garden of Five Senses in Delhi's Chhatrapur. Express

been proposed. So, keeping in view their comfort and safety...

Wedding shooting is not done in Dilli Haat as it is mainly a place for

ALL ABOUT THE PLAN

What is the plan? To promote garden as a venue of pre-wedding photoshoots, shooting of webseries and films

How many shoots will be allowed in a day? Five to 10 on an average, can exceed during peak seasons

What's more in store? A facility for staycation and a guest room

shopping, but the department has planned to develop a fully fur-

nished babysitting room..." said the official, adding that tenders have been floated with the project cost at Rs 40-50 lakh (approximately).

The Delhi Tourism department plans redevelopment of the Garden along the lines of the Singapore-model gardens and parks, with cafes and restaurants, guest rooms, and staycation facilities to promote ecotourism and increase the footfall of tourists as well as locals. "The revamping plan is almost ready, and will soon be submitted for administrative and financial approval..." said the official.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Authorities working at ground level, all failed us: Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday said that despite "multi-disciplinary jurisdiction" of the city's civic authorities, it is troubled over their failure to prevent "unauthorised construction" at a sealed property near centrally protected monuments Nizamuddin ki Baoli and Barakhamba Tomb.

The HC was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) moved by an NGO, Jamia Arabia Nizamia Welfare Education Society, claiming that "illegal and unauthorised construction" is underway at

Khasra number 556 Ziyarat guest house' near the baoli (stepwell). During the hearing, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said, "We are troubled by the fact that the DDA, MCD, Delhi Police, and ASI have all not risen to the occasion. With so many authorities working at the ground level, they have all failed us... We will bring in an independent investigative agency and it will examine it." ENS

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



HERE AND THERE
THE SUPREME Court's seven-judge constitution bench hearing sub-classification of Scheduled Castes witnessed some lighter moments this week when Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud asked a lawyer as to which side he was appearing for, petitioners or respondents. The counsel replied, "I am partly on this side and partly on the other side." "So you are neither here nor there," quipped Justice B R Gavai. Matters didn't end there as the CJ upon noting the tone of the lawyer's submissions said he seemed to have opened the batting for the respondents. The court was still hearing the petitioners when the lawyer took his chance. Responding to the CJ's statement, the counsel said, "But my name is included in the list of petitioners."

'LICENCE' TO STUDY
THE CENTRE for Policy Research (CPR), which has been in the Ministry of Home Affairs' crosshairs for over a year for allegedly violating foreign funding rules, has been roped in by another ministry to evaluate one of its flagship missions. Along with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), the CPR is studying the functioning of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) of Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. When questioned by a House panel on whether it had done any evaluation of the SPV model, the ministry said it had commissioned the CPR and NIUA study. The study is expected to be completed by March. Recently, the MHA had cancelled The think tank's FCRA licence, cutting off its ability to receive foreign funds.

No room for divisions in India's unity in diversity, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8
PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday said there was no place for divisions in India's mantra of unity in diversity and that "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" was a spiritual belief. "We have harnessed our strength and diversity, transforming every corner of the country into a powerhouse of progress. As Shri Krishna teaches us - I am the soul seated in the hearts of all living beings - emphasising the unity that lies within the diversity of our nation. This unity in diversity is ingrained so deeply in the Indian psyche that the notion of division finds no place within it. For the world, a nation may represent a political ideology, but for India, 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' is a spiritual belief," the PM said. He was addressing the 150th birth anniversary of Acharya Sri Prabhupada, the founder of Gaudiya Mission that propagates the teachings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. For the next 25 years, till the 100th year of Independence in 2047, he said the country would work with development and heritage in harmony.

Cabinet approves Rs 6,000-crore fishery scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8
THE CENTRE on Thursday approved the "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sahajojana (PM-MKSSY)". A decision to this effect was taken by the Union Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The PM-MKSSY is a central sector sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada for formalisation of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises. Under PM-MKSSY, an investment of over Rs 6,000 crore will be done over a period of next four years from financial year 2023-24 to 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said this is an attempt in the direction of formalisation of the fisheries sector. Under this initiative, a National Fisheries Digital Platform will be created to provide 40 lakh small and micro-enterprises work-based identities. The Cabinet also approved extension of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another three years up to 2025-26 within the already approved fund size of Rs 7,522.48 crore and budgetary support of Rs 939.48 crore. The Union Cabinet also approved the proposal for signing of three Bilateral MoUs by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) with Financial Services Commission Mauritius (FSC Mauritius), Capital Markets Authority, State of Kuwait (CMA Kuwait) and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). In a separate decision, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved six projects of the Ministry of Railways with a cost of Rs 12,343 crore with 100% funding from the Centre.

RLD-NDA deal 'almost final': SP says BJP knows how to buy parties

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 8

WITH CONSENSUS yet to be reached with the Samajwadi Party (SP) on details of seat-sharing in Uttar Pradesh, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is moving closer to joining the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the coming days, sources within the party told *The Indian Express* on Thursday. The BJP, party insiders said, was offering it four Lok Sabha constituencies, a Union ministry, and two state ministries. If the RLD jumps ship, it will be a major blow to the Opposition INDIA alliance in UP at a time when the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) are also attempting to resolve differences over seat-sharing. A senior RLD leader said, "Things have been almost finalised between us and the BJP. The formal announcement may happen soon, perhaps in a day or two." An RLD leader also provided details of the seat-sharing arrangement. "The BJP is giving us four seats for the Lok Sabha polls, one



SP president Akhilesh Yadav and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary had announced to contest 7 Lok Sabha seats together in UP.

Union ministry, and two state ministers in UP. There are some issues on some seats but they will be worked out. One of the seats they are refusing to give us is Muzaffarnagar. That, too, will be worked out," the leader said. Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan has been representing Muzaffarnagar in the Lok Sabha since 2014. Sources in the BJP also confirmed progress in the talks between the two parties. A senior BJP leader in Delhi said, "Our party is offering them Baghat, Mathura, Hathras, and Amroha. The party leadership has refused to give them Muzaffarnagar and Kairana. We are even offering Bijnor and Saharanpur." If the RLD quits the INDIA alliance, it will further weaken the beleaguered alliance in UP. Last month, SP president Akhilesh Yadav announced that the RLD would be allotted seven constituencies as part of a seat-sharing arrangement but the lack of clarity about which constituencies the party would get had created a sense of uncertainty in party ranks. SP insiders had earlier said that the RLD would get Baghat, Kairana, Mathura, Hathras, and Fatehpur Sikri while discussions were on for Muzaffarnagar,

Meerut, Bijnor, and Amroha. RLD leaders said there had been issues over the SP wanting its leaders to contest some of these seven seats on their symbol. Among these seats was Kairana, where the SP wanted to field Iqra Hasan, the sister of SP MLA Nahid Hasan. In Varanasi, Akhilesh on Thursday did not provide a clear answer on the future of the SP-RLD partnership. "The BJP knows how to break parties and when to take whom. The BJP also knows how to cheat. You have seen how cheating happened in the recent Chandigarh mayoral elections. The BJP knows how to buy parties. It is not by coincidence that the BJP has become the biggest party. They know where to send ED, CBI, and the IT department," he said. For the last couple of days, there have been reports of RLD leaders meeting the BJP leadership. Amid this, RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary, who was elected Rajya Sabha MP from UP in 2022 with the SP's support, maintained silence. On Wednesday, Akhilesh appeared to dissuade the RLD from joining the NDA.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being felicitated by Chhattisgarh Congress chief Deepak Bajaj and other party leaders at Raigarh on Thursday. PTI

'Modi not OBC by birth': Rahul says PM will never hold caste census

SUJIT BISOYI & JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
BELPAHAR, JHARSUGUDA, RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 8

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Thursday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "lying to the world", saying that Modi was not born into the Other Backward Class (OBC) category. PM Modi will never hold a caste census in the country, he added. "Narendra Modi OBC paida nahi hue the... aap sab logon ka bhayanak bewakoof banaya ja raha hain... Narendra Modi Teli caste main Gujarat main paida hue the... Unki community ko BJP government ne saal 2000 main OBC banaya..." (Narendra Modi was not born as OBC. You are being made a fool. Modi was born in the Teli caste in Gujarat. The BJP government made his community OBC in 2000," Gandhi said, addressing a rally at Belpahar in Odisha's Jharsuguda district during the third day of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the state. He later clarified that Modi belongs to the Modi-Ghanchi caste. The Congress leader also accused the PM of lying about his birth. "I don't need any birth certificate to prove that the Prime Minister was not born as OBC. He never hugs any OBC... never holds hands of any OBC... he never shakes hands with the labourers or farmers. He only holds the hands of Adani ji," Gandhi said. At a time when the Opposition INDIA alliance has decided to push the caste census demand to counter the BJP's

Hindutva narrative, Gandhi said only the Congress would hold a caste census. "He [PM Modi] will not hold a caste census... Because your PM is lying to the world... Only Congress and Rahul Gandhi will hold a caste census," he said. "When I spoke about social justice and caste census, Modi, in his speech said, there were only two castes in the country - one is rich and another is poor. If there are only two castes... which caste do you belong to? You are not poor since you wear new suits 24/7. If there are only two castes, how can you claim yourself as OBC?" Gandhi asked. Stating there are 8% tribals, 15% Dalits and 50-55% OBCs in the country, Gandhi said the media questions him for raising his voice against casteism. "Show me an SC worker heading any of the top 200 companies. Can anyone show me any OBC or Dalit among 90 people who run the country? When 73% of the population does not have proper representation, how can the country unite?" he said. Union minister Pralhad Joshi said the caste was made OBC two years before Modi became Gujarat CM. "Once again, Rahul Gandhi shamelessly peddle falsehoods... Congress insults the OBC community yet again, but OBCs will deliver a resounding lesson in the LS polls," he said on X. On this, Gandhi said on X: "Modi ji is not by birth but a 'paper OBC'. He was not an OBC until five decades after his birth. Thanks to the BJP government for confirming this truth of mine," he said, while sharing a news report to back his claim.

Telis notified under Cong's Gujarat govt: BJP

PARIMAL DABHI & LEENA MISRA
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 8

CONGRESS MP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday found himself in another row during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra's Odisha leg by claiming Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "not born an OBC", prompting a sharp retort from the Centre. "He was born a Teli, which was in the general category, and it was the BJP which included them in the OBC category in 2000," the Wayanad MP said, later revising it to say Modi was a "Modh Ghanchi" in Chhattisgarh. "Modi ji was not born OBC. Modi is from Modh Ghanchi caste in Gujarat and the state government gave it OBC status in 2000. Your Prime Minister (Modi) was not of OBC caste. He was from general caste. For 24 hours, he says he is OBC but Modi ji you are not OBC, you are from general caste," Rahul said. Accusing Modi of "fooling the people", he said this was why his government was not in favour of a nationwide caste census as it was essentially meant to determine the real proportion of different castes and groups.

Who are Telis in Gujarat?

According to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), members of the Teli community in Gujarat are oil millers by occupation and are involved in the traditional craft of "tel ghani (oil extraction)". On July 25, 1994, Gujarat government led by Congress's Chief Minister Chhabildas Mehta had issued a resolution while adding the Ghanchi community among the list of Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs). Another resolution of the Gujarat government - dated June 20, 1995, places the Teli and Modh Ghanchi communities at number 25A in the list while the Ghanchi (Muslims) are placed at number 25. "From now on, as per the SEBC list, caste certificates should be issued as per entry 25 - Ghanchi (Muslim) or as per entry 25A - Teli and Modh Ghanchi (Hindu)," the 1995 government resolution states. Following the recommendations of the NCBC, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment amended the Central list and added the Telis and Modh

Bench of the NCBC was held in Ahmedabad in August 1997 to include Telis and 16 others sub-castes, including the Modh Ghanchis in the Central list of OBCs. The Teli community, represented by general secretary of the Gujarat State Tailik Sahu Mahasabha, NS Chaudhari, submitted that the Telis and Modh Ghanchis were not included in the Central list on the basis of the "principle of commonality", as they found a place in the Mandal list, but Ghanchi (Muslims) featured in both.

"Those present at the public hearing not only did not object to the inclusion of Teli and Modh Ghanchi as synonyms of Ghanchi (Muslim) in the Central list of OBCs but also supported it," the NCBC noted and recommended the inclusion of the Teli community in the list with retrospective effect from the date when the reservation for backward classes came into effect - September 8, 1993. Following the recommendations of the NCBC, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment amended the Central list and added the Telis and Modh

Ghanchis to it in October 1999, around the time the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government led by the BJP came to power. The following year, the list was further amended to include the Teli Sahu, Teli Rathods and Teli Rathos. Currently, the Central list of OBCs features 104 communities from Gujarat.

BJP response to Rahul

The Central government issued a short note titled "facts regarding Rahul Gandhi's statement on PM's caste", in which it said the Modh Ghanchi caste was included in Gujarat's list of socially and economically backward classes and OBCs. The note added that the notification to include the sub-group in the list of OBCs was issued on July 25, 1994 - when the state was helmed by the Congress. "The same sub-group was included (in) OBC (list) as per a government notification dated April 4, 2000. When both notifications were released, Shri Narendra Modi was not in power, and was not holding an executive office at the time," the Centre's response said. Modi assumed charge as the CM of Gujarat in 2001, a post he held till 2014 when he became the Prime Minister.

'Not on warpath... but there's discrimination against Opp-ruled states, especially Kerala'

IN DELHI with his entire Cabinet and LDF MLAs and MPs to protest against the Centre over its fiscal policy towards states, Kerala Chief Minister and CPI(M) Politburo member PINARAYI VIJAYAN talks to LIZ MATHEW about why his government was forced to take this step and why he sees no contradictions in the Left's alliance with the Congress in INDIA. Excerpts:



The Left has always been on the warpath against the Union government and BJP. But this time the state's entire ruling apparatus led by you was in Delhi to protest. You have also moved the SC against 'discrimination' by the Centre.
We are not on any warpath, we have cooperated effectively on various developmental projects and welfare schemes. At the same time, we have some serious concerns about the discrimination and injustice being meted out to Kerala, especially with regard to our finances. It is not just Kerala, all Opposition-ruled states are facing such trouble. Ours is probably the severest. We have raised them (the issues) through various means, but they have fallen on deaf ears. That is why we had to approach the Supreme Court. **There is a criticism that your protest was political and the real intention was to divert attention from mishandling of the state economy.** If that was the case, why did the government of Karnataka also protest? Why is it that several states have approached the Supreme Court on issues related to their finances and administration? We have come out in protest after trying everything else. We wrote to the Union... the FM was briefed in person. The PM was notified officially. Despite trying for

Opposition in Kerala isn't interested in standing for state...

Do you think people will accept your proposition of fighting the Congress in Kerala and aligning with them elsewhere?

During UPA-I, we had provided outside support to the government on the basis of a common minimum programme. We have always stood for the interest of the country. In the all-India scenario, the Sangh Parivar and BJP are furthering their communal agenda without addressing issues of people's lives and livelihoods. They are anti-Constitution. They are trying to weaken all its values, especially secularism and federalism, and ultimately our democracy. So, they have to be defeated. Accordingly democratic and secular parties have to come together...

Federalism is common concern of Opposition. Given your long administrative experience, how do you view the Centre-state relations under Narendra Modi?

Those who wax eloquent about cooperative federalism (BJP) have tried to undercut the devolution of funds to states by influencing the Finance Commission (FC). The Terms of Reference of FCs are determined by the Union government. States' opinions and suggestions are not taken into account. At the same time, we are seeing the Union government amassing funds by hiking cess and surcharge which are not shared with the states as they do not fall in the divisible pool. Yet, the Union government's allocation for its own schemes is coming down year after year, with states forced to shell out more from their cash-strapped pockets... Essentially we should have a strong Union and empowered

states. Kerala is doing its fair share in making the Union strong by contributing massively by way of bringing in much-needed foreign exchange... The NRKs (Non-Resident Keralites) too fetch foreign exchange. Despite our contributions... we are being discriminated against.

BJP always speaks of rampant use of Article 356, including against the first Left govt in Kerala led by E M S Namboodiripad. Do you see Modi govt as more considerate?

Subsequent to the Supreme Court's verdict in the S R Bommai vs Union of India, it is not that easy to invoke Article 356. However, the current ruling dispensation does not have to use Article 356. They are able to topple elected governments through horse-trading... Is altering people's verdict the definition of being considerate? They abrogated Article 370. They make governors dance to their tune in Opposition-ruled states.

Your daughter is facing serious charges.

All through, there have been a slew of allegations against leaders of the Left. Not a single one has come true, because in the Left are central agencies at his beck and call... his agencies are not able to find anything concrete.

Your govt's relations with Governor Arif Mohammad Khan? Have they reached a point of no return?

The issue is not isolated to Kerala. It affects the whole country, especially its federal character. We cannot allow Indian democracy which was envisaged as a 'Union of States' to be crippled into an undemocratic 'Union over States'. FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

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EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(₹ in crores except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended
	31.12.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
	Un-audited	Un-audited	Un-audited
Total income from operations	6,366.09	20,654.63	6,442.79
Net profit for the period before tax and exceptional items	513.35	1,965.29	977.43
Net profit for the period before tax and after exceptional items	513.35	1,965.29	977.43
Net profit for the period after tax and exceptional items	374.13	1,448.96	694.54
Total comprehensive income for the period (after tax) (attributable to owners of the Company)	355.36	1,389.59	684.96
Equity share capital	480.62	480.62	480.62
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)			10,529.38 (as at 31.03.2023)
Earnings per share (of ₹ 10/- each)			
Basic (₹)	7.49	29.19	14.24
Diluted (₹)	7.49	29.19	14.24

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS
(₹ in crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended	Nine months ended	Quarter ended
	31.12.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
	Un-audited	Un-audited	Un-audited
Total income from operations	4,680.77	15,170.37	4,867.24
Net profit for the period before tax and exceptional items	521.70	1,825.51	986.11
Net profit for the period before tax and after exceptional items	521.70	1,825.51	986.11
Net profit for the period after tax and exceptional items	383.74	1,354.51	694.94
Total comprehensive income for the period (after tax)	379.91	1,343.04	695.16

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the same, along with the notes, are available on the websites of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and also on the Company's website at www.torrentpower.com.

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: February 08, 2024

8 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

52-PAGE DOCUMENT ECHOES RAHUL YATRA THEMES

Cong 'black paper' flags Modi govt's economic, social, political 'injustice'

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

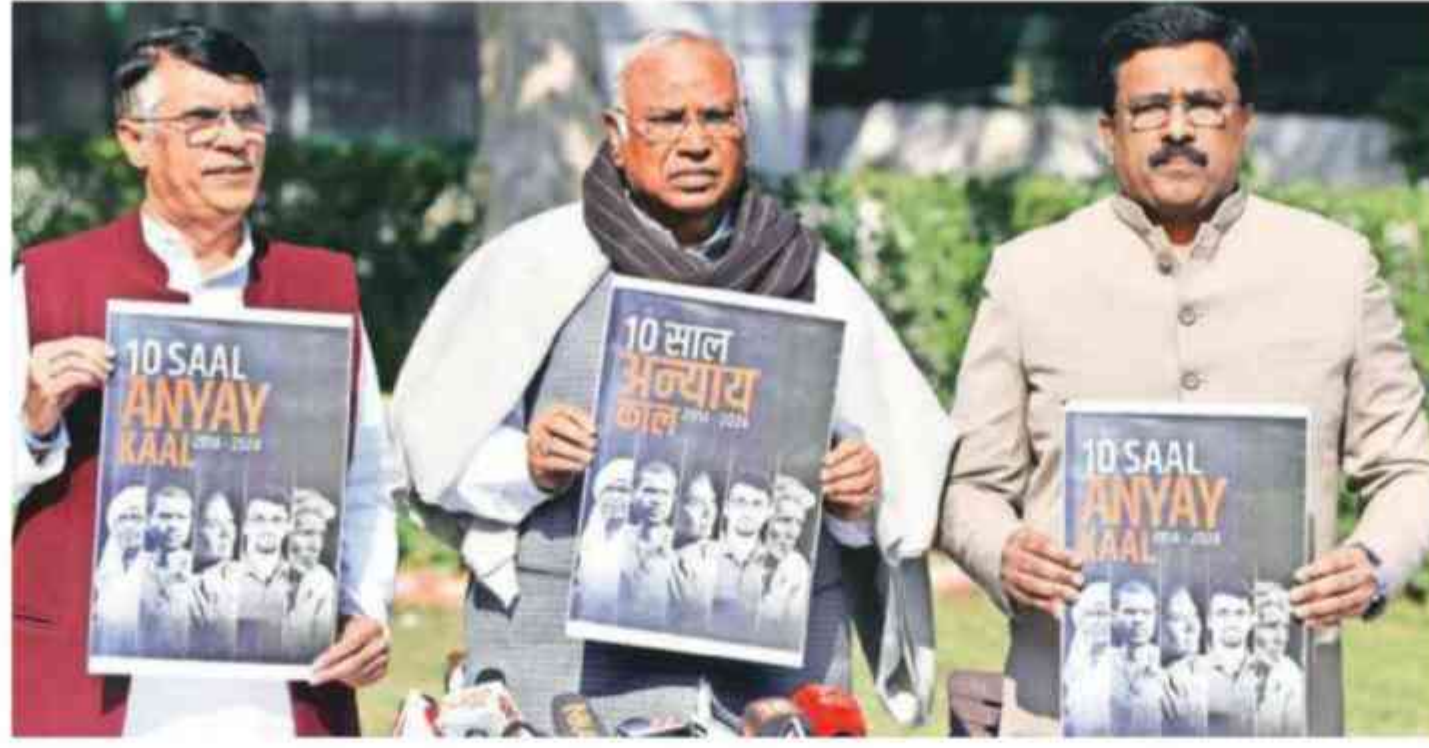
AS THE Government mounted yet another offensive on the Congress party by tabling in Parliament a white paper on "mismanagement" of the economy in the UPA era, the main opposition party hit back, calling it a "laughable" attempt to hide the "dark truth" of the BJP-led Centre's failures.

Hours earlier, the party released what it said was a "black paper" on the Narendra Modi government's tenure, accusing it of having "devastated" the economy, "aggravated" unemployment and "committed grave injustices" against minorities.

As the white paper came out, there was silence in the opposition INDIA bloc. Social media posts by senior Congress leaders K C Venugopal and Abhishek Singhvi were perhaps the only response by the grand old party.

"A White Paper to hide the dark truth. Laughable that after a decade in power, the BJP comes out with a White Paper on our performance, because they have no real accomplishments to speak of," Venugopal said.

"Hunger, price rise, unemployment and abject poverty are a lived reality for a vast majority of Indians. That is a Modi-made disaster. No amount of window dressing, campaigns, gimmicks



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with party leader Pawan Khera and MP Nasir Hussain, releases the 'Black Paper' on the Modi Government, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

or lengthy speeches will make that reality disappear," he added.

With Lok Sabha elections around the corner, the thrust of the Congress's "black paper" titled "10 Saal Anyay Kaal 2014-2024 (10 years of injustice)" was on bread and butter issues such as price rise and unemployment.

The 54-page document showcased what the Congress claims was economic, social and political "injustice" committed by the Modi government over the past ten years, and also the spread of social disharmony, "subversion of institutions" and the "compromise of national security".

The themes of the document are similar to Rahul Gandhi's on-going Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. In a jibe over the Congress's move, Modi thanked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for coming out with a "black paper" against his government and referred to it as "kaala teeka" (to ward off the evil eye) in the midst of good work being done by his government.

Releasing the document, Kharge accused Modi of often dwelling into history and talking about Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to hide his government failures. "What have you done to tackle price rise, address

unemployment and double the income of farmers? What happened before Independence, what Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi did... you only talk about irrelevant things," he said.

Keen to corner the government on the issue of unemployment hoping that it will strike a chord with the young voters, the document said total unemployment in the country has risen to 14 crore in 2022 from one crore in 2012. "Ten lakh sanctioned central government posts remain unfilled.... Youth unemployment has more than doubled, from 6 percent in 2011-12

to 15 percent in 2019-20 according to the PLFS data. The unemployment rate for graduates and post graduates is about 33 per cent — one in three are looking unsuccessfully for a job," it said.

"Under the UPA, between 2004-05 and 2011-12 the Indian economy saw the creation of 75 lakh non-farm jobs every year. Between 2013 and 2019, the number of non-farm jobs created was 29 lakh per year, less than half the UPA's rate. After 2019, the number has been even lower according to government data," it said.

Besides, it argued, the Modi government has reversed the structural transformation of the economy. "As economies mature, workers move away from low-paying farm jobs to higher paying jobs in manufacturing and services. The opposite has happened to India under Modi. Modi's policies have forced India's youth back into farming. The number of agricultural workers declined by 6.7 crore between 2004-05 and 2017-18. This entire progress has almost been reversed in three years. In a single year, 2019-20, even before Covid, the number of agricultural workers rose by 3.4 crore. Since 2018-19, the number of agricultural workers has gone up by 6 crore," it said.

The Congress argued that wage growth too has suffered. It said the share of regular salaried workers in total employment, 23.8% in 2019, fell to 20.9% in 2023.

FAREWELL FOR MPs WHO ARE RETIRING

Before Govt White Paper, PM's praise for Manmohan: 'A shining example'



PM Narendra Modi during a farewell for retiring Rajya Sabha MPs on Thursday. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

BIDDING FAREWELL to retiring Rajya Sabha MPs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lavished praise on his predecessor and Congress stalwart Manmohan Singh, calling him a "shining example" and praying that "he continues to guide us".

The rare praise came hours before the Government released a "white paper" on the economy, saying the decade-long UPA rule under the Congress-led UPA — 2004 to 2014, during which Singh was PM — turned India "from a healthy economy in 2004 to a stagnant economy in 2014".

"I would especially like to remember Dr Manmohan Singh ji," Modi said in the House, recalling an incident last year when the former PM, who has been an MP since 1991, came to vote in Rajya Sabha on a wheelchair. "Everyone knew that the Treasury benches would win... but Dr Manmohan Singhji came on a wheelchair and voted. This is the duty of a member of this House and he is a shining example. Even for election of some committee he came in a wheelchair." "It does not matter whom he had come to support, but my belief is that he came to support democracy," Modi said, adding, "I pray for his long life and wish he would continue to guide us."

The farewell, however, witnessed some acrimony too. Former PM HD Deve Gowda took on Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge for his remark that the JD(S) leader had changed his political course in the fag end of his life. "I want to save my party when some of the Congressmen want to destroy it... I have taken the decision to extend my support to BJP. That is the only reason," Deve Gowda said.

While acknowledging Kharge's honesty, Deve Gowda

blamed "some Congress leaders" for the fall of the Congress-JD(S) government in 2019, which was led by his son HD Kumaraswamy. He claimed that despite his suggestion then that Kharge should become the chief minister of Karnataka and not his son, the Congress high command insisted Kumaraswamy be the chief minister. "...within 13 months, who removed him (Kumaraswamy)? Not Kharge but it was the Congress leaders," he said.

Deve Gowda further said, "Mr Kharge, do you want to become the Prime Minister? Will Congress tolerate (it)? Please tell me, I know (the) Congress."

Sixty-eight MPs are retiring between February and May, including Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Narayan Rane, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mansukh Mandaviya, Bhupender Yadav, Parshottam Rupala, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, V Muraleedharan and L Murugan.

In his speech, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said the wisdom shared by the retiring MPs would be missed and their departure would leave a void.

He also paid tributes to five female retirees — Jaya Bachchan, Vandana Chavan, Kanta Kardam, Sonal Mansingh and Ameer Yajnik. All five were on the panel of vice chairpersons.

Leader of the House and Union Minister Piyush Goyal said the Opposition needs to win the hearts of people with their work, increase its numbers and become strong, "but that cannot be the responsibility of the ruling party".

Congress MPs Syed Nasir Hussain, Rajmani Patel, Kumar Ketkar, BJP's Anil Jain, Rakesh Sinha, GVL Narasimha Rao, Samir Oraon, also gave speeches, among others. Ketkar, a former journalist, said he had never seen such a polarised House.

"This polarisation is full of hate," he said.

Govt allocated 22% less funds for MGNREGA in RE for FY24: House panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE FINANCE Ministry allocated 22 per cent less funds for MGNREGA in revised estimates for the current financial year (2023-24), as compared to Rs 1.1 lakh crore sought by the Rural Development Ministry, shows a Parliamentary committee report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The report — "Rural Employment Through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) - An Insight into Wage Rates and Other Matters Relating Thereto" — shows that the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) had sought Rs 1.1 lakh crore for MGNREGA at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage, which was 83% (Rs 50,000 crore) higher as compared to its Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs 60,000 crore for the current financial year. The finance ministry, however, revised it upward to Rs 86,000 crore, which was much lower than the amount sought by the Rural Development Ministry.

Quoting a written submission of the DoRD, the report stated, "There is an allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore at BE stage under MGNREGS for financial year 2023-24. The Ministry has released Rs. 56,423.38 crore during the 2023-24 (as on 13.10.2023) and balance amount of Rs. 3576.62 crore is with the Ministry of Rural Development. MoRD has proposed Rs. 1,10,000 crore as a RE stage from Ministry of Finance..."

FULL REPORT ON
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THAI LAWMAKERS MEET BIRLA

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla being presented with a memento by a Thai Parliamentary delegation during a meeting at Parliament House on Thursday. ANI

No major flagship programme curtailed, Sitharaman tells RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

REPLYING TO the general discussion on the Interim Budget 2024-25 in Rajya Sabha, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said it highlights the focus of the government on capital expenditure and keeps up the pace of economic growth.

She said no major flagship programmes have been curtailed nor has she reduced allocation in response to criticism from a few MPs on reduced allocations under certain heads.

Stating that capital expenditure for creation of public infrastructure is growing faster than real GDP growth, she said with the capital expenditure in the fo-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in RS. PTI

cus, the government in the last three-four years has made sure the debt management is done in such a way that the glide path for fiscal deficit given in 2021 is honoured.

She said money spent on capital expenditure gives returns compared to revenue expenditure, adding that the govern-

ment is making sure that fiscal deficit is managed without hurting any project.

Speaking about the Global Hunger Index, she said it is not a balanced approach to measure hunger. She said the unemployment rate in rural areas has decreased from 5.3 per cent in 2017 to 2.4 per cent in 2023.

AAP MP from Punjab, Sanjeev Arora, spoke about the need for more focus on the health sector in the Budget. Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala said the Appropriation Bill is not for the lower-income families. He said India's farmers earn so less even as the government earns more from what the farmers provide. "Then why does the government say they can't pay the farmers?" he asked.

House passes Bills to amend SC, ST lists in Andhra, Odisha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

TWO BILLS which seek to modify the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha through inclusion of more communities were passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday by a voice vote. The Bills had already been cleared by the Rajya Sabha.

Replying to the debate on the Bills, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Bharti P Pawar said the Modi government has done a lot for the uplift of tribal people. The government has launched schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups, she said.

In Andhra Pradesh, three ethnic groups — Bondo Porja, Khond Porja and Parangiperja — are being added to the list of STs. In Odisha, it will add four groups in the list.

Though the Bills were supported by all parties, the Opposition raised various issues related to tribals.

Odisha MP Saptagiri Ulaka of the Congress suggested that such Bills should ideally be brought through a Joint Parliamentary Committee so that night communities can be identified for inclusion in tribal list. Ulaka picked out the Uniform Civil Code as being detrimental to tribal identity.

400 Smart City Mission projects to miss June 30 deadline, states must take over, panel told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

SOME PROJECTS under the Smart Cities Mission would not be able to meet the June 30 deadline and the respective state governments would be responsible for completing them thereafter, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs.

In its report on the evaluation of the Smart Cities Mission presented in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, the committee said the ministry had informed it that 400 projects, out of the 7,970, worth Rs 22,814 crore would take beyond December 2024 to complete. Last year, the Ministry had extended the mission's deadline from June 2023 to June 2024.

"The ministry has stated before the committee that in case of non-completion of these projects within the extended time frame, the state governments concerned will have to complete the projects at their own cost. The committee is of the strong opinion that the ministry's role should not be confined to transfer of their share regarding mission/scheme/project, but they have to remain watchful for the execution and successful completion of the projects," the report said.

The committee, chaired by JDUP MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh, was told by Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi that the ministry did not want to extend the mission further.

Saturday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to reply to the debate for which four hours have been allocated in the Lok Sabha on Friday. The Rajya Sabha will take up the discussion on the White Paper after clearing the legislative business listed for Friday.

Sources said BJP state units across the country will highlight the details of the "White Paper of the Economy" — first time in Independent India — underscoring "What went wrong in economy during the 10 years of UPA and the efforts taken by the Modi government to put it back on track".

Sources in the BJP said the discourse on the White Paper

would certainly reinforce the message of the "strong and able leadership" of Modi and the "good governance record of his government that takes the country to be a major economic force in the world".

A senior BJP leader said: "Every BJP state unit will take this up. The leaders will describe how difficult it was for our government to overcome the crisis created by the UPA government's mismanagement of economics. Despite the poor state of affairs and the hardships, the Centre had not reduced any tax share for the states. We kept the government on the reform path which led to an increase in revenue."

The leader said the White

Paper would give a reply to the charges of the non-NDA state governments about inadequate tax devolution.

The BJP would also campaign the "differences between the Commonwealth Games in 2010 and the G20 summit in 2023" held under the UPA and the BJP government.

"While one led to the country losing its face, the other enhanced its prestige. While the CWC was centred in the national capital where workers were done shabbily and involved corruption, the Prime Minister ensured that every state was involved (for the G20), which gave local economies a fillip," said a BJP leader.

The Congress government in

Karnataka and the Left Democratic Front government in Kerala protested in New Delhi against the alleged financial atrocities carried out against the non-BJP-ruled states.

Sources in the government said Prime Minister Modi "felt bad and outrageous" at the state of economy when he took charge in 2014.

"But he took a conscious call not to come out with a White Paper then because the government did not want investors as well as people to lose confidence in the Indian economy. Now, that the government has worked for 10 years systematically to correct the wrongs and improve the situation, it's time to tell the peo-

ple," said the leader, adding, "He (Modi) personally took initiative in correcting the mistakes. For every sector, corrective measures were taken and he personally followed it up."

"Economic crisis, fiscal management crisis, industrial policy crisis, banking crisis — all were outcomes of the mismanagement — and they pushed the country to the fragile-five-economy status," said the leader.

The White Paper tore into the Congress-led UPA rule, stating that it had turned the Indian economy into a non-performing one through indiscriminate revenue expenditure, off-budget borrowings and piles of bad debts at banks.

NINE MINISTERS RETIRING AS MPs

Dharmendra Pradhan: Education; Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
Narayan Rane: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Ashwini Vaishnaw: Railways; Communications; Electronics and IT
Mansukh Mandaviya: Health and Family Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav: Environment, Forest and

Climate Change; Labour and Employment
Parshottam Rupala: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Rajeev Chandrasekhar (MoS): Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Electronics and IT; Jal Shakti
VMuraleedharan (MoS): External Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs
L Murugan (MoS): Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; I&B

Aspire to make Lakshadweep development model: Govt

New Delhi: The Government aspires to "position Lakshadweep as a model" for responsible and inclusive development, balancing economic progress with environmental conservation, Union Tourism Minister G Reddy said in a written response in Rajya Sabha. "The overall strategy for the development of Lakshadweep Islands is based on achieving sustainable growth, preserving the unique cultural and environmental characteristics, and enhancing the quality of life for the islanders," he said. PTI

FEBRUARY 13 DILLI CHALO MARCH

Union ministers meet farm leaders; consensus on some demands: Mann

KANCHAN VASDEV, RAAKHI JAGGA & SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 8

A THREE-MEMBER team of Union ministers Thursday held detailed discussions with the leaders of farmer organisations with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann saying that a consensus was reached on some of the demands of the agriculturists and second round of talks was likely before the Dilli Chalo protest march by farmers on February 13. The farmer leaders said their march on February 13 still stands, and added that they will take a call on it only if "government gets back to us with a positive response".

Mann, who coordinated with the farmer leaders for arranging the meeting, said the ministers agreed on several issues including withdrawal of cases registered against farmers during the previous agitation against the now-repealed farm laws and strict punishment for those selling fake seeds and chemicals.

The Central team comprised Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Piyush Goyal, and Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai. They flew down to Chandigarh in the evening to reach out to the farmer leaders. From farmers' side, the meeting was attended by Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher and Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal among others.

The SKM (Non-Political) and the KMSC had announced 'Dilli Chalo' march by more than 200 farmers' unions on February 13 to press the Centre for accepting several demands, including enactment of a law to guarantee a minimum support price (MSP) for



Boulders stocked up at Bathinda border. Express

crops. Dallewal said the meeting with the Union ministers was held in a positive atmosphere.

"We presented our demands with facts. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the Gujarat chief minister, he had constituted a committee which had recommended the legal guarantee to the MSP. We also put forward how farmers were getting burdened with debt. The central team heard us and they (Union ministers) said they will discuss the issue in Delhi before getting back to us," said Dallewal.

On farmers' proposed march, Dallewal said it still stands. "The Centre assured that they will soon hold another meeting. If the Centre resolves our issues by holding a meeting before February 13, then it is right. Otherwise, our February 13 programme still stands," said Dallewal.

Mann, meanwhile, said, "A general consensus emerged on rolling back the cases registered against farmers during the agitation against the now-repealed farm laws. Exemplary punishment was sought against the manufacturers of the spurious seeds, to which the ministers agreed".

Border to be sealed
Aiming to stall the movement of farmers to Delhi, the Haryana

Police will seal the state's borders with Punjab by installing "RCC structures" at "strategic points on roads" with the help of engineers from the Army and the Railways, it has been learnt.

This comes even as the police have already stocked up concrete blocks, barbed wire, sandbags, barricades and other items at the Shambhu border in Ambala to stop framers from Punjab from marching towards Delhi.

Farmers have planned to head to Delhi from the Ambala-Shambhu border, Khanauri-Jind and the Bathinda-Dabwali border. A police officer said the farmers from Punjab won't be allowed to enter the state. "We will make unconventional preparations this time. Instead of normal barricades, we will erect reinforced concrete (RCC) structures at the strategic points on the roads with the help of the engineers of Army and Railways, which would be difficult to penetrate even for Army vehicles," said the officer.

Haryana DGP Shatruijeet Kapur said, "We won't allow breach of peace in any way in the state. Action will be taken if someone tries to spread anarchy". A senior officer said the Haryana government had sought 64 companies of the CPMF and 50 of them have already been allotted.

'Shocking', says Karnataka CM on PM's threat to unity remark

Bengaluru: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on Thursday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks against the 'Delhi Chalo' protest held by the Congress government on February 7.

"Modi's remarks that the 'Delhi Chalo' protest - held against the injustice to Karnataka in devolution of taxes and other issues - threatens the unity and security of the nation has shocked me," he said. Recalling the criticism by Modi as Gujarat CM against the then UPA govern-

ment, he asked "whether his statements had not threatened national unity and security?"

Siddaramaiah said that as Gujarat CM, Modi had advocated for an increase in the state's share of taxes devolved by the Centre. "He wanted a change in the tax-sharing formula that gave more incentives to states who have failed in finance management and ignored the states which did well... He had argued this with the (14th) Finance Commission. Was it not a stance against the Centre?" he said. **ENS**

Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIT-NR)
Sector-24, Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (Chhattisgarh)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Dr. SP Mukherjee IIT-Naya Raipur invites application from eligible candidates for recruitment to the following post on **Deputation basis:-**

Name of Post	No. of Post	Pay Level (7 th CPC)
Registrar	01	14

For details and last date of application please visit the website of IIT-Naya Raipur <https://www.iitnr.ac.in/content/careers> Director IIT-Naya Raipur

MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LIMITED
2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400 020

VACANCY NOTIFICATION
Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. invites applications for filling up of following posts on contract basis:-

Sr. No.	Notification No.	Name of posts	No. of vacancies
1	MRVCE/AM/Safety/1/2024 dated 07.02.2024	Assistant Manager (Safety)	4 (UR-3, OBC-1)
2	MRVCE/DGM/SM/Safety/2/2024 dated 07.02.2024	Deputy General Manager/ Senior Manager (Safety)	1
3	MRVCE/DGM/Procurement/3/2024 dated 07.02.2024	Deputy General Manager (Procurement)	1

Last date for submission of application by mail is 07.03.2024. For further details, please visit website <https://mrvc.indianrailways.gov.in>. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only. **SNP 14**

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 **TA No. 258 / 2023** Date: **01.12.2023**
STATE BANK OF INDIA Versus **Applicant**

GIRIRESH KUMAR SINGH & ORS. Respondent

To, DEFENDANT
2. M/S MANJU HOMES INDIA LTD. C-294, First Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 17,98,677/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven Only)** against you and whereas 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 **10.03.2024 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 qua cases 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 Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No.23748478.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 01st Day of December, 2023.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

In jolt to Annamalai, HC dismisses his quash plea in hate speech case

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 8

THE MADRAS High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by K Annamalai, the Tamil Nadu BJP president, which sought quashing of the criminal proceedings against him in a hate speech case.

The case stemmed from allegations that Annamalai, in an interview with a YouTube channel just two days before the 2022 Diwali, made divisive remarks that a Christian NGO was behind a legal challenge in the Supreme Court to the bursting of crackers during the festival in its bid to attack the Hindu culture.

Rejecting Annamalai's plea, Justice N Anand Venkatesh passed an order that not only addressed the specifics of the case but also delved into the ramifications of hate speech in the society.

Underlining that the "persons of influence, keeping in view their reach, impact and authority they wield on general public or the specific class to which they belong, owe a duty and have to be more responsible," the high court said such personalities "are expected to know and perceive the meaning conveyed by the words spoken or written, including the possible meaning that is likely to be conveyed".

Annamalai's petition was based on the argument that his comments had not caused any disturbance to public tranquility so far.

In his order, Justice Venkatesh however made reference to the apex court's rulings to flag the potential of hate speech to act as a "ticking bomb".

The high court's order said, "... (The psychological impact of a statement made by a popular leader must not be merely confined by testing it only to immediate physical harm. It is the duty of the court to see if it has caused a silent harm in the psyche of the targeted group, which, at a later point of time, will have their desired effect in terms of violence or even resulting in genocide."

A celebration of Tribal Entrepreneurship, Crafts, Culture, Cuisine and Commerce

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Inauguration by Smt. Droupadi Murmu Hon'ble President of India

10th February, 2024
11:00 AM
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate

Major Highlights

- Exhibition cum sale of handloom and handicraft products of tribal artisans from across the country
- Various types of forest products produced by PVTGs
- Cultural programs showcasing the rich Tribal diversity and vibrancy
- Tribal cuisines from across the country

From 10th to 18th February, 2024
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

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प्लॉट P-6,7,8, से-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर,
गुडगाँव, हरियाणा-122050.
Email: roc.epace@mca.gov.in

Government of India Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) ICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122050.
Email: roc.epace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK-6 PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice No.ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/865 Date: - 23.01.2024

Reference:
(1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names 79 of companies in Delhi State of under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AA6503877	U74999DL2019PTC344344	BELLWAY AUTOMATION PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AA6342726	U74999DL2018PTC328781	PIRCUBE TECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AA6608440	U74899DL1961PTC003536	RENTIERS AND FINANCIERS PVT LTD
4	AA6541403	U74899DL1987PTC028755	SURAJ ELECTRONICS PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AA6619300	U74899DL1985PTC022502	PATKAL MEDICAL FACILITIES PRIVATE LTD
6	AA6501464	U65929DL1996PTC084143	KHATRI FINVEST PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AA6611540	U72200DL2001PTC110841	INFONET SYSCOM (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AA6593708	U22219DL2003PTC122062	ROOTS PUBLISHERS PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AA6621722	U74899DL2004PLC137211	CATA APPLIANCES LIMITED
10	AA6615960	U85110DL2004PTC130084	CAPITAL WOMEN & CHILD CARE PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AA6596536	U45203DL2004PTC130615	INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AA6480414	U55101DL2005PTC142816	NEW DELHI HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AA6495174	U55209DL2007PTC158965	BIZPORT IMPEX PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AA6572790	U35122DL2007PTC162057	VTEK MOBILE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AA6521718	U45400DL2008PTC172165	N R LANDCON PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AA6602921	U25202DL2007PTC170157	RAMDOOT POLYVINYL PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AA6519654	U45400DL2008PTC172163	CRESENT LANDCON PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AA6595030	U74140DL2008PTC181492	BLUE SUN ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AA6606302	U24100DL2008PTC183062	AUTHENTIX INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AA6380750	U74899DL2006PTC144619	AMG SOFTWARE SOLUTION PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AA6603137	U16000DL2010PTC203562	KASTURI DEVI JAISWAL TOBACCO PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AA6622424	U36910DL2011PTC215495	AAMBRA GEMS AND JEWELS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AA6505627	U74999DL2012PTC237890	VARIVAS BUILD & HELP PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AA6575403	U80904DL2012PTC244020	E-LEARNING CONTENT AGGREGATORS PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AA6617359	U52300DL2011PTC224399	SKAA TRADEMART PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AA6636939	U33111DL2006PTC149034	AYANA MEDICARE PRIVATE LIMITED.
27	AA6520802	U70109DL2006PTC149216	MOONLIGHT INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED.
28	AA6397409	U15400DL2013PTC247152	SUB FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AA6551546	U74999DL2014PTC263020	NEELRISHI FILMS PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AA6522704	U70109DL2006PTC150876	CORONET BUILDCON PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AA6575236	U51909DL2006PTC154703	RASIKA ENTERPRISE PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AA6607124	U72300DL2007PTC165463	TECHNO CZARS SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AA6618943	U51101DL2014PTC265327	JAYNA TRADEMART PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AA6590770	U67120DL2012PTC232603	INSIGNIA COMMODITIES & FOREX PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AA6619802	U67190DL2015PTC283540	BUILDISOIL MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AA6627085	U85300DL2011PTC229420	SECOND INNINGS SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AA6637166	U72300DL2015PTC284804	THINKOLOGI PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AA6591534	U52590DL2015PTC286132	VARS E-RETAIL PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AA6444259	U74999DL2016PTC309168	RENEWED TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AA6618008	U74900DL20150PC280244	NAIYAKI DESIGNS OPC PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AA6397938	U52100DL2016PTC290596	WOODSBURY TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AA6502880	U74999DL2016PTC299402	UNIMIG PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AA6641867	U70100DL2012PTC240711	ADAB HOSPITALITY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AA6556284	U15439DL2016PTC299692	MRIDA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AA6494960	U74999DL2017PTC313719	ULMA MANUTENCION INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AA6610617	U70109DL2018PTC336775	RCDK PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AA6592461	U74999DL2018PTC329075	NIYAMA HEALINGZ PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AA6644423	U74999DL2018PTC331158	VEMRI INDIA OVERSEAS PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AA6556182	U80300DL2018PTC330197	PARAMETER LEARNINGS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AA6575472	U22210DL2018PTC330184	ISSHATTIVA PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AA6505072	U72900DL2017PTC327085	ZILIGENCE INFOTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AA6583808	U29100DL2018PTC338954	NEEOM COMPONENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AA6634671	U93090DL2018OPC332852	RIDHIMA VEDIC SOLUTIONS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AA6527596	U45201DL2018PTC340900	CUBE HIGHWAYS PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AA5317362	U70109DL2019PTC349231	JHAJBAD PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AA6571258	U70109DL2019PTC347914	NARSINGHDASS VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AA6590779	U72900DL20190PC355289	ERIOBOTRYA TECHNOLOGY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AA6579557	U74999DL2017PTC354554	APRIL INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
59	AA6594424	U74999DL2019PTC358199	CLEAN ECOTECH INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
60	AA6487898	U73100DL2019PTC358353	BRAINMAPPERZ ANALYTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
61	AA6510554	U51909DL2019PTC355738	KEELA TACTICAL SOLUTIONS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
62	AA6609379	U51909DL2020PTC362808	HIDARZI PRIVATE LIMITED
63	AA6609626	U72900DL2020PTC362060	TECHDARZ PRIVATE LIMITED
64	AA6388415	U80902DL2019PTC359478	SBMC PROFIN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
65	AA6643053	U01110DL2020PTC370257	AGRIPONICS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
66	AA6617454	U15400DL2020PTC367714	GRANOMIL FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED
67	AA6562491	U72900DL2020PTC368175	MYSTREAM FUTURETECH PRIVATE LIMITED
68	AA6556651	U80904DL2021OPC375953	DOCRZZ GURURHH ELEARNING (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
69	AA6616562	U72900DL2020PTC371541	ROMBITS PRIVATE LIMITED
70	AA6561263	U51909DL2021PTC381974	SCHIFF TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
71	AA6629207	U21010DL2021PTC380413	KCL PAPER MILL PRIVATE LIMITED
72	AA6611622	U72900DL2021PTC377195	DIGITAL HUT CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
73	AA6497860	U29309DL2021PTC388172	QUALISTAR MOTORSPORTS PRIVATE LIMITED
74	AA6626360	U74999DL2021PTC387472	ONRO INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
75	AA6476031	U52399DL2022PTC393248	ESHRAH HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED
76	AA6593637	U72900DL2022PTC399295	9YARDS SOFTWARE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
77	AA6606591	U15400DL2022PTC408618	L.N.GOENKA INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
78	AA6596279	U78300DL2023PTC413826	ANRI SS PRIVATE LIMITED
79	AA6628816	U79110DL2023OPC422144	INDIREPS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

(4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off of name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

10 EXPRESS NETWORK

Shoot-at-sight orders in Uttarakhand's Haldwani as violence breaks out during demolition drive

Arson as admn shows up to raze 'illegal' structures in madrasa area; CM calls for peace

AVANEESH MISHRA DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 8

STONES WERE pelted and several vehicles torched after the administration conducted a demolition drive where a mosque and a madrasa stood, allegedly on nazool land, in Uttarakhand's Banbhoolpura area in Haldwani district.

According to a statement issued by the state information department, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami called a high-level meeting in wake of the tension and issued orders to shoot rioters on sight. The district administration has imposed curfew in Banbhoolpura area.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, a resident said the area is on edge and they can "hear teargas being fired". "Things became tense earlier in the day after the administration conducted a demolition drive at the Mariyam Masjid in Malik Ka Bageecha locality and a madrasa as they were allegedly on nazul land. Stones were pelted and four-five vehicles parked on the road were set on fire," he said.

The Chief Minister reviewed the situation with the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police and gave instructions to deal strictly with unruly elements.



Vehicles set on fire by mob after demolition drive in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, Thursday. PTI

He also appealed to the people to maintain peace.

Nainital District Magistrate Vandana meanwhile issued orders to impose a complete closure in the entire area of Haldwani city.

The order states: "It has been informed by SSP, Nainital and City Magistrate, Haldwani that during the process of removal of encroachment and demolition from the pre-marked site of Banbhoolpura area, there have been incidents of protest, stone pelting and arson by a particular community. Due to this, there is a threat to law and order in the area as well as a fear of damage or danger to human life and public property... Hence, in my opinion, it has become necessary to prevent the threat posed to the safety of public life and public property."

As per the order, no person will leave the house except for urgent work, and all business institutions, shops, industries, etc will remain closed. Only hospitals and medical shops will remain open.

"It is also ordered that the information of this order should be given in Banbhoolpura area through loudspeaker," the DM stated, adding that the order will be in force from 9 pm Thursday until further orders.

Zafar Siddiqui, a resident of Banbhoolpura, told *The Indian Express* that the mosque was built by one Abdul Malik on a piece of land sold to him by someone who got it on lease. Nazool land is government land not officially mentioned in revenue records.

"For the last four-five days, police had been coming to the area and informing that the mosque and the madrasa would be demolished. On Thursday morning, the administration arrived with a JCB machine. Around 5-6 pm, I came to know that there has been stone pelting and some vehicles have been set on fire. Some protesters also vandalised the police station. This went on for around 30-40 minutes. As of now, curfew is imposed and we all are locked in our houses," said Siddiqui.

Siraj Khan, who runs a fast-food joint near the mosque, said he saw several police vehicles and only then did he come to know about the violence. He closed his shop and locked himself and his family inside his house.

"There are some rumours of deaths, but as of now, I do not have any confirmed information of any casualty in this incident. The mob had also surrounded Banbhoolpura police station and set some vehicles on fire, but reinforcement was sent to the spot and the police station was saved. We are still assessing the property damage. On Friday morning, the Chief Secretary and ADG Law and Order will fly to Haldwani to do a proper assessment of the situation," said Kumar.

Talking about the force used by the police, he said that when faced with a violent mob that resorts to stone pelting, arson, and sometimes even illegal firearms, as per provisions of the law police are authorised to fire back in self-defence. "I have been told that there were some firing incidents (from the side of the police). But we are still gathering information about the exact number of rounds fired," he said.

Asked if the incident, which took place in a Muslim-dominated area a day after the Uttarakhand government passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill in the Assembly, shows an intelligence failure, he said that they will investigate all aspects related to it.

Mob surrounded police station, reinforcements were sent in, says DGP

AVANEESH MISHRA DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 8

THE DIRECTOR General of Police in Uttarakhand has told *The Indian Express* that they are looking into "rumours" of deaths in the Haldwani violence. He also said the mob had surrounded a police station, and additional forces had to be called to ward them off.

DGP Abhinav Kumar said the police and administration teams had gone to the area to remove an illegal encroachment for which there was already litigation in the High Court, which had ordered its removal.

Shakeel Ahmad, Councillor of Ward Number 31, under which the incident took place, however told *The Indian Express* that the High Court had not given a final decision in the case of removing illegal encroachment.

"Some miscreants started stone pelting and violence. The exact sequence of events that led to this kind of situation is a matter of administrative inquiry. We will check what was the cause for this kind of public anger, and if there is some conspiracy, we will look into it," said Kumar.

He said that the rioting went on for three-four hours starting around 5.30 pm, and by 9 pm, the

situation was brought under control.

"There are some rumours of deaths, but as of now, I do not have any confirmed information of any casualty in this incident. The mob had also surrounded Banbhoolpura police station and set some vehicles on fire, but reinforcement was sent to the spot and the police station was saved. We are still assessing the property damage. On Friday morning, the Chief Secretary and ADG Law and Order will fly to Haldwani to do a proper assessment of the situation," said Kumar.

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Asked if the incident, which took place in a Muslim-dominated area a day after the Uttarakhand government passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill in the Assembly, shows an intelligence failure, he said that they will investigate all aspects related to it.

Top court: Advanced among SCs will grab benefits if there is no sub-classification

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

NOT ALLOWING sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) will lead to a situation where the "advanced among" them "would grab all benefits", a 7-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court observed Thursday, as it reserved its judgment on a reference that raises the question of sub-classification of SCs.

Senior advocate Manoj Swarup, appearing for the respondents in the matter, said the Scheduled Castes, as held by the SC in its 2004 judgment in *E V Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*, formed a homogenous group and hence there cannot be any sub-division among them.

He contended that the states have no power to make changes to the list of Scheduled Castes issued by the President under Article 341 and if any change was needed, only Parliament could do that.

The bench presided by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, also comprised Justices B R Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal, Manoj Misra, and Satish Chandra Sharma. The bench is examining if the Chinniah judgment needs a relook.

On Swarup's submission, Justice Gavai said the question was not about identification but providing benefits to those identified.

He asked if one "can... deny the ground realities that in the (Presidential) list (of backward classes), blacksmiths are there and scavengers are also there. Did they face the same degree of discrimination when they were brought into the list? Were they (scavengers) not untouchables amongst the untouchables? Therefore recognising that, if the state decides to provide among that class, a preferential treatment, would Article 341 come in that way?"

Swarup said it would be barred by Article 341.

"Then it would perpetuate inequality amongst those classes," said Justice Gavai.

He said, "After the SC 1976 ruling in *The State of Kerala vs N M Thomas*, it was held that even if Article 16(4) – it provides that the State can enact a law to reserve posts in favour of any backward class of citizens – was not there, still taking a queue from Articles 14 (right to equality) and 16(1), it could have made reservations. The purpose is to remove inequalities and bring equality. So, taking for example a particular caste in Maharashtra, for the last 75 years if they are taking reservations of 75-80% of the 13% available reservation and there are some caste which have a sizeable representation but they do not have even one or two percent reservation so would it not amount to perpetuating inequality amongst those classes identified under Article 341?"

Found indulging in illegal activities, Centre tells Delhi HC on Swain's OCI cancellation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE CENTRE has told the Delhi High Court that it cancelled Sweden-based professor Ashok Swain's Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration after it was "satisfied" that he had been found indulging in "illegal activities inimical" to the interests of the sovereignty, integrity, and security of India.

The submission has been made in Centre's response to Swain's plea challenging a July 30, 2023, order of the Indian Embassy to Sweden and Latvia which cancelled his OCI registration.

The Centre through the Ministry of Home Affairs in its response has said that it sought a report from security agencies and the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter.

"The Ministry examined the activities of Mr. Ashok Swain in view of reports received from security agencies and Ministry of External Affairs and provisions under section 7D(c) of the Citizenship Act, wherein the OCI Card of the petitioner was found liable to be cancelled. Therefore, on 06.11.2020, this Ministry served a "Notice" to the petitioner through Embassy of India in Sweden to show cause as to why his OCI Card may not be cancelled for indulging in inflammatory speeches and anti-India activities," the response stated.

FOCUS ON WOMEN, WELFARE SCHEMES

DBT, DA hike in Bengal Budget, ₹3.6 lakh cr outlay

ATRIMITRA & RAVIK BHATTACHARYA KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 8

RAINING SOPS, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government of West Bengal on Thursday hiked the Dearness Allowance (DA) by another 4 per cent for the second time in two months, increased incentives of Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) schemes such as Lakshmi Bhandar – a financial assistance scheme for women – and launched targeted welfare schemes.

After state Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya tabled the Rs 3.6 lakh crore Budget outlay for 2024-25 fiscal year in the Assembly, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called it a "wonderful Budget" for every section of the society.

KEY SCHEMES & ALLOCATION

- Lakshmi Bhandar: ₹ 12,000 cr
- Samudra Sathi: ₹ 200 cr
- Artisans Financial Benefit Scheme: ₹ 200 cr
- Karmasree: Allocation not mentioned
- Mid-day meal workers: ₹ 140 crore
- Sasthya Sathi: ₹ 150 cr

"I was telling everyone that you will be shocked after seeing the Budget. So, it happened. If you want to do something, you have to have the thinking



Chief Minister Banerjee in the Assembly. Express

power," Banerjee said. Conceding the state government's financial constraints, the CM said: "In our limited ability, we did everything possible for

every sector of the society."

"What this budget has done has never been done in the country by anyone. We will make our name in the Guinness Book of World Records," she added.

In her Budget speech, Bhattacharya also announced the launch of a new scheme – Karmasree – under which the state government will ensure at least 50 days of work to each job cardholder. The scheme, the Finance Minister said, would commence from May 2024.

The new scheme has been announced when the state government has been pressing for the release of pending Central funds, including Rs 6,900 crore for MGNREGA – the rural employment scheme. For over two years, the Centre has withheld the payment of wages under the MGNREGA in the state, citing si-

phoning of funds and fake job cards. While no budgetary allocation has been made for Karmasree scheme, the state Budget has allocated Rs 3,700 crore for the pending wages of 21 lakh MGNREGA workers.

The state government also announced the launch of Samudra Sathi Scheme for fishermen of Purba Medinipur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts who will get Rs 5,000 for two months during the "lean season". Similar schemes have been announced for artisans, youths, and migrant workers. "We have limitations, but I received requests from several stakeholders to increase the DA for government employees. We said we will give the dues slowly. In January we gave 4 per cent DA. In this budget, we gave another 4% DA hike," she said.

Curative pleas against 2013 verdict on Sec 377 infructuous, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday said the curative petition filed against its 2013 ruling upholding Section 377 of IPC that criminalised homosexual acts had become infructuous in view of its 2018 judgment in the case *Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India*, decriminalising the same.

"The curative petitions have been rendered infructuous by the judgment delivered by this court in *Navtej Johar* (case)," a five-judge constitution bench presided by Chief Justice of India

D Y Chandrachud said dismissing the pleas. The bench also comprised Justices B R Gavai, Bela Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal and Manoj Misra.

The Delhi High Court had in *Naz Foundation Vs Union of India*, struck down Section 377 IPC in 2009.

However in 2013, the SC in *Suresh Kumar Koushal vs Naz Foundation*, reversed the HC decision.

Subsequently, the top court also dismissed review petitions filed against the 2013 ruling.

The curative petitions filed against the dismissal of the review petitions however remained pending.

Goa budget: Single window for beach weddings, memorial for razed temples

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, FEBRUARY 8

RESUMPTION OF sand mining, a single-window system for issuing permission for beach weddings and events, construction of a 'Smruti Mandir' in memory of temples destroyed during the Portuguese era and creating infrastructure for industry, IT, tourism were among the major announcements in the state Budget for 2024-25, presented by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday.

Sawant said the total budget size is Rs 26,855 crore, of which revenue expenditure is 20,000 crore and capital expenditure is Rs 6,855 crore. "The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to grow at 13.87 per cent in the financial year 2024-25. No additional tax has been levied," he added. Sawant said resumption of sand mining through a proper policy and extending the duration of the lease period for minor minerals in the state is a priority for the government.

"The construction of Smruti Mandir in memory of restora-

tion of temples destroyed during the Portuguese era will commence this year. Rs 20 crore has been allocated for it," he said.

Other major announcements include a single window system for issuing a no-objection certificate (NOC) for amplified sound, beach weddings and events and a one-time amnesty scheme for residential houses that are being operated illegally as home stays, hotels and restaurants.

Yuri Alemao, Leader of Opposition, said the Budget is an attempt to create a "feel good factor" ahead of the LS elections.

FREE EDUCATION FROM KG TO PG TO STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME GROUPS

Focus on jobs, farmers, education in Rajasthan Budget

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 8

RECRUITMENT FOR 70,000 posts, free education from kindergarten to post graduation for low-income groups, Rs 1,000 crore for establishment and upgrade of schools, colleges, hospitals and administrative offices in "deprived areas", Rs 2,000 additional annual payout to farmers under the Centre's PM-KISAN scheme and a Rs 125 per quintal hike in wheat MSP – these were among the major announcements in the Bhajan Lal Sharma government's first



Finance Minister Diya Kumari arrives to present the interim Budget in Jaipur, Thursday. Rohit Jain Paras

Budget, a vote-on-account, presented in Assembly Thursday. Rajasthan Deputy Chief

Minister and state Finance Minister Diya Kumari, who presented the Budget, alleged that during the previous Ashok Gehlot government's tenure, constituencies such as Ladpura, Nasirabad, Siwana and Ahore among others – from where Opposition MLAs were elected – were ignored, leading to an imbalance in development. In order to maintain regional balance, a provision of Rs 1,000 crore has been made to develop such areas, she said.

For students, she said free education will be given from KG to PG to those belonging to families of low-income groups,

small/marginal/bataidar farmers and farm labourers. A financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per student for school bags, books and uniform for students of class 1 to 8 and girl students of class 9 to 12 was also announced.

For farmers, she announced an additional payout of Rs 2,000 under the PM-KISAN scheme, which will take the total annual payment amount to Rs 8,000 each. Also, the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat has been hiked to Rs 2,400 from Rs 2,275 per quintal.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Vastu consultant 'conned firms' in Assam, arrested

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 8

KHUSHDEEP BANSAL, a 'vastu' expert now in the police net, allegedly convinced businessmen he had close connections in the Assam government and convinced their company to deliver goods worth Rs 63 crore for what he claimed was a government project being supervised by Assam's Chief Minister, according to an FIR registered by Assam's Crime Investigation Department.

Bansal was arrested, along with his brother, in New Delhi on Monday. Subsequently, he was brought to Assam, produced be-

fore a court, and placed in police remand for six days, a CID officer said.

An FIR was registered with the Assam CID in October last year on the basis of a complaint from businessman Kamal Sabharwal, alleging that his company Sabharwal Trading India Pvt Ltd was paid only Rs 4.43 crore in return for delivering goods worth Rs 63 crore against work orders that the company believed were issued by the Assam government. These orders, however, were allegedly fraudulent, and the FIR named Khushdeep Bansal, his brother Harish Bansal, and four others as accused in the case.

CAPF personnel don't share mental issues for fear of being mocked, says final draft report on suicides in security forces

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

Mental health-related issues are still a "taboo" in the security forces and the personnel hesitate in sharing their problems for the fear of being "mocked and taunted as weak" by other colleagues, states a draft report prepared by a task force formed to look into suicide and fratricide cases in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

In its final draft report submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs last month, after studying of 642 suicide cases and 51 fratricide

deaths in the last five years, the task force has recommended in its report that seniors should stop using abusive language with their juniors and behave decently with them, sources said.

The task force found three major factors – working conditions, service conditions and personal/individual issues – that led to incidents of suicides and fratricides. The task force was constituted by the Home Ministry to study and analyse incidents and prepare a comprehensive report.

Some of the work-related key reasons are prolonged deployment in high-risk areas, long separation from families/forced

bachelorship, tough duty hours in inhospitable conditions.

"Mental health-related issues are still a taboo in the forces as well as in society. In the security forces, there is not only the apprehension of being mocked and taunted as weak, worthless, but also a fear of losing their job because of it. As a result, personnel facing mental issues usually don't open up and share it with their seniors or colleagues," the source said.

Data shows that in total 642 personnel, including 10 women personnel, died by suicide and 51 fratricide incidents took place in the CAPFs between 2017 and 2021. The maximum suicide incidents

for the said period were reported in the CRPF (227), while 175 suicides, including 4 women personnel, were reported in the BSF.

The task force mentioned in the report that it found that over 80 per cent suicides happened when the personnel returned to work after availing leaves. Most of the suicides were reported between 7 and 15 days after returning from home, said the sources.

"The task force has found that the trigger for suicides may be related to family or duty. If one of the fronts is easy and smooth, the stress level of the personnel gets managed considerably. The cases of suicides and attempts by

women personnel are less as compared to their male counterparts. Male personnel hesitate sharing their problem because of the fear of being mocked," said a source, citing the report.

The task force has recommended that there should be a provision of mental health screening of all CAPF personnel returning from leave or from other long-term duties, through a questionnaire. "Some of the common challenges associated with combat zones are insomnia, agitation and nightmares, which are considered to be one of the important contributors to suicidality," the source said.

The task force found that service-related reasons such as "trauma of being abused, bullying at workplace, leave-related issues, extended working hours and inadequate time for rest" also triggered suicidal thoughts.

"The newly recruited jawans are highly educated and their immediate bosses should be sensitised to treat them with dignity, hear their grievances and recognise their services. They cannot be treated as subordinates who do not know anything about operations strategy. Seniors should stop using abusive language with their juniors and behave decently with them," the source said.



TATA

THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: 91 22 6665 8282, CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
Email: tatapower@tatapower.com, Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that following Record Date(s) have been fixed for the purpose of payment of annual interest to the holders of Unsecured, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated Non-Convertible Debentures:

ISINs	Rate of Interest	Record date	Date of Payment
INE245A08232	7.77%	Sunday, March 10, 2024	Tuesday, March 26, 2024
INE245A08224	7.77%		
INE245A08240	7.77%	Tuesday, March 12, 2024	Thursday, March 28, 2024
INE245A08273	7.72%		

For The Tata Power Company Limited

Place: Mumbai
Dated: February 8, 2024
Vijai S. Patel
Company Secretary

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh Tender Work:-

SL. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs)
1.	30/D.G.M.(E.M.)/Sr.M(E/M)-I/E.T./2023-24	Regarding the work of restoration woked to keep the street lighting installed on External Roads & main points of Roads adjoining Sector 82, 91, 92, 93, 93A, 93B, 104, 105, 108, & 110, Noida fully functional.	192.71

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 22.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 23.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re Tender Work:-

SL. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs)
1.	39/DGM/Sr.M (E & M) - I / I / 2 0 2 3 - 24/ET	D/o Vill's (Providing Distribution Line Network in Vill-Bishanpura), Sector-58, Noida.	190.34

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 15.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 16.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (E&M) NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- VIII
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/276/2023 02-02-2024

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

Versus

SHASHI PRAKASH BHARTI AND OTHERS.

To
(CD 1) Shashi Prakash Bharti and other Son Saudagar Prasad Recorded address:-At and P.O-Herudiyara, District-Munger, Bihar-811201, Munger

(CD 2) Dharmendra Yadav Son of late Mahavir Yadav, Resident at N.A.C. Road, P.O and District-Khagaria-851204

(CD 3) Rinki Devi Wife of Dharmendra Yadav Resident at N.A.C. Road, P.O and District-Khagaria-851204

(CD 4) Bijay Kumar son of late-Garib Das resident at Hajipur Road Ward No-12, P.O. and District-Khagaria-851204

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/341/2021 an amount of Rs. 3072717.16 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Seventy Two Thousands Seven Hundred Seventeen And Paise Sixteen Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 14 % Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 06/10/2021 till realization and costs of Rs 33000 (Rupees Thirty Three 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 03/04/2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition 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: 02/02/2024

Recovery Officer

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE,

ENTT. & LUXURY TAX

L & N BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN,

I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has approved revision of the MRP (Maximum Retail Price) of Quarts (750 ml.), Pints (375 ml.) and Nips (180 ml.) of Spiced Country Liquor, to be sold through the Licensed Country Liquor Vends, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the year 2023-24 w.e.f. 09th February, 2024 (Friday) as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Item	MRP (2023-24)	MRP (2022-23)
1.	Quarts (750 ml.)	100.00	90.00
2.	Pints (375 ml.)	50.00	45.00
3.	Nips (180 ml.)	25.00	22.50

Sd/-

(KRISHNA MOHAN UPPU)
COMMISSIONER (EXCISE)

केंद्र देश में किसानों के लिए खेती को आसान और लाभदायक बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, कवरज बढ़ा है, जोखिम कम हुआ है और देश के करोड़ों किसानों को फायदा हुआ है।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Haryana in the service of farmers

Crop Damage Compensation increased

From ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 per acre

₹11,000 crore compensated for crops damaged due to natural disaster

Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | Follow us on [Social Media Icons] | @dipharyana

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
T.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 (U.P.)
Website : www.lmc.up.nic.in

SL.	NAME OF WORK	TENDER FEE RS.	EARNST MONEY RS.	TIME PERIOD (YEARS)
1	Selection of Contractor for "Door to Door collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of Sweeping waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, collection & transportation of Horticulture Waste and collection & storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in Zone 02, 05, 08 (Package 02) to designated processing facility/disposal site/ collection centres."			

SL.	EVENTS	DATE & TIME
1.	Online Tender purchase start date	09/02/2024 by 10:00 AM
2.	Online Tender purchase end date	24/02/2024 by 03:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End date	24/02/2024 by 05:00 PM
4.	Submission of Pre-Bid queries by prospective bidders	till 15/02/2024 by 03:00 PM
5.	Hard copy of technical submission end date	24/02/2024 by 05:00 PM
6.	Technical Proposal open Date	24/02/2024 by 06:00 PM

Note : All information regarding Tenders and Documents can be seen/download from website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. For any clarification Please contact Mobile no. 8909121015, 9451269458 or submit queries through email on email id: envengrnniko@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)

- 43/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Two Years Maintenance of 40 HP VT Motor, Starter, Transformer & Other Electrical work in Network Sector-106, Sector-132 & 135) Noida. Cost Rs. 38.91 Lacs
- 46/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (P/L Water Lines Gowshaia and Nandishala in Sector-135), Noida. Cost Rs. 44.76 Lacs
- 50/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, Strengthening of W/s (P/L RCC Slab for UGR-4 & Other misc. Civil work in UGR Compound, Sector-4), Noida. Cost Rs. 35.42 Lacs
- 47/DGM(Jal)/A.O./S.M.(JAL)-1/2023-24, M/o W/s (Two year Maintenance of PVC Water Line, Sluice Valve & Reflex valve in Network Village-Salarpur, Bhangel, Nagli Wazidpur, Sector-132 & 135) Noida. Cost Rs. 52.97 Lacs
- 48/Sr.M.(JAL)-1/2023-24, Internal/External Water & Sewer in Sector-162 (P/L Sewer & Water Line in front of Plot No.-15 & 16 in Sector-162) Noida. Cost Rs. 81.33 Lacs
- 49/Sr.M.(JAL)-1/2023-24, M/o W/s (Two Year Running Operation of UGR & Tubewells in Network Sector-132 & 135) Noida. Cost Rs. 84.94 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date:- 22.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: 23.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

(B)

- 13/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Two year S/F VT Pump, Tube shaft & R/o Bowl assly. at different Tubewells in Network Sector-14A to 16A, 14, 15, 16 and Sector-62), Noida. Cost Rs. 69.24 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date:- 15.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: 16.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (Jal)
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A Goldilocks phase

Monetary and fiscal policies have put in place conditions for steady growth, moderate inflation



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GRAND BARGAIN 2.0

Protests by Karnataka and Kerala are driven by politics — they also point to concerns of fiscal federalism that need addressing

ONE STATE'S CHIEF minister hit the national capital's streets, along with his cabinet colleagues, against the Centre's alleged discrimination in devolution of tax revenues and non-release of drought relief funds. Another state's CM followed suit, having already moved the Supreme Court against the Centre imposing limits on its borrowing powers. The fact that both of them, Karnataka and Kerala, are Opposition-ruled and the timing of the protests, ahead of Lok Sabha elections, may make these seem purely political in nature. Nor have these states' own fiscally irresponsible actions helped. The ruling Congress in Karnataka should have thought twice before announcing its five assembly poll "guarantee" schemes, which are costing the state exchequer an additional Rs 52,000 crore per year. The Kerala government has, likewise, sought to circumvent its normal net borrowing ceiling, of 3 per cent of GDP fixed by the Centre, by resorting to off-budget loans raised by two state-owned entities.

The political motivations notwithstanding, there are genuine concerns with regard to both the letter and spirit of fiscal federalism that need addressing. To start with, the Centre accounts for more than 60 per cent of the gross tax revenues collected together with the states. On the other hand, the states have well over a 60 per cent share when it comes to total government spending. The disparity between revenue generation capacities and expenditure responsibilities imparts an inherent vertical fiscal imbalance. That imbalance would only have widened with the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST), which has replaced the value added tax and a host of other levies that were major sources of revenue for the states earlier. But the states accepted the apparent loss of fiscal sovereignty through a grand bargain that was a result of consensus building and addressing apprehensions of revenue loss, if any, from the new nationwide non-cascading indirect tax regime. The high point was the setting up of the GST Council, comprising the finance ministers of the Centre and all states, to decide on tax rates, exemptions and any regulatory changes.

A similar compact is required today in matters of tax devolution and other resource transfers, both vertical (Centre to states) and horizontal (among states). Karnataka, for instance, is justified in asking why its share in the divisible tax pool was reduced from 4.713 to 3.647 per cent between the 14th and 15th Finance Commission awards. The next commission should frame clear and transparent rules for distribution of the Centre's tax proceeds and grants-in-aid. As part of a Grand Bargain 2.0, the Centre must desist from levying non-sharable cesses and surcharges on taxes, just as states should be made to strictly adhere to deficit targets and borrowing limits.

HOLDING THE LINE

RBI keeps interest rates unchanged. If inflation evolves along expected lines, it could open up space for rate cuts

IN LINE WITH expectations, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India voted in its February meeting to keep interest rates unchanged. The repo rate stands at 6.5 per cent. The committee also decided to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation. In his policy statement, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted that "the job is not yet finished" and that policy must "continue to be actively disinflationary to align inflation to the target of 4 per cent on a durable basis".

In December, retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, had edged upwards to 5.69 per cent, up from 5.55 per cent the month before. However, this rise in inflation, driven by rising food prices, was not unexpected. On the other hand, core inflation, which excludes the more volatile food and fuel components, had dipped lower to 3.8 per cent in December. The central bank now expects inflation to trend lower to 5 per cent in the fourth quarter (January-March). For the next financial year (2024-25), assuming a normal monsoon, it expects inflation to moderate further to 4.5 per cent. However, the outlook is uncertain. As the RBI also notes, adverse weather events which could impact food prices, and geopolitical tensions and conflicts which could lead to supply chain disruptions, could heavily influence the trajectory of inflation. Governor Das also sounded a note of caution, saying that policy needs to be "vigilant about new supply shocks that may undo the progress made so far." On growth, the RBI Governor sounds optimistic, expecting the economic momentum to continue in the coming financial year (2024-25) as well. Das points to industrial activity "gaining steam", while the services sector "is expected to remain resilient". He sees rural demand continuing to gather pace, even as urban consumption remains strong, with investment activity also "gaining steam" on the back of a sustained push in government spending. Based on these trends, the central bank expects the Indian economy to grow at 7 per cent in 2024-25.

The monetary policy committee's decisions were, however, not unanimous. MPC member Jayanth Varma disagreed with other members of the committee on both interest rates and the policy stance. Varma, in fact, voted for reducing the repo rate by 25 basis points and for changing the policy stance from remaining focused on the withdrawal of accommodation to neutral. In the past as well, Varma has argued that monetary policy should be less restrictive. However, hostilities in the Red Sea and uncertainty regarding the trajectory of food prices are likely to have an outsized influence in the immediate term. If inflation evolves along expected lines over the coming months, it could open up space for the committee to change its policy stance and cut rates.

CONNECT, DISCONNECT

Australia's new law prevents bosses from emailing and calling workers beyond working hours. It opens up possibilities

THE CURIOUS THING about words is that they can change the very thing they are supposed to explain. Take "gig worker". The term conjures up a young millennial, or even an old Gen-Z chap, sitting in an artisanal (read over-priced) coffee shop engaged in a white-collar well-paying semi-creative profession — coding, designing, etc. This creature's time is her own. Now, take "unorganised sector labourer". A very different picture comes up — this person is the picture of, and often euphemism for, the exploited. The Closing Loopholes Bill, passed earlier this week by the Australian Parliament, makes it clear that the gig worker, like the labourer, needs protection.

Among the slew of provisions in the Bill, the ones around the right to disconnect and the path to formalisation for gig workers have received the most attention. The former allows workers not to take calls or answer emails on holidays or outside working hours. The logic is simple — being constantly "connected" and "on-call" is, in essence, unpaid overtime. Whether in office or not, work is work. The path to formalisation is a bit more complex. On the one hand, it ensures benefits and long-term security, and on the other, the flexibility that many people now prize may become a more scarce phenomenon. Australia's proposed law, if and when implemented, will put it in the company of countries in Europe that have allowed the right to disconnect. Beyond the nitty-gritty of the economics of the law, though, is the waning halo around the idea of the gig worker.

Yes, there is a minority, the so-called "digital nomads", who can use flexible work hours to their advantage. For many, if not most, though, the blurred line between work and non-work has meant the former creeps its way into the latter — without overtime pay. As more countries recognise that gig workers need protection, perhaps the 70-hour work-week will not be considered a virtue. In a disconnected utopia, workers won't check their emails. Just Instagram.

WITHIN A WEEK, the interim Union budget and the monetary policy have put in place a framework for a Goldilocks phase of steady growth and moderate inflation for the Indian economy.

On Thursday, the monetary policy committee decided to maintain the status quo, keeping the policy repo rate at 6.5 per cent. The forecast for GDP growth in 2024-25 has been kept at 7 per cent, while for headline inflation it has been reduced in line with our expectations to 4.5 per cent. With inflation expected to fall meaningfully below 4 per cent after June, the first rate cut could be as early as August if not in June itself. The growth forecasts by the RBI, which seem conservative, and rightly so, have been trailing the official estimates for the last two years. However, they only validate the country's robust growth trajectory.

Among the development and regulatory policy changes, the RBI has extended the requirement of the Key Fact Statement to cover all retail and MSME loans and advances. This is designed to provide customers with a clear understanding of the actual annualised interest rate and the overall financial commitment associated with the loan. This move can be seen as a significant step towards empowering customers with comprehensive information, enabling them to make informed decisions about their borrowing.

The technology for authentication of payments has also received fresh attention. With innovations in technology, there is a need to look at a comprehensive framework for alternative authentication mechanisms. Accordingly, a principle-based "Framework for authentication of digital payment transactions" will be explored for the orderly development of this space.

Alongside, enhancing the robustness of the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) — now being used by more than 37 crore users and 47 entities — and the adoption of a

The fiscal consolidation path continues to be influenced by the exceptional deviation taken during the pandemic. The primary deficit is expected to correct by 80 basis points to 1.5 per cent of the GDP in FY25. In FY21 the primary deficit was more than 5 per cent of the GDP. The revenue deficit has also moderated. Public debt as a percentage of the GDP has also reduced and is expected to decline by 90 basis points in FY25 from its level of 58.1 per cent in FY24. Thus the debt to GDP ratio is expected to move along a stable path.

principle-based framework for authentication of digital payment transactions will help in preventing digital frauds. The changes proposed in the Central Bank Digital Currency could help onboard people from fringe areas into the CBDC architecture thereby enabling its acceptability exponentially.

However, with credit demand outpacing deposit accretion, the onset of a Just in Time (JIT) mechanism that streamlines the release of government of India funds may anchor the floor of yield on advances, apart from strengthening short-term borrowings as market players are also resorting to non-deposit sources to satiate the rising demand for credit, even as the credit to deposit ratio is a short breath away from hitting 80.

This MPC meeting comes a few days after the interim Union budget firmly stepped away from crowd pleasing measures, and focused on the vision of a developed India in Amrit Kaal, by enabling every Indian to align with the ambitious, yet achievable goal through action-oriented collaborative works. It set the right tone by focusing on infrastructure development, innovation and connectivity leading towards a Viksit Bharat.

As per our estimates, in the interim budget, the overall allocation for capital expenditure is Rs 18.4 trillion (this takes into consideration the capex by central public sector enterprises and grants for the creation of capital). This is equivalent to 5.6 per cent of GDP and implies a growth of around 13 per cent. This sustained thrust on public sector investments will go a long way towards making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2027-28.

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the GDP has also reduced and is expected to decline by 90 basis points in FY25 from its level of 58.1 per cent in FY24. Thus the debt to GDP ratio is expected to move along a stable path. There is also the possibility that if growth and inflation move along expected lines, the fiscal deficit will be lower than the 5.1 per cent target. Further, the market capitalisation of CPSEs is now at around Rs 40 trillion, with the government's stake at around Rs 27 trillion. Buoyant market conditions will create opportunities for disinvestment later.

We would also like to use this opportunity to address some concerns over the state of the rural economy. Take for instance the implications of significant improvements in physical (road/rail) infrastructure which ensure seamless last mile connectivity are changing rural demand and supply. A farmer can now travel long distances comfortably to buy (and sell) goods. These purchases/sales are more often captured under urban/metro area heads even though the goods are being primarily purchased by the rural populace. Thus, it is possible that in some cases the numbers reported for rural areas may not be an accurate reflection of rural demand. The integration of cities, urban centres and their satellite nodes with surrounding areas and until now far flung areas on the back of the infra boom needs to be factored in carefully. Alongside, a closer look at the data on median wages of rural labourers during FY14-FY23 (November) clearly shows a rising trend. Median wages are now closer to the average wages. This is in clear contrast to the FY05-FY14 period. Further, the audacious target of increasing the *lakhpati didi* numbers through the 8.3 million plus self-help groups in the recent budget also bodes well for the rural economy.

The writer is Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India. Views are personal



Ayesha Jalal

AT STAKE IN PAKISTAN

Challenges facing economy are daunting, will need bold structural reforms

HELD AGAINST THE backdrop of a systemic economic crisis, deepening political polarisation, and the grim aftermath of an unprecedented attack on the most powerful institution of state by a key political party on May 9, 2023, the 2024 election on February 8 was extremely important in determining Pakistan's immediate and future trajectory. While there is every reason to be concerned about charges of unfair treatment being meted out to one party — Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) — accusations of this kind are not altogether new. All polls for the past 75 years except for 1970 and to some extent 2008 and 2013 have been mired in controversy and regrets about the absence of an even playing field for all contenders.

The handover of power from one civilian government to another in 2013 had been significant but could not be sustained. The role of the higher judiciary in overthrowing Nawaz Sharif with the backing of the military in 2017 pushed democracy off the rails once again. The 2018 elections that anointed Imran Khan as prime minister were choreographed by the establishment. The current elections are also being held under close coordination with non-elected institutions of the state that have been dominant in Pakistan since the 1950s. Yet, however compromised, the electoral process is necessary constitutionally and better than an outright military takeover and some new-fangled variant of martial rule.

Now that its decades-long project of grooming and installing Imran Khan and his party PTI into power in 2018 has failed miserably, the establishment — as the army high command is called — has to let parties that

were demonised and persecuted at its behest try their luck at the hustings. While some see the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) as the new favourites of the establishment, this is simply because there is no other party that can command enough votes to govern the country's biggest province, Punjab. This does not mean that other parties like the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are not trying to take advantage of the PTI's predicament to surge ahead. But the PPP has hardly any presence in Punjab, which leaves the PML-N as the main contender against a PTI in complete disarray with its leader and top leadership languishing in jail on various charges, including treason.

The consensus is that given the multiple crises facing Pakistan today, the elections cannot be expected to be completely free and fair. But there is still hope that everything will be done to ensure that all contenders are given a chance to make their case to the electorate.

There is no question that demographic changes could throw up surprises, especially if the turnout is high and women as well as youth come out to vote in large numbers. If they do, the PTI is expected to benefit. But with its electoral symbol taken away and several candidates claiming to represent the party in different constituencies, it remains to be seen how well it will actually perform.

The PPP is unlikely to sway voters in Punjab as it has done precious little groundwork in Pakistan's largest province. So, despite a vigorous campaign by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is contesting from a constituency in Lahore, the PPP's success will most likely be confined to Sindh even if it

picks up more seats in Punjab than in the 2013 and 2018 elections.

The challenges facing the national economy are daunting for any party and will require bold decisions so that structural reforms are instituted to stretch the unacceptably limited tax base, improve productivity and promote exports. Going by the past record, most in Punjab believe that the PML-N is best placed to manage the country's economy. But this is by no means the view in other provinces with the PTI holding its ground in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the PPP in Sindh.

All parties make grandiose promises to voters during election campaigns based on some variant of welfareism, but are typically unable to carry them out once at the helm. While large promises are being heard everywhere, no one expects much to change and the best that is being hoped for is some modicum of political stability and judicious economic decision-making to pull the country out of the current quagmire.

All parties in the fray in Pakistan also claim to want to improve relations with India and the USA. But improved foreign relations depend on both sides making the necessary moves to restore trust and confidence. As things stand today, not much can be hoped by way of improved Indo-Pakistan relations. As for US-Pakistan relations, Washington's tilt towards New Delhi is now too evident to give much hope to an incumbent government in Islamabad for any dramatic shift in relations to take place.

The writer is the Mary Richardson Professor of History at Tufts University



FEBRUARY 9, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

PUNJAB BANDH

BARRING A FEW scattered incidents in which more than 25 people got minor injuries, the one-day Punjab bandh sponsored by the Akali Dal went off peacefully. The bandh was total, except a few shops that were open in Patiala, where the police had to intervene to keep two groups of people separated and under control. Significantly, the state-wide bandh was by and large free from acts of arson.

CENTRE-AKALI TALKS

THE GOVERNMENT IS expecting a favourable response from the Akalis to the

decision to hold a tripartite meeting on the Punjab problem. Invitations for the talks maybe sent early next week after consultations with some of the opposition leaders. In any case, the talks are expected to take place before the commencement of the Parliament session on February 23.

INDO-PAK & KASHMIR

THE MURDER OF the Birmingham-based Indian diplomat Ravindra Mhatre by a group calling itself member of the Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA) appears to be taking a new political turn which may have unpredictable repercussions in south Asian poli-

tics. The Guardian published an article with a background of the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, providing an oblique boost to the KLA and the JKLF.

PM FOR PEACE PRIZE

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi, Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau and Italian President Sandro Pertini, are among the candidates for the 1984 Nobel Peace prize, the prize committee confirmed. Names of 75 candidates have been proposed for the prestigious prize which is due to be awarded in October. Last year's winner was Lech Walesa, leader of the outlawed Solidarity of Poland.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

Ram's bell of justice

What we can learn from tribal communities that have a consciousness which evaluates gods — worship them and question their divinity



DEVANURA MAHADEVA

"EVALUATION OF GODS AND A Muslim deity named Dr Khan" is a small, heartwarming piece of writing by Panju Gangolli that has completely captured me. In hundreds of tribal communities across Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, there is a religiosity that transcends the boundaries of caste and religion and a consciousness that evaluates gods — a finding that has struck me like a revelation that can light up our world.

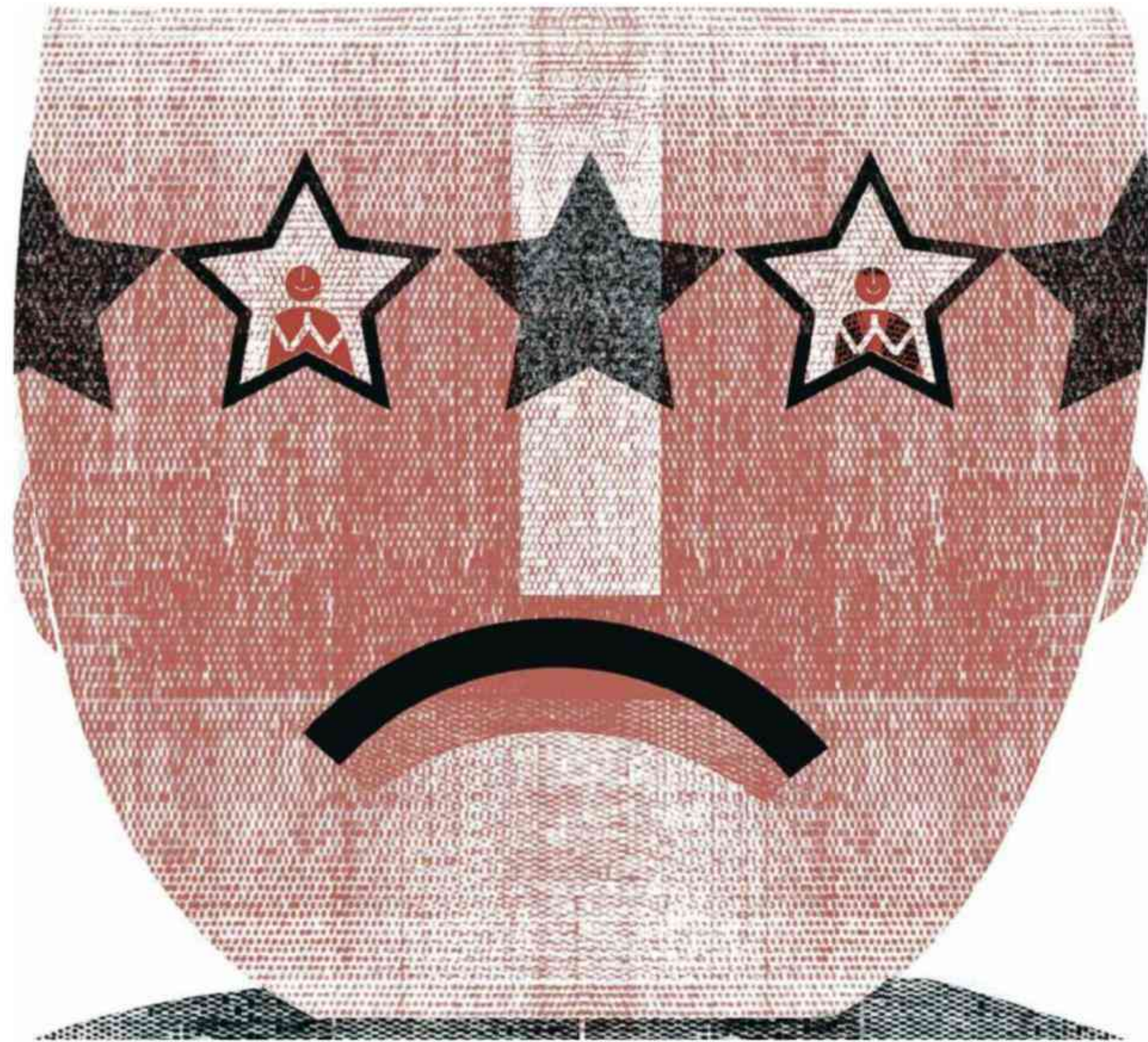
The story goes like this: Bangaramdevi is a prominent God among Bastar district's various tribal communities. Once a year, a festival named "Bhado Jatra" is conducted here. On that day, tribal communities from over 240 villages carry their gods along and place them under Bangaramdevi's feet. In the presence of Bangaramdevi, the priests examine these gods. Those gods who did not address and solve the problems of their devotees over the previous year are stripped of their divinity. Without divine power, they are mere figurines made of wood and stone, which are then banished to the backyard of Bangaramdevi's temple and end up in a heap in some corner. Then they continue to shrivel up under the sun, bearing the brunt of rain and cold alike, and can often be found stuck in some bushes or leaning against the roots of an old tree.

There's another interesting thing to note here: On the top of Bastar's Keshkal hill, there's a small temple where a terracotta stage can be found. On this stage, a black wooden piece shaped like a *Shivalinga* has been installed. An earthen lamp is lit next to it. The temple doors are opened during the "Surdongar" fair and thousands of people from nearby tribes come to seek the *darshana* of God. There is also a belief that even other gods visit this God. The name of this deity is Dr Khan.

Around 200 years ago, when Bastar was afflicted with diseases like cholera and smallpox, a Muslim man named Dr Khan arrived here and saved many people from the clutches of death. He stayed behind and continued to serve the people of the region. Following his death, the local tribes elevated him to the status of a God and started worshipping him. All this and more can be found here. In our own land.

But do we have the consciousness of evaluating our gods? Let alone the gods, we don't even evaluate our representatives whom we elected. So, how can we expect our problems to be addressed and solved? Tribal communities, which are essentially our earthly ancestors, do possess this consciousness of examining the gods and discarding those they deem useless. But we who are the progeny of the same Adivasi have turned ourselves into superstitious souls. Since the connection to our Adivasi roots has been severed, we as a populace are no longer vigilant and are unable to preserve the best practices of our ancestors that are still relevant.

We need to be alert: The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are just around the corner. We need to cultivate the consciousness of evaluation



CR Sasikumar

in the upcoming election. The health of our democracy, the judiciary, and the sovereignty of our independent organisations, the weakening of the federal structure by the ruling Centre, social justice, women's reservation, Swaminathan report, and education, health, unemployment — all these issues need to be evaluated. We need to open our eyes to look at how our precious natural resources are being used, the toll that is paid by common people due to inflation and price rise, and how corporates close to power unduly benefit.

This is what we have to do next — when parties and candidates contesting the upcoming election approach us for votes, we need to tell them: "We will evaluate your words as well as your actions. We won't tolerate your lies any more." If we can give such a warning, the nation can move forward, however small those steps may be.

We need to free ourselves from the influence of fraudulent weapons like *Sammohanastra* (weapon of collective hypnosis), *Dweshashtra* (weapon of hatred), *Asahanastra* (weapon of intolerance), *Bhramashastra* (weapon of illusion) which are being used by the people in power to lull us into submission so that we are unperturbed by real issues.

First, we need to identify this veil of illusion. For example, "Hindutva" is triumphing over "Hindu". Is this the Hindutva of the *Chaturvarna* system? Even the idea of "Sanatana" is being spread now. But what is *Sanatana*, anyway? We need to inculcate hu-

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mane and healthier values of *Sanatana* and relieve ourselves from its flawed ones.

Compassion, patience, love, coexistence, equal justice, the adage "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and more light our paths even today. They are good *Sanatana* values. Along with them, *Chaturvarna* system, caste discrimination, intolerance, hatred too are *Sanatana* values that exist even today. But these are the evil values that only light the fire and lead to conflagration. Today, there is a struggle between these good and evil *Sanatana* values. I believe India's collective consciousness possesses the essence to pull us back from the brink. What we need is the wisdom of farmers who weed their land for the health of their crops.

India is celebrating the inauguration of Ayodhya's Ram Mandir. India should celebrate Ram's commitment to *vachanapalane*, honouring the promises made. It is said that "A Bell of Justice" was hung outside Ram's palace. One day, a horse is found ringing the bell and Ram delivers justice to this hungry horse. Let a bell of justice be installed in Ayodhya where all struggling living beings can ring it. But will the Delhi Darbar listen?

Mahadeva, a Kannada writer, is a pioneer of the Dalit movement in Karnataka. He is a member of many social and political movements

Translation from the original Kannada by Amulya B

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The state must take every measure to ensure citizens' security today... Given that they are being held after considerable delay, it is important that voters are able to participate freely in these elections, which must be concluded to the public's satisfaction. History awaits our people's verdict." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

An ethical minefield

Data transparency, a fundamental tenet of scientific discovery, is conspicuous by its absence in trials of Neuralink's brain-computer interface



SIMANTINI GHOSH

IN THE first week of February, tech mogul Elon Musk announced the first human implantation of the Neuralink device — Telepathy. Initial data collection is in progress and going well, he said. Neuralink is a tech startup and its proprietary chip is a surgically implantable device. It can record a massive amount of data from individual neurons and transmit it to a computer, which, in turn, can read the intention coded in that data to execute a certain task.

Neuralink made headlines with a video a few years ago, in which a monkey used the company's surgically implanted chip to play a video game on a computer. The wow factor kicked in then, as it has now. The first human application is intended to return the ability to control digital devices to quadriplegic individuals. This is part of the project's short-term goal — bringing back functionality to the clinically and neurologically disabled population. This probably also aided their fundraising endeavours. However, the company's vision statement is more ambitious — "create a generalised brain interface to restore autonomy to those with unmet medical needs today and unlock human potential tomorrow". The second goal, to alter and enhance cognitive abilities in healthy humans, opens up Pandora's box of ethical and legal concerns.

Even if we stick to the company's current short-term goal of using the implants to fulfil unmet medical needs, far more critical scrutiny is needed. Scientists and doctors prefer to err on the side of caution. There are professional bodies, associations and regulatory authorities to protect the rights of study participants whose safety and privacy take (as they should) precedence over the efficiency of a new study. The most important criterion is to ensure the availability and transparency of data. Replicability and the ability of raw data to withstand the scientific community's scrutiny are among the basic tenets of scientific discoveries. In all these areas, Musk's company falls short.

Neuralink has previously refused National Institute of Health funding to keep its patented technology secure — federally-funded research comes with more oversight, data sharing and transparency requirements. While most academia-sponsored clinical trials that happen through major university hospitals in the US need to be registered, Neuralink's PRIME (Precise Robotically Implanted Brain-Computer Interface) study is not. The device did receive FDA approval — that ideally should provide ironclad oversight to maximise patient safety. However, the FDA has fallen short of that task in the past. Ultimately, the gold standards of replicability and reliability in science tie back to the very thing that has been absent from the very beginning — transparent data. Because the trial was unregistered, it is virtually impos-

sible to find out anything about the conditions under which it was conducted. The only clues we have are the basic information disclosed in the brochure. The inclusion criteria specify adult patients with quadriplegia (paralysis or loss of function in all four limbs) from ALS or spinal cord injury without much improvement up to a year post-injury, and those who have an available full-time reliable caregiver. The trial will preclude individuals who have other implants (such as pacemakers or electrodes for deep brain stimulation) as well as people whose conditions need procedures such as regular MRI scans or Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). This is likely to ensure no damage due to embedded electrodes being subjected to a high-powered magnetic field. Also excluded are individuals with a history of seizures. This is related to something that is theoretically plausible to predict — the brain often responds to foreign objects by encapsulating in a layer of certain glial cells, and these "glial scars" are notoriously epileptogenic.

However minute, the threading of up to 1,024 recording electrodes in the brain will lead to some form of micro-injuries in the brain. Neuralink will need to convince the scientific community that these implants do not enhance the likelihood of microbleeds or strokes or any other form of injuries in the brain. Such microscopic injuries are often not picked up by diagnostic modalities yet they accumulate over time and predispose individuals to serious neurological conditions such as neurodegeneration. The study has to prove that the recording capacity of the electrodes is maintained consistently — this is a problem with existing brain-computer interfaces. The efficiency of the recording decays over time. The PRIME study calls for 18 months of primary observation followed by periodic follow-ups up to five years. Hopefully, they will have designed the study to collect enough safety data during this period.

A primary ethical concern is data ownership. There is no clarity on who the recorded data belongs to, which will be decoded to interpret the "intentions" of a person. Embedding proprietary technology enabling data recording and routing it through a proprietary app raises a crucial question: Will the subjects retain ownership of this recorded data? Will Neuralink have data ownership? If yes, what can they technically do with this ownership of "intent to carry out an action" on behalf of a third party? In the current situation, it is easy to overlook the ramifications of this issue because the population on which the trial is being conducted is clinically disabled and there is direct benefit to them. However, Neuralink's ambition and vision extend beyond clinical use to enhance human cognition and possibilities. Keeping that in mind, the ethics of data ownership is non-trivial and extremely important to settle at the outset. Any wrong precedent here can endanger human agency and privacy.

Neuralink would serve itself better if it were more open about the data it generates. That secrecy does not instill confidence and trust is something scientists have learned the hard way.

The writer is assistant professor, psychology, Ashoka University. Views are personal

Colonial habits die hard

Those who oppose Ayodhya movement suffer from Stockholm Syndrome



BALBIR PUNJ

PRATAP BHANU Mehta is correct when he says that the *pran pratishtha* at Ayodhya on January 22 is a "watershed moment" (January 22, IE, January 22). The moment is a turning point in India's history — an important milestone in the decolonisation of India. Mehta, however, adds, "The *pran pratishtha*, following the foundation stone of Ayodhya, marks the consecration of Hinduism as a political religion, pure and simple."

This part of Mehta's statement is half-true, bordering on sophistry. If the rebuilding of the temple at Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya is a political statement, so was its demolition by an Islamic invader and the opposition to its reconstruction, spanning over seven decades after independence.

The Babri structure was never a place of worship — it was raised to humiliate the vanquished Hindus after razing a temple that was especially reverent to them. Arnold Toynbee, one of the great historians of the past century, while delivering the Azad Memorial Lecture in February 1960, said, "In the course of the first Russian occupation of Warsaw (1614-1915), the Russians had built an Eastern Orthodox Christian Cathedral on this central spot in the city that had been the capital of the once independent Roman Catholic Christian country, Poland. The Russians had done this to give the Poles a continuous ocular demonstration that the Russians were now their masters. After the re-establishment of Poland's independence in 1918, the Poles pulled this cathedral down. The demolition had been completed

just before the date of my visit. I do not greatly blame the Polish Government for having pulled down that Russian Church. The purpose for which the Russians had built it had been not religious but political, and the purpose had also been intentionally offensive."

Referring to mosques at Kashi, Mathura and Ayodhya, Toynbee said, "Aurangzeb's purpose in building those three Mosques was the same intentionally offensive political purpose that moved the Russians to build their Orthodox Cathedral in the city centre at Warsaw. Those three mosques were intended to signify that an Islamic Government was reigning supreme, even over Hinduism's holiest of holy places."

Mehta talks about Gandhi, "who rejected the logic of retaliation". Gandhiji was asked how to deal with a situation when a mosque is forcibly built on someone else's land. He dealt with the vexed issue in *Young India* on February 5, 1925. Here are excerpts of Gandhiji's response, "The question of mosques built on another's land without his permission is incredibly simple. If A is in possession of his land and someone comes to build some things on it, be it even a mosque, A has the right at the first opportunity of pulling down the structure. Any building of the shape of a mosque is not a mosque. A building to be a mosque must be duly consecrated. A building put up on another's land without his permission is pure robbery. Robbery cannot be consecrated... If A has not the will or the capacity to destroy the building mis-called mosque, he

has the right of going to a law court to have the building pulled down/Law courts are forbidden to convince non-co-operators but not to those who require such conviction."

Post-independence, the Ram Janmabhoomi movement was neither a Hindu-Muslim problem nor a political issue. It was an effort by civil society in a free India to obliterate a symbol of colonisation and reclaim Lord Ram's birthplace. The cast of the high voltage drama played out in Ayodhya during 1949-50 was a smorgasbord of characters belonging to divergent backgrounds and disparate professions. KKK Nair and Guru Datt Singh were bureaucrats with Nair being loyal to the coveted ICS. Ramchandra Paramhans and Digvijay Singh were mahants and Hindu Mahasabha leaders. Abhiram Das was a naga bairagi. Baba Raghav Das was a local Congress MLA, a Gandhian of impeccable credentials. Bhagwan Sahai, the chief secretary of the province, Premier Govind Ballabh Pant, a well-respected freedom fighter, and Purushottam Das Tandon, another freedom fighter, to name a few were all silent supporters of the bloodless revolution in Ayodhya.

Even at that time, there were a few die-hard communists (read left-liberals) and colonial remnants who were alarmed by what was happening in Ayodhya — as they are now. Such people are victims of the "Stockholm Syndrome", wallowing in the psyche of servitude and reminiscing about the times when the locals could be trampled upon in the name of rules and regulations imposed by an op-

pressive regime. The then Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, provided support and leadership to such desperate elements. As a result, the temple reconstruction was delayed by over seven decades and this delay cost the country immensely in terms of human lives, destruction of private and public property and the global perception of India.

Nehru's antipathy was not limited to Somnath or the Ram temple in Ayodhya; it extended to all Hindu temples as such. Delivering his inaugural address at a seminar on architecture in Delhi in 1959, he said: "Some of the temples of the South, however, repel me in spite of their beauty. I just can't stand them. Why? I do not know. I cannot explain that, but they are oppressive, they suppress my spirit. They do not allow me to rise, they keep me down...". Those inspired by the "Nehruvian consensus" are the ones who opposed the Janmabhoomi movement; and now find it difficult to reconcile with the reconstruction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Logically, the debate on the issue should have ended on November 9, 2019, when a five-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in a unanimous verdict put paid to all the arguments that had been used to denigrate the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. But old habits die hard. The colonised minds outlive the colonisers.

Punj is the author of the recently published *Tryst with Ayodhya: Decolonisation of India*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM ON THE FLOOR

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The gloves are off' (IE, February 8). PM Modi's speeches revealed his strategic analysis of the future of India aimed at decimating the Congress party and challenging regional opposition parties. He quoted Jawaharlal Nehru and other Congress party leaders to show that the country was led by a party that was anti-poor. He also mentioned that the nation has been gaining global recognition under his leadership and then enumerated the roadmap for the future in which the poor, youth, women and farmers will have a better quality of life.

YG Choulsey, Pune

AFFORDABLE CARE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Taking cancer on' (IE, February 8). The editorial highlights the promising advancements in homegrown cancer therapy, particularly CAR T-cell therapy in India. While these innovations offer hope for effective treatment with reduced side effects, the editorial emphasises the critical need to address affordability issues. Despite lower costs compared to western treatments, homegrown therapy remains financially out of reach for many in India, exacerbating the growing cancer burden. Urgent action is required to ensure equitable access, including efforts to reduce treatment costs and increase investment in cancer research and infrastructure.

Ambi Dey, Bangalore

OUR STAR BOWLER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Bumrah days' (IE, February 8). Whether he is ICC's number one ranked bowler or not, he belongs to a different league altogether. Adjectives fail to describe his true genius. In the current India-England series, where spinners are supposed to lead the wickets chart, it is Bumrah who has created havoc in the minds of Bazball batters and that is his sheer class. Since IPL is just around the corner, followed by T20 World Cup, he is to be used judiciously.

Bal Govind, Noida

THE FUSION MOMENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Finding harmony' (IE, February 8). The origins of East-West fusion music can be attributed to Anand Shankar, nephew of Sitar maestro Pt. Ravi Shankar. His 1970 fusion album substituted the sitar for the guitar for rock music covers like 'Jumpin' Jack Flash' by The Rolling Stones. The Beatles had also recorded 'Within You Without You' and 'Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds' from Sgt. Peppers in 1967 using the sitar, tabla and tanpura. Against the backdrop of the recent Grammy to Shakti, its original band member Zakir Hussain won yet another award for Indo-Western jazz number 'Pashto' with master flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia's nephew Rakesh playing the flute. For Indians and fusion global music, this is truly the moment.

Raja Bandopadhyaya, Vadodra

In-law dead, Bilkis Bano case convict out on parole a fortnight after surrender

ADITIRAJA & SOHINI GHOSH VADDARA, AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 8

A LITTLE over a fortnight after 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case surrendered at the Godhra sub-jail on January 21...

The court of Justice M R Mande on February 5 allowed Modhiya parole from February 7 to 11...

On Thursday morning, Modhiya was seen running errands in the Randhikpur market by local residents...

Speaking to The Indian Express, Deputy Superintendent of Police Vishakhia Jain from Limkhedain Dahod said...

to the Randhikpur police station... The district police has no role to perform during the parole period...

According to details pertaining to the parole and furlough granted to the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case...

The affidavit also recorded that of the 19 instances when he was let off on parole, he had surrendered late by a day on three occasions...

Modhiya and 10 other life term convicts in the Bilkis Bano case had surrendered at Godhra sub-jail shortly before midnight on January 21...

The Gujarat government had released the convicts as per its 1992 remission policy, based on a May 2022 SC order...

The 11 convicts - Radheshyam Shah, Jaswant Nai, Govind Nai, Kesar Vohania, Baka Vohania, Raju Soni, Ramesh Chandana, Shailesh Bhatt, Bipin Joshi, Mitesh Bhatt and Pradip Modhiya - had arrived from Singwad in Dahod district...

Sena UBT ex-corporator shot dead on Facebook live; accused kills himself

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV & VALLABH OZARKAR MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8



Abhishek Ghosalkar and Mauris Noronha

ABHISHEK GHOSALKAR, 41, former corporator of Shiv Sena (UBT) and son of party's former MLA Vinod Ghosalkar, was shot dead in Borivali...

Abhishek and Mauris, a businessman who resides in Borivali, had recently patched up and were at the Facebook live together.

The incident comes a week after the Thane shooting incident, where Ganpat Gaikwad, BJP MLA

from Kalyan (E), shot at Shiv Sena Eknath Shinde group functionary Mahesh Gaikwad inside a police station in Ulhasnagar.

Soon after he was shot at on Thursday, Abhishek was rushed to nearby Karuna Hospital, where he died during the treatment.

A senior IPS officer on condi-

tion of anonymity said, "Both Abhishek and Mauris succumbed to their injuries. Abhishek's body will be taken to Sir JJ Hospital for postmortem, while Mauris' body will be taken to Cooper Hospital. We will share more details later."

As the two were on Facebook live when the incident took place, the video of the incident went viral and a total five bullets were heard to have been fired at Abhishek.

In the four-minute 26-second video of the live video session, the two were seen talking comfortably and telling their audience that they have resolved all their past disputes and were in good terms. "Today we have decided to come together and unite. We have

decided to distribute sari and ration together," Mauris said during the session. "We are distributing sari to 300 working and needy women," Abhishek said during the session. The moment the live session got over and Abhishek got up, Mauris allegedly fired five bullets that was heard in the video.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA and leader Aaditya Thackeray questioned the law and order situation. "There is a government of goons in the state. There is no law and order in the state. First the firing took place in Kalyan and now in Mumbai," Aaditya said.

Demanding the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis who holds the home portfolio, Shiv Sena UBT MP

Sanjay Raut said, "There is a rule of gangsters in Maharashtra. The chief minister and his people meet goons everyday and induct them into their party. The home minister has disappeared and the state is in the hands of gangsters. That is why there is no fear of law and police are left to serve the Shinde gang (faction)."

Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC, Vilas Potnis said Mauris and Abhishek had a history of dispute. "Abhishek and Mauris had past dispute but recently their dispute was settled..." Potnis claimed.

Sources said that while Abhishek was an ex-corporator, Mauris, too, had political ambitions and was often seen with political leaders.

Allegations of Indian interference in Canada elections baseless: MEA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

INDIA ON Thursday strongly rejected as "baseless" allegations of its interference in Canada elections and said that the core issue has been Ottawa's "meddling" in New Delhi's internal affairs.

According to Canadian media reports, the country's federal commission of inquiry into foreign interference is looking to examine allegations of "meddling by India" in the last two general elections.

The official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said on Thursday, "We have seen media reports about the Canadian commission enquiring into... We strongly reject all such baseless allegations of Indian interference in Canadian elections."

The Canadian federal commission's terms of reference is primarily to examine the possible interference by China, Russia and other foreign states or non-state actors in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections, the CTV News reported. "It is not the government of India's policy to interfere in democratic processes of other countries. In fact, quite on the reverse, it is Canada which has been interfering in our internal affairs," Jaiswal said.

"We have been raising this issue regularly with them. We continue to call on Canada to take effective measures to address our core concerns," he said.



Bangladesh Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud

India's decision to fence border with Myanmar good for region, says Bangladesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

CALLING INDIA'S decision to fence its borders with Myanmar a "good move", Bangladesh Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud on Thursday said India and Bangladesh were facing the same problem of insurgency and that they should work together.

During an interaction at Vivekananda International Foundation in Delhi, Mahmud said: "Fencing the India-Myanmar border would be good for India and the region as I think there is insurgency (flowing) from Myanmar. In recent weeks, hundreds of people fled from Myanmar to India and Bangladesh. That is why the Indian government decided to go for it (fence the border)."

Later, in another interaction with the media at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia, he said: "We have discussed this issue and I think we should work together on it because it's a common problem."

Mahmud said 1.2 million "forcibly displaced" Rohingya refugees was a "burden" on Bangladesh and sought India's assistance for their repatriation to Myanmar.

He said the refugees are creating environmental and security problems besides other difficulties for Bangladesh.

JHARKHAND

'Did Raj Bhavan ask him to resign?': Governor denies his role in Soren's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RANCHI, FEBRUARY 8

JHARKHAND GOVERNOR C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday denied former chief minister Hemant Soren's allegation that he had played a role in Soren's arrest in an alleged money laundering case on January 31.

The Governor also denied claims that he wanted to impose President's rule in the state.

Hemant Soren had stepped down as CM, and picked Champai Soren to succeed him to the post, just before his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a "huge racket of illegal change of ownership of land by the mafia". Despite his arrest, Hemant was allowed to take part in the new government's floor test in the Assembly on February 5, during which he alleged that Raj Bhavan was involved in his arrest.

On Thursday, the Governor held a press conference in Ranchi and addressed a number of issues that came after the arrest of the former CM.

The first allegation he addressed was related to the delay in inviting Champai Soren to form the government. The rul-

ing coalition leaders visited the Governor three times over 26 hours before they were invited to form government late on February 1 night. While the coalition had questioned the delay at the time, the Governor said on Thursday that "every democratic norm was followed".

"It was a very peculiar situation, and that is why I had asked for legal advice. A sitting CM was absconding, as per media reports. And the next day, he was arrested. However, as soon as I received the advice, I asked Champai Soren to come by midnight... We never asked him to prove majority in the next 24-48 hours, but we gave 10 days' time... Every democratic norm was followed," Radhakrishnan said.

"We were getting a lot of calls on (Hemant Soren's) resignation. We also received one or two calls from people saying they do not support the new government formation... Even then, we extended our invitation to Champai Soren... So, where is the question of imposing President's Rule? Writing news articles about the imposition of President's rule without verification gives a wrong signal to the people, and it makes a mockery of everything," he said.



NITISH CALLS ON ADVANI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar meets former deputy prime minister and veteran BJP leader L K Advani at the latter's residence in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

THREATS OF 'POACHING', SPEAKER YET TO RESIGN

Political mind games continue ahead of Bihar trust vote

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, FEBRUARY 8

WITH DAYS to go for the Bihar trust vote on February 12, the NDA government led by Nitish Kumar and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) are engaged in mind games. Speaker Awadh Bihari Choudhary has yet to step down from his position, with the RJD saying that the Nitish government is "precariously placed" and hinting at more changes in political equations in the state.

The BJP, meanwhile, has warned of "stem action" if horse-trading is attempted.

An RJD leader told The Indian Express, "It is always safe to have our Speaker in a situation when the Nitish government is precariously placed. The Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), which has been supporting the government, looks non-committal.

Some JD(U) MLAs also look upset with Nitish changing sides."

The Mahagathbandhan has 114 MLAs in the 243-member Assembly, eight short of a simple majority. Even if Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha backs it, the Opposition alliance will be four short of the majority mark. The NDA has the support of 128 MLAs, including Manjhi's party and one Independent MLA.

The other scenario in which the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government can fall is if legislators in the ruling alliance break ranks. Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary of the BJP on Thursday said, "The NDA government will comfortably win the trust vote. It is the Opposition that needs to worry about keeping its flock together." On Tuesday, Samrat Choudhary had warned the RJD of any "stem action", saying, "Lalu

Prasad should know I am well aware of his party's vulnerability to a split, though the BJP does not believe in such tactics."

About the Speaker, he said, "It is only a matter of time before the Speaker, against whom all NDA MLAs have moved a no-confidence motion, is replaced. Either he will resign or face the ignominy of being voted out in the House where a majority of members do not have faith in him."

Chhattisgarh: 12-year-old girl dies by suicide, teacher held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 8

HOURS AFTER being pulled up by a schoolteacher for bunking the last period in school, a 12-year-old girl died by suicide in Ambikapur city in Chhattisgarh's Surguja region on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, based on her suicide note, the police arrested the teacher on charges of abetment to suicide.

The minor studied in a co-ed convent school in Ambikapur city. On Tuesday around 2.30 pm, the girl and her two friends bunked the last period.

The 45-year-old accused teacher, who is also the disciplinary in-charge, got to know about the girls not attending the last class and took disciplinary action by seizing their identity cards. "The girl got frightened that her parents would be asked to come to school," said a police officer.

According to the police, the girl told her mother she was not feeling well and went to her room. Around 9.30 pm when she did not respond to phone calls, her mother went to check on her and found the door locked from inside.

On breaking the door, the girl was found dead. "An FIR has been registered under section 305 of the IPC and the teacher has been arrested. She is in judicial custody," said Ambikapur city SP Smruthik Rajanala.

'TIRED OF WAITING' FOR SEAT-SHARING DEAL AAP announces 3 candidates for Lok Sabha polls in Assam

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 8

SAYING IT IS "tired of talking" about seat-sharing with alliance partners, the Aam Aadmi Party's central leadership on Thursday announced candidates for three out of Assam's 14 Lok Sabha seats. At the same time, the party insisted that it is "strongly" with the Opposition INDIA bloc.

AAP has not yet announced any candidates from either Delhi or Punjab, states where the party is in power.

The party, which has previously not contested any parliamentary or Assembly elections in Assam, is part of the INDIA bloc nationally and is also one of 15 parties in the United Opposition Forum alliance in Assam.

The United Opposition Forum had been stitched together even before the INDIA bloc was launched, and it had announced that it would field consensus candidates to all 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state. None of the other parties in the alliance - Congress, TMC, RJD, CPI(M), CPI, and regional parties like Akhil

Gogoi's Rajgor Dal and Lurinjyoti Gogoi's Assam Jatiya Parishad - have announced candidates in the state.

Of the 14 current MPs from Assam, nine are from the BJP, three are from Congress, one is from the All India United Democratic Front, and one is an Independent.

On Thursday, AAP's national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak made an official announcement declaring its state president Bhaben Choudhury as its Guwahati candidate, state vice-president Manoj Dhanwar as its Dibrugarh candidate, and state organising secretary Rishiraj Kaundinya as Sonitpur candidate. Having claimed these three seats through its announcement, the party sought to appear to leave the ball in its alliance partners' court, saying that it hoped the INDIA alliance would give these seats to AAP.

"We have quite little time left for Lok Sabha elections... That's why AAP is announcing three candidates from Assam for the Lok Sabha elections..." Pathak said.

BJP earned more than Rs 2K crore in 2022-23

23% more than previous fiscal and five times as much as Congress

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE BJP'S income in 2022-2023 increased by around 23% from the previous year, with the party earning Rs 2,360.84 crore, which was five times as much as the Congress's income, according to the party's annual audit report submitted to the Election Commission of India.

In 2022-2023, the BJP spent Rs 1,361.68 crore, 80% of which was on "election expenses" (Rs 1,092.15 crore), as per the annual report published by the ECI on Thursday. Out of that, the BJP spent the most on advertisements (Rs 432.14 crore).

In keeping with the previous years' trends, a large portion of the party's income came from electoral bonds. In fact, 61% (Rs 1,294.14 crore) of the income from voluntary contributions (Rs 2,120.06 crore) was in the form of anonymous electoral bonds, the party's annual report shows. The

party closed out the financial year with cash and cash equivalents of Rs 5,424.71 crore to its name, up from Rs 4,456.18 crore in 2021-2022. In 2022-2023, electoral bonds worth Rs 2,800.36 crore in total were sold by State Bank of India, as per an RTI reply by SBI to The Indian Express. The BJP's declaration shows the party received 46% of the total amount of EBs sold that year.

A distant second to the BJP, the Congress had declared an income of Rs 452.37 crore and expenditure of Rs 467.13 crore in 2022-2023, as per its annual audit report published by the ECI on January 31. The Congress's report showed the party had spent Rs 71.83 crore on the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Registered parties are required to submit their annual audited accounts to the ECI, as well as a list of all donations of Rs 20,000 and above, including name and PAN of the donor. Among the six national parties, the BJP was the last one to submit its 2022-2023 report, which was dated January 12.

Mumbai: Extortion racket 'mastermind' has past crime record, say police; ED says no official involved

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8

HIREN BHAGAT, better known as Romi Bhagat (50), a Khar resident, allegedly at the centre of an extortion bid on a builder arrested by Mumbai crime branch, has had at least four cases registered against him by the Mumbai Police in the past, an officer said. Between January 21 and 31, the crime branch arrested six persons with Bhagat being the latest in connection with the extortion case.

It was alleged that the complainant builder was asked to "settle" a dispute regarding redevelopment of a property by paying Rs 164 crore to another builder Satish Dhanuka, who was to develop the property earlier.

The builder alleged that in a meeting held at a cafe, Dhanuka along with other accused threatened to get an Enforcement Directorate (ED) case registered against him if the amount was not paid. The complainant approached the state home department following which an FIR was registered at the Bandra police station which led to six arrests. Dhanuka, named as an accused, is currently at large.

Eyebrows were raised when during raids conducted at Romi's residence, the police found ED documents, as per a remand report submitted in court.

Bhagat would appear before victims claiming to represent an ED official and threaten that a case would be registered against the person if money was not given. In the FIR registered by the Bandra

police, one of the accused has been identified as "an ED person".

Sources in the ED - which has also registered an offence in the matter - is also carrying out an inquiry in the matter. The ED said that the agency so far has found no involvement of any of their personnel in the alleged extortion racket.

The accused person falsely boasted about his connection with an ED officer to threaten the victims. To rule out any connection of ED personnel with the said case, the agency checked multiple CCTV footage of the places where the alleged offence took place.

Police sources said that Romi is one of the top "liaisoning agents" and has close links to some politicians and government officials.

उपरोध पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना अनुभव निमा/कार्यकर्ता फर्मों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा दो भागों में निर्धारित तिथि को 13:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है जो उसी दिन 16:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। विस्तृत विवरण समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर को वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध रहेगा तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन / तिथि विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। किसी भी निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोस्वाश्री के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा- ईटीसी-53/2023-24 विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल अलीगढ़ के अन्तर्गत समस्त 400/220/132 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्रों का आगामी 2 वर्ष हेतु अनुक्षण एवं परिचालन से सम्बन्धित समस्त कार्य। ईटीसी-54/2023-24 विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल अलीगढ़ के अन्तर्गत समस्त 400/220/132 के.वी. पारेषण लाइनों का आगामी 2 वर्ष हेतु अनुक्षण एवं सम्बन्धित समस्त कार्य। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, लाल डिग्री, अलीगढ़। राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाएँ, विद्युत चोरी की सूचना "www.ippowerup.org" पत्रांक-185-वि.पा.मं.(अ)/निविदा प्रकाशन /2023-24, दिनांक-08.02.2024

उपरोध पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा सूचना इस कार्यालय द्वारा निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका विवरण ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट: www.etender.up.nic.in एवं www.upptcl.org पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। ई-निविदा संख्या- 36 / वि०पा०म० (म)/2023-24: विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 400 के.वी.0, 220 के.वी.0 एवं 132 के.वी.0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्रों के वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 एवं 2025-26 हेतु अनुक्षण एवं परिचालन के कार्य हेतु एकीकृत निविदा। ई-निविदा संख्या- 37/वि०पा०म० (म)/2023-24: विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 400 के.वी.0, 220 के.वी.0 एवं 132 के.वी.0 पारेषण लाइनों के वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 एवं 2025-26 हेतु अनुक्षण एवं पैट्रोलिंग के कार्य हेतु एकीकृत निविदा। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मथुरा "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाएँ" संख्या:- 105/वि० पा०स० (म०)/दिनांक:- 08/02/2024

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03 No. CE/DEV/TB/741/2023-24/13 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER (RE-BID) The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Re-Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1 (One) no. of Package for Construction of Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 in Sivasagar Districts of Assam amounting to Rs. 4.36 Crores (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam. Details may be seen from 12.02.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders. Note:- N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc. Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3. JANASANYOG/CF/5414/23/9-FEB-24

MONETARY POLICY REVIEW

RBI targets inflation at 4% for sustainable economic growth

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8

RESERVE BANK Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday emphasised on achieving the four-per cent inflation target as stable and low inflation at four per cent for providing the necessary bedrock for sustainable growth.



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das delivers the Monetary Policy statement, at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai Thursday. PTI

"Headline inflation moderated to an average of 5.5 per cent during April-December 2023 from 6.7 per cent during 2022-23. Food price inflation, however, continued to impart considerable volatility to the inflation trajectory," he said while unveiling the monetary policy review.

AS EXPECTED, interest rates on home, vehicle, personal and other loans in the banking system will remain unchanged with the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) keeping the main policy instrument, repo rate, unchanged at 6.5 per cent in a 5:1 majority decision in its bi-monthly policy review.

Why MPC kept repo rate unchanged?

GEORGE MATHEW & HITESH VYAS MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8

rate at which RBI lends money to banks to meet their short-term funding needs — to manage and balance the retail inflation and growth.

A major reason for the continual pause in the repo rate hike is because retail inflation continues to remain above the 4 per cent target of the RBI. Retail inflation (CPI) rose to 5.55 per cent in November from 4.87 per cent in October and 5.02 per cent in September, and further reached 5.69 per cent in December. Even in FY25, the RBI has forecasted a 4.5 per cent retail inflation.

for financial year 2024-2025 (FY 2025), down from 7.3 per cent projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) for FY24.

mand. Some of the high frequency indicators such as two-wheeler and FMCG sales as well as higher demand for MGNREGS reflect a weakness in rural incomes," Suman Chowdhury, Chief Economist and Head, Research, Acuité Ratings & Research.

EXPLAINED

What will happen to lending, deposit rates? Interest rates on loans and deposits are largely likely to remain unchanged as of now. Certain segments of the retail loans are expected to cost more as the RBI recently hiked the risk weights on retail loans and many banks raised marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR). All external benchmark lending rates that are linked to the repo rate will not rise.

What's the basis of 7 per cent GDP projection? While stating that domestic economic activity is strengthening, the policy panel has projected a lower GDP growth of 7 per cent

Why has RBI kept the repo rate unchanged? The six-member rate-setting panel, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, has decided not to tinker with the repo rate — the

Why there's no change in the policy stance? The RBI has retained the policy stance as the 'withdrawal of accommodation' despite the deficit in the liquidity in recent weeks.

RBI asks banks, NBFCs to reveal more details to retail, MSME borrowers

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to ask banks and other regulated entities (REs), including non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), to provide more transparency and details on pricing of loans and other charges levied on retail and medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME) customers.

The RBI has decided to mandate all REs to provide the Key Fact Statement (KFS) to the borrowers for all retail and MSME loans.

Sensex dips 1% on policy, inflation, FMCG woes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8

BENCHMARK INDICES on Thursday fell by up to one per cent as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set a hawkish tone in the monetary policy, triggering worries that the central bank is likely to keep the policy restrictive for a longer time amid inflation concerns.

Mehta Equities Ltd. Analysts said selling intensified after the RBI's monetary policy announcement in the first half with heavy selling in private banking scrips leading the slump. Banking industry has been facing liquidity issues in recent times and with the central bank's decision showing no signs of interest rate cut in the near term, investors slashed their positions in financial stocks, Tapse said.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 8

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said that the action on Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) was taken due to persistent non-compliance and that there is no worry at the systemic level.

'Action on Paytm due to persistent non-compliance'



RBI soon will issue FAQs for Paytm Payments Bank customers

stitution, a payments bank," Das said when asked if there is any risk to the entire fintech sector.

One97 Communications, sources said. "This is a supervisory action on a regulated entity for persistent non-compliance. Such actions are invariably preceded by months and, at times, years of bilateral engagement where we not only point out deficiencies but also provide more than adequate time for them to take corrective action," RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J said.

The Cabinet has also approved allocation of additional 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz band for Indian Railways for Kavach technology. Additional 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz band has also been approved for National Capital Region Transport Corporation.

BRIEFLY

Sebi bans 10 entities for share rigging via TV

New Delhi: Sebi on Thursday barred 10 entities, including guests experts, appearing on a business news channel from the securities market and directed seizure of unlawful gains of Rs 7.41 crore made by them through alleged stock manipulation. In its probe, Sebi found that few guest experts shared advance information pertaining to recommendations to be made by them with certain entities called "profit makers" before the broadcast of the recommendations on Zee Business. PTI

India likely to begin LNG supplies to Sri Lanka by end of next year

SUKALP SHARMA BETUL (GOA), FEBRUARY 8

INDIA IS likely to start supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Sri Lanka by the end of next year and will eventually establish an offshore regasification terminal at the Colombo port. The supply — which will be done using tankers that will be shipped to Colombo — as well as the terminal construction and operation will be done by India's largest LNG terminal operator Petronet LNG.

of supply will be once in two days using ships that can accommodate 100 such tankers. Sri Lanka has been scouting for LNG for running gas-based power plants and use it in other industries, and has now agreed to take supplies from Petronet LNG. As for the planned FSRU, it has been under discussion for years, and is finally likely to see the light of day some time in 2028.

Corporation, GAIL, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation — are looking at sourcing more gas through long-term contracts, given Petronet LNG's additional regasification capacity that is expected to come on stream in a few years. On Tuesday, Petronet LNG extended its 7.5-mtpa long-term LNG contract with QatarEnergy for another 20 years beyond 2028.

In India, momentum around developers, development is unbelievable, says Nadella

BIJIN JOSE BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 8

MICROSOFT CHIEF Executive Officer (CEO) Satya Nadella on Monday said that India is second to the US when it comes to the total number of developers on GitHub and it is going to cross that in 2027, making it the place with the maximum number of developers. In terms of generative artificial intelligence (AI) projects on GitHub by Indian contributors, it is next to the US.

through of natural language," the Microsoft CEO said. Nadella said developers tend to digitise people, places, and things, but with AI, things are changing. "We put into data models, query it, and essentially all our computing is getting up in the morning and digitising. Now, we have a new tool in our arsenal, think of it as a neural reasoning engine that can find patterns and give us that predictive power," he said.

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EVERYDAY ECONOMICS

How ride-hailing cabs charge you, what Karnataka order can change

AGGAM WALIA
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE KARNATAKA government has announced uniform minimum fares for app-based cabs and city taxis depending upon the cost of the vehicle, and disallowed surge pricing.

The order, issued on February 3 and effective immediately, may lead to higher earnings for cab drivers. However, it can disrupt India's crowded ride-hailing market, in which companies have innovated and differentiated their business models to gain a competitive edge.

Be it the fare settlement mechanism or the booking process, companies such as Uber, Ola, BluSmart, and inDrive offer similar services in significantly different ways. The ride-hailing companies will now have to rework their business models in Karnataka, and look for new ways to remain competitive.

What does the Karnataka transport department's order say?

It specifies minimum fares based on three slabs of vehicle costs.

For vehicles that cost up to Rs 10 lakh, the minimum fare has been fixed at Rs 100 up to 4 km, and Rs 24 for every subsequent kilometre. For vehicles that cost between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 15 lakh, the minimum fare up to 4 km is Rs 115, and an additional Rs 28 for every subsequent kilometre. For vehicles costing more than Rs 15 lakh, the initial 4 km will cost a minimum of Rs 130, and an additional Rs 32 for every kilometre thereafter.

The order makes no distinction between types of vehicles (sedans, SUVs, etc), and does not consider the availability of features like air conditioning.

Also, fares are based only on distance travelled, not on the time taken. This implies that surge pricing, which is the hiking of fares during peak hours, is also not allowed. But the order does allow for a 10% surcharge

on trips between midnight and 6 am.

How will the order impact Uber, Ola, and BluSmart?

Uber and Ola together command the bulk of India's ride-hailing market. Both companies offer an upfront fare which consists of the base rate, and rates for estimated time and distance of the route. The fare also factors in the current demand for rides in the area. This third component is determined by an algorithm that automatically increases the cost of the trip based on the demand for rides in the user's locality. Once the user selects the vehicle and the corresponding upfront fare, the app connects them to a nearby driver.

By disallowing surge pricing and price determination on the basis of time taken, the Karnataka order fundamentally alters Uber's and Ola's price settlement mechanism.

Also, Uber and Ola fares are based upon vehicle type and not vehicle cost, as man-

dated by the order. It is not clear how the two companies plan to alter their business models to adhere to the order.

Unlike Uber and Ola, the ride fares of BluSmart, which offers rides on battery-run vehicles, are not sensitive to fluctuations in demand. BluSmart, which currently operates only in Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru, has fixed rates for specified distance slabs.

For its Delhi market, BluSmart additionally applies a distinction between relaxed and rush hours. Thus, a BluSmart cab for a 6-km ride during rush hours in Delhi costs Rs 199, but only Rs 149 during relaxed hours.

For city rides up to 6 km in Bengaluru, BluSmart charges a flat rate of Rs 199. For rides between 6 and 9 km, it charges Rs 249, and so on. For airport rides and rentals, BluSmart follows the same system, albeit with different rates.

As per the order, the minimum fare for a 6 km ride in a car costing between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 15 lakh would be Rs 171. Still, among the major ride-hailing companies, BluSmart

is likely to be the least affected by the order; it has no surge pricing, and it already only considers the distance travelled.

What about inDrive?

inDrive's ride-hailing model is significantly different, as there is no predetermined trip fare thrust upon the passenger and the driver. inDrive only recommends a base fare which is subject to in-app negotiation between passengers and drivers to reach a mutually agreed fare. The recommended fare takes into account the normal cost per kilometre, the normal cost per minute, and the cost of the driver coming to the pick-up location.

inDrive's recommended fare does not include any algorithm-based surge charge. The company says that for peak-hour rides, drivers themselves can negotiate a higher price. At all times, the ride is confirmed only after both the passenger and driver agree on a price.

The Karnataka order requires inDrive's

base fare to match the minimum fares prescribed by it. While it does not impose any restrictions on additional negotiations between rider and driver, a higher fixed base price might make trips with inDrive more expensive.

"In our experience, fixed rates don't necessarily lead to increased ride opportunities for drivers or improved vehicle availability for passengers," Arijit Das, inDrive India's public policy head said.

Will the Karnataka order allow drivers to earn more?

The order does not specify commission rates for ride-hailing companies. Currently, Uber and Ola can charge up to 30% of the ride fare as commission. inDrive charges 10%. BluSmart drivers are paid weekly, and their earnings are linked to the business they do on the platform. If the commission rates stay at these levels, the higher minimum fares set by the order can improve drivers' earnings.

EXPLAINED POLICY

NEW GUIDELINES TO MAKE CINEMA HALLS ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

DIVYAA
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THE MINISTRY of Information & Broadcasting last month came out with 'Accessibility Standards in the Public Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres for Persons with Hearing and Visual Impairment', and invited stakeholder comments on the draft till February 15.

Such equipment can include smart glasses for displaying captions, closed caption stands near the seats, a separate small screen below the big screen to display captions, headphones for audio description, and specialised mobile apps. Theatres need to make available at least two such equipment per 200 seats.

Moreover, cinema owners, in consultation with organisations for disabled persons, also have to train their staff to serve customers with disabilities.

How will the guidelines be implemented?

The licensing authorities will monitor places under their jurisdiction to ensure that accessible seats are provided. The I&B Ministry will also set up a committee to monitor the implementation of these rules, with at least 50% of the members being persons with hearing/visual impairment, and the rest being representatives from the film industry.

Grievances can be filed with the licensee of the respective cinema theatre, and further be escalated to the licensing authority. The CBFC will also annually collect and publish information about different accessible services provided.

When do they come into effect?

Films dubbed in more than one language would be required to provide at least one accessibility feature each for the hearing impaired and visually impaired, within six months from the date of implementation of these guidelines.

Feature films submitted for consideration in the National Film Awards, in the Indian Panorama Section of the International Film Festival of India, Goa, and Mumbai International Film Festival have to include closed captioning and audiodescription with effect from January 1 next year.

All other Feature Films being certified through CBFC and meant for theatrical releases would be required to provide accessibility features within three years from the date of issue of the guidelines.

These guidelines are applicable for those feature films that are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for commercial public exhibition in movie theatres. Once notified, the guidelines will require production houses and movie theatres to either run dedicated shows for the impaired, or ensure special provisions in theatres so they can enjoy the cinema experience like anyone else.

Why the guidelines?

The proposal quotes Sections 29 and 42 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which mandate the government to take measures to promote universal access in the information and communication sector. This includes access to films for persons with hearing and visual disabilities.

As per the Census 2011, 2.21% of the total population in India has been marked as 'disabled', of which 19 per cent are visually impaired, and another 19 per cent have hearing disabilities.

What do the guidelines propose?

According to the proposed guidelines, two versions of the same film will have to be delivered for certification to the CBFC: a standard version, and a version with special accessibility features — audio description, open/closed captioning, and Indian Sign Language Interpretation.

After both versions are certified, movie theatres can either hold dedicated screenings with accessible services, or use certain specialised equipment during standard shows to facilitate the viewing experience for the hearing and visually impaired.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

What white paper says—and doesn't

The govt has come out with a white paper on the Indian economy, comparing its performance over 10 years with the UPA decade. It has attacked its predecessor for 'abandoning reforms' and 'policy paralysis'

UDIT MISRA
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman presented a "white paper" on the Indian economy in Parliament Thursday. The document, which has been prepared by the Ministry of Finance, essentially compares the 10-year record of economic governance under the Congress-led UPA governments (between 2004-05 and 2013-14) with the 10-year record of the BJP-led NDA governments (between 2014-15 and 2023-24).

What is a white paper, and is this one?

A white paper typically provides information about a specific issue. A government may present a white paper — say, on black money — to make people aware of the nature and scope of the problem and the possible ways to resolve it.

In that sense, what was presented in Parliament is not exactly a white paper, because it is a comparison between the record of two governments on a variety of economic parameters. A comprehensive review of the state of the Indian economy as things stood in 2014, when the incumbent government first took charge, would have been a white paper on the economy.

Why is it being presented now?

The document explains why the white paper is being presented at the end of 10 years instead of at the start. "Our government refrained from bringing out a white paper on the poor state of affairs then. That would have given a negative narrative and shaken the confidence of all, including investors. The need of the hour was to give hope to the people, to attract investments, both domestic and global and to build support for the much-needed reforms."

What is its objective?

There are four stated objectives.

One, it seeks to inform everyone "of the nature and extent of governance, economic and fiscal crises that were bequeathed" to the NDA government when it assumed office in 2014.

Two, it informs about "the policies and measures that (NDA) government took to restore the health of the economy" since 2014.

Three, it "hopes to generate a wider, more informed debate on the paramountcy of national interest and fiscal responsibility in matters of governance over political expediency."

Four, and it quotes Prime Minister

UPA AND NDA YEARS: WHAT SOME CRUCIAL NUMBERS SAY

Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit*	Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit*
2004-05	14.10	7.92	3.95	2014-15	10.99	7.41	4.10
2005-06	13.99	7.92	4.03	2015-16	10.46	8	3.87
2006-07	17.14	8.06	3.35	2016-17	11.76	8.26	3.48
2007-08	15.14	7.66	2.59	2017-18	11.03	6.8	3.46
2008-09	12.56	3.09	6.11	2018-19	10.59	6.45	3.44
2009-10	15.46	7.86	6.57	2019-20	6.37	3.87	4.64
2010-11	19.92	8.5	4.89	2020-21	-1.36	-5.83	9.17
2011-12	14.43	5.24	5.91	2021-22	18.36	9.05	6.75
2012-13	13.82	5.46	4.93	2022-23	16.06	7.24	6.38
2013-14	12.97	6.39	4.48	2023-24	8.87	7.32	5.85
AVERAGE OF UPA YEARS				AVERAGE OF NDA YEARS			
2004-2014	14.95	6.80	4.7	2014-2024	10.31	5.9	5.1

*Source: MoSPI and CMIE, *(as a % of Nominal GDP)*



The white paper was presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. PTI/File

Narendra Modi's speech on last year's Independence Day, "to commit ourselves to national development, with new inspirations, new consciousness, new resolutions, as the country opens up immense possibilities and opportunities."

What does it say?

The 58-page white paper has three main parts.

Part 1 discusses the macroeconomic situation during the 10 years of UPA rule. Part 2 provides the "current status of the various corruption scams of the UPA government". Part 3 shows how the NDA "turned the economy around".

Here are some of the most important claims in the white paper.

- The UPA Government inherited a healthy economy ready for more reforms, but made it non-performing in 10 years.
- UPA abandoned economic reforms.
- In a quest to maintain high economic growth by any means after the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, UPA severely undermined the macroeconomic foundations. For instance, it underscores high inflation, high fiscal deficit (or the money borrowed to meet expenses), and high proportion of bad loans in the banking system that dragged down economic activity.
- Not only did UPA borrow heavily from the market, but the funds raised were applied unproductively. "Capital expenditure

as a per cent of total expenditure (excluding interest payments) halved from 31 per cent in FY04 to 16 per cent in FY14." This ratio stands at 28% in the current year. The resulting "neglect of infrastructure creation and challenges of the logistical constraints caused industrial and economic growth to stumble."

- Health expenditure of Indian households showed very little improvement.
- Defence preparedness was hampered by policy paralysis. "By 2012, shortage of combat-ready equipment and ammunition was a chronic issue plaguing our forces," quotes the document from another of PM Modi's speeches in 2018.
- UPA's decade was marked by "policy misadventures and scams such as non-transparent auction of public resources (coal and telecom spectrum)..." and the spectre of retrospective taxation..."

A substantive part of the documents goes on to claim how things have improved under the NDA. It uses data from the International Monetary Fund to show how "average headline inflation has been lower in the NDA decade". Or how many of the schemes — such as construction of toilets or opening of bank accounts — achieved higher results during the NDA decade.

What is the upshot?

Analysing the performance of any economy over two decades, even when they are aligned back to back, is a daunting task. This

is so because a variety of factors affect not just the economy but also how we measure it.

For instance, a very big reason why domestic inflation was very high during the last couple of UPA years and immediately subsided during the first two of NDA is the cost of crude oil, which ranged between \$111 and \$105 a barrel between FY12 and FY14, and then fell to \$84 in FY15 and to \$46 in FY16.

Indeed, on aggregate, data shows that India registered better GDP growth as well as lower fiscal deficits during the UPA time.

The NDA government has several genuine achievements to its credit — such as the GST and IBC — but the white paper ignores all that is amiss with the economy. For instance, it does not even contain the word "unemployment". This was when the government's own Periodic Labour Force Survey showed that unemployment had reached a 45-year high in 2017-18.

Similarly, it makes no mention of the fact that there has been no formal measure of poverty since 2011. Or that this government has failed to conduct the decadal Census — the first such miss since 1881. Also, a white paper on the Indian economy over two decades does not have a single chart on GDP growth over this period.

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Court reserves verdict: debate around subcategorisation within SC quota

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM & APURVA VISHWANATH
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

A number of states have now returned to the Supreme Court to argue against this decision, claiming they do have the power to make sure reservation benefits are distributed to communities that need them the most. The respondents, on the other hand, argue that all Scheduled Castes must be treated equally.

The beginning

In 1975, Punjab issued a notification dividing its 25% SC reservation at that time into two categories. In the first category, seats were reserved solely for the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities, which are still among two of the most economically and educationally backward communities in the state. Under the policy, they were to be given first preference for reservation in education and public employment.

While the notification remained in force

for nearly 30 years, it ran into legal hurdles in 2004, when a five-judge Constitution Bench, in the *Chinnaiiah* case, struck down a similar law introduced by Andhra Pradesh in 2000 for being violative of the right to equality. Two years later, the Punjab & Haryana High Court in *Dr. Kishan Pal v. State of Punjab* struck down the 1975 notification.

The appeal

In October 2006, Punjab attempted to bring back the law by passing the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006. This Act reintroduced the first preference in reservations for the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities.

In 2010, the High Court once again struck down this provision. The Punjab government then moved the Supreme Court.

In 2014, the Supreme Court in *Davinder*

Singh v State of Punjab referred the appeal to a five-judge Constitution Bench.

Reconsidering Chinnaiiah

In 2020, the Constitution Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra held that the court's 2004 decision required reconsideration.

The ruling disagreed with the premise that Scheduled Castes are a homogeneous group and said there are "unequals within the list of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and socially and educationally backward classes."

Crucially, since the *EV Chinnaiiah* decision, the concept of a "creamy layer", which puts an income ceiling on those eligible for reservations, has trickled down to SC reservations too, from OBCs. In the landmark 2018 ruling in *Jarnail Singh v Lachmi Narain Gupta*, the Supreme Court upheld the concept of

"creamy layer" within SCs too. States have argued that the sub-classification is essentially an application of the creamy layer formula.

Since the *Davinder* Bench was also of five judges (same as *EV Chinnaiiah*), a seven-judge Bench is now hearing the issue.

Arguments from both sides

The Advocate General of Punjab, Gurminder Singh, argued that *EV Chinnaiiah* was mistaken when it held that states could not tamper with the classes that comprised the Presidential list under Article 341.

Highlighting the language in Article 16(4), he pointed out that it allows the State to provide reservations for backward classes who are not "adequately represented" in State services. Additional Advocate General of Punjab Shadan Farasat pointed out that the recently introduced Article 342A on the Constitution made it clear that the *Chinnaiiah*

decision could no longer apply. This provision specifically empowers States and Union Territories to maintain a list of Socially and Economically Backward Classes which may be different from the Presidential list.

Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the respondents, argued that all the communities included in the Presidential list suffered from the "taint of untouchability", and the Constituent Assembly made a choice not to enter into comparisons of who suffered the most.

He then claimed that if a community named in the Presidential list did not receive reservation benefits, they would only be left with the stigma of being a Scheduled Caste. Another intervenor argued that states did not have the discretion to ignore some Scheduled Castes in favour of others.

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बिहार सरकार

बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग

19, हार्डिंग रोड, पटना-800001

आवश्यक सूचना

PR.NO.-002204 (NiNi) 2023-24

विज्ञापन सं-07/2023 से 36/2023 (व्यवसाय अनुदेशक के विभिन्न पदों)

श्रम संसाधन विभाग, बिहार पटना, अन्तर्गत निदेशालय, नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण (प्रशिक्षण पक्ष), बिहार, पटना के अधीनस्थ विभिन्न औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में व्यवसाय अनुदेशक के रिक्त पदों पर ITI योग्यताधारी अभ्यर्थियों की नियुक्ति हेतु दिनांक-06.02.2024 को आयोजित परीक्षा के प्रश्न-पत्र पर दिनांक-09.02.2024 से 11.02.2024 तक अभ्यर्थियों से Online Portal पर आपत्ति प्राप्त किया जाना है।

उक्त से संबंधित विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश एवं आपत्ति Portal का लिंक आयोग के Website- www.btscc.bih.nic.in पर प्रकाशित की जायेगी। अभ्यर्थियों को निदेश है कि आयोग के Website का सतत अनुश्रवण करते रहेंगे।

उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR-17117 (B & C) 2023-24

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

प्रभारी सचिव, बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग, पटना।

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar Museum Society, Patna

(An Autonomous Organization Under the Department of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar, Registered Under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860)

Recruitment Cancellation Notice for engagement of Research associate in Bihar Museum, Patna, Bihar on contract basis.

This is in reference of the recruitment advertisement No.—Pr. No. 014237 (Art & Culture) 2023-24 dated 28th December 2023 and Ad ID-130127 dated 27th December 2023 which was for engagement of Research associate for one year on Contract basis for a project on "Nomination of Chhath Puja in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The advertisement was published in News Paper and Website, is hereby cancelled due to no candidates were found suitable as per essential qualification. The fresh advertisement for the same shall be notified shortly. This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

(Ranbeer Singh Rajput) Additional Director Admin (I/C) Bihar Museum, Patna

PR. No. 017030 (Art & Culture) 2023-24

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सहारनपुर वृत्त, लोनिवि०, सहारनपुर

अत्यकालीन ई-प्रोक्वैमेंट निविदा सूचना
पत्रांक- 611 /25एम०एस-एस/24 दिनांक: 27.01.2024
महामहिम राज्यपाल उ०प्र० की ओर से उ०प्र० लोक निर्माण विभाग के ए० मार्ग श्रेणी के पात्र पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Table with 7 columns: क्र. सं., कार्य का नाम, कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु. में), धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रु. में), कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (जी.एस.टी. सहित रु.), टेकेदार के पंजीयन की श्रेणी

विड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 09.02.2024 से दिनांक 17.02.2024 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 17.02.2024 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी तकनीकी विड दिनांक 17.02.2024 को अपरान्ह 12.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(सतत गुमरीशी) अधीक्षासी अभियन्ता प्रान्तीय छण्ड, लोनिवि० शमली
(सी०पी० सिंह) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सहारनपुर वृत्त, लोनिवि० सहारनपुर

UPID-202497 Date: 07/02/2024 www.upgov.nic.in

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION T.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 (U.P.) Website : www.lmc.up.nic.in

Ref. No. : D/978/AMC/EE/23 Dated : 08/02/2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of interest are invited by Lucknow Municipal Corporation from Experienced and technically qualified Private entities or Navratna PSUs for setting up of mixed waste processing & disposal facility of 2000 TPD Capacity in Lucknow on Design, Build, Finance, Own, Operate and Transfer (DBFOOT) basis based on sustainable advance Zero Residue Green Technology along with scientific disposal of 100% inert generated from processing of Municipal Solid Waste. Interested firms are required to process the Municipal Solid Waste generated in Lucknow City and has to develop waste to energy plant, bio-methanisation, composting, torrefaction, or any suitable proven Zero Residue Green Technology that are easy to maintain and in line with the applicable laws & regulations for processing the mixed MSW and RDF including Construction of modern Scientific Sanitary Landfill for inert disposal and Construction of Leachate treatment plant and other treatment facilities. During the time of installation of plant, agency has to process the daily coming waste through traditional as well as scientific manner. The EOJ documents and other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the UP Government E tender portal and the EOJ has to be submitted through NIC e-tender website i.e. https://etender.up.nic.in and in per below given time Schedule:

Table with 2 columns: Task, Date/Time

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR -Selection of Agency for In-Situ Treatment of Sludge of Septic Tanks of Community/Mobile Toilets and Sewage through Bioremediation for Treatment of the Drains flowing into the Rivers in the State of Bihar.

Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna - 800015 (Tel - 0612-2215880, Email -urbansec-bih@nic.in)

- 1. Project Officer-cum-Additional Director, UD&HD on behalf of Principal Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, invites proposal for Selection of Agency for In-Situ Treatment of Sludge of Septic Tanks of Community/Mobile Toilets and Sewage through Bioremediation for Treatment of all the Drains flowing into the rivers in the State of Bihar.
2. UD&HD, Bihar, invites Bids under Single Stage two-envelope system - Technical and Financial Bid, from reputed and experienced agencies for Bioremediation work as per works detailed in the table below Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding and is open to all eligible bidders. Bids will be received through Bihar Govt. portal www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

Table with 6 columns: Name of the Work, Bid Security, Bid Processing Fee (BELTRON), Cost of Bidding Document, Period

Applicants may download the bidding documents from the e-procurement portal www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

- Last date to receive Pre-Proposal Queries: 13/02/2024 up to 06:00 PM.
• Date of Pre- Proposal Meeting: 15/02/2024 at 03:00 PM.
• Last date and time of receipt (Upload) of Bids: 28/02/2024 up to 06:00 PM.
• Last date and time for receipt of Hard Copies: 29/02/2024 up to 03:00 PM.
• Time and date of opening Technical Bids: 29/02/2024 at 04:00 PM.
• Time and date of opening Financial Bids: (To be communicated later).

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Project Officer-cum-Additional Director PR-017049 (Urban) 2023-24 UD&HD, Bihar.

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

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

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

No. CE/DEV/MMNPPNA/402/2023-24/06

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER(RE-BID)

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1 (One) no. of Package for Construction of Roads and Bridge projects under MMNPPNA for the year 2023-24 in Sivasagar District of Assam amounting to Rs10.14 Crores (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam. Details may be seen from 10.02.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non - sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

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

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

JANASANYOG/CF/5411/23/9-FEB-24

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 : 080-68455777. Branch Office : Unit no. 3, Ground Floor, Pearls Omnia Tower, Plot B 1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034.

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, 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-applicant/ Mortgagor No. 2 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. At your request and inance we granted you the following credit facilities (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'credit facility'). The details are mentioned below.

Loan Account No: S19DEL-DEL-060205, U21DEL-DEL-017637, U22DEL-DEL- 020626 and U23DEL023219. Sanctioned loan amount Rs.61,76,787/-, Rs.11,63,908/-, Rs.6,50,000/- and Rs.39,89,418/- Total Liability as on 22-01-2024: Rs.1,12,03,022/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest). Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Applicants & Mortgagors -1. M/s. Nav Chetna SR. SEC School, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Village Badhra, Distt Bhowani, Haryana - 127308. 2. M/s. Nav Chetna Shiksha Samiti, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Village Badhra, Distt Bhowani, Haryana - 127308. 3. Mrs. Baermati, W/o. Rajender Kumar, H. No. 256, Badhra Village, Bhowani, Haryana-127308. 4. Mr. Rajender Kumar, S/o. Bai Kishan, H. No. 256, Badhra Village, Bhowani, Haryana - 127308.

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)/document(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 of 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.1,12,03,022/- 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.1,12,03,022/- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakh Three Thousand Twenty Two 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, 5BC-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 Admeasuring Area 13 kanal 0 marla Part of 119/240 Out of 26 Kanal 5 Marie Khasra No. 62/1122 (0-18), 182(3-17), 19(8-0), 20(1-0-16), 21(2-0-16), 22(8-0), 23(14-0) Khewat No.85 Khatoni No.97 Property Situated at Village-Badhra, Tehsil Badhra, District Dadri and bounded as under. East By: Agri Land West By: Agri Land North By: Dhigahwa Road South By: Agri land

Date : 09-02-2024, Place : Delhi. Authorised Officer - Varthana Finance Private Limited.

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702) O/o General Manager cum Chief Engineer, Ranchi Electric Supply Area Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 Phone No. 0651-2490550 Fax No. 0651-2490670 E mail ID :- gm_rcjseb@yahoo.in

e-Tender Notice

Online tenders are invited from manufacturers/ authorized dealers/ supplier firms authorized by principal manufacturer for supply of under mentioned ADP Head materials

Table with 7 columns: NIT, Sl No, Name of material, Unit, Quantity, Estimated Cost, EMD Amount, Cost of BOQ (Non-refundable)

All online tenders should be submitted online on www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE OF DATES

Table with 4 columns: No, Availability of tender document on website, Last date and time for submitting e-tender, Last date and time of receipt of bid documents (Online)

- 1. Guidelines for online submission of bids can be downloaded from the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
2. Interested bidders can download the bid form from the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
3. Bidders have to upload the online transaction slip if generated or SS/NSIC/MSME registration certificate towards Tender Fee & EMD as mentioned in NIT on or before the cutOff date & time as mentioned in the NIT failing which bid will not be accepted. The details of cost of documents, EMD specified in the tender documents should be the same as submitted online (scanned copies of online transaction slip) otherwise tender will summarily be rejected.

1. Tender Notice is also available on our website: www.jvnl.in
2. For any clarification please contact: 0651-2490550/9431135609/9534218638.

स्वीकृत एवं वापसित न करनी बाप। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टेल फी नो 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज कराते। General Manager-Cum-Chief Engineer ESA, Ranchi PR 318334 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24).D

Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited (A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking) 2nd & 3rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Re-tender for empanelment of agencies for supply of stationary

Notice Inviting Re-tender Ref No.:-BMSIC/10035/04-23/02 (Only through E-Tender on website:-https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) invites E-Bids from the interested agencies for "Re-tender for empanelment of agencies for supply of stationary". Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria, selection mechanism, other terms and conditions are available on the website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

Table with 2 columns: Tender Schedule, Details

BMSICL reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender document or to reject any or all tenders or annul the tender process at any stage without giving any notice or assigning any reasons.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar GM (Admin) BMSICL PR-017005 (B & C) 2023-24

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

Govt. of Bihar BIHAR STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY SECTION I REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

I. Secretary, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, Patna invites RFP (Two Bid System) on behalf of Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) from an Indian Registered Company under Companies Act 1956 or 2013/Proprietorship or Partnership Firm Located in Bihar for "Design, Preparation, Printing & Supply of Books for (a) मुख्यमंत्री विद्यालय सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम : शिक्षकों के लिए हस्त-पुस्तिका/ Handbook for Teachers; Chief Minister School Safety Programme और (b) मुख्यमंत्री विद्यालय सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम : बाल प्रेरकों के प्रयोग हेतु हस्त-पुस्तिका/ Handbook for Child motivators: Chief Minister School Safety Programme to Govt. Schools of Bihar in all 38 districts. II. Above mentioned books have to be supplied to all 38 district headquarters of Bihar after Design, preparation & printing. III. Details of Work :

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Name of work, Quantity (No. of books), EMD (Rs. in lakh), Period of work

IV. Schedule of Events :

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No, Event Descriptions, Timeline

Note - (i) Interested bidders may obtain further information about this Notice Inviting RFP from the office of the Secretary, Secretary, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Neharu Path, Patna.

Secretary PR. No. 017042 (Disaster) 2023-24 Bihar State Disaster Management Authority

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।



CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with LWE outfits at Dantewada (Chhattisgarh). Their Courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namey Vinay @ Ali, S/o. Sh. Mukesh @ Shajnawaj, R/o. Gali No. 7, Sonia Vihar, Delhi, Also to: Gaushala Mohalla, Hamirpur, U.P., has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case Cr. Case 1804/2019, FIR No.214/2019 U/s 380/457/411 IPC registered at P.S. Lohori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Vinay @ Ali cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Vinay @ Ali has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Vinay @ Ali accused of Cr. Case 1804/2019, FIR No.214/2019 U/s 380/457/411 IPC P.S. Lohori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.05.2024

By Order Sh. Mayank Agarwal Metropolitan Magistrate-09, Central, Room No. 286, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER, Short Term E-tender No. ETC/MU/T-50/2023-24 is invited for Operation and Maintenance of different primary Sub-stations under the jurisdiction of Electricity Transmission Circle, Muzaffarnagar. E-tender is being uploaded on www.etender.up.nic.in. EMD cost Rs. 2000000.00 Lacs. Cost of tender documents including GST : Rs. 2950/- Scheduled date & time of submission of bid : Up to 21.02.2024 by 17:00 Hrs., Scheduled date and time of opening of Part-I : 22.02.2024 at 12:00 Hrs. Short Term E-tender No. ETC/MU/T-51/2023-24 is invited for Maintenance of different voltage Transmission Lines under the jurisdiction of Electricity Transmission Circle, Muzaffarnagar. E-tender is being uploaded on www.etender.up.nic.in. EMD cost Rs. 4000000.00. Cost of tender documents including GST : Rs. 2950/- Scheduled date & time of submission of bid : Up to 21.02.2024 by 17:00 Hrs., Scheduled date and time of opening of Part-I : 22.02.2024 at 12:00 Hrs. For Detailed information, please visit website www.etender.up.nic.in for any corrections/amendments/ modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of tender and thereafter. (Nikhil Kumar) Superintending Engineer Electricity Transmission Circle Muzaffarnagar "Save Electricity in the interest of the Nation" पत्रांक/ No. 208 / विभागाध्यक्ष (ETC)/ मुन्नगर(MZN)/ दिनांक/ DATED 08.02.2024

Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd. (A Government of India Enterprise) Regd. Office: 21, N. S. Road, Kolkata - 700 001 Phone: 033-2225290, e-mail: sharma.bhaskar@balmerlawrie.com

TENDER NOTICE FOR LABOUR LAW COMPLIANCE AUDIT Balmer Lawrie invites online bids from experienced bidders for Labour Law Compliance Audit. Interested bidders to download tender from above website. Last date for submission is 29.02.2024. Any amendment / corrigendum to be hosted on the Company's website.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, बलीदाबाजार (छ.ग.) निविदा संशोधन सूचना

Prayagraj Nagar Nigam 1, Sarojini, Naidu Marg, Prayagraj- 211001 Uttar Pradesh

M.P. POWER GENERATING CO. LTD. (CIN No. : U40109MP2001SG0014882) Office of The Executive Director (Prg); Shed No. 1 & 2, Rampur, Jabalpur (M.P.), Pin-482008, INDIA

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr.PC.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Rehman @ Kausar, R/o H.No. 1110, E-Block, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 520/2017, dated 30.06.2017, U/S 307 IPC, PS Nareia, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Rehman @ Kausar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rehman @ Kausar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

By Order Sushil Kumar Additional Sessions Judge-04 (North District) Room No. 206, 2nd Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/1518/ON/2024

कार्यालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला निवाचन अधिकारी जिला-जांजगीर-चांपा (छ.ग.) निविदा निष्काशन क्रमांक / 312 /निम्न/खण्ड/2024 जांजगीर दिनांक 29.01.2024

HIGH COURT OF DELHI, AT NEW DELHI DESPATCH BRANCH Last date of submission of tender: 12.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR COURIER SERVICES Sealed tenders are invited, as per Form attached to the terms & condition enclosed herewith, from reputed firms, companies or other Body Corporate in the field of courier services for awarding of contract for Courier Services for delivery of letters, notices/summon, parcel etc. dispatched from High Court of Delhi to every nook and corner of the country and outside India.

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TASHILING SECRETARIAT, GANGTOK-737101 No. Gos/PDD/SI-WBP/07PMC&TSA/2023/11 Dated: 09 February 2024

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person namey Vasudha, D/o Vade Prakash, R/o A-89/90, Jivodaya Ashram, Shw Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Mohan Garden, Delhi, died during treatment at Jivodaya Hospital, Ashok Vihar, Delhi on 28.01.2024. The dead body has been preserved at BJRM Hospital mortuary. In this regard DD No. 36A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., dated 28.01.2024, has been registered at P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi.

SHO P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi Ph. No.: 8750870221 E-mail: sho-ashokvhr-dl@nic.in

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka undertaking) Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr. P. C. Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namey Nitesh Aggarwal S/o Kunj Bihari Aggarwal R/o H.No.4477, 2nd floor Roshanpura Nai Sarak Delhi, have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 775/14 U/s 406/34 IPC, has been registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Nitesh Aggarwal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Nitesh Aggarwal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

By Order Shipra Dhankar, MM, DP/1319/CD/2024 Room No.180, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora Near Vikas Bhawan, Pandeykhola, Almora, Distt-Almora-263601 (Uttarakhand)

CESEC LIMITED NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER An e-tender is invited by Executive Director, Power Marketing, CESC Ltd on 08.02.2024, having registered office at CESC House, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata-700001 for purchase of power on Short Term basis from May, 2024 to June, 2024 as per Ministry of Power (MOP), GOI guidelines dated 30.03.2016 and amendments thereof.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANGARPALIKA) TENDER NOTICE E-tender is invited for the supply of following item. (1) 77912- Purchase of new fully built cash van and delivery van with CNG engine.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED 1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla -171 013 Tel. No. 0177-2623259 2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320 Website: www.hpsedc.in

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Government of Karnataka undertaking) Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004 Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

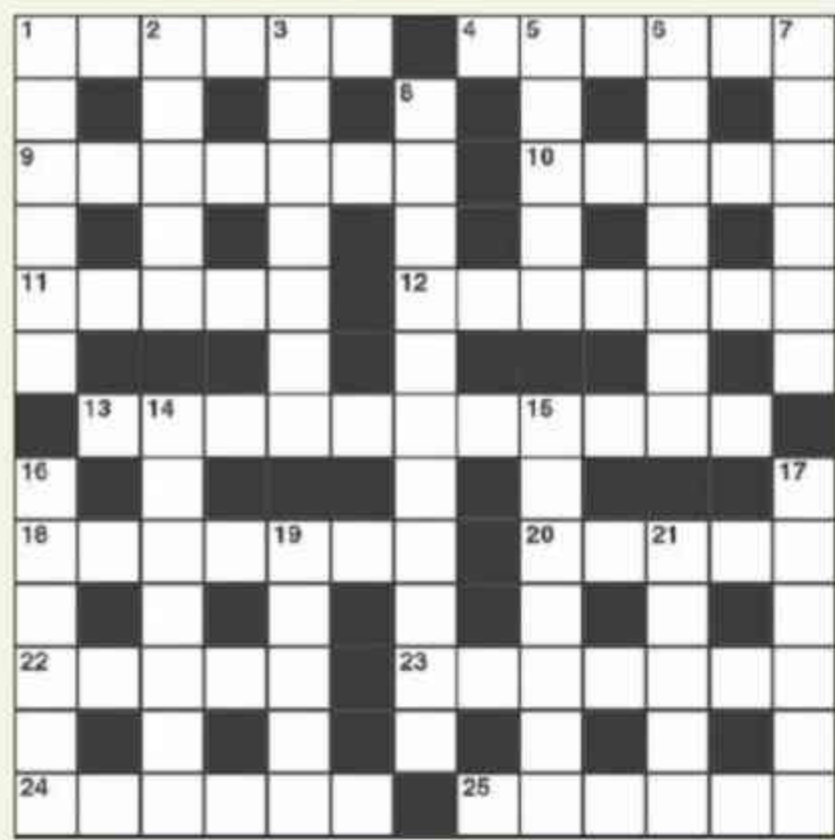
उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (2023-24) विद्युत जानपद पारिषद मण्डल आगरा

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, Gwalior Municipal Corporation No./PIU/2024 Date: 07/02/2024

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA) एफ०एफ०पी० भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धुर्वा, राँची -834004, झारखण्ड अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (4th Call) PR No. C-309843 dated 25.10.2023

अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा सूचना (4th Call) PR No. C-309843 dated 25.10.2023 अल्पकालीन ई-पुनर्निविदा संख्या- 302/2023-24 दिनांक - 07.02.2024

CROSSWORD 5283



- ACROSS**
- 1 Marital relations (2-4)
 - 4 Religious retreats for sailor and Turks (6)
 - 9 For thirty seconds one has quiet at least (7)
 - 10 Superior kind of cut (5)
 - 11 Monster fish? (5)
 - 12 Right of access to a famous statue? (7)
 - 13 Possibly uppermost in arrogance (11)
 - 18 Hit by a car, not at all well (3,4)
 - 20 Bent and crooked cedar (5)
 - 22 Open-air types will be out of these (5)
 - 23 Quick to declare (7)
 - 24 Hemingway and Sterne at variance (6)
 - 25 Give the call sign (6)
- DOWN**
- 11 meant to put out the occupant (6)
 - 2 Language used in schooling overseas (5)
 - 3 Many quietly engaged in cunning capital investments (7)
 - 5 Attractive material for a jacket? (5)
 - 6 Grass around the seaport (7)
 - 7 Animals unleashed on society? (6)
 - 8 Little cared for being petty (5-6)
 - 14 Managed to continue with foreign capital (7)
 - 15 Walk wearily out of boisterous parties (7)
 - 16 A game bird for example all of a flutter (6)
 - 17 Conversion is done by inventor (6)
 - 19 Desert island with a water supply (5)
 - 21 Examine what's said to be a bill of exchange (5)

Solutions Crossword 5282 Across: 1 Radical, 5 Ports, 8 Revolving door, 9 Lento, 10 Obscene, 11 Unsafe, 12 Abodes, 15 Carry on, 17 Resist, 19 Reincarnation, 20 Skript, 21 Widgen Down: 1 Rural, 2 Divine service, 3 Call off, 4 Laidon, 5 Pages, 6 Rooted dislike, 7 Shrieks, 11 Uncurls, 13 Bernard, 14 Andrew, 16 Yacht, 18 Tenon

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
You may now wish that you hadn't shot your mouth off or been so open about your plans. There is no going back now, though, and you must learn to deal with partners' interests in your affairs as best you can.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
Perhaps you have tried to force too many changes through at home this year. Yet, whatever you feel now, if you are a truly sensitive person you will already be aware of undercurrents that are bound to produce further upheavals.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
Time is on your side, so by all means keep lines of communication open and continue trying to negotiate terms. After next weekend, the balance of power will shift dramatically, but briefly, in your favour. Children and younger relations may be confused, but it could be another two weeks before you can help.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
You will probably be unaware of the stressful patterns sent your way by the Moon and Pluto. This does not change the fact that, one way or another, these planets will have their effect, perhaps through unsettling dreams, but also through your wallet. Emotionally speaking, you do seem to be on the right track.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
Now you must stay one step ahead of the planets and consider what will happen when negotiations break down or move behind the scenes. One thing you must do is make sure that you are absolutely sure of your facts. There is no need to finalise plans at home for another fortnight.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
Seldom have you experienced a period when close associates seemed to be so in command. One thing is certain, though: never have you been in such a position to benefit from partners' love and generosity, if only you are prepared to accept it.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
It may be time, once again, to point out a fact of life you too often ignore: this is a period of great change and as such, one when you should not expect everything to be plain sailing. You must realise, though, that in every event is a thoroughly helpful and worthwhile lesson to be learnt and remembered.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
Being someone who is skilled at reading the hearts and minds of others, you must now see that partners are in genuine need of your help. You must not ride roughshod over people who have caused you no harm. You've done well financially and can rest on your laurels.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
Perhaps you are only now emerging triumphant from a trial of wills at work. Even though diplomacy may not be your greatest asset at the moment, there seems to be little you can do to sabotage your professional relationships. Why not take the line of least resistance?
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
If you're experiencing difficulties at the moment, then they're problems caused by success. Even though the crisis seems to have gone off the boil, don't allow wrangles at home to continue to poison the atmosphere or undermine your confidence.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
Even when Mercury, which has such a powerful role in your ambitions, alters its position, this will do little to affect the status of a current agreement. It will, however, give you a breathing space in which to sort out various practical details. You have about another ten days before commitment is required.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
So many doors seem to be opening that you may not know which is the best path to take. Once the weekend is past, you will again be focusing on questions of principle: where, for example, do you really want your life to lead? In love, hang on to your secrets; nobody has the right to pry into your soul.

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.

Great men are like eagles, and build their... on some lofty... - Arthur Schopenhauer (4...8)

MTEEO EITLIT

IBSSL IPTDNU

SOLUTION: EAGLE, BLISS, TITILE, PONDIT

SUDOKU 5467

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5466

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5466

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

CORRIGENDUM

Reference the Tender Notice issued by this Office vide No. PTS/RECR/TENDER/2023-24/34 - A dated Shg., 22nd January, 2024 and based on the outcome of the Pre Bid Meeting held on the 5th February, 2024 at DGP's Conference Hall, the Pre Bid Committee had made corrections in the Clauses of the Tender Notice. Full details regarding the Corrigendum Notice are available in the Office of the undersigned during office hours as well as in the Meghalaya Police Department website <http://megpolice.gov.in>

Deputy Inspector General of Police (ER),
-cum- Chairman,
Pre-Bid Tender Committee,
Meghalaya, Shillong.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
E-Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in
Ph-No- 06782/260318,
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.-Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 78 of 2023-24

Letter No. 653 AWE Date: 07/02/2024

1. Name of the Work :- Road under MMSY-TRIP
2. Total No. of work :- 3 Nos. of Roads
3. Estimated Cost :- From Rs. 613.71 Lakhs to Rs. 833.09 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- "A" & "Special" Class (of Odish P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other Licensing authorities (as per annexure)
5. Period of Completion :- From 09 (Nine) to 11 (Eleven) Calendar months for the work.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore	Date & Time of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore
		From	To			
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	N.C.B. No.-75	13.02.2024 at 10.00 A.M	27.02.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M	26.02.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M.	28.02.2024 at 10.00 A.M	Will be intimated later.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/-
Er. N.V. Harihar Rao
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Balasore
(OIPR-25105/11/0102/2324)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
No. EL/118/21R, 64/2023-24/WB/TF/Dt 07.02.2024 DRM (Electrical) Jaipur, for and on the behalf of president of Union of India, invites e-tenders for following works: 1. NIT No.: EL/JP/21 R/2023-24 Name of Work: JP Div.: Provision of 08Nos. Escalator at Khatipura Station (Electrification of Escalator only) NIT Cost: 21,11,484 Earnest Money: 42200/- Tender Opening Date: 29.02.2024 2. NIT No.: EL/JP/64/2023-24 Name of Work: Provision of individual MPCB for water pumps and shifting of its controller to onboard in set of panels for LHB Non-AC/EOG coaches. NIT Cost: 617934.80 Earnest Money: 12400/- Tender Opening Date: 29.02.2024 Note: Date & time of closing of e-tenders: On tender opening date Up to 15.00 hours. Date & time of e-tender opening: On tender opening date after 15.00 hours. Complete details of tender can be seen on website No.: <http://www.irops.gov.in> 170-AC/24

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No.- NER-BSB08NT-OT-04-2024
"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom)/Varanasi/ N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works:
S.N.1: Tender Notice No. and Description of Work: NER-BSB08NT-OT-04-2024: Name of work: Signalling work in connection with Engineering work related to LHSW etc in the section of SrDSTE/II/Varanasi. Approx. Value: ₹ 93,56,071.73, Earnest Money: ₹ 1,87,100.00, Cost of Tender Form: 0.00, Completion period: 12 Months, Tender Closing date & Time: 01.03.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs.
1. Tender Online will be submitted up to 15 Hrs on date 01.03.2024.
2. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian railways i.e. www.irops.gov.in
Divl. Rly. Manager(S&T) Varanasi
CPR/Sig-100 Varanasi
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

Head Office, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-600 010.
Ph. No. (044) 26426773, Email id.: tnsc.in@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

e-TENDER NOTICE
e-TENDER No.BS4/048800/2023/TNCSG/23-24 Date:07.02.2024
Online e-tender invited for "THE PURCHASE OF 1,34,000 Nos. of 'Y' cone as per specifications.
Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgp/app> from 10.02.2024 @ 9.00 A.M.
The bidders have to participate only online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
Last Date for Online Submission : 24.02.2024, up to 11.30 A.M.
DIPR/796/Tender/2024 Managing Director

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
DHANBAD DIVISION, STORES DEPARTMENT
Open Tender Batch No- 22/2024, Dt. 06/02/2024
E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "Participation in through" Web Portal of IREPS www.irops.gov.in Offers are invited for supply of the following material. The closing time for the tender is at 14.00 Hrs.
1. Tender No.: 39235688B (I) Short Description of Item: HUCK BOLTING MACHINE WITH POWER PACK AND TOOLS SIZE: 1/2", 3/4", 5/8", 1" & 1 3/8" as per Annexure attached. (ii) Quantity: 04 Sets, (iii) Publishing Date & Time: 31 January 2024 19.01 Hrs. (iv) Tender Closing Date & Time: 29 February 2024 14.00Hrs
2. Tender No.:39235324D (I) Short Description of Item: Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Electric Driven Screw Air Compressor of 300 CFM at 10 kg/cm2 Specification as per annexure attached. Make: ELGI, Sulair, or similar. (ii) Quantity: 02 Sets (iii) Publishing Date & Time: 31 January 2024 18.19 Hrs. (iv) Tender Closing Date & Time: 29 February 2024 14.00Hrs
Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web Portal of IREPS www.irops.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.
For Sr DMM/ECR/DHN PR/02254/DHN/STORE/723-24/40

DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE, Rewari

जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय, रेवाड़ी
दूरभाष - 01274-222779 ई-मेल elt_rwr@yahoo.in
पूजनो निर्वाचन-2024 / 180 दिनांक - 08.02.2024
निविदा सूचना-
शेक रकम/विधान सभा चुनाव 2024 के दौरान महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं की विधिव्यापारी कनराई जारी है अतः लोक सभा/विधानसभा आम चुनाव 2024 के दौरान महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं की विधिव्यापारी कनराई हेतु आम सर्वेदन दिनांक 12.02.2024 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 20.02.2024 को सांघ 3.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि दिनांक 21.02.2024 को सांघ 11.00 के बाद चाली जावेगी।
अनसर्वेदन निविदाएं दो बोली प्रणाली (Two Bid System) के अन्तर्गत पर खोली जायेंगी।
वेबसाईट के रजिस्टर्ड यूजर द्वारा <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> वेबसाईट से निविदा परी जा सकती है।
निविदा के साथ-
1. टेंडर प्रोसेसिंग फीस रुपये 1180/- जो कि नान रिफंडेबल है।
2. टेंडर फीस राशि रुपये 5000/- जो कि नान रिफंडेबल है।
3. EMD राशि के रूप में रुपये 100000/- रिफंडे.ल है।
इस्यु कर्म/एजेन्सी दिनांक 12.02.2024 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 20.02.2024 को सघ 3.00 बजे तक वेबसाईट <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> पर परी जा सकती है। निविदा दिनांक 21.02.2024 को सांघ 11.00 के पश्चात अनसर्वेदन चाली जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित अन्य आवश्यक जानकारी एवं निवेदक उत्पत्तक वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।
श्रे. वसुन्का एच विना निर्वाचन अधिकारी, रेवाड़ी।

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of The Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure (TEC), N.R.Square, Bengaluru-02
No. EE/RI-TEC/TENDR/13/2023-24 Dated : 08-02-2024
Short Term Tender Notification (Request for Proposal (RFP)) (Through KPP Portal only) Two Cover System

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work / Service including GST (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.)
1	Availing Graduate / Diploma Engineers and Literate Assistants for Road Infrastructure.	143.28	2,15,000/-

The Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure (TEC), BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible Agencies / Consultancy Firms who have registered in any State Government organizations and license holders from labour department for the Man Power Supply detailed in the table below.

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from 09.02.2024 (1) Last Date for Tender queries : 15.02.2024 up to 3.00 pm. (2) Pre bid Meeting on 15.02.2024 at 4.30 pm at Office of Engineering-in-Chief, No. 109, 1st Floor, Annex Building 2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru. (3) Last Date for Receipt of Tender is 20.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm. (4) Date of opening of technical Bid is 21.02.2024 by 4.30 pm. (5) Date of opening of financial Bid : After approval of Technical Bid.
For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK KPP Portal website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact e-procurement Helpdesk at 080-22371090, 22373788.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Road Infrastructure (TEC) Division, BBMP

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a identified dead body of a male namely Pappu, S/o: Sadhu Singh, R/o: Begabond Parking Shamshan Ghat, Tihar Village, Delhi found dead on 31.01.2024. In this regard DD No. 04 A dated 31.01.2024, has been lodged at Police Station, Hari Nagar, New Delhi. Identification of identified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Pappu, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Multicolor Checkdar Shirt, Grey & Black Colour Jacket and Blue Colour Pant and Bare Feet.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station, Hari Nagar, New Delhi
DP/1605/WD/2024 Ph.: 011-28255719, 8750871128

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Abhishek @ Kunal S/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar, R/o- H. No. 785, Gram Sabha, Village- Pooth Kalan, Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 130/19 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act P.S. North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Abhishek @ Kunal can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Abhishek @ Kunal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Abhishek @ Kunal of case FIR No. 130/19 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act P.S. North Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 19.03.2024.
By Order,
Ms. Deepali Shrivastava
Metropolitan Magistrate (N/W)
Room No. 107, First Floor
Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/1534/RD/2024 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Iqbal, S/o Achhan Phelwan R/o Kuldeep Tyagi Makan, Vill. Burari, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.719/15 u/s 324/323/34 IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Iqbal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Iqbal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Iqbal of FIR No.719/15 u/s 324/323/34 IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.03.2024.
By Order,
Sh. Mayank Aggarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate-09
DP/1540/N/2024 Central, Room No.286, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Shreyas Iyer: AWOL

Proficient player of spin, the batsman's game has deserted him this series, as has several other facets



It'll likely be a shootout between Shreyas Iyer and Rajat Patidar, who made his debut in Vizag, for a spot in the third Test. *PTI*

suddenly yanked to an approach he has used in the past. Moving outside leg stump, trying to swat balls over the off side. He didn't connect with any; once even nearly dragged on to his stumps, triggering smiles from Ollie Pope and co.

Interestingly, that's the approach that Don Bradman took in the famous Bodyline series. With the field behind square on the leg packed (the rules would later be changed to not more than two men), and Larwood and Co. opened the dam of bouncers, Bradman had enough of trying to keep the ball down or sway away. As there were nothing but short balls to face, and he wanted runs, he moved outside leg and tried to slash them to the off side. Once, he even dragged a ball onto his stumps. The interesting approach divided the cricketing world. Some, like his own

It seems Iyer triggers himself for some dare, but doesn't quite go the whole hog. When he went towards the bowler in the second innings, as Pietersen wished, he went for an almighty heave against the turn and miscued it towards long-off

team-mate Jack Fingleton, saw it as the great batsman turning 'yellow', a minority saw it as a prudent way to get some runs against that line of attack.

On a flat track at Visakhapatnam, it was a 41-year old James Anderson, a swing great who has reinvented himself with seam bowling in the subcontinent and a man not known for bowling pacy-high-intense bouncers. And England didn't have any other medium pacer, forget paceman, in the XI. But that's how Iyer likes to bat. For some reason, he is loath to sway or duck away. Neither is there a confidence that he can continue to keep the ball down on the leg side with waiting English palms near the boundary.

It's not as if he hasn't worked in conventional ways in the recent past. As

Mohammad Kaif would point out on *Star Sports* during the World Cup, he tweaked with his bat-lift. Previously, where he was holding the bat almost vertically up in his stance and tilting it further past the ears before the commencement of the downswing, he held it behind him, not quite parallel to ground but not extremely up. The whole swing had become tighter and smoother.

"If I can leave or keep it down, I definitely won't have a problem," he had said but Iyer clearly doesn't want to do it. Does he feel it will encourage more bouncers, or thinks it's not the aggressive way he would like to see himself bat, or does he think it's not cool? But none of his current options are going to make the pacers, even a forty-plus medium pacer, not try the short stuff.

In the end, whether conventional or his own way, it would come down to success. If he backs away and collects fours on the untended off side, the critical world might shut up. Until then, forget them, the opposition fast bowlers and spinners are going to keep whirling away at him. He will have to make Rajkot count at all costs.

ther suffering a brain stroke, Chahar was granted a break. After returning to the game, he is set to use the IPL as a launch pad.

"I'd be with my family, which was more important. After that, I've started practising and generally, you don't get one and a half or two months' time to train properly because you are playing some series or the other. It was a great time to work on my body because the next six months are crucial with the IPL and a World Cup," Chahar said on the sidelines of an event where Etihad Airways was announced as CSK's official sponsor.

Though Chahar has struggled with his fitness over the last few years (back and hamstring), he made an impact in the matches that he featured in. In the recent Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, he took 10 wickets in five matches, and also scored at a strike rate of 171.79 in the cameos he played. It is this all-round ability that has kept the team man-



DEEPAK CHAHAR. Reuters

agement and selectors interested in him as India don't have many other seamers capable of contributing with the willow with Shardul Thakur also falling out of favour. A good outing for CSK in the IPL could make Chahar an exciting prospect, more so as he is capable of striking early in the Powerplay.

"It's an important IPL for everyone because

this is the first time everyone knows that the Indian squad (for the World Cup) will be decided based on the performance in the IPL. You know the set-up—these are the players they're going to look for. Whoever performs well in this IPL will get the chance. Obviously, it puts additional extra pressure, but I believe in my strengths. Whichever team I've played for, I've contributed with bat and ball. It doesn't matter who is ahead of me," Chahar said.

For a bowler who was touching the mid-140kmph during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, the constant injuries meant he lost a few yards of pace. And having spent the last few months only on training and getting the strength back, Chahar said skill-wise, he is feeling at his best. "This is the right time for me to increase my pace. I'm trying to develop a few shots with the bat too because when you come in at No.8 or No.9, you only get to play 3-4 balls. So you have to utilise those balls with different shots."

U-19 WC: Australia edge out Pakistan but 15-year-old Raza has world at his feet

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

THREE YEARS ago, Muhammad Masroor, Pakistan U-19 assistant batting coach saw a 12-year-old with torn shoes bowling his heart out in the nets at Rana Naved-ul-Hasan cricket academy in Sheikhupura. The boy was Ali Raza, who on Thursday, almost took Pakistan into the final of the U-19 World Cup.

"Raza is a future prospect," Masroor had told *The Indian Express* on the eve of the semifinal. "He hails from Nankana Sahib in Sheikhupura. He has played most of his cricket in the village. He hates going to the gym. He just loves bowling in the nets; you have to literally pull him out. That part of Pakistan has always produced good pacers such as Mohammed Asif, Aaqib Javed, and Rana Naved-ul-Hasan. All three were masters of their craft," said Masroor.

It was Masroor, who spotted Raza's potential and in November 2022, selected the youngster in a home series against Bangladesh.

"We were playing a three-day game at the Rana Naved Cricket Academy. In the morning, I saw a young boy wipe and clean the nets with the broom, and bowl for two hours on the trot. During lunch, he rested for an hour and started bowling again. He is that lambi race ka ghoda (in for a long haul). He knows how to bowl long spells that you don't see in the current pacers. He is not a T20 bowler," Masroor had said.

All the traits Masroor had spoken about were visible in the semi-final clash. The 15-year-old bowled with cramps, hobbled off after bowling his last over, but only after conjuring one of the finest spells of the tournament picking up 4 for 34. But it was not enough as the last wicket stand between Raf MacMillan (19 not out) and Callum Vidler (2 not out) took Australia home and set up the final clash against India.

"I will remember this spell from this young man for a long time," former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop gushed in commentary. "He is a super star!"

Chasing 180, Australia were in control with their openers negotiating the early burst from Ubaid Shah. Raza provided Pakistan the first breakthrough after he cleaned up Sam Konstas. A mini-collapse reduced Australia to 59 for 16. 3 overs before Harry Dixon (50) and Oliver Peake (49) put on a 43-run stand for the fifth wicket. But left-arm-spinner Arafat Minhas (2/20) castled both the set batters with rapid arm-balls to turn the tide again.

Raza turned in figures of 4-0-9-3 in his second spell to almost seize a victory. "This is absolute gold from Ali Raza," Bishop screamed in his iconic way after Raza dismissed Australia's No 10 Mahli Beardman. Ubaid Shah and Mohammed Zeeshan failed to repeat the performances that they showed against Bangladesh and Australia's last wicket partnership sneaked to the final.

Unearthing a gem

Despite the loss, in Raza, Pakistan has unearthed a gem that Bishop feels if nurtured carefully can become an all-time great for the country. "He is so tiny but I can tell you from what I can see that this kid is quick. For the next three years, he needs to be nurtured. He should get the world's best strength conditioning coach. He is a finished product that just needs a little bit of



Ali Raza took four wickets but Pakistan lost to Australia in the semifinals. *ICC*

fine-tuning. If they (Pakistan) would do that, they have a real talent on their hands," Bishop said.

Masroor, who has seen the boy from close quarters in Pakistan U-19 set up as well as at Rawalpindi Raiders in the Pakistan Junior League (PJL), believes it is Raza who will play for Pakistan before Ubaid and Zeeshan.

"Ubaid and Zeeshan have injury-prone actions. If they will bowl in the pressure situation in the PSL or any match, they will succumb. But not Raza, this boy has got a big heart. When Ubaid and Zeeshan play first-class cricket, they will break down. The training in Pakistan is all gym-oriented nowadays. They are not bowling too many overs in the nets. Raza can bowl long spells. All three of them are good talents but it is work ethics after the U-19 World Cup that matters the most," said Masroor.

Raza had developed a passion for the sport while playing in the school cricket tournaments.

"To participate in any local tournament, I would personally finance my trips to neighbouring areas and try to play. However, the participating teams would not give me a chance but I stayed dedicated and waited for my opportunity. On one occasion, they gave me a

couple of overs and I impressed them with my skills. From thereon, I earned the respect of my peers and would often win my local team tournaments," Ali had said on PCB's YouTube channel.

"Masroor bhai has supported me a lot. He sat down with me to analyse my bowling and expand my armoury with variations. Additionally, he supervised a consistent run for me at the Pakistan Junior League as well."

At 15, Raza has the world on his feet as Bishop said he can still play two U-19 World Cups. but he needs to be taken care of, which Masroor feels is going to be a challenge.

"Sadly, we don't have that system for the fast bowlers. We don't have a proper rehab system. We don't have good bowling coaches. The biomechanics labs are also not working. Raza indeed is a future superstar, but we all have to take care of him like our own kids."

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan Under-19s 179 (Awais 52, Minhas 52; Straker 6/24) lost to Australia Under-19s 181/9 (Peake 49; Raza 4/34) by one wicket
FINAL: India vs Australia, Sunday

Chahar keen to swing into action again after tough years

VENKATA KRISHNAB
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 8

AFTER BATTLING injuries and taking time away from the game to be with his ailing father, Deepak Chahar has set sights on a strong IPL to remain in fray for a T20 World Cup berth. Since Chennai Super Kings' win over Gujarat Titans in the IPL final last year, the medium pacer has only featured in eight matches across formats - including a T20I against Australia - before he sought a break for family reasons.

Earmarked as a perfect replacement for Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Chahar has overcome a tough couple of years. Despite the injuries and the time he has spent away from the game, that the selectors and the team management haven't shut the door on him was evident when he was picked for the recent T20Is against Australia. However, with his fa-

Why fans are angry with Messi and don't want him to return to Hong Kong

SAYAK DUTTA
FEBRUARY 8

THE UNIVERSALLY adored Argentine superstar Lionel Messi has always stayed away from controversy for most of his glittering career. Until Sunday when Messi, Inter Miami and owner David Beckham was booed mercilessly in Hong Kong when the Argentine World Cup winner did not come off the

bench due to an injury in a match against a local side. The anger turned into vitriol when a few days later Messi played 30 minutes in a match in Japan against Vissel Kobe.

Why did Lionel Messi opt to sit out the match in Hong Kong?

According to Inter Miami head coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino, Messi was deemed unfit to play in Sunday's match in the Hong Kong friendly. This was the second match Messi missed after he pulled out of playing against Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia which Miami lost 6-0.

What was Messi's reaction in not playing the Hong Kong friendly?

Lionel Messi's official Weibo account had already apologized to the Chinese fans after not playing in the Hong Kong match. "Anyone who knows me knows that I always want to play... especially in these games where we travel so far and people are excited to see our games. Hopefully we can come back and play a game in Hong Kong," the post read.

How has the government reacted to the controversy?

Global Times, China's state-controlled mouthpiece lashed into Messi and Inter Miami accusing them of meting out a differential treatment towards Hong Kong. "The match in Hong Kong became the only one in Messi's six pre-season friendly matches on this trip where he was absent. The situation...has magnified these doubts and suspicions on the integrity of Inter Miami and Messi himself. Some mainland fans travelled 12 hours from Xinjiang to Hong Kong to see Messi with the disappointment of the government and fans entirely understandable. The impact of this incident has far exceeded the realm of sports," it wrote.

Sports lawmaker Kenneth Fok said the incident "sprinkled salt wounds" on Hong

agement and selectors interested in him as India don't have many other seamers capable of contributing with the willow with Shardul Thakur also falling out of favour. A good outing for CSK in the IPL could make Chahar an exciting prospect, more so as he is capable of striking early in the Powerplay.

"It's an important IPL for everyone because

this is the first time everyone knows that the Indian squad (for the World Cup) will be decided based on the performance in the IPL. You know the set-up—these are the players they're going to look for. Whoever performs well in this IPL will get the chance. Obviously, it puts additional extra pressure, but I believe in my strengths. Whichever team I've played for, I've contributed with bat and ball. It doesn't matter who is ahead of me," Chahar said.

For a bowler who was touching the mid-140kmph during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, the constant injuries meant he lost a few yards of pace. And having spent the last few months only on training and getting the strength back, Chahar said skill-wise, he is feeling at his best. "This is the right time for me to increase my pace. I'm trying to develop a few shots with the bat too because when you come in at No.8 or No.9, you only get to play 3-4 balls. So you have to utilise those balls with different shots."

Kong fans while senior government advisor Regina Ip wrote on X that "Hong Kong people hate Messi, Inter-Miami and the black hand behind them, for the deliberate and calculated snub to Hong Kong." "Messi should never be allowed to return to Hong Kong. His lies and hypocrisy are disgusting," she added.

What was the aftermath of the controversy?

In addition to over 40,000 fans not getting their tickets' worth with each costing HK\$5,000 (\$640), Messi's absence on the pitch led to Tatler Asia, who were the organizers of the event, forfeiting HK\$ 16 million

The match in Hong Kong became the only one in Messi's six pre-season friendly matches on this trip where he was absent. The situation...has magnified these doubts and suspicions on the integrity of Inter Miami and Messi himself... The impact of this incident has far exceeded the realm of sports."

GLOBAL TIMES
CHINA'S STATE-CONTROLLED DAILY

(\$2 million) worth of government funding. According to *Time*, Tatler's CEO Michel Lamuniere said that Inter Miami had told them that Messi was fit to play but when it was time for him to, Miami had ignored appeals for Messi to address the fans.

Do the western clubs allegedly treat the Asian market as their biggest cash cow?

With the footballing landscape in Asia having undergone a paradigm shift over the last decade, most western clubs are eyeing the continent just to make a quick buck and nothing else. With the pre-season tour of Inter Miami again reopening the debate, the

Fans in Hong Kong react after Lionel Messi sat on the bench during a friendly. *AP*

Asian fans are slowly and steadily starting to see through the veneer. The best example of that will be of the recent match that Miami had against Kobe, with entire blocks of seating at the Japan National Stadium remaining unoccupied and just 28,614 tickets sold for the game.

Did China and Japan's uneasy relations add fuel to the Messi fire?

With a long history of strained relationships between China and Japan which dates to the second world war, Messi's decision to play 30 mins in the match in Japan opposed to no-show in Hong Kong has opened up some old wounds.

Even now, government ships from Japan and China have been in loggeheads over the issue of the disputed islands in the East China Sea. "Smiling in Japan but sulking in China, what can I say? He has picked a side and shown his politics. Don't come back again," read one of the most popular comments at Weibo, according to *Time*.

What's next for Messi and Inter Miami?

Inter Miami will wrap up their pre-season with a match with Messi's old club Newell's Old Boys before beginning the MLS season proper with a clash against Real Salt Lake on February 22.

What is freestyle chess, format that excites Carlsen

AMIT KAMATH
FEBRUARY 8

WORLD NO 1 Magnus Carlsen will face off against world champion Ding Liren



across the chess board in a new, innovative tournament starting Friday. It will be the first time the duo will command their miniature armies of carved pieces against each other since the Chinese GM sat down on the throne abdicated by Carlsen without a shot being fired.

The duo will face off in a unique format with a twist — a format popularised by the American chess legend Bobby Fischer called freestyle chess. The format promotes creativity from players by having unique starting positions on the board rather than having pieces on the back ranks in the same positions.

Besides the reigning world champion Liren and the current world no 1, the invitational tournament — called the Freestyle Chess G.O.A.T. Challenge — will also have six other players: with veterans Fabiano Caruana and Levon Aronian joined by young stars like Alireza Firouzja, Vincent Keymer, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, and Gukesh Dommaraju, who will be India's only representative.

What makes the tournament interesting is Carlsen has hand-picked the rest of the seven challengers, who will face off at an expansive nature retreat in Germany called Weissenhaus Private Nature Luxury Resort. The resort previously played host to the G7 Foreign Ministers Summit in 2022.

The tournament will start with a round-robin event in the rapid format (with a time control of 25

minutes, 10-second increments for every move) on Friday and Saturday. This will be followed by the knockout stages: where all eight players will play quarters on Sunday and Monday, semis on Tuesday and Wednesday, and final on Thursday and Friday (time control will be 90 minutes for the first 40 moves with 30 more added minutes and a 30-second increment per move after move 30).

While the winner of the event stands to take home approximately Rs 50 lakh, the player finishing last also bags a cheque for approximately Rs 6.6 lakhs. Freestyle chess goes by multiple names: Fischer Random Chess, Chess 9LX, and Chess 960 (960 is the number of possible starting positions on the board when you shuffle your pieces on the last ranks of the board).

How this form of chess differs from the other forms is in the placement of the pieces on the board at the start of the game. While all the eight pawns of each colour remain in the second and the seventh ranks on the board like in regular chess, the position of the rest of the pieces — the rooks, the bishops, the knights, the queen, and the king — on the first and the last rank changes randomly at the start of the game. It must be noted that the pieces still retain their regular characteristics in action: rooks travel in straight lines, bishops saunter diagonally, and so on.

The purpose of changing the position of the pieces in the far ends of the board is to throw the meticulous opening preparations that chess players do, running into several moves, out of the window. Players only find out what the board position is before the game.

While promoting the event, Carlsen had called it "the format I have been waiting for".

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 (Rs. in Crore)

Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
	Quarter ended 31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 September 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2023 (Audited)	Quarter ended 31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 September 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2023 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	2,792.14	2,883.64	2,236.86	8,301.42	6,251.27	9,921.20	2,884.22	2,986.83	2,346.51	8,588.20	6,587.27	10,367.93
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & exceptional items)	245.97	299.10	212.95	772.67	598.73	883.19	313.79	328.36	177.92	905.20	590.29	891.00
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & after exceptional items)	245.97	299.10	212.95	772.67	598.73	883.19	313.79	328.36	177.92	905.20	590.29	891.00
Net profit after tax	185.12	230.44	227.42	577.22	528.65	776.83	244.70	250.78	190.00	682.85	508.75	765.23
Profit is attributable to:												
Owners of the Parent	185.12	230.44	227.42	577.22	528.65	776.83	244.64	250.73	189.99	682.73	508.74	765.23
Non Controlling Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.12	0.01	-
Total comprehensive income	182.85	237.01	225.87	582.03	537.79	787.94	242.40	257.35	188.45	687.63	517.84	776.29
Equity share capital	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10
Other Equity attributable to Owners of the Parent (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)						4,990.38						5,023.39
Earnings Per Share (not annualized)												
(Face Value of ₹2/- each)												
(a) Basic (in ₹)	1.97	2.45	2.42	6.14	5.62	8.26	2.60	2.67	2.02	7.26	5.41	8.14
(b) Diluted (in ₹)	1.97	2.45	2.42	6.14	5.62	8.26	2.60	2.67	2.02	7.26	5.41	8.14

NOTES:

- The above standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 8th February 2024. The Statutory Auditors of the company have conducted limited review of the financial results for the Quarter and nine months ended 31st Dec. 2023.
- The Standalone and consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as Amended) and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>), NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>) and Company's website at www.ircon.org.
- Ministry of Railway (MoR) vide letter dated 18.10.2021 has decided in principle for closure of Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited, a joint venture company and transfer of its assets and liabilities to RLD/Railways. The transaction pricing and related modalities are in process.
- Ministry of Railway (MoR) has granted in-principle approval for closure of Bastar Railway Private Limited, a joint venture company and transfer of its assets and liabilities to MoR. The legal formalities, pricing and related modalities are in process.
- It has been decided to handover Phase-I (Angul - Balram, 14 KM already operational) and Phase-II (Balram-Putgaola-Tentuloi, 54 KM under construction) of MCRIL Project to Ministry of Railways (MoR). The legal formalities, pricing and related modalities are in process and the Company does not foresee any impairment in the value of investment at this stage.
- Interim Dividend of Rs. 1.80 per equity share on face value of Rs 2/- per share for the year 2023-24 was approved in BoD held on 8th February, 2024.

For and on behalf of IRCON International Limited
Sd/-
Brijesh Kumar Gupta
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN-10092756

IRCON **IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**
(A Government of India Undertaking)

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