



Hindustan Times

Sheikh nabbed at last after high court push

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KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress (TMC) strongman Sheikh Shahjahan, who lorded over Sandeshkhali in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, was arrested by the state police late on Wednesday night in connection with the attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on January 5 this year after being on the run for the past 55 days, a period during which several allegations of sexual assault and land grab have been made against him by local tribal communities.

Hours after the arrest, which comes against the backdrop of protests by the Left, Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party's local units against Shahjahan, TMC MP Derek O'Brien



Sheikh Shahjahan being presented in a court in West Bengal's Basirhat on Thursday. HT PHOTO

announced that the TMC has also decided to suspend Shahjahan from the party for six years. "We have arrested Shahjahan, one of the prime accused in

the case in which ED officials were assaulted in Nazat area, from Bamanpukur at Minakhan in North 24 Parganas on

continued on → 8

OPPOSE SoO PACT WITH KUKI REBELS: MANIPUR HOUSE

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GUWAHATI: The Manipur assembly on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution to urge the Union government to withdraw the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with 24 Kuki militant outfits of the state on the ground of alleged violation of the ground rules. → P12

TUNDA ACQUITTED OVER 1993 SERIAL TRAIN BOMBINGS

Dinesh Bothra

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JODHPUR: A special court in Rajasthan's Ajmer district on Thursday acquitted Syed Abdul Karim Tunda, the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case, saying the prosecution failed to provide enough evidence to prove the 81-year-old's direct involvement in the matter. → P10

OVERCROWDED TRUCK PLUNGES INTO VALLEY IN M.P.; 14 DEAD

Monika Pandey

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BHOPAL/JABALPUR: Fourteen people were killed and 20 injured after a crowded mini-truck fell into a deep valley in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district in the early hours of Thursday, police said. Police added that the driver of the vehicle, who sustained injuries, was later arrested as the mini-truck did not have permission to ferry people and was also running with an expired insurance and health fitness certificate. → P9

2 girls found hanging from tree in UP village

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KANPUR: The bodies of two girls, aged 14 and 15, were found hanging from a tree near a brick kiln where they worked in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Nagar district early on Thursday, two days after they were allegedly gang-raped by three men, police said.

While the three men have been arrested, police said the families of the girls alleged they died by suicide as the accused made a video of the purported gang rape to blackmail them. According to deputy commis-

sioner of police (south) Ravindra Kumar, the families of the minors – both distant relatives – alleged they were gang-raped by the contractor of the brick kiln Ramroop Nishad, (48), his son Raju (18) and nephew Sanjay (19) on Tuesday.

"The families said the minors were gang-raped by the three men on Tuesday. On Wednesday evening, the girls went missing, prompting their families to launch a search for them. Their bodies were found hanging from a tree, 400 metres away from the brick kiln," Kumar said. → P12

KARNATAKA CASTE SURVEY REPORT SUBMITTED TO CM

Sharath Sharma Kalagaru

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BENGALURU: Karnataka's socio-economic and education survey report, also known as the caste census report, was submitted to CM Siddaramaiah on Thursday by the chairman of state's backward classes commission, K Jayaprakash Hegde, setting the state's political pot boiling ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. → P10

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NUMBER THEORY

A look at the complexity of India's politics, in 3 charts

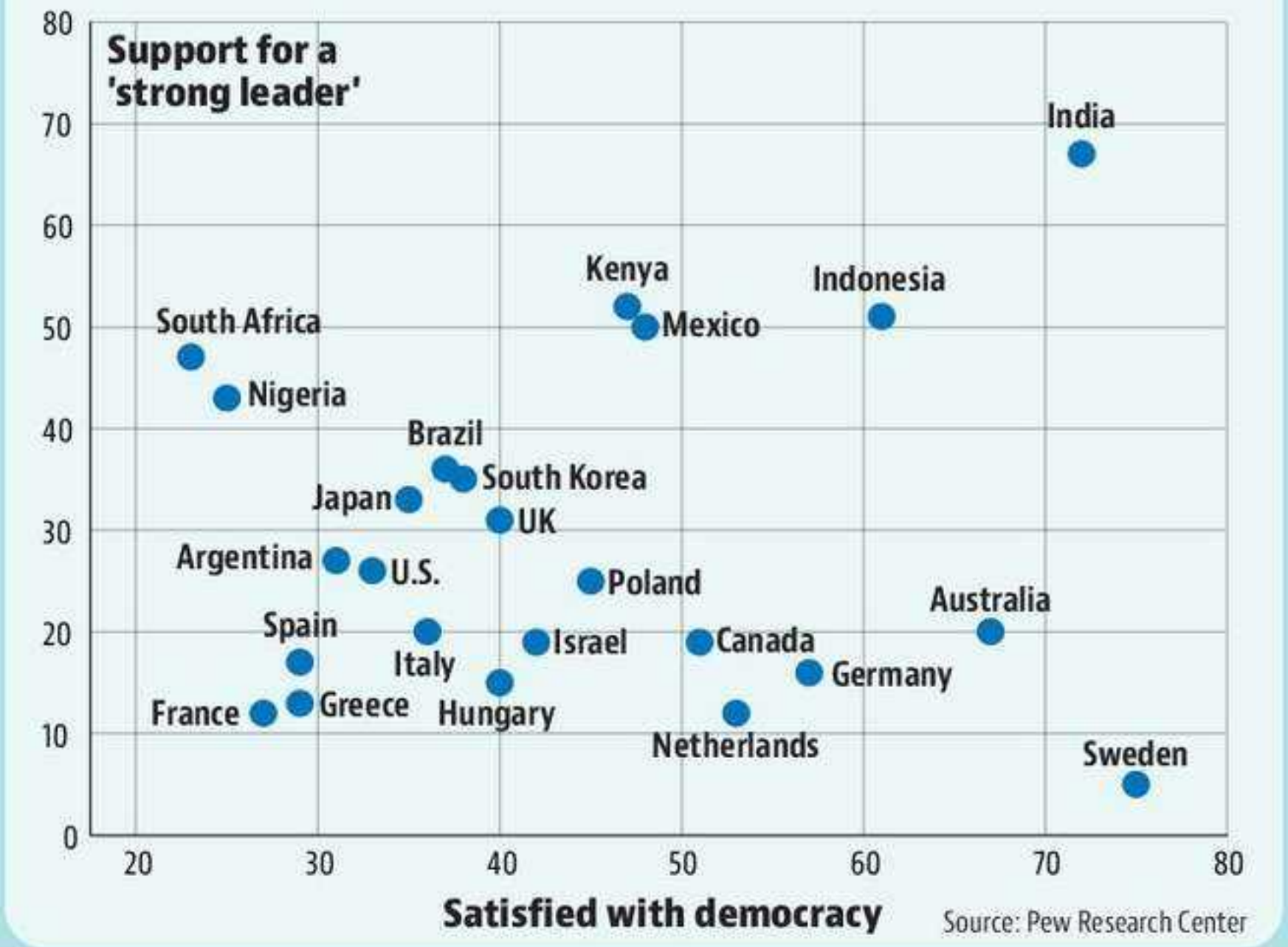
By Sreedev Krishnakumar and Roshan Kishore

Two back-to-back victories by the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections have generated a lot of debate on the state of politics, even democracy in India. While some commentators, who are critical of the BJP and its politics, claim that democracy has suffered an erosion under the Modi government, the BJP has countered these claims by saying that democracy is robust in India and the people have no trust in the Opposition. Findings of a survey conducted by the Pew Research Centre on representative democracy in 24 countries — its findings were released on February 28 — show that the reality could be slightly different from what both sides claim. In fact, the results suggest that India is an outlier when it comes to political views on various questions related to representative democracy.

1 Satisfaction with democracy, endorsement for a "strong leader" are both high in India

India is ranked second (only after Sweden) among 24 countries in terms of satisfaction "with the way democracy is working" in the survey. The share of Indians who are satisfied with democracy is 72%, which is 32 percentage points higher than the 24 country median. In fact, the survey data also shows that satisfaction is a bipartisan phenomenon in India unlike most countries. India is ranked second in the survey in terms of satisfaction with democracy among not just ruling party supporters but also people who do not support the ruling party. Similarly, both Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi enjoy high approval ratings among ruling party and opposition party leaders in India compared to other countries. However, another statistic in the survey suggests that caution should be observed while taking these conclusions at face value. This is the extraordinary high degree of support Indians express for the opinion that "a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts... would be a good way of governing their country". Now, this is hardly a sentiment one would expect from a cohort which is satisfied with democracy in their country. When the two data points about satisfaction with democracy and endorsement for a strong leader free of control from the legislative or judiciary are read together, India appears to be a clear outlier.

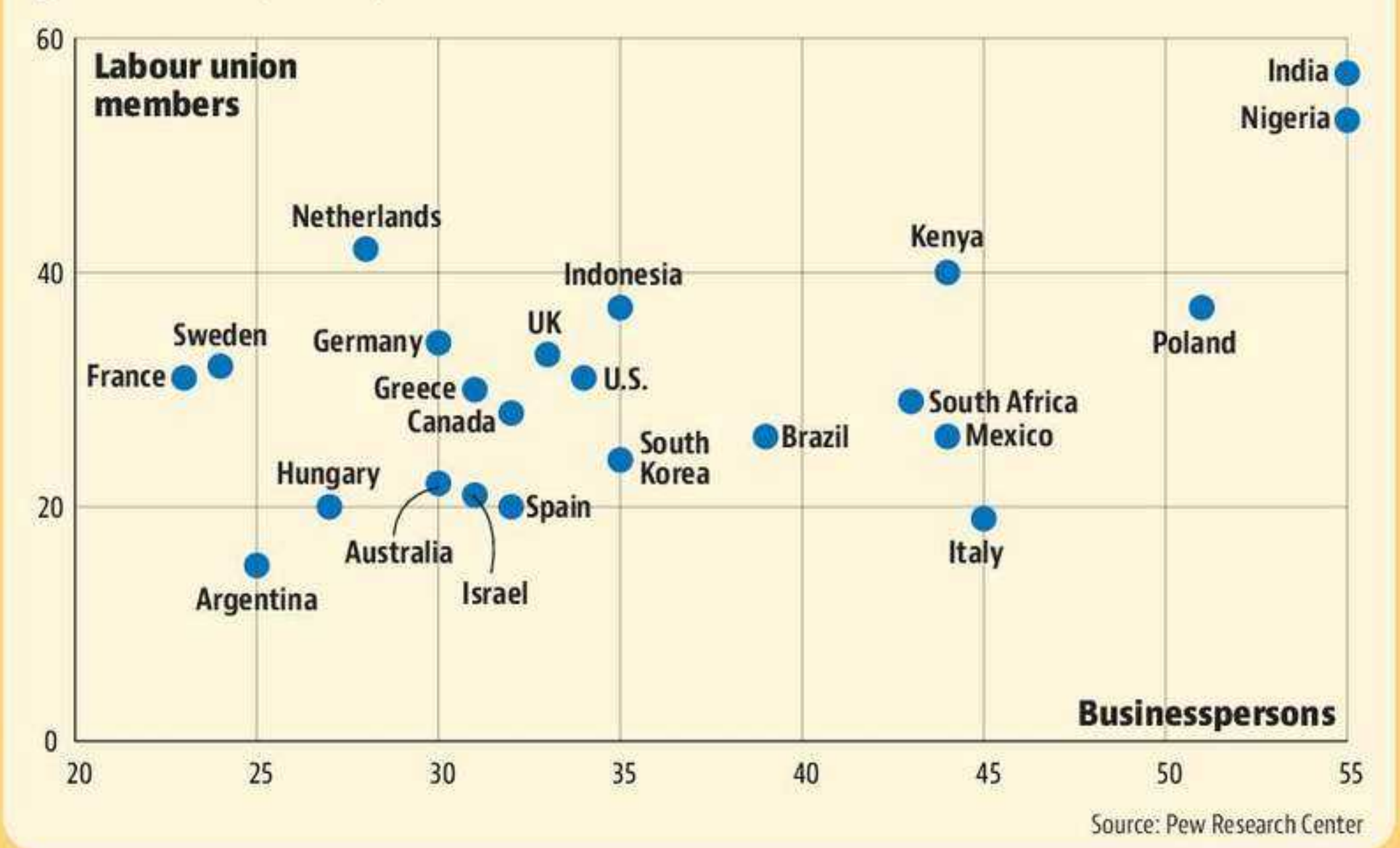
Share of population that is satisfied with democracy, and that approves of a 'strong leader' (in %)



2 There is a similar mismatch when it comes to class-preferences in political representation

Another interesting contradiction in Indian politics in the post-2014 phase has been the BJP's growing economic fortunes — it receives far more donations than other political parties — and its support among poor voters. Because an overwhelming part of political funding comes from the super-rich in India, the BJP's ability to maintain this balance has been remarkable, and muted class-tensions in politics. Data from the survey shows that the BJP has only reaped into a sentiment which is already widespread in the country. The survey asked respondents about their views on improvement in policies if more business-people and union members were holding elected offices. Indians, once again, show off-the-charts endorsement for rising representation of both union members and business people and very little concern about rising representation of either of these.

Share of population that believes electing businesspersons or union members will improve policies (in %)

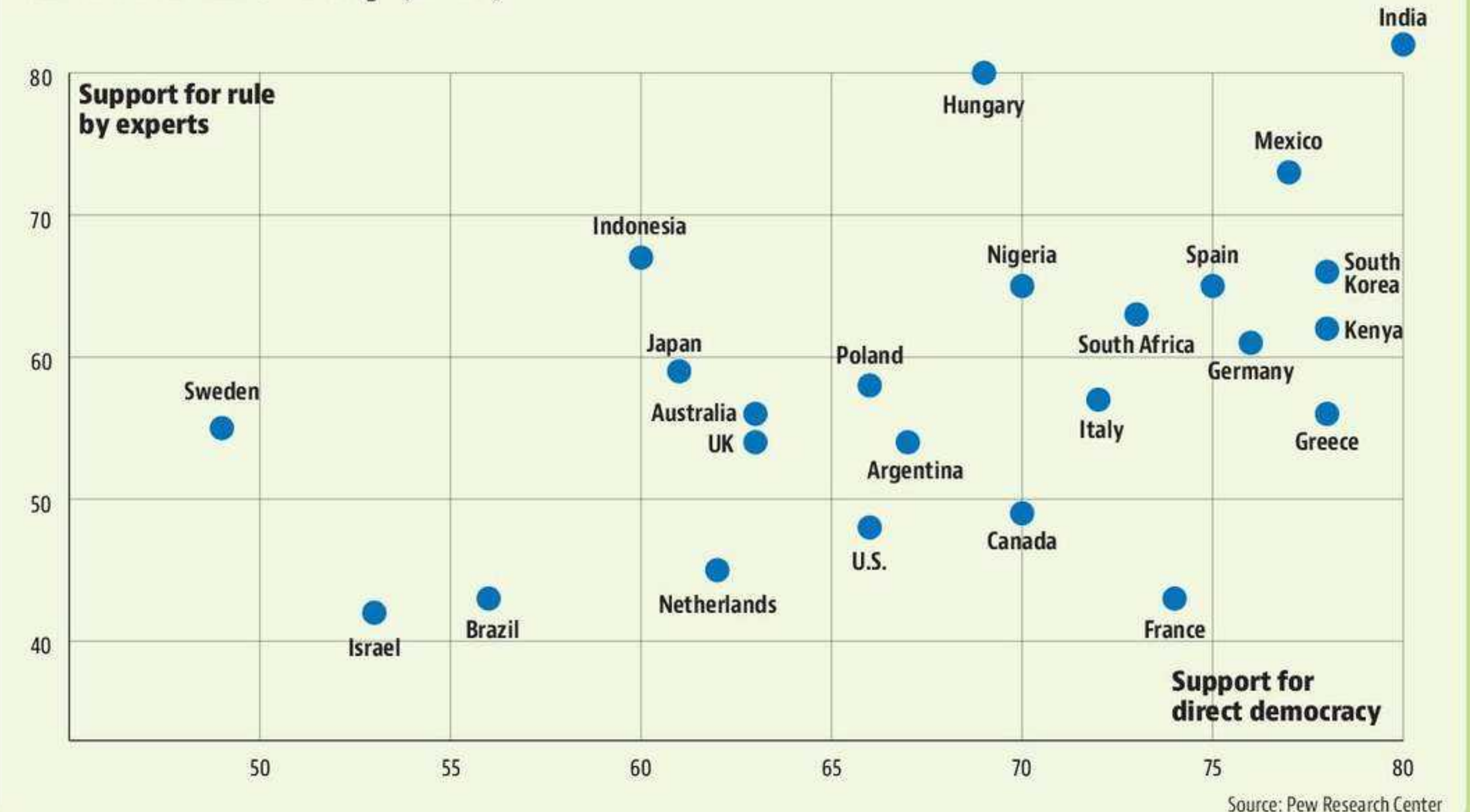


3 To be sure, these could be normative views and far from how realpolitik operates in India

What do these seemingly counterintuitive points mean for democracy in India? There could be multiple explanations beginning from the fact that people tend to underreport regressive views in such surveys, which is what could be driving support for electing people from marginalised backgrounds into elected offices. However, what is more likely is the fact that the normative views of voters in India, as captured in the survey, are not taken into account by established political parties, who pretty much decide who gets to be an elected representative and policy-maker in India. A two-part series on political finance in these pages had shown how competitive

parties tend to field richer candidates. Similarly most established political parties do not give adequate representation to women while fielding candidates. Or it could just be the case that Indians do not necessarily hold consistent views about political representation. For example, India is again way off the charts when it comes to supporting "a democratic system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law" and "a system in which experts, not elected officials, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country would be a good way of governing their country".

Share of population that supports technocracy, and that supports direct democracy (in %)





Hindustan Times

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मोदी सरकार — की गारंटी —
नये भारत की नई खादी

पिछले 10 सालों में खादी और आमोयोग का उत्पादन बढ़ा 3.7 गुना.
 2014 के ₹ 26 हजार करोड़ से बढ़कर 2023 में ₹ 96 हजार करोड़

पिछले 10 सालों में खादी और आमोयोग की बिक्री बढ़ी 4.4 गुना.
 2014 के ₹ 31 हजार करोड़ से बढ़कर 2023 में ₹ 1 लाख 35 हजार करोड़

खादी और आमोयोग आयोग, सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

अधिक जानकारी के लिए क्लिक करें

India's Q3 GDP bucks all estimates at 8.4% growth

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NEW DELHI: The Indian economy continued to outperform, with GDP growth in the quarter ending December coming in at 8.4%, beating analyst estimates by around 180 basis points or 1.8 percentage points, and the government now expects the economy to grow by 7.6% in 2023-24, up from the 7.3% projected in January.

GDP growth over the past decade



The numbers, which will force economists and analysts to question whether they seriously underestimated the momentum in India's economy, were released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday, although a closer reading does point to some concerns over the tepid growth in consumption spending, one of the pillars of GDP. GDP growth in the quarter ending December 2023 is 8.4%, almost two percentage points more than the 6.6% number predicted by a Bloomberg poll of economists. And GDP growth in the quarters ending

Cabinet nod to 3 semiconductor plants, Tata Group to set up two

Aditi Agrawal
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NEW DELHI: The Cabinet approved three proposals to set up semiconductor units in India on Thursday, including two plants by the Tata Group in Gujarat and Assam, and one by the Murugappa Group-owned CG

Power in Gujarat. All three units will begin construction within 100 days, IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. A total of ₹1,26,000 crore will be invested in these three units, bringing the total investment to ₹1,49,000 crore across four semiconductor units that are slated to come up in the country.

"This [the three units] will lead to direct employment of 26,000 people and indirect employment of one lakh [100,000] people," Vaishnaw said. In June, 2023, the government cleared a proposal by American company Micron to set up a plant in Gujarat.

STERLITE PLANT TO STAY SHUT: SC FLAGS SEVERITY OF VIOLATIONS

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NEW DELHI: Vedanta's copper smelting plant in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi will stay closed, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday, declaring that the plant's contributions to the nation are subordinated to the public trust theory and sustainable development standards. The plant by Sterlite Copper, the Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources, a global mining and metals conglomerate, has remained shut since 2018 over violations of environmental norms and protests of the local population against its operation. Dismissing Vedanta's plea, the bench held that the 2020 Madras high court's judgment affirming the shut-down notice to the plant by the Tamil Nadu government and the state pollution control board called for no interference since it was based on sound reasoning.



Sukhu averts crisis after speaker suspends rebels

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NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday appeared to have staved off a crisis roiling its government in Himachal Pradesh after the speaker disqualified six rebel lawmakers whose disension cost the party a Rajya Sabha seat and cast a shadow over the future of chief minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. The Congress also announced a coordination committee to iron out differences

THE CONGRESS ANNOUNCED A COORDINATION PANEL TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTY AND GOVT
 between the party and the government at a joint press conference addressed by Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivakumar, Sukhu and his main rival, state

unit chief Pratibha Singh. "We have spoken with all the MLAs, CM and state unit chief personally. All the differences have been sorted out," said Shivakumar, who has emerged as the chief troubleshooter for the Congress in recent months, having worked to save the state government by meeting 32 lawmakers over the past two days along with former Haryana CM Bhopender Singh Hooda. Sukhu, who was under fire after the rebellion of six law-

Medical report: Metal pellets fired at farmer

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PATIALA: Protesting farmer Shubbh Karan Singh, who was killed in clashes with the Haryana Police at Khanauri last week, died of a firearm injury to the head, according to the 21-year-old man's post-mortem examination report, which also detected "foreign bodies" in his head. A CT scan conducted before the

autopsy detected several metal pellets in his head. Wounds caused by metal pellets were found on the upper bodies of several protesting farmers who were injured in police action, said medico-legal reports issued by hospitals in Patiala last week. The examination found an injury mark on the occipital region and also showed that his body bore no other injury marks. HT has seen the report.

NO PAROLE TO RAM RAHIM WITHOUT PERMISSION: HC

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court on Thursday asked the Haryana government not to consider granting parole to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim without the court's permission. The bench criticised the state for granting frequent paroles to Ram Rahim. He was granted parole for the ninth time on January 19 this year for 50 days.

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MY INDIA RECORD NUMBER

Winter wheat output 112mn tonne in '23-'24



Output of winter-sown wheat is set to be a record 112 million tonne in 2023-24, compared to last year's 110 million tonne, the government's second advance estimates of foodgrains production released on Thursday showed. Summer-sown rice has been estimated to be 111 million tonne, 0.9% higher than last year, according to the data. The output of winter-sown rice is expected to be 12.3 million tonne. Wheat is sown in November and due to be harvested during March-April. Higher food production will help put a lid on food prices, which have remained high this year partly due to the impact of extreme weather in 2022-2023. Food inflation rose 8.30% in January, compared to 9.53% in December, while rice inflation has risen to a record 15% year-on-year, according to latest available data. Spread over kharif and rabi seasons of 2023-24, total cereal output is estimated to be 309 million tonne. →P14

WORLD GAZA STRIP

Israeli troops fire at crowd rushing for aid



Israeli troops fired on a large crowd of Palestinians racing to pull food off an aid convoy in Gaza City on Thursday, witnesses said. More than 100 people were killed, bringing the death toll since the start of the Israel-Hamas war to more than 30,000, according to health officials. Israeli officials acknowledged that troops opened fire, saying they did so after the crowd approached in a threatening way. The officials insisted on anonymity to give details about what happened, after the military said in a statement that "dozens were killed and injured from pushing, trampling and being run over by the trucks." President Joe Biden said the US was still trying to determine what happened in Gaza City. When asked if the loss of life would complicate efforts broker a ceasefire, he said, "I know it will." →P17

MY INDIA DGCA ACTION

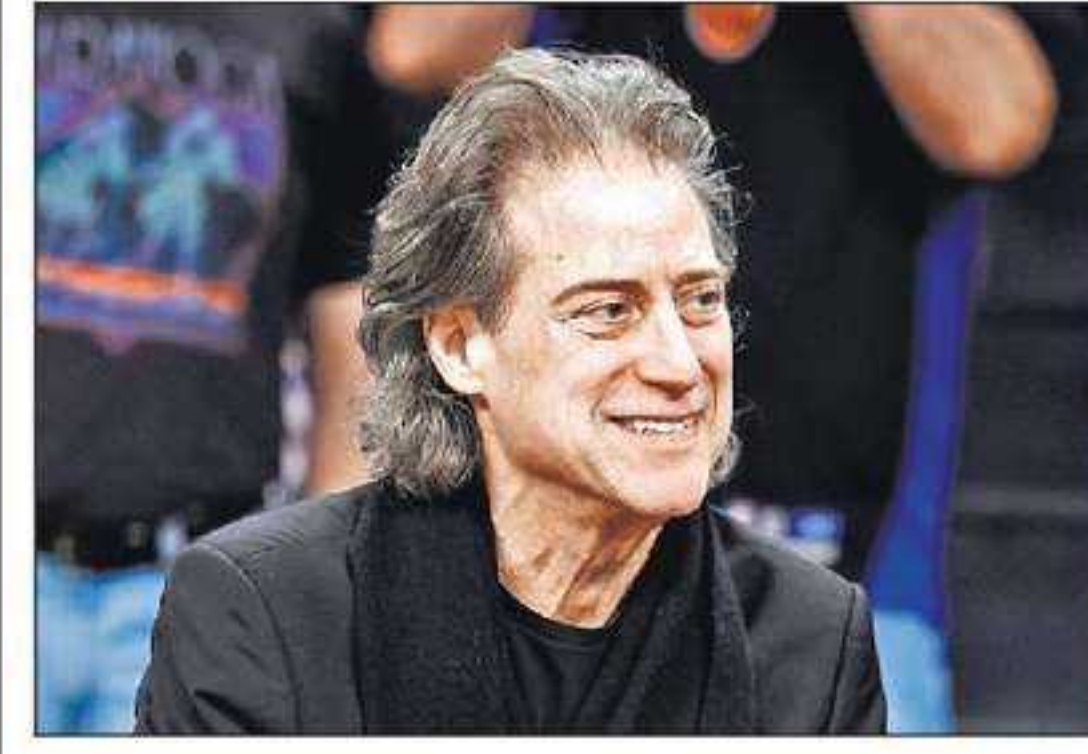
Air India fined ₹30 lakh for death over wheelchair delay



The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday hit Air India with a fine of ₹30 lakh over a February 12 incident when an 80-year-old passenger collapsed and later died after walking from the plane to the terminal at the Mumbai airport because a wheelchair was not immediately available. The regulator said the fine was a result of Air India failing to provide a wheelchair to the passenger as well as any information to the DGCA on measures taken against the "erring employee(s)" and corrective actions taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. "An advisory has also been issued to all airlines to ensure that an adequate number of wheelchairs are available for passengers who require assistance during embarking or disembarking from the aircraft during their journey," a DGCA official said. In its defence, the airline had said the passenger had chosen to walk with his wife, who was in a wheelchair, instead of waiting for a wheelchair. →P17

WORLD 'CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM'

Comedian Richard Lewis dies aged 76



Comedian Richard Lewis, who rose to fame with his neurotic, self-deprecating wit and later appeared for more than two decades alongside Larry David on the hit HBO series "Curb Your Enthusiasm," has died at 76, his publicist said on Wednesday. The comic, who disclosed last year that he was battling Parkinson's disease, died at his home in Los Angeles on Tuesday evening after suffering a heart attack. "He had that rare combination of being the funniest person and also the sweetest. But today he made me sob and for that I'll never forgive him," David said in a written statement. Brooklyn-born Lewis began performing stand-up comedy in the early 1970s while working a day job in advertising and by the end of the decade had risen to the forefront of his generation of comedians. →P17

MY INDIA CBI PLEA DISMISSED

HC clears release of Indrani Netflix film



The Bombay high court on Thursday said it has not found anything against the prosecution or the trial in the Netflix docu-series on Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora. A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Manjusha Deshpande dismissed the petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), seeking a stay on the release of the movie till the trial in the case is complete. This paves the way for the release of the series on OTT platform Netflix. The bench said it had viewed the series and found nothing in it that would prejudice the trial or the prosecution. The docu-series was scheduled to premiere on streaming platform Netflix on February 23. The bench had last week directed Netflix to hold a special screening of the series for the CBI officers and lawyers concerned. Netflix had then said it would not air the series till Thursday (February 29). →P17

Digital news outlets sue OpenAI over 'illegal content use'

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NEW YORK: Digital news outlets The Intercept, Raw Story and AlterNet are joining the fight against unauthorised use of their journalism in artificial intelligence, filing a copyright-infringement lawsuit on Wednesday against ChatGPT owner OpenAI.

The organisations say thousands of their stories were used by OpenAI to train chatbots to answer questions posed to it by users, in effect piggybacking on their journalism without permission, payment or credit.

San Francisco-based OpenAI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The already beleaguered news industry sees the practice as a financial threat. Some news outlets, including The Associated Press, have struck licensing deals for use of their material.

After similar negotiations broke down, The New York Times filed its own lawsuit in December to halt the practice or receive compensation.

The three outlets suing OpenAI did not offer specific examples of stories they allege were stolen. But they said recreations of what ChatGPT used to train its bots turned up examples of material from the three news outlets.

"When providing responses, ChatGPT gives the impression that it is an all-knowing 'intelligent' source of the information being provided, when in reality,

the responses are frequently based on copyrighted works of journalism that ChatGPT simply mimics," the lawsuit says.

While the Times, as a print publication, is able to pay for a federal copyright registration for all of its material in bulk, digital publications have no such ability. But lawyers for the three outlets suing Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Southern District of New York contend that their journalism is copyright-protected even without paying the fee.

Besides the Times, authors, including Sarah Silverman, have similarly sued the company for copyright infringement.

The Intercept lists Microsoft as a defendant because the tech giant has invested billions of dollars in OpenAI's artificial-intelligence efforts. Raw Story and AlterNet did not sue Microsoft because they have a news partnership with the company, a spokesman said.

The lawsuit asks for at least \$2,500 in damages for each time one of their stories has been used by ChatGPT.

"As newsrooms throughout the country are decimated by financial imperatives to cut back, OpenAI reaps the benefits of our content," said Annie Chabel, chief executive officer of The Intercept. "We hope this lawsuit will send a strong message to AI developers who choose to ignore our copyrights and free ride on the hard work of our journalists."

HEALTH AND FITNESS GLOBAL TRENDS



OVER ONE BILLION PEOPLE LIVING WITH OBESITY: STUDY

A new study published in the Lancet medical journal said that obesity rates surpassed one billion worldwide between 1990-2022, while offering a detailed analysis on malnutrition in the past 33 years. Here are the key highlights.

WORRYING TREND

1 Obesity rates among children and adolescents worldwide increased four times from 1990 to 2022, while obesity rates among adults have more than doubled.

2 Over the same period, rates of underweight fell among children, adolescents and adults, leading to obesity becoming the most common form of malnutrition in many countries.

3 Countries with the highest combined rates of underweight and obesity in 2022 were island nations in the Pacific and the Caribbean and countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

GLOBAL DATA

OBESITY RATES

160 mn (65mn girls and 94mn boys)

were affected by obesity in 2022 compared to 31 million in 1990 of children and adolescents. An estimated nearly 880 million adults were living with obesity in 2022 (504mn women and 374mn men), four and a half times the 195 million recorded in 1990.

UNDERWEIGHT RATES

77 mn (girls)

108 mn (boys)

were underweight in 2022, decreasing from 81 million for girls and 138 million for boys in 1990. Despite global population growth, 183 million women and 164 million men were affected by underweight in 2022, 45 million and 48 million fewer, respectively, than in 1990.

INDIA IN NUMBERS

OBESITY RATES

	WOMEN	MEN
1990	1.2%	0.5%
2022	9.8%	5.4%

The prevalence of obesity in India ranked 19th lowest (182nd highest) in the world for women and 21st lowest in the world for men in 2022. The prevalence of obesity in India ranked 27th lowest in the world for both girls and boys in 2022.

UNDERWEIGHT RATES

	WOMEN	MEN
1990	41.7%	39.8%
2022	13.7%	12.5%

In India, the underweight rate decreased from 27.3% in 1990 to 20.3% in 2022 for girls and 45.1% to 21.7% in 2022 for boys. The prevalence of underweight in India ranked highest in the world for girls and 2nd highest in the world for boys in 2022.

POPULATION ESTIMATION STUDY MOST IN MADHYA PRADESH

13,874 leopards in India, up 8% from 2018: Data

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NEW DELHI: There are 13,874 leopards in India, up from 12,852 in 2018 according to a leopard population estimation by the Union environment ministry, which noted that with 3,907, Madhya Pradesh has the most.

This estimate represents population in around 70% of leopard habitat. The Himalayas and semi arid parts of the country which are not tiger habitat were not sampled during the estimation exercise. The leopard population ranges between 12,616-15,132 individuals, representing a stable population in comparison to the similar area being sampled in 2018 with 12,172-13,535 individuals, the report, "Status of Leopards in India" said.

The fifth cycle of leopard population estimation was carried out by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with State Forest Departments in 2022, as part of the quadrennial "Monitoring of Tiger, Co-predators, prey and their habitat" exercise in tiger range states.

Slightly showing a stable or central growing population of leopards (2018: 8,071, 2022: 8,820), Shivalik hills but the Gangetic plains have recorded a drop (2018: 1,253, 2022: 1,109). "If we look at the area which was sampled both in 2018 and 2022

across India, there is a 1.08% growth per year," the ministry said.

In Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains, there is a 3.4% dip per year, while the largest growth was seen in Central India and Eastern Ghats, 1.5% a year. Western Ghats and North East Hills and Brahmaputra flood plains also logged growths of 1% and 1.3% per year respectively.

Rajaji, Dudhwa and Corbett Tiger Reserves have the largest leopard population in the Shivalik and Gangetic Plains landscape.

The Shivalik landscape has seen an increase in large carnivore conflict in recent years.

Around 65% of the leopard population is present outside protected areas in the landscape, which could lead to an increase in such conflicts. In Uttarakhand, 30% of all human death and injury cases by wildlife were caused by leopards in the past five years. With an increase in tiger number in the landscape, large carnivore conflict needs to be actively managed, the report said. In Uttar Pradesh both leopard and tiger numbers have increased which requires an active engagement in conflict resolution by the forest department and civil administration, it added.

"All states in this landscape (Shivalik) are facing human-animal conflict with respect to tiger and leopard, this conflict will intensify in future and the



A leopard in its enclosure at the Ramnabagan Wildlife Sanctuary.

state (Uttarakhand) needs to take proactive measures to avoid loss of life and property in such cases. With 65% of the leopard population in the state present outside Protected Areas, training of forest staff in the forest divisions and territorial forests is the first step towards managing the conflict. Timely compensations and awareness amongst local communities will also help alleviate the problem," the report said.

Tiger Reserves or sites with highest leopard population are, Nagarajunasagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), followed by Panna (Madhya Pradesh), and Satpura (Madhya Pradesh).

The fifth cycle of leopard population estimation (2022) in India focused on forested habitats within 18 tiger states, covering four major tiger conservation landscapes. Non-forested habitats, arid, and high Himalayas above 2000 msl (30% area) were not sampled for leopards...The findings underscore the critical role of Protected Areas in conserving leopard populations. While tiger reserves serve as important strongholds, addressing conservation gaps outside protected areas is equally vital. Rising incidents of conflict pose chal-

lenges for both leopards and communities. Since leopards survival outside protected areas is equally important, collaborative efforts involving government agencies, conservation organizations, and local communities are essential to enhance habitat protection and mitigate human-wildlife conflict," MoEFCC said in a statement.

About 20 Indians sought help for discharge from Russian Army, says MEA

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NEW DELHI: About 20 Indian nationals serving with the Russian military have approached authorities seeking help for their discharge, the external affairs ministry said on Thursday against the backdrop of reports of casualties among Indians forced to fight in the war against Ukraine.

Reports have suggested that up to 100 Indian nationals had been recruited as support staff by the Russian Army and that dozens of them had been forced to fight on the border with Ukraine. There were unconfirmed reports of two deaths and several injuries among the Indian nationals.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a regular media briefing that some 20 Indians, working as support staff or helpers with the Russian Army, have contacted Indian authorities for assistance. He didn't specify the total number of Indians believed to be working with the Russian military.

"We have an understanding that 20-odd people are stuck. We are trying our level best for their early discharge," he said in response to several questions. "We have told people not to venture in the war zone or get caught in situations which are difficult." The Indian side is in regular touch with Russian authorities in New Delhi and Moscow to address this issue. "We are trying to do our best. We are deeply

committed to the welfare of all Indians," Jaiswal said.

In response to another question on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Jaiswal said India's position on this issue was well known and had been articulated at the highest levels. India, he said, "desires that there be discussions, diplomacy [and] constant engagement so that both sides can come together and find a solution for peace."

The external affairs ministry on Monday said that several Indians were discharged from the Russian Army after their case was taken up by Indian authorities. The ministry also said that "every such case brought to the attention of the Indian Embassy in Moscow has been strongly taken up with the Russian authorities."

There is, however, still no clarity on the exact number of Indians who had been discharged from the Russian Army.

Last week, India advised its citizens to stay away from getting caught up in the Russia-Ukraine conflict following reports that Indian nationals in support jobs had been forced to fight alongside Russian troops.

All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimen (AIMIM) leader and MP Asaduddin Owaisi and the Karnataka government recently approached the external affairs ministry to bring back the Indians caught in the fighting. Several of these Indians belong to Karnataka, Telangana and Jammu and Kashmir.



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War of letters between LG, Kejriwal intensifies

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The war of words between lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal regarding the implementation of the one-time settlement scheme for unpaid water bills intensified on Thursday. Speaking about a resolution moved by AAP chief whip Dilip Pandey demanding the reinstatement of civil defence volunteers sacked in November 2023, Kejriwal referred to the LG's letter in the assembly on Thursday and said that his "government must be doing something right to have won three consecutive elections". He also termed the language used by the LG in his letter "inappropriate".

"No matter what differences we have... this language is not appropriate coming from LG. The



LG Saxena, CM Kejriwal

LG has written, "...your government has done nothing substantial for the development of Delhi! We must be doing something good for Delhi that our government has secured victory in three elections consecutively, whereas your security deposits were getting forfeited," the CM said.

In an open letter to CM, Saxena on Wednesday said he had no role in the approval of schemes under the water, finance and urban development departments, and denied the allegations that prevented the one-time settlement scheme from being implemented.

In a response to the LG's letter on Wednesday, Kejriwal said he discussed the scheme with the LG a few times. "I have discussed this with you more than once... all power over officers is exercised by you by control over services and vigilance... This is why I brought the matter to you as matters of public interest are being held up by officers," he wrote.

On Thursday, the LG wrote a second letter to the CM. Referring to AAP leaders — including Kejriwal's — past statements against him, Saxena said he has always underlined the importance of propriety and desisting from intemperate language. "I have always urged you to work together for the benefit of the people rather than indulging in politicking. Having said that, I would like to say that I am pained, that you were pained," LG said.

AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha moved a censure motion against the

LG's letter in the Delhi assembly on Thursday which led to a discussion on the matter. AAP minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "Development projects in Delhi are being halted deliberately to thwart the Kejriwal government. If the Delhi government has full control of all transferred subjects, then why did the Central government bring a new Amendment Bill to take Delhi's control?"

Meanwhile, leader of the Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said if the AAP does not have evidence of LG stalling the DJB scheme, it should apologise. "In his letter, LG mentioned that water bills for 1 million people have been incorrect. Even Kejriwal has accepted this. If LG has issued any orders to stop the scheme, it should be presented in the House," said Bidhuri.

The Delhi government in a statement said: "LG should allow the elected government to work and not create hurdles."

CM demands reinstatement of 10,000 volunteers as bus marshals, blames LG

Alok KN Mishra
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday claimed that lieutenant governor VK Saxena threatened Delhi government officials to discontinue the engagement of civil defence volunteers (CDVs) as bus marshals on public buses in the Capital, and called for the reinstatement of the nearly 10,000 people engaged as CDVs, who were

sacked in November last year. Kejriwal made the allegations in the Delhi assembly, while speaking on a resolution moved by Aam Aadmi Party chief whip Dilip Pandey, which demanded that the CDVs be reinstated as bus marshals. The resolution was moved on a calling attention motion by AAP legislator Jarnail Singh, who sought a discussion on the sacking of bus marshals.

The LG did not respond to queries seeking comments. The

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), meanwhile, said it is in favour of reinstating CDVs, but put the blame squarely on AAP for failing to regularise their employment. Speaking in the Assembly, Kejriwal said: "In 2015, we came to power by promising women's safety. Delhi Police is not within our control, but we did whatever was possible within our jurisdiction, such as installing CCTV cameras, and streetlights and deploying bus marshals in public

buses. The bus marshals helped prevent crimes, and caught criminals and thieves." Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said he is in favour of reinstating the CDVs. "The bus marshals have been protesting outside Delhi Secretariat... their families are in deep distress. We stand with the Delhi government in support of the bus marshals, but they should provide a solution," he said.

Woman kills 1-yr-old son

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 26-year-old woman allegedly killed her one-year-old son at their home in Uttam Nagar in west Delhi on Tuesday the Delhi Police said,

adding that the woman has been arrested. Police said they were yet to determine a motive behind the crime, but it is suspected that the woman's neighbours had been taunting her and called the victim an illegitimate child, which might have upset her.


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DDA sells 12 of 14 Dwarka penthouses via e-auction

Snehil Sinha

snehil.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday announced that it has sold 12 of the 14 penthouses in Dwarka that it offered for sale via e-auction. The 14 penthouses come with a hefty reserve price of ₹5 crore — the highest price at which DDA has launched any residential property in the city, officials said.

These penthouses are part of what DDA is billing as a luxury society at Dwarka Sector 19B — around 13km from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport — which also includes 170 Super HIG flats (reserve price of ₹2.5 crore), and 946 HIG flats (reserve price of ₹1.4 crore).

The gated society, constructed at a cost of ₹700 crore, comprises of 11 towers with 1,130 flats, and each flat is guaranteed two parking spaces in the basement. The society also has four additional towers with 728 EWS flats, which will be allotted later.

DDA officials said that of the 1,130 flats in the society, 1,005 were sold during the first round of e-auction on February 16 — while Super HIG flats are completely sold out, two penthouses and 123 HIG flats remain unsold, which will be up on offer during the next e-auction on March 5.

"During the auction on February 16, the lowest price that a penthouse was sold for was ₹5.2 crore, while the highest was ₹6.36 crore. On average, the price was ₹5.5 crore. Similarly, the response was very good for the Super HIG flats," said an official who asked not to be named.

Since 2014, DDA schemes have received a poor response, and during the last financial year, the authority announced losses amounting to over ₹8,00,000 crore, mostly due to an unsold inventory of around 40,000 flats, most of which are located in Narela.

However, the official quoted above noted that the luxury society's locational advantage — it has good connectivity and overlooks an upcoming golf course — has helped in most flats getting auctioned in the first go.

Under the hammer

In its February 16 auction of its costliest residential units, DDA sold 1,005 of the 1,130 flats in luxury society in Dwarka Sector 19B. The remaining 125 flats will be auctioned on March 5

Flat type	Total flats	Flats sold	Remaining flats	Reserve price in ₹
Penthouse	14	12	2	5 crore
Super HIG	170	Sold out	-	2.5 crore
HIG	946	823	123	1.4 crore
Total	1,130	1,005		

Dates

February 28: Last date for registering for e-auction

March 1: Final submission of application

March 5: Online e-auction of flats

Details
Golf course facing society
Dwarka Sector 19B
11 towers
728 EWS flats



"This time, the earnest money to be deposited ahead of the e-auction was kept at ₹25 lakh for the penthouses. Also, people had to select and could bid for only the exact flat that they wanted to buy. These steps helped ensure that only the serious and interested buyers applied for the flats," he said.

The e-auction on March 5 will also include 132 MIG flats in Dwarka Sector 14, the official said, adding that these 2BHK flats have a reserve price of ₹1

crore. In December, officials from the lieutenant governor's office said the LG has taken several decisions to ensure that DDA's unsold inventory is cleared.

"Relaxing the eligibility and other norms to allow ownership of more than one flat in Delhi, coupled with an aggressive outreach campaign, seem to have made a substantial difference. DDA, that has been burdened with an unsustainable inventory of unsold houses, finally

appears to be taking a turn as far as sale of houses is concerned. At the same time, a comprehensive plan to develop the Narela area in terms of connectivity and ensuring overall upgradation by way of establishing university campuses, court and prison complexes, hospitals and a push to Metro, has also encouraged buyers, according to the marketing agency employed by DDA for this project," an official from the LG's office said at the time.

WOMAN ATTACKED WITH ACID-LIKE SUBSTANCE, COPS SUSPECT HUSBAND

Debashish Karmakar

letters@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: A 35-year-old woman suffered from severe burn injuries after a person threw an acid-like substance on her at Palam Vihar in Gurugram Sector 1, police officers aware of the incident said on Thursday, adding that they suspect the role of the victim's husband, 39, with whom she had separated around a fortnight ago.

Police said the attack took place at around 6pm on Wednesday, when the woman — who worked as a domestic help — was returning home. The woman is currently admitted to Safdarjung hospital in Delhi, where her condition is said to be stable.

Naveen Sharma, assistant commissioner of police (Udyog Vihar), said that the husband is on the run and attempts are on to arrest him. "The victim told police that she was unable to see the suspect who attacked her. We are gathering CCTV footage to ascertain if it was her husband," he said.

Police said that the suspect approached the woman from behind and poured an acid-like substance on her back and shoulders, before fleeing. On her complaint, an FIR was registered under section 326 of IPC at the Palam Vihar police station on Wednesday night.

{ DAY AFTER HOUSE WAS RAZED }

Rat-hole miner's kin refuse DDA's offer for new house

Snehil Sinha

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday said it offered an alternative accommodation to the family of one of the rat-hole miners involved in the Silkyara tunnel rescue operation but its offer was refused — a day after the agency demolished his house citing encroachment.

Meanwhile, Vakil Hassan, the rat-hole miner whose house was demolished, said that his family will not accept any offer other than a permanent house, and will start a hunger strike if their demands are not met.

"We cannot accept what DDA is offering in its current form. They are giving us an alternative accommodation, but we don't know if that is permanent or just a temporary shelter. I sold my wife's jewellery to buy this house and now my three children are

homeless. My family will fast unto death if we don't get our home back," said Hassan.

Separately, AAP minister Atishi on Thursday asked lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena to offer homes under the PM Awas Yojana to people whose houses have been demolished during anti-encroachment drives, similar to an offer that is being made to Hassan.

The LG secretariat did not respond to the demands made by Atishi.

On Wednesday afternoon, DDA demolished Hassan's house in the Shiram Colony area of Khajoori Khas in northeast Delhi. This was the only house demolished in the area on Wednesday as officials said it was the only one where no legal stay was obtained from any court. Officials said that DDA was "unaware" that the house belonged to one of the rescue workers, adding that the house

was built on encroached land. DDA has tried to free the property in the past as well, they added.

"...Alternative arrangements for providing shelter to Vakil and his family were made by DDA. Officials of DDA went on site to meet Vakil and to convey this offer to him," DDA said in a statement. It added that apart from this, temporary relief in the form of employment to Hassan was also worked out and conveyed to him by the officials. A senior officer of DDA also visited him late at night, officials said. "In continuation to the efforts, according to instructions of the LG, DDA has extended further assistance to him and his family in the form of an EWS flat at Narela as an immediate measure of shelter," the statement added.

But Hassan said that his family has been rendered homeless and will not accept any offer till a permanent home is promised.

Woman living in Bali says ₹16cr stolen from account

Jignasa Sinha

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 49-year-old woman from Indonesia has alleged that more than ₹16 crore was siphoned off from her two bank accounts at the Delhi branch of a private bank, police officers aware of the matter said on Thursday, adding that they have booked senior officials of the bank in the case.

Police said they registered the case on Monday after the woman contacted authorities in India. In her complaint, police said, the woman alleged that she and her husband — who live in Bali but also have a house in Gurugram — opened two bank accounts at the bank in 2018-19 and put all their life savings in the two accounts.

"More than ₹13 crore in these accounts were in the form of fixed deposits," said an investigator probing the case, on condition of anonymity.

In January, police said, the woman checked her accounts and found that only ₹50 lakh was left.

"We were told that more than ₹12 crore of funds were siphoned off directly from the FDs. Also, all the funds were transferred to 10-12 other accounts. The paperwork had signatures of the branch managers and other bank officials," the investigator said.

"The accused had also created a fake overdraft account. Since the woman did not check her account often, the money was transferred over months. She didn't find out about the money being transferred. The accused also showed deductions in the name of foreign remittance taxes, but they are all bogus," the investigator added.

HT is not writing the name of the bank because we were unable to contact them in time to get a response.

33-YEAR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR RAPING MINOR

GURUGRAM: A 33-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a nine-year-old girl near her house in Gurugram's Sector 53, police said on Thursday.

Investigators said that the incident took place on Tuesday afternoon when the girl was alone outside her home.

Inspector Geeta, the station house officer of the women's police station in Sector 51, said that the suspect was arrested on Wednesday. "The suspect lived in the same neighbourhood. He had lured the girl by offering chocolates and took her inside his room where he raped her," she said.

Police said the victim told her parents about the incident after which the girl's mother got an FIR registered against the suspect under Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act at the women's police station. A city court sent the suspect into judicial custody on Thursday. HTc

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Amit, S/o Surender, R/o: Premises RHS to Plot No. 104 & 106, Block NS, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **Case/517/2021, U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act, P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Amit** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amit** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Amit of Ct. Case/517/2021, U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act, P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.04.2024**.

By Order

Sh. Vinod Kumar Meena
Additional Session Judge (South-West)
Special Court (Electricity), Court No. 609
Dwarka District Court, New Delhi

DP/2369/DW/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Aarif @ Mandola S/o Altaf R/o Chaina Pur Mohalla, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No. 261/2018 dated 01.11.2018 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act** registered at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Aarif @ Mandola** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Aarif @ Mandola** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Aarif @ Mandola** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.04.2024**.

By Order

Sh. Gaurav Goyal
Metropolitan Magistrate (Central District)
Room No. 247,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2281/N/2024

(Court Notice)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Azaz S/o Abdul Rajiq R/o H.No. 156, Near Noorani Masjid, Chandan Holla, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.18003/20 Dated: 02.08.2020 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Azaz** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Azaz** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Azaz of FIR No.18003/20 Dated: 02.08.2020 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.03.2024**.

By Order,

Devanshi Janmeja
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (South East)
Room No.10, Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/2014/SE/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons **Faizan S/o Khaleel R/o Jhuggi Near Buland Masjid, Shastri Masjid, Shastri Park, Usmanpur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence **FIR No. 97/2021 u/s 379/34 IPC P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Faizan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Faizan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Faizan** accused of **FIR No. 97/2021 u/s 379/34 IPC P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.04.2024**.

By Order: Ms. Meena Chauhan

Metropolitan Magistrate-08 (Central),
Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1834/N/24

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Nagraj S/o Maikulal R/o Jhuggi No. 82/196, Cigrate Wala Bagh, PS Model Town, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No. 389/15 U/s 380/457/511 IPC** registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Nagraj** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Nagraj** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Nagraj** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **09.04.2024**.

By Order

Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra,
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
(North),
Room No. 117,
Rohini Court, Delhi.

DP/2307/NW/2024

(Court Notice)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy Name: **Sonu Mandal, S/o: Bhagwan Mandal, R/o: H.No. 411, Indra Gandhi Camp, Okhla Phase-2, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **04.03.2019** at 11:00 am from Chhuriya Mohalla, Tuglakhabad Village, New Delhi from the jurisdiction P.S. Govind Puri, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 77/2019 U/s 363 IPC** dated **04.03.2019** has been registered at P.S. Govind Puri, Delhi. The description of the missing boy are as under- **Age: 5 years, Height: 2'3", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Dark green colour jacket, yellow colour shirt, black colour pant and red colour slipper in his feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>E-Mail ID - cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax No. 011-24368639

Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/2466/SE/2024

SHO

P.S. Govind Puri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-29980049, 8750870932

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Arshad Hussain, S/o Emdad Hussain, R/o L-240, Baludhan Road, Uttam Nagar, Dwarka, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case Reg. No. 1965/2021 & FIR No. 645/2020, U/S 12/9/55 Gambling Act, PS Rajpark, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Arshad Hussain** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Arshad Hussain** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Arshad Hussain of Case Reg. No. 1965/2021 & FIR No. 645/2020, U/S 12/9/55 Gambling Act, PS Rajpark, Delhi** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.04.2024**.

By Order

Ebbani Aggarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)
Room No. 107, First Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/2447/OD/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Radhika Khanna, W/o Sunny Khanna, R/o A-31, E-Block, Peeragarhi Camp, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi.** Age 28 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Medium Built, Identification Mark Tatoo of "MOM" on left hand, Wearing Black colour suit & salwar and black colour vally in feet has been missing since 23.02.2024 from her house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this lady but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 87A, dated 23.02.2024 has been lodged at PS Paschim Vihar East, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady may kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-23011334

Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

DP/2507/OD/2024

SHO

PS: Paschim Vihar East

New Delhi

Ph.: 8529557232

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accuseds **1.Dimple @ Gudiya D/o Ramesh R/o G-1/500, Uttam Nagar, Delhi 2. Rohit S/o Darshan R/o G-1/314, Uttam Nagar, Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.964/14, Dated: 15.09.2014 u/s 392/34/174A IPC, P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accuseds **1.Dimple @ Gudiya, 2. Rohit** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accuseds **1.Dimple @ Gudiya, 2. Rohit** have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accuseds **1.Dimple @ Gudiya, 2. Rohit of FIR No.964/14, Dated: 15.09.2014 u/s 392/34/174A IPC, P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.04.2024**.

By Order,

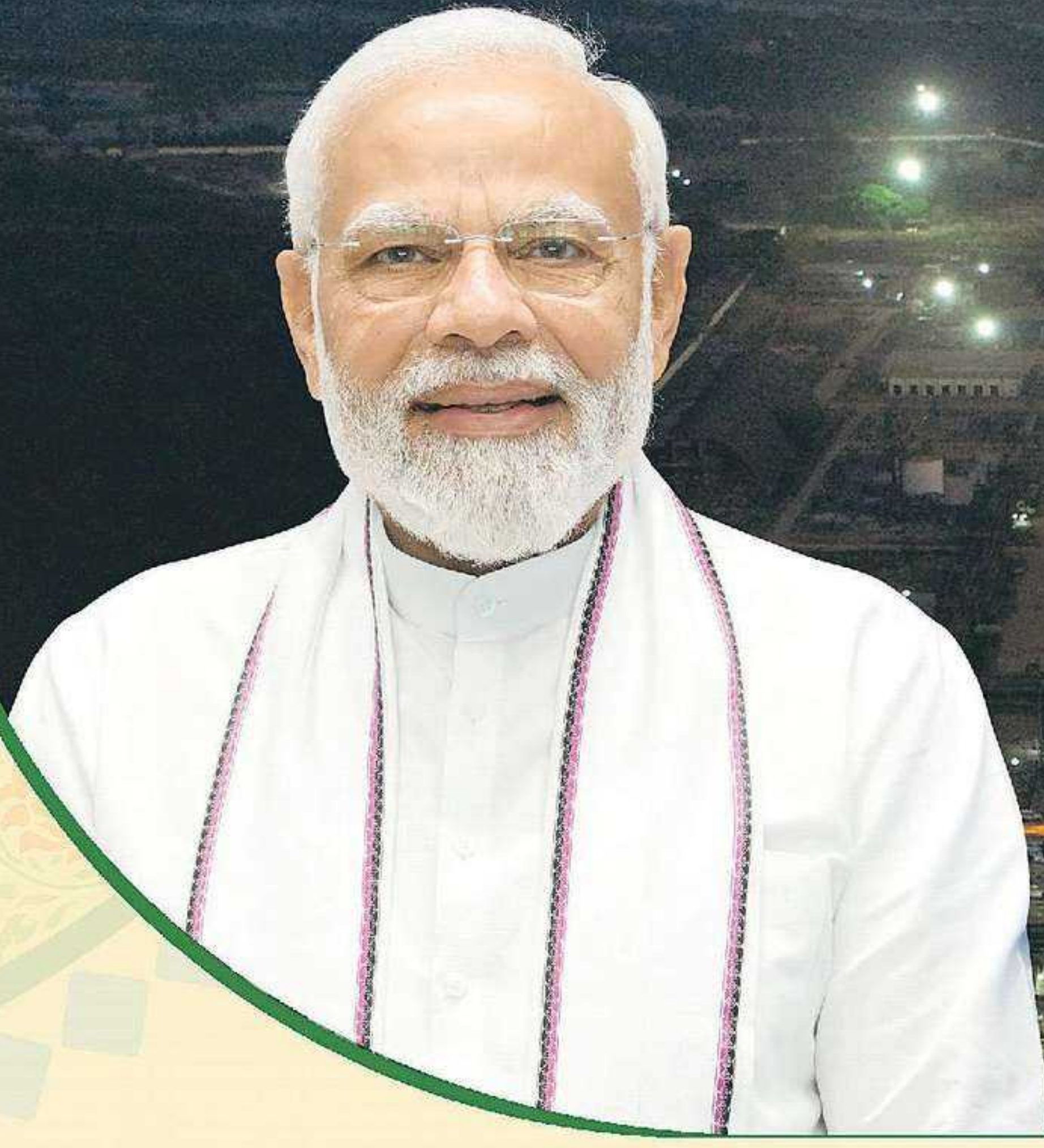
Devanshi Janmeja
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (South East)
Room No.10, Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/2015/SE/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.	
Name of work with its location	1. Dismantling of old Railway track parallel to elevated Railway track, construction of 5 units staff quarters and shifting of duty hut of LC no.1-B on ROK-PNP Section. (NIT 69-W-IV-23-24) 2. TRR (P) 1.5 KM (66.300 to 67.8) on Rohtak-Panipat Section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ROK. (NIT 71-W-IV-23-24) 3. TRR (P) 1.2 KM (67.8 to 69.00) on Rohtak-Panipat Section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ROK. (NIT 72-W-IV-23-24) 4. Development of goods shed at Nangloi under ADEN/Rohtak (NIT 73-W-IV-23-24)
Approx Cost of work	(1) Rs.50,55,394.78 (2) Rs.41,53,306.73 (3) Rs.32,82,984.83 (4) Rs.35,63,086.95
Earnest Money	(1) Rs.1,01,100.00 (2) Rs.83,100.00 (3) Rs.65,700.00 (4) Rs.71,300.00
Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date for work on. Up to 15:00 hrs on 08.03.2024 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs on 22.03.2024
Website particulars, published e-tender notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/69,71,72&73-W-IV/23-24 Date : 29.02.2024 653/2024	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:	
1. Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with PART-A: Raising of platform at BBDE, BZK, BZJT, GRA, MO, TRR, DHKR, DPP, SHDM and extension of platform at. BBDE, BZK, BZJT, GRA stations on DUK section. PART-B: Raising and extension of platform on DSA-SMQL-SRE section.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,44,84,498.36/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,22,400/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	08.03.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 22.03.2024 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	22.03.2024 (15.00 hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
E-Tender No.: 37A-TRD-NDLS-2023-24 Dated 29.02.2024	
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NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Charbagh Workshop, Lucknow invites following e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below:-	
Tender No.:	W-CB-22-DEMU-Tank-2024
Name of Work:	Repairing/cleaning of water expansion tank, inlet pipe with filling cap & fuel tank of DEMU as per scope of Work.
Estimated Cost of Work:	Rs. 18,35,785/-
Earnest Money:	Rs. 36,700/- only
Cost of Tender Form:	0/- only
Period of Contract:	12 Months
Date & Time for Submission of Tender:	from 08.03.2024 to 22.03.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Tender:	after 15:15 Hrs. on 22.03.2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tender form may be submitted on the website <	



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- Mohanpur-Hansdiha New Rail Line

Foundation Stone Laying for

- Doubling of Railway Line: Pradhankhunta Jn – Pathardih Bazar-Bhojudih
- Yard remodelling of Sindri Marshalling Yard with revival
- Doubling of Railway Line: Jamuniatand-Chandrapura Section
- Rail Over Rail line between Patratu-Tokisud
- Kuju-Ranchi Road Y-Connection of Railway Line
- Dhanbad-Chandrapura Railway Line
- Sone Nagar - Andal 3rd & 4th Line

Flagging off of

- Deoghar-Dibrugarh train service
- Long haul freight train from Shivpur Station
- MEMU Train Service between Tatanagar and Badampahar (Daily)

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Friday, 01 March, 2024 | 10:45AM | Sindri, Dhanbad (Jharkhand)

- * Revival of three Units by HURL at Gorakhpur (UP), Barauni (Bihar) & Sindri (Jharkhand), and by RFCL at Ramagundam (Telangana), has resulted into a Urea production capacity addition of 50.8 LMT per annum.
- * In order to support the farmers, subsidy on fertilizers is Rs. 1.75 Lakh Crore now, around 2.5 times as compared to Rs. 73 thousand crore in 2014.
- * Robust Rail infrastructure provides better connectivity and facilitates the goods train movement. This would also strengthen the economy of Jharkhand.
- * North Karanpura STPP shall ensure energy self-sufficiency. The Plant shall help in meeting the increasing power demand of Urban and Rural consumers.
- * FGD technology helps in improving the ambient air quality, prevents acid rain and minimizes the respiratory diseases.

In the august presence of

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan
Governor, Jharkhand

Shri Champai Soren
Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Union Minister of Chemicals &
Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare

Shri Arjun Munda
Union Minister of Agriculture
& Farmers Welfare and
Tribal Affairs

Shri P. N. Singh
Member of Parliament

Please Join the Event Live at DD News

As city expands, growth of illegal colonies still on

Paras Singh

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Around 1km down Bundh Road — a two-lane stretch that hugs the Yamuna in north Delhi's Burari — the once vast expanse of agricultural fields is slowly being replaced by a maze of concrete streets that have carved these green spaces into 50-100 square yard plots.

A few farmers still remain in Gadhni Khasru in Burari, but the periphery of their fields is dotted with signboards announcing that the plots were up for sale. The phrase "Plots Hi Village" is plastered across the plots.

In January, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) initiated a large-scale demolition drive against unauthorised constructions and "colonisation" (the MCD's term for the illegal setting up of residential colonies on agricultural land). In that month alone, 440 demolitions and 85 sealing drives were carried out, along with 35 drives against illegal colonisation/plotting, which has led to 70 acres of land being cleared.

Gadhni Khasru village has borne much of the brunt of these drives. Kuldeep Sharma, 56, a local resident who runs a tailor's shop near the village, said the demolition drives are a minor hurdle on the path to regularisation. "All plots here over which houses have been built have faced action in the past. This is how they get documented in official papers, but once a large number of houses get built, there is no worry for demolition action," Sharma said.

The price of plots in Gadhni Khasru can range from ₹16,000 to ₹34,000 per gaj (1 sq gaj is equal to 0.82 sqm), depending on several factors — the distance from the existing periphery of built-up mass, the locality, the width of the new road, and whether the plot is connected to the electricity grid or not.

This explosion in illegal residential plots, however, is not unique to Gadhni Khasru. Similar trends extend to other villages on the periphery of the Capital. Delhi continues to expand in the form of an unplanned, unauthorised

MARCH 8, 2012



APRIL 30, 2022



Satellite images show the expansion of illegal colonies in north Delhi over nearly a decade.

scale migration in the city? In the end, the farmer and his family end up living in the same unauthorised colony."

The compulsions of economics
Villagers and experts blame the lack of economic opportunities and a nexus between builders, politicians, and bureaucrats for the explosion in informal habitations.

Vijay Singh Kushwaha, 62, a resident of Pradhan Enclave in Saleempur Majra village, said that over the last two decades, he has seen the vast open space beyond his locality turn into an ever-growing informal colony. "After every six to eight months, the colony gobbles up more agricultural fields, but where should the poor people go to live?" he said.

A second MCD official said the problem of unauthorised construction is particularly worrisome in 95 villages notified as development areas for land pooling. "Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been talking about land pooling for over a decade now, but not much has been delivered on ground," the official said, declining to be named.

HT reached out to DDA, but officials there did not respond to requests for comment.

Paras Tyagi, who runs the Centre For Youth, Culture, Law, and Environment (CYCLE) — an organisation working on issues related to Delhi's villages — said, "The underlying causes for the expansion of illegal colonies are not being addressed. Where is the EWS housing for the large-

scale migration in the city? In the end, the farmer and his family end up living in the same unauthorised colony."

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Vijay Singh Kushwaha, 62, a resident of Pradhan Enclave in Saleempur Majra village, said that over the last two decades, he has seen the vast open space beyond his locality turn into an ever-growing informal colony. "After every six to eight months, the colony gobbles up more agricultural fields, but where should the poor people go to live?" he said.

A property dealer who deals with plots on agricultural land, on condition of anonymity, said farmers too require money for their needs. "What should they do with their land when agriculture is no longer profitable and family sizes have grown?" he argued.

AK Jain, former DDA commissioner (planning) and an urban planning expert, said, "The housing demand is clearly not being met by houses in planned areas. The gap is being met by this underground market, in which agricultural land is acquired by investors-builders and sold informally at relatively cheaper rates. Politicians build pressure for regularisation, and the deadline for protection under Delhi special laws is

extended after every few years, leading to profits for everyone."

MCD fighting a losing battle

In December, Parliament passed a Bill to extend by three years the protection given to unauthorised constructions in slums, farm houses and other colonies in Delhi, with a cut-off date of June 2014. The initial protection was granted initially in 2006 and it has been periodically extended.

All other illegal constructions are fair game for demolition drives.

MCD data shows that the north Delhi belt of Burari to Kadipur (which falls under the civic body's Civil Lines zone) has faced 30 demolition drives in just the last three months, which led to the clearing of 169,500 sqm (42.3 acres) of land from illegal plotting and colonisation.

A third MCD official said, "More than 80,000 properties which have been booked for such illegal construction beyond the cut-off date. The actual number of illegal constructions would be much higher. We need a new policy solution for this problem."

Tyagi from CYCLE said demolishing a few structures will not help tackle the crisis that the city faces unless the underlying causes are addressed. "Why doesn't the government put up a GIS map of these areas in the public domain? Then everyone can identify what kind of land they are purchasing. It could be a crucial step towards checking the expansion of illegal colonies," he said.

{ LUCKNOW CASE } TOP COURT REFERS TO DELHI

Authorities also at fault for unauthorised structures: SC

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: One of the main causes of the explosion of unauthorised structures is the government's incapacity to provide people with access to affordable homes, the Supreme Court observed on Thursday, adding that the right to shelter is a fundamental right.

"There is some fault with government also here. Land mostly is always with the government and the land prices are very high. People cannot afford... Take Delhi for example. Why are there so many unauthorised colonies in Delhi? Because DDA (Delhi Development Authority) could not do much," lamented a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta.

Hearing a case concerning demolition of commercial and residential units in Lucknow's Akbar Nagar, the court further said: "Right to have a roof over one's head is a fundamental right. This court has held so."

The bench was seized of a clutch of petitions challenging the demolition of 24 commercial spaces in Lucknow's Akbar Nagar after the Allahabad High Court dismissed the pleas of the occupants on February 27.

Senior counsel S Muralidhar and Shob Alam appeared for the petitioners, complaining that the demolition started on February 27, minutes after the high court order, depriving them of having a day in the Supreme Court. Alam pointed out that the

occupants have been there since 1970s, pleading demolition could be stayed until the Supreme Court grants a detailed hearing.

However, additional solicitor general KM Nataraj, representing the Lucknow Development Authority and the Uttar Pradesh government, argued that the petitioners before the bench were occupants of commercial properties, who were running shops and other commercial units illegally on the government land. The ASG added that none of the petitioners belongs to economically weaker sections, and they were all income tax payees. Nataraj also clarified that there were no residential units being demolished by LDA and that the issue relating to demolition of residential units was pending before the high court.

At this, the bench told Alam that the court cannot intervene when titles and ownership are admittedly with the government even as it acknowledges the inconvenience caused to the occupants, which the state government will take care of in terms of the prevailing policy.

It then proceeded to record ASG Nataraj's statement that 23 of 24 commercial properties have already been demolished.

"It is to be noted that petitioners are not stating that they own the lands, and that the land belongs to and owned by the government. The constructions, therefore, would be unauthorised and illegal. Thus, we direct that the petitioner herein would be entitled to remove all his

belongings on or before midnight of March 4, 2024. Thereafter the petitioner can also move an application under the scheme for alternate accommodation. After midnight of March 4, 2024, LDA shall be entitled to demolish the structure, take photos pre- and post-demolition and photograph left behind belongings," said the bench.

On the fate of 1800 houses in the two-decade old colony, the bench recorded Nataraj's submissions that no residential unit will be razed down until the high court decides the related petitions pending there.

"Please have a little humane approach... Mr Nataraj, please be careful. Many will be poor... In demolishing houses, do not precipitate action. Let the high court take a call," the court told the ASG while disposing of the matter. The occupants of the commercial spaces approached the high court challenging the LDA's demolition orders. But a division bench on February 27 dismissed their petition, saying it found no reason to exercise the court's discretionary jurisdiction.

The division of the residents into taxpayers and Below Poverty Line cards was crucial to the high court's decision. The court observed that the parties had misrepresented themselves as slum residents and had not given correct information. The petitioners were not slum inhabitants, nor did their establishments fall inside defined slum region, the court said after perusing relevant documents.

POLICE, ADMN PREPARE FOR PM TO INAUGURATE DWARKA E-WAY

Abhishek Behl

abhishek.behl@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Gurugram administration have started preparing for the inauguration of the Gurugram section of the Dwarka expressway to be held in March. In the run up to the inauguration, teams from the Gurugram administration and police visited the Dwarka expressway on Thursday to start logistical preparations and assess security requirements for the event.

Gurugram deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav on Thursday said no exact date had been finalised, but it would be done soon. "We inspected the site today for preparations," he said.

A senior Gurugram police official aware of the matter said that teams led by deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav and city police chief Vikas Arora visited the expressway to take stock of the ground situation. "The teams from administration, police and NHAI visited the expressway to identify probable sites for inauguration, construction of a temporary helipad, and parking space for the rally if that is also organised. We are preparing for the inauguration, but confirmation of the date is awaited," said the official, who was part of the survey.

NHAI officials on Thursday confirmed the development and said that inauguration of the expressway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to happen soon. A senior NHAI official said, "We have received directions that PM Modi will inaugurate the Gurugram section of Dwarka expressway. The final date is likely to be intimated soon but we are getting ready."

BJP CALLS FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK FOR PREPARING DELHI MANIFESTO

Alok KN Mishra

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will prepare a party manifesto for the Capital for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the party said on Thursday, launching a campaign to reach out to various sections of society seek their suggestions to shape its manifesto, which it will call 'Sankalp Patra 2024'.

The BJP holds all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. The party is set to face off against an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-Congress combine in the upcoming polls.

"The Narendra Modi government has fulfilled 99.1% of the suggestions given by Delhi residents in 2014, and 95% in 2019. Based on suggestions received from the public, the BJP will release the Sankalp Patra for Delhi," leader of opposition in Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said. The party released a phone number — 9090902024 — urging people to give their suggestions for the manifesto through the number. People can also send suggestions through the NaMo app. "This campaign will run till March 15 during which BJP workers will visit every market and household to collect suggestions," Delhi BJP president Sachdeva said.

Meanwhile, the party has submitted a list of 21 names to the central leadership to shortlist seven candidates who will contest from Delhi on BJP tickets.

Three teens stab 15-yr-old boy to death in Inderpuri

NEW DELHI: Three boys aged between 15 and 16 were apprehended for allegedly killing a 15-year-old boy by stabbing him in a park in Budh Nagar near Inderpuri in west Delhi on Tuesday night, police officers said.

According to police, the knife that was used to stab the teenager at least four times in his chest and abdomen was recovered from the boys. A case of murder with common intention was registered at the Inderpuri police station.

Although the police are still trying to determine the motive

behind the murder, senior police officers said they had come across two reasons that could have triggered animosity between the victim and the other boys. The first issue that the police were told about was that the teenager used to stalk and harass the sister of one of the three apprehended boys. The other issue that the police learnt was that the teenager and one of the alleged accused liked the same girl living in their neighbourhood in Inderpuri. Both were possessive about the girl and had warned each other

regarding their growing closeness with her, the officers said. "We are investigating both the issues," deputy commissioner of police (west), Vichitra Veer said.

DCP Veer said that the Inderpuri police station received a call at 9pm on Tuesday stating that a boy had been stabbed in Harit Park. A police team arrived on the scene and learnt that the injured teenager had already been taken to a private hospital in Naraina, where he was declared dead on arrival. On investigation the police found the role of the three boys. HTC

Structures cleared on forest land



The forest department continued its demolition drive in the Southern Ridge on Thursday, freeing up one acre of forest land in Sangam Vihar and Chhatarpur. Forest officials said they have removed encroachments from 8 acres of forest land in south Delhi over the last five days. RAJ KRAJ/HT

5 friends murder G Noida college student, 4 arrested

Ashni Dhaor

ashni.dhaor@hindustantimes.com

GREATER NOIDA: The body of a 20-year-old student at a private university in Greater Noida was found buried in a field at Gajraula town in Amroha, two days after he was reported missing, police officers aware of the matter said on Thursday.

The police identified the victim as Yash Mittal, a first-year student. Four of the victim's friends have been arrested for the murder — including three who were nabbed following a brief gunfight at Dadri in Greater Noida — while a fifth suspect is still at large, police said.

Giving details of the case, police said that Mittal left his hostel on Monday for a party with his friends and did not return. Subsequently, his father Pradeep Mittal filed a missing person's complaint at the Dadri police station on Tuesday, offi-



Police said that Yash Mittal was reported missing on Tuesday.

"I last spoke to my son on Monday afternoon. We tried speaking to him that night, but could not get in touch with him. On Tuesday, too, we were unable to contact him. By evening, we checked with the college hostel authorities, who told us that he had left on Monday evening and never returned. That is when we suspected something amiss and reported the matter to police," said the father, who runs an

electronics shop in Gajraula. Deputy commissioner of police (Greater Noida) SM Khan said that soon after the police complaint was registered, Mittal's father received a ransom message.

"Around 11pm, Yash's father received a message from Yash's phone that his son has been abducted and will be killed unless they paid a ransom of ₹6 crore. However, we suspect that the ransom message was a diversion," said Khan.

"When CCTV footage from the college was reviewed, it was found that Mittal left the campus in a car of his own volition while talking to someone on the phone," Khan said.

As part of the police probe, Mittal's call data records were checked, leading police to the victim's friend, 22-year-old Rachit Nagar.

"A police team nabbed Nagar, who revealed that Yash and him were friends with

Shivam Singh, 23, Sumit Pradhan, 24, Sushant Verma, 24, and Shubham Chaudhary, 24. He said that on February 26, an argument broke out between Mittal and the others at a party, after which he was killed and his body was buried in a field in Gajraula. We exhumed the body on Wednesday and sent it for an autopsy," Khan said.

Meanwhile, Khan said, police on Wednesday evening received information that three of Mittal's friends — Singh, Pradhan, and Verma — were in Dadri, and a team was sent to nab them.

"When chased, the suspects fired at the police party and three of them were shot in the leg in retaliatory fire. They have been admitted to a hospital for treatment," said Sujat Upadhyay, station house officer of the Dadri police station.

Chaudhary is still at large, and efforts are underway to arrest him, Upadhyay said.

HT Homage



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Mr. Jagdeep Singh

(Wholtime Director - Almondz Global Securities Limited)

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Bhog & Antim Ardhas will be held on Saturday 2nd March 2024 at Gurdwara Singh Sabha, B-2 Janakpuri New Delhi-110058

Time 12.00 p.m to 1.00 p.m
M: 9891650089; 9811111447

In Remembrance

Bimla Kaur (Mother)
Parmeet Kaur (Wife)
Jaspreet Singh (Son)
Amisha Singh (Daughter)
Manpreet Singh (Brother)

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All Employees & Management

**GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
NARMADA WATER RESOURCES WATER SUPPLY &
KALPSAR DEPARTMENT**

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.52 OF 2023-24

In the Name and behalf of Governor of Gujarat state, The Executive Engineer, Ukai Division No.1, Tapi Jal Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Ukai Ta.Songadh Dist.Tapi-394680 (Phone No.02624-233221) invites online tender for Work as Under:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	1) Bid Security 2) Tender Fee
1	Carry out dam body grouting upto depth 50 mts in H.R.Dam (ch.30.50 to 460.00 Ft.) of Ukai Dam Ta: Songadh Dist: Tapi	1) Rs. 2,46,888/- 2) Rs. 5,000/-
2	Dam body grouting in secondary row by hydraulic fossid core drilling to control the seepage of Left transition (LT) dam section of Ukai Dam.	1) Rs. 2,41,538/- 2) Rs. 5,000/-

E-Tendering Schedule

1. Tender Downloading and Uploading Date and Time	Date: 01/03/2024 to Date: 21/03/2024 up to 18.00 Hrs
2. Physical Submission of Tender Documents date and time	Tender Documents, E.M.D. and tender fee in original shall be submitted to the Executive Engineer, Ukai Division No.1, 2nd Floor, Ukai Ta. Songadh Dist. Tapi on or before Date: 30/03/2024, 18.00 hrs. by R.P.A.D./Speed Post/Courier.
3. Date of Opening of P.Q. Bid.	Date: 22/03/2024, 18.30 hrs. Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil), Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, Tapi Jal Bhavan, Ta. Songadh Dist. Tapi.
4. Inquiry /Contact Office Address	The Executive Engineer, Ukai Division No.1, 2nd Floor, Ukai Ta. Songadh Dist. Tapi-394680 Phone No.02624-233221

Any Kind of amendments will be published only on online and will be final and binding to all for Further details contact to this office during office hours. Detailed Tender Notice can also be seen on www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in and www.nprocure.com.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Ukai Division No.1 Ukai

No.:Mahiti-Surat/1689/2024

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज

शुद्धि-पत्र ई-निविदा सूचना

समस्त फर्मों/ठेकेदारों को सूचित किया जाता है, कि दिनांक 25.02.2024 को दैनिक समाचार पत्र अमर उजाला यू०पी०/हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स लखनऊ/दिल्ली में प्रकाशित 08 कार्यों की निविदा जो दिनांक: 07.03.2024 को सायं 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की गयी है, जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 16.03.2024 को आमंत्रित की जाती है।

शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

मुख्य अभियन्ता

पत्रांक : मेमो, दिनांक 29.02.2024

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813
Website: www.pspcl.in, Contact No. +91 9646107151

Tender Enquiry No. 622/GHTP/EMC/PROT-198/Vol-11 Dated: 28.02.2024

Dy. Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer, Elect. Mtc. Circle, O&M, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work of Preventive, Breakdown & Shutdown Maintenance of 220KV & 66KV C&R Panels, DRs, SER, GPs, GRP GCDCR static and digital AVR, RTCC Panels, Protection System installed on 6.6KV & 415V switchgear and other panels including meters, VFDs, 6.6KV bus transfer system, fire detection and alarm system, Telephone Exchanges and public Address system installed in plant and power colony for 2X210MW Stage-I and 2X250MW Stage-II GHTP Lehra Mohabbat, District: Bathinda, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of one year. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.02.2024, 11.00 AM onwards.

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

GHTP-15/24. 33017

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Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

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Vikram Seth's florist

Portrait of a hyperlocal business

PRIVATE CAPITAL One icy noon, two winters ago, a tiny red car halted by a pavement florist. The driver's door flapped open, a chap emerged. He walked up to the florist, purchased a bouquet, passing it to a hand that emerged out from the car's backseat window. The hand belonged to a world-famous novelist. Vikram Seth sportingly condescended to be snapped with the flowers (see photo), but didn't reveal to which suitable person this lucky bunch of red roses and gypsies were intended for.

This wasn't the florist shop's only encounter with writer-types. The longtime stall stands close to the longtime home of a legendary literary figure. It is situated just outside the fence of Mughal-era poet Rahim's garden-tomb. Overlooking the peaceful Rahim Marg, the shop flanks the west-side border of tiptop Nizamuddin East, address of some of the most famous Delhiwale (Vikram Seth has a tomb-facing apartment around the corner, his neighbour includes film-maker Mira Nair, they live within a flower's throw from the daughter of the last Nawab of Rampur, whose bungalow is a five-minute-walk away from the book-filled flat of sociologist Ashis Nandy, who lives not far from hotelier Aman Nath, whose place is close to the apartment of cultural activist Jaya Jaitley...).

Such a VIP location means that the florist shop

regulars include some of these VIPs. "Muhammed Azharuddin!" exclaims the man at the stall when asked to reveal his favourite celebrity-customer. The former cricketer lives in the neighbourhood, he says.

Having drastically altered over the recent years, Nizamuddin East has lost almost all its original bungalows, replaced by multi-stories. Neither is it any longer exclusively residential. Every other block turns out to have a lawyer's office. Two aspects of the place have, however, stayed unchanged during this transition. Poet Rahim's tomb—built in the 16th century, and restored by Aga Khan Trust for Culture in 2020; and this florist shop—co-founded 35 years ago by zila Pratapgarh natives Ram Krishen Verma and Ayodhya Prasad (see other photo).

Fellows of the same village, they actually set up two flower shops, the other was in nearby Sunder Nagar, which shut down during the peak Covid years. Ram Krishen passed away in 2012, leaving his share of the business to son, Surya Bhan. The third person in the shop is soft-spoken Pradip, sometimes sighted walking along the neighbourhood lanes, holding bouquets and flowers, home-delivering them to customers.

Now, a long white car halts by the florist. The glass of the backseat window slides down. A face peers out—seems very familiar but momentarily difficult to place. Hidden behind dark glasses, the gaze turns to stacks of water-sprinkled chrysanthemums, carnations, lilies, daisies, gladiolas and rajnigandhas.



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

MCD sends notice to 30 properties in Kamla Nagar

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has issued show-cause notices to more than 30 shops in north Delhi's Kamla Nagar market accusing them of using residential property for commercial activities, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday. MCD has given the shops three days to respond to the notices otherwise their properties will be sealed, they added.

The shops which have received notices include apparel stores, tattoo shops, and salons. HT has seen copies of several such notices.

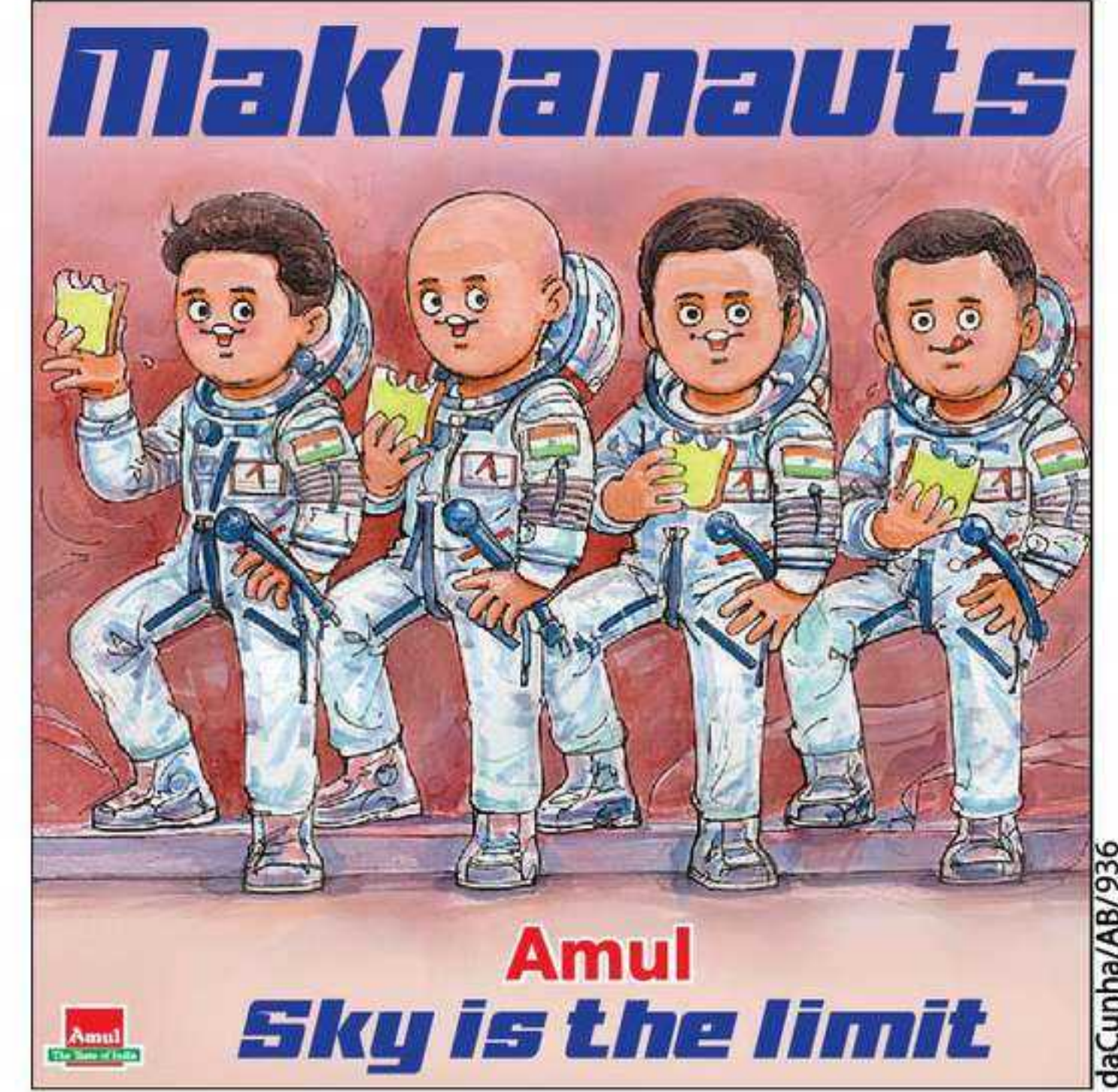
"Around 30 such notices have been issued by the building department. This is harassment of legitimate businesses. Many of these shops are located on streets such as Mandelia Road where the process for notification as commercial and mixed land use has been started by MCD itself. People have paid conversion charges so why are traders being served these notices?" said Nitin Gupta, president of the Kamla Nagar traders' association.

One show-cause notice issued by the building department of

Keshavpuram zone says: "It has been brought to my notice by the field staff that the portion of the premise is being misused (commercial activity) at the instance of owner/occupier which violates permissible sanctioned use of the property and against the provision of Master Plan 2021."

The notice from an assistant engineer adds that after considering the reports and having gone through files, the department is satisfied that the premise is being misused... "You are requested to submit a reply within three days as to why the aforesaid premise should not be sealed as commercial activity is not permitted," it adds.

An MCD spokesperson said: "A general survey of Mandelia Road (Kamla Nagar) was carried out in December to determine the payments of misuse and conversion charges. The letters have been issued to the owners and occupiers of the commercial establishments misusing the premises to submit proof of payment made to MCD on account of misuse. In case, the conversion charges have not been paid the same may be paid by the concerned unit. In case there are units running with non-permitted activities, the same may be stopped immediately."



Wet start to March likely, predicts IMD

NEW DELHI: A western disturbance will likely impact Delhi and the National Capital Region on Friday and Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, adding that a "yellow" and "orange" alerts have been issued for both days, respectively.

Met officials said the western disturbance is likely to start impacting Delhi from Friday evening, with chances of a drizzle in some parts of Delhi likely towards the night. On Saturday, it has forecast gusty winds up to 50 km/hour, with light to moderate rainfall also possible across the city during the day.

"This western disturbance is expected to be fairly active. The main activity during this spell is expected on Saturday and most places should record light to moderate rainfall," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD.

Meanwhile, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 27.6 degrees Celsius (°C) on Thursday, which was one degree below normal. Delhi's minimum was recorded at 11.4°C on Thursday—a degree below normal for this time of the year. HTc

DDA's flower show to begin tomorrow

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) two-day flower festival "Palaash" will be held on March 2 and 3 at DDA Greens on Shivaji Marg, people familiar with the matter said. The festival will be inaugurated by lieutenant governor VK Saxena. "Visitors can explore different varieties of flowers from indigenous to exotic," said a DDA official.

Alongside the floral displays, the festival will feature enter-

tainment avenues such as a DJ play, ceremonial band performance, interactive selfie points, and ride attractions for children, along with street food stalls.

DDA's flower festival is organised annually as an exhibition-cum-competition event among all horticulture divisions of the authority.

The event is named Palaash after the flower of Butea monosperma, which blooms in the Capital during this time. In February of last year, the inaugural flower festival was held at Swarn Jayanti Park, Rohini. HTc



Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 27.6°C on Thursday, which was one degree below normal. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
Office of Chief Engineer (O&M), Kumaon Zone, 220KV S/S, Campus, Kamalbaganj, Haldwani-261319
Corporate ID U40101UR20045G028675 Phone No. 7088117917

E-Tender Corrigendum Notice
E-Tender Notice published in newspapers for "Rearrangement of existing 33KV Jack Bus and construction of new 33KV Transformer Bus Coupler Bay at 132KV S/S, Bhowali under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani, Tender ID 2024_PTC21_70211_1" may be read as E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/39/2023-24 in place of E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/01/2023-24. All other terms & conditions shall remain same. For more details please visit E-Tender Website www.uktenders.gov.in and E-Tender information is available at PTCUL Website www.ptcul.org. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
Letter No.: 456/CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/E-Tender Chief Engineer (O&M)
Date: 29.02.2024 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation" Kumaon Zone, PTCUL, Haldwani

Government of Gujarat
Office of the Resident Commissioner
Tender Notice
Work: Annual Contract work for De-silting & disinfecting of underground and overhead R.C.C water tank and cleaning of grease chambers and rain water harvesting tanks" at Garvi Gujarat.
Tenders are invited under two bid System [Technical Bid & Financial Bid] from the OEM OR authorized agencies OR specialized agencies registered with CPWD, MES, DDA, PSUs and other State Govt. department or reputed Pvt. Organization having similar experience for above work.
The tender document can be downloaded from www.gujaratbhawan.gujarat.gov.in & the bids shall be submitted in the office of Chief Administrative officer on or before 15.03.2024 up to 1730 hrs.
Chief Administrative Officer
25-B Akbar Road, New Delhi-110011

SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH STATE UNIVERSITY
NH 05, Moga Road, FER02EPUR - 152004 (Punjab)
(Established by Punjab Government)
Ph.D ADMISSION NOTICE 2023-24 (WINTER)
For Ph.D Admissions in Engineering, Sciences and Humanities
(Visit website www.sbsu.ac.in for details)
Last date of online application: 10.03.2024 (5 p.m.)
Date of Entrance Test: 14.03.2024
For any query contact at: 8283803650, 8288012028
Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on website www.sbsu.ac.in
33028

INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MOHALI
(An Autonomous Institute of Department of Science and Technology, Govt Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab)
No. 14(3)/2024-INST Date: 29.02.2024
ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PROJECT RESEARCH SCIENTIST-I (NON-MEDICAL) UNDER "ICMR" FUNDED PROJECT
Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) invites applications for engagement of Project Research Scientist-I (Non-Medical) on contractual basis under project entitled "Controlling Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) through novel VEGF-targeted aptamer tethered Papanib nano-therapy". Last date of receipt of application: 29.03.2024. For details, candidate may visit <https://inst.ac.in/careers>

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following Items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82242095	Tab.Olaparib 150mg	4752 Nos	20.03.2024
2.	82248836	Insulin Biphasic Aspart Inj (Insulin Aspart and Insulin Aspart Protamine 30/70) Cartridge 100IU per mL in 3mL Each (Intermediate Acting) One pen device with 15 Cartridge.	7638 Nos	25.03.2024

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Date: 28.02.2024 648/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007
Expression of Interest No. 10 /2023-2024
Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) regarding work for the Construction Phase of the Indian Contribution to SKA-LOW Signal Processing Subsystem (SPS) and allied services of the Square Kilometer Array. Eoi Document Fee: Rs. 8,850/- (including GST)
For details Eoi notification and downloading please visit our website: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra1/public-tenders-1and on CPPP e-procure portal>

Project Management Unit
Jal Marg Vikas Project-II (Arth Ganga)
INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector - 1, Noida - 201 301;
Phone: 0120-2544004, Fax: 0120-2543976; vc.iwai@nic.in
National Competitive Bidding
e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for "NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR DESIGN, FABRICATION, TRANSPORTATION, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF STEEL PONTOONS ALONG WITH FLOATING WALKWAYS FOR PROVIDING FLOATING JETTIES AT SEVEN (07) LOCATIONS ON NW - 1 (GANGA - BHAGIRATHI - HOOGHY RIVER SYSTEM FROM HALDIA TO VARANASI) IN THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL".
The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at Iwai website www.iwai.nic.in and e-procurement site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Date: 01.03.2024 Vice Chairman & Project Director (JMVP)

FORM IV
(See Rule 8)
HINDUSTAN TIMES

- Place of Publication : Delhi
- Periodicity of its Publication : Daily (Except Sunday)
- Printer's Name : Manhar Kapoor
Nationality
(a) Whether a citizen of India?: Yes
(b) If a foreigner, the country : Not Applicable
of origin
Office at- : HT Media Limited
Hindustan Times House,
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi - 110 001
- Publisher's Name : Manhar Kapoor
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(a) Whether a citizen of India?: Yes
(b) If a foreigner, the country : Not Applicable
of origin
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18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi - 110 001
- Editor's Name : Kunal Pradhan
Nationality
(a) Whether a citizen of India?: Yes
(b) If a foreigner, the country : Not Applicable
of origin
Address : HT Media Limited
Hindustan Times House
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi- 110 001
- Names and addresses of Individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital : Owner of newspaper- HT Media Limited
Hindustan Times House
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi-110 001
Shareholders of HT Media Ltd holding more than 1% of the Total Capital as on 16.02.2024
1. The Hindustan Times Limited
9th Floor, Hindustan Times House
18 - 20, K. G. Marg
New Delhi -110001
2. Ranga Prasad N
Flat No. 21211, Indu Fortune
Field Apt. KPHB Colony, NR
Hi-tech MMTS Station, Kukatpally
Hyderabad, Telangana - 500072
3. Ranga Prasad Nuthakki
Flat No. 21211, Willow Block
Indu Fortune Fields Gardenia Apts.
KPHB Colony, Kukatpally
Hyderabad, Telangana - 500072

I, Manhar Kapoor, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Sd/-
(Manhar Kapoor)
PUBLISHER
Dated: 01.03.2024

Directorate of Civil Aviation, Uttar Pradesh
Lucknow Airport, Lucknow (Ph.No.0522-2436504)
TENDER NOTICE
Bids for Air Ambulance Service in Uttar Pradesh during General Elections to the Lok Sabha-2024, are invited by 15 March, 2024. The tender document containing detailed terms and conditions is available on our website cadup.gov.in
Kumar Harsh
Director
UP-204855, Dt. 29.02.2024
Website : www.upgov.nic.in

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40109WB20075G13473, www.wbsecl.in
WBSECL invites e-Tenders as follows:
1) NIT No.: WBSECL/RE/RDSS/2023-24/Nlet/04, Dt.: 23.02.2024 of the Chief Engineer (RE), WBSECL. Estimated Project Cost: ₹72,29,23,719/- for the work of "Augmentation of 11 KV HT/DH lines by DOG Conductor for Loss Reduction in Seven (07) Districts of West Bengal under Revamped Reforms-Based and Results-Linked, Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)".
2) NIT No.: WBSECL/RE/RDSS/2023-24/Nlet/05, Dt.: 23.02.2024 of the Chief Engineer (RE), WBSECL. Estimated Project Cost: ₹ 12,24,00,000/- for the work of "Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of 11 KV Capacitor Banks for Loss Reduction in Five (05) Districts of West Bengal under Revamped Reforms-Based and Results-Linked, Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)".
For details, visit <https://wbseclenders.gov.in> & www.wbsecl.in ICA- TS395/9/2024

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER & WILDLIFE WARDEN
CHANDAKA WILDLIFE DIVISION
GAJA VIHAR, BARAMUNDA, BHUBANESWAR - 751003
Email ID : dfo.chandakawildlife.odisha.gov.in / chandakadampara@gmail.com
Notice No. 01 Dated. 29.02.2024
CORRIGENDUM
Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender No.01/2023-24 scheduled to be floated on 28.02.2024 through the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> could not be made. Hence the above tender stands cancelled.
Divisional Forest Officer
Chandaka Wildlife Division
OIPR - 0802011/0003/2324

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
Office of Chief Engineer (O&M), Kumaon Zone, 220KV S/S, Campus, Kamalbaganj, Haldwani-261319
Corporate ID U40101UR20045G028675 Phone No. 7088117917
Short Term E-Tender Notice
Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender of following work and the last date of submission of e-bid (Online/Offline) is 11/03/2024 upto 12:00 Hrs.
1. Diagnostic maintenance of transformers installed at various substations under 220KV O&M Division, PTCUL, Haldwani against E-Tender Specification No. CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/40/2023-24, TENDER ID (2024_PTC21_70568_1).
For more details please visit E-Tender Website www.uktenders.gov.in and E-Tender information is available at PTCUL Website www.ptcul.org. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000.
Letter No.: 456/CE(O&M)/PTCUL/HLD/E-Tender Chief Engineer (O&M)
Date: 29.02.2024 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation" Kumaon Zone, PTCUL, Haldwani

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
E-Tender Notice No/12/2024
Sealed tenders are invited for the work from the registered contractors.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost in Rs.	Period for blank E-Tender available on web Site (www.midcindia.org)	
			From	To
A	EE, MIDC, Civil Division, Pune			
1	D. C. Work Kopergaon Industrial Area. Strengthening of roads and construction underground drainage pipeline in Kopergaon Industrial Estate, Kopergaon in Scheme No 1 and 2. (PQ form Available on MIDC Website www.midcindia.org)	10,65,44,199/-	01/03/2024	15/03/2024
2	Ranjangaon Industrial Area. Providing balance Infrastructures facilities for Ranjangaon Industrial Area (Non EMC) @ Ph-III. (PQ form Available on MIDC Website www.midcindia.org)	76,61,72,428/-	01/03/2024	21/03/2024

Government of Punjab
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (WORLD BANK)
NIT No. 380/SE(TIC), dated 28.02.2024
The department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (B&R) invites online double bids for "Construction of Urban Water & Waste Water Management Office at Ludhiana (RFB No. IN-LMC-355620-CW-RFB)" (1st time) as per schedule given below:-
Closing date & time: 26.03.2024 up to 02.00 PM
For details log on to: eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (TIC)
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana
33036

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(REGD. OFFICE: PSEB HEAD OFFICE, THE MALL, PATIALA)
(O/O Superintending Engineer/TL Circle Jalandhar)
Address: Office Room No. 310-311, 2nd Floor, Shakti Sadan, G. T. Road, Jalandhar, Contact No. 96461-07248
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGG03813
Tender Inquiry No. 39/TL Circle Jal/2023-24 Dated: 29.02.2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/TL Circle, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Room No. 310, 2nd Floor, Shakti sadan, Jalandhar, invites one E-Tender of:
1. Stringing & Sagging of conductor for the 2nd ckt. of 66KV line from 220 KV S/S Butari to 66 KV Beas on existing DC towers.
For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 01.03.2024 from 05.00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C17/24 33021

Advertisement No. 18/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman and Managing Director
in
Eastern Coalfields Limited
Last date of submission of application by the applicant is
24/03/2024
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is
02/04/2024
For details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

SHEIKH NABBED

Wednesday night," Supratim Sarkar, ADG (south Bengal), told reporters. The state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said that it has taken over the investigation into the cases involving Shahjahan. From Basirhat court he was brought to the CID's headquarters at Bhabani Bhavan in Kolkata. Police said that after the January 5 incident three FIRs were registered by the Nazat police station. While one was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by deputy director of ED, police opened a separate suo moto case.

A third FIR was lodged against ED on the basis of a complaint lodged by the caretaker of Shahjahan's house accusing officials of theft and outraging modesty of women. "He was arrested in the first two cases. We had applied for a bail on the ground that he was not named in the suo moto case registered by the police," said Raja Bhowmik, Shahjahan's counsel.

The TMC leader was produced before the Basirhat court on Thursday. Police sought his custody for 14 days and got it for 10.

"He was charged under multiple sections including 353 (using criminal force to deter public servant), 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to public servant), 307 (attempt to murder), 395 (dacoity) and 397 (causing grievous hurt with weapons during dacoity among others)," said Arun Kumar Pal, the state's counsel.

The Calcutta high court observed on Thursday that it has "no sympathy" after his counsel approached the division bench requesting that Shahjahan's plea for regular bail be listed as an urgent motion.

"Let him be arrested. For the next 10 years, this person will keep you very busy. You won't have any time for any other brief. 42 cases have been registered against him, he had been absconding as well. You come on Monday. Anything you want you come on Monday, we have got no sympathy for that person," a division bench observed. Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas has been on the boil since February 7 with village women hitting the roads demanding the arrest of Shahjahan and his aides over allegations of land grab and sexual

assault. Prohibitory orders had to be clamped in several pockets.

"Multiple complaints have poured in against him since February 7. Police have registered cases against them, but as these cases are related to incidents which took place at least two to three years ago, investigation and evidence collection will take time," said ADG Sarkar.

Pressure was mounting on the ruling TMC government seeking Shahjahan's arrest. The Calcutta high court was criticising its lack of action and opposition parties stepped up their attack alleging that the administration was shielding him.

"Shahjahan has been suspended from the party. The fate of the posts, which he is holding, will be decided soon. The BJP wanted to keep the Sandeshkhali issue burning till Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes. Only TMC can set an example of raj dharma by arresting the accused. We have arrested Uttam Sardar and Shibaprasad Hazra earlier. Had Abhishek Banerjee not flagged the issue that Shahjahan was not being arrested because of a stay given by the Calcutta high court, it wouldn't have come to the notice of the court," said Bratya Basu, state minister.

Earlier this week the Calcutta high court, however, clarified that the police were free to arrest him as there was no such stay. On Wednesday a division bench led by Calcutta high court chief justice TS Sivagnanam also allowed CBI and ED to arrest him.

Shahjahan's arrest was celebrated in the region. A section of villagers in Sandeshkhali distributed sweets. Women blew conch shells.

But the BJP alleged a cover-up.

"He is in the safe custody of the police. This is not an arrest. This is a mutual adjustment. He has been promised five-star facilities inside the prison and

SANDESHKHALI HAS BEEN ON THE BOIL SINCE FEB 7 WITH VILLAGE WOMEN HITTING THE ROADS DEMANDING THE ARREST OF SHEIKH AND HIS AIDES

will be allowed to use mobile phone to control his area from the jail. That's why we want that either ED of the CBI should take him into custody," said Suwendu Adhikari, BJP legislator.

"His so-called arrest (on basis of mutual understanding) has been declared now, as the nitty-gritties of the deal between him and Mamata Police regarding the facilities he would be enjoying in lockup and prison have been finalised," Suwendu Adhikari, leader of the opposition, wrote in his X handle.

"We all know that gangsters are ruling the roost in many pockets of West Bengal unchecked by law enforcement agencies. This is not a contemporary phenomenon but a continuation of what has been there. What we see is the tip of the iceberg. I had an opportunity to interact with the people in the field after the last panchayat polls. People said goonda raj is here. Strong action has to be taken and this has to be nipped in the bud stage," CV Anand Bose, West Bengal Governor told reporters after Shahjahan's arrest.

GDP GROWTH

June and September 2023 now stands at 8.2% and 8.1% respectively, instead of the 7.8% and 7.6% when the September quarter numbers were released on November 30, 2023. In terms of a sectoral growth performance, manufacturing and construction are among the best performers with annual growth rate of 8.5% and 10.7% respectively.

"The actual performance of the economy has continued to defy expectations and do better than what many had projected, underscoring the fact that a structural transformation of the economy is indeed underway, both in terms of physical infrastructure and digital infrastructure as well as inclusion agenda boosting the purchasing power of Indian households," chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said, citing estimates of various agencies, such as ADB (6.7% for FY24), IMF (6.7%) and Fitch (6.9%).

"So that is the case for many agencies to re-appraise their estimate of potential GDP growth in India to closer to 7% if not above. And let's also remember that the central bank, Reserve Bank of India, is projecting 7% GDP growth for

FY25 as well," he added. The latest GDP numbers only strengthen India's relative advantage vis-à-vis other major economies in the world in terms of growth.

"Robust 8.4% GDP growth in Q3 2023-24 shows the strength of Indian economy and its potential. Our efforts will continue to bring fast economic growth which shall help 140 crore (1.4 billion) Indians lead a better life and create a Viksit Bharat!" PM Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

In retrospect, the numbers also buttress the views of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Prof Jayanth R Varma, who argued in the February MPC meeting against the growth-pessimism of the majority of the MPC. "Perhaps, the majority of the MPC worry that the output gap has already closed, and that the projected growth rate of 7% for 2024-25 exceeds the growth potential of the Indian economy. I do not think that such growth pessimism is warranted... If the potential growth rate of the economy is close to 8%, then the economy is not at risk of overheating in 2024-25", the MPC minutes released on February 22 quoted Varma as saying in the meeting held between February 6 to 8.

"Today's print suggests growth is moving faster than expected by RBI, which means the central bank will see little urgency to cut rates while the MPC awaits for comfort on headline inflation. In our view, four members of the MPC remain hawkish as per the February meeting and solid growth will buy them more time to wait and watch data on inflation, especially on food," Rahul Bajoria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics, Barclays, said in a note. "We expect the steady domestic growth momentum to continue, supported by continued increases in government capex, much anticipated rising private investment and monetary easing," he added.

These favourable observations notwithstanding, a slightly detailed look at latest and revised GDP numbers released on Thursday raises some interesting questions. Along with quarterly GDP numbers and Second Advance Estimates of GDP for 2023-24, NSO has also replaced First Revised Estimates of 2021-22

GDP with Second Revised Estimates and the Provisional Estimates of 2022-23 GDP with First Revised Estimates in its latest release on GDP numbers. As a result of these revisions, GDP growth in 2022-23 now stands at 7% instead of 7.2% according to the GDP data released in January 2024. Clearly, these revisions have played a role in the tweak in the headline GDP growth number and its components for 2023-24.

Given the fact that GDP numbers for 2021-22 and 2022-23 have also changed between the First Advance Estimates and Second Advance Estimates for 2023-24 GDP, a better question to ask is how has the Indian economy grown between 2021-22 and 2023-24 in the January and February sets of numbers released this year.

GDP growth over this two-year period has remained unchanged at 15.1% in both sets of numbers. However, a look at some key disaggregates offers some interesting insights. Growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) between 2021-22 and 2023-24 between the January 2024 and February 2024 numbers has come down from 14.4% to 14.1%.

The reason why GDP growth has remained unchanged is an increase in growth of the Net Taxes head - GDP is the sum of GVA and Net Taxes - from 23.8% to 27.7% in the January and February numbers. This could be a result of higher growth in taxes or lower spending on subsidies. Two-year growth in Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) and Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) also shows a fall in the January and February numbers. PFCE growth fell from 12.3% to 10% in the January and February data while GFCF growth fell from 22.9% to 17.5% in the January and February data. Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE) growth, on the other hand, shows a sharp increase in growth between 2021-22 and 2023-24 from 4.2% to 12.3% in the January and February numbers.

Comparison of sector-wise aggregates of GVA shows similar results. All major subsectors except Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services and Public Administration, Defence & Other Services show a fall in two-year growth

between 2021-22 and 2023-24 in the Second Advance Estimates released on Thursday compared to what was shown in the First Advance Estimates released in January. The biggest downward revision in proportional terms during this two year period is for manufacturing, which has seen its two-year growth being revised from 8% in the January data to 6.1% in the February data. In fact, manufacturing has seen its 1.3% annual growth in 2022-23 in the First Advance Estimates being changed to a 2.2% contraction after the revised 2021-22 and 2022-23 GDP numbers released along with the Second Advance Estimates for 2023-24.

The macroeconomic essence of these two-year GDP/GVA growth comparisons shows that both private consumption (PFCE) and capital formation (GFCF) have grown at a slower pace over the two-year period than what was believed earlier and the economy has thrived on spending and taxes from white-collar private employees (they dominate the financial services sector) and government employees.

In fact, annual growth in PFCE in 2023-24, as per the Second Advance Estimates, is expected to be just 3% compared to 4.4% in the First Advance Estimates released in January.

If the pandemic-induced contraction in 2020-21 is excluded, PFCE growth in 2023-24 is the lowest since the 2.87% annual growth in PFCE growth in 2002-03. India experienced one of its worst ever droughts in 2002. That PFCE growth should come close to what was seen a severe drought year in a normal year when anecdotal accounts suggest a sharp consumption boom among the rich, suggests a problem as far as demand in the rest of the economy is concerned.

SUKHU AVERTS CRISIS

makers appeared to reduce the party to a minority in the 68-member House, accepted responsibility for the debacle and attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party. Singh accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to destabilise the government.

"I am very sorry that our senior leader lost in the Rajya Sabha elections. Our CM has

accepted that some failures have happened," Shivakumar said.

The crisis began on Tuesday after the Congress slumped to an embarrassing loss in the Rajya Sabha polls in the state. Congress candidate Abhishek Singhvi received 34 votes after six Congress lawmakers and three independents previously backing the government supported BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan, who also received 34 votes. The tie was then resolved by a draw of lots, which favoured Mahajan.

But the shock defeat also meant that the Congress was unable to cross the simple majority mark of 35 in the 68-member House, fuelling speculation that the Sukhu government had been reduced to a minority, and sparking calls for the chief minister's resignation.

Thursday began with high drama after former CM Virbhadra Singh's son and public works minister, Vikramaditya Singh, did not turn up for a breakfast meeting called by Sukhu. Vikramaditya had resigned a day before and publicly accused the CM of disrespecting his father's legacy, before appearing to backtrack on the resignation late at night. Pratibha Singh and Vikramaditya later met the central observers, where some of the issues raised by them were sorted out.

But speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania's decision to disqualify six rebels immediately gave the Congress a cushion in the state assembly, and with it, some much-needed breathing room as it tried to keep its government afloat.

Pathania said the six legislators - Sudhir Sharma, Rajinder Rana, Chaitanya Sharma, Devender Bhuato, Inder Dutt Lakhpal, and Ravi Thakur - attracted the anti-defection law by defying the Congress whip during the vote on the finance bill.

"These six MLAs are disqualified and cease to be members of Himachal Pradesh legislative assembly with immediate effect," he said, marking the first decision in the state's history to disqualify any MLA. Pathania told reporters that he had disqualified the MLAs on basis of "evidence on record" which showed that the six MLAs were in the House at the time of the passage of the finance bill but did not participate in the vote despite a whip

issued by the Congress. The rebels challenged the order before the high court, but the decision brought the effective strength of the assembly down to 62 and the majority mark to 32 - below the Congress's effective strength of 34.

To be sure, the courts can overturn the disqualification. The Sukhu government will also have to face six bypolls that have to be held within six months.

At a Cabinet meeting later in the day, Sukhu decided to constitute the 7th state finance commission to review the financial position of panchayats and municipalities and present the government with its recommendations.

Leaders aware of the discussions said many lawmakers expressed their anguish about Sukhu to the central observers, pointing out to slow developmental work and stalled transfer and postings. Pratibha Singh told the observers that Singhvi's defeat could have been prevented if the CM had heard the MLAs, said rebel MLA Sudhir Sharma.

But Shivakumar said the differences were resolved. "We are forming a co-ordination committee between the party and the government of five to six members. PCC president, CM and Deputy CM will be part of it. All of them have taken an oath that at any point in time, they will all work together to save the party," he said.

When asked about future of Sukhu as CM, Shivakumar said that the Congress will complete its full term of five years. Hooda terms the question as "hypothetical" as Sukhu was still the CM.

Sukhu said all issues were sorted out and there was coordination between the party and the government. "The rebel MLAs will not be able to face the people of the state. I want to tell BJP leaders who are trying to topple the government that people will give them the right answer," he said.

Shivakumar accused the BJP of misleading the people. "All Congress MLAs are with the party," he said.

Himachal Pradesh BJP chief Rajeev Bindal said the Congress has "forfeited its moral authority to govern after its defeat in the Rajya Sabha election, despite holding a majority in the state assembly." He also demanded the CM's resignation.

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD. Tender Notice No. P1PD-26/2024 Dt. 01 Mar 2024 Name of Work: Development and Operation of Part of Bare Shell Structure demarcated for Property Development at Final Plot No. 499 of Parvati TP Scheme at Swargate Metro Station of Pune Metro Rail Project on Public Private Partnership Basis.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway Chhargah Workshop, Lucknow invites e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below: Tender No.: W-CB-23-DEMUI-Filter-2024

Centre for Railway Information Systems CRIS Tender No. 01245072, Subject: Comprehensive Monitoring & Security Solutions for GRC and Application Security. Pre-Bid Meeting on 12.03.2024

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar E-Tender Notice No. 323 OF 2023-2024 E-Tender for the following works in "B-1 / Form" for the (03) Works is invited via online E-Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar

Government of Punjab Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Recruitment Notice Reference No. 42 Dated: 28.02.2024 Applications are invited from eligible candidates having M.B.A. with 15 years experience for the post of Chief Executive Officer on contract basis in Amritsar Urban Water and Waste water Management Limited (AUWWML) under Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD. DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX P.O. BIHAR VETERINARY COLLEGE, PATNA-800014 (BIHAR) Request For Proposal (RFP) (Through e-tendering mode only on website - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T-36R-2023-24 Date: 28.02.2024 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N. C. Railway, Agra for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through online only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

E-AUCTION FOR VP AND SLR'S LEASING E-Auction catalogue for VP Leasing. Description: Parcel Space in Parcel Van. Auction Start Date & Time: 11:30 hrs. on 13-03-2024. Auction Close Date & Time: 12:00 hrs. on 13-03-2024. Rate Unit: Per Round Trip (Two Way).

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग कोटा Recruitment Notice Reference No. 42 Dated: 28.02.2024 Applications are invited from eligible candidates having M.B.A. with 15 years experience for the post of Chief Executive Officer on contract basis in Amritsar Urban Water and Waste water Management Limited (AUWWML) under Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

कार्यालय नगर परिषद ब्यावर ई वर सविदा सूचना निम्नांकित विवरण के अनुसार ई- दर सविदा हेतु ई-निविदाएं ई-चोक्युमेंट पोर्टल राजस्थान पर दिनांक 14.03.24 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित हैं। दिनांक 14.03.24 को सांघ 3 बजे निविदा खोली जाएगी। निविदा रात ई-निविदा फार्म के साथ संलग्न है। यह दस्तावेज एस्.पी.पी. पोर्टल पर एम् ई-चोक्युमेंट पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है।

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation KOLKATA URBAN RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KURIP) INVITATION FOR BIDS Dated: 01.03.2024 Kolkata Municipal Corporation represented by Project Director, KURIP, 206, A.J.C. Bose Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700 017, West Bengal, India invites eligible bidders to submit bids online in the e-Tendering platform of the Government of West Bengal (URL: www.wbtenders.gov.in) for the Works of:

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E-AUCTION FOR SLR'S LEASING E-Auction catalogue for SLR's leasing. Description: Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment). Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): 10:00 hrs. on 14-03-2024. Auction Close Date & Time: 15:40 hrs. on 14-03-2024. Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee.

{ VEDANTA PLEA DISMISSED } 'REPEATED BREACHES'

Sterlite plant to remain shut: SC

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Vedanta's copper smelting plant in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi will stay closed, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday, declaring that the plant's contributions to the nation are subordinated to the public trust theory and sustainable development standards.

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

Dismissing Vedanta's plea, a bench led by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud held that the 2020 Madras high court's judgment affirming the shut-down notice to the plant by the Tamil Nadu government and the state pollution control board called for no inter-

ference since it was based on sound reasoning.

"Closure of industry undoubtedly is not a matter of first choice. However, the repeated nature of breaches, coupled with the severity of the violations would in this analysis leave neither the statutory authorities nor the HC to take any other view unless they were to be oblivious of their plain duty," said the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

It added while the court is aware that the unit has been contributing to the productive assets of the nation and providing employment and revenue in the area, equally, "the court has to be mindful of other well settled principles, including the principles of sustainable development, polluter pays principles and public trust doctrine".

"The health and welfare of the residents of the area is again a matter of utmost concern. In the ultimate analysis, the state gov-



The SC bench observed that the Tamil Nadu plant fails to follow environmental norms. ANI

ernment is responsible for preserving and protecting their concerns," underlined the order. The adverse order against Vedanta came days after the SC mulled setting up a committee, comprising experts on pollution control and environment.

The Tamil Nadu government and its pollution control board, however, opposed the court's February 14 suggestion, arguing Vedanta is a "repeat offender" and a "chronic polluter" while claiming the company dumped and disposed copper slag and

gypsum in a harmful manner.

In its order on Thursday, the bench seemed to agree with the state that the issues relating to disposal of copper slag, gypsum and other hazardous waste remained a matter of serious concerns despite a slew of directives issued to Vedanta by the SC in 2013 to ensure proper authorisation and disposal mechanism.

At the same time, the bench refused to delete the strictures passed by the HC against the state pollution control board for its failure to adequately regulate the plant's ongoing violations of environmental regulations.

"We are of the view that the HC was justified in making those observations in regard to the lack of alacrity on the part of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board in discharging its duties," said the bench.

Several protesters had taken to the streets of Tuticorin in May 2018 against a proposed expansion of Sterlite's smelter. After

the protests turned violent and police opened fire, 13 protesters died.

A week later, the state pollution control board and the state government ordered the plant shut for alleged pollution. The plant, at that time accounted for 40% of India's copper output.

During the arguments in the top court in February, Vedanta claimed that it has completely abided by the directions issued by the SC in 2013 and that the company was being targeted by the state government. The company further agreed to be put to additional conditions for resuming its operation. It was also highlighted that at the time it was closed, was producing over 400,000 tonnes of metal ores annually and accounted for 40% of India's copper output.

However, the state pressed that larger public interest required the plant to remain shut in the wake of repeated violations.

Key BJP panel meets, focus on LS list



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief JP Nadda ahead of party's central election committee in New Delhi on Thursday. During the meet, the BJP is set to hold deliberations on the candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. ARVIND YADAV/HT

1st tech team in Maldives to replace personnel: MEA

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: India said on Thursday that the first batch of Indian "technical personnel" had reached the Maldives to replace military personnel who were operating two helicopters and an aircraft used mainly for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The move follows an ultimatum given by the Maldives pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu for withdrawing all Indian military personnel from the Indian Ocean archipelago. Close to 80 Indian personnel are stationed in the Maldives to operate two Advanced Light Helicopters and a Dornier aircraft provided by India. "The first batch of [Indian] technical personnel to operate an Advanced Light Helicopter at Gan [island] has reached the Maldives. It will replace the existing personnel that were until now operating this platform," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

told a media briefing.

He declined to give details about the team, including its strength, and did not specify the date for the third meeting of a core group set up by India and the Maldives to deal with the issue of the military personnel. Such issues are "decided in mutual consultation", he said.

The defence ministry of the Maldives had announced on Monday that the first team of Indian civilian personnel had reached the country to replace the military personnel. It also said the Indian military personnel station on Addu, the country's southern-most atoll, will leave the Maldives by March 10.

Following the second meeting of the core group earlier this month, the Maldivian foreign ministry said India would replace military personnel for one aircraft by March 10 and complete replacing all the personnel by May 10. The Indian side said that both countries had agreed on "mutually workable solutions" for operating

the three aircraft.

Muizzu, widely perceived as being close to China, has sought to move the Maldives away from dependence on India in crucial sectors such as food security and defence following his victory in last year's presidential election. Besides finalising arrangements with Sri Lanka for medical evacuation services, Muizzu's government has signed agreements with Turkey to drones to be used for maritime surveillance.

The Maldives government has also said it will carry out all maritime surveillance operations by itself, instead of depending on other countries.

The Maldives has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and New Delhi has poured billions of dollars, including grants and soft loans, into development and infrastructure projects. The budgetary allocation for the Maldives in India's budget for 2024-25 was ₹779 crore, up from ₹600 crore projected earlier.

Teen, 13 others die in MP accident

Monika Pandey
letters@hindustantimes.com

BHOPAL/JABALPUR: Fourteen people, including a boy, were killed and 20 injured after an overcrowded mini truck turned turtle and fell into a deep valley in Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh in the early hours of Thursday, police said, adding that the driver of the vehicle, who sustained injuries, was later arrested.

The mini-truck, with 35 people onboard, was on its way to Masur Ghughri village in Mandla from Dindori, 32km away, when it overturned and fell into a deep valley near Badjar Ghat at around 1.30am.

"The owner and driver, Ajmer Tekam from Karondi village, was trying to negotiate a blind turn when he lost control of the vehicle. The mini truck overturned and fell into a 20-feet-deep valley," Dindori superintendent of police Akhil Patel



People gather around the accident site on Thursday. AFP

While 14 people died on the spot, 20 sustained grievous injuries and were moved to Shahpura Community Health Centre for treatment. Of the 20 injured, two were later referred to Jabalpur for treatment.

The deceased, police said, were aged between 16 and 60. They were on their way to attend a function in Masur Ghughri village when the accident occurred,

police added. "The owner of the vehicle has been arrested under section 304 a (death causing by negligence) of Indian Penal Code as he was running the vehicle without an insurance and fitness certificate," Patel said.

District collector Vikas Mishra said: "The vehicle did not have permission to ferry passengers. The insurance and fitness certificate had also expired."

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the incident.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the PMO announced an assistance of ₹2 lakh from the PMNRF to the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 to those injured in the accident.

Chief minister Mohan Yadav also announced a financial assistance of ₹4 lakh each for the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 for injured.

Valley journalist walks out of jail after 5 years

Ashiq Hussain
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SRINAGAR: Journalist Asif Sultan, who was in prison since 2018 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA), was released earlier this week, more than two months after the Jammu & Kashmir high court quashed his detention order on the grounds that it was "illegal" and "unsustainable".

Sultan, who was an assistant editor with the now defunct magazine Kashmir Narrator, was released from Ambedkar Nagar jail in UP on Tuesday and returned to his home in Srinagar on Thursday, people aware of the matter and prison officials said.

"He reached his home in Batamalo on Thursday afternoon," a friend of the Sultan family said, on condition of anonymity.

Ambedkar Nagar District Jail's superintendent Girja Shankar Yadav said Sultan's release from the prison was delayed due to the additional steps that need to be followed in the case of a person charged under UAPA and PSA.

"The J&K high court's order was sent to home affairs department of J&K for clearance. Once that was approved, Sultan was released," he said.

Sultan was arrested in August 2018 over his article on Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani.

Late on Thursday, a relative of Sultan said on condition of anonymity that he was again detained by the police in Srinagar but HT could not independently verify it.

HT reached out to SP North City Showkat Ahmad Dar for a response but did not get one immediately.



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Speaker says disqualification to uphold 'dignity of democracy'

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh assembly speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania on Thursday disqualified six rebel Congress lawmakers from the House for defying the party whip during voting for the Finance Bill a day before, giving the embattled state government some breathing room to resolve the crisis.

The disqualified MLAs are Sujanpur MLA Rajinder Rana, Dharamshala Sudhir Sharma, Barsar MLA Inder Dutt Lakhpal, Kutlehar MLA Devinder Kumar Bhutto, Lahaul and Spiti MLA Ravi Thakur, and Gagret MLA Chaitanya Sharma.

With this, the effective strength of the 68-member assembly comes down to 62. The Congress has 34 lawmakers, and the BJP 25, in addition to three independents.

The rebel lawmakers had cost the Congress a Rajya Sabha seat earlier this week, when they crossed-voted in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate. Pathania, who had reserved his verdict on the disqualification of the MLAs on Wednesday, said the legislators attracted the anti-defection law by defying the Congress whip. "These six MLAs are disqualified and cease to be members of Himachal Pradesh legislative assembly with immediate effect," he said.

This is the first decision in the history of the Himachal Pradesh assembly disqualifying any MLAs. To be sure, the courts can overturn the disqualification.

"The speaker's decision to disqualify the MLAs is incorrect. We will approach the court," Sudhir Sharma, one of the disqualified MLAs, said.

Pathania said he received a complaint from parliamentary affairs minister Harshwardhan Chauhan against six MLAs under the anti-defection law.

He said the Congress issued a whip regarding the cut motions and the passage of the finance bill. The rebel MLAs signed the assembly's attendance register on both these days.



Former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda at a meeting at chief minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu's residence in Shimla on Thursday. ANI

If a member wants to oppose any provision in the Finance Bill or an allocation of ministry-wise Demand for Grants in the budget, he/she can move a motion in the House, suggesting that the budget be reduced by ₹L. Such a motion to 'cut' the budget is called a Cut Motion.

In the 30-page decision, Pathania cited various decisions of high courts and the Supreme Court on the anti-defection law. He also said that the rebel MLAs sought some more time but all the evidence in the case was on the record.

"In such a situation, there was no justification for delaying the decision or giving more time," the speaker said.

"It is necessary to give immediate decision in such cases so that the dignity of democracy is maintained and the politics of Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram can be stopped," he added.

The order also referred to the Rajya Sabha election that was held on Tuesday though no whip applies to voting for the Upper House. Pathania said that it was unethical for an elected MLA of any party to vote in favour of another ideology even though a whip is not issued for Rajya Sabha elections.

Dharamshala MLA Sudhir Sharma said they were present in the House when it was adjourned. "There was no announcement when the House will be resumed. We were not informed about the whip," Sharma said over the phone from Panchkula, where they had gone on Wednesday evening in a Haryana government helicopter after the house was adjourned sine die.

Meanwhile, the Congress has announced a coordination committee to iron out differences between the party and the government.

The crisis began on Tuesday after the Congress slumped to an embarrassing loss in the Rajya Sabha polls in the state. Congress candidate Abhishek Singhvi received 34 votes after six Congress lawmakers and three independents previously backing the government supported BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan, who also received 34 votes. The tie was then resolved by a draw of lots, which favoured Mahajan.

In Shimla, Congress observer and Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar held detailed discussions with party lawmakers over two days, before announcing that the crisis was resolved.

"The Congress government is there and Sukhu is the CM. All the MLAs want Congress government for five years," he said.

Shivakumar added that the CM had accepted the failures

of the party was on correction mode. "Our CM accepted that some failure has happened. But it will not continue further. We have spoken to all the MLAs personally. We have spoken to the PCC president and the CM. One round of discussion will happen later. So all of them have sorted out all their differences. They'll work together," said Shivakumar.

He also announced a coordination committee between the party and the government with five to six members. "They will all work together to save the party and save the government."

The CM also sounded upbeat. "After Rajya Sabha elections everybody started thinking that Himachal Pradesh government is breaking... I also came across news that the CM has resigned, which I highly condemned," he said.

On Tuesday, the Rajya Sabha contest in Himachal Pradesh turned out to be an embarrassing defeat for the Congress, which held 40 seats in the 68-member House and enjoyed the support of three independent lawmakers as well.

The BJP, with 25 legislators, engineered cross-voting by six Congress lawmakers and three independents.

This led to a tie between the Congress's Singhvi and BJP's Harsh Mahajan, and the latter won in the lottery.

Sukhu may remain CM as Cong looks to avoid 'experiments'

Saubhadra Chatterji

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NEW DELHI: A prominent section of the Congress leadership might be miffed with the Rajya Sabha debacle in Himachal Pradesh that led to the shock defeat of party nominee Abhishek Singhvi, but the high command is unlikely to replace chief minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, said senior Congress leaders aware of the details.

The top priority of the Congress is to save its lone state government in north India before the Lok Sabha polls, the leaders said. Another consideration is that sometime or the other, the government would have to face a floor test, they added.

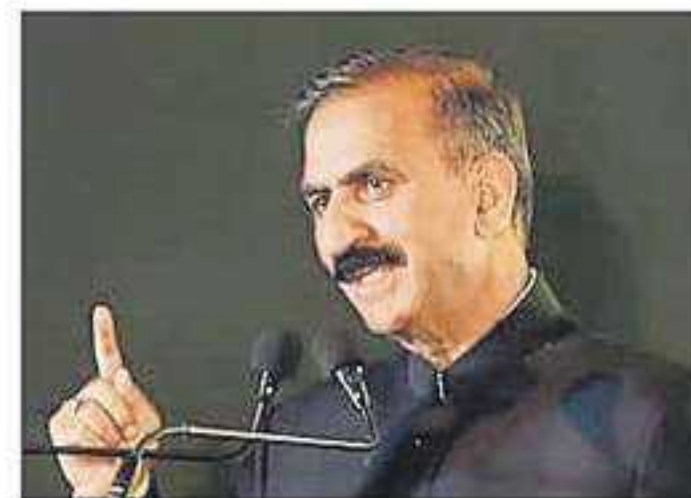
"The floor test is inevitable. There is also a possibility that the six disqualified Congress MLAs might be reinstated by the court. In these circumstances, this is not the time for experiments," said a senior leader, requesting anonymity.

"Also, party observers informed the chief minister that the high command is upset with the developments in Himachal Pradesh. But observers have also realised it would not be prudent to sideline Sukhu over six MLAs who cross-voted. He has indicated to the observers that at least 10 MLAs are loyal to him," added the leader.

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Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu

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{ KARNATAKA } CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

Panel submits caste survey report to CM

Sharath Sharma Kalagaru

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BENGALURU: Karnataka's much awaited socio-economic and education survey report, popularly known as the caste survey report, was submitted to chief minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday by the chairman of the state's backward classes commission, K Jayaprakash Hegde, setting the state's political pot boiling ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

The survey, which was commissioned by Siddaramaiah in 2015 during his first tenure as chief minister (2013 to 2018), covered over 13 million households, comprising over 59 million residents across the state.

The survey was mired in controversies even before its report was submitted as a portion of its leaked report allegedly disputed the numerical strength of Lingayats and Vokkaligas — the dominant castes in the southern state. The exact figures will be known after the report is made public by the government.

"We don't know what is in the report. I have received the report, it will be placed before the cabinet for discussion," Siddaramaiah told reporters.



Chief minister Siddaramaiah with K Jayaprakash Hegde

A schism had surfaced within the Karnataka's ruling Congress regarding the release of the survey findings, with Siddaramaiah and his deputy, DK Shivakumar, being at odds over the matter.

While the chief minister said he would take a call after receiving the report, Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief and a prominent leader from the Vokkaliga community, had advocated for a re-conduct of the survey. The demand to make public the survey findings increased especially after the release of the Bihar government's caste survey in October last year.

The Hegde-led commission was supposed to submit the report to the government in November. However, after it sought more time, the Congress

government extended his tenure for the submission of the report. Hegde's tenure came to an end on Thursday after the submission of the report.

"We have submitted the survey. It was conducted by teachers and government officials across Karnataka. We have prepared a detailed report on the survey and given it to the chief minister... We have not given the highlights of the survey to the government or anybody. Our duty is done, now it's up to the government to take the call," Hegde told reporters.

On the delay in submitting the report, Hegde clarified: "There were some technical issues which created the delay."

State minister for backward classes development Shivaraj Tangadagi said the government has accepted the report. "We have accepted the report and we will study and place it before the cabinet. After studying the report, the CM will take the final call. We will discuss the implementation in the cabinet," Tangadagi said. BJP legislator Arvind Bellad, a Lingayat, said they do not accept the survey. "The Congress government is trying to gain political mileage. We won't accept this report."

{ NARENDRA MODI } PRIME MINISTER

For us, these (Lok Sabha) elections are not just to form govt for the third time. We will make this country the third largest economy



Bill Gates

MODI MEETS BILL GATES, DISCUSSES AI, INNOVATION IN AGRI AND HEALTH

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Microsoft co-founder and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) co-chair Bill Gates on Thursday.

"A wonderful meeting indeed! Always a delight to discuss sectors which will make our planet better and empower millions of people across the globe. @Bill-Gates," he posted on X.

Modi's post was in response to a statement by Gates, on the microblogging site, that the two discussed Artificial Intelligence for public good, women-led development and innovation in agriculture and health.

"It is always inspiring to meet with @narendramodi and there was a lot to discuss. We talked about AI for public good; DPI; women-led development; innovation in agriculture, health, and climate adaptation; and how we can take lessons from India to the world. @PMOIndia," Gates wrote on X.

Earlier in the day, Gates attended an event during which Union minister of women and child development Smriti Irani launched a campaign to create awareness about the culinary heritage and nutritional diversity of the country.

During the event titled 'Poshan Utsav - Celebrating Nutrition' in the national capital, Irani also launched a 'Poshan Utsav Book' and a cartoon coalition (use of cartoon characters to spread the message) to help children learn the importance of nutrition.

The book has been curated by the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) and supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

INDIA, MAURITIUS NATURAL ALLIES IN FIELD OF MARITIME SECURITY: MODI

Rezaul H Laskar

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NEW DELHI: India and Mauritius are natural partners to deal with traditional and non-traditional challenges in the Indian Ocean. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said as the two countries inaugurated a strategic airstrip and jetty in the island nation on Thursday.

The expanded airstrip and jetty on Agaléga, one of the outer islands of Mauritius, will enhance the country's ability to monitor its large exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and to counter piracy, terrorism and other illegal activities such as unregulated fishing.

Modi and his Mauritius counterpart, Pravind Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the airstrip, jetty and six development projects on Agaléga through video conference. The upgrade of the infrastructure was fully funded with Indian grants.

"Many traditional and non-traditional challenges are emerging in the Indian Ocean region. All these challenges affect our economy. To deal with these, India and Mauritius are natural partners in the field of maritime security," Modi said, speaking in Hindi. The two countries are working to ensure security, prosperity and stability in the Indian Ocean and also cooperating in monitoring the EEZ, joint patrolling, hydrography, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, he said.

Jugnauth pointed to the urgent need to address infrastructural deficiencies in Mauritius in order to bolster capabilities for monitoring the country's EEZ of 23 million sq km.

Fertiliser subsidies worth ₹24k-cr get Cabinet nod

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday approved subsidy rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the upcoming kharif or summer-sown season to continue providing them to farmers at below-market rates.

The tentative budgetary requirement towards the subsidies has been pegged at about ₹24,420 crore, a government statement said. The Cabinet also gave its approval for the inclusion of three new grades of fertilisers under the Centre's crop nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) scheme.

The Centre funds subsidies for 25 grades of P&K fertilisers to farmers through fertiliser manufacturers and importers, who sell crop nutrients at a discount to millions of cultivators through internet enabled outlets. India relies on import of raw materials for crop nutrients as well as finished products and compensates fertiliser companies who sell them at below-inflation rates, who are compensated by the Centre's fertiliser subsidy.

The subsidy on P&K fertilisers is governed by nutrient-based scheme since 2010. "In accordance with its farmer friendly approach, the government is committed to ensure the availability of P&K fertilisers to the farmers at affordable prices," the release added. The kharif season runs from April 1 to September 30.



The subsidies were approved ahead of the kharif season. HT FILE

Govt okays setting up of global big cat union

Jayashree Nandi

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NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the creation of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), with its headquarters in India, to establish a global network for conserving tigers and other big cats.

The government also approved a one-time budgetary support of ₹150 crore for the multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

"With big cats as mascots for sustainable development and livelihood security, India and the big cat range countries can usher in major efforts on environmental resilience and climate change mitigation, while paving a future where natural

ecosystems continue to thrive, and gain centrality in economic and development policies," the Union environment ministry said in a statement.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the decision on the establishment of the IBCA. "The Cabinet decision... marks a major step towards conserving our majestic big cats and their habitats, and also reinforcing India's leadership in global biodiversity conservation," he said.

At a Cabinet briefing, Union minister Anurag Thakur said scientific institutions and corporations involved in environmental conservation would also be members of IBCA. The IBCA seeks to conserve the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and the cheetah. Of these, the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard and cheetah are found in India.



Droupadi Murmu

PREZ WITHHOLDS HER ASSENT TO 3 BILLS FROM KERALA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: President Droupadi Murmu has withheld assent to the three university bills referred to her by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, but approved the Kerala Lok Ayukta Bill passed by the state assembly.

The Raj Bhavan in a statement on Thursday said that the President has withheld assent to the Kerala University Laws (Amendment No.2) Bill 2022, which aims to replace the Governor from the position of Chancellor of Universities. The University Law Amendment Bill, 2022 that aims to increase the members in the Search Committee for the appointment of the Vice Chancellor and the University Law Amendment Bill, 2021 which deals with the Appellate Tribunal issue and other amendments to Technological University, were also denied Presidential assent, it said.

The statement said that of the seven bills referred to the President by governor, "assent has been accorded to only one Bill, namely, the Kerala Lok Ayukta Amendment Bill, 2022".

Five separate cases, registered

Key accused in '93 train blasts acquitted, two get life imprisonment

Dinesh Bothra

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JODHPUR: A special court in Rajasthan's Ajmer district on Thursday acquitted Syed Abdul Karim Tunda, the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case, saying the prosecution failed to provide enough evidence to prove the 81-year-old's direct involvement in the matter.

Special court judge Mahaveer Prasad Gupta of Terrorist and Destructive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) court, however, awarded two others — Irfan Ahmed and Hamiduddin alias Hamir Ul Uddin — life imprisonment under various laws, including the Terrorist and Destructive Activities (Prevention) Act. "There is insufficient evidence against the accused Syed Abdul Karim Tunda regarding his involvement in a criminal conspiracy," justice Gupta said in his 313-page judgment.

Two people were killed and at least 22 injured in the blasts that were carried out on five passenger trains on the intervening night of December 5-6, 1993, to allegedly mark the first anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition. Tunda, believed to be a close aide of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, is accused of orchestrating the blasts. He was arrested in 2013.

Five separate cases, registered



Syed Abdul Karim Tunda

by Government Railway Police were consolidated after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took over the probe. Eighteen people were named accused.

Justice Gupta, in his judgment, said that while the prosecution presented evidence indicating Tunda's role in helping other accused — Jalees Ansari and Habib Ahmed (both were found guilty in 2004) — to make the bombs, it failed to establish his direct role in the blasts. Tunda's counsel Shafiq Sultani said CBI failed to provide concrete evidence across various statutes against his client.

On Ahmed and Hamiduddin's role, the court said the two men actively participated in executing the plan with the aim of carrying out terror activities, causing train blasts, intimidating the government, and instigating enmity between Hindu-Muslim communities, and awarded them life imprisonment. Hamiduddin said: "I respect the judgment. I will file an appeal in the Supreme Court."

{ IN BARAMATI } VETERAN LEADER LEFT OUT OF GUEST LIST FOR GOVT EVENT

Pawar invites Maha CM, deputies for lunch

Yogesh Joshi

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PUNE: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar has invited Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde and two deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar for lunch at his residence in Baramati on March 2, even as he himself was left out of the guests' list of a state government event the same day.

The CM and the two deputies are slated to attend the Namo Employment Fair being organised by the state government at



Sharad Pawar

Vidya Pratishthan at Baramati in Pune district on Saturday. An official invitation card for the programme names various public representatives from Pune district as guests, but does not

include Pawar. His daughter and Baramati Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule is on the guests' list.

Pawar, however, expressed his willingness to attend the programme in a letter dated February 28 to CM Shinde. Pawar also extended lunch invitation to the CM and two deputy CMs at his Govindnagar residence.

"It is your first visit to Baramati after becoming chief minister and I am happy about it. I invite you and other cabinet colleagues for lunch at my residence after the programme," Pawar wrote in the letter, a copy

of which HT has seen.

Till Thursday evening, no one from the government clarified as to why Pawar's name was not on the guests' list.

"Pawar Saheb wrote a letter and even made a phone call to invite the CM and two deputy CMs for lunch on March 2...," Sule said. On Pawar's name not being on the invitation card, Sule said: "Even I am surprised, as he is still a Rajya Sabha MP but has not been invited, whereas the name of another RS MP, Vandana Chavan, figures on the invitation card."

HT Correspondent

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CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court on Thursday asked the Haryana government not to consider granting parole to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim without the court's permission.

The high court bench of acting chief justice GS Sandhwalia and justice Lapita Banerji criticised the state government for granting frequent paroles to Ram Rahim, who has been awarded 20 years of imprisonment in connection with two rape cases (2017), life term for conspiring the murders of a journalist (2019) and a Dera follower (2021). It pointed out that, in spite of the pendency of a petition challenging his frequent parole before high court since January 29, 2023, the Haryana government chose to grant him the relief in July for 30



Gurmeet Ram Rahim

days, in November for 21 days, and in January 2024 for 50 days.

"We would like the state of Haryana to furnish an affidavit as to how many persons having such criminal antecedents and sentenced in three cases have been granted this benefit. Let a necessary affidavit be filed before the next date of hearing," the court directed the Haryana government, while fixing the date of hearing for March 11.

"The state authorities shall not consider his case for grant of fur-

ther parole till further orders without the permission of this court," the court said, and sought the custody certificate of Ram Rahim when he surrenders on March 10.

Ram Rahim, whose jail term began on August 25, 2017, was granted temporary release from prison for the ninth time on January 19 for 50 days. During his parole, Ram Rahim is staying at an ashram in Baghpatt, Uttar Pradesh.

HT in October 2022 reported that many of Ram Rahim's releases happened to coincide with either state polls or local polls or bypolls, and experts linked this to his popularity in Haryana despite the convictions.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Shriromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) filed in February 2023 against the frequent paroles granted to Ram Rahim by the Haryana government.

The PIL said his paroles may "jeopardise the sovereignty, integrity of India and for maintaining public harmony, peace, and social fabrics in the country". The grant of parole to him could have "disastrous consequences", as he himself claims to be a "Messenger of God" and has added surnames of "Baba", "Maharaja" etc and is in the "habit of giving poisonous propaganda against the Holy Guru Granth Sahib Ji, which is revered as 'Living Guru' by the Sikhs at large, added the PIL.

The Punjab government, too, had told the court that the frequent paroles to Ram Rahim may lead to law and order problems in the state.

The Haryana government, on its part, has maintained that Ram Rahim is not a "hardcore prisoner" and his conviction in two different murders cannot be termed "serial killing".

Govt can't stop states from levying tax on minerals: Top court

Abraham Thomas
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New Delhi A nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the Centre's objection against states imposing taxes on mineral rights, observing that the Centre can regulate taxes to be imposed by states in the field of mineral development but cannot take away or dilute the state's taxing power.

The court's observation came after Centre submitted an affidavit earlier this week opposing state laws which impose cess or tax on minerals, besides the royalty imposed by Centre. The affidavit by the ministry of mines said that permitting states to tax mineral rights will affect national interest, impact overall development of the economy, and lead to inflation, since minerals are important raw materials for core sectors of the economy.

Raising the issue while hearing arguments by the Centre made by Attorney general (AG) R Venkataramani, chief justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said, "The power to impose tax was not given to Parliament at all. It was only given to states. In the interest of mineral development, Parliament can only say that you will not tax in this manner or that you will impose more than say 20%."

Under Entry 50 (taxes on mineral rights) of State List or List II, Parliament can impose restraint but it cannot say, we have the power to impose tax and states don't. The AG argued that the Centre's right over minerals is sourced from Entry 54 of List I (Union List), which deals with "regulation of mines and mineral development". It is under this entry that Parliament enacted the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 which governs the field. He added that this law deals with all levies, charges, or demands having nexus with mineral rights and the same will be a limitation on the power of states to demand or impose similar levies or charges.

Another judge on the bench, justice Hrishikesh Roy said, "You are speaking for the Union. Your views are very crucial. By virtue of what you say, we are taking away or diluting the power [to tax] of the state." The other judges on the bench include justices AS Oka, BV Nagarathna, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih.

In an extreme situation, the bench observed, "If Parliament were to say state will not tax in a given situation, practically very few sources of revenue can be earned by the state and they are expected to discharge certain obligations in a federal scheme of

The power to impose tax was not given to Parliament at all. It was only given to states...

JUSTICE DY CHANDRACHUD, CJI

things...For you to say, the Union will have power to tax is a little difficult for us to accept."

The AG said that the entries in List I and II pertaining to mineral rights must be seen as belonging to a common family. He argued that taxes on mineral rights cannot be any levy, charge or demand unrelated to mineral development. To that extent, he argued Entry 50 of List II does not confer legislative competence to the states. But justice Nagarathna pointed out, "Taxation on mineral rights cannot be in two lists. In our understanding, state has to only look at any central law on mineral development. Keeping that in mind, state can impose tax."

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for a group of mining companies supporting the Centre, argued that the MMDR Act provides for imposition of royalty. "While the resource remains with the state, Parliament regulates how much royalty is to be charged. Anything that is integral to mineral development, a cap is placed on the taxing power of the state," Salve said. As his submissions remained inconclusive, the bench posted the matter for further hearing on March 5.

The court is hearing a batch of more than 80 appeals dealing with the question whether royalty charged on mining is a tax and whether states have legislative competence to levy taxes on minerals and mineral-bearing lands in addition to the royalty imposed by Centre. The issue has larger implications on the state's revenue-earning capacity and the authority of states on minerals extracted from their land.

The matter was referred to a nine-judge bench in March 2011 as the top court found a conflict between two previous judgments on this issue. One was a 1989 verdict in India Cements Limited v State of Tamil Nadu case decided by a seven-judge bench which held royalty is a tax under MMDR Act. The other decision was a five-judge bench decision of 2004 in State of West Bengal v Kesoram, Industries which held that in India Cements, the court had mistakenly written "royalty is a tax" while it meant that "cess on royalty is a tax".

In SC, govt turns down proposal to set up new authority to protect trees

Abraham Thomas
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NEW DELHI: The Union government has turned down a suggestion to create a new authority for protecting trees at the central and state levels - a proposal that included determining a tree's value before a decision is taken to fell it for a development project - and has instead recommended to the Supreme Court that such matters be decided by the states.

In a submission on February 8, the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MoEFCC) responded to a host of suggestions made by a seven-member, Supreme Court-appointed expert committee headed by wildlife expert and former chairman of the Wildlife Trust of India MK Ranjitsinh Jhala.

The committee was directed by the top court in March 2021 to examine steps for conserving trees and suggest a method to assess the value of a tree in a petition filed by Association for Protection of Democratic Rights, which opposed the felling of primitive trees, some aged over 150 years, for construction of five road-over bridges (ROB) as part of a road-widening project of the West Bengal government.

The committee in January 2022 recommended a tree conservation authority be set up at the state and local levels for overseeing compensatory afforestation and to act as custodians of public-owned trees on non-forest land (PTNFL). It also recommended having a permanent body, such as National Forest Conservation Authority (NFA), to oversee forest conservation at the apex level.

The Centre, replying to this suggestion, said: "There is no requirement of constitution of tree conservation authority or a separate national-level model act as there are enough statutory provisions to

safeguard the PTNFLs." On having NFA, the ministry said, "There is no need for creating a permanent body NFA as this will lead to double regulation and unnecessary delay in project clearance."

The Centre said there is no dearth of statutory bodies on the issue of forest conservation, citing the examples of the Forest Advisory Committee (a statutory expert body) to deal with forest clearances and the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife for permissions under Wildlife Protection Act.

On the method of assessing the value of a tree, the Jhala committee had said that the intrinsic and instrumental value of trees should be based not on its "timber worth" but the age, girth and environmental contribution.

In its 184-page report to the top court, the committee also said that while it "favours a cost-based approach, it agrees that a benefit-based approach based on net present value (NPV) criteria is a better way of assessing the value and making developers pay, as is proposed for land-use change."

It recommended a large-scale national research project to conduct a species-specific tree ecosystem service valuation to arrive at their NPV, considering functions of age, girth-at-breast height, etc. The Centre, in response, said: "Currently, the value of trees is calculated by respective states/union territories as per local norms prescribed under various state enactments." It listed out 32 such enactments on the subject enacted by states/UTs and said, "Advisory may be issued to them to further revise the valuation criteria."

As for the remaining states/UTs yet to enact laws in this regard, the advisory would require them to frame appropriate laws in line with the expert committee's suggestions.

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION

Tender Notice

No. M247GNTWMPF2403
Date: 28/02/2024

Name of Work: Mechanical Furnishing Work in 8 Wheeler DETC (Under Slung Type). Location: Office of CWM/Dahod W.Rly. Estimated Cost of the Work: ₹ 4,07,89,270/-.

Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 3,54,000/-.

Date & Time of Submission & Opening of E-Tender: Up to 14.30 hrs. on 21/03/2024 and Opening of E-Tender at 15.00 hrs. on Same day.

Tender Notice and Documents available at: www.ireps.gov.in/E-Tenders/Works/IR/Electrical.

AK/17/1/458

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MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LIMITED

REQUEST FOR TENDER: MRVGVIKYN-BUD/30/OHE

(Two-Envelope E-Procurement Tendering Process)

Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation Ltd. having its Corporate office at Second Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400020 Invites E-Tenders for The "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of OHE work for removal of infringement in Kalyan-Badlapur Section (Chainage 54800-69400) and construction of Chikhli station in-connection with proposed 3rd & 4th line between Kalyan-Badlapur station of Mumbai Division Central Railway under MUDP-Phase 3A in Two Lots." Details of tender and tender documents are available on the e-procurement site website <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Last date for complete e-tender submission at website <https://eprocure.gov.in> is 05.04.2024 upto 12:00 hrs. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the above website only.

SNP 15

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. PHQ/15/GPC/1255-2/2024 Bhopal, Dated : 27.02.2024

"ONLINE TENDER NOTICE"

Online tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for FSL Items on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgeppapp>

Equipments for Chemistry Lab of Ratlam, Rewa and Jabalpur

Sr.	Name of Equipment	Quantity	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	Gas Chromatography- Mass Spectrometer (GCMS)	3	585,000	10,000
2	UV-visible spectrophotometer	3	270,000	5,000
3	Alcolizer (All in one)	3	540,000	10,000
4	FTIR-ATR	3	225,000	5,000
5	Viscometer	3	45,000	2,000
6	Densitometer	3	45,000	2,000
7	Melting point apparatus	3	90,000	3,000
8	Water purification system	3	90,000	3,000
9	Gas Generator	3	225,000	5,000
10	Research Binocular Microscope with work station and Auxiliary access	3	45,000	2,000
11	Refrigerated Centrifuge (Table Top)	3	36,000	2,000
TOTAL EMD & Tender Fees			2,196,000	49,000

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non-refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & Must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgeppapp>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in).
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website : <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgeppapp>
- Critical Date Sheet :

Published Date	27/02/2024	Time	18:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	28/02/2024	Time	12:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	02/03/2024	Time	11:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	11/03/2024	Time	14:00 PM
Bid Opening Date	12/03/2024	Time	16:00 PM
- Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/ addendum/ amendment.
- Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated latter.

(ARVIND TIWARI)
A.I.G. (Provisioning)
PHQ, Bhopal

G-25150/23

SOUTH BIHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Registered Office: Viduyat Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna -800021)

A Govt. Of Bihar Undertaking (DEPARTMENT OF O&M)
CIN-U40109BR2012SGC018890
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Short Tender Inviting Notice

Online tender is being invited by Chief Engineer(O&M) SBPDCL for Execution for Erection of Double Circuit dedicated 33 KV Line from 132/33 KV GSS, Shahri(Barh) to 400/220/132 KV GIS, Sub-station, Bakhtiarpur, Patna At Patna District of SBPDCL Under Deposit Head Scheme, on turnkey basis. Details are as below:-

SL NO	NIT NO.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In INR)	Cost of EMD (In INR)	Cost of BOQ/Tender Document (In INR)	Bid Processing Fee (In INR)
1	29/PR/SBPDC/2024	Execution for Erection of Double Circuit dedicated 33 KV Line from 132/33 KV GSS, Shahri (Barh) to 400/220/132 KV GIS, Sub-station, Bakhtiarpur, Patna At Patna District of SBPDCL Under Deposit Head Scheme	5,27,16,001.00	10,54,320.02	17700.00 (15000 + GST @ 18%)	As per eproc2

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:

Bid submission start date : From 06/03/2024, 11:00 Hrs
Bid submission due date (Last Date): Up to 19/03/2024, 15:00 Hrs
Date of Opening of Technical & Commercial Part (Part-I) On 20/03/2024, 15:00 Hrs onwards
Date of Pre Bid Meeting: On 11/03/2024, 12:00 Hrs
Venue of Pre Bid Meeting: 3rd floor Conference Hall, Urja Bhawan, SBPDCL, Patna

- The details are available at the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.
- Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation
- Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571 Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in
- Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays)

Note- (1) Subsequent information / notification / corrigendum will be available only on website of EPROC and/or SBPDCL i.e. www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and/or www.sbpdccl.co.in.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar Chief Engineer (O&M) PR-018575 (B & C) 2023-24 SBPDCL

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग

15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001

विज्ञापन संख्या-22/2024, अध्यापक नियुक्ति प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE-3.0)

परीक्षा कार्यक्रम (समयावधि/विषय)

विज्ञापन संख्या-22/2024, अध्यापक नियुक्ति प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE-3.0) दिनांक-15.03.2024 को दो पालियों में तथा दिनांक-16.03.2024 को एकल पाली में निम्नांकित कार्यक्रमानुसार राज्य स्थित विभिन्न जिलों में अवस्थित परीक्षा केंद्रों में आयोजित की जायेगी :-

परीक्षा की तिथि	प्रथम पाली-09.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 12.00 बजे अपराह्न तक)	द्वितीय पाली-02.30 बजे अपराह्न से 5.30 बजे अपराह्न तक)
15.03.2024 (शुक्रवार)	विषय:- गणित एवं विज्ञान, सामाजिक विज्ञान, हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी, संस्कृत एवं उर्दू शिक्षा विभाग के मध्य विद्यालय वर्ग: 6-8 के सभी विषय	विषय:- सामान्य, उर्दू एवं बांग्ला I. शिक्षा विभाग के मध्य विद्यालय वर्ग 1-5 के सभी विषयों के लिए विषय:- सामान्य II. अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण विभाग वर्ग: 1-5
परीक्षा की तिथि	एकल पाली (12.00 बजे मध्याह्न से 02.30 बजे अपराह्न तक)	
16.03.2024 (शनिवार)	विषय:- हिन्दी, बांग्ला, उर्दू, संस्कृत, अरबी, फारसी, अंग्रेजी, विज्ञान, गणित ललित कला, नृत्य, शारीरिक शिक्षा, मैथिली, संगीत एवं सामाजिक विज्ञान I. शिक्षा विभाग वर्ग: 9-10 (माध्यमिक तथा विशेष विद्यालय अध्यापक पद के सभी विषयों के लिए) II. अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण विभाग वर्ग : 6-10 (कम्प्यूटर विज्ञान, संगीत/कला विषय को छोड़कर शेष सभी विषय)	

नोट:- शिक्षा विभाग के अन्तर्गत वर्ग: 11-12 के सभी विषयों तथा अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण विभाग के अन्तर्गत वर्ग: 6-10 कम्प्यूटर विज्ञान, संगीत/कला विषयों की परीक्षा के लिए सूचना बाद में प्रकाशित की जायेगी।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

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विज्ञापन संख्या-22/2024, अध्यापक नियुक्ति प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE-3.0)

परीक्षा कार्यक्रम (समयावधि/विषय)

विज्ञापन संख्या-22/2024, अध्यापक नियुक्ति प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE-3.0) दिनांक-15.03.2024 को दो पालियों में तथा दिनांक-16.03.2024 को एकल पाली में निम्नांकित कार्यक्रमानुसार राज्य स्थित विभिन्न जिलों में अवस्थित परीक्षा केंद्रों में आयोजित की जायेगी :-

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परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

सकुंर रोड, राँची-834001

प्रेस विज्ञापित

झारखण्ड न्यायिक सेवान्तर्गत सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन) प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (विज्ञापन संख्या-22/2023) के संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना।

झारखण्ड न्यायिक सेवान्तर्गत सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन) प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (विज्ञापन संख्या-22/2023) के विरुद्ध निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि तक प्राप्त ऑनलाईन/ऑफलाईन आवेदनों में से औपबधिक रूप से स्वीकृत एवं अस्वीकृत अभ्यर्थियों की सूचना आयोग के वेबसाईट पर www.jpssc.gov.in पर दिनांक-05.03.2024 (मंगलवार) से उपलब्ध रहेगी।

2. अभ्यर्थी अपना पंजीयन संख्या (Registration Number) एवं जन्म तिथि (Date of Birth) प्रविष्ट कर संबंधित सूचना का अवलोकन/डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

3. यह प्रेस विज्ञापित आयोग के वेबसाईट www.jpssc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हो/-
परीक्षा नियंत्रक,
झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, राँची

PR 320812 Jharkhand Public Service Commission(23-24).D

Director General, Mines & Geology, Haryana

Public Notice E-Auction Programme

No. DMG/HY/Auction/SNP/2022/969 Dated 28.02.2024

This is for the information for General Public that e-Auction for grant of 01 mining contract/mineral rights for excavation of minor mineral 'Sand' from district Sonapat will be held on 28.03.2024 as per schedule given below:-

Sr. No.	Titles	From	To
1	Registration and Creation of user ID and uploading of documents	01.03.2024 10.00 AM	26.03.2024 Upto 05.00 PM
2	Deposition of EMD	01.03.2024 10.00 AM	26.03.2024 Upto 05.00 PM
3	E-service fee	01.03.2024	26.03.2024 Upto 05.00 PM
4	Bidding	28.03.2024 10.00 AM	Till the conclusion of Auction

Note: The manual for prospective bidders shall be available on e-Auction portal.

2. The detail of Mining Unit of district Sonapat is as under:-

Sr. No.	Mining Unit	Name of the Village	Area (In Acre.) as per Revenue record	Total Mineral Concession Area (In Acre)	Reserve Price (In Cr.)	Period (In Years)
1	Nandhour - Barouli	Nandhour	47.26	11.23	405.31	35.92
		Barouli	335.04	11.78		

4. The period of contract shall commence w.e.f. the date of grant of Environmental Clearance by the competent authority and the Consent to Operate (CTO) by the State Pollution Control Board, whichever is later, or on expiry of the period of 12 months from the date of issuance of Lol, whichever is earlier.

5. The mining contractor shall prepare a Mining Plan along with the Mine Closure Plan (Progressive & Final) from the Recognized Qualified Person as per Chapter 10 of the "The State Rules, 2012" for mining area granted on contractor and shall get the same approved by an officer authorized by the Director, Mines & Geology, in this behalf. The contractor/Lol holder shall obtain prior Environmental Clearance for the Mining block(s)/area from Competent Authority as required under notification dated 14.09.2006 issued by the MoE&F, Gol or as amended from time to time and also other required approvals for mining including Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate before commencement of actual mining operations.

6. For all other detailed terms and conditions of e-Auction, the intending bidders can download the Auction Notice/documents from the website of the department minesharyana.gov.in or from the Haryana Government Website www.haryana.gov.in. The Auction notice can also be obtained from the office of the Mining Officer, Mines and Geology Department, Sonapat or from the office of the Director General, Mines and Geology, Haryana, DHL Square, Plot No. 9, Sector-22, IT Park, Panchkula on any working day.

Director General
Mines and Geology, Haryana

RO NO 1150/11/47/2024/25465/19/7

Director General, Mines & Geology, Haryana

Public Notice E-Auction Programme

No. KC/DMG/HY/Auction/Faridabad/2021/965 Dated 27.02.2024

This is for the information for General Public that e-Auction for grant of mining contract/mineral rights for excavation of minor mineral namely 'Sand' from districts Faridabad & Palwal will be held from 08.04.2024 as per schedule given below:-

Sr. No.	Titles	From	To
1	Registration and Creation of user ID and uploading of documents	11.03.2024 10.00 AM	05.04.2024 Upto 05.00 PM
2	Deposition of EMD	11.03.2024 10.00 AM	05.04.2024 Upto 05.00 PM
3	E-service fee	11.03.2024	05.04.2024 Upto 05.00 PM
4	Bidding	08.04.2024 10.00 AM	Till the conclusion of Auction

Note: The manual for prospective bidders shall be available on e-Auction portal.

2. The detail of Mining Unit of district Faridabad and Palwal is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Mining Unit	Name of Villages	Area for Mining Activity (In Acre)	Total Area for ancillary activities	Total area of Mining Unit (In Acre)	Proposed Reserve Price (In Crore)	Period (In years)
District Faridabad							
1.	Dadsia - Kiranwali Unit	Dadsia	146.25	31.63	235.23	14.96	10
		Kiranwali	57.35				
2.	Mahawatpur Baskola Unit	Lalpur	2.33	27.05	134.40	9.43	09
		Mahawatpur	69.00				
		Mojmabad	5.4				
		Baskola	30.63				
3.	Amipur Unit	Amipur	221.65	27.5	249.15	16.26	08
4.	Makhanpur Unit	Makhanpur	135.80	30.00	165.80	9.98	07
District Palwal							
5.	Kashipur Unit	Kashipur	27.97	42.33	209.06	7.68	09
		Farstaku-nagar	64.60				
		Hasanpur	37.31				
		Maholi	36.85				

3. The period of contract shall commence w.e.f. the date of grant of Environmental Clearance by the competent authority and the Consent to Operate (CTO) by the State Pollution Control Board, whichever is later, or on expiry of the period of 12 months from the date of issuance of Lol, whichever is earlier.

4. The mining contractor shall prepare a Mining Plan along with the Mine Closure Plan (Progressive & Final) from the Recognized Qualified Person as per Chapter 10 of the "The State Rules, 2012" for mining area granted on contractor and shall get the same approved by an officer authorized by the Director, Mines & Geology, in this behalf. The contractor/Lol holder shall obtain prior Environmental Clearance for the Mining block(s)/area from Competent Authority as required under notification dated 14.09.2006 issued by the MoE&F, Gol or as amended from time to time and also other required approvals for mining including Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate before commencement of actual mining operations.

5. For all other detailed terms and conditions of e-Auction, the intending bidders can download the Auction Notice/documents from the website of the department minesharyana.gov.in or from the Haryana Government Website www.haryana.gov.in. The Auction notice can also be obtained from the office of the Mining Officer, Mines and Geology Department, Faridabad or from the office of the Director General, Mines and Geology, Haryana, DHL Square, Plot No. 9, Sector-22, IT Park, Panchkula on any working day.

Director General
Mines and Geology, Haryana

RO NO 1150/11/48/2024/25466/19/7

Resolution by Manipur urges govt to withdraw pact with Kuki groups

Utpal Parashar
letters@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI: The Manipur assembly on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution to urge the Union government to withdraw the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with 24 Kuki militant outfits of the state on the ground of alleged violation of the ground rules.

The move came on a day when the deadline of the SoO agreement, signed by 25 Kuki militant groups with the Centre and the Manipur government in August 2008, expired. The pact is extended by the Centre annually. However, there is no clarity on the extension as of now.

"This House unanimously resolves to urge the government of India to abrogate the suspension of operations pact with all Kuki-Zo underground groups/militants," Speaker T Satyabrata Singh said in the assembly.

To be sure, ten Kuki MLAs including seven from BJP, were absent from the assembly when the resolution was passed.

"What is unanimous? A House minus 10 members can take an unanimous resolution? There is lies the problem. Majority is always right..." Paoliennial Haokip from BJP, one of the 10 MLAs, posted on X.

The Centre and Manipur government had signed the SoO agreement with 25 Kuki militant groups. As per the agreement, the cadres of these groups were to be confined to designated camps and their arms kept locked in safe rooms under double-locking system. Several Meitei organisations have also been protesting seeking the scrapping of the SoO agreement.

Assam Rifles help sought
Meanwhile, the Manipur government has sought assistance from Assam Rifles for maintaining peace in six violence-hit districts.

"I am directed to requisition the services of Assam Rifles to assist civil authority to maintain peace," an order issued by Thangboi Gangte, additional district magistrate of Churachandpur said on Thursday.



Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes since May last year. ANI

Meitei body engaged in 'many anti-social activities', say police

Utpal Parashar
letters@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI: The Manipur Police on Thursday accused radical Meitei outfit Arambai Tengol of committing "many anti-social activities and criminal activities" — including assault on civilians and extortion from common people — and blamed the group for the abduction of a senior police officer and his escort in Imphal East two days ago.

This is the first time since the beginning of the ethnic strife in the northeastern state on May 3 last year that the Manipur Police has levelled such charges against the radical Meitei outfit. The police also alleged that Arambai Tengol was garnering "false support" from the public in the garb of protecting them.

"The Manipur police department highly condemns the incident of attempt on life of one additional superintendent of police (operations) of Imphal West, other police officers and men in the evening of February 27 by members of Arambai Tengol," the Manipur Police said in a detailed statement.

The statement came a day after Manipur Police com-

mandos in various valley districts laid down their arms in a symbolic protest against the abduction of Moirangthem Amit Singh, the ASP (operations) of Imphal West, and one of his escorts allegedly by members of Arambai Tengol from his residence around 7pm on Tuesday.

The ASP, rescued two hours later, was also assaulted by the armed militants and is currently admitted to a hospital in Imphal.

Singh's abduction, the police release said, was the fallout of arrest of one person in connection with "stealing/snatching" of two vehicles from government oil depot on Tuesday. Upset at the arrest, Arambai Tengol members fired bullets at Singh's residence and vandalised property before abducting him, it added.

"AT (Arambai Tengol) is engaging in many anti-social activities like assaulting civilians, snatching of vehicles from public/government officials. They are also indulging in extortion from the common public and businessmen," the police said. The release also urged the public not to get misled and support the police in their efforts to bring peace back to the strife-torn state.

NAGALAND MAY BRING RESOLUTION ON FMR IN HOUSE

Alice Yhoshü
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOHIMA: Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio on Thursday said the state government is committed to pursue the Centre for ensuring that the free movement regime (FMR) remains in operation, adding that the state assembly may consider and adopt a resolution on FMR on Friday.

The discussion in the state's legislative assembly comes in the backdrop of several protests over the Centre's decision to scrap the regime and construct fencing along the Indo-Myanmar international border.

The central government had earlier announced plans to fence the entire 1,643 km long Indo-Myanmar border, effectively ending the free movement regime between the two countries.

The move aims to enhance surveillance and curb insurgencies, smuggling, and the drug trade in the region.

Autopsy points to 'firearm' injury, pellets detected in CT

Karam Prakash
letters@hindustantimes.com

PATIALA: Protesting farmer Shubh Karan Singh, who was killed in clashes with the Haryana Police at Khanauri last week, died of a firearm injury to the head, according to the 21-year-old man's post-mortem examination report, which also detected "foreign bodies" in his head.

A CT scan conducted before the autopsy detected several metal pellets in his head. Wounds caused by metal pellets were found on the upper bodies of several protesting farmers who were injured in police action, said medico-legal reports issued by hospitals in Patiala last week.

The examination, which was conducted on Wednesday, found an injury mark on the occipital region (the rearmost region of the skull) and also showed that his body bore no other injury marks.



Shubh Karan Singh

HT has seen the report.

Doctors who conducted the examination said they have submitted the report to the Patiala police and refrained from revealing more information. The metal pellets found in Singh's skull were also handed over to the police, said people aware of the matter, adding that these may be sent to ballistics experts to ascertain the nature of the firearm that was used. Singh was cremated on Thursday.

Protesting farmers and Singh's family initially did not allow authorities to conduct a post-mortem examination, demanding that a case of a murder be filed against

police personnel for his death and "martyr status" for the victim.

Thousands of farmers have been camped at the Punjab-Haryana borders for over two weeks now, demanding that the central government enact a law on MSP for all crops.

Punjab Police sub-inspector Yashpal Sharma, investigating officer in the case said he had not received any post-mortem report till the time of going to press.

Suresh Kumar, station house officer of Garhi police station in Haryana, said, "We have not received any post-mortem report yet and therefore cannot comment on it."

HT last week reported that pellet wounds were found on some protesters. At the time, a senior Haryana Police officer, who asked not to be named, said: "We are aware of the development but have not received a formal report. We are looking into the matter."

Hry: Passport cancellation of vandals sought

CHANDIGARH : The Ambala Police on Thursday said they will seek cancellation of passports and visas of those found indulging in vandalism during the ongoing farmers' agitation.

"[Those] indulging in acts of vandalism like breaking barricades have been identified through CCTV footage and drone-cameras. We will seek the cancellation of such people's passports and visas," Ambala's deputy superintendent of police DSP Joginder Sharma said.

DGCA gets 1st woman chief flight ops officers

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Captain Shweta Singh was appointed as the first woman chief flight operations inspector (CFOI) in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday, an official in the civil aviation regulator said on Thursday.

Last month, Captain Singh was given the additional charge of CFOI after DGCA removed then CFOI Vivek Chhabra on "administrative grounds and public interest" on January 24.

"Captain Singh has become the first woman to hold the top post in DGCA's flight safety department after clearing the mandatory interview. Captain Singh is the first woman to hold the top position in the Flight Safety Directorate (FSD)," the official cited above said, seeking anonymity.

In January, the civil aviation regulator removed Chhabra from the top post. "On the basis of confidential inputs... associ-



Captain Shweta Singh

ated relevant provisions of the terms and conditions of his engagement, the contract of Capt. Vivek Chhabra, CFOI stands terminated with immediate effect on administrative grounds and in public interest," an official order said.

Following this, Singh wrote on LinkedIn: "I am delighted to report that I have been given additional charge of Chief Flight Operations Inspector at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The opportunity humbles me because this historic achievement places me as the first female in this distinguished job, breaking down boundaries and paving the way for future generations."

2 gang-rape victims found dead in UP, suicide suspected

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KANPUR: Two girls, aged 14 and 15, were found dead near a brick kiln in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Nagar district early on Thursday, two days after they were allegedly gang raped by three men, a police officer aware of the matter said.

While the three men have been arrested, police said the families of the girls have alleged they died by suicide as the accused made a video of the purported gang rape to blackmail them.

According to deputy commissioner of police (south) Ravindra Kumar, the families of the minors — both distant relatives — alleged they were gang raped by the contractor of the brick kiln Ramroop Nishad, (48), his son Raju (18) and nephew Sanjay (19) on Tuesday.

"The fathers and the deceased worked in the brick kiln. The families said the

POLICE SAID THE ACCUSED MADE A VIDEO OF THE PURPORTED GANG RAPE AND USED IT TO BLACKMAIL THE TWO MINORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

minors were gang raped by the three men on Tuesday. On Wednesday evening, the girls went missing, prompting their families to launch a search for them. Their bodies were found hanging from a tree, 400 metres away from the brick kiln, early on Thursday," Kumar said.

Additional commissioner of police (law and order) Harish Chandra said the families claimed the girls died by suicide as the accused made a video of the purported gang rape to blackmail them.

"All the three accused have

been arrested," he said.

The father of one of the deceased said the accused shared the purported video with a few people and thrashed the minors and their families after they confronted them.

Police said a team of forensic experts visited and collected samples from the site where the bodies were found.

"Some videos and photographs of the girls were found in the mobile phones of the accused men. The phones will be sent for forensic examinations," Chandra said.

Following the incident, a first information report (FIR) was registered against the three men under sections 376D (gang rape) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act.

The bodies have been sent for a post-mortem and a detailed probe is underway, police said.

PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

The 7th Adaptive Athletic Meet hosted by Sanskriti School, New Delhi

Sanskriti School, New Delhi, renowned for its progressive and inclusive environment hosted the 7th Adaptive Athletic Meet for children with special needs. The objective of this event, for children with physical, cognitive and sensory needs, was to build a sense of pride and belonging and give them a memorable and joyous occasion to cherish for life. It was the Learning Centre's endeavour, in line with the Special Olympics, Bharat, to provide a platform to children with special needs to showcase their physical abilities, strength and spirit of togetherness. The meet began with principal Richa Sharma Agnihotri declaring it open. In her speech she encouraged the students to bring the best out of them. The chief guest Ekta Jha, Director, Special Olympics, Bharat motivated the participants with her inspiring speech. The inaugural function commenced with beautiful rendition by the school Hindi choir and an artistic display of Yoga Asanas by the gifted children of the Learning Centre. The meticulously organised event witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 250 special children from 18 inclusive schools of Delhi NCR. The meet was conducted under two age categories. The Young Athlete Program (3-8 years) and the Athlete Program (8-18 years). The prelims of the Athlete program were conducted on the first day. For the Young Athletes Program various activities were conducted involving interesting yet challenging gross motor skills tasks. It was a fun and non-competitive event. The track & field events finals were conducted on the second day. It witnessed positive competition amongst the students and included 25m assisted walk, 50m and 100m run, standing and running long jump, shot put and soft ball throw and skating. The winners were awarded with medals and certificates. All the participants were given certificates of participation and a small gift. Refreshments in the form of fruits and healthy snack boxes were given to all the participants, educators and the helping staff. Tokens of appreciation were also given to the coaches for making the event a grand success.

Remarkable Achievements by Students of St. Cecilia's, Vikaspuri

St. Cecilia's Public School, Vikaspuri takes immense pride in sharing its pride and joyous accomplishments of students for securing positions at STATE LEVEL. Ganeev Kaur of class XI secured 2nd position at State Level in Vocal Solo classical singing in senior girls' category with her stellar performance. Niharika Chhabra of class XII bagged the 3rd position at State Level in Hindi Extempore showcasing her mental agility and oratory prowess. Both the students are embodiments of commitment to foster artistic talent, aesthetic development and holistic growth. Principal congratulated the students for their remarkable achievements. She encouraged all to stay committed to triumphs and victories. Congratulations to Ganeev Kaur and Niharika Chhabra for their benchmark achievements at STATE LEVEL.

Scination 3.0 hosted by HES, Sharad Vihar

Happy English School, Sharad Vihar recently hosted its third edition of Annual Science Exhibition- Scination 3.0. Students of classes 6-10 took part and presented models on topics such as hydraulics. Students presented their ingenious projects from eco-friendly solutions to everyday problems to technology-driven advancements. These budding scientists demonstrated not only their knowledge but also their commitment to addressing real-world challenges such as eco-friendly housing to contribute to sustainability, self-cleaning robot, obstacle sensing robot and many more. The science exhibition not only showcased the students' hard work but also highlighted the dedication of the school's educators in fostering a culture of scientific inquiry. HES, Sharad Vihar continues to prove that science education can be both informative and exciting, setting the stage for future breakthroughs and discoveries from the brilliant minds within its walls.

KIIT World School Students Attend Inspiring Pariksha Pe Charcha with Prime Minister

40 students from KIIT World School, Pitampura, got a special chance to see the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, speak live during the yearly Pariksha Pe Charcha event at Bharat Mandapam. They enjoyed performances showcasing different Indian states and special anthem for Pariksha Pe Charcha. During his speech, the Prime Minister addressed various concerns and challenges faced by students and teachers, offering suggestions to enhance productivity and knowledge. He also highlighted the importance of distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy competition. He stressed the importance of collaboration between teachers and parents in motivating children. Additionally, he highlighted the significance of physical exercise and positive habits in a child's development.

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Double Engine-Speed-Economy



The double engine government of Uttar Pradesh has focused equally on providing ease of doing business and ease of living in the state. It has performed exceedingly well in the implementation of PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM SVANidhi Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana etc thereby securing top rank in the country. Rules and regulations have been simplified for the tax payers. The conducive environment available to the banks and other financial institutions have helped them to increase their services. The state has emerged as revenue surplus state with its prudent management and maintaining financial discipline. No doubt, the per capita income and gross domestic product has doubled in the last 7 years.

Uttar Pradesh, a revenue-surplus state

Second rank in ITR filing

2014	2023
1.65 lakh	12 lakhs



Banking Business

2016-17	2023-24
Rs 12.80 lakh crore	Rs 26.80 lakh crore

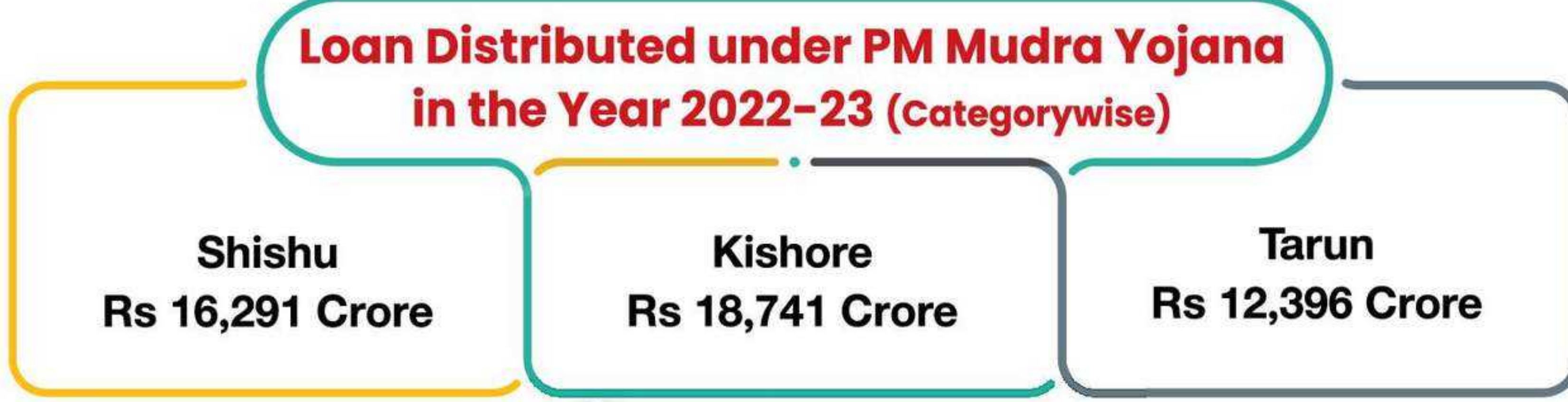
SGST/VAT collection

Year 2016-17

₹51,883 Crore

2022-23

₹1.25 Lakh Crore



Share in raising funds from Banks/Financial Institutions

2013-14	2022-23
1.1%	16.2%



Leading state of the country with digital transactions worth Rs 1,174.32 crore

Distribution of loans worth Rs 2,412 crore under PM SVANidhi Yojana

More than 9 crore bank accounts opened under PM Jan-Dhan Yojana

Highest number of traders registered in GST in the country

- The government waived loans worth Rs 36,000 crore of 86 lakh farmers
- 59% credit-deposit (CD) ratio achieved in 2023-24, set an ambitious goal to elevate it to 65% in 2024-25
- 4.59 crore new beneficiaries added under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana since 2017 till now, 5.54 crore total enrollments
- 1.67 crore new beneficiaries added under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Since 2017, the total enrollment is 1.90 crore.
- Services of 2.28 lakh Bank Mitras and BC Sakhis
- Provision of Rs 2400 crore for Twarit Arthik Vikas Yojana
- 19,705 bank branches and more than 17,852 ATMs operational
- More than 1.80 lakh Jan Seva Kendra operational in gram panchayats
- Co-operative banks disbursed over Rs 8,787 crore as short-term loans in the fiscal year 2023-24

- Co-operative banks disbursed over Rs 257 crore as long-term loans in the fiscal year 2023-24
- Cooperative banks have allocated Rs 525 crore to provide loans to farmers at low interest rates
- Banks distributed loans worth Rs 2.06 lakh crore under the Annual Loan Distribution Scheme in the first 6 months of 2023
- Mukhyamantri Durghatna Bima Yojana provides maximum assistance of Rs 10 lakh in case of death or disability
- Maximum assistance of Rs 5 lakh under Mukhyamantri Sukshma Udhayami Durghatna Bima Yojan
- Credit cards distributed to more than 4.18 lakh cattle farmers
- 1.18 crore nominations under Atal Pension Yojana
- Adoption of 150 Vantangiya villages for development works including 75 smart classes under rural development programme.



Stay orders cannot be limited to 6 months, says Constitution bench

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A Constitution bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside its 2018 decision that had directed that every order of stay in a civil or criminal trial must only last for six months, noting that even the highest court lacked the power to impose "judicial legislation" or disregard the litigants' substantive rights.

The 2018 judgment of the top court implied that if a case involving stayed proceedings was not decided within six months, the temporary stay would be automatically lifted.

The five-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, held that there could not be a generic direction for vacation of stay in all cases after six months, and that it should be left to the wisdom of the courts concerned to prioritise certain categories of cases. The bench also comprised justices AS

Oka, JB Pardiwala, Pankaj Mishra and Manoj Misra.

"We hold that there cannot be automatic vacation of stay granted by the high court. We do not approve of the direction issued to decide all the cases in which an interim stay has been granted on a day-to-day basis within a time frame. We hold that such blanket directions cannot be issued in the exercise of the jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution of India," held the bench.

The court emphasised that even the apex court could not take away the substantive rights of individuals in exercise of its authority under Article 142 that empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order to do complete justice in a case.

"All interim orders of stay passed by all high courts cannot be set at naught by a stroke of pen only on the ground of lapse of time...The right to be heard before an adverse order is passed is not a matter of procedure but a substan-



SC lacked even the highest court's substantive rights.

right. The power of this court under Article 142 cannot be exercised to defeat the principles of natural justice, which are an integral part of our jurisprudence," said the Constitution bench.

Limiting the life of a stay order passed by a high court will also amount to making a dent on the latter's jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution, said the court, adding the writ jurisdiction under Article 226 was recognised an essential feature that formed a part of the basic structure of the

Constitution. The judgment added that constitutional courts, in ordinary course, should refrain from fixing a timebound schedule for the disposal of cases pending before any other courts.

"No court of law is inferior to the other. This court is not superior to the high courts in the judicial hierarchy. Therefore, the judges of the high courts should be allowed to set their priorities on a rational basis. Thus, as far as setting the outer limit is concerned, it should be left to the concerned courts unless there are very extraordinary circumstances," said the bench, adding that high court orders of stay, at the same time, ought to show application of mind. Ateev Mathur, partner-head dispute resolution, SNG & Partners, welcomed the judgment. "In a country like India where dockets of the courts are always overflowing, it is not always a litigant's fault for a prolonged litigation. The Supreme Court has today clarified

that interim order granted by it or a high court would continue to remain in operation until and unless they are modified or varied by a judicial order by such courts. It is in line with the cardinal principle of law that no one should be condemned unheard," Mathur added.

The court allowed an appeal filed by the High Court Bar Association of Allahabad against its 2018 judgment in *Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency Vs CBI* by a bench of three judges, who felt that limiting the life of a stay order could be an effective method of cutting long delays in trials.

The 2018 judgment had held: "In cases where stay is granted in future, the same will end on expiry of six months from the date of such order unless similar extension is granted by a speaking order." Such a speaking order was required to show that the case was of such "exceptional nature" that continuing stay was more important than having the trial finalised.

{ NEGOTIATIONS OVER AGRI, FISHERIES }

As impasse continues, WTO parleys stretch into overtime

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The four-day ministerial conference – a summit of the apex decision-making body of the multilateral trade body WTO – could not arrive at a consensus late on Thursday with several developing nations led by India pushed back against developed nation-states on key matters like agriculture and fishing subsidies to protect the livelihood of millions of poor farmers on the principle of equity, two people aware of the development said.

As the sticking points persisted, the World Trade Organisation announced late in the evening that it extended the closing press conference of its director-general and the ministerial chair from February 29 to March 1.

The four-day event – the thirteenth ministerial conference (MC13) at Abu Dhabi – was scheduled to conclude on Thursday. The ministerial conference is the highest decision-making body of the 166-member WTO and its decisions are based on consensus.

According to people aware of the negotiations, India was unwilling to compromise on matters related to agriculture and fishermen. The same was articulated at the written opening statement of commerce minister Piyush Goyal on February 26 when he said that he carried with him "the aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians", they said.

"Excellencies, let me emphasise that for India, development stands for fight against hunger and undernourishment, upliftment of the poor and distressed



The four-day event was scheduled to conclude on Thursday but its closing press conference was extended.

masses, ensuring reasonable returns for low income and resource poor farmers and fishers," Goyal said in the statement.

India, which distributes free ration to over 810 million poor, is in no position to end or dilute its minimum support price (MSP) scheme, which is necessary to stockpile grains for food security guaranteed to its poor people through an Act, one of the persons said.

Goyal also made it clear in the position he took. "I re-emphasize that the development agenda would remain incomplete without a permanent solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes which is directly related to achieving Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030," he said.

India will not entertain any new issue related to agriculture unless a permanent solution to the PSH issue is resolved, the second person said, quoting Goyal. "This has been and continues to be a long-pending issue since the last few decades

and despite having a clear mandate agreed by us in the past MCs, finding a permanent solution on PSH remains an unaccomplished agenda on which we have to deliver in MC13," the minister said in his written speech.

Besides the two "most important" matters for developing countries, particularly for India, New Delhi also insists on establishing an effective dispute resolution mechanism for the success of the multilateral trading system, they said. The appellate body is completely defunct after the US blocked appointments of judges in December 2019.

Besides the demand of special and differential treatment (S&DT) on fishing subsidy because developed countries must pay for overexploitation of the oceans, India wants to end the customs duty moratorium on e-commerce trade. India along with South Africa have also blocked a Chinese proposal on investment facilitation as the matter is not related to trade, hence outside the mandate of WTO.

Wheat output to reach 112 mn tonne during 2023-24: Govt

Zia Haq
zia.haq@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Output of winter-sown wheat is set to be a record 112 million tonne during 2023-24, compared to last year's 110 million tonne, while summer-sown rice is estimated at 111 million tonne, 0.9% higher than the previous year, the Union government's second advance estimates of foodgrains production released on Thursday showed.

The output of winter-sown rice is expected to be 12.3 million

tonne, according to data. Spread over kharif and rabi seasons of 2023-24, total cereal output, including rice and wheat, is estimated to be 309 million tonne, the government said.

Higher food production will help put a lid on food prices, which have remained elevated this financial year partly due to the impact of extreme weather during 2022-2023. Food inflation rose 8.30% in January, compared to an increase of 9.53% in December, while rice inflation has risen to a record 15% year-on-

year, according to the latest available data.

Meanwhile, the Centre has fixed a wheat procurement target of 30-32 million tonne and paddy procurement in terms of rice for rabi season in the range of 9-10 million tonne during 2024-25.

The target was fixed after deliberations with state food secretaries in a meeting chaired by Union food secretary Sanjeev Chopra in Delhi on Wednesday. The Centre has also set a procurement target of 600,000

tonne for rabi coarse grains/millets.

"After deliberations, the estimates for wheat procurement during the ensuing rabi marketing season of 2024-25 were fixed in the range of 30-32 million tonne," the ministry said in a statement.

In the 2023-24 season, the government procured about 26.2 million tonne of wheat against the target of 34.15 million tonne. In 2022-23, wheat procurement was only 18.8 million tonne against the target of 44.4 million

tonnes due to lower production. In the meeting, the Centre asked states and Union territories to focus on procurement of millets for diversification of crops and enhanced nutrition in dietary patterns.

Estimated food production figures released on Thursday also showed output of winter-sown rapeseed and mustard, a key cooking oil, is estimated to be 12.6 million tonne, while production of tur, a pulses variety, has been pegged at 3.3 million tonne, same as last year.

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2015
Petrol Model,
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Cont.: 9312407896



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CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS for general information that I Lakshay Chauhan S/o Vishnu Chauhan R/o H.No-163, Basant Gagan, Vasant Vihar, South West Delhi-110057 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Lakshay Chauhan in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Lakshay Chauhan which may be amended accordingly.

I, PRADEEP Kumar S/o Late Mani Ram R/o A-260, G.D. Colony, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-110096, has changed my minor daughter's name Prashi to Prashi Singh for all future purposes.

I, ICHHA Kaur Grover D/o, Harpreet Singh Grover R/o E-2, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028 has changed my name to Ichha Kaur Binda for all purposes.

PROPERTY/DLF - SUSHANT LOK

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DLF GROVE
DLF-5

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FOR SALE

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SMART WORLD THE
EDITION SECTOR-66

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Fleet X	78,000/-	Ind. Bldg.(Retail)	5.00 Lacs
MCCANN	1.75 Lacs	Japanese MNC	6.20 Lacs
Axix Bank	2.88 Lacs	Jubilant food Retail	6.50 Lacs
Archer UAE	3.47 Lacs	Ind. Bldg.(Retail)	11.00 Lacs
USA Pharma	3.75 Lacs	Floor Plate	20.00 Lacs

Rajeev Saluja | 99100-72803
98104-92803

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIDHI Anand W/o Sh. Sachin Dua, R/o H.No. 127 Kalyan Vihar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name from Nidhi Anand to Nidhi Dua for all future purposes.

I, NEEL Ganagan Khandelwal S/o Shri Kailash Khandelwal R/o H.No.A2/501, Mahinder Chodories, Sector-19, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name from Gagan Saraf to Neel Ganagan Khandelwal all purposes.

I, SMT Savita Pratap Kalyagol W/o No.16116733A SFR Suneel Pratap Kalyagol, R/o-VII-Post, Shindri Kurbet, Teh-Gokak, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka-591310 have changed my name from Smt Savita Pratap Kalyagol to Savita Suneel Kalyagol, vide affidavit dated 29/02/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, PRIYANKA Ahuja W/o Sh. Gagan Dua, R/o H.No. 127 Kalyan Vihar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name from Priyanka Ahuja to Priyanka Dua for all future purposes.

I, PASSANG S/O Thinlay Woser born on 12/03/1996 residing at B-237 Vasant Kunj enclave-110076 have changed my name to Passang Dolma.

I, PREETI and Preeti Gupta have change my name to Preeti Singhal w/o Navat Kishor R/o 9820 Ahata Thakur Dass New Rohtak Road Sarai Rohilla Karol Bagh New Delhi. Affidavit no - IN-DL4857676409483W

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PURI THE ARAVALLIS
Sector-61

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RENTED FOR SALE

GURGAON

TENANT	MONTHLY INCOME
DOMINOS	5,90,000
HDFC BANK	5,16,000
KOTAK BANK	4,50,000
BANDHAN BANK	2,76,000
ATTHAH	1,71,000

Urban Leasings
9810247999, 9810582916

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DHARAMVEER Malik S/o Late Sh. Munshi Ram, R/o A-72, Masoodpur, New Delhi-110070 declare that Dharanveer Malik and Dharanvir Malik both are one and same person and I shall be known as Dharanveer Malik in future.

I, KANTA Patel D/o Sh. Chhagan Patel R/o WP-8, Third Floor, Wazirpur Village, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 have changed my religion from Hindu to Muslim and also my name to Mahira for all purposes since 28.02.2024.

I, SUBHRANSU Mohapatra S/o Mr. Debabrata Mohapatra R/o E-206, 3rd Floor, Greater Kailash-2, New Delhi-110048, have changed my name from Subhransu Mohapatra for all future purposes.

I, MOHAN Singh Kataria, S/o Sita Ram Kataria, R/o C/72 FF2 Dilshad Ext, Gzb 201010 declare that M S Kataria and Mohan Singh Kataria are the names of same person

I, SARSWATI Devi Faryal W/o Badri Singh R/O D-301, Philips Apartments, Sec-23, Plot-3, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, declare that I have changed my name from Sarwati Devi Faryal to Sarswati Devi for all future purposes vide affidavit before public notary Delhi dt 27-02-2024.

I, GANGAJALI, Spouse of Ram Yajil Bharti resident of Flat No.67-D, Pocket J and K, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - 110095 have changed my name from Gangajali to Gangajal Bharti vide affidavit dated 30.01.2024 at Delhi.

I, JYOTI Narula D/O MR Arjun Narula have change my name after marriage from MS Jyoti Narula to MS Jyoti Gupta (W/O MR Raja Gupta) for all future purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS for general information that I Mohd Irfan S/o Mohd Sadiq Malik, R/O H.No-91, Nai Abadi, Dabri, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-203207 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Irfan Malik in my minor son namely Zaid Malik aged 16 years in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Mohd Irfan which may be amended accordingly.

LOST & FOUND

I, GAURAV Maheswari S/o Sushil Kumar Maheswari R/O 147 ground floor Kailash Hills Pin code 110065, lost original (1) Agreement to Sell dated 26/06/1998 and a General Power of Attorney in favour of Shri Rajiv Kumar Arora son of Shri Roshan Lal Arora, vide G.P.A. duly registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, New Delhi, as document SI, No.5987, in add. Book No.IV, Vol. No.199, on pages 74 to 77, on dated 26/06/1998. (2) Conveyance Deed in favor of rajiv kumar arora, dated 26/03/2015, duly registered as Document No.5242, in Additional Book No.1, Volume No.5491, on pages 70 to 72, on 26/03/2015, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, New Delhi. (3) Agreement to sell dated 13/12/1991 and a General Power of Attorney in favour of Shri T.R. Gupta son of Late Shri Pritham Das Aggarwal, vide G.P.A. duly registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, New Delhi, as document SI, No.3827 in Add. Book No.IV, dated 16/12/1991. Finder please call +91 98914 6252

LOST & FOUND

I, MEERA Devi W/o Ramvir Singh R/O Khasra No. 536/1, 60 square Gaz, Vill Ghauroi Khurd, Loni, Gaziabad (UP) -20102 have lost original property paper i.e. power of Attorney dated 13-03-1991, A/c no.4, gid no. 2633, page no. 90-93, no. 1495, sub registrar date 13-03-1991, date of registry is 11-10-1991 of house mentioned above. Finder contact 922666710

I, SURESHTA Bakshi D/o Lt. Son Prakash Dutt R/O B D Pkt-2 DDA Flats Sec-6 Dwarka New Delhi-110075. I have lost my DDA Possession Letter file no.F.LO 23136)86/MV/NP date. 14.11.1986 on the name of Kaushalya Devi Flat no.748 Ground floor PK-5 Mayapuri Phase-1 Delhi-110091. Finder Call:9868162863.

I, HAVE lost my Original Property documents including Lease Deed, Mutation Letter, Dem and Letter, Position Letter, Position Slip etc. of my Plot No. 271, Pocket-B1, Sec. 36, Rohini, Delhi. If anyone found, registered contact: Seema Mehta W/O Rajender Mehta. M: 9354733345

I, MOHAMMED Huzafa, S/o. Ahmed Ashraf, R/o. 395-A/3, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my school record as Mohd Huzafa instead of Mohammed Huzafa, and also my date of birth in school record as mentioned 28.03.1995 but my correct date of birth is 29.03.1995

I, POONAM W/o. No.13630264N Nk Bhawani Singh Nirwan, R/o- Dhani-Duchali, Post-Paprapura, Teh-Khetri, Distt-Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan -335003, have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Babi, vide affidavit dated 29/02/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, SHREYA (Old Name) Female, D/o Shyam Prakash, R/o Dwarakadhish Apartment Dwarka Sector 12 Flat No 327 Pocket 2 Dwarka Dwarka South West Nct of Delhi - 110075 Have Changed My Name to Shreya Sharma for All Future Purposes.

IT IS for general information that I Mohd Irfan S/o Mohd Sadiq Malik, R/O 91, Nai Abadi, Dabri, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-203207 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as MHD Irfan and MHD Sadiq Malik in my all educational documents. The actual name of mine and my father are Mohd Irfan and Mohd Sadiq Malik respectively which may be amended accordingly.

I, HITHERTO known as Mayank Son of Sh. Purnendu Singh Bhagat Employed as Rider in the Blinkit Residing at H.No.780,1st Floor, Gram Sabha Colony, Pooth Kalan, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mayank Singht.

I, DEVENDER Singh Bhatt S/o Swaroop Singh R/O Flat No. CL3/1, Ground Floor, BPTP Park-81 Sec-81 Faridabad have changed my name to Devender Singh for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
"Be it known to all that MRS. REKHA GUPTA W/o Shri Vinod Gupta R/O K-4/19, Model Town, Delhi, (say Owner), representing herself to be the sole, absolute and exclusive owner of Entire Third Floor with terrace, 22.5% Share of the Entire Stilt Area and open area on ground level, alongwith 22.5% undivided, indivisible and impartible ownership rights in the plot of land measuring 400 Sq. Yds. bearing No. A-7/2, situated at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057, had agreed to sell and transfer the same to my client, free from all sorts of encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages etc. etc., vide written Agreement. Advance money under the said agreement has already been paid. The said agreement is valid, binding and subsisting. Further any other person(s)/ institution/ government authorities, having any sort of right, claim, title or interest of any kind whatsoever in the said portion under and by virtue of any deed/document or under inheritance, succession or otherwise is required to put forth his/her/its claim with the undersigned, within 14 days of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that the said portion is free from all sorts of encumbrances, charges, lien etc and my client shall proceed to complete the transaction, as bonafide purchaser, free from all encumbrances whatsoever, in terms of the already agreed arrangement/ agreement and no claim of whatsoever nature shall be entertained thereafter.
NARESH GUPTA (Advocate)
C-75, GK Part-1, New Delhi-48, Tel: 29235175, 40568077

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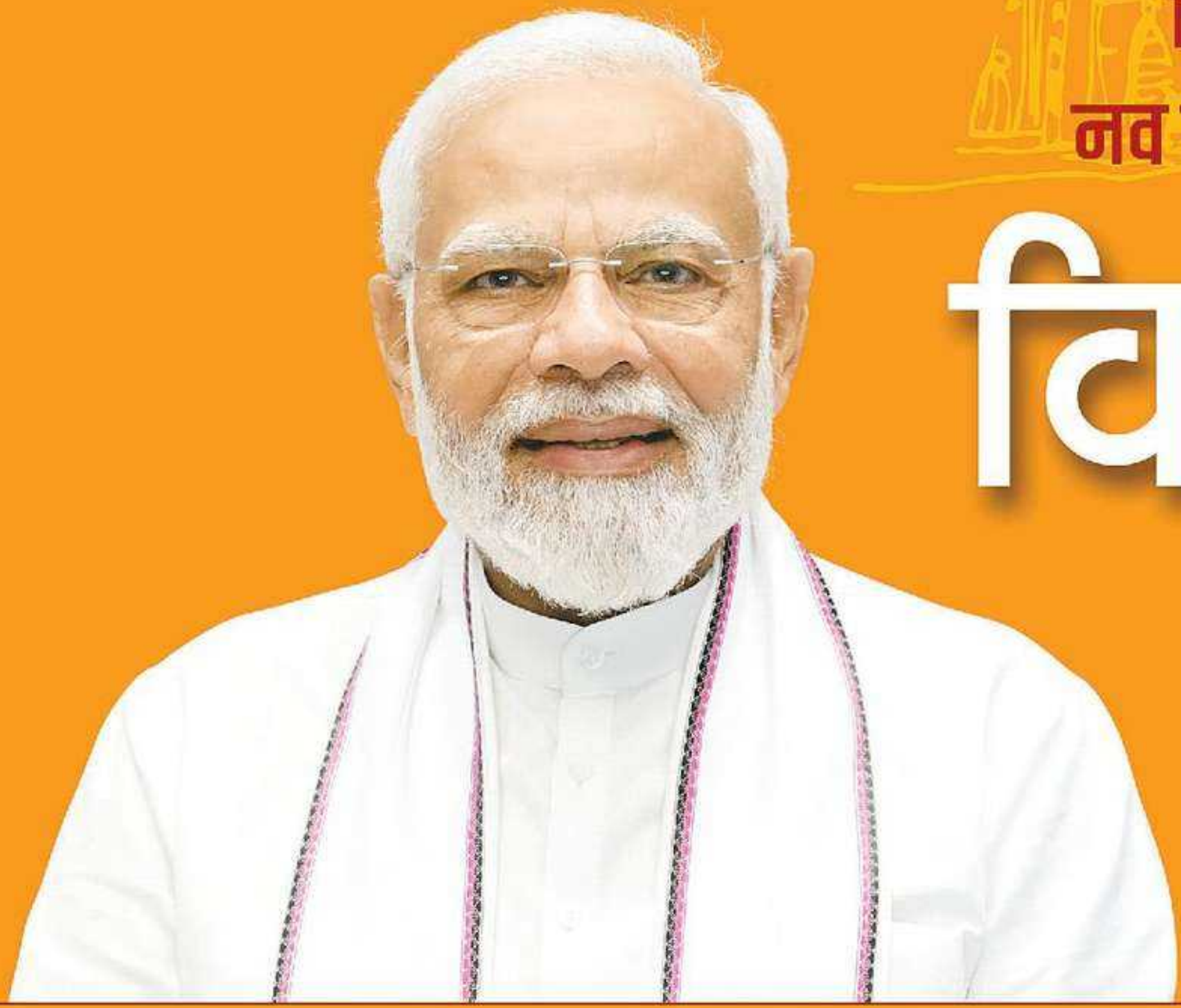
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नव जागरण और भारत विद्या पर एकाग्र



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डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

विक्रमोत्सव 2024 का शुभारंभ

मुख्यमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव

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एवं

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- ₹8000 करोड़ से अधिक के विकास कार्यों का लोकार्पण एवं शिलान्यास
- 169 उद्योगपतियों को ₹6774 करोड़ की भूमि का आवंटन



उज्जयिनी विक्रम व्यापार मेला

- वाहनों के आरटीओ पंजीयन पर 50% की छूट
- हथकरघा एवं हस्तशिल्प की दुकानों आकर्षण का केन्द्र

विक्रम सांस्कृतिक पर्व

- 1 मार्च से 9 अप्रैल तक विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन
- भारत के कालजयी महानायकों की तेजस्विता के संग्रहालय 'वीर भारत न्यास' का शिलान्यास
- उज्जैन के रामघाट पर 25 लाख दीपों का प्रज्वलन एवं उज्जयिनी गौरव दिवस का आयोजन

का उद्घाटन

तथा

1.29 करोड़ लाड़ली बहनों को ₹1576 करोड़ का अंतरण

अब तक दी गई कुल ₹13,082 करोड़ की सहायता

1 मार्च, 2024 - प्रातः 10:30 बजे - कालिदास अकादमी, बहिरंग, उज्जैन

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OPINION

The
Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

Cooperation, not coercion

Funds for public schooling should not be hostage to frayed federal relations

The Centre is considering halting further release of Samagra Shiksha funds to six non-NDA states and Union Territories for not toeing its line on the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme. If the flagship scheme to improve public schooling in the country ends up a hostage of the Centre's insistence on a scheme to create a clutch of "exemplar schools", it would be no small irony. For perspective, the 14,500 schools targeted under PM SHRI, which will showcase success with implementing components of the National Education Policy 2020 for others to emulate, account for just ~1.4% of the government schools in India.

Attempts to strong-arm the states that have either not signed an MoU with the Centre to implement the scheme or have stopped implementing it will test already stressed federal relations. Education is on the concurrent list, though the operational responsibility lies largely with the states. The push to turn Samagra Shiksha allotment into some sort of grant from the Centre is avoidable, given how it indicates further centralisation, eroding states' fiscal autonomy. No state government will want to let the Centre walk away with all the credit for developmental work, especially when it is the states that ensure last-mile implementation. It will be unfortunate if central funds for education are held up over what seems like a bout for perception gains. It is taxpayers' money, to begin with. And, it is government school students — typically, from economically vulnerable grounds — who stand to suffer the most if the disbursements are suspended.

Centre-state relations are already frayed, with Opposition governments accusing the Centre of squeezing them on the transfer of funds at the risk of upsetting the federal balance. One state government (Kerala) has sought judicial recourse to regain fiscal autonomy, having approached the Supreme Court against the Centre capping net borrowing, effectively ending any room for the cash-strapped state to borrow from even the open market. Any step by the Centre that could further crimp fund transfers to the states will make a mockery of the ideal of cooperative federalism. Opposition-ruled states have already alleged central interference through the Governor's office and targeting by enforcement authorities. The Centre must not let the perception gain ground that development funds are being used as leverage against the Opposition.

Yes Milord, process is often punishment

The two-judge bench SC order clearing a person charged with abetting the suicide of his wife 30 years ago is noteworthy for two reasons. One, it has stressed an important principle that should guide law officers while invoking stringent provisions, in this specific case, Section 306 of the IPC (abetment to commit suicide). Two, the comment the Court made on the judicial process that "the criminal justice system of ours can itself be a punishment".

Section 306, IPC, introduced in the 19th century to combat *Sati*, has helped to ensure punishment in dowry harassment cases. However, as with many progressive legal interventions, it is often invoked without proper application of mind and wielded as a blunt instrument, often to calm lynch mobs. Suicide is always tricky to adjudicate as the action is influenced by complex social and psychological factors. Laying out the procedural safeguards to be followed, the SC called for "cogent and convincing proof" if abetment charges are made. "The court must remain very careful and vigilant in applying the correct principles of law governing the subject of abetment of suicide while appreciating the evidence on record," judges said. Police and judicial officers should heed the SC. Equally important is the SC's remarks about the process becoming the punishment. Procedural delays are a troublesome feature of the Indian justice system. Many political cases are framed under the draconian UAPA and the accused end up in jails for extended periods. In the 2018 Elgar Parishad case, for instance, it took months for the chargesheet to be filed: Stan Swami, a Jesuit priest afflicted by Parkinson's disease, died in 2021 after spending three years in prison as an undertrial. This breeds mistrust in the justice system.

The Court's self-reflective concern is appreciated. The challenge is to resolve it.

Rise of the affluent is the real India growth story

The supply and demand game has to grow beyond this segment of the population so that the economy does not stagnate in the near future

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) now ranks fifth in the world. And it is expected to reach the third place by 2030. In the early 1990s, India ranked 17th in terms of GDP — there is no doubt that its relative position has improved significantly in this regard. However, on the basis of per capita income, India was ranked 161st in the early 1990s and is now 159th. That is, India's relative position in terms of per capita income has hardly changed during the period in which it rose from the 17th to the 5th place in terms of GDP. Why?

One might think that this is due to population growth, which would mechanically push up GDP without increasing per capita income. But it is not. In fact, India's relative position in terms of population remained the second largest (after China) in the world throughout this period. Not only that, India did not significantly differ from the world average in terms of population growth rate during the period under discussion. Moreover, over time, its population growth rate has decreased.

A part of the answer lies in the fact that, between 1991 and 2021, per capita GDP increased more than seven

times. If we exclude the effect of inflation, it can be seen that real GDP per capita has increased almost four times. Yet, why has the GDP ranking improved so much while the per capita GDP has stagnated? The other part of the answer lies in India's population size.

Let me give an example. Suppose the per capita GDP of a country doubles in a decade. There may not be much difference in its relative position compared to other countries if those countries already have a much higher average per capita GDP, or if they are also growing at reasonably high rates. But, the larger the population of that country, the higher the total GDP value will be proportionally. For example, if its population were to double, the total GDP would increase four times. We can call this the population multiplier effect. It is likely that the relative position of the country with a large population will increase in terms of GDP compared to other countries. It is because of this large population multiplier that India has been able to rise to the top of the GDP rankings from the early 1990s to the present. But the average growth rate would have to be even higher to pull up India's per capita GDP ranking.

The combination of a large population and a high rate of growth of per capita GDP consistently over several decades is behind India's improvement in the GDP ranking. Let us compare it with China. Between 1991 and 2021, China's rank rose from 11th to 2nd in GDP, and its position in aver-

age per capita income rose from 158 to 75. Its GDP per capita grew 38 times during this period, while India's GDP per capita grew only seven times. Because China has a larger population, the effect of the population multiplier is greater, but they have been able to increase average per capita income many times more, so their relative position in both total income and per capita income has improved much more.

Now, it is well known that in the presence of inequality, GDP or national income is not a reliable measure of the quality of life of the average person. If the income of the richest 10% increases by 10% and the income of the rest remains the same, national income would register a growth of 10%. Per capita GDP is a slightly more reliable indicator of the standard of living of ordinary people in this respect. In this example, per capita income will only increase by 1%.

The real question in terms of development is to what extent the total or average national growth rate reflects the increase in the standard of living of the general population. Now, if a populous country can raise its per capita income over a long period, it deserves some credit since the presence of the poor always drags down the average. The reason why the world is paying attention to India as a rising economic power, despite its per capita income being low, is something else that these statistics indicate but do not fully capture — market size and the rising prosperity of a small fraction of the



India's Gross Domestic Product now ranks fifth in the world. And it is expected to reach the third place by 2030

SHUTTERSTOCK

population who have cornered the lion's share of gains in growth of GDP. Multinational corporations with a keen eye on markets or footloose global capital seeking the highest rate of return do not care about either aggregate or per capita GDP: They care about a small segment of the economy that has prospered over the last three decades.

The bulk of the growth gains of the past three decades have been concentrated among a small segment of the population. Even though small with respect to India's population, the size of that group as a market is not insignificant — the entire population of Britain or France is close to 4-5% of India's total population. Smaller countries may have higher per capita incomes or may grow at a faster rate, but India is important simply because of the size of the market. So even if the value of total GDP or its growth rate is weak as a measure of development or a large part of the population is poor, it is an indicator of the purchasing power of a well-to-do and affluent group. This segment of the economy can rival many rich countries in terms of volume as the market for luxury cars or fancy smartphones. The affluence and demand patterns of this class is symbolised by the glittering shopping malls and the rise in the consumption of luxury goods and ser-

vices which might create the illusion of India shining.

Why does market size matter? First, large-scale manufacturing industries require a certain size market in terms of potential buyers. Otherwise, investing is not profitable. Second, regardless of what happens to per capita income, if a large country has even a small portion of its population whose income exceeds a certain threshold, its demands shift from necessities to luxuries.

So, if one thinks that India's rise in terms of GDP is purely a statistical construct, which does not reflect the standard of living of the common man, or that the average per capita income has not increased, he or she is missing the real story. That is, the increasing affluence of a certain segment of the population whose purchasing power has exceeded a threshold. The problem is that if the supply and demand game is confined to a small segment of the population, growth is bound to stagnate unless it spreads and brings a larger fraction of the population into its orbit. The signs of deceleration in growth that became visible before the pandemic could well be a reflection of that.

Maitreesh Ghatak is professor of economics, London School of Economics (LSE). The views expressed are personal



Maitreesh Ghatak

Navalny's death, a crisis moment for democracy

The death of Russia's leading opposition activist Alexei Navalny, 47, in an Arctic penal colony brought to a tragic close an idealistic life of non-violent struggle against an entrenched tradition of authoritarianism going back centuries. It was not a coincidence that the harsh Siberian prison where Navalny perished while serving a thirty-and-half-year-long sentence had been constructed on the site of Gulag number 501, the notorious labour camp that housed political prisoners during the Communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin. To rewind further back in time, Navalny met the same fate as thousands of dissidents and rebels who had staged uprisings against the Czarist empire and were subjected to the Katanga punishment system in Siberia since the 17th century.

Russia's political culture of an absolutist State, which brooks little dissent and where rule by law overrides the rule of law, has devoured millions of victims over the ages. President Vladimir Putin, now in his 25th year in power, is only the latest exponent of a model of a strong police State that has forever been associated with Russia. It is this accumulated legacy which ultimately devoured Navalny and put to rest a restless crusader who dared to imagine and mobilise people for a break from the past.

Navalny's eerie self-confidence and daredevilry to sacrifice life and liberty for the sake of a freer Russia will be memorialised by his sympathisers as heroic and exemplary. But seen in light of Russia's DNA of resilient authoritarianism and invincible strongmen, he was a dreamer who could be accused of naivete for confronting a system that rarely relents and mostly crushes resistance with an iron fist.

As Navalny's untimely demise shook the world's conscience, the pivotal question that haunted observers was: Why did he choose to return from Germany to Russia in 2021 after surviving a debilitating Novichok nerve agent poisoning when he knew it would mean arrest, ill-treatment and certain death? How could an innovative and crafty politician who introduced ideas like strategic voting, unified opposition candidates and catchy online audiovisual messaging to challenge Putin just walk into the jaws of an unforgiving State system? Why not remain abroad and campaign from the safety of Europe to gradually weaken Putin's vice-like grip? Navalny's own explanation for his bold return to Russia despite heavy risks was that "I don't want to give up either my country or my beliefs", and "If your beliefs are worth something, you must be willing to stand up for them and make some sacrifices". In his calculus, fear of being reduced to irrelevance in exile overrode fear of being killed.

WHY DID NAVALNY CHOOSE TO RETURN TO RUSSIA IN 2021 AFTER SURVIVING A DEBILITATING NOVICHOK NERVE AGENT POISONING WHEN HE KNEW IT WOULD MEAN CERTAIN DEATH?

This kind of agonising choice was not uniquely Navalny's. It has been a standard feature of the contest between democracies and dictatorships worldwide. The Nobel Prize-winning Chinese human rights activist and political reformer Liu Xiaobo, who died in State custody at the age of 61 in 2017, had been offered a Faustian bargain by the ruling Communist regime to sign a confession of guilt in 2010 while serving an 11-year sentence for subversion of state power, and in return offered freedom to permanently leave the country. As with Navalny, Liu insisted on an unconditional release and decided he would not abandon the country and the cause, come what may. He too paid the price for this bravery or bravado with his life.

Another famous political prisoner of our times, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, spurned similar deals from the military junta while under detention. Like every classic authoritarian ruling clique, the Myanmar junta considered her too dangerous as long as she remained in the country, even under house arrest, and sought to expel her in exchange for freedom. She refused and demanded all political prisoners be released. Later in life, she did contemplate with the junta, but it was too good to last. As of today, she has served a cumulative 18 years in detention and is starting at being locked up for a further 27 years over charges of sedition, corruption and election fraud. Now aged 78, with few signs of Myanmar returning to the path of democratic transition, Suu Kyi faces the depressing reality of never realising her dream of a democratic Myanmar during her lifetime.

A rare instance of a triumphant democrat who did not end up getting martyred was Nelson Mandela of South Africa. In 1985, after completing 21 years in prison, he was offered by the apartheid State to be freed if he undertook to obey the racist regime's laws and renounce violence. Mandela rebuffed the offer and famously declared to his people, "I cherish my own freedom dearly, but I care even more for your freedom." Fortunately for him and South Africa, destiny saw to it that he would eventually be released in 1990 and become the country's first democratically elected president. The end of the Cold War, the sustained international sanctions campaign against apartheid, and intensified revolutionary mass movements by ordinary South Africans, worked in his favour.

Today, democracy as a norm and idea is in decline worldwide. The tragedy of Navalny can be interpreted as a manifestation of this new normal. Should democrats who are struggling under the yoke of oppressive regimes realise this *fait accompli*, temper their eternal idealism and strike bargains with their tormentors so that they at least live to fight another day?

History reveals that democratisation mostly happens through stop-go negotiated settlements between regimes and opposition groups at opportune moments rather than by sudden revolutionary overthrows. For democracy to return, the prerequisite is the democrats must stay alive.

Sreeram Chaulia is dean, Jindal School of International Affairs. The views expressed are personal



Sreeram Chaulia

{ PIYUSH GOYAL } UNION MINISTER

The world needs to see why WTO work is not going smoothly. India is a consensus builder... but certain countries are breaking this consensus

Amid allegations by certain developed nations that India is blocking deals at the WTO

Lighter EVs will drive the future of mobility

Green transition is truly upon us. The transportation sector is responsible for roughly 25% of the 45 gigatonnes of CO2 emissions globally. Of this, commercial land mobility accounts for about 75%. Today, we agree upon two methods of greening the trucking fleets — using electricity or sustainably-produced hydrogen, with roughly 80% of the grid running on solar, wind and nuclear. Green hydrogen remains too costly to produce (currently ~\$5/kg with the target at ~\$2/kg), and engines that can run on 3x denser ammonia need to be proven at scale.

Strides made in electric-vehicle (EV) technology have proven successful within passenger segments (cars, buses and motor scooters), with a continuously declining battery pack cost (less than \$100/kWh pack in China, 2024), ~94% motor efficiency, intelligent software and machine learning (ML) led optimisation. Within the semi-regulated automotive sector in India, two-wheelers and three-wheelers have shown good potential. But four-wheeler last/middle mile and heavy haul platforms still lag in adoption, primarily due to the high upfront cost. This is a segment where freight rates and delivery timings are under constant squeeze and even the most forward-looking boards haven't been able to justify such high upfront expense that would typically take years for payback.

So, what's the solution? Rather, what is lacking? As battery densities increase and motor/transmission efficiencies peak, as an industry, we must look towards the third very important factor — vehicle structure efficiency. When diesel gave a calorific value of ~45 Megajoules/kg, cost \$1/litre and reported ~25% combustion efficiency, the auto industry didn't have to worry about the vehicle structure. That the average container truck emitted ~225 tonnes of CO2 per year could be merrily ignored, but now with tightened climate scrutiny, the permissible limit is 10x lower, at ~20 tons of CO2 per year, given there are batteries that only give a calorific value of 0.5 Megajoules/kg. And, within the ambit of this calculation, payload and performance must not be impacted otherwise delivery companies lose business.

This seems like an impossible task. But there are parallels with how other industries solved similar conundrums. Take the case of the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787 international jetliners. For decades, the engine industry (GE, Rolls Royce, P&W) funded expensive R&D to

decrease the fuel burn by 2-3% on every iteration every five years. All of that wasn't enough to build an economical long-range aircraft until the fundamental fuselage structure got replaced by high-strength composites, leading to a 25% fuel efficiency increase — a massive leap.

Take the case of wind power generation. The 125-metre-long blades built with lightweight composites today create 15 MW power in a single turbine today while surviving hurricane-level wind speeds with warranties that run into decades. This ultimately results in higher power generation efficiency, thus lowering the cost of energy to competitively bid for power purchase agreements with a mere 5-10% profit after tax (PAT). In the near future, anything that moves will need to be lightweight to consume 25-50% less energy, especially when fuels like diesel must be phased out. Within electric trucking, using lightweight structures to reduce battery consumption by 25-50% is the clearest and fastest way to reduce the high upfront costs. That inherently also implies that one must reduce the dead weight from the vehicle without incurring additional costs on materials or capex towards lightweighting.

The last part is not so easy. In automobiles, the industry has lightweighted for high speeds in Formula 1 or high-end sports cars with carbon fibre, but that comes at a high cost of material as well as production (with very few parts produced). The challenge facing the industry is to find cheap enough and recyclable materials (~\$3-4/kg), stable prepreps at room temperature, scalable manufacturing techniques like metal die casting or stamping, design-for-repair, design-for-durability and build a new class of platforms for last mile container trucks.

The good news is the engineering community has overcome many of these challenges, building large rockets and aircraft, where the factor of safety is a mere 1.25 or 25% of the peak structural load. Land mobility designs incorporate much higher factors of safety at 4 or 300%, making it easier to build these vehicles for long-term durability and crashworthiness.

It's high time we focused on system efficiency itself to reduce energy consumption. Otherwise, the logistics/delivery economics will never work out, no matter how cheap lithium becomes in the future. Let's innovate and invest before it's too late.

Gagan Agrawal is co-founder, Planet Electric. The views expressed are personal



Gagan Agrawal

112 killed as Israeli troops fire at crowd waiting for aid

Palestinian health officials said that the death toll in nearly five months of war has crossed 30,000

Agencies
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GAZA STRIP: Gaza health authorities said more than 100 Palestinians had been shot dead by Israeli forces as they waited for an aid delivery on Thursday, but Israel challenged the death toll and said many of the victims had been run over by aid trucks.

At least 112 people were killed and more than 280 wounded in the incident near Gaza City, Reuters reported quoting Palestinian health officials, as the death toll in nearly five months of war passed 30,000.

Medics said they could not cope with the volume and severity of the injuries. Dozens were taken to Al-Shifa hospital, which is only partially operational after Israeli raids. The loss of civilian lives was the biggest in weeks.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said it was an "ugly massacre conducted by the Israeli occupation army on people who waited for aid trucks at the Nabulsi roundabout".

Israel disputed the account provided by health officials in Hamas-run Gaza, which has been bombed by Israeli forces for months in a war that began after the Palestinian militant group's deadly rampage in southern Israel on October 7.

An Israeli military official said two separate incidents had occurred as the convoy of trucks passed into northern Gaza from the south along the main coastal road.

In the first, he said aid trucks



Palestinians burn tyres in protest against the rising prices of food and supplies due to shortages, on Wednesday, in the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip, as battles between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas continue.

were surrounded by hundreds of people and, in the confusion, dozens were injured or killed, by being trampled or run over.

As the trucks left, he said, some of those who had rushed the convoy approached Israeli forces including a tank, which then opened fire.

"The soldiers fired warning shots in the air and then fired towards those who posed a threat and did not move away," he told journalists. "This is what we understand. We're continuing to review the circumstances."

He said he did not believe the death toll provided by the Palestinian authorities but provided no Israeli estimate, saying: "It was a limited response."

Ashraf Al-Qidra, spokesperson for the Gaza health ministry, said the comments showed Israel "had pre-plotted intentions to carry out the new crime and massacre", and that the death toll could rise.

In a post on X, UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said he was "appalled", adding: "Even after close to five months of brutal

hostilities, Gaza still has the ability to shock us".

Israel killed 25,000 women, children: US def secretary
Israel has killed more than 25,000 Palestinian women and children since the October 7 attack by militant group Hamas, US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday.

"It's over 25,000," Austin told lawmakers when asked during a House Armed Services Committee hearing for the figure on women and children killed.

Gaza ceasefire unlikely to begin by Monday: Biden

President Joe Biden said he remains hopeful about the prospects for a temporary pause in fighting between Israel and Hamas, but that it's unlikely to begin by Monday as he originally sought. "Hope springs eternal. I was on the telephone with the people in the region. I'm still working on it. Probably not by Monday but I'm hopeful," Biden told reporters on Thursday at the White House before departing for Texas.

U.S. SENATE: MITCH MCCONNELL TO STEP DOWN AS GOP LEADER

WASHINGTON: Mitch McConnell, the powerful US political tactician who has advanced conservative causes for years and been a strong defender of aid to Ukraine, announced on Wednesday that he would leave his post as leader of the Republicans in the Senate later this year.

His speech to the chamber came as a surprise and prompted lawmakers from both parties to give him a standing ovation, though he did not say if he was giving up his seat from the state of Kentucky, which he has held since 1985.

"I stand before you today, Mr. President and my colleagues to say this will be my last term as Republican leader," McConnell, 82, said.

Putin warns West of nuclear war risk

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin warned on Thursday of a "real" risk of nuclear war if the West escalates the conflict in Ukraine, offering a defiant and emboldened stance in his annual speech to Russians.

Speaking in Moscow, Putin said his soldiers were advancing in Ukraine and warned the West of "tragic consequences" for any country that dared to send troops to Kyiv.

"They have announced the possibility of sending Western military contingents to Ukraine... The consequences for possible interventionists will be much more tragic," he said in his address to the nation.

"They should eventually realise that we also have weapons



People walk past an electronic billboard on a building showing Vladimir Putin's state-of-the-nation address in Moscow.

that can hit targets on their territory. Everything that the West comes up with creates the real threat of a conflict with the use of nuclear weapons, and thus the destruction of civilisation."

His comments appeared to be a response to French President Emmanuel Macron's refusal earlier this week to rule out sending troops to Ukraine — a stance that drew swift rejection from other leaders in Europe. Nevertheless, the debate has

struck a nerve in Moscow, which has long seen its conflict with Ukraine as part of a wider "hybrid war" being waged against it by Nato.

Western leaders have repeatedly criticised Putin for what they see as his reckless use of nuclear rhetoric.

After pulling Russia out of arms control treaties with the United States and previously warning he was "not bluffing" when he said he was ready to use nuclear weapons, Putin had appeared in recent months to dial down his nuclear threats.

But the fresh warning comes with the Kremlin buoyed by recent gains on the battlefield in Ukraine, but also an economy that has largely defied sanctions and ahead of an election certain to extend Putin's term in the Kremlin until 2030.

Residency applications by Indians to Canada plummet as ties sour

Anirudh Bhattacharyya
letters@hindustantimes.com

TORONTO: The impact of bilateral tensions between New Delhi and Ottawa is being felt in immigration patterns as the number of applications from Indians for permanent residency (PR) in Canada decreased by over 62% in December 2023.

According to data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the number of applications for December fell from 16,796 in 2022 to 6,329 in 2023. That trend was evident through the last quarter of 2023, as applications from Indians fell from 35,735 to 19,579 for that period.

Several factors may have contributed to that decline, including the state of bilateral ties after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated in the House of Commons on September 18 last year that there were "credible allegations" of a potential link between Indian agents and the killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18 last year.

The drop in the October-December quarter is contrary to the consistent increase recorded in the first nine months of 2023, when com-

pared to 2022. In 2022, the cumulative number of PR applications stood at 90,215 out of a total of 386,577 from all countries. In 2023, this number for Indian applicants rose to 112,107 out of 426,730.

Another factor contributing to the reduction in numbers is the smaller diplomatic presence of Canada in India after 41 of its diplomats were asked to leave in October as New Delhi sought "parity" in presence, though that move was described as "mass expulsion" by Ottawa. This included fewer IRCC staff in the country. The trend of decreasing numbers was first reported by the outlet Better Dwelling, which noted, "Canada's eroding relationships with key sources of immigrants is certainly contributing to the issue."

Canada has announced it is not increasing PR levels in the immediate future. In December, Ottawa stated it will maintain its targets of 485,000 permanent residents for 2024 and 500,000 in 2025. However, a statement from IRCC at the time added, "Starting in 2026, the government will stabilise permanent resident levels at 500,000, allowing time for successful integration, while continuing to augment Canada's labour market."

France all set to make abortion constitutional right

PARIS: France is set to enshrine the right to abortion in its constitution on Monday at a rare parliamentary congress at the Palace of Versailles after the bill overcame its biggest legislative hurdle in the upper house Senate on Wednesday night.

Thailand to ban recreational cannabis use by year-end

BANGKOK: Thailand will ban the recreational use of marijuana by the end of this year, but continue allowing its use for medical purposes, the health minister told. "Without the law to regulate cannabis it will be misused," health minister Cholnan Srikaew said.

At least 24 dead in migrant shipwreck off northern Senegal

SAINT-LOUIS, SENEGAL: At least 24 people seeking to reach Europe drowned off northern Senegal when their loaded vessel sank, the governor of the Saint Louis region said on Thursday. Governor Alioune Badara Samb said 21 people had been rescued.

{ 'THE PRINCE OF PAIN' }

Acclaimed comedian Richard Lewis dies at 76

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW YORK: Richard Lewis, an acclaimed comedian known for exploring his neuroses in frantic, stream-of-consciousness diatribes while dressed in all-black, leading to his nickname "The Prince of Pain", has died. He was 76.

Lewis, who revealed he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2023, died at his home in Los Angeles on Tuesday night after suffering a heart attack, according to his publicist Jeff Abraham.

A regular performer in clubs and on late-night TV for decades, Lewis also played Marty Goddard, the romantic co-lead opposite Jamie Lee Curtis, in the ABC series *Anything But Love* and the reliably neurotic Prince John in

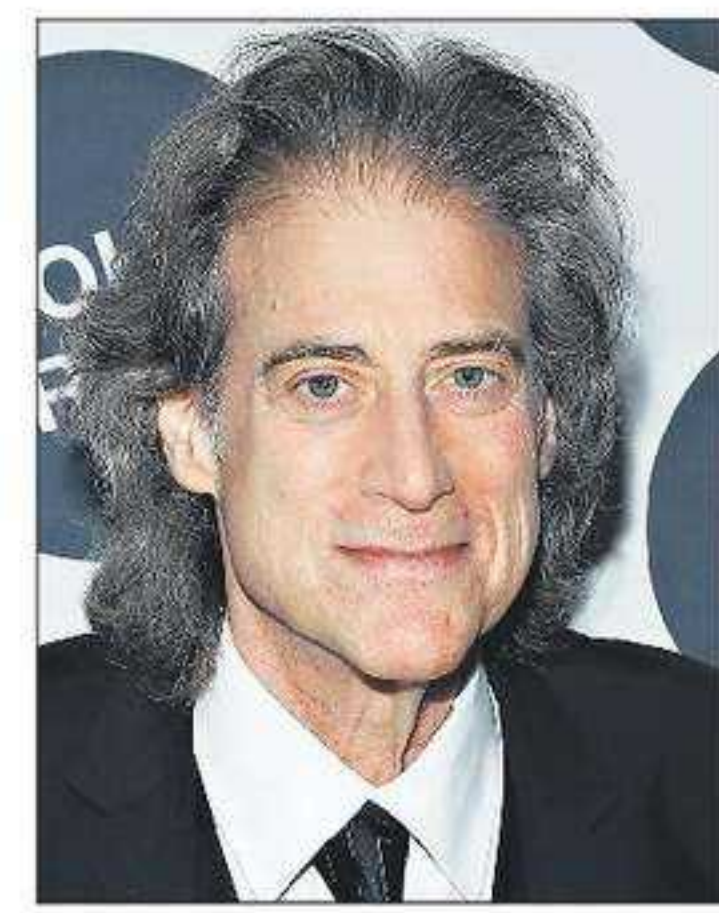
Mel Brooks' *Robin Hood: Men In Tights*. He re-introduced himself to a new generation opposite Larry David in HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, kvetching regularly.

"Richard and I were born three days apart in the same hospital and for most of my life he's been like a brother to me," David said in a statement.

"He had that rare combination of being the funniest person and also the sweetest. But today he made me sob and for that I'll never forgive him."

Comedy Central named Lewis one of the top 50 stand-up comedians of all time and he earned a berth in *GQ* magazine's list of the "20th Century's Most Influential Humorists".

Comedians took to social media on Wednesday to share their thoughts, including Albert



Richard Lewis

Books who called Lewis "a brilliantly funny man who will be missed by all. The world needed him now more than ever" on X, formerly Twitter. Other tributes came from Bette Midler, Michael

{ FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT } 2020 ELECTION CASE

US Supreme Court to hear Trump's immunity claim

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court agreed on Wednesday to hear Donald Trump's claim that as a former president he is immune from prosecution, further delaying his trial on charges of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election.

The nation's highest court scheduled arguments in the high-stakes case for the week of April 22 and said Trump's federal election interference trial would remain on hold for now.

Trump had been scheduled to go on trial in Washington on March 4 for conspiring to subvert the results of the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden but the proceedings have been frozen as his presidential immunity claim wound its way through the courts.

The 77-year-old Trump, the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, welcomed the Supreme Court decision to hear the case.

"Without Presidential Immunity, a President will not be able to properly function, or make decisions, in the best interest of the United States of America," he said in a post on his Truth Social platform. "He must not be guided by the fear of retribution!"

In agreeing to hear the case, the conservative-dominated Supreme Court, which includes three justices nominated by the former Republican president, said it was not "expressing a view on the merits" of a lower court's ruling that rejected



Donald Trump

Trump's immunity claim.

It said it would address the question of whether a former president has "immunity from criminal prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office". A ruling is expected by the end of the court's current term in June.

The question of whether a former US president is immune from prosecution is an untested one in American jurisprudence because until Trump, an ex-president had never been charged with a crime.

It will be among the most consequential election law cases to reach the Supreme Court since it halted the Florida vote recount in 2000 with Republican George W Bush narrowly leading Democrat Al Gore.

A three-judge appeals court panel ruled earlier this month that a former president has no immunity from prosecution for

Illinois judge kicks Donald Trump off primary ballot over Capitol riot

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: A judge in the US state of Illinois on Wednesday ordered former president Donald Trump stricken off the state's primary ballot over his role in the January 6 Capitol riot.

The decision by Cook County Circuit Judge Tracie Porter comes as similar anti-Trump ballot measures have cropped up in several states, including a Colorado ruling now before the US Supreme Court.

actions taken while in the White House.

Trump's claim to be immune from criminal liability is "unsupported by precedent, history or the text and structure of the Constitution", the judges said in a unanimous opinion.

"We cannot accept that the office of the Presidency places its former occupants above the law for all time thereafter," they said.

Special Counsel Jack Smith filed the election conspiracy case against Trump in August and had been pushing hard for the March start date for his trial.

{ CHINA-U.S. TIES } NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS

PAK LAWMAKERS SWORN IN AMID CHAOTIC SCENES AS IMRAN KHAN'S ALLIES PROTEST

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Assembly swore in newly elected members of parliament on Thursday in a chaotic scene as allies of imprisoned former prime minister Imran Khan shouted and protested what they claim was a rigged election.

Lawmakers from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party repeatedly chanted "Vote-thief!" as Shehbaz Sharif, who's expected to form the next government, entered the parliament with his brother Nawaz Sharif. Both men are former premiers.

Outgoing National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf administered the oath to incoming legislators at noon.

The parliament will elect a new PM on Sunday, with Shehbaz Sharif facing only one rival in the vote — senior leader Omar Ayub of Khan's PTI.

Ayub, like other lawmakers backed by Khan — who was barred from running in the February 8 election — joined the Sunni Ittehad Council to meet a legal requirement to sit in the legislature as PTI was barred from the ballot under its official name and its candidates had to contest the election as independents.

The house echoed with chants of "Long Live Sharif!" when the Sharif brothers signed the register after taking their oaths of office. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the young chairman of the Pakistan People's Party and a key Sharif ally, was met with similar chants.



Cars are seen before being loaded onto a ship for export at the port in Yantai, in China's eastern Shandong province.

Do Chinese-made 'smart cars' pose risks? US to probe

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Citing potential national security risks, the Biden administration says it will investigate Chinese-made "smart cars" that can gather sensitive information about Americans driving them.

The probe could lead to new regulations aimed at preventing China from using sophisticated technology in electric cars and other so-called connected vehicles to track drivers and their personal information. Officials are concerned that features such as driver assistance technology could be used to effectively spy on Americans.

While the action stops short of a ban on Chinese imports, President Joe Biden said he is taking unprecedented steps to safeguard Americans' data.

"China is determined to dominate the future of the auto market, including by using unfair practices," Biden said in a statement on Thursday.

Biden and other officials noted that China has imposed wide-ranging restrictions on American autos and other foreign vehicles.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said connected cars "are like smart phones on wheels" and pose a serious national security risk. "These vehicles are connected to the internet. They collect huge amounts of sensitive data on the drivers — personal information, biometric information, where the car goes," she told reporters late on Wednesday. "So it doesn't take a lot of imagination to figure out how a foreign adversary like China, with access to this sort of information at scale, could pose a serious risk to our national security and the privacy of US citizens."

China's policies could flood our market with its vehicles, posing risks to our national security. I'm not going to let that happen on my watch.

JOE BIDEN, US president

Data collection is not the only concern, she and other officials said. Connected vehicles could also be remotely enabled or manipulated by bad actors.

"Imagine if there were thousands or hundreds of thousands of Chinese-connected vehicles on American roads that could be immediately and simultaneously disabled by somebody in Beijing," Raimondo said. "So it's scary to contemplate the cyber risks, espionage risks that these pose."

Few Chinese cars are currently imported to the United States, in part because of steep tariffs the US imposes on vehicles imported from China. Still, officials are concerned tariffs are not sufficient to address the problem. Some Chinese companies seek to avoid US tariffs by setting up assembly plants in nearby countries such as Mexico.

Under a plan announced on Thursday, the commerce department is issuing an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking that will launch an investigation into national security risks posed by "connected vehicles" from China and other countries considered hostile to the United States.

Govt clears 3 new chip sector units

Of the three approved units, two will be set up by Tata Group and one by CG Power

Plants to fetch investment worth ₹1.26 lakh crore

Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) – India's first semiconductor fab unit
Partner: Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation, Taiwan
Location: Dholera, Gujarat
Investment: ₹91,000 cr (\$10.98 bn)
Capacity: 50,000 wafer starts per month
Will produce: High performance compute chips with 28 million technology

Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Private Limited (TSAT) – India's first ATMP unit with indigenous technology
Partner: 2 unnamed American conglomerates
Location: Morigaon, Assam; Investment: ₹27,000 cr (\$3.26 bn); Capacity: 48 million per day
CG Power – ATMP unit for specialised chips
Partner: Renesas Electronics Corporation, Japan, and Stars Microelectronics, Thailand
Location: Sanand, Gujarat
Investment: ₹7,600 crore (\$916.8 million)
Capacity: 15 million per day

Aditi Agrawal
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet approved three proposals to set up semiconductor units in India on Thursday, including two plants by the Tata Group in Gujarat and Assam, and one by the Murugappa Group-owned CG Power in Gujarat. All three units will begin construction within 100 days, IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

A total of ₹1.26,000 crore will be invested in these three units, bringing the total investment to ₹1.49,000 crore across four semiconductor units that are slated to come up in the country. "This [the three units] will lead to direct employment of 26,000 people and indirect employment of one lakh [100,000] people," Vaishnaw said.

In June, 2023, the government cleared a proposal by American company Micron to set up a plant in Gujarat.

The new plants include a Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) plant that will be set up in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC). It is the first semiconductor fab unit in

India and will be set up in Dholera, Gujarat.

"This is a decisive moment for the country and a big achievement on India's path to self-reliance," Vaishnaw said.

The unit will involve an investment of ₹91,000 crore and produce 50,000 wafers per month—a wafer is a silicon base on which microchips are designed. The output will create high performance compute chips to be used in electric vehicles, high power compute, telecom, defence, automobiles, consumer electronics, power electronics and display.

The other two plants — Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Private Limited (TSAT) in Morigaon (Assam) and CG Power's in Sanand, Gujarat — are ATMP (assembly, testing, marking, and packaging) ones.

"India has developed ATMP

technology indigenously for the first time [in the TSAT plant]," Vaishnaw said. It has been developed by TSAT and the intellectual property is also Tata's.

The minister said an estimated ₹59,000 crore will be spent by the government as fiscal support for all four plants — the three approved on Thursday and Micron's cleared last year.

The TSAT plant will be set up in Assam in partnership with "two large, reputed American conglomerates" which Vaishnaw refused to name citing a confidentiality request from these two companies. This unit will be set up with an investment of ₹27,000 crore, and will have an output of 48 million chips per day.

CG Power, in partnership with Japan's Renesas Electronics Corporation and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics, will set up an

ATMP unit for specialised chips in Sanand, Gujarat with an investment of ₹7,600 crore, and an output of 15 million chips per day. These specialised chips can be used for defence, "by DRDO", for space, etc., Vaishnaw said.

"Majority [of the wafers produced] will be for domestic market in the fab [TEPL in Gujarat] and significant part will be exported also. In the Assam plant [TSAT], majority will be exported a significant part will be consumed in India as well," Vaishnaw said. With this approval, three of the four semiconductor units in the country will be housed in Gujarat — Micron and CG Power's in Sanand, and TEPL's in Dholera.

"It is up to the manufacturer to decide which state they want to set up their plant in," Vaishnaw said. He said that eight

states had expressed an interest in setting up semiconductor manufacturing units but declined to name them.

India launched a PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme to catalyse a semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystems in December 2021. It was launched with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore under which the government will give fiscal support of up to 50% of the project cost for setting up semiconductor fab units, and fiscal support of 50% for ATMP units and others.

"The first chip from the Micron plant will be rolled out in December 2024," Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw said it usually takes semiconductor units four years to start rolling out products from the date of approval "but we will compress it significantly because the one year usually taken to get permits will be decreased to 100 days".

"As this fulfils another important step in the semiconductor ecosystem value chain, MediaTek is very excited to see this happen. In the future we could source the chips from within India as and when it aligns with our requirements," Anku Jain, managing director of MediaTek and a member of the executive council of India Electronics and Semiconductors Association (IESA), said. MediaTek is a Taiwanese company that designs semiconductor chips.

Cabinet approves ₹75,000 cr rooftop solar subsidies

Rituraj Baruah
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NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet has approved ₹75,021 crore towards subsidies for installing solar power equipment on the rooftops of 10 million homes, an ambitious scheme that could result in substantial household savings as well as reduce the strain on electricity grids.

Under this scheme, called the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the government will provide a financial assistance, or subsidy, of ₹30,000 for installing solar power equipment of 1 kilowatt (kW).

For 2 kW and 3 kW rooftop systems, the subsidies will be ₹60,000 and ₹78,000, respectively.

Households covered by the scheme will be provided free electricity of up to 300 units a month from the grid, as well as access to collateral-free, low-interest loans for installing solar power equipment.

Currently, solar power constitutes about 17% of that overall power capacity in the country. Solar power installations on 10 million households would result in an additional 30 GW of solar capacity across India, helping reduce emissions equivalent



These installations will result in an additional 30 GW of solar capacity.

to 720 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the 25-year lifetimes of these rooftop systems, according to the government.

The government will also develop a 'model solar village' in each district of the country to encourage adoption of rooftop solar power in rural areas, Union minister for information and broadcasting Anurag Thakur said after the cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Presenting the interim budget for FY25 on 1 February, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the 10 million beneficiaries of the new scheme would be able to save ₹15,000-18,000 per year on their electricity bills.

FISCAL DEFICIT AT ₹11.03 L CR FOR APR-JAN, 64% OF ANNUAL TARGET

Rhik Kundu
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NEW DELHI: India's fiscal deficit during the first ten months of FY24 stood at ₹11.03 lakh crore, or 63.6% of the revised annual estimate, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Thursday.

The fiscal deficit for the corresponding period of the previous year stood at ₹11.91 lakh crore, or 67.8% of the annual estimate of ₹17.55 lakh crore for FY24.

The budgeted annual estimates for fiscal deficit, which was revised in the vote on account budget on 1 February, was at ₹17.87 lakh crore for FY24.

The decline in the fiscal deficit, despite a jump in government spending to fuel economic growth, was due to higher tax receipts and an increase in non-tax revenue.

The Centre aims to reduce the fiscal deficit—the difference between the government's income and expenditure—to 5.8% of gross domestic product during FY24, from 6.4% in the previous fiscal year.

The fiscal deficit target was revised from 5.9% of gross domestic product during FY24 during the recently tabled vote on the account budget.

The government is committed to lowering the fiscal deficit to 5.1% of GDP by FY25. A higher fiscal deficit leads to a higher debt burden and more spending on debt servicing, which can be unhealthy for an economy and risks devaluing the currency and impacting private investments.

Capital expenditure rose to ₹7.21 lakh crore during April-January FY24, or 75.9% of the revised annual estimate, from ₹5.70 lakh crore in the same period in FY23.

Total receipts during the April-January FY24 period stood at ₹22.52 lakh crore, or 81.7% of the revised annual estimate, of which tax receipts stood at ₹18.80 lakh crore, or 80.9% of the revised annual estimate. Non-tax revenue stood at ₹3.38 lakh crore, or 90% of the revised annual estimate.



The core sector index increased 12.7% in October, 7.9% in November, and 4.9% in December.

At 3.6%, Jan core sector's growth lowest in 15 mths

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Index of Eight Core Industries increased 3.6% in January 2024 compared to the year before, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday. This makes January 2024 the third consecutive month when the growth rate of the index has slowed down.

The core sector index increased 12.7% in October, 7.9% in November, and 4.9% in December. Therefore, the 3.6% growth rate in January makes it the third consecutive month when the growth of the index has slowed down. The growth rate in January is also the slowest since October 2022, when this number was 0.7%.

Most of the slowdown in the core sector in January was on account of refinery products, which contracted by 4.4% in January compared to a 4.1% growth in December 2023. While fertilizer production also contracted in January by 0.6%—the only other sector that contracted in the month—it has the lowest weight (2.6%) in the core sector index.

Refinery products, on the other hand, have a 28% weight in the index, the highest among

all eight industries covered by the index.

Among the other six industries covered by the core sector index, three —electricity, cement, and crude oil — registered a higher growth rate in January than in December. Steel, coal, and natural gas, on the other hand, registered a lower growth rate in January than in December.

To be sure, these trends need to be read with some caution as the latest three months of core sector data is provisional. According to data released on January 31, the December 2023 core sector index was 159.3. This number has been revised to 160.9 in the data released on Thursday, increasing December's growth rate from 3.8% (according to data released on January 31) to 4.9% (according to data released Thursday). Even this number for December is provisional. The final number for December will be released with the first March output estimate in April.

Moreover, the core sector index does not cover all industrial output of India. The eight industries covered by this index have a weight of only 40% in the broader Index of Industrial Production (IIP). January's IIP data will be released on March 12.

Sebi moves to curb inflows into small-, mid-cap funds

Reuters
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India's market regulator has asked money managers to consider restricting one-off investments from clients in small- and mid-cap stock mutual funds and cut commissions offered for their sale, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) communicated this to the money managers in a meeting earlier this month, the sources, who included a regulatory official,

ASSETS MANAGED BY SMALL-CAPS IN INDIA VAULTED 86.5% OVER A 10-MONTH PERIOD TO ₹2.48 TN IN JAN-END

said. The regulator did not specify the quantum of flows it wants restricted, they said.

Sebi's communication shows heightened regulatory concern on the surging inflows into Indian small- and mid-cap mutual funds and any potential ripple effects on the financial

system if investors suddenly started to yank their money from them.

In India, small-cap stocks are defined as those with market capitalisation of less than ₹50 billion (\$603.05 million) while mid-cap stocks are those with market values of between ₹50 billion and ₹200 billion. Small- and mid-cap stocks are generally less liquid compared to their large-cap peers.

Assets managed by small-cap funds in India vaulted 86.5% over a 10-month period to ₹2.48 trillion (\$29.92 billion) as of end-January and mid-cap funds jumped 58.5% to ₹2.9

trillion. Their assets were not much lower than the 2.99 trillion rupees managed by large cap funds. The Nifty small-cap 100 index has surged 74% over the past 52 weeks and the Nifty mid-cap 100 index is up 60.86%, as of Wednesday's close. Those gains far exceed the benchmark Nifty's 26.21% rise over the same period.

"A nudge to institutional investors such as mutual funds will help soothe extraordinary exuberance building up particularly in small and mid-cap stocks," the regulatory official said.

Sebi did not respond to an

email request for comment.

The market regulator's communication to money managers about one-off investments is not an official order. The industry has in the past almost always complied with messages from Sebi.

India's MF assets have grown significantly over the years as investors have bought systematic investment plans that make regular contributions towards their portfolios. But domestic investors are also increasingly pumping in one-off, or lumpsum, funds to take advantage of the soaring stock market.

Wheat procurement target set at 30-32 mn tonnes for 2024-25

Puja Das
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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday set the wheat procurement target at 30-32 million tonnes for the 2024-25 Rabi marketing season, according to a statement from the food ministry.

The procurement target comes amid expectations of a bumper wheat crop of 114 million tonnes in the 2023-24 crop year.

Wheat production stood at a record 110.55 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), compared to 107.7 million tonnes harvested the previous year.

In the 2023-24 marketing season, which starts April, the government procured about 26.2 million tonnes of wheat, compared to a target of 34.15 million tonnes. In 2022-23, purchases totalled a modest 18.8 million tonnes against the target of 44.4 million tonnes. Procurement fell due to a decline in output.



The procurement target comes amid expectations of a bumper wheat crop.

after rice is planted during October-November and harvested over February-March.

Over the past two years, India's wheat production was hurt due to severe heatwaves during the time of the harvest. As a result, domestic supplies shrank pushing up wheat prices, which in turn saw the government deploy stocks from the central pool.

As of now, wheat stocks with the Food Corporation of India, which maintains the government's granaries, stand at 10.34 million tonnes, the lowest since 2016.

The Centre needs 18 million tonnes of the food grain annually for distribution under free ration scheme — Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyana Anna Yojana.

Meanwhile, for Rabi rice the procurement target has been set at 9-10 million tonnes, and for coarse cereals at 600,000 tonnes.

The targets were fixed after deliberations with state food secretaries in a meeting chaired by union food secretary Sanjeev Chopra on Wednesday.

States and union territories have been asked to increase procurement of millets for crop diversification and enhance nutritional value in diets.

Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, key contributors to the central wheat stock, are expected to procure 13 million tonnes and 8 million tonnes in the next season, respectively. The government's minimum support price (MSP) for wheat has been set at ₹2,275 per 100 kg for the 2024-25 season, up ₹150 from the last season, reflecting the government's effort to incentivize farmers.

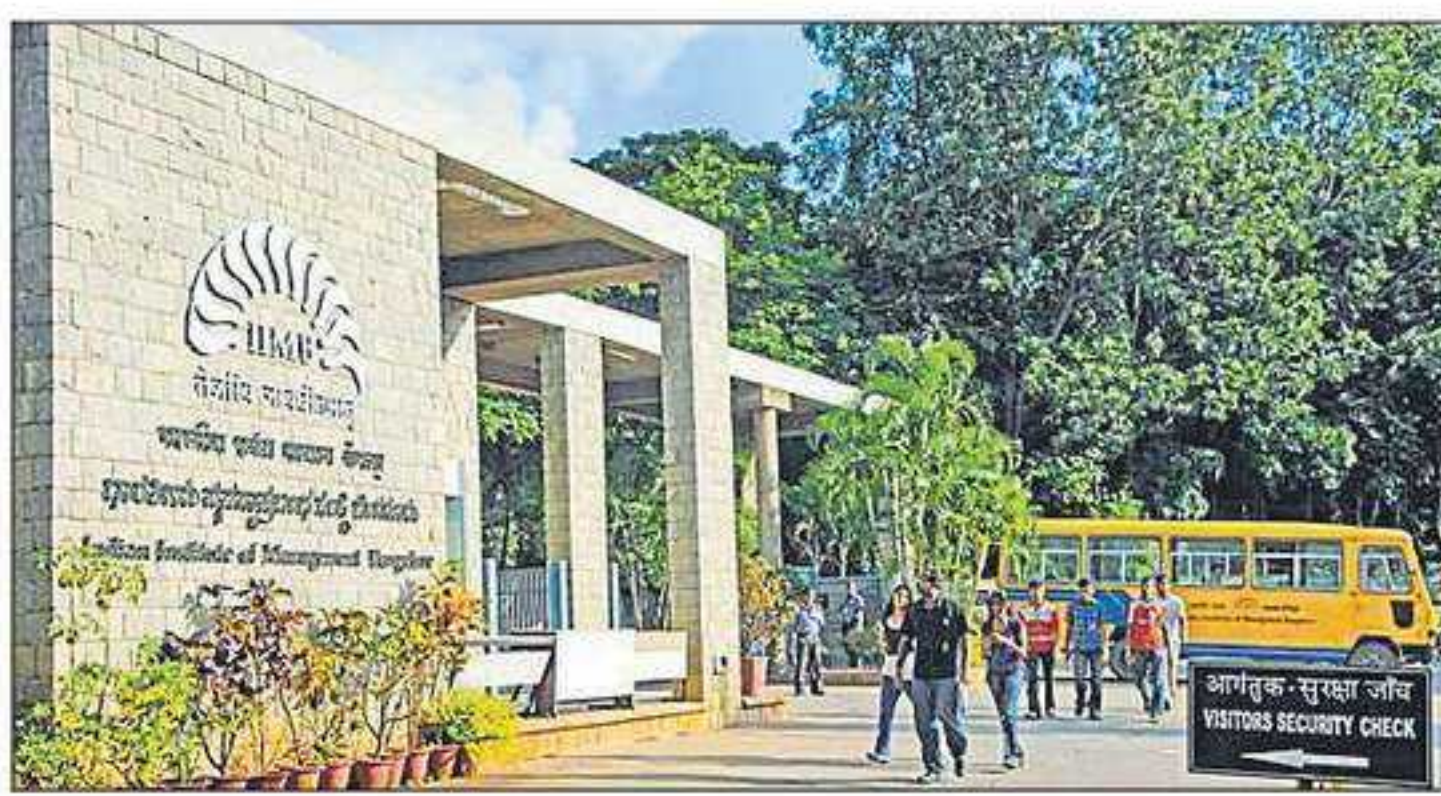
Mill-quality desi wheat at markets in Indore is being sold for ₹2,250-2,300 per 100 kg.

IIMs witness domestic job offers more than global gigs

Sneha Shah & Devina Sengupta
sneha.shah@livemint.com

MUMBAI: For a sure sign that domestic dealmaking is picking up in India, as is the economy, turn to the recruitment scene at the country's premier management schools. Investment banks and private equity firms are handing out more domestic postings than international gigs to graduating students of the Indian Institutes of Management, in a sign that the persistent funding winter perhaps is finally thawing.

Large domestic as well as global firms including DE Shaw, Goldman Sachs and Premji Invest are hiring graduates for functions across wealth management, institutional equities, asset management and invest-



Domestic postings were made more attractive with higher-than-usual joining and retention bonuses.

ment banking profiles. But given listless global markets, few of these have been for international roles, show campus placements reports at the IIMs.

Domestic postings were instead made more attractive with higher-than-usual joining

and retention bonuses. The roles were mainly in investment and market research, corporate, wholesale and retail banking, trading, and operations functions.

While graduating students who might have been hoping

for international roles would likely be disappointed, there's a potential silver lining for home-grown companies in this shift in hiring patterns.

Investors and bankers expect the fundraising cycle to pick up again in 2024 after a funding winter that has prolonged for about two years, especially for early- and growth-stage companies.

"Our investment banking business is growth-focused and we see a lot of tailwinds. We want to be ready for the structural long-term India growth story," said Anirban Banerjee, chief human resources officer at Avendus Group.

The financial services firm recruited 15 associates from the batch of 2024 at the IIMs.

India's retained its crown as the world's fastest-growing

major economy, growing at 8.4% in the December quarter and showing signs of expanding at 7.6% clip in FY24, as per the statistics ministry's latest data.

Bucking initial fears of a poor placement season, the IIMs have seen consulting firms, consumer goods companies, banks and large conglomerates recruit management graduates in good numbers, but with a marked preference for students with work experience. While the established older IIMs have almost completed their placements, the newer ones are in their last leg.

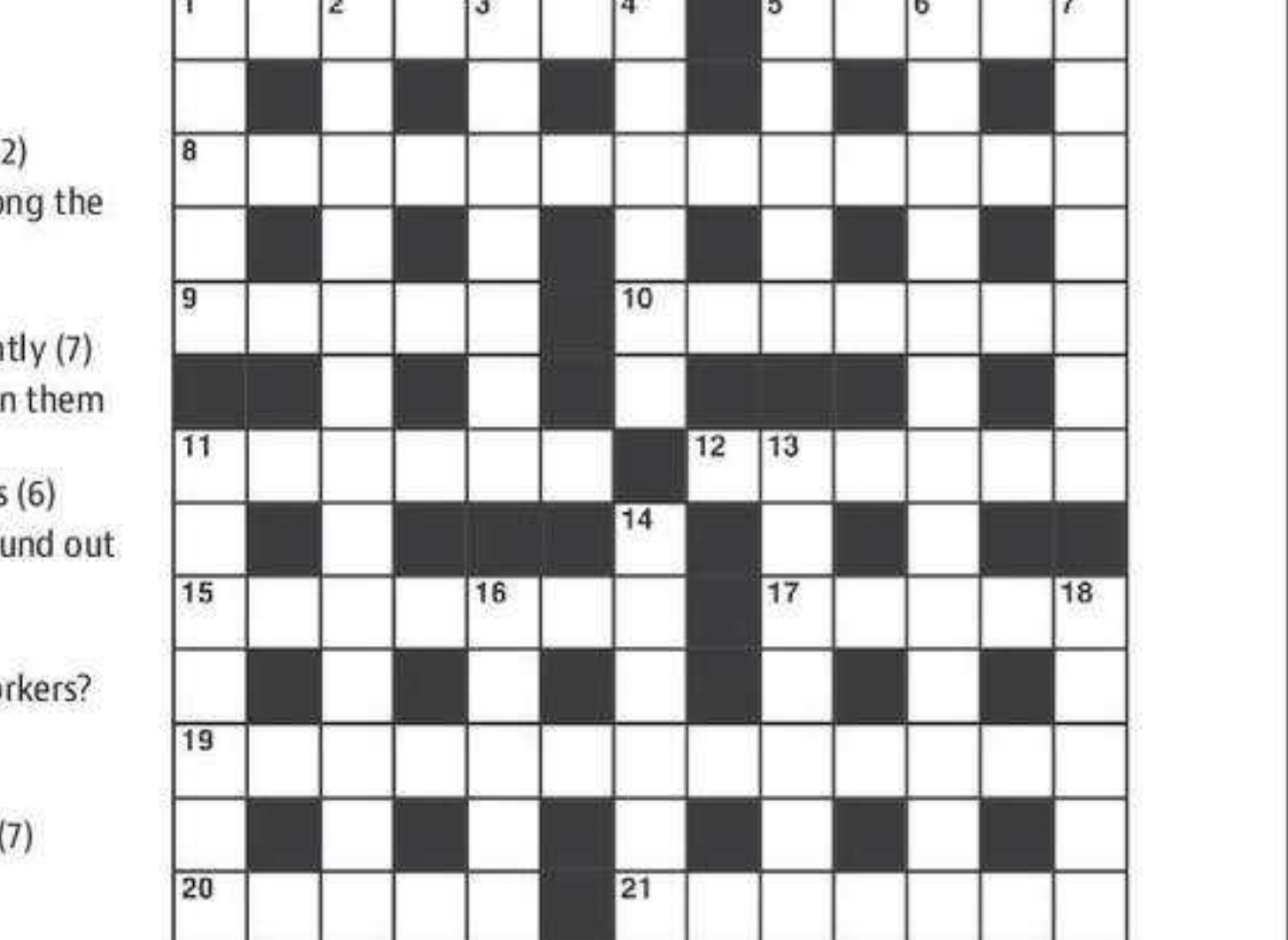
Recruiters said the graduating students, cognizant of the global market conditions, as they should be, were keen on accepting domestic roles rather than hanker for international postings.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Collar the boy - he's a hoodlum (7)
 - Built to accommodate either way (3,2)
 - The state of the fraternity rows among the monks (13)
 - Game by the fireside (5)
 - Perhaps a performer rates it differently (7)
 - The rest of the layers may depend on them (6)
 - Tusked mammal from the West Urals (6)
 - He's in the right position not to be found out (7)
 - A trimming of lace one gathers (5)
 - As worn by clergymen and office workers? (8,5)
 - Make a financial return (5)
 - Kind of labour we get fed up about (7)
- DOWN**
- Improve one's knowledge of Polish (3,2)
 - They are kept from going astray by crooks (6,2,5)
 - To succeed, it must follow her in first (7)
 - No right way to see the country (6)
 - Indicate the precise spot (5)
 - The rest cure as organised accumulated wealth (8,5)
 - You have to do so (7)
 - It is run on American lines (7)
 - Shorten a game (7)
 - Fancies a doctor must have the same trouble (6)
 - Newspaper Lydia edited (5)
 - Used some oil from a seed perhaps (5)

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16795)

CRYPTIC

A F I R E C H H H
A E N A M E S A K E
S I E V E N A L A K I
R E A C A D E M E S
S N A I L E Y A T
E L I L L S S
A S Y L U M U N T R U E
S E P U G G O N
S E G N S C A L E
M A R C H E R S K I L
A I A E B I N G O
S U P P R E S S N H
H S M T A I G A T E

QUICK

H A N O I F H D S
B P T A K E R O O T
C O V E N L A N N I
V N S T A V E O F F
S E A M Y E A R F
I T P R Y A R F
P L U N G E E N T R A P
L D R A W A N T
S Y C M S N A C K
C L E A R C U T C H
O A O L S H O O T
P O R E O V E R O U
E N K T G R A T E

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Not liable to change (7)
 - Thicket of small trees (5)
 - Commit oneself irrevocably (4,4,5)
 - Proportion (5)
 - Solicitous regard (7)
 - Scarcity (6)
 - Cover (6)
 - Derision (7)
 - Inexpensive (5)
 - For 24 hours continuously (5,3,5)
 - Private teacher (5)
 - Gracefully thin (7)
- DOWN**
- Restrained (5)
 - Use to one's advantage (4,2,7)
 - Person keeping watch (7)
 - Saturate (6)
 - Private room on ship (5)
 - Make publicity known (5,2,6)
 - Fundamental nature (7)
 - Fault (7)
 - To process for new use (7)
 - An infectious fever (6)
 - Large sea duck (5)
 - Card game for gamblers (5)

{ WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE HIGH ■ LOW

FRIDAY
Generally cloudy sky with light rain
28°C | 12°C

SATURDAY
Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain with gusty winds
24°C | 14°C

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy sky
24°C | 12°C

{ SUDOKU }

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★



Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

ALMANAC

Today is 1st March 2024
• 9 Shaaban, 1445
• 6 Phalguna, Krishna Paksha, • Samvat: 2080
* Sunset: Friday at 06:21 p.m.
* Sunrise: Saturday at 05:44 a.m.
* Moonset: Friday at 09:39 a.m.
* Moonrise: Friday at 11:34 p.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

Delhi 28°C | 12°C
Mumbai 33°C | 22°C
Kolkata 31°C | 21°C
Chennai 34°C | 23°C

Cricket's domestic problem not about the money alone

Players prioritising IPL over domestic cricket has been a recurring theme since the inception of the league in 2008

Rasesh Mandani
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MUMBAI: Rewind to 2007, just months before the Indian Premier League revolution hit Indian cricket. The Indian cricket board — BCCI had introduced an additional fourth category of annual retainerhip — Grade D worth ₹15 lakh.

One of the beneficiaries was a young Rohit Sharma. Ajit Agarkar, more experienced, was a grade higher and bagged ₹25 lakh, annually. Rahul Dravid, an A-lister, took home ₹60 lakh.

Six months later, these national contracts lost their sheen as the economics of player pay in Indian cricket changed forever on the IPL auction table. Rohit's first IPL contract was worth \$750,000 (more than ₹3 crore). Agarkar's \$350,000 (approx ₹1.5 crore). As an Icon player, Dravid became a millionaire.

The same three characters; in different capacities — Rohit, the all-format captain, Agarkar as chief selector and Dravid as head coach — are now actively involved in BCCI's efforts to get players to re-channelize energies towards red-ball cricket. It helps that they won't need reminding that the problem isn't a new one.

Yes, the board has delivered its strongest-ever message by denying central contracts to Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan for missing Ranji Trophy ties. But it could be argued, many others have escaped action, with bare minimum participation in the Ranji trophy.

There's a proposal with the BCCI to increase annual retainerhip amounts or match fees for playing Test cricket. Currently, contracted players earn between ₹1-7 crore and match fees amount to ₹15 lakh per Test match. While any effort to bridge the gap with IPL pay is welcome, it's not about money alone.

Matching the IPL pay scale across the playing landscape may prove to be impossible. Take Hardik Pandya's case. While he was traded for ₹15 crore to Mumbai Indians, the undisclosed transfer fee may have made him a much richer cricketer.

Every year, overseas players win a jackpot at mini-auctions. Mitch Starc was the lucky one in this year's auction, fetching a whopping ₹24.75 crore contract.

Besides, IPL is T20 cricket — more money for less work. Players unwilling to put in the hard yards of training that red-ball cricket demands, would not be chamed.

SEEKING IMPROVEMENT

Recent tweaks and proposals in Ranji

LOOKING FOR A FIX



1 In 2016/17, the BCCI introduced neutral venues for all matches in the Ranji Trophy. The fundamental reason was to ensure that pitches are neutral and not doctored by the home team to suit its strengths and hide its weaknesses.

2 The idea was shelved just a season later, after the BCCI technical committee recommended a return to the home-and-away format.

3 The knockout games continued to be played at neutral venues that season before going back to the home-and-away format altogether.

4 On the basis of the Lodha Committee reforms, which mandated that every state should have representation in Indian cricket's domestic ecosystem, nine new teams were added from the 2018/19 season onwards. They included Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

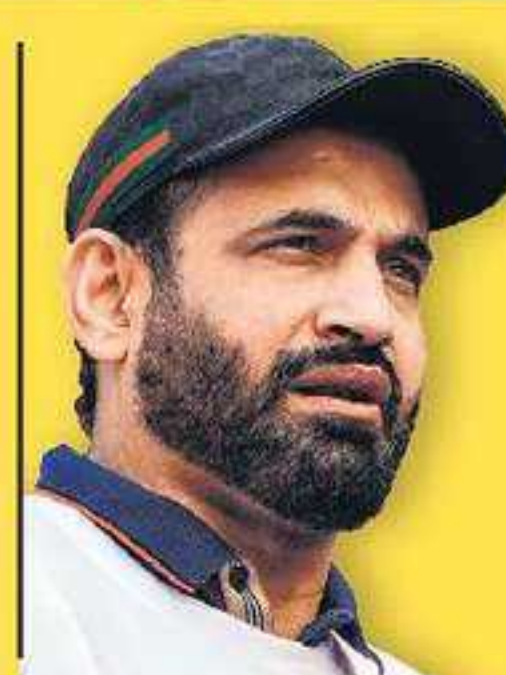
5 During his tenure as BCCI president, Sourav Ganguly mooted contracts for domestic cricketers but it didn't materialise.

6 In September 2021, the BCCI announced significant pay hikes for domestic cricketers. Cricketers who played more than 40 matches in a season stood to benefit the most from the revised structure.



I think BCCI wants them (Kishan and Iyer) to play first-class cricket. I am surprised why Shreyas has not played Ranji Trophy. It is a premier tournament and you are supposed to play. So, it is a decision by BCCI and what they have thought right they have done. Every contracted cricketer must play first-class cricket because that is the basic premise of cricket in this country.

— SOURAV GANGULY



If players like Hardik don't want to play red ball cricket, should he and others like him participate in white-ball domestic cricket when they aren't on national duty? If this doesn't apply to all, then Indian cricket won't achieve the desired results!

— IRFAN PATHAN

"Ultimately, it's up to the individual," says former captain Dilip Vengsarkar. "If someone doesn't aspire to play Test cricket, let somebody else establish themselves. As simple as that."

"There was a time when domestic cricket was the only way you could play for India," says Chandrakant Pandit, head coach Madhya Pradesh. "When I speak with cricketers of today's generation, it's not that they don't have the desire. But they want to take the shortcut, having seen many instances where players perform in IPL and get India caps."

It's an area which has been addressed recently by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee. Players are no longer being parachuted from IPL into Test cricket. Akash Deep, Sarfaraz Khan, Rajat Patidar and Yashasvi Jaiswal are all products of domestic cricket. Dhruv Jurel has proved to be an inspired selection call.

Spicing up domestic cricket

If someone doesn't aspire to play Tests, let somebody else establish himself. As simple as that.

DILIP VENGSAKAR,
former chief selector

and making it more competitive has been a crying need for a while now. Challenging as it is with the packed international calendar, a rebranding could perhaps be the answer.

If not that, then restructuring which will ensure that teams don't score 500 runs in a day. More brainstorming could offer perhaps even better solutions to ensure participation from international cricketers in domestic cricket. The BCCI has to make it

worth their while. "I had suggested to the BCCI that for Duleep Trophy and the Irani Trophy, one should encourage international players to play. It's a matter of one month," said former Chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar. "That's how selectors would be able to better evaluate players and there won't be questions like, '800 runs against whom?'"

Pandit makes another telling point on the standard of domestic cricket. "One of the reasons why we are seeing so many outright results in Ranji trophy recently is because the players are not able to cope up with red-ball cricket. There are too many shots, very little patience. Sometimes, two maidens are all it takes to get people out."

A more competitive domestic cricket structure would offer other benefits to players too, argues Vengsarkar. "They would

get to play against good spinners on Indian soil. And their experience would help other cricketers."

White-ball cricket

While the problem is more acute in red-ball cricket, a similar case can be made about domestic white-ball cricket too. While Vijay Hazare One-Dayers and Mushtaq Ali T20s are tracked by IPL scouts, these performances aren't given the same weightage because often the teams aren't full strength. One of the reasons, uncapped players have to be used judiciously in IPL is because they haven't been tested enough in domestic cricket.

"If players like Hardik don't want to play red ball cricket, should he and others like him participate in white-ball domestic cricket when they aren't on national duty? If this doesn't apply to all, then Indian cricket won't achieve the desired results!" former all-rounder Irfan Pathan posted on X.

{ CRICKETWALLAH }

Ayaz Memon



Bazball's all-out attack needs a safety net too

England ran out of steam against a more resourceful and resilient Indian side but the series loss doesn't warrant a rethink for Bazball. The four Tests have been riveting and the score-line could have been narrower if England had been a trifle more diligent, or India a tad lax.

All said, 14 wins in 22 Tests (since Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes joined hands) is fantastic achievement. While the sample size and time frame is not huge, there is no doubt that Bazball has added new flavour, colour and character to Test cricket which was otherwise tottering on the onslaught of the glitzy, dizzying, slam-bang whirl of T20.

However, England have also lost five of the last 9 Tests — two against Australia last year and three on the trot against India in the ongoing rubber — which should be disquieting for McCullum and Stokes. Mind you, Australia were the World Test Champions, India, runners-up to them in WTC, had won 16 series on the trot at home. Losing to these formidable teams is no shame. But some of these defeats have shown up streaks of vulnerability, in tactics and temperament, that put Bazball under scrutiny.

A madcap declaration in the first Test last year cost England the match and opportunity to regain the Ashes. Against India, after winning the first Test against heavy odds, England surrendered the advantage with some profligate batting in the next three Tests, mistaking recklessness for fearlessness, leading to shocking collapses.

A 3-0 sweep against Pakistan in Pakistan had given ballast to England's hopes of winning this series in India. But while pitches in the subcontinent may be similar, the quality of players in India and Pakistan, their technical and mental make-up, differ substantially. On evidence of matches played over the last decade, it would be fair to say that Indian cricket is currently streets ahead. England needed to do something different, if not extraordinary, to beat India.

Despite admirable performances by young, inexperienced players, I believe England stumbled because of below-par performances by major domos Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes who have rich international experience and are India veterans.

Root's travails have been the most discussed, because he is the team's most accomplished batter. He played some atrocious strokes when the match was in the balance. Root made a sublime century in the fourth Test to reiterate his class, but by then, too much had been squandered.

Bairstow was zombie-like and a walking wicket for the bowlers. Stokes, player of mighty, heroic deeds, seemed wrapped in a Hamletian dilemma whether to play forward or back, leading to him to doom repeatedly.



England's Jonny Bairstow plays a shot in Ranchi.

Going by their career averages, each is at least 100 runs short so far in this series, which is the difference between being 1-3 down or 3-1 up at this point. In contrast, while India's young players have justifiably become the toast of the country for their sparkling and gutsy performances, old hands, Rohit Sharma, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah rose to the occasion whenever the situation demanded.

Bazball is structured around strong self-belief, an unapologetically aggressive approach, to take the game forward. It involves some bluff and bluster as also hustling opponents through brazen risk-taking. But the high-octane method, manifest largely in batting, cannot be an end in itself; if something's not working, an alternative has to be found, and during course of play itself.

It is impossible to play Test cricket to the same rhythm and beat at all times. Five-day cricket often entails taking a step back to move two steps forwards. Sometimes it needs throwing caution to the winds for a spell to win a crucial phase of play. Assessing situations as they evolve and playing accordingly to maximise team advantage is of the crux. Adaptability, rather than dogmatic pursuit of a tactic is a necessary onus, imposed on players, especially the best ones.

In the 1983-84 home series against West Indies, in the first Test at Kanpur, when an express delivery from Malcolm Marshall knocked the bat out of maestro Sunil Gavaskar's hands, there was a feeling of national doom. Some critics saw this as the end of Gavaskar's career. But Gavaskar saw it as a trigger to revise his tactics. In the next Test at Delhi he smashed a brilliant, counter-attacking century, his 29th.

Realising that only stout defence, even allowing for his technical virtuosity, would not work against the Marshall, Roberts, Holding, Daniel, Gavaskar changed his approach. This was not done whimsically, but by as-

sessing the pitch, conditions and match situations swiftly. In the Ahmedabad Test too he scored 90 at breakneck speed as wickets tumbled around him on a bowler friendly pitch. But in the last Test at Madras, Gavaskar walked out to bat at 0-2, sussed out the sluggish pitch within a few overs, and dug in for a mammoth 236 not out to go past Sir Don Bradman's record number of Test centuries.

That India lost the rubber 0-3 is not the germane issue here, rather how the team's main batsman adapted to the demands of match situations and conditions. Closer to our times, steadfast Alastair Cook and uber-attacking Kevin Pietersen, in their distinctive styles, showed this in the 2012-13 rubber when England pulled off an unexpected series win against India. Incidentally, that was the last rubber India have lost at home.

Strong leadership, off-beat tactics and strategies can lift teams out of mediocrity if the talent is good and performs to potential consistently. But the most important attributes of a great team is ability and durability win matches in different conditions and all opponents over a longish period of time. Three successive defeats this series leaves England, in spite of Bazball, languishing at no.9 in the World Test Championship table currently. They are a competitive and entertaining side, but a long way off from being a great one.

Meanwhile, this series win has made India's passage into the final of the World Test Championship that much easier. Twice running India have flopped in winning the coveted title, which has been acutely disappointing and has put an asterisk of doubt against India being considered a great Test side despite the avalanche of home wins.

Overcoming this hurdle must now become the primary objective of the team management and players. While the WTC final is many months away, Beating England in the final Test at Dharamshala would be a show of strong intent towards this end.

KL Rahul ruled out of fifth Test, Bumrah to be back

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NEW DELHI: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) confirmed on Thursday that KL Rahul will also miss the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamshala from March 7. After scoring 86 and 22 in the first Test in Hyderabad that India lost by 28 runs, Rahul did not play the last three matches due to a quadriceps injury.

Importantly for the Indian team, which took an unassailable 3-1 series lead after winning the fourth Test in Ranchi by five wickets, ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah is available for selection after being rested for the previous game. Bumrah played a decisive role in India's 106-run win in the second Test in Visakhapatnam, claiming the player-of-the-match award for match figures of 9/91. Though Bumrah didn't play the fourth Test, he is still India's highest wicket-taker in the series — he has 17 scalps in six innings at an average of 13.64.

Rahul's prolonged absence has warranted attention given that the selectors had named the 31-year-old in the squad for the final three Tests of the series subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI medical team. In an official update on the eve of the third Test, however, the BCCI said that Rahul was ruled out of the third Test, adding that he



Jasprit Bumrah was rested for the fourth Test in Ranchi.

"has reached 90 percent of match fitness and is progressing well under the supervision of the BCCI medical team."

That Rahul has played no further part in the series despite the BCCI's claim that he is close to full fitness more than two weeks ago should be a cause for concern. It is understood that the medical staff at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru was confident about Rahul returning ahead of the third Test, but his continued discomfort means he has travelled to London for further scans. It's pertinent to note that Rahul underwent a surgery on his right thigh in the United Kingdom in May

and returned at the Asia Cup in September ahead of the ODI World Cup.

"Mr. KL Rahul, whose participation in the final IDFC First Bank Test was subject to fitness, has been ruled out of the fifth and final Test in Dharamshala. The BCCI Medical Team is closely monitoring him and coordinating with specialists in London for further management of his issue," the BCCI said in its press release.

Meanwhile, all-rounder Washington Sundar has been released from the squad for the final Test. The youngster will play for Tamil Nadu in their Ranji Trophy semi-final against Mumbai beginning March 2.



GREEN TON STEERS AUSTRALIA TO 279/9 IN FIRST TEST VS NEW ZEALAND

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

WELLINGTON: Cameron Green slammed only his second Test century on Thursday to steer Australia to 279/9 at stumps on the opening day of the first Test in Wellington. The visitors were tottering on 89/4 after being put into bat at the Basin Reserve before Green dug in for a rescue mission with the help of Mitchell Marsh, who made 40.

Green brought up three figures with his 16th four in the final over to end on 103* with Josh Hazlewood yet to score. "It feels really good, mainly with where we were as a team," Green said. "It was a tough wicket... someone needed to bat through so glad it was me. Was nice to stick it out, and put a semi-competitive total on the board."

Green, batting at number four, fought back after New Zealand seamer Matt Henry took the key wickets of Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Marsh to end with 4/43 on a green pitch. **Brief scores:** Australia 279/9 (C Green 103*, M Marsh 40; M Henry 4/43) vs New Zealand.

Strong batting show gives Delhi Capitals easy victory over RCB

Sandip Sikdar

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NEW DELHI: Royal Challengers Bangalore hadn't beaten Delhi Capitals in both round-robin games of the Women's Premier League (WPL) last year. Meg Lanning's team made sure they maintained that streak as the Capitals defeated RCB by 25 runs in Bengaluru on Thursday.

By virtue of their win, Delhi now top the standings, equal on points with RCB and Mumbai Indians but ahead on net run rate.

Despite losing skipper Lanning (11) in the fifth over, Delhi Capitals were off to a good start thanks to Shafali Verma and Alice Capsey whose second-wicket partnership of 82 from 43 balls helped last year's runners-up put up a formidable total of 194/5.

Verma hit a second successive fifty after slamming a match-winning 64* against UP Warriors earlier this week. On Thursday, the opener hammered three fours and six sixes to score 50 off 31. Verma, who was dropped on two by Shreyanka Patil off pacer Renuka Singh, was assisted by Capsey, who contributed with a 33-ball 46.

Delhi suffered a hiccup when offie Patil (1/40) removed Verma and medium pacer Nadine de

Klerk (2/35) got rid of Capsey with a beautiful yorker. Jemimah Rodrigues (0) did not open her account.

But DC were able to revive their innings thanks to cameos from Marizanne Kapp (32 off 16) and Jess Jonassen (36 not out off 16). Kapp and Jonassen together scored 48 off 22 before Jonassen and Arundhati Reddy (10 not out off 4 balls) hammered 22 off nine deliveries to propel Delhi to their biggest score this season.

Sophie Devine was RCB's best bowler, taking 2/23.

In reply, the hosts got off to a superb start with Smriti Mandhana hammering DC bowlers all over the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. The skipper's fireworks helped her score 74 off 43. Mandhana was assisted by Devine (23 off 17) as the openers put together 77.

Devine got out to a full toss but Mandhana kept the run rate up with 10 fours and three sixes. But the run rate dropped after Mandhana was bowled by Kapp (2/35) on the final ball of the 12th over.

The required rate as well as the pressure augmented thereon. Richa Ghosh tried going for the big shots but S Meghana, scoring at run-a-ball, let the asking rate go above 12. Kapp picked up her second wicket when Ghosh (19 off 13)



Shafali Verma on her way to a 31-ball 50 on Thursday.

miscued a big shot.

Shikha Pandey (1/27) and Jonassen (3/21) kept the batters in check, delivering many dot balls as Meghana (36 off 31) and Georgia Wareham (6 off 7) failed to accelerate. RCB couldn't clear the ropes from the 16th to the 18th over. Meghana was put down by Reddy on 24 but could not take RCB to the target as she

was run out. RCB lost four more wickets in the last two overs to go down for the first time in this edition of WPL.

Brief scores: Delhi Capitals 194/5 in 20 overs (S Verma 50, A Capsey 46; S Devine 2/23). Royal Challengers Bangalore 169/9 in 20 overs (S Mandhana 74; J Jonassen 3/21). **DC won by 25 runs.**



Pogba gets 4-year ban for doping

ROME: France star Paul Pogba has been given a four-year ban from football by Italy's anti-doping tribunal after testing positive for testosterone last August, his club Juventus said on Thursday. A spokesman for the club told AFP it had been notified of the decision against the 30-year-old World Cup winner, who had been provisionally suspended in September.

Ankita, Sahaja make quarters

GURUGRAM: India's Ankita Raina and Sahaja Yamplapalli registered straight-set wins to advance to the quarter-finals of the ITF Women's Open here on Thursday. Second seed Ankita beat an error-prone Zeel Desai 7-6 (4), 6-3 while fifth seed Sahaja overcame Riya Bhatia 7-6 (8), 7-5 in the pre-quarterfinals.

Pragg loses in 2nd round in Prague

PRAGUE: Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa committed a time-pressure blunder as he lost to Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran in the second round of the Prague Masters Chess tournament here. The defeat ended Praggnanandhaa's impressive 47-game unbeaten streak in the classical format.

Maini takes first pole in Formula 2

NEW DELHI: Indian racing driver Kush Maini, racing for Invicta, on Thursday clinched a maiden pole position in Formula 2 when he grabbed the top spot for Saturday's feature race at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir - the first race weekend of the season. This is the 23-year-old's second season in F2.

Athletes' Commission, a non-starter from outset

No official meeting has been held by the IOA body since April raising concerns about its relevance

Avishhek Roy

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association's Athletes' Commission (AC), which came into existence with the promise of raising the voice of athletes in Indian sport, has been lying dormant. No official meeting has been held after April last year due to the unavailability of members. In January, the committee did meet but failed to form a quorum.

"You have to ask IOA. As an ex-officio member of IOC, I have been writing to them and trying to push it at my level," said Abhinav Bindra, the Beijing Olympics gold medalist shooter, when asked about the virtually non-functional AC.

The 10-member AC has MC Mary Kom as chairperson and Sharath Kamal as vice-chairperson. The commission came into existence in Nov 2022 and played a crucial role in the election of IOA as it selected the sportspersons of outstanding merit that included Usha, who became IOA president.

Since its inception, only two official meetings have been held under Sharath Kamal. The chairperson and vice chairperson of AC are also voting members of IOA's executive council.

The IOC lays great emphasis on having a fully active athletes commission that can make athletes part of decision-making process within the National Olympic Committees (NOC). IOC sends grants through the NOC for the AC.

The newly-drafted IOA constitution, which was cleared after consulting the IOC, charted out rules and regulations of an athletes' commission and made it mandatory to have such commission in every sports federation in the country.

However, things have hardly moved in that direction. In the last one year, wrestlers have faced numerous issues due to a suspended federation. A constructive AC could have played an impor-

Not fulfilling its responsibility

IOA's Athletes' Commission - formed to represent the views of athletes in Indian sports - has been lying dormant despite being represented by some of the most eminent athletes



MEMBERS

- MC Mary Kom (chairperson)
- Sharath Kamal (vice-chairperson)
- Gagan Narang
- Shiva Keshavan
- Bajrang Lal
- Om Prakash Karhana
- Mirabai Chanu
- Rani Rampal
- PV Sindhu
- Bhavani Devi

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Abhinav Bindra (IOC AC)
- Sardar Singh (OCA AC)

ROLE AND OBJECTIVE

- Represent views of athletes and make their voice heard within the IOA
- Consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the IOA
- Represent the rights and interests of athletes and make related recommendations
- Engage actively with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play

FAILING ON MANY COUNTS

- Athletes' Commission (AC) was constituted in November 2022
- Only two meetings held. Chairperson has not attended a single meeting
- Commission has not fulfilled the obligation of at least four meetings during a calendar year
- No action on proposal to set up a 'safeguarding from harassment and abuse panel'
- No action on making NSFs compliant with formation of athletes' bodies on the lines of IOA AC
- No action on career transition and welfare programmes for Olympians who have retired from competition

tant role in addressing them but it didn't. "I hope it becomes active because it's very important that athlete representation is given importance in India. Athletes can support the administration in many ways bringing the athletes' perspective to the table. It is very important to bring forward the athletes' voice so I do hope that IOA under its new administration and new presidency (PT Usha), who is herself an athlete, gives this area importance," said Bindra.

AC chairperson MC Mary Kom did respond to calls. Another member, six-time winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan said athletes need to take the forum seriously. "It is high time that athletes take their responsibilities in the AC

seriously if they want to strengthen athletes' voices in the administration," said Keshavan.

When the AC met a year ago in April, differences surfaced over a statement on showing solidarity with the protesting wrestlers. It became a tipping point in the functioning of the independent body.

The IOA, which is now well represented by the sportspersons, has not helped matters. IOA is responsible for appointing dedicated staff for AC and giving them space in the IOA office. AC also needs to get the grant set aside for it by the IOC and the Olympic Council of Asia.

That did not happen as IOA's governance was crippled due to the non-appointment of a chief

executive officer for more than a year. When the CEO was appointed in January, there was a division within the board of IOA over his appointment.

During the April meeting of the AC, members were requested to be active. Since some of them are current athletes there is provision of holding hybrid or virtual meetings, yet it has failed to meet even four times during a calendar year as required in its regulations.

IOC's concern that the chairperson is required to be present and active was also shared. "In case members feel they do not have time for the commission, replacements may be sought from the same sport," it was discussed as per the minutes of the meeting.

Bajrang seeks stay on the WFI trials, moves Delhi HC

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Rejecting Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) invitation to participate in selection trials for the Asian Championships and Olympic Qualifiers, Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia has moved a joint petition in Delhi High Court seeking a stay on the trials.

WFI had, on Monday, announced trials for the twin competitions on March 10 and 11 in Delhi's IG Stadium. While the Asian Championships will be held from April 11-16, Olympic qualifiers are scheduled from April 19-21. Both competitions will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Sanjay Singh-led WFI remains suspended by the sports ministry since December but United World Wrestling (UWW) lifted the ban on February 13. The federation's daily operations are still run by the three-member ad hoc committee.

WFI's list of participating wrestlers features Punia in his 65kg class where he'll face stiff competition from the Haryana duo of Vishal Kaliraman and Sujeet Kalkal. Double world championships bronze medalist Vinesh Phogat has entered in the non-Olympic 55kg class. So far, only Antim Panghal (53kg) has clinched an Olympic quota for India.

{ BAJRANG PUNIA } WRESTLER

...how a body suspended by the govt announce the trials. Why is the govt silent? We will appear in the trials only if the ad hoc panel or the govt conducts it

The petition, it has been learned, has been filed by Punia, Phogat, Sakshi Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian and the matter will be heard on Friday. Malik, a Rio Olympics bronze medalist, announced her retirement soon after Sanjay's panel won WFI polls while Kadian's name doesn't feature among the participants. "I don't understand how a sports body suspended by the Indian government can issue a circular and announce the trials. Why is the government silent? We will appear in the trials only if the ad-hoc panel or the government conducts it. How can a suspended

body announce the trials?" Punia was quoted by PTL.

Meanwhile, Sanjay Singh and WFI secretary general Prem Chand Lochab met senior sports ministry officials earlier this week to decide the roadmap to end the WFI impasse. While the ministry is likely to issue a statement soon, it is understood that the selection trials will go ahead as planned.

"It was a very fruitful meeting and it was decided that the trials called by Sanjay Singh will go as per the schedule. The suspension will also be lifted in due course especially with UWW already on our side," a WFI official said.

'Registered athletes will be handed digital certificates'

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: Sports minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday announced that the government will issue digital certificates to registered athletes across the country, a move that would ensure a transparent account of their participation and performance. The digital certificate will have dates of the athletes' participation in competitions and serve as proof of their achievements.

"With athletes at the heart of our progressing and growing



Anurag Thakur. PTI

sporting ecosystem, the sports ministry has made a crucial decision to promote the 'issuance of digital certificates to athletes,'" wrote Thakur on X.

National Sports Federations (NSFs) to only release merit and participation certificates through DigiLocker.

The minister had first announced his plan to simplify things for athletes and NSFs during the National Sports Day on August 29 last year. On Thursday, the minister said, "Keeping up with our policy of 'athlete-first', NSFs have been advocated to issue certificates to athletes via DigiLocker, an initiative of Ministry of Electronics and IT."

He said the digital certificates will add a new aspect to sports administration and management of sportspersons.

Office of the Executive Engineer P.W.D. (Maintenance) Division No. 2, Bhopal

Tender Notice

NIT 41 of 2022-23 Bhopal, Date : 21.02.2024

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement System of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below :-

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. in Lacs)
1	2024_PWDRB_335764_1	Special Strengthening of Road From Berasia Court to Nazirabad Road Tak, Kali Masjid Approach Road, Janpad Panchayat Office Approach Road, Thana and Police Colony Approach Road, SDM Office Approach Road and Other Internal Road Berasia City Length 5.50 Km. and Dewalkhedra Approach Road Length 2.10 Km. and Dungaaria to Parsoria Road Length 8.30 Km. and Laharpur to Khejda Parihar Road Km. 1 to Km.7 Length 7.00 Km. and Megra Naveen to Sumer Bandkhedi Choti Amarpur Badi Amarpur Badweli Kala Dhamantodi Khairkhedi Road Length 9.70 Km.	First	499.54
2	2024_PWDRB_335765_1	Construction of Road from Bamhori, Sheshapura to Dameela Jod Road Length 6.200 Km.	First	498.22

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for Purchase and Submission of Document on line is 02.03.2024 up to 17:30 PM. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Executive Engineer
PWD (Maint.) Division No. 2, Bhopal
G-25087/23

Office of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, P.W.D. Pithoragarh

E-mail : sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Letter No. 1063/458CB-03/2024 Dated : 29.02.2024

National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available online from date 05-03-2024 at 5.00 PM onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

S. N.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of tender (₹)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's category of registration
1	Construction work of residential buildings Type-I, Type-II and Type III for judicial employees in Kumour (Takana) in district headquarters of Pithoragarh under the State Sector Scheme.	8.60	5000.00 + 18% G.S.T	120	15	Category A & higher for Building works, in state Govt/ Govt. of India

Superintending Engineer,
3rd Circle, P.W.D. Pithoragarh

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
सियाई यांत्रिक प्रमंडल, दरभंगा

अल्पकालीन पुनर्कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -12/2023-24
(केवल ई-कोटेशन पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण -

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (लाख रु में)	अग्रघन की राशि (ला. मी) (ऑन लाइन अथवा फिजिकल/मैन्युअल मोड में मूल्यांकन)	परिमाण - राशि (ला. मी) (अवतरणीय) (केवल ऑन लाइन मोड में मूल्यांकन)	बेटी/नॉन बेटी (केवल ऑन लाइन मोड में मूल्यांकन)	कार्य पूरा करने की अवधि
1	Design Drawing, Fabrication Supply Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Fixed wheel Type Vertical Lift Spillage Gate Tentative Size 10.80 M X 2.1M (36 Nos.) Under Sluice Gate Tentative Size 10.80M X 2.56M (10Nos. = 6Nos. Right + 4Nos. Left), Head Regulator Gate Tentative Size 4.3 M X 1.65M (07 Nos. = 5 Nos. Right + 02 Nos. Left) Stop Log Gate Tentative Size 10.80M X 1.20M (20Nos.) For Under Sluice & Spillway Parts, and Stop Log Gate Tentative Size 4.30M X 1.00M (Left Head Regulator 02 Nos. & Right Head Regulator 02 Nos.) for Head Regulator Parts with Embedded Parts, Structural Steel Hoist Bridge and Platform, Gantry crane with rail Track for barrage as well as Head Regulator Portion Structural Steel Truss Consisting of Column n (Box Type) approach Ladder Both Side for Barrage Portion and Each for Head Regulator and Motorized Hoisting System and Automation (SCADA for Multi Users) System at Kam la Barrage Site including the cost of Materials, Machinery, Labour, Annual repair and maintenance for 5 years (including 2 years of defect liability period) with all Complete job as per approved Drawing Specification of all Gates o I Kamla Barrage Site under Kam la Canal Division Jaynagar, District Madhubani.	5836.68 (Tentative)	6837000.00 (FIXED)	10,000.00	5900.00	12 मही.

2. कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक :-27.02.2024

3. कोटेशन कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि : दिनांक: 05.03.2024 से दिनांक: 09.03.2024 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक-07.03.2024 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता (यांत्रिक) का कार्यालय, जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना।

5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 09.03.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 09.03.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. कोटेशन खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

8. कोटेशन की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन

9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, (यांत्रिक) सियाई यांत्रिक प्रमंडल, दरभंगा।
मौ नो: 7463889708

10. विज्ञापनदाता को प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं www.wrd.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता (यांत्रिक) सियाई यांत्रिक प्रमंडल, दरभंगा
MOb:- 7463889708

PR- 018460 (WRD) 2023-24

नशी से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES NEW DELHI

Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 5
Notice No. 28/2024 Date: 26.02.2026
www.aiimsexams.ac.in

Online Application is invited for the Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 6 for the recruitment of Nursing Officer posts at Level 07 in the Pay Matrix pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs. 9300-34800 with Grade Pay of Rs. 4600/-, Group-B for AIIMS New Delhi and other AIIMS as per available vacancies in the respective Institutes.

The On-line applications can be done through AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in from 26.02.2024 to 17.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.

Eligibility Criteria for appearing in NORCET

Essential Qualification

I a. B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/state Nursing council recognized Institute or University OR
B.Sc. (Post-Certificate)/Post-Basic B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing council recognized Institute/University.
b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife with State/Indian Nursing Council

OR

II a. Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing council recognized Institute/Board or Council
b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife in State/Indian Nursing Council.
c. Two Years' Experience in a minimum 50 bedded Hospital after acquiring the educational qualification mentioned above as applicable for all Participating AIIMS.

Remarks - The required two years of experience as in above is as an essential criterion and to be valid, the experience shall must be acquired after obtaining Essential Qualification, i.e. after completing residency period of the course, declaration of result & registration with State/Indian Nursing Council.

Age Limit: For all AIIMS: Between 18-30 Years. (As per detail on Age relaxation given in General Conditions subject to age Relaxation as per Recruitment rules of respective Institutes/Hospitals.)

All age shall be counted on the last date of closing of application form.

APPLICATION FEES:

A) General/OBC Candidates - Rs. 3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)
B) SC/ST Candidates/EWS - Rs. 2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only)
C) Persons with Disabilities - Exempted

The candidate can pay the prescribed application fee through DEBIT CARD/CREDIT CARD/NETBANKING. Transaction/Processing fee, if any, as applicable, will be payable to the bank by the candidate.

Application fee once remitted shall not be refunded under any circumstances. Applications without the prescribed fee would not be considered and summarily rejected.

Application Fees of SC/ST candidates who appear in the Examination will be refunded after declaration of results in due course of time after verification SC/ST certificate to be uploaded at a later stage.

Online (CBT) for Stage I: NORCET Preliminary, Date: 14th April, 2024 (Sunday), Online (CBT) for Stage II: NORCET Mains, Date: 5th May, 2024 (Sunday)

Please visit AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in to apply online & for latest information.

CBC 17112/12/0043/2324

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, जहानाबाद
अतिअल्पकालीन राष्ट्रीय/स्पर्धा ई0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 09/JEHANABAD/2023-2024 (एस0बी0डी0 आधारित प्रतिशत दर निविदा)

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, जहानाबाद।
2. निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि :- दिनांक- 28.02.2024
3. निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) करने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-12.03.2024 से 03.04.2024 को 15.00 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

4. निविदा जमा (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-04.04.2024 को 15.00 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

5. निविदा बिक्री का स्थान :- दिनांक-05.04.2024 को 15.30 बजे।
6. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-05.04.2024 को 15.30 बजे।
7. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- तकनीकी बिड मूल्यांकन के पश्चात्।
8. प्री बिड मीटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक- 15.03.2024 को 15.00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल, गया का कार्यालय में।
(ii) दिनांक- 18.03.2024 को 15.00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता (दो), भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय में।

9. निविदा की वैधता की अवधि :- 120 दिन

10. कार्य का विवरण

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विद्युत का मूल्य	ई-निविदा बिड प्रोसेसिंग की	समाप्ति की अवधि
1	जहानाबाद जिला-नर्मल संयुक्त श्रम भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	4,69,70,000	9,39,400=0	10000	As Per Online Requirement	12 महीना

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंडल, जहानाबाद
PR. No. 018562 (BCD) 2023-24
नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

DELHI MALL COMPLEX

MAIN PATEL NAGAR RD.

Project is under PPP model with DDA
(Rera No.: DLRERA2018P0013)

REGISTRATION AMOUNT RS.31000

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to extremely heavy traffic on our websites on 28th Feb, our website was repeatedly crashing leading to inconvenience for a lot of applicants. This was rectified later on. We sincerely apologise for the same and request public to submit their applications as usual going forward.

महिलाओं व सीनियर सिटीजन के लिए 40% आरक्षित एवं 5% छूट

THE LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION
6TH MARCH 2024

ALLOCATION VIA DRAW OF LOT
8TH MARCH 2024

CONSTRUCTION LINKED PAYMENT PLAN

Floor	Area (Approximate)	Total Basic Cost(TBC)	Registration Fees	10% Booking Amount (within 7 days)	40% of TBC within 45 days	10% of TBC within 5 months from booking	10% of TBC within 9 months from booking	10% of TBC within 12 months from booking	10% of TBC within 15 months from booking	10% on offer of Possession
Ground Floor	50 SQ. FT. (4.7 Sq. Mtr.)* Only 277 Units Available	Rs. 52,22,450	₹31,000	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 20,88,980	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245
First Floor		Rs. 44,76,350		Rs. 4,47,635	Rs. 17,90,540	Rs. 4,47,635	Rs. 4,47,635	Rs. 4,47,635	Rs. 4,47,635	Rs. 4,47,635
Second Floor		Rs. 37,30,300		Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 14,92,120	Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 3,73,030	Rs. 3,73,030
Third Floor Food Court		Rs. 52,22,450		Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 20,88,980	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245	Rs. 5,22,245
Ground Floor	150 SQ. FT. (13.9 Sq. Mtr.)* Only 233 Units Available	Rs. 1,34,29,050	₹31,000	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 53,71,620	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905
First Floor		Rs. 1,11,90,900		Rs. 11,19,090	Rs. 44,76,360	Rs. 11,19,090	Rs. 11,19,090	Rs. 11,19,090	Rs. 11,19,090	Rs. 11,19,090
Second Floor		Rs. 89,52,750		Rs. 8,95,275	Rs. 35,81,100	Rs. 8,95,275	Rs. 8,95,275	Rs. 8,95,275	Rs. 8,95,275	Rs. 8,95,275
Third Floor Food Court		Rs. 1,34,29,050		Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 53,71,620	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905	Rs. 13,42,905

DOWN PAYMENT PLAN

Floor	Area (Approximate)	Total Basic Cost(TBC)	Registration Fees	10% Booking Amount (within 7 days)	80% of TBC within 45 days	10% On Offer of Possession
Ground Floor	50 SQ. FT. (4.7 Sq. Mtr.)* Only 277 Units Available	Rs. 47,33,750	₹31,000	Rs. 4,73,375	Rs. 37,87,000	Rs. 4,73,375
First Floor		Rs. 40,57,500		Rs. 4,05,750	Rs. 32,46,000	Rs. 4,05,750
Second Floor		Rs. 33,81,250		Rs. 3,38,125	Rs. 27,05,000	Rs. 3,38,125
Third Floor Food Court		Rs. 47,33,750		Rs. 4,73,375	Rs. 37,87,000	Rs. 4,73,375
Ground Floor	150 SQ. FT. (13.9 Sq. Mtr.)* Only 233 Units Available	Rs. 1,21,72,500	₹31,000	Rs. 12,17,250	Rs. 97,38,000	Rs. 12,17,250
First Floor		Rs. 1,01,43,750		Rs. 10,14,375	Rs. 81,15,000	Rs. 10,14,375
Second Floor		Rs. 81,15,000		Rs. 8,11,500	Rs. 64,92,000	Rs. 8,11,500
Third Floor Food Court		Rs. 1,21,72,500		Rs. 12,17,250	Rs. 97,38,000	Rs. 12,17,250

AMENITIES



FOOD COURT



SHOWROOMS



MULTILEVEL CAR PARKING



RETAIL

*Undivided space of super area

*GST & other charges as applicable



CONNAUGHT PLACE
UNDER 15-20 MINS



KAROL BAGH
UNDER 10-15 MINS



HANUMAN MANDIR (JHANEWALAN)
UNDER 10-15 MINS



MOTI NAGAR CROSSING
UNDER 10-15 MINS

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