



Hindustan Times

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सत्यमेव जयते
 Government of Assam

PM's Vision in Action Empowering Northeast to be the Ashta Lakshmi of India



PM Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate, dedicate & lay foundation for several developmental projects worth over ₹73,000 cr in Northeast

Towards a Glorious Assam

12 Major Projects

Inauguration • Dedication to the nation •
 Foundation Stone laying

Total cost of all projects
₹17,500 crore

Chief Guest

Shri Narendra Modi
 Prime Minister

August presence

Shri Gulab Chand Kataria Governor, Assam
Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma Chief Minister, Assam

9 March 2024 | 12 Noon | Meleng Meteli, Jorhat, Assam

Inauguration/Dedication to the nation

Foundation Stone Laying

Rural Development project



Griha Pravesh of 5,55,555 PMAY-G houses

Project Cost
₹8,500 crore

Health projects



Under AIFA, Govt of Assam
 Tinsukia Medical College and Hospital, Tinsukia

Project Cost
₹620 crore

Hydrocarbon projects



Barauni - Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline under PM Urja Ganga project

Project Cost
₹4,000 crore



Enhancement of Pumping Capacity of Barauni - Bongaigaon - Guwahati sector of Naharkatiya - Barauni Crude Oil Pipeline

Project Cost
₹600 crore



Replacement of Crude Oil Spur Line from PS-1 Dulaijan to Digboi Refinery

Project Cost
₹50 crore

Railway projects



Doubling of Dhupdhara - Chhaygaon section under New Bongaigaon - Goalpara - Kamakhya doubling project
 • Length- 34 km

Project Cost
₹810 crore



Doubling of New Bongaigaon - Sorbhog section under New Bongaigaon - Rangiya - Agthori doubling project
 • Length- 36 km

Project Cost
₹520 crore

Total cost: ₹15,100 crore



Under PM- DevINE Scheme
Sivasagar Medical College and Hospital, Demow, Sivasagar with 100-seats

Project Cost
₹500 crore



Under PM- DevINE Scheme
Haemato-Lymphoid and Paediatric Oncology Centre at Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati

Project Cost
₹300 crore



Capacity expansion of Digboi Refinery from 0.65 to 1 MMTPA

Project Cost
₹800 crore



Guwahati Refinery Expansion from 1.0 to 1.2 MMTPA along with installation of CRU

Project Cost
₹500 crore



Revamping/Augmentation of facilities at Betkuchi (Guwahati) Terminal of IOCL

Project Cost
₹300 crore

Total cost: ₹2,400 crore



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Hindustan Times

Biden pitches for 2nd term in a fiery State of the Union address

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden delivered a defiant argument for a second term in his State of the Union speech on Thursday night, opening with fiery denunciations of the rioters who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, singling out Republicans in the chamber and GOP foe Donald Trump, and warning that US democracy is under "assault".



President Joe Biden during the address on Thursday night. AFP

Revering in the political moment, Biden fired multiple broadsides at "my predecessor" without ever mentioning Trump by name — 13 times in all — raising his voice repeatedly as he worked to quell voter concerns about his age and job performance while sharpening the contrast with his all-but-certain November rival.

The President linked Trump's praise for those who overran the Capitol in an attempt to subvert the 2020 election with anti-democratic threats abroad.

"Freedom and democracy are under attack both at home and overseas at the very same time," Biden said as he appealed for Congress to support Ukraine's efforts to defend itself against Russia's two-year-old invasion. "History is watching."

Biden directly referenced the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol, calling out those who have played it down. "My predecessor — and some of you here — seek to bury the truth about January 6 — I will not do that," Biden said. "This is a moment to speak the truth and to bury the lies. Here's a simple truth. You can't love your country only when you win."

The scrappy tone from Biden was a sharp break from his often humdrum daily appearances and was intended to banish

doubts about whether the 81-year-old president, the country's oldest ever, is still up to the job.

For 68 minutes in the House chamber, Biden goaded Republicans over their policies on immigration, taxes and more, invited call-and-response banter with fellow Democrats and seemed to relish the fight.

"I know I may not look like it, but I've been around a while," Biden deadpanned. "And when you get to my age certain things

continued on →15

DELHI COP KICKS NAMAZ WORSHIPPERS; SUSPENDED

Hemani Bhandari
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NEW DELHI: A Delhi Police sub-inspector was suspended on Friday after videos of him kicking and assaulting worshippers offering namaz to clear the road in north Delhi's Inderlok locality went viral on social media. Deputy commissioner of police (north) Manoj Kumar Meena said, "Following the incident that took place at Inderlok, the police-post in-charge, who was seen in the video, has been suspended with immediate effect. Necessary disciplinary action is also being taken." The sub-inspector was identified as Manoj Tomar. →P4

AAP LAUNCHES ITS CAMPAIGN FOR LS POLLS, SAYS WILL HELP THE CAPITAL

Alok KN Mishra
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NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday launched national poll campaign — "Sansad Me Bhi Kejriwal, Toh Delhi Hogi Aur Khushhal" — centred around the party's national convenor and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying victory of all seven INDIA candidates in Delhi will give him "more strength to work for the people". →P3

16-YEAR-OLD JEE ASPIRANT DIES BY SUICIDE IN KOTA, 5TH CASE THIS YR

Senjuti Sengupta and Yogendra Mahawar
letters@hindustantimes.com

JAIPUR/KOTA: A 16-year-old student, who was preparing for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission in engineering courses, allegedly died by suicide in Kota district of Rajasthan, leaving behind a purported note for his father where he said he is struggling to pursue the course, police said on Friday.

This is the fifth such incident in the coaching hub this year. Last year, 27 students, preparing for various competitive examinations, died by suicide in the district. →P11

Jail official held under UAPA for gadgets in Amritpal's cell

Biswa Kalyan Purkayastha
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SILCHAR: Assam Police have arrested the superintendent of Assam's Dibrugarh Central Jail, Nipen Das, for an alleged security breach which allowed electronic devices including a smartphone and spy-cam pen to be smuggled into the high-security cell of radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh.

Dibrugarh's additional police superintendent (crime) Sizal Agarwal said on Friday that Das was arrested late on Thursday under the stringent anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Assam Pris-

THE SECURITY BREACH ALLOWED ELECTRONIC DEVICES INCLUDING A SMARTPHONE AND SPY-CAM PEN TO BE SMUGGLED INTO SINGH'S CELL

ons Act, and Indian Penal Code's Section 120B (criminal conspiracy).

Agarwal said the breach was noticed last month and that Das was arrested after several

rounds of investigation. "This is a national security issue and being the head of the jail, he [Das] must be responsible," Agarwal said.

Singh was moved to Dibrugarh along with a few other members of his radical group after their arrest last year. HT learns that the assessment at the time was that his sphere of influence would not extend to this jail.

Police said the jail has a multi-tier security system, including 24-hour CCTV surveillance. Dibrugarh police superintendent Rakesh Reddy cited the initial investigation and said the

continued on →15

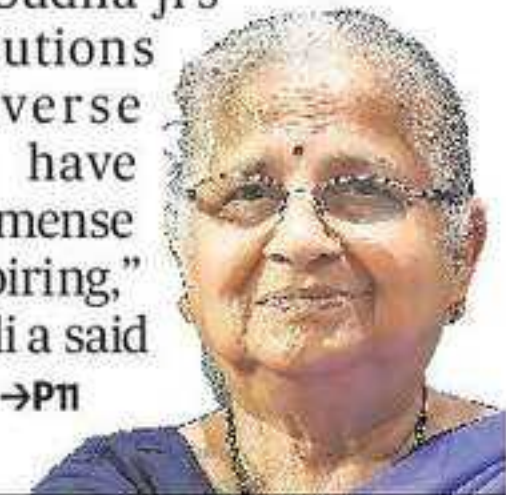
Shubman, Rohit lead the way with 100s



Indian captain Rohit Sharma (right) bumps fists with Shubman Gill during the second day of the fifth and final Test between India and England in Dharamsala on Friday. The hosts are firmly in control of the match after already clinching the series. Related story on page 22 AFP

PHILANTHROPIST SUDHA MURTY NOMINATED TO RAJYA SABHA

NEW DELHI: Philanthropist and former chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murty, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu, the government said on Friday. "I am delighted that the President of India has nominated Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha. Sudha ji's contributions to diverse fields... have been immense and inspiring," PM Modi said on X. →P11



{ FISSURES IN KASHMIR } OPPOSITION BLOC

INDIA casts shadow on Gupkar as NC, PDP spar on seat-sharing

Mir Ehsan
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SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu & Kashmir on Friday sparred over seat-sharing arrangement for the Lok Sabha elections, further deepening the discord in the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) where talks on a similar issue have run into rough weather in several states.

As the NC unilaterally decided to contest all three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir, the PDP accused the Farooq Abdullah-led party of "breaking" the alliance and reducing it to a "joke".

"We will leave the two seats in Jammu for the Congress. For Ladakh, the party (NC) will not field any candidate but will support a consensus candidate with the Congress who can defeat the BJP," NC leader and former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah said on Friday. →P12

On any possible seat-sharing arrangement with PDP, Abdullah said: "The PDP emerged third in south Kashmir's Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in the last election... how can they lay claim to the seat?"

The PDP reacted sharply to the NC leader's remarks. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who is also a former chief minister of J&K, said Abdullah's decision was "disappointing" and a "setback to the hopes of the people of J&K". →Book11

HT brunch
The re-verse of love
It's in IG captions, in rap, in Reels. Urdu poems have found a new wired audience. But is everyone a shayar? Three aficionados report from between the lines. →Book11

NUMBER THEORY

What a BJP-BJD alliance would mean for Odisha

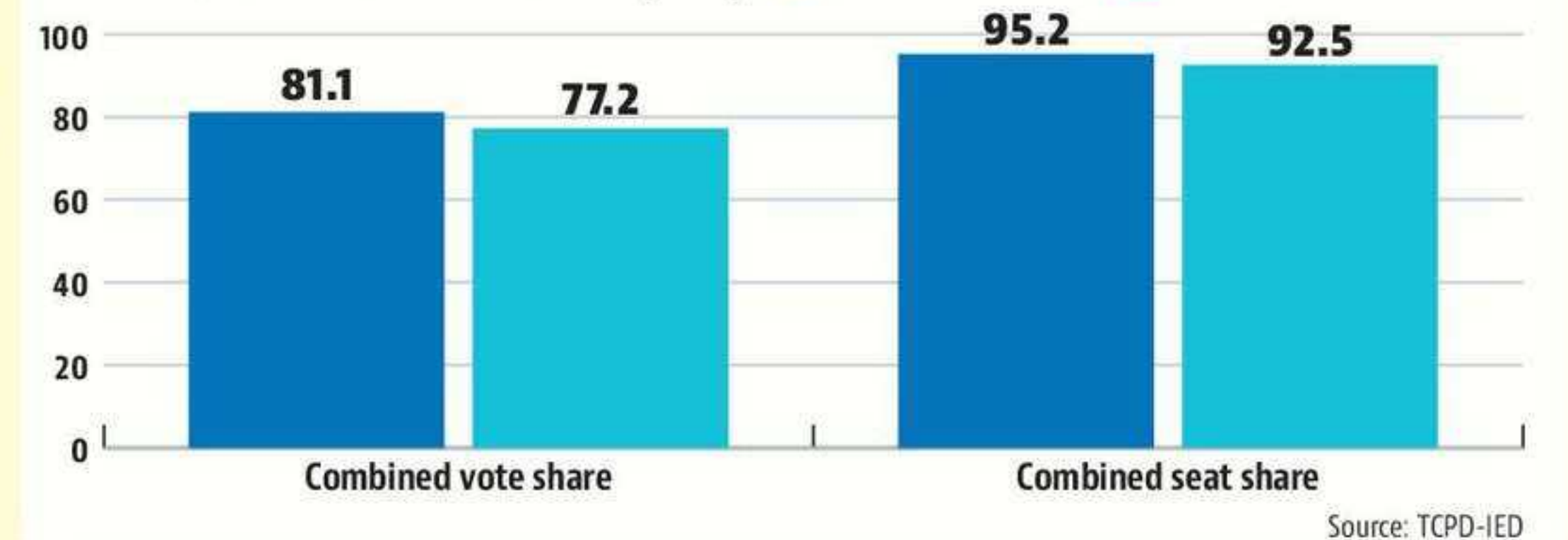
By Abhishek Jha and Nishant Ranjan

An alliance between the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha seems to be on the cards. Neither the BJP nor the BJD have refuted the reports saying that it is happening so far. Were the alliance to happen; it would be quite unique in not just Odisha's but also India's political history as the BJP and BJD are the main political competitors in the state. How will it change politics? Here are three charts which explain this in detail.

1 How strong will a BJP-BJD alliance be?

The BJP and the BJD had a combined vote share of 81.1% and 77.2% respectively in the 2019 Lok Sabha and assembly elections, which were held together. The combined seat share of the two parties was 95.2% and 92.5% respectively. If the combined vote share of these two parties holds even after an alliance in 2024, this will be among the biggest ever, if not the biggest victory for any alliance or party at the level of a major state. More on this later.

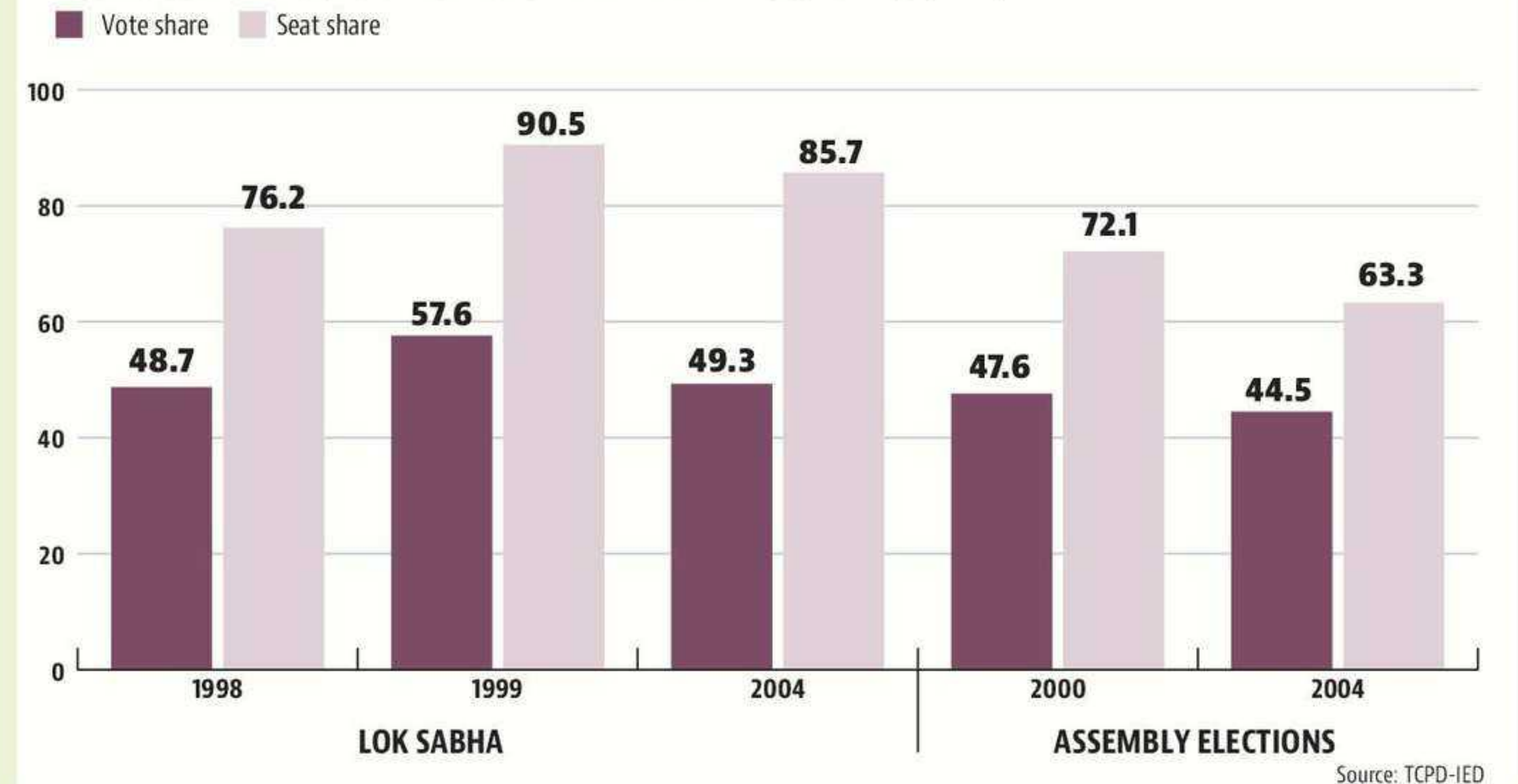
Combined vote and seat share of BJD and BJP in Odisha in 2019 (in %)



2 The BJP and the BJD have been partners in the past

Not only has the BJD not displayed hostility towards the BJP under the second Modi government – it has supported the government on many key legislations and even helped BJP ministers in getting elected to the Rajya Sabha – it was among the most important constituents of the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) crafted under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. An alliance with the BJD helped the BJP open its account in Odisha for the first time, and the alliance won all elections in Odisha between the 1998 and 2004 Lok Sabha polls. The BJD walked out of the NDA just before the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, which was the BJP's worst performance after 1989 at the all-India level.

Vote and seat share of NDA in Odisha (in %)

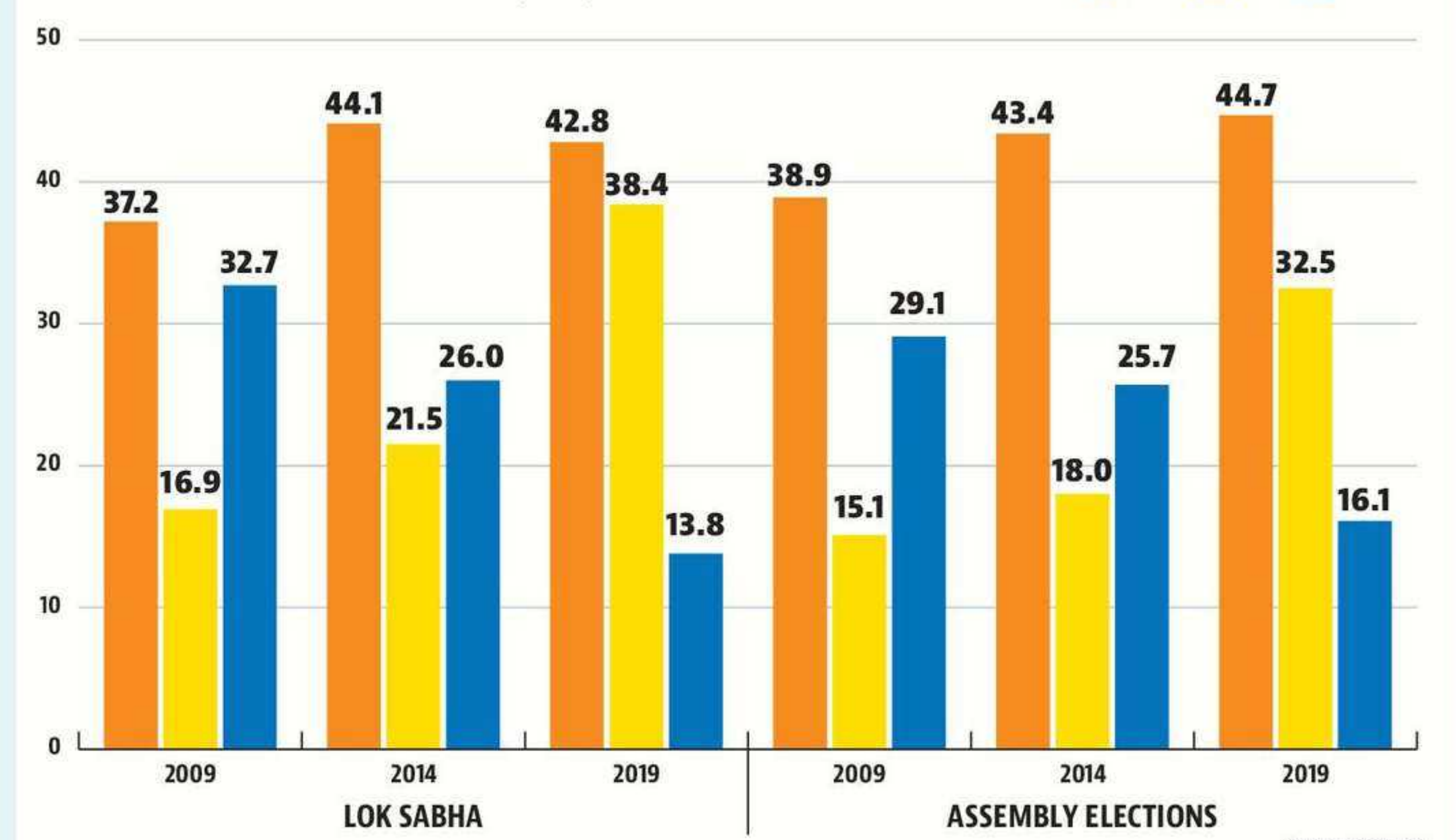


3 What happened after the BJD broke ranks with the BJP in Odisha

It was the BJP which suffered the biggest losses at first. Its Lok Sabha and assembly seat share fell by 33 and 18 percentage points, while both the BJD and the Congress made gains at the cost of the BJP. However, things changed by the 2014 elections as far as the No 2 position in the state was concerned. While the BJD increased its political dominance in the state in 2014, the BJP narrowed its vote share gap vis-a-vis the Congress and managed to get more seats than

it in the Lok Sabha elections. This trend continued in 2019, and the BJP not only decimated the Congress to become the clear number two party, it also narrowed its gap with the BJD. The biggest question which a BJD-BJP alliance raises is whether this can revive the Congress which, if the BJP-BJD do come together in an alliance, will now have a virtual monopoly as far as the Opposition space in the state is concerned.

Vote share in Odisha (in %)



4 But the BJD might be looking at the alliance from a different perspective

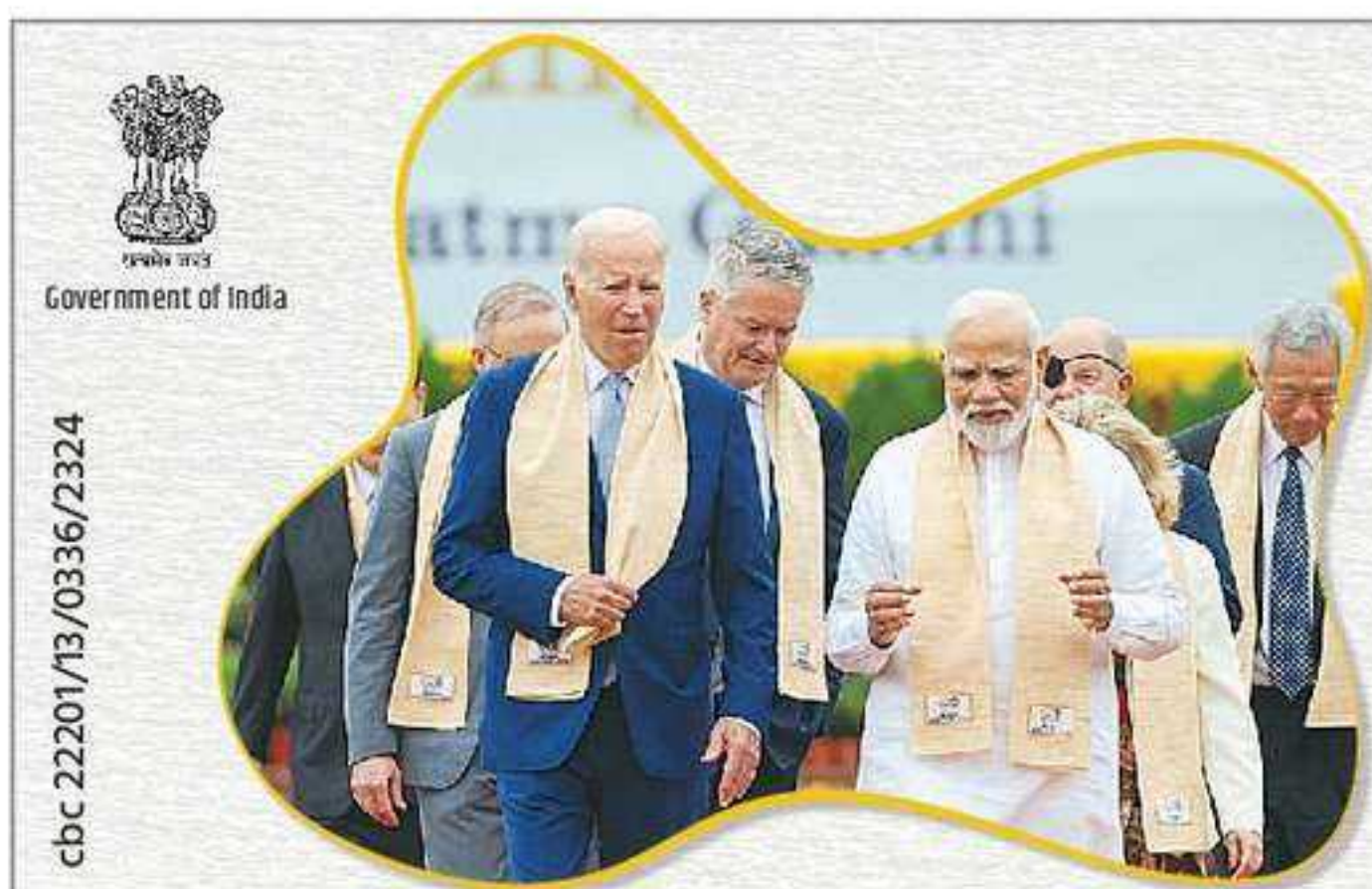
BJD is perhaps the only regional political party in a major Indian state where the leadership of the party will not eventually be passed on to someone within the family. While Naveen Patnaik political career was a function of him being Biju Patnaik's son, he has not appointed anybody from his extended family as the heir apparent of the party, and the second most important position has been given to a former

bureaucrat, VK Pandian, who is not even from Odisha. With the BJP having established itself as a serious political force in Odisha and the hegemonic party at the national level, the BJD and Naveen Patnaik might be thinking of the alliance to safeguard his own legacy rather than worry about a potential revival of the crisis-ridden Congress in the state.



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Modi Sarkar Ki Guarantee

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India improves from 11th to 5th place in 10 years



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Hamara Sankalp
 Viksit Bharat

India warns citizens amid war trafficking crackdown

Rezaul H Laskar
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Close on the heels of the death of two Indians working with the Russian military and a countrywide crackdown on agents recruiting young men for such jobs, the external affairs ministry has stepped up efforts to repatriate citizens whose lives are at risk while serving on the frontlines of the Ukraine conflict.

The external affairs ministry on Friday urged Indian nationals not to take up support jobs with the Russian Army as the work is fraught with danger, and said authorities are focused on the speedy discharge of all persons in such positions so that they can be brought home. Recruitment agents in India and places such as Dubai have been luring young men with promises that they can obtain Russian citizenship if they serve in the military for a year, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity. The Indian side has stepped up pressure on Russian authorities to identify and discharge all Indians serving as support staff, the

Getting duped to join Russia's war

The external affairs ministry urged Indians not to take up support jobs with the Russian Army

THE LURE
 Recruitment agents have been luring Indian men with promises of Russian citizenship if they serve as "support staff" for the Russian military for a year.

2 Indians have recently died working with the Russian military

HOW MANY SUCH INDIANS ARE IN RUSSIA?
 There's no official word from Indian authorities on how many such Indians are stuck in Russia, but the figure could be as high as 100.

WHAT GOVT HAS SAID
 The Indian govt has "strongly taken up the matter with the Russian govt for early discharge of such Indian nationals."

- GOVT HAS STEPPED UP EFFORTS to repatriate citizens whose lives are at risk while serving on the frontlines of the Ukraine conflict
- A CBI CRACKDOWN was initiated under which 13 locations in Delhi, Mumbai, Ambala, Chandigarh, and Chennai, among others were raided

"We once again appeal to Indian nationals to not be swayed by offers made by agents for support jobs with the Russian Army. This is fraught with danger and risk to life."
 — RANDHIR JAISWAL, MEA spokesperson

people said. There is, however, still no word from Indian authorities on the exact number of citizens in support jobs. Reports have suggested the figure could be as high as 100. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal didn't provide details in this regard, only saying that

authorities are aware of more than 20 cases of individuals who have sought help to be discharged from support jobs. The people cited above said authorities are facing several problems in ascertaining the total number of Indians serving in the Russian military. Even in the case of Indians who have

reached out for help or posted videos on social media, many are in regions located hundreds of kilometres away from Moscow and it is difficult to pinpoint their exact location and contact them, the people said. The people said about 24 Indians had contacted Indian

continued on → 15



Narendra Modi

PM ANNOUNCES LPG PRICE CUT BY ₹100 AS PART OF WOMEN OUTREACH

Rajeev Jayaswal
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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a cut in cooking gas prices for all customers by ₹100 per 14.2kg cylinder as a gift to 320 million households on International Women's Day, ahead of the announcement for the dates of the 2024 general elections.

"Today, on Women's Day, our government has decided to reduce LPG cylinder prices by ₹100. This will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting our Nari Shakti," the PM said on X. State-run oil companies — Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd — will factor in the price cut from Friday midnight, companies' executives said.

Rahul, Baghel in first Cong list of 39 names

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday announced its first list of 39 candidates across eight states and a Union territory for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, nominating senior leader Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad in Kerala, former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel from Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh, sitting MP Shashi Tharoor from Thiruvananthapuram, and party general secretary KC Venugopal from Alappuzha in Kerala.

The Congress banked on senior leaders and former ministers in several states. It named 16 candidates in Kerala which has 20 seats, seven in Karnataka which

Fielded from 8 states and 1 UT

39 candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies announced for seats in...	KEY NAMES Rahul Gandhi, Wayanad (Kerala)	Shashi Tharoor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
	DK Suresh, Bangalore Rural, (Karnataka)	Bhupesh Baghel, Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh)
8 states and one Union territory	20 candidates below the age of 50 years	24 candidates from SC, ST, OBC and minority groups

has 28, four in Telangana which has 17, and six in Chhattisgarh which has 11. It also named candidates for both seats in Meghalaya, the lone seats in Lakshad-

weep, Nagaland and Sikkim, and one of the two seats in Tripura. At least six state unit chiefs were accommodated in the first

continued on → 10

Tax tribunal dismisses Cong plea

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on Friday dismissed the Congress's appeal against action by tax authorities over alleged discrepancies in tax returns that the party says has crippled its func-

tioning just weeks ahead of general elections. Party leaders said that the tribunal dismissed the appeal of the Congress against the imposition of penalties by the Income Tax department. Congress treasurer Ajay Maken said the party was exploring all legal options and would move the high court "very

soon". He accused the BJP government of "deliberately choosing the timing of this to coincide with national elections". The party had also appealed to ITAT to stall the lien amount of ₹115 crore for 10 days as it would appeal in the high court, but that too, was turned down, said Congress leaders.

→ P11

मोदी सरकार की गारंटी — नये भारत की नई खादी

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From **HT** Archives

QUEEN ELIZABETH VISITS INDIA, 1961



Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter, Indira Gandhi, receive Queen Elizabeth II at the Palam Airport on March 2, 1961. HT ARCHIVE

When the Queen visited India to seal ties with Britain

HT's report from the day the royal couple left after a three-week tour of the country

HT Correspondent

A warm send-off was given to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Palam airport when they left Delhi for Tehran on March 2, 1961, after a three-week tour of India.

The Queen arrived at Palam accompanied by President Rajendra Prasad and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Vice-President, Cabinet ministers, Commonwealth high commissioners and some senior officials waited for them under one shamiyana, while under two other shamiyanas sat members of the diplomatic corps, MPs and others.

Before bidding goodbye to her hosts, Queen Elizabeth inspected a guard of honour. A contingent of the 39th Gorkha Regiment provided a band. A 21-gun salute went off as the Queen stepped on to the gangway.

Earlier, the Queen and Prince Philip went round shaking hands with those assembled. The Queen received bouquets from school-children gathered at the airport.

In a farewell broadcast at the end of her three-week tour of the country, Queen Elizabeth said that her visit and the great welcome accorded to her had set the seal on the new relationship between India and Britain and on the abiding friendship between the two peoples.

The Queen declared that her tour had shown her that the new Commonwealth established in 1947 is firmly based in the hearts and minds of the people as a means of co-operation for the peace and progress of mankind.

Stressing the role of younger people, she expressed the hope that she would see an even wider and deeper friendship developing between the youth of the Commonwealth countries so that their great and varied talents might be shared to their mutual advantage as well as that of the world.

"All over the world there is so much to be done for the less fortunate, and it is upon the young generation in every country that a tremendous responsibility will fall in days to come," she said.

Message to President

The royal couple waved a final goodbye before entering the blue and white Britannia. Even after the plane door was finally shut and the engines were started, the Queen in a dress of bright yellow silk, could be seen waving from one of the windows. Soon after the royal aircraft took off, the following message was received from the Queen for the President: "On our departure, my husband and I wish to thank you and the people of India once again for the truly wonderful welcome which you have given us. We take back with us the most vivid memories of your friendship, kindness and hospitality. We wish you every success in years ahead."

Earlier, before bidding the President good-bye, the Queen referred to her Indian tour as an "unforgettable experience".

Last evening, the Queen and Prince Philip along with Nehru, spent quite 20 minutes looking at an album of 200 photographs of their tour.

An hour-long coloured documentary film of the Queen's tour made by the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is being flown to London to be presented to the Queen at Buckingham Palace on March 8.

The Queen's leave-taking in Delhi was not confined to dig-
continued on →10

{ WORLD }

Murdoch is engaged once again — aged 92



Media magnate Rupert Murdoch is not giving up on love — even at age 92. Murdoch announced on Thursday that he plans to wed his girlfriend, Elena Zhukova, in June, The New York Times reported. Murdoch has been married four times before. His roller-coaster personal life is often fodder for the tabloid newspaper industry that he helped create on three continents. Last year, Murdoch announced his engagement to dental hygienist-turned-conservative radio host Ann Lesley Smith, but called it off less than a month later. Zhukova, who immigrated to the US from Russia, is a retired molecular biologist who at 67 is a quarter century younger than Murdoch. →P19

{ MY INDIA } NIKKEI FORUM

India will have a stable govt for 15 years or longer: EAM



India will have a stable government for 15 years or even longer and such political stability helps an administration to make bold decisions, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said in Japan on Friday. Speaking at the Nikkei Forum on the theme of the India-Japan special strategic partnership, he said a reformist leadership with a vision and commitment backed by a strong political mandate is able to make bold decisions, and a majority in Parliament is equally important. Jaishankar was responding to a question about India's political stability and whether the upcoming general election will affect foreign policy. "Hundred percent, we will have 15 years of stable government. It could even be that of 20 years or longer," he said. →P13

{ MY DELHI } GN SAIBABA

'My stay in jail was like agni pariksha'



Former Delhi University professor GN Saibaba on Friday said that he spent seven years inside the prison in "inhumane conditions" and termed his incarceration an "agni pariksha" (trial by fire) — a day after he was released from the Nagpur Central Jail. He was released from prison on Thursday after being acquitted by the Bombay high court along with five others as the prosecution failed to prove their suspected links with Maoist rebels. Speaking at a press conference, Saibaba termed his incarceration and release as "justice delayed". "I spent seven years inside the prison in inhumane conditions and still feel I am inside that high-security prison," he said. →P6

{ UNSOLVED MYSTERY } A DECADE LATER

What we know about MH370, 10 years on

Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, a Boeing 777 plane carrying 239 people on board from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, disappeared exactly 10 years ago — leading to one of the world's greatest unsolved aviation mysteries. A look at what we know, and more importantly, what we don't.

What is known

The last transmission from the plane was about 40 minutes after it took off from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing. Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah signed off with "Good night, Malaysian three seven zero", as the plane entered Vietnamese air space. Shortly thereafter, its transponder was turned off.

Military radar showed the plane left its flight path to fly back over northern Malaysia and Penang island, and then out into the Andaman Sea towards the tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. It then turned south and all contact was lost.

Underwater searches

SEARCH #1: 2 YEARS

Malaysia, Australia and China launched an underwater search costing about \$143 million. It was called off after two years in Jan 2017 with no traces of the plane found.

120,000 SQ KM AREA

in the southern Indian Ocean was searched based on data of automatic connections between an Inmarsat satellite and the plane.

SEARCH #2: 3 MONTHS

Malaysia accepted a "no-cure, no-fee" offer from US exploration firm Ocean Infinity for a three-month search, meaning the company would only get paid if it found the plane.

112,000 SQ KM AREA

north of the original target area was covered, but it also proved fruitless, ending in May 2018.

Debris

30+ pieces of suspected aircraft debris have been collected along the coast of Africa and on islands in the Indian Ocean, but only three wing fragments were confirmed to be from MH370.

TIMELINE OF MH370'S DEBRIS RECOVERY

Flaperon from the right wing found on La Reunion, July 29. First item confirmed to be from MH370

2014: MH370 disappears from radar on March 8, 2014

2016: Cabin floor panel found in Madagascar between late 2016 and late 2017

2018: 10-year anniversary of disappearance March 8, 2024

Legend: Confirmed (red), Almost certain (orange), Highly likely (yellow), Likely (blue)

495-pg report

A 495-page report into the disappearance, published in July 2018, said the Boeing 777's controls were likely deliberately manipulated to take it off course, but investigators could not establish blame. It also highlighted mistakes made by the Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chi Minh City ATCs

Conspiracy theories

The inability to find the crash site has led to conspiracy theories, ranging from mechanical error or a remote-controlled crash, to more bizarre explanations like alien abduction and a Russian plot.



Sources: MH370 Safety Investigation, ministry of transport Malaysia

{ TOP COURT } OVERTURNS HC VERDICT

'No rape on false promise if woman already married'

Abraham Thomas

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has held that a rape case on the false pretext to marry cannot be prosecuted by a married woman involved in a consensual relationship without getting a divorce.

A bench headed by justice CT Ravikumar quashed a rape case against the accused, whose identity was not revealed, and set aside an August 1, 2022 Madhya Pradesh high court order that refused to scrap the case registered against him at a Mahila police station in Satna on December 11, 2020.

The decision of the court came in a peculiar set of facts where the accused had a physical relationship with his landlady, who was 10 years older than him, and even solemnised their marriage at a temple in January 2019 under the impression that she had divorced her earlier husband. Though they were in a relationship since 2017, the two began to live together after their informal marriage in the same house where the woman was staying with her parents and a teenage daughter from the first marriage.

Things took a turn after the accused refused a court marriage, leading to the woman filing a criminal case against him under Section 376(2)(n) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This section prescribes punishment for a person who "commits rape repeatedly on the same woman", and the minimum sentence is 10 years in prison extending up to a

THE WOMAN FILED A CASE AGAINST THE MAN AFTER HE REFUSED TO FORMALISE THEIR MARRIAGE DESPITE LIVING TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS

life term.

The petition, on behalf of the accused, was filed by lawyer Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The bench, also comprising justice Rajesh Bindal, noted that contrary to the woman's claim in the FIR that she got a divorce from her husband on December 10, 2018, the original record proved that the decree of divorce by mutual consent was dated January 13, 2021. This showed that she was in a relationship with the accused even when her earlier marriage was subsisting.

Justice Bindal, writing the judgment for the bench, said, "It is not a case where the complainant (woman) was of an immature age who could not foresee her welfare and take right decision... She was mature and intelligent enough to understand the consequences of acts for which she consented during subsistence of her marriage."

living as husband and wife. The accused took an insurance policy where he named the complainant as a nominee, and took care of the daughter of the complainant. He also advanced a loan of ₹1 lakh to the complainant that was not returned to him.

"From the contents of the complaint, on the basis of which FIR was registered and the statement got recorded by the complainant, it is evident that there was no promise to marry initially when the relations between the parties started in the year 2017. In any case, even on the dates when the complainant alleges that the parties had physical relations, she was already married," the court said.

"For the reasons mentioned above, the order passed by the High Court (on August 1, 2022) is set aside. FIR No 52 dated December 10, 2020, registered under Section 376(2)(n) and 506 IPC... and all subsequent proceedings thereto are quashed," the judgment held.

Last year, the top court decided a case on a set of similar facts in Naim Ahamed v State of NCT, where rape charges were set aside on identical grounds. In that case, the complainant was a married woman with three children. She alleged rape on false promise of marriage five years after she began to cohabit with the accused, and had a child from this relationship without obtaining a divorce in her earlier marriage. The court held that it could not be said that the woman had given her consent for a sexual relationship under any misconception.

Agence France-Presse

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TOKYO: Akira Toriyama was already famous to comic fans in the early 1980s with *Dr. Slump* but he won manga immortality with the global sensation and Japanese success story that is *Dragon Ball*.

But as his creation and his fame exploded when his creation won over kids the world over, Toriyama, who has died in Japan aged 68, shunned the limelight and preferred to focus on drawing.

"*Dragon Ball* is like a miracle, given how it helped someone like me who has a twisted, difficult personality do a decent job and get accepted by society," Toriyama said in a rare interview in 2013.

"I don't like socialising, so much so that I have more animals than friends," he said.

Born in Japan's Aichi prefecture in 1955, Toriyama studied design at an industrial high school, according to Animage Plus, part of the anime magazine Animage. According to media reports, he liked manga at school but only started to draw comics for a living in his 20s, after three years working at an advertising agency in the city of Nagoya.



A photo of Toriyama taken in May 1982

Jackie Chan and a 16th-century Chinese literary classic *Journey to the West* — *Dragon Ball*.

Initially published in 1984 in Japan's Shonen Jump, a magazine beloved by Japanese boys, it told the adventures of a monkey-tailed boy called Son Goku through multiple fantastical universes. Over more than 500 chapters, the hero with spiky black hair and trained by a turtle-sage defeats scary and otherworldly enemies in his quest to find seven mystical dragon balls.

Dragon Ball Z took it to new heights, running from 1989 to 1996, with planet-destroying fights and displays of formidable strength as well as the appearance of the alien warrior "Saiyan" race. Translated all over the world, *Dragon Ball* spawned countless anime cartoons, films, video games, trading cards and collectible figurines that made it an immense money-spinner.

Toriyama said the scale of his success had taken him by surprise. "When I was drawing the series, all I ever wanted to achieve was to please boys in Japan."



HT put the news of the Queen's visit in its editions of March 2 & 3, 1961.

MY DELHI

Kejriwal at core of AAP campaign for Parl polls

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NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday launched its national campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, centered around the party's national convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. Office-bearers said that the campaign is titled "Sansad mein bhi Kejriwal, toh hogi Delhi aur khushaal" (If Kejriwal is in Parliament too, the city will be more fulfilled), adding that the victory of all seven Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) candidates from Delhi would give the CM "more strength to work for the people".

Addressing the gathering on Friday, Kejriwal listed his government's work such as "improvement in education and health care services," and appealed to people to vote for INDIA bloc candidates. "When I was doing all this work, the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), the LG (lieutenant governor), and the Centre tried to stop all the good work," he said at the campaign launch. Kejriwal was accompanied by his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, and other senior leaders.

"They (BJP) hate the 20 million people of Delhi because you have elected an ordinary person as the chief minister three times. Seven years ago, MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi), which was then under BJP's control, demolished a Mohalla Clinic we established," Kejriwal said.

The chief minister also released pamphlets listing the work of the AAP government, such as free pilgrimage scheme, free bus rides for women, free electricity, and its performance in the education and health care sectors. AAP workers will distribute the pamphlets, which also list the challenges that the AAP government faced.

Kejriwal said that the Delhi government installed the largest number of CCTV cameras within five years, adding that when LG VK



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal during the launch of AAP's campaign for LS polls. RAJ KRAJ/HT PHOTO

Saxena tried to stall the process, the government protested and got the scheme approved.

"They (Centre) stopped the supply of medicines, and tests at Mohalla clinics, free yoga classes, and the Farishtey scheme (for road accident victims) which saved 23,000 people. I went to the Supreme Court and got the Farishtey scheme restarted. I got the medicines and tests restarted in the Mohalla clinics. Where were the seven BJP MPs members of Parliament when it was all happening?" Kejriwal said, alleging that BJP MPs from Delhi got the work stopped.

The AAP and Congress, the key constituents of the INDIA bloc, have agreed to contest the national elections together in Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Goa. They will contest the polls separately in AAP-ruled Punjab. While Congress will contest three

seats in Delhi, and AAP will contest the remaining four.

At the campaign launch, where all AAP candidates were present, Mann appealed to people not to vote for BJP. "When AAP will have 30-40 MPs in Parliament, no one will have the courage to stop any work in Delhi and Punjab," Mann said.

Kejriwal said before the general elections, AAP party workers will go door-to-door to canvass in Delhi. "AAP workers will come, touch your feet, fold their hands, plead, appeal, pray to you, and ask for your vote. They (BJP) don't want your votes, but I want your blessings," said Kejriwal.

He said he needs MPs in the Lok Sabha to fight the BJP and get the work of the people of Delhi done. "I approved the electricity subsidy with a lot of difficulty. People will continue to get free electricity for the next year. I am currently sin-

gle-handedly fighting with the LG, the Centre, and the BJP. If you call me your son, then you cannot leave your son alone. I appeal to you to strengthen the hands of your son," said Kejriwal.

The CM said that he has been able to work for the people only because they gave him an overwhelming majority. "Otherwise the BJP would have toppled the AAP government," he said, adding that he will get the work "stopped by the Centre or LG" completed.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said the AAP's campaign slogan was "ridiculous".

"AAP has a majority government in Delhi, but despite that, it has not been able to muster the courage to contest elections on all seven Lok Sabha seats. AAP has insulted the people of Delhi by forming an alliance with Congress, a party that they claimed was corrupt," he said.



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Bid submission date (the "Application Due Date")	upto 28.03.2024 15:00 hrs on https://etender.up.nic.in
Opening of technical bid	28.03.2024 16:00 hrs

Details of RFP are on <https://etender.up.nic.in>

For Detail Contact :
Chief General Manager (Tech.)
Mob. No. +91 87260 05007
Tel. No. 0522-2628841
E-mail : cgmt@upsrtc.com

Managing Director
Email: md@upsrtc.com

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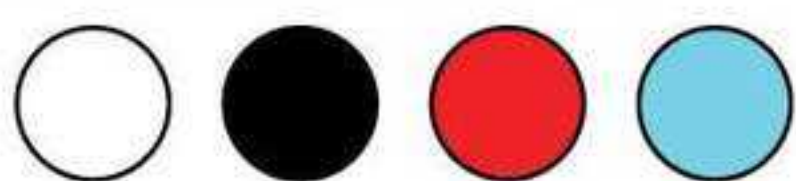


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Cop kicks people during Friday namaz on city road; suspended

Hemani Bhandari
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NEW DELHI: A Delhi Police sub-inspector allegedly kicked and manhandled worshippers outside a mosque to clear the road while they were offering namaz in north Delhi's Inderlok locality on Friday afternoon. He also allegedly displaced the mat, used by worshippers to offer prayers, with his foot. Videos of the incident went viral on social media, following which the sub-inspector was suspended with immediate effect, officials aware of the matter said.



Police personnel deployed outside the masjid at Inderlok on Friday. HT PHOTO

The mosque, commonly known as "Bade Masjid", is located close to the Inderlok Metro station. The sub-inspector was identified as Manoj Tomar, officials said. Deputy commissioner of police (north) Manoj Kumar Meena said, "Following the incident that took place at Inderlok, the police post in-charge, who was seen in the video, has been suspended with immediate effect. Necessary disciplinary action is also being taken."

In one of the videos, Tomar is purportedly seen kicking at least two Muslim worshippers offering namaz on the road. He first kicks one man in the back, and then kicks another and slaps him on the neck. The second man continues to pray despite being assaulted, and a third man is seen trying to stop Tomar, who appears to argue violently. As soon as the official kicked those people, several local resi-

dents and those worshipping inside the mosque gathered on the road and outside the police post adjacent to the masjid. The road was blocked for over two hours, throwing traffic out of gear in Inderlok and adjoining areas, including Sarai Rohilla and Shastri Nagar. Mohammed Salauddin, 41, who sells blankets at the Inderlok market across the road from the mosque, said, "The video only captured him kicking two



A videographer shows the accused policeman of kicking a person during namaz. PTI

people, but he assaulted at least five men. We have no idea why he did that and what instigated him. People tried to stop him, but he started fighting them as well. Then people got angry and gathered on the road." Other police personnel reached the spot and whisked Tomar away from the spot to bring the situation under control, an officer aware of the matter said. Salauddin said that the crowd raised slogans demanding action against the sub-inspector. "People who gathered on the spot said that they will not move from there until the

official is punished. Senior officers also reached the site.

"At around 4pm, the Imam made an announcement from inside the mosque on speaker that action was taken against the sub-inspector and asked the crowd to disperse," he said.

Meena said that meeting was held with members of the mosque and local residents of the area, which helped manage the situation. "With the help of the locals and mosque members, those who were agitated were told that action has been taken against the official. Locals of the area are with us and we are with them. We want to maintain peace and tranquillity in the area," the DCP said.

Apart from Tomar, at least one more Delhi Police official present on the spot was purportedly seen in the video.

A senior police official said that an officer of the rank of assistant commissioner of police is inquiring into the matter and will examine each official who was present on the spot.

"A report will be submitted into the incident," he said.

2 DANICS OFFICERS SUSPENDED OVER MONEY SPENT ON DELHI GOVT ADS

NEW DELHI: The ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Friday suspended two Delhi Andaman Nicobar Island Civil Services (DANICS) — of the 1996 batch and the 2003 batch — for their alleged involvement in allowing "unproductive expenditure of Delhi government funds on advertisements", according to officials aware of the matter.

The decision was taken following a recommendation made in January by Delhi's vigilance department against the officers.

In two separate orders, dated March 8, 2024, the MHA stated the President has placed the officers under suspension under Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 with immediate effect.

The Delhi government did not respond to HT's questions.

Through the orders, the officers, who are currently posted in Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were asked not to leave the respective Union territories without permission.

The action was based on a complaint lodged by Congress leader Ajay Maken with the lieutenant governor's office in 2016. HT reached out to the officers but neither responded to queries seeking comments.



Rang Lal was arrested from Jaipur. HT PHOTO

Man arrested for killing son says he was plotting for four months

Karn Pratap Singh
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NEW DELHI: The 54-year-old man — arrested on Thursday for allegedly murdering his 29-year-old son hours before his wedding — has told police that he committed the crime so the "life of his would-be daughter-in-law was not ruined", officers aware of the matter said on Friday.

According to one officer, the suspect, Rang Lal, was planning his son's murder for the past four months, and hired three men for ₹1.5 lakh to help him execute the plan. Lal was arrested on Thursday in Jaipur, while the three other suspects are on the run. Police said that the three have been identified, but did not reveal their names.

The victim Gaurav Singhal's body was discovered by his family with stab wounds at a newly constructed building in Devli Extension in south Delhi on Wednesday.

"Lal had developed animosity against his son because he was unhappy with the latter's extravagant lifestyle, disobedience, and discourteous behaviour. Lal was also annoyed because there was discord in his own marital life and his two sons only supported their mother," an officer said, asking not to be named.

Police said that Singhal, who owned a gym, had slapped Lal on

one occasion. "Lal said he did not want to punish the would-be bride so he killed his son before the wedding," said Ankit Chauhan, deputy commissioner of police (south).

"Lal was looking for people who could help him in executing the crime. He first contacted his former employee, who already knew about the differences Lal had with his family members, and offered him money to join him in the crime. The employee agreed and he included his two friends. ₹75,000 was paid as the token amount," Chauhan said.

The murder

On Wednesday night, Singhal was dancing during his wedding celebrations when Lal's former employee informed him around 9pm that Lal was looking for him. Singhal accompanied him to the newly building where his father was waiting.

"He met Lal on the first floor, and soon an altercation broke out about some gold items they had to carry for the wedding. As Lal started hitting Gaurav, the three men attacked him with the scissors and the pestle. He was stabbed more than 15 times. The men then dragged his body inside the room and locked it. Lal collected nearly 900 grams of gold worth over ₹50 lakh, and nearly ₹15.50 lakh cash," said a third investigator.

Waitress who served dry ice at Ggm eatery arrested

Leena Dhankhar
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GURUGRAM: The Gurugram Police on Friday arrested the 23-year-old waitress of Laforesta Café at Sapphire Mall in Sector 90, for allegedly serving dry ice instead of mouth fresheners to five diners, leading to their hospitalisation, police said.

The police said the woman was a resident of Sector 83 in Gurugram. She is from Ludhiana and was working at the restaurant for nearly a year.

Manesar assistant commissioner of police, Surender Sheoran, said that the woman was produced before a court on Fri-

day and was granted bail. "We are awaiting the FSL report and lab sample report of the items taken from there. We are also investigating to see if anyone else was also served dry ice by the staff in the past," he said. The food and supply department, on March 6, sealed the eatery, which had opened three years ago, said officials.

Gurugram deputy commissioner, Nishant Kumar Yadav, on March 6 had asked the department to prepare a list of restaurants, pubs and bars using dry ice in their establishments. Later, an advisory was issued to all city outlets to ensure that their staff get proper training in the handling

and usage of dry ice.

According to doctors, the five diners suffered corrosive injuries that caused severe damage to the oral cavity and food pipe. Two of the diners were discharged from the hospital on Tuesday while the other three remain under medical care, police officers said.

The manager of the restaurant was arrested on March 5 and sent to 14-day judicial custody, said police officers.

During the probe, the manager told investigators that the incident was an accident and the dry ice got mixed with mouth fresheners due to the negligence of staff members, said Sheoran.

JNU RELEASES LIST OF 42 NAMES FOR STUDENTS' POLL

NEW DELHI: The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) released a list of 42 students, who will form the election committee for the upcoming students' union polls, said a member of JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) on Friday. The list was declared on Wednesday by the office of the Dean of Students, after the completion of the school-level general body meetings (GBM), concluded on February 29. On February 16, the university had authorised Aishw Ghosh, the secretary of JNUSU and Md Danish, JNUSU joint secretary, to conduct the school-level GBMs to form an independent students' poll panel.

"The poll dates will be declared by next week," said Anagha Pradeep, JNUSU councillor. HTc

Resolve water woes: Atishi tells chief secy

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi water minister Atishi in a letter on Friday directed chief secretary Naresh Kumar to ensure that problems due to overflowing sewage, contamination of water, and leakage are resolved within 48 hours.

Along with a copy of the communication sent to the chief secretary, Atishi posted on X, "[I] am receiving complaints from all over Delhi regarding sewers overflowing, water contamination and water pipeline leakages. Have given strict directions to chief secretary to resolve these problems within 48 hours and to ensure that long term solutions are initiated within a week."

The letter said that nearly 80 complaints from the public about sewer overflow and pipeline leakage have been received in just one day. "The grievance redressal portal of DJB has more than 10,000 unresolved complaints. Despite repeated instructions to the CEO and senior officials, there has been no improvement on the ground level," the letter added.

"I am surprised that despite repeated complaints, senior DJB officials have not taken any corrective action in this matter. As a result, the people of Delhi are being forced to live in inhumane conditions," Atishi said.

HT reached out to DJB and the chief secretary but neither responded to queries seeking comments.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
(A Statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sijua, Post-Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)-751019

NO. RECT-11015/2/2024-RECU SEC

VACANCY NOTICE FOR CONTRACTUAL ENGAGEMENT OF FACULTY POSTS IN AIIMS BHUBANESWAR

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Dy. Director Admin. (I/C)
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Neetu D/o Bhupender R/o: N17B/97, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black colour Suit & Salwar and Black colour Slipper in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from Jurisdiction of P.S. Bharat Nagar, since 03.03.2024 at 9:00 AM.** In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 156/2024 U/S 363 IPC, dated 04.03.2024 has been registered at P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi
DP/2719/SE/2024 Ph. No.: 011-27301200, 27301800

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Manjeet @ Harvinder, S/o: Ved Singh Dabas, R/o: H.No. 298, Village Madanpur Dabas Kanjhawala and H.No. 42, Madanpur Dabas, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 79/2017 & 80/2017, U/s 376D/302/201/211/34 IPC, P.S.: Kanjhawala/Crime Branch, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Manjeet @ Harvinder** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Manjeet @ Harvinder** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Manjeet @ Harvinder** accused of **FIR No. 79/2017 & 80/2017, U/s 376D/302/201/211/34 IPC, P.S.: Kanjhawala/Crime Branch, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **19.04.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Jagmohan Singh
Additional Sessions Judge
Special Fast Track Court (North-West)
Room No. 201, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/2801/Crime/2024- (Court Matter)

F.No. 2-5/2023-NRAA
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
National Rainfed Area Authority
2nd Floor, A Block, NASC Complex DPS Marg, Pusa
New Delhi-110012

Filling up of one post of Technical Expert (Forestry) (Level-15/14) on deputation (including short term contract) basis in National Rainfed Area Authority.

Reference is invited to National Rainfed Area Authority's vacancy circular of even number published in the Employment News issue of 2-8 December, 2023 seeking applications from willing and eligible officers working under Central Government or State Government or UTs or Universities or Recognized Research Institutions or Public Sector Undertakings or Statutory or Autonomous Organizations, for filling up one post of Technical Expert (Forestry), (Level - 15/14) among others on deputation (including short-term contract) basis. The last date for receipt of applications for said post of Technical Expert (Forestry) has further been extended for 45 days from the date of publication in the Employment News.

1. Other contents of the earlier advertisement shall remain same. (Website:- www.nraa.gov.in/agricoop.nic.in)

Sd/-
(A.K. Singh)
Under Secretary (NRAA)
Ph: 011-25842838
E-mail: nraaps2007@gmail.com

CBC 01145/12/0020/2324

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ankit, S/o: Prem Pal, R/o: Near Mother Dairy, Old Chandrawal, Majnu Ka Tilla, Delhi, Also at: Village Bahapur, Police Station Kundarki, Tehsil Bilari, District Muradabad, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 06/2019, Dated 03.01.2019, U/s 392/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Civil Lines, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ankit** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ankit** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ankit** accused of **FIR No. 06/2019, Dated 03.01.2019, U/s 392/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Civil Lines, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.04.2024**.

By Order
Shri Gaurav Goyal
Metropolitan Magistrate
Central District, Room No. 247,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2666/N/2024- (Court Matter)

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
3rd & 4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, 36
Janpath, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 23353503,
Fax: 23753923, Website: www.cercind.gov.in

Petition No. 38/TD/2024 Dated: 4.3.2024

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act)

An application for the grant of a Category-V licence for inter-State trading in electricity in whole of India has been made before the Commission by NEFA Power Trading Private Limited, R-6, Erki and Senia Apartment, 1st Floor, Room No. 6, A-Sector, Naharlagun, District Papum Pare- 791110, Arunachal Pradesh.

2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State trading licence to NEFA Power Trading Private Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.nefapower.com or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that prima facie the applicant qualifies for the grant of a licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 2.3.2024, the Commission has proposed to grant a Category-V licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity in whole of India.
4. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant the licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by **15.3.2024** at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.
5. The Commission has fixed the application for final disposal on **18.3.2024** and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vimal Kumar Gupta S/o Nand Kishor Gupta R/o C-37, Mittal Chowk, Prahladpur, Badarpur, South Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 320/2018 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, PS Madhur Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Vimal Kumar Gupta** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Vimal Kumar Gupta** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vimal Kumar Gupta** of case **FIR No. 320/2018 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, PS Madhur Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.03.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Udbhav Kumar Jain
Metropolitan Magistrate-04
Room No. 37, Shahdara
Karkardoom Courts, Delhi

DP/2794/ED/2024 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shakil S/o Lahu R/o H.No. 9A/31, WEA Karol Bagh, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 382/21 U/s 188 IPC, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Shakil** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shakil** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shakil** of **FIR No. 382/21 U/s 188 IPC, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on **22.04.2024**.

By Order
Ms. Shipra Dhankhar
Metropolitan Magistrate-01
Room No.- 180, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2747/CD/2024

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India
(A Statutory Body of the Government of India)
AERA Building, Administrative Complex, Sardarjung Airport,
New Delhi - 110003
Ph: 24695044-47, Fax: 24695048, Website: <http://aera.gov.in>

VACANCY NOTICE

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up posts of, **Director (Policy & Statistics) - Pay Level 13 (01 No.), Under Secretary (Policy & Statistics) - Pay Level 11 (03 No.), Bench Officer - Pay Level 11 (01 No.), Technical Manager - Pay Level 10 (01 No.), Junior Hindi Translator - Pay Level 6 (01 No.), Receptionist-cum-telephone operator - Pay Level 2 (01 no.)** in New Delhi on deputation basis. Details are available on AERA's website <http://aera.gov.in>. Last date for receipt of applications is **22.04.2024 till 5.30 pm**. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, in this regard would be published only on AERA's Website.

Note:- The vacancies are liable to change without notice.

Sd/-
Deputy Chief, AERA

CBC 03112/12/0025/2324

उपरो लोक सेवा आयोग
विज्ञापित

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरो के विभिन्न विभागों में सीधी भर्ती से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न पदों के साक्षात्कार सम्बन्धित सूचना निम्नवत् है :-

क्र.सं.	विज्ञापन संख्या	विभाग	विभाग संख्या	पद का नाम	साक्षात्कार की तिथि	पदों की संख्या
1	डी-4/ई-1/2023	भूतत्व एवं खनिज	एस-06/03	सहायक रसायनज्ञ	15 मार्च, 2024	02
2	डी-2/ई-1/2023	उपरो आयुष विभाग (आयुर्वेद)	एस-09/04	रीडर शल्य तंत्र	15 मार्च, 2024	01

नोट:- साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम की विस्तृत सूचना आयोग की वेबसाइट <https://uppsc.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।
संख्या- 8(5)/विज्ञापन प्रकोष्ठ/2020-2021
दिनांक: प्रयागराज, 07 मार्च, 2024

विनोद कुमार सिंह
(संयुक्त सचिव)

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

Letter No: 348 e-Tender Notice Date: 07/03/2024

Office of the Dy. General Manager (Civil), Arakot-Tiuni & Tiuni Plasu Project, UJVN Limited, Dakpathar, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No.: 01/UJVNL/DGM(Civil-Arakot-Tiuni-Plasu)/TP/2023-24, 02/UJVNL/DGM(Civil-Arakot-Tiuni-Plasu)/TP/2023-24 & 03/UJVNL/DGM(Civil-Arakot-Tiuni-Plasu)/TP/2023-24.

Name of work:
NIT 01: "Construction of Barrage, Intake and its appurtenant works including River Diversion of Tiuni-Plasu HEP (72 MW) on River Tons in District Dehradun of Uttarakhand".
NIT 02: "Construction of Head Race Tunnel, Adits, Surge Shaft, Excavation of penstock of Tiuni-Plasu HEP (72 MW) on River Tons in District Dehradun of Uttarakhand".
NIT 03: "Construction of Power House Building, Tail Race Channel, Switch yard and other associated work of Power House site of Tiuni-Plasu HEP (72 MW) on River Tons in District Dehradun of Uttarakhand".

Estimated cost : NIT 01: Rs. 134.06 Cr. (GST extra as applicable)
NIT 02: Rs. 131.76 Cr. (GST extra as applicable)
NIT 03: Rs. 49.77 Cr. (GST extra as applicable).

Date of availability of bid document on website: 24-04-2024 From 11:00 Hrs.

Last date for submission of bids on website: 08-07-2024 Upto 16:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.
Dy. General Manager (Civil)
Arakot-Tiuni & Tiuni Plasu Project, Dakpathar.

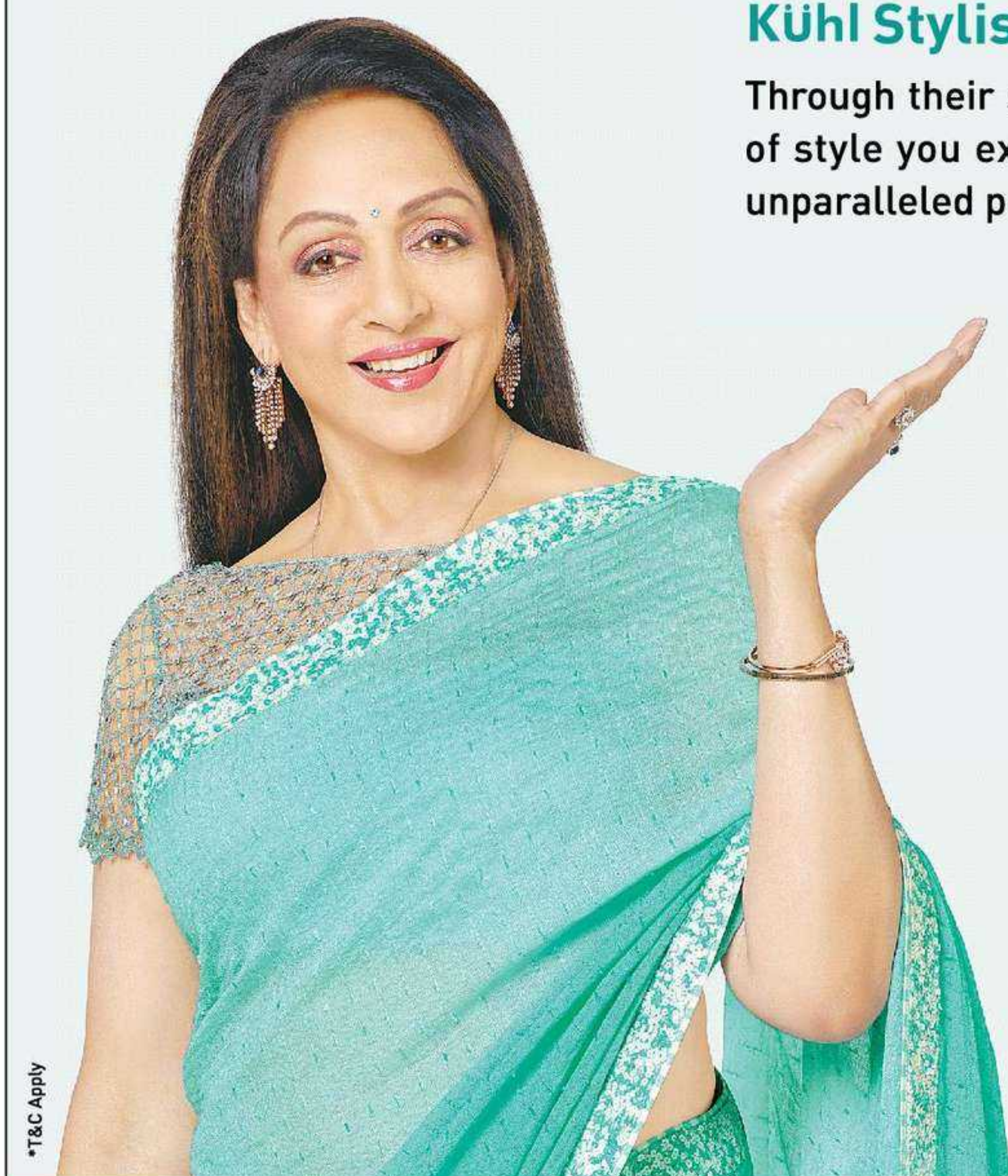
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



Stylish Smartfans

Your home is a reflection of who you truly are. Elevate it to the next level with Kühl Stylish Smartfans.

Through their sophisticated colours, bound by flowy, finessed lines. And stunning details that echo the sense of style you exude. A captivating collection of fans that are elegant beyond compare. Artfully sculpted to unparalleled perfection. Quietly powered by technologies that give them the cutting edge.



SMART FEATURES

- Saves Up To 65% Electricity
- High Airflow
- Low-Noise
- Reverse Mode

STYLISH DESIGN

- Extensive Design Range
- Down & Night Light
- Aerodynamic Blades
- Attractive Colours

OPERATES ON



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Above all.

For Free Demo: 9582 123 456 | www.kuhl.in | For Trade Inquiries: 8802 102 267, 7506 377 341

East Delhi: Anant Enterprises 9810744849; Goyal Traders 8506003003; Mohini Traders 8860194315; Manchanda Electrical Works 9899991184; R K Traders 9899924589; Urja Electric Corp 9810488998; Paras Traders 9999933633; Vardhman Lighting 9818312980; Krishna Home Appliances 9910395589; Balaji Electrical & Appliances 9910464554; Mittal Electrical Works 8178954017; Gupta Electricals-7042025526; Lucky Electric Gallery 9711525751; Rathi Electricals-7982978702 • **North Delhi:** Gupta Brothers 9953332945; Agarwal Marketers India Pvt Ltd 9899242525; Janta Elect. Store 9311402755; Jalan & Sons - 9873043888; Kansal Electricals - 9818817890; Lighting Solution 9873254504; Shri Ganesh Electricals - 9811458471; Shakti Electricals 9013314577; Sawan Electricals 9871752840; Garg Electricals-9818725100 • **South Delhi:** Modi Enterprises 9599507636; J B Gupta & Sons Pvt Ltd 9350791616; Maharani Electricals 9871311005; Nanda Electricals8447276377; Noor Electricals-9540417021; Mangla Electronics-9311005833; Pawan Electricals 9810209198; Gupta Electric Co. 8700671668; Singla Electricals 955555185 • **West Delhi:** The Creative Enterprises 9810109378; Gupta Elect. St Dwarka 9810132155; Kathuria Electricals 9810053739; Prakash Electricals 9971033831; Tilak Trading Co 9971577565; Meghna Light System 98103111380; Sudarshan Lighting Solution-9212241385; Pankaj Electricals 9013358313; Aakriti Lighting Impex Co. 9015947215; Ashu Trading Co.9818548798; Shree Balaji Traders-8285556966; MEI Sales Corp-9811531306; Munjal Electricals 9811612617 • **Gurgaon:** Digital Gadgets - 9211111414; Bindra Electric Company 9811006822; KE Enterprises 9711997917; Ruchi Enterprises 9811004546; Allied Syndicate 9818237702; Eashanya Electricals & Paints 9899409377; Friends Electronics 9810650312; HRK Traders 9910777555; Kalra Electricals 9811281187; Shree Nath Electricals 8373993103; Selection Shoppe 9810713061; Ruhi Electro World 8285978358; JK Electricals-9911674846; Balhara Electricals-9990752107; Mahadev Elec & Sanitary-813077720; Surya Lites & Elec-9990216668; Roshan Lal & Co-9891268574; Aggarwal Electricals-9810727825 • **Noida:** Sujosh Trading LLP - 8588806461; Shiva electricals-9312251975; Sai Electricals-9818579933; Evergreen Electricals 9289200200; Aggarwal Electricals Store- 9873410886; Durga Electricals 9810105673; Mitran Electricals-9315606900; Sapna Electric & Electronics 9818038619; SM Enterprises 9540584343 • **Ghaziabad:** Gupta Electrical Works 9212280950; Payal Electricals 9810377510; Gupta Light World 9818041482; Kukki Electric Co. 9350392907; SS Trading Co 8448822151 • **Faridabad:** Jai Balaji Electricals 9811521452; Ajay Electrical 9711279579; Gandhi Electricals -9899707275; Laxmi Nagpal Electrical 9560273928; SAP Electricals 9818543112.





The flower festival, to be held at Connaught Place's Central Park, will be officially opened by LG VK Saxena on Saturday. RAJK RAI/HT PHOTOS

Spring fever: Flower fest in heart of city this weekend

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Capital is all set to host a flower festival this weekend — organised by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) — when 14,000 varieties of flowering plants across 35 categories, along with ornate floral patterns and exhibits, will be on display in the heart of the city.

The festival will be held at Connaught Place, and will be inaugurated by lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena on Saturday at 10am. The visitors will also be able to purchase gardening materials, plants and accessories, the civic body said, adding that entry to the festival will be free.

Officials said that the festival is part of the ongoing series of spring celebrations and comes after the tulip and rose festivals. "We witnessed very high foot-



Officials said the festival will have 18 different sections.

falls when the flower festival was first held ahead of G20 meetings last year. Now we are making it an annual event. Visitors will be able to see floral animals, giant flower pyramids, vertical cylin-

ders and other floral structures featuring flowers in full bloom," said Jitender Dabas, director, horticulture (north), NDMC.

The festival space in the central park has been divided into

18 sections, and entry will be from Gate No 3 near the Rajiv Chowk Metro station, the official added.

He said that 35 seasonal flowers will be featured in the park including dahlia, petunia, pansy, salvia, and marigold, along with colorful floral boards, tray gardens, hanging baskets and terrariums.

"In the centre of the park there will be a musical fountain with colorful lighting in the evening," the official added. The official added that the festival had received 150,000 visitors in its last edition.

Dabas said that the sale section of the flower festival will have various outlets for nursery plants, bonsai, gardening machinery etc.

The festival will be accompanied by "Music in the Park" at Nehru Park on Saturday at 5.30pm, the NDMC official said.

Students hit by pandemic to get chance to complete DU degrees

Aheli Das
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The executive council (EC) of the Delhi University passed a budget estimate of ₹1,717.45 crore for the financial year 2024-2025 in a meeting on Friday, EC members aware of the matter said, adding that the vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh has approved a special plan for students affected by the pandemic to complete their degrees.

The meeting was presided over by Singh. The officials said that students in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years will be allowed to appear for the remaining papers required for completion of their degree.

According to the budget estimates, ₹553.95 crore was been kept for salaries — ₹307.32 crore for regular faculty salary and ₹123.68 crore for regular non-

faculty. Another the other important headers, ₹122.95 crore was allocated for things such as leave encashment, children education allowance, medical reimbursement and retirement benefits, etc, and a budget estimate of ₹154.88 crore was presented for buildings, books and journals, laboratory equipment, classroom equipment and furniture, computers, campus development, CCTV surveillance, and other capital assets.

Singh said that a special committee will be formed to evaluate the requests of students who have exceeded their academic tenure at the university, following which eligible students who suffered from unfavourable circumstances during the Covid-19 will be allowed to sit for the relevant examinations to help them complete their degrees. Eligible students will be allowed to sub-

mit applications on the impact of the pandemic and give reasons for their extension. Singh said that each application will be assessed individually.

The executive council also decided that students who have one paper left to complete the course will be given a special moderation of 10 marks. It was also decided that candidates with benchmark disabilities (PwBD) will get a 75% concession in total fee for admission to PhD, said a DU official, requesting anonymity.

The approval received from the ministry of education regarding the creation of teaching and non-teaching posts for the Faculty of Technology was also discussed. Singh said there will be eight professors, 16 for associate professors and 48 assistant professors, in addition to 48 positions for non-teaching staff.

Highlights

₹1,717.45 crore
BUDGET FOR 2024-2025

- PwBD candidates will get 75% concession in the total fee for admission to PhD
- Faculty allowed study leaves to pursue PhD
- Posts for 8 professors, 16 associate professors, 48 assistant professors created for faculty of technology
- MPhil in clinical psychology in IHBAS till 2025-26



Cold streak continues for fifth day, longest since '90

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The chilly streak that has gripped March continued for the fifth consecutive day as the Capital recorded a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius (°C) — four degrees below normal for this time of the year. The minimum was 8.8°C on Thursday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) attributed the prevailing nippy conditions to cold north-westerly winds and clear skies. This takes the longest streak of sub-10°C temperatures in March to 34 years.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature was 27.4°C, one degree below the normal, on Friday. It was a degree higher than Thursday's 26.4°C.

Met officials said that mostly cloudy skies are expected to prevail throughout Saturday but the minimum will cross over to 11°C.

"The cold wind from the northwest, paired with clear

skies is responsible for this cold streak. As a result of the clear skies, however, we are seeing a significantly high maximum," said an IMD official.

Partly cloudy skies and strong surface winds of speed 25-35km/hour will blow throughout Saturday, while the effect of the cool north-westerly winds will start receding, the official added.

"The minimum is expected to go up to 11 degrees on Saturday and might go down a degree again on Sunday. But the minimum should start rising and oscillate between 12°C and 13°C from next week," the official said.

The last time Delhi the minimum was lower than 10°C for five days in a row in March was in 1990. The minimum was below 10°C between March 1 and 5 that year — recorded at 8.3°C, 8.7°C, 9.4°C, 8.8°C and 9.3°C, respectively — IMD data showed.

This year, the minimum from

March 4 to 8 were 9.5°C on March 4, 9°C (on March 5 and 6), 8.8°C on March 7 and 9.6°C on March 8.

IMD said that a western disturbance may influence the Capital next week. "Mostly cloudy skies will persist, leading up to very light rain, accompanied by thundershowers on Wednesday," said the IMD official.

The maximum is forecast to stay around 27°C throughout the weekend and then touch 30°C by Wednesday.

Delhi's air continued to stay in the "moderate" category. The 24-hour average air quality index was 156 (moderate) at 4pm on Friday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB's) daily national bulletin. It was 181 on Thursday. "The air quality is likely to be in the 'moderate' category till Sunday and then deteriorate to the 'poor' category on Monday," said the Early Warning System for Delhi on Friday.

JEWELLER ROBBED OF VALUABLES, CASH AMOUNTING TO ₹28.5L, 4 HELD

NEW DELHI: Three robbers and a goldsmith were arrested for their alleged links to an armed robbery that was planned in a prison in Uttarakhand and executed in Mohan Garden area of southwest Delhi on February 19. The goldsmith allegedly purchased the stolen items from the three suspects, Delhi Police officials aware of the matter said on Friday.

The three suspects robbed a 56-year-old jewellery store owner at gunpoint of 650 grams of gold ornaments and 100 grams of silver items worth over ₹25 lakh, apart from ₹3.5 lakh cash outside his residence at Rama Park in Mohan Garden on February 19, they added.

"The arrested men were identified as Mohammad Sadik, 28, Mohammad Tasleem, 20, Dharamvir Kumar, 51, and Harmeet Singh, 35, who is the goldsmith. Sadik and Dharamvir hatched the robbery plan and included Tasleem in it," said deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh.

HT Homage



SMT. KAMAL RANI TANDON
Co-Founder Kamal, Trinity, Vandana,
Gurugram Group of Institutions
Jan 17, 1940 - Mar 7, 2024

It is with heavy hearts yet profound gratitude for a fulfilled life, we announce that our beloved mother Smt. Kamal Rani Tandon, left for a heavenly abode on **Thursday, March 7, 2024.**

She was a beacon of wisdom, compassion, and strength, whose legacy will echo forever. Her tireless efforts and visionary leadership have left an indelible mark on countless lives, shaping futures and instilling values that transcend generations. We are proud to have inherited her sublime values of immaculate leadership and philosophy.

**Prayer Meeting will be held on
Sunday, 10th March**

**Venue: Kamal Public School, Vikaspuri
Time : 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

May her beautiful and kind soul be in eternal peace.
Like a guiding star, her vision and values will continue to inspire us.

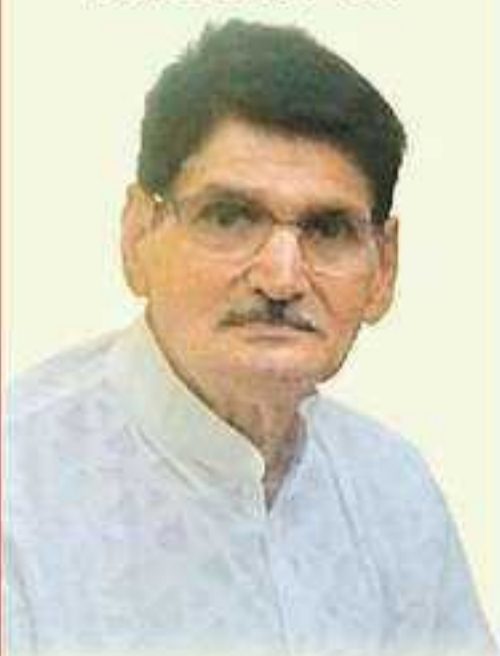
In Loving Memories

Son and Daughter-in-law
V P Tandon and Vandana Tandon
R K Tandon and Reema Tandon

Daughter and Son-in law
Radha Ghai and Sanjeev Kumar Ghai
Seema Bajaj and Tarun Bajaj

Grand Children : Harsh-Akanksha, Prabhas-Sonal, Lakshay-Sakshi, Divij-Mallika, Vibhor-Vanshika, Shreya, Saumya, Suyash
Great-Grand Children : Evank & Vedika

IN LOVING
MEMORY OF



**SHRI
KRISHAN LAL**
2nd Death Anniversary
9 March 2024

'Gurujii' to many, and a
Selfless Guide to many
more!

Saadar Pranam
Smt Pushpa Rana
Dr Anupama Lochab
Dr Vimal Mannali
Reva & Viren

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

E-Tender Notice
Sr. Divisional Engineer (CO), South East Central Railway, Nagpur, invites E-Tender for execution of following works:-
Sl. No.: 1. Name of the work: (1) Augmentation of Gondia Running Room (30 bed capacity) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Gondia, (2) Augmentation of Dongargarh Running Room (20 bed capacity) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Dongargarh. Tender Notice No.: E/31/NGP/2023-2024. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 4,13,91,491/-. Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 3,57,000/-.

Sl. No.: 2. Name of the work: Construction of office, store/ Godown and one Type-IV quarter for SSE/P.Way/Amgaon at Amgaon under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ Gondia. Tender Notice No.: E/31/NGP/2023-2024. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 2,31,43,745/-. Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 2,65,700/-.

Sl. No.: 3. Name of the work: (1) Rebuilding of 4 Nos. Bridges No. 17UP, 17DN, 20UP & 20 DN between KAV-KP block section under jurisdiction of ADEN/Track/Nagpur & (2) Rebuilding of 2 Nos. minor bridges and rebuilding of wing wall near collapse of Minor BRIDGE No. 5, 8 & 13 between KNHN-RTK under ADEN/Track/Nagpur. Tender Notice No.: C/24/NGP/2023-2024. Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 4,80,90,724/-. Earnest Money/Bid Security: ₹ 3,90,500/-.

For all the above Tenders, the Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to 15.00 Hrs. on 28.03.2024 only. Manual offers are not allowed. Details are available on our website www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Engineer(East), S.E.C. Railway, Nagpur, Clean India Drive एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

'Stay in jail was like agni pariksha for me': Former DU prof Saibaba

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi University professor Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba on Friday said that he spent seven years inside the prison in "inhumane conditions" and termed his incarceration an "agni pariksha" (trial by fire)—a day after he was released from the Nagpur Central Jail. Saibaba was released from prison on Thursday after being acquitted by the Bombay high court along with five others as the prosecution failed to prove their suspected links with Maoist rebels.

Speaking at a press conference at HKS Surjeet Bhawan near ITO, Saibaba termed his incarceration and release as "justice delayed".

"I spent seven years inside the prison in inhumane conditions and still feel I am inside that notorious dark anda cell (high-security prison)," said Saibaba.

"I am unable to come to terms that I am out of that anda cell, where I only looked at closed walls for seven years. I still feel I



GN Saibaba addresses the media at HKS Surjeet Bhawan near ITO on Friday. VINI KUMAR/HT PHOTO

am inside. It was like an 'agni pariksha' for me," he added.

Saibaba told reporters that he had no serious health condition before he was arrested. "Today I am in front of you alive, but every organ of my body is failing me because I was denied treatment, and medicines sent by my family were returned."

The professor was arrested in

May 2014 and remained in jail till 2016 before being released on bail. The Gadchiroli district session court in 2017 convicted Saibaba under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, or UAPA. After his conviction, he was lodged inside Nagpur Central Jail.

While overturning the 2017 judgment, Bombay high court's Nagpur bench on Tuesday

emphasised that merely accessing content related to communist or Maoist ideologies was not inherently illegal unless there was concrete evidence linking the accused to specific acts of violence or terrorism.

The former professor said that the process (of trial) in the Indian judicial system was punishing, but there was "hope".

Recalling the instance when he was denied parole to attend his mother's funeral, Saibaba said: "Being a disabled child, my mother took me to school in her arms every day so that I could get an education. Before she passed away in August 2020, she had one wish that she could see me, but I was not allowed to see her in her death... Who is treated like this in a democracy?"

Responding to a question by a reporter, Saibaba also said he wants to be reinstated as the DU professor.

Also speaking at the conference, Communist Part of India leader D Raja said: "I salute Saibaba for his courage."

LG nod to panel for aid to poor prisoners

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena has approved the formation of panels for the implementation of a scheme that aims to provide financial aid to poor prisoners who cannot be released from jail due to financial constraints such as non-payment of fines or bail amount, officials from the LG secretariat said on Friday.

An official from the secretariat said that the scheme was likely to benefit nearly 162 prisoners in various jails of Delhi who are unable to be released due to financial constraints. "The approximate amount required to help these prisoners has been calculated to be ₹23,79,000 by the prison department. These prisoners comprise 161 under trial prisoners and one convict," the official added. The expenditure incurred to imple-

ment the scheme will be borne by the Centre.

In a statement, the secretariat has said the LG has taken note that implementation of this scheme has been delayed despite the Union home minister writing to the AAP government last year to take advantage of the scheme. "Later, in June, the Union home secretary had also written a letter to the Delhi government for taking necessary action for the implementation of the scheme," the statement added.

The statement said the Union home minister in a letter dated May 23, 2023, addressed to CM Arvind Kejriwal informed about the scheme and the CM forwarded the letter to the Delhi minister (home) who forwarded it to the home department.

A Delhi government spokesperson said that the file reached the minister home on February 12 and they processed it within 10 days.

Non-invasive brain surgery launched

Soumya Pillai
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A first-of-its-kind gyroscopic radiotherapy system has been brought to India to enable select patients of brain tumour to get treated the same day without having to go under the knife.

Delhi's Indraprastha Apollo Hospital on Friday introduced the ZAP-X Gyroscopic Radiosurgery platform, which it said was introduced for the first time in the country, and through which patients will be able to undergo treatment for brain tumours and return home the same day.

The machine, which looks like an MRI machine, will use radiotherapy to target the tumour with beams from various angles, with minimal side effects.

"ZAP-X is an innovative technology designed for the treatment of brain tumours, using non-invasive, pain-free sessions

that last for around 30 minutes. This new technology also comes with advanced safety protocols, including instant error detection and reduced radiation leakage, which also ensures the well-being of the patient while also promising better quality of life post treatment," said Dr Prathap Chandra Reddy, founder chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, who was present in Delhi during the unveiling of the machine.

To be sure, not all brain tumor cases are suitable to be treated under this procedure.

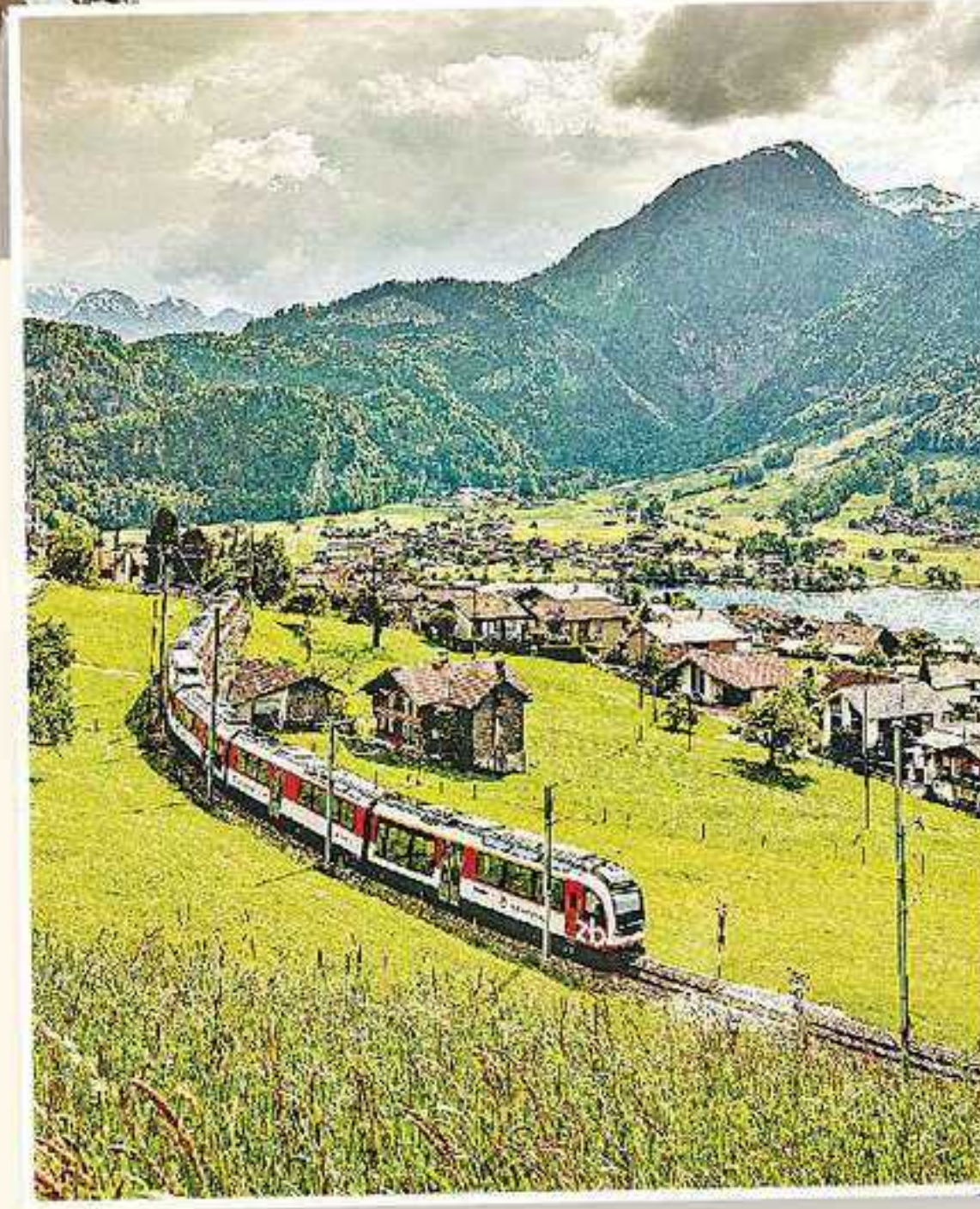
John R Adler, founder and CEO of Zap-X technology and professor of neurosurgery at Stanford School of Medicine, said, "Stereotactic radiosurgery is among the most important medical advancements of past century. Eligible patients no longer have to experience debilitating surgical resections or potentially lose cognitive capacity by undergoing whole brain radiotherapy."



from 6th-16th birthday go free with the complimentary Swiss Family Card. It also covers the premium panoramic trains Glacier Express, Bernina Express, Luzern-Interlaken Express, GoldenPass Panoramic as well as the Gotthard Panorama Express. Swiss Travel System ticket holders receive a 50 per cent discount on most mountain railways. Excursions to Rigi, Stanserhorn and Stoos are even fully included, as well as over 500 museums are included. Likewise, public transportation in more than 90 Swiss towns and cities is covered. The Swiss Travel Passes are available in 1st and 2nd class for 3, 4, 6, 8 or 15 Days, depending on the length of stay.

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Ministry Of Electronics and Information Technology

CONTROLLER OF CERTIFYING AUTHORITIES
6, CGO Complex, Electronics Niketan
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
E-mail : info@cca.gov.in Website : <http://cca.gov.in>

Father, 2 relatives arrested for killing girl in Ggm hate crime

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: The father of an 18-year-old girl has been arrested, along with two of his relatives, for the alleged murder of the girl because they disapproved of her relationship with a man, police officials said on Friday. Police said both belonged to different caste.

While the police suspect that the murder took place on January 31, it only came to light on Monday. The body of the woman is yet to be found, the police said.

A senior police officer said that they were alerted by boyfriend who suspected that the girl was killed by the family members and they started investigating.

On January 31, the girl's father, Balbir Singh, a resident of Khedla village in Sohna, filed a missing report, alleging that she eloped with a man from Raisina Village Sohna.

"My daughter left home on January 31 around 8.20am for her coaching and did not return home. Despite search at nearby areas, friends and relatives place, we could not find her," he said in possession of the report.

On February 2, however, the family of the man brought the girl back to her family, said police.

A senior police officer associated with case alleged that the girl was murdered on February 3. Earlier she had eloped but had returned after her friend's parents handed over to her parents.

According to people cited above, the girl's father, uncle and brother strangled her to death and burnt her body in the Aravalli range in the Sohna area on February 3.

Police said the father has been identified as Balbir Singh and his son and elder brother whose identity they have not disclosed. The three were taken into cus-

tody on Thursday for interrogation, deputy commissioner of police (South) Sidhant Jain said. "We arrested them over suspicion and during questioning they have revealed crucial information. They are in custody them to interrogate and collect evidence. They are in remand now," Jain said.

"The man that her father said she eloped with was found at his residence and the allegations were not found true," Jain said. The boy and his family members confessed that they were aware of their relationship but after the girls family disapproved their relationship, they informed the family that they both had eloped.

"We have not been able to find her remains yet. Mortal remains must be matched via DNA profiling with parents of the girl and only then we can conclusively say what had happened. We will be able to conclude if it was a murder only when the DNA matches," he said.

Extended RRTS section opens

Peeyush Khandelwal

letters@hindustantimes.com

GHAZIABAD: Ghaziabad Passenger operations started on Friday on the newly inaugurated 17km section of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

from Duhai to Modinagar (North). With this, the entire 34km RRTS section in Ghaziabad is now operational, officials of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation said.

Earlier, trains operated only on a 17km priority section in

Ghaziabad, covering the five stations. "The passenger operations started on the 17km section and the entire 34km section became operational on Friday. Trains are running at a frequency of every 15 minutes," said Puneet Vats, chief public relations officer, NCRTC.



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Inauguration of a GRAND SCHOOL IN NORTH EAST DELHI

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Saturday, 9th March, 2024

Chief Guest

Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Atishi
Education Minister, Delhi



Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
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:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82248838B	Teniparotide Inj 250mcg per mL in 3mL Cartridge with Delivery Pen Device per PFS	2802 Nos	01.04.2024

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 Dated: 07.03.2024 737/2024

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER NO. 2024RSI9542TC
Executive Director, Railway Stores(S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 2,545 Nos. BOBYNHSM1 Wagons to RDSO's Specification No. WD-04-BOBYN-2011 of March, 2011 and 3,000 Nos. BVCM-C Wagons to RDSO's Specification No. WD-01-BVCM-2017.
2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
4.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 09.04.2024.
5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.
Director, Railway Stores (W),
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi.
for and on behalf of the President of India.

Tender No.: 458505/35520
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
Assam Medical Services Corporation Ltd. (AMSL) invites e - Tender in Two Bid System affixing court fee stamp of Rs.8.25/- (for bidders within Assam) or IPO of Rs.10/- (for bidders outside Assam) from eligible manufacturers/importers for supply of "Essential surgical items" by entering into a R.C (Rate Contract) valid for 1 year from the issue of LOI. The complete e-tender documents may be obtained from the website - <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from 07.03.2024 till 27.03.2024
Janasanyog /CF/6379/23/9-Mar-24 S/d Managing Director , AMSCL

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approx cost of work	Earnest Money to be deposited
Improvement to LHS drainage system by water proofing at LHS No. -11B, 122, 123, 133, 137, 145 and other associated civil work in the section of ADEN/SMQL	44892487.41	374500.00

Date & Time of submission of tender bid: 19.03.2024 to 02.04.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of tender: 02.04.2024 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
ESIC POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH
BASAIDARAPUR, Ring Road, New Delhi-110015
Phone: 011-25970822, 25970889, EMAIL: deangai-hsal-dl@esic.nic.in
WEB: www.esic.nic.in/medical/4/delhi/esic-hospital-pg/msr-basaidarapur-new-delhi

WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF SENIOR RESIDENT (REGULAR) & SENIOR RESIDENT GDMO FOR ONE YEAR
Venue of Interview: Office of the Dean, Academic Block, ESI-PGIMSRS, Basaidarapur, New Delhi.

S. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts	Date of Interview
1.	Senior Resident under 3 year Residency scheme.	47 (UR-13, EWS-4, OBC-16, SC-8, ST-6)	11th & 12th March 2024
2.	Senior Resident against GDMO for one year on Contractual Basis	45 (UR-16, EWS-4, OBC-12, SC-9, ST-4)	11th & 12th March 2024

02(Two) posts out of total vacant position will be reserved for person with disability (PWD, OL, OA, ND) in r/o Senior Residents (Regular 3 Years) and 02 (Two) posts out of total vacant position will be reserved for person with disability (PWD, OL, OA, ND) in r/o Senior Residents (1 Year Against GDMO).
Details can be downloaded from: Website: www.esic.gov.in
Note: Periodical Interview on every alternate months, for next 6 calendar months shall be conducted for the various vacancies in r/o Senior Residents (Regular) & Senior Residents against GDMO for One Year as per the requirement arising. The vacancy position shall be uploaded on every month on the website. In case of a holiday falling on the schedule of loading vacancy position & conducting of interview respectively shall be on next working day default. Corrigendum whenever issued will also be displayed on website.
DEAN
ESI-PGIMSRS Basaidarapur

DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0142/23-24

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in august presence of

Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.)
Hon'ble Governor, Arunachal Pradesh

Shri Pema Khandu
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Arunachal Pradesh

Shri Kiren Rijiju
Hon'ble Union Minister,
Earth Sciences

Ms. Anusuiya Uikey
Hon'ble Governor,
Manipur

Shri Phagu Chauhan
Hon'ble Governor,
Meghalaya

Shri La Ganesan
Hon'ble Governor,
Nagaland

Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Hon'ble Governor,
Sikkim

Shri Indrasena Reddy Nallu
Hon'ble Governor,
Tripura

Shri N. Biren Singh
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Manipur

Shri Conrad Sangma
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Meghalaya

Shri Neiphiu Rio
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Nagaland

Shri Prem Singh Tamang
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Sikkim

Shri Manik Saha
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Tripura

9th March, 2024 | IG Park, Itanagar | Please be seated by 0800 hrs

Live telecast on DD NEWS Channel number: Tata Play - 502 SD, 501 HD, Airtel - 381, Dish TV - 699, Videocon D2H - 328
DD Arunprabha Channel number: Tata Play - 1986, Airtel - 649, Dish TV - 1514, Videocon D2H - 846, DD Free Dish(DTH) - 11
Time: 10:20 hrs onwards

Traffic jams on road link to IGI airport, Gurugram

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Traffic snarls were reported on Friday on the arterial stretches connecting Gurugram and south Delhi, particularly National Highway-48 (NH-48) and the stretch between Chhatarpur and Gurugram, as thousands of devotees visited the Shiv Murti temple at Mahipalpur and other temples around Chhatarpur to offer prayers on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri, officials aware of the matter said.

Police estimated that more than 50,000 people visited the temple, and added that the huge turnout of devotees forced authorities to close the service lane leading to the temple that is parallel to the NH-48.

Through the Delhi Traffic Police issued a couple of traffic advisories on its social media handles on Thursday and on

IN TWO SEPARATE ADVISORIES, THE TRAFFIC POLICE WARNED PEOPLE ABOUT SNARLS ON NH-48 AND OTHER ROADS LEADING TO GURUGRAM

Friday morning, informing the public about the traffic arrangements in south Delhi owing to the Maha Shivaratri celebrations, the arrangements were not sufficient to avoid the chaos in several parts of south Delhi.

In their advisories, the traffic police asked people to avoid NH-48, Rao Tula Ram Marg till 11.30pm on Friday and use Metro trains and take alternate routes such as Parade Road, Dwarka Link Road, Delhi Cantt route to go to the airport or Gurugram.

The advisories said that more than 150,000 devotees were expected to visit Gurugram Ka Ashram, Bhatti Mines and Shree Adya Katayani Shakteepeeth Mandir in Chhatarpur from 6am to 11.30pm for the festival on Friday.

But not just NH-48, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Vasant Kunj-Chhatarpur Road, Chhatarpur-Gurugram Road, Vasant Kunj-Mahipalpur Road, Dhawala Kuan-Airport Road, Dwarka Link Road, and many other arterial stretches connecting Gurugram with Delhi witnessed traffic jams.

Several commuters who were stuck sought posted videos and photos of jams and screenshots of Google maps.

"Something seems to be VERY wrong. All exits from Delhi airport to highway / city are backed up and not moving. Arrival time on maps has gone from 19:48 to 20:35 to now

20:57.. and counting. Hundreds of cars at standstill. Frustration has hit peak levels. SVP @dtptraffic," an X user named Siddharth Vinayak Patankar posted on his account around 8 pm on Friday.

Another X user posted, "@dtptraffic the roads from airport to city are totally blocked for over 45 minutes. Both the road thru underpass and also to mahipalpur. No traffic police around and it is madness for any airport road. Check check pls."

On the massive traffic snarls on the NH-48, a senior police officer, who asked not to be named said, "As the service lane leading to the Shiv Murti temple was closed for vehicles and only pedestrian movement was allowed, the bulk of vehicles remained on the main carriage-ways that are already affected due to the ongoing road construction work."

55-year-old held for duping Punjab National Bank staff

Hemani Bhandari

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Friday said it arrested a 47-year-old man for allegedly targeting multiple employees of Punjab National Bank and siphoning off more than ₹25 lakh from their bank accounts on Thursday. Police said the man was nabbed when he attempted to steal a phone from the South Campus branch.

Deputy commissioner of police (south west) Rohit Meena identified the suspect as Deepak Arora.

A police officer aware of the matter said that they received a complaint from the South Campus branch manager on Thursday regarding the suspicious conduct of the man.

"Branch managers from across the city had created a WhatsApp group after they discovered that several employees

had become victims of monetary fraud. In some cases, the phones of their employees were stolen. They obtained CCTV footage and zeroed in on the man," the officer said, asking not to be named.

Arora allegedly stole an iPhone of an employee at the Green Park branch on Wednesday, the CCTV footage of which was circulated on the group.

"He had not changed his clothes since Wednesday. Therefore, when he tried to steal a phone at the South Campus branch, the staff alerted police after which he was caught," the officer said.

During the probe, it came to light that Arora only targeted PNB employees because he knew they would have the "PNB app" on their phones linked to the Aadhaar card through which he was able to access their accounts.

"Arora used to visit a PNB branch and either steal the

phone of their employees or manage to take the sim out by whisking it away for a few minutes. If he stole the phone, would throw it away because he only needed the sim card. He would then insert the sim card on his phone, open the app, and regenerate the pin. He would then get the OTP which allowed him to access the virtual card and transfer money to his account," said the officer.

Investigators found that six cases across Delhi were filed against Arora, who told police that his wife suffered a kidney failure and had to be taken for dialysis every week. He was not able to fund the treatment and started gambling online.

In 2022, his wife died but he continued to gamble, the investigators added.

HT reached out to PNB, which did not issue an official comment until the time of going to print.

MCD CAUTIONS PUBLIC AGAINST ITS FORMER TOLL TAX COLLECTOR

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has cautioned people to refrain from dealing with the properties of the MEP Infrastructure Developers Limited — the civic body's former toll tax collector on the 124 border entry points — citing that the corporation was trying to recover outstanding dues of ₹3,927 crore from the company. Earlier in January, the Supreme Court had refused to interfere in the recovery proceedings.

Meanwhile, Jayant Mhaiskar, chief managing director, MEP, said that notice was "a pressure tactic". "The company will seek legal counsel against the notice. MCD and MEP have been in dispute since 2017... MCD keeps changing the loss figure," he said.

The notice by additional deputy commissioner toll tax, MCD, said, "Several immovable and movable properties belonging to and owned by MEDPIDL have been attached by MCD to recover the outstanding dues." HTc

Delhiwale

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Mayank Austen Soofi



This way to Gali Peerji Wali

The Walled City dictionary

{ PUBLIC INTEREST } As part of our 'Walled City dictionary' series, this is chronicling every Old Delhi aspect.

They forgot the water jug. The family must have vacated the old house in a hurry. Not much remains of the mansion except for a green door and a corner wall, the shelves still standing. The poor jug is lying abandoned on one of those shelves (see photo). Whatever, things are moving fast here. A new building is coming up on the plot — maybe the household will return after its completion. Same saga for most of Purani Dilli. Timeworn edifices are being razed down speedily. The historic quarter is getting rejuvenated with contemporary housing to compliment today's lifestyles.

Soon, the shelves and the door too will be razed down, and then nobody will remember the mansion. Just as nobody remembers the man who gave his identity to this street. The peer of Gali Peerji Wali remains unknown. (The word must not be confused with the English 'peer') Peer means guru, notes a passer-by's trembling

voice. He is draped in a white duhar. A woman overtakes the elderly gent. She insists a peer lived in her gali 300 years ago. "We have forgotten everything about him, including his name," she says, sounding mildly furious.

Being a mystic, a quintessential peer can command a substantial following even centuries after his death. The mazar, or tomb, of such reverent figures teems with pilgrims. Gali Peerji Wali has no such mazar. A lane elsewhere in the old city is named Gali Mazar Wali though. But that must be the mazar of a different peer, argues the elderly man in duhar. Shaking his head, he walks ahead, past a cobwebbed house, whose tall door is padlocked with a rusting lock. A muffled heart-breaking cry is coming from within, as if a child were sobbing. "That's a billi," the man in duhar remarks dismissively, walking towards the street's dead-end.

The other end of Gali Peerji Wali is more airy, culminating into the busy Haveli Azam Khan, an unusually long street containing very many galis (Gali Peerji Wali being one of those). This grand street ends at Haveli Azam Khan Chowk. There, in Modern Tea House, a customer is singing a verse by poet Mir.



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

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रोड, कनका जगर, दिल्ली-110007
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संख्या-पी.सी./पुस्तक एवं जर्नल/2024/1870 दिनांक: 07 मार्च 2024
विज्ञापित
चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, मेरठ के केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय/विभागों हेतु विभिन्न विषयों की पुस्तकों का क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। इच्छुक प्रकाशक/आपूर्तिकर्ता दिनांक 14.03.2024 को दोपहर 04:00 बजे तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में वांछित अभिलेखों एवं सौलभ्य लिफाफे में डिस्काउंट सहित उपलब्ध कराये। पुस्तकों/जर्नलस का विवरण कालेज की वेबसाइट (rmmcdcollege.org) पर उपलब्ध है।
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5. विगत पाँच वर्षों में ₹ 30.00 लाख धनराशि की पुस्तक प्रतिवर्ष किसी भी राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज में आपूर्ति करने का प्रमाण पत्र। (आर.सी. गुप्ता) प्रधानाचार्य।
6. अन्य विवरण कार्यालय में उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा।

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UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead near Railway Station Vivek Vihar, Shahdara, Delhi dated 01.03.2024. In this regard a vide DD No. 61A dated 01.03.2024 has been lodged in P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: about 30 years, Height: 5'1". Complexion: Sallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: White colour Shirt, Black colour Pant and Black colour Cap, Red colour Jersey & Black colour Chappal. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.



SHO

P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi

Ph. : 011-22146040, 7065036021

DP/2806/SHD/2024

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

CONGRESS LIST

list that was heavily loaded in favour of SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities, who were represented in 24 out of the 39 seats.

"This Lok Sabha elections will decide the future of the country. Our target is to win maximum seats to eradicate this fascist government. Senior leaders would be there in the upcoming list too," said Venugopal, flanked by party treasurer Ajay Maken and publicity department chief Pawan Khera.

Eighteen sitting MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, were repeated. The BJP has already announced 195 candidates on March 3.

The larger presence of SC, ST and OBCs is in sync with the Congress's ongoing campaign to give greater share to marginalised caste groups and Rahul Gandhi's frequent pitch for increased participation of these communities in the decision-making process. Party insiders said that leadership was looking to increase the number of SC, ST and OBC candidates to counter the BJP's outreach and popularity to these sections.

The party also pushed its larger agenda of giving more space to younger leaders and announced that 12 contestants are below 50. Venugopal announced that eight contestants were between 50 and 60, 12 between 61 and 70, and seven between 71 and 76.

The Congress general secretary announced that the candidates were selected on the basis of "winability and loyalty" and said that the party was trying in "maximum possible ways" to go with the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), the Opposition grouping that was forged to take on the BJP but which has suffered attrition in recent months amid acrimony over seat sharing.

"Still there are little issues in West Bengal and Assam. We are trying to sort it out. The Congress is very clear: We are here to reduce maximum BJP seats. We are ready to sacrifice anything to reduce BJP seats. We are expecting the same level of cooperation with other partners. In some states we need to move forward," he said, when asked about the status of seat-sharing in Bengal and Assam.

The Congress's first list came less than 24 hours after the party's central election commission (CEC), met on Thursday evening to discuss seats in seven northeastern states, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. The next meeting of CEC, in which northern states such as Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are set to be discussed, will be called on March 11.

The party named a number of state unit chiefs in its first list — including Kerala unit chief K Sudhakaran from Kannur, Meghalaya unit chief and former Union minister Vincent Pala from Shillong, Sikkim unit head Gopal Chetri from the lone seat in the state, Tripura chief Asim Kumar Saha from Tripura West, Md Hamdulaha Sayeed from Lakshadweep, and Nagaland state chief S Supongmeren Jamir from the lone seat in the state. Jamir, who hails from the dominant Ao tribe, is credited for the success of the Bharat Jodo Nyatra in Nagaland.

"The revival of Congress in Nagaland is based on our revival in Mokochung district (which is dominated by Ao tribes). The decision to nominate Jamir is a calculated one," said All India Congress Committee secretary Panajit Mukherjee, who handles Nagaland.

In Kerala, a state the Congress dominated in 2019 by winning 15 of the 16 seats it contested (its allies won another three), the party fielded Venugopal Alappuzha, a seat where he was an MP from 2014. In the last elections, the Congress fielded Shanil Usman and he lost to the Left's AM Ariff, who is the lone communist Lok Sabha MP from Kerala. Rahul Gandhi will fight for a second time from Wayanad amid strong speculation that he will also contest from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, a seat he won in 2004, 2009 and 2014 but lost in 2019.

The party retained most of its Kerala MPs, but dropped its Thrissur lawmaker TN Prathapan. Former state unit chief K Muralidharan, who is a sitting MP from Vadakara, was fielded from this high-profile seat. Kodikunnil Suresh, the party's Lok Sabha chief whip, was named from Mavelikkara. "The BJP has fielded popular actor Suresh Gopi from Thrissur. And Prathapan was seen as a lightweight candidate against Gopi. The KPCC wanted to field Muralidharan, who is the son of late Kerala CM K Karunakaran and enjoys a mass support," said a party functionary from Kerala, requesting anonymity.

In Chhattisgarh, the party puts its faith in its senior leadership with three former ministers, including former CM Baghel, among the six candidates announced. Senior party leaders said they hoped that individual heft would help them regain lost ground in the state, where they currently hold only two of the 11 Lok Sabha seats and suffered a shock defeat in the assembly elections in December 2023.

The party nominated former state home minister Tamradhwaj

Sahu who will fight from Mahasamund, former urban affairs minister Shivkumar Dahariya from Janjgir Champa, sitting MP Jyotsana Mahant from Korba, former MLA Vikas Upadhyaya from Raipur, and newcomer Rajendra Sahu from Durg. Baghel will contest from Rajnandgaon, once the seat of former three-time chief minister and now Vidhan Sabha speaker Raman Singh. This is the third time Baghel will contest parliamentary elections, after he contested from Durg in 2004 and Raipur in 2009, losing both.

In Telangana, the party named former Union minister Balram Naik from Mahabubabad, Suresh Kumar Shetkar from Zaheerabad, Challa Vamschandra Reddy from Mahabubnagar and Kunduru Raghuveer Reddy from Nalgonda. Naik served as Union minister of state between 2009 and 2013. Shetkar was a Lok Sabha member from Zaheerabad from 2009 to 2014, while Reddy is a former MLA. Kunduru Raghuveer Reddy is the son of veteran Congress leader K Jana Reddy.

In Karnataka, the party named DK Suresh from Bangalore Rural, Kannada actor Shivarajkumar's wife Geetha Shivarajkumar from Shimoga, HR Algur from Bijapur, Anandswamy Gaddadevarmath from Haveri, S Muddahanumegowda from Tumkur, Venkataramane Gowda from Mandya and Shreyas M Patel from Hassan.

A three-time MP, Suresh is the brother of Karnataka Congress chief and deputy CM DK Shivakumar and is the sitting member from Bangalore Rural. He was the only Congress candidate to win in the 2019 elections in the state.

Banuchandran Nagarajan, a

right-leaning analyst, said, "The Congress has mainly focused on states where it will go alone. Just 3 women in the list released on women's day. As much as BJP focuses on symbolism, Congress doesn't seem to take it seriously. Of the nine people that have a chance for a hat-trick after the two tough elections of 2014 and 2016, have made it viz. Pala, DK Suresh, Raghavan, KSuresh, Antony, Tharoor. Surprising that names of Bittu, Gogoi & Adhir, (others that can win the 3rd time) not in the Congress first list. Congress got 15 in Kerala out of its total 52 MPs. It will be a tough ask this time with strong CPM candidates and ascending BJP."



Scan this QR code to read today's e-paper for this week's Books page



{ FROM PAGE ONE PLUS }

QUEEN VISITS INDIA

of press correspondents covering the royal tour. For the first time mobile teleprinter vans were introduced in Bombay and Calcutta.

After the special plane took off from Palam this morning, carrying the royal guests, Prime Minister Nehru was asked by newsmen what he thought of the Queen's visit.

Nehru said he was in a hurry as he would have to answer questions in Parliament, but added: "We enjoyed the visit and we hope she also enjoyed it."

Judging by the spontaneous welcome Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh received from hundreds of thousands of people in each of the cities and towns they visited, Nehru's view is undoubtedly shared by many.

During the three weeks of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip's stay in India nearly 850,000 words were transmitted by the P and T Department on behalf

IT tribunal dismisses Cong plea against action by tax authorities

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on Friday dismissed the Congress's appeal against action by tax authorities over alleged discrepancies in tax returns that the party says has crippled its functioning just weeks ahead of general elections.

Party leaders said that the tribunal dismissed the appeal of the Congress against the imposition of penalties by the Income Tax department. Congress treasurer Ajay Maken said the party was exploring all legal options and would move the high court "very soon". He also accused the BJP government of "deliberately choosing the timing of this to coincide with national elections".

The party had also appealed to ITAT to stall the lien amount of

₹115 crore for 10 days as it would appeal in the high court, but that too, was turned down, said Congress leaders.

IT authorities have attached ₹65 crore from five bank accounts of the Congress and its youth and students' wings against the lien of ₹115 crore placed by the tax department on the party's accounts in a case related to a delay in filing IT returns for assessment year (AY) 2018-19. A lien is a sort of a hold on an amount that is owed. In this case, the lien was put through two letters sent by the department to the managers of Bank of Baroda and State Bank of India last month. Maken said the tribunal order was "an attack on democracy" as it had come just ahead of national elections and has left the principal opposition party without funds to contest the polls.

Maken also alleged that the BJP



IT authorities have attached ₹65 crore from five bank accounts of the Congress. PTI

or any other national political party had never paid any income tax penalty. "Then why single out the Congress?" he asked. Confirming the order, Congress's legal cell head Vivek Tankha said the tribunal had not followed its own past precedents and the party will approach the high court soon.

"We are disappointed with the ITAT order. We will be moving the high court very soon. They have not followed their own past precedents in granting relief on payment of 20 percent penalty and that too to a national party which is now on the verge of contesting national elections, which is going to be notified soon," Tankha told PTI. Registered political parties are exempted from paying tax on specified income such as voluntary contributions, house property, income from other sources and capital gains, under section 13A of the Income Tax Act, but they have to file IT returns annually.

Tax officials say the case pertains to the Congress's tax dues of assessment year (AY) 2018-19. The initial due to the tax department was ₹103 crore, and ₹32 crore was added to this on account of interest. The tax due was reassessed at ₹105 crore on July 6, 2021.

After this, the tax officials said, the Congress appealed before the

Commissioner. Appeals but did not pay the mandatory 20% of the tax due to initiate the appeal. It paid only ₹78 lakh, prompting the commissioner to dismiss the plea. The Congress, the officials added, then appealed Commissioner. Appeals again in May 2023, and in October, paid ₹1.72 crore. They pointed out that the Congress has not applied for any stay on the tax demand in its appeal.

The Congress showed around ₹198 crore as revenue in 2018-19 and ₹197 crore as expenditure. Terming the tax demand as disproportionate, the party has said that the case related to a delay of 45 days in filing its income tax return (ITR) in FY18-19 and an alleged cash collection of ₹14 lakhs from its MPs and MLAs — their one month's salary.

(With PTI inputs)

Bail to cops accused of abusing powers sends wrong signal: SC

Abraham Thomas
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NEW DELHI: Granting bail to police officers accused of manipulating an investigation sends a wrong signal to society as they are tasked with a fiduciary duty to punish the guilty through a fair probe, the Supreme Court has held.

A bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Kumar also said that presumptions and other considerations applicable to a layperson facing criminal charges may not carry the same weight while dealing with a

police officer who is alleged to have abused his office.

The SC made the remarks on Wednesday while hearing a petition by Jharkhand challenging the anticipatory bail granted by Jharkhand high court to former officer-in-charge of Dhanwar police station in the state's Giridih district, Sandeep Kumar. Kumar has been accused of manipulating a first information report (FIR) in connection with a cheating and counterfeiting case against one Ranjeet Kumar Saw.

While a trial court in April 2022 denied pre-arrest bail to Kumar after he apprehended

arrest, the high court, on July 6, 2022, noted that the offences against the officer carried a maximum punishment of seven years and directed his release.

The high court order was challenged by the Jharkhand government in June 2023 in the top court. On March 6, the top court set aside the high court directive, saying, "Ordinarily, an accused facing the prospect of incarceration, if proved guilty, would be entitled to the relief of pre-arrest bail. However, the same standard would not be applicable when the accused is the Investigating Officer."

Prez nominates Sudha Murty to Upper House

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Philanthropist and former chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murty, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu, the government said on Friday.

The decision was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a day also marked as International Women's Day.

"I am delighted that the President of India has nominated Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha. Sudha ji's contributions to diverse fields including social work, philanthropy and education have been immense and inspiring," the PM said in a post on X.



Sudha Murty

Minister Shri @narendramodiji. It is my privilege and honour to be nominated to the Rajya Sabha by our Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji @rashtrapatibhvn. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve our nation," she wrote.

"I shall strive to live up to what my elders taught me when I was growing up, that the purpose of this life and body is to serve others," she further said in her post.

The Union home ministry notified the appointment.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of article 80 of the Constitution of India, President Droupadi Murmu nominated philanthropist Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha to fill the

vacancy caused due to the retirement of one of the nominated members," it said.

The 73-year-old is an engineer by training and an author, who has contributed to English and Kannada literature. A resident of Karnataka, she is also the recipient of the Padma Shri in 2006 and the Padma Bhushan in 2023.

Murty's husband Narayana Murthy is the founder of Infosys and her son-in-law Rishi Sunak is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Last year, she was made part of a committee constituted by the National Council for Educational Research and Training to finalise the curriculum, textbooks and learning material for classes 3 to 12.

In January, the President nominated educationist Satnam Singh Sandhu to the Rajya Sabha.

The President can nominate 12 members to the Upper House. Other nominated members include PT Usha, Ranjan Gogoi, Ghulam Ali, rakesh Sinha, Ilayaraja, Mahesh Jethmalalani, VP Vijendra and DV Heggade.

16-year-old JEE aspirant dies by suicide in Kota, 5th case this year

Senjuti Sengupta and Yogendra Mahawar
letters@hindustantimes.com

JAIPUR/KOTA: A 16-year-old student, who was preparing for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission in engineering courses, died by suicide in Kota district of Rajasthan, leaving behind a purported note for his father where he said he was struggling to pursue the course, police said on Friday.

This is the fifth such incident in the coaching hub this year. Last year, 27 students, preparing for various competitive examinations, died by suicide in the district.

According to the police, the latest incident came to light on Thursday night when the student, from Bhagalpur district of Bihar, was found dead at his pay-

ing guest accommodation in Vignyan Nagar.

"The student was last seen by his landlord on Wednesday night. After the student did not respond to repeated knocks on Thursday, the landlord informed the police who visited the spot and recovered the body," station house officer (SHO) Satish Chandra said.

Deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Dharamveer Singh said a suicide note, reportedly written by the student, was recovered from his room. "In the note, he apologised to his father, saying he was struggling to complete the JEE course," he said. The DSP said the deceased arrived in Kota a year ago. "Initial probe revealed he had skipped a couple of class tests in his coaching centre in the last one month. His attendance,

however, appeared to be quite regular. He was only skipping the exams," he said.

"The body has been sent for an autopsy. A team from the forensic science laboratory (FSL) was also sent to the spot. We are probing whether there were any other behavioural changes in the student. Further investigation is underway," he added.

Police said a case has been registered under section 174 (unnatural death) of Code of Criminal Procedure.

Kota is the centre of India's test-prep business, estimated to be worth ₹10,000 crore annually, according to officials in the district administration.

18 children suffer burn injuries, 2 critical: Cops

Yogendra Mahawar
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOTA: Eighteen children sustained burn injuries, two of them critically, on Friday after they got electrocuted during Mahashivratri festivities in Kota district of Rajasthan, police said.

According to superintendent of police (Kota), Amrita Duhan, the incident took place in the Kali Basti area of Kota district at around 11 am when a group of nearly 100 children, between the ages of 7 and 15, was marching through Kalibasti as part of a "Shiv Baraat" procession.

"During the procession, a boy was carrying a flag hoisted on an iron rod which came in contact with a high-tension wire causing electrocution. Other children

POLICE SAID THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE WHEN A GROUP OF KIDS WERE MARCHING THROUGH KALIBASTI AREA

sustained burns while trying to rescue him. All the injured children have been admitted at the MBS hospital in Kota and five of them were referred to Jaipur, while one was discharged. Two of them are currently critical with 100% and 50% burn injuries, while the remaining 12 have sustained less than 50% burns," Duhan added. Chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed grief on the incident.

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E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 69 FOR 2023-2024 (Online)

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Solapur-413003 Sat Rasta Solapur invites Online tenders for the following work from the Contractors Registration PWD Maharashtra who fulfill the qualifying criteria mentioned in the Bid Document. Bid Document can be downloaded from the portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Solapur, reserve the right to accept or reject may or all tenders. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted.

Downloading Period of E-Tender	-: Dt. 07/03/2024 at 10.00 Hrs to 14/03/2024 at 18.15 Hrs
Pre-Bid meeting	-: Dt. 11/03/2024 at 12.30 Hrs in the Office of the Superintending Engineer Public Works Circle, Solapur (online via link generated)
Bid Lock	-: Dt. 14/03/2024 at 18.15 Hrs
Physical submission DOC.	-: At any of the following places within 72 Hrs. after Bid Lock at office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Solapur
Date of Opening of E-Tender	-: Dt. 18/03/2024 at 11.00 Hrs. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle Solapur. (If Possible)

NOTE :-
Details of Tender documents will be available and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> & <http://mahapwd.com> as under. Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website www.mahapwd.com

Sd/-
(D.M. Gawade)
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HT

Pak intruder shot dead along LoC in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: The Border Security Force (BSF) jawans have shot dead a suspected Pakistani infiltrator at the India-Pakistan border while he was trying to cross the Line of Control in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district, police said on Friday. SHO Jitendra Kumar said the incident happened on Thursday night near BSF's Sundarpura post when the jawans saw a man coming from the Pakistan side.

NEET PG Dental to be conducted on March 18

NEW DELHI: The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), under Union ministry of health and family welfare that conducts medical entrance exam for post-graduate courses in the country, will hold the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for masters in Dental Surgery (NEET-MDS) on March 18 as per the original schedule, said people aware of the matter. The board, however, has extended the last date to complete internship for dental graduates wanting to take the test by three months.

CBI raids house, market of TMC leader in Sandeshkhali

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Around 20 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials and forensic experts conducted an eight-hour search on Friday at suspended Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sheikh Shahjahan's home and a market he owns at Sandeshkhali in Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, officials said.

The development came three days after CBI took custody of the TMC strongman who, along with his associates, is accused of land grab, extortion and sexual crimes against local women.

"Two local residents were detained for questioning in connection with the January 5 attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials who raided Shahjahan's home," a CBI official said on condition of anonymity.

CBI officials said they traced all the numbers to which calls were made from two numbers registered in Shahjahan's name but his mobile handsets could not be traced. The call history revealed that on January 5, Sukumar Mahata, the TMC legislator from Sandeshkhali, called up Shahjahan on one of his numbers, said an officer. Mahata said he called up Shahjahan, a panchayat zilla parishad member, on hearing the news of the assault on ED officials. "I came to know of the assault after everything was over. I got the news from a local TMC leader. I called up Shahjahan to tell him that there



The CBI team, along with security personnel, searches the Sheikh Shahjahan Market in North 24 Parganas on Friday. SAMIR JANA/HT

should not be any trouble and nobody should get hurt under any circumstance," Mahata told the media on Friday.

Accused by local residents of extortion, land grabbing and sexually exploiting village women over several years, Shahjahan was arrested by local police on February 28 — after he stayed in hiding for 55 days — in connection with the attack on ED officials who raided his home because he is a suspect in the multi-crore public distribution system (PDS) case.

Former food minister Jyoti Priya Mallick was arrested by ED on October 27 last year in this case. The ED has alleged that subsidised good grains meant for ration shops were allegedly syphoned to the open market to be sold at a premium.

Shahjahan, who was suspended from the TMC for six days after his

arrest following a violent rebellion by villagers, was handed over to CBI on Wednesday under orders of the Calcutta high court and in the midst of a raging political row.

The island village of Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district has been in the eye of the storm since January 5, when ED officers arrived to search the home of Shahjahan, a close aide of former minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, who was arrested in October last year in connection with an alleged ration distribution scam. The ED team came under attack from an angry mob, leaving three officers injured. But, on February 7, other violent protests began erupting in Sandeshkhali and other nearby villages, with groups of residents led mostly by local women, alleging sexual harassment at the hands of local TMC leaders including Shahjahan, his brother Sirajuddin, and

other associates Shibaprasad Hazra and Uttam Sardar. Other villages have claimed that Shahjahan and his associates also indulged in landgrab.

The state has repeatedly accused the Opposition of politicising the event. But the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party wants to use Sandeshkhali as a referendum on the TMC government's grip on law and order in the state. A number of national panels — including the National Commission of Women, the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes — have visited the area and later said that they documented serious allegations against Sheikh and his associates.

Shahjahan, a former TMC zilla parishad leader, was arrested by the state police on the orders of the high court on February 29. CID later took over the investigation. Currently in the custody of the CBI and kept at the agency's Nizam Palace in south Kolkata, Shahjahan said he was innocent when he was taken to a hospital in Kolkata on Friday for a routine medical check-up as prescribed by rules.

"These (the charges) are all lies. It will be proved. Allah is there. The judgment will be delivered someday," Shahjahan told reporters, pointing a finger at the sky when he was being taken back to the CBI office. On Friday, forensic experts recorded three-dimensional images of all the buildings they visited and collected various samples for examination.

39 NAMES IN CONGRESS'S 1ST LIST

The Congress on Friday announced its first list of 39 candidates across 8 states and a UT for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

CHHATTISGARH	KERALA	Other States
● SHIVKUMAR DAHARIYA Kasaragod Jangir-Champa	● RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN Kannur	● SHASHI THAROOR Thiruvananthapuram
● JYOTSANA MAHANT Kannur	● K SUDHAKARAN Kannur	● LAKSHADWEEP ● MOHD HAMDULLAHA SAYEED Lakshadweep
● BHUPESH BAGHEL Rajnandgaon	● SHAFI PARAMBIL Vadakara	● MEGHALAYA ● VINCENT H PALA Shillong
● RAJENDRA SAHU Durg	● RAHUL GANDHI Wayanad	● SALENG A SANGMA Jirua
● VIKAS UPADHYAY Raipur	● KC VENUGOPAL Alappuzha	● NAGALAND ● SUPONGMAREN JAMIR Nagaland
● TAMRADHWAJ SAHU Mahasamund	● MK RAGHAVAN Kozhikode	● SIKKIM ● GOPAL CHETTRI Sikkim
KARNATAKA	● VIKAS SURESH Bangalore Rural	● TELANGANA ● SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR Zahirabad
● HR ALGUR (RAJU) Bijapur	● ANANDASWAMY GADDADEVARA MATH Haveri	● RAGHUVEER KUNDURU Nalgonda
● ANANDASWAMY GADDADEVARA MATH Haveri	● DEAN KURIAKOSE Idukki	● CHALLA VAMSHI CHAND REDDY Mahabubnagar
● DK SURESH Bangalore Rural	● KODIKUNNIL SURESH Mavelikkara	● BALRAM NAIK PORIKA Mahabubabad
● GEETHA SHIVARAJKUMAR Shimoga	● ANTO ANTONY Pathanamthitta	● TRIPURA ● ASHISH KUMAR SAHA Tripura West
● SHREYAS PATEL Tumkur	● ADOOR PRAKASH Attingal	
● SP MUDDAHANUMEGOWDA Mandya		
● VENKATARAMEGOWDA Mandya		

Army JCO abducted in Manipur rescued; cops suspect enmity

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NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI: An army officer was abducted from his home in Thoubal district of Manipur on Friday morning, prompting forces to launch a frantic search operation in the strife-torn state, where security personnel have also been victims of violence even when not in the line of duty. The officer was traced nearly nine hours later, around 20km from his home.

According to people familiar with the matter, junior commissioned officer (JCO) Naib Subedar Komsam Kheda Singh, who came home on leave on March 2, was abducted around 9.30am when a group of men barged into his house and forced him into a car before driving away.

"The JCO was at his residence when some armed men came and took him away. No one was hurt in the incident," said a senior police officer on condition of anonymity.

The motive behind Singh's abduction was not immediately clear, however, some officers suggested personal enmity as the possible reason. "It looks like a case of past rivalry. The men who had come to his house were known to him. When they reached his house, they called him and asked him to get inside the car. They then took him to Kakching," a second officer said, requesting anonymity.

Singh's abduction came days after Moirangthem Amit Singh, additional superintendent of police (operations) of Imphal West, and one of his escorts were abducted allegedly by members of the radical Meitei outfit Arambai

NAIB SUBEDAR SINGH, WHO CAME HOME ON LEAVE ON MARCH 2, WAS ABDUCTED ON FRIDAY MORNING

Tenggol from his residence. The ASP, rescued two hours later, was also assaulted by the armed militants. In September 2023, a former Assam Regiment soldier, Serto Thangthang Kom, was kidnapped and killed by an unidentified armed group from the valley.

The state police, along with the army and CAPF, launched a search operation across Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kakching to locate Singh after receiving information about his abduction.

A third officer aware of the developments said they launched house-to-house search operations in Kakching district after receiving information.

"We received intel that Singh was being held captive in Kakching's Waikhong area. When the teams started searching house to house, the abductors released him. At around 6.30pm, they left him at a police post in Waikhong," the officer said, requesting anonymity.

In a statement, the army said the Manipur Police were investigating the incident. Manipur has been roiled by ethnic clashes between the numerically dominant Meiteis, who primarily inhabit Imphal Valley, and the tribal Kuki-Zo community, which is in majority in a few hill districts, since May 3 last year. At least 219 have been killed and around 50,000 displaced, so far.

TWO RUSSIA-BASED AGENTS PART OF RACKET PUSHING INDIANS IN WAR: CBI

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing two Russia-based agents in connection with its probe into the alleged human-trafficking network that pushed Indians into the Ukraine war zone, people familiar with the development said on Friday.

The two agents, identified as Christina and Moinuddin Chippa, are based in Russia and were facilitating the trafficking of Indians to Russia by offering them lucrative job opportunities, the people cited above said. Chippa is originally from Rajasthan while Christina is said to be a Russian citizen.

The agents allegedly confiscated the passports of Indians arriving in Russia and forced them to fight with the armed forces, officials said. The network was busted by the CBI on Thursday.

In its FIR filed on Wednesday, the agency has listed 17 visa consultancy companies, their owners and agents spread across India. The agency has booked them under Indian Penal Code sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and human trafficking.

In its FIR, the CBI has alleged that the accused persons through their agents trafficked Indians to Russia on the pretext of getting jobs related to the Russian Army, security guards, helpers, better life, and education and a huge amount was charged from these people illegally. Once these people reached Russia, their passports were seized and they were forced to join the armed forces.

"They were being trained in combat roles and provided with Russian Army uniforms and batches. Thereafter, these Indian Nationals are being deployed at front bases in the Russia-Ukraine War Zone against their wishes..." the FIR said. HT

{ NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE } RESISTANCE IN STATE

Disquiet on ground amid BJP, BJD talks

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BHUBANESWAR: The alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is almost finalised with an announcement expected soon, several reports, including in HT, have said, but there are murmurs of discomfiture from cadres of both parties on the ground in Odisha. In Delhi, Union home minister Amit Shah, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Naveen Patnaik's trusted aide VK Pandian have been meeting to thrash out the contours of the BJD's historic return to the NDA, fifteen years after the two parted ways in 2009, people familiar with the matter said. While the BJP wants a majority of the state's 21 Lok Sabha seats, the BJD has been pushing to keep a majority of seats in the assembly elections (the two happen simultaneously in the state). But while top leaders of the two parties may be in agreement, the mood down the ranks is far from harmonious.

One district level BJD worker in coastal Balasore, readying until last month for a ferocious campaign against the BJP, said that the news of a possible alliance has

shocked cadre like him. "This is a farce. In an election, someone wins and the other loses. If they (top BJD leaders) want to ally with the BJP just because they thought they may fare badly due to a Modi wave, they should remember we bucked the trend both in 2014 and 2019. Deciding to join hands against your principal foe is not a good move," said the worker that has been in the party for over a decade.

A second BJD worker that HT spoke to said that the BJD's keenness is a "strategic mistake" which will cost the regional party. "In Odisha, we have always been the party of choice and Naveen Patnaik remains the tallest political leader in the state. We have an excellent network on the ground with workers ready to fight hard. But the optics are that we have capitulated before the BJP, because there is no other reason to ally other than fear. We have managed to go from a position of strength to look vulnerable and weak. Even if we form government, we will always have to live with doubt. What stops the BJP from wrecking us from within?"

Across the political divide, some BJP leaders have expressed unhappiness as well. "We have



While the BJP wants a majority of the state's 21 LS seats, the BJD has been pushing for majority of seats in the assembly polls.

been fighting the BJD on the ground since 2009. How can we suddenly ally with them and ask our people to vote for their candidate? There is no organic synergy between the two parties". The leader pointed out that in these 15 years, the BJP has consistently grown as a force in Odisha.

In 2019 assembly elections, the BJP had secured eight Lok Sabha seats with 38.88% while it won 23 assembly seats with 32.5% votes.

The BJP leader also said that while there is little chance of the Congress doing well in the immediate future because of a weak organisation, in the long term, this opens up opposition space for them. "Naveen Patnaik is popular but any Chief Minister who has

spent so many years in power collects anti-incumbency. The BJP was the repository of this anti-incumbency sentiment. Now the BJP has to carry that baggage, and the Congress can potentially take the opposition space."

An RSS functionary who has worked closely with the BJP leadership in the state said that the BJP would easily have won at least 50 MLA seats (of the total of 147) on its own, and at least 11 Lok Sabha seats (out of 21; in 2019, it won 8) on its own, with the possibility for more. "The cadre on ground were looking forward to a decisive battle with BJD in April and May thanks to the increasing support for the party. Once the alliance is there we may have to sacrifice Lok Sabha seats like Bhubaneswar which we won for the first time in 2019. Aparajita Sarangi had done much groundwork in last five years and would have been re-elected easily."

The move has also put into doubt the political future of BJD leaders who have switched to the BJP. Over the past five years, at least 15 leaders have joined the BJP, with no significant leader going the other way. A senior MLA, who switched to the BJP said, "I came to the BJP hoping to

contest an assembly or parliament seat and promises were made. If that doesn't happen because of the alliance, I may have to quit the party for my political future."

As local TV channels beamed permutation and combinations of seat sharing between the two parties, BJP state chief Manmohan Samal, who along with other senior leaders of the party returned to Bhubaneswar from the Delhi on Friday, said: "There was no talk on alliance and we (BJP) will go to polls alone."

He added: "We had gone to Delhi to hold discussions with the central leaders on our preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state. No talks on alliance or seat-sharing with any party were held during the meeting." Samal also claimed that the Odisha BJP was confident of winning both the polls. "The BJP will contest the twin polls on its own strength."

A former BJD MLA who joined BJP recently, meanwhile, said he might have committed a mistake. "If my seat is allotted to BJD under seat-sharing formula, I would be left nowhere," said the tribal MLA, who didn't wish to be named.



Chirag Paswan

CHIRAG PASWAN MEETS SHAH ON LS POLLS SEAT-SHARE

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PATNA: Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan on Friday met Union home minister Amit Shah to discuss the seat-sharing arrangement for the Lok Sabha elections, a day after he held a similar discussion with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief JP Nadda, in the national capital.

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) or LJP (RV) is an ally of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar.

According to LJP (RV) leaders, Paswan, who skipped all three meetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bihar recently, sought five Lok Sabha seats and one Rajya Sabha seat during his hour-long discussion with Shah. "Shah assured to give a fair deal to the party as per the situation," a party leader said, seeking anonymity.

Chirag placed similar demands before Nadda on Thursday.

There are 40 LS seats in Bihar, of which BJP has 17 seats, JD(U) 16 and undivided LJP had six.

Asked about any issues between the two parties, deputy chief minister and BJP leader Samrat Chaudhary said: "There is no issues in seat sharing in NDA and once chief minister Nitish Kumar returns from UK, everything will be clear. Neither Chirag Paswan nor Upendra Kushwaha is angry."

INDIA bloc members trade shots over LS seat-sharing in J&K

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SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu & Kashmir on Friday sparred over seat-sharing arrangement for the Lok Sabha elections, further deepening the discord in the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) where talks on a similar issue have run into rough weather in several states.

As the NC unilaterally decided to contest all three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir, the PDP accused the Farooq Abdullah-led party of "breaking" the alliance and reducing it to a "joke".

Jammu & Kashmir has five Lok Sabha seats, including two from Jammu region, while Ladakh has one. In the 2019 LS polls, while the NC won all the three seats from the Valley, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the two Jammu seats as well as the lone Ladakh seat.

On Friday, NC leader and former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah announced that his party would contest all the three seats in Kashmir for the upcoming elections. "We will leave the two seats in Jammu for the Congress. For Ladakh, the party (NC) will not field any candidate but will support a consensus candidate with the Congress who can defeat the BJP," he told reporters at the party headquarters in Srinagar.

On any possible seat-sharing arrangement with PDP, Abdullah said: "The PDP emerged third in



Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah

Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in the last election. The PDP couldn't even win this seat when its leaders hadn't quit the party. Now, that party isn't strong, so how can they lay claim to the seat?"

Abdullah said he has already conveyed to the Congress that there is little scope to accommodate the PDP on the six seats. "We can accommodate them during the assembly elections, but for that, we need to see how they behave during the Parliamentary polls," he said.

Besides being a part of the INDIA bloc, the NC and PDP are part of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — an alliance of five political parties seeking restoration of the special status of J&K which was revoked by the Centre in 2019.

The PDP reacted sharply to the NC leader's remarks. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said: "I am disappointed because (NC chief) Farooq Abdullah used to discuss every small issue in the PAGD with us. Today, they took such a big decision, saying the PDP is nowhere in the alliance. Had Farooq Abdullah asked us to leave seats, for the sake of unity, we would have sacrificed them."

Ahead of polls, hectic parleys for TDP-BJP alliance continue

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NEW DELHI: After two days of intense discussions in the national capital, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), its former ally the Telugu Desam Party, and the Jana Sena Party (JSP) are inching closer to announcing an alliance for the upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha polls in Andhra Pradesh, people familiar with the development said on Friday.

According to a BJP functionary, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the modalities of the

alliance will be announced after a final round of meeting between Union home minister Amit Shah and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and JSP chief Pawan Kalyan. "The meeting is expected to take place late on Friday night... the broad agreement has been arrived at, but the final details of the alliance will be announced after the meeting," he said.

The functionary said that the BJP was initially not keen on re-inking an alliance with the TDP, which walked out of the NDA in 2018; and has now sought between eight and nine of the 25 Lok Sabha



TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu with Union minister Amit Shah.

seats in the state and about 15 of the 175 assembly seats.

He said that even though the BJP does not have much to show in terms of electoral heft in the

state, it is driving a hard bargain.

The party does not want to settle for fewer Lok Sabha seats, as it feels the time is ripe for the party to expand its footprint in the state and the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give it an edge, he added. "The popularity of Modi's guarantees will definitely help the party score better than before...we will contest more seats to win and to meet the target of 400 plus along with our allies."

The TDP, which walked out of the BJP-led NDA in 2018 over the issue of special status to Andhra Pradesh, has been sending feelers

to rejoin the coalition. Kalyan, too, has played a role in helping Naidu mend fences with the BJP. The nitty-gritty of seat sharing for both the Lok Sabha and state polls is nearly over.

The new alliance is expected to give the BJP room to gain a foothold in the state, while helping it bag more seats in the Lok Sabha. The party has been working hard to emerge as an alternative in the state. It does not have a single legislator in the 175-member assembly while its vote share in the previous assembly elections was less than 1%.

{ FIRST-EVER NATIONAL CREATORS AWARD }

Let's together start a 'create on India' movement, says Modi

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NEW DELHI: The upcoming Lok Sabha elections, exam stress and India's ₹10,372-crore AI mission were among the key topics Prime Minister Narendra Modi delved into on Friday as he presented the first-ever National Creators Award to social media influencers across 20 categories.

Addressing a packed hall at the Bharat Mandapam, Modi urged influencers to "create on India".

"Let us together start a create on India movement. Let us share stories related to India, India's culture, India's heritage and traditions with the whole world. Let us tell our stories to everyone. Let us create on India, create for the world," he said.

Assuring the audience that his government would continue to organise these awards in his next term, the PM said: "The Lok



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the crowd as he arrives to present the first-ever National Creators Award on Friday. ANI

Sabha elections are going to be held in the next few days, but don't think that today's event is for this...I guarantee you that on the next Shivratni too, I will organise such a programme here."

The PM expressed confidence that India would soon be a leader in artificial intelligence. "We are on an AI mission and I believe the

world is watching what work India is doing in AI. Because India will lead, and I say this with full confidence in your ability. It's the same way India is moving forward in the world of semiconductors and we have taken the lead in 5G," he said, day after his cabinet announced the ₹10,372-crore plan for India's AI mission.

Modi also urged influencers to focus on mental health issues and exam stress that were pushing youngsters to suicide. "Many people make fun of the fact that being the Prime Minister, why is he wasting time discussing exams with children. I know I cannot improve the lives of children by issuing any government circular, I will have to connect with them, get to know them. I have this thought in my mind that maybe one thing or the other might be useful to someone," he said.

Meanwhile, over 200 creators were nominated across 20 categories ranging from "The Best Storyteller" award to "Favourite Celebrity Creator" to "New India Champion"; and the winners were decided on the basis of more than 150,000 nominations received.

Some of the outstanding creators felicitated include Gaurav Chaudhary, Drew Hicks and Keerthika Govindasamy.

Chaudhary, known as "Technical Gurji", won the Best Creator in Tech Category award, while YouTuber and entrepreneur Ranveer Allahbadia (BeerBiceps) won the "Disruptor of the Year" award, Pankhuri Pandey the "Green Champion", Govindasamy the "Best Storyteller", singer Maithili Thakur the Cultural Ambassador, and Kamiya Jani the Favourite Travel Creator, among others.

Allahbadia, who began his YouTube channel "Beer Biceps" while documenting his fitness journey, shared a light moment with the PM on the stage, when Modi asked him for his "fitness mantra". Allahbadia promptly suggested: "We should do yoga, meditation..."

Responding to this, PM said, "Then they (people) will say that he (Ranveer Allahbadia) is sharing Modi's idea, and then they will say that you have become a BJP wala."

Modi announces ₹100 cut in prices of LPG cylinders

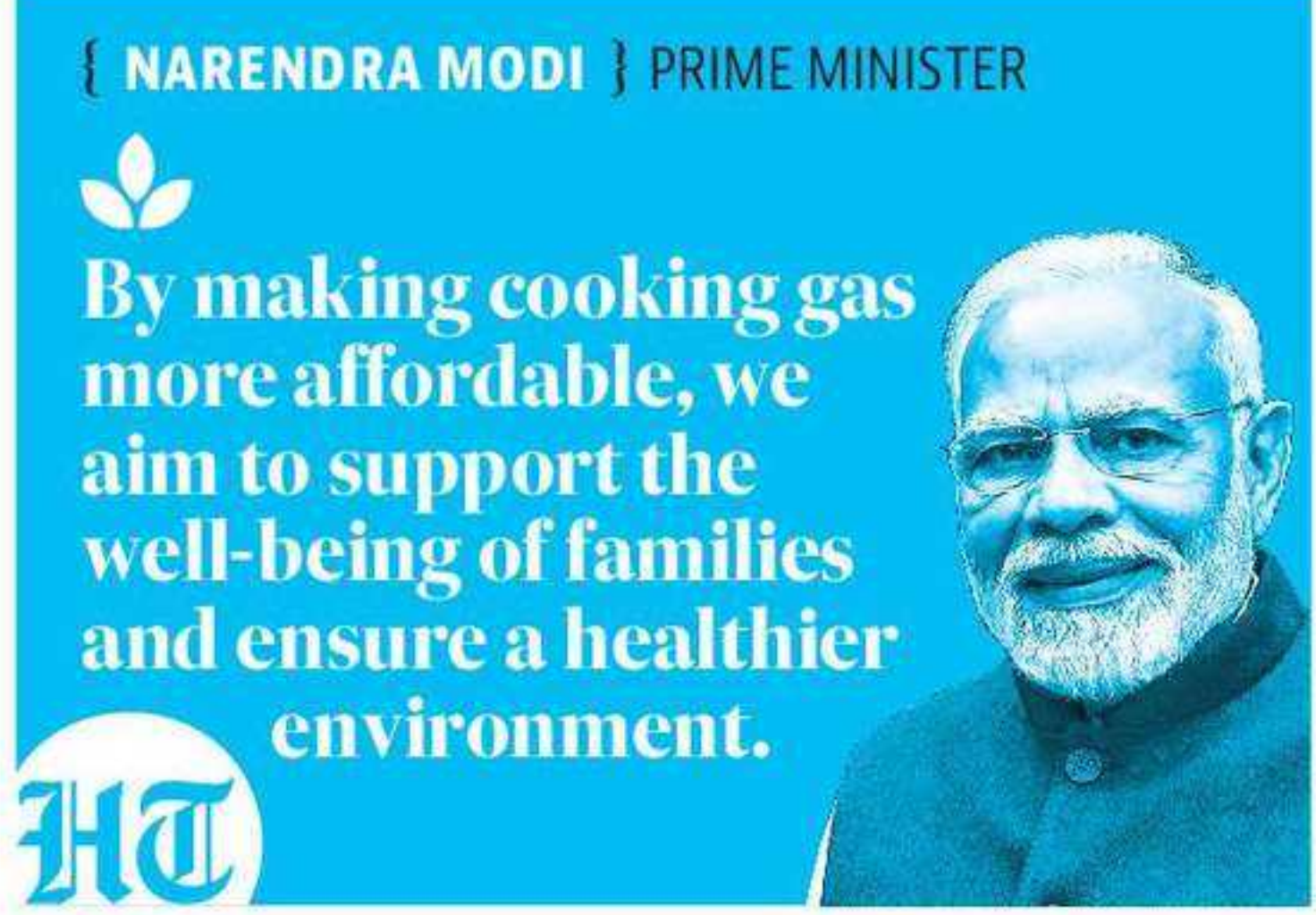
Rajeev Jayaswal
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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a cut in cooking gas prices for all customers by ₹100 per 14.2kg cylinder as a gift to 320 million households on International Women's Day, days before the Election Commission's announcement of the 2024 general elections.

"Today, on Women's Day, our government has decided to reduce LPG cylinder prices by ₹100. This will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting our Nari Shakti," the PM said in a tweet on Friday morning.

State-run oil companies - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd - will factor in the price cut from Friday midnight, companies' executives said requesting anonymity. "Fuel price changes are made from midnight to avoid confusion over rates of inventories already out for distribution," one of them said.

A 14.2kg cooking gas cylinder sold to general consumers in Delhi will cost ₹803 from Friday midnight while it will cost ₹503 for 102.7 million poor households under the Pradhan Mantri



Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Prices of cooking gas (liquefied petroleum gas or LPG) vary from state to state depending on differences in local levies.

The decision came a day after the Union cabinet gave a ₹12,000 crore bonanza to PMUY beneficiaries by extending a ₹300 subsidy on every cooking gas refill for one more year, up to March 31, 2025. Unless given an extension, the subsidy scheme for poor households would have lapsed this month on March 31.

The PM said the decision to slash LPG prices is in line with the government's "ease of living" policy.

"By making cooking gas more affordable, we also aim to sup-

port the well-being of families and ensure a healthier environment. This is in line with our commitment to empowering women and ensuring 'Ease of Living' for them," he said in a post on X, previously known as Twitter.

This is the second rate reduction since August 29 when the government decided to slash cooking gas prices by ₹200 per 14.2kg cylinder for all customers. The move had twin objectives: easing the strain on household finances hit by soaring retail inflation that came in at a 15-month high of 7.44% in July, and gaining political goodwill ahead of elections in five states, including Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The move

cooled prices of the fuel from a nine-year high of ₹1,103 per 14.2kg cylinder to ₹903 from August 30 onwards.

The Opposition called Friday's cut a move for political gain.

"Already prices were so high. It had gone up from ₹400 during Congress rule to ₹1,000 and above now. Increase and then reduce is an election gimmick," Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan told news agency PTL.

"Ujjwala beneficiaries will now get LPG cylinders for only ₹503," petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in a post on X. To shield PMUY beneficiaries from the impact of sharp fluctuations in international prices of LPG and to make cooking gas more affordable for them, the government started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum in May 2022. Later, on October 5, 2023, the subsidy amount was raised to ₹300.

Besides subsidised cylinders, PMUY beneficiaries also get free gas connections. The scheme was launched by the Modi government in May 2016 to make LPG, a clean cooking fuel, available to rural and poor households. It provides deposit-free cooking gas connections to adult women of poor households.



MIRWAIZ ALLOWED TO PRAY AT J&K'S JAMA MASJID AFTER 5 MONTHS

SRINAGAR: Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who is also the chief priest of Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, on Friday was allowed to offer prayers at the grand mosque after five months.

According to the mosque management, Mirwaiz, who was under house arrest for four years before the Centre abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019, was allowed by authorities to offer Friday prayers at the mosque for the first time since October 6. The mosque's managing body, Anjuman Auqaf, said the authorities informed them about their decision, which was subsequently conveyed to Mirwaiz. "As soon as people came to know about it, there was enthusiasm around and they gathered in huge numbers at the mosque," the Anjuman Auqaf said.

Mirwaiz later told HT: "I only offered prayers but could not deliver the sermon because the prayers as I was conveyed the decision by the authorities at the last minute." Mirwaiz was put under house arrest ahead of the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019. In September last year, he moved the Jammu & Kashmir high court challenging the restrictions. On September 22, Mirwaiz was released. He, however, claimed he was again placed under house arrest after the Israel-Palestine war broke out in October. HT

India will have stable govt for next 15 yrs: Jaishankar

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NEW DELHI: India will have a stable government for 15 years or even longer and such political stability helps an administration to make bold decisions, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said in Japan on Friday.

Speaking at the Nikkei Forum on the theme of the India-Japan special strategic partnership, he said a reformist leadership backed by a strong political mandate results in bold decision-making.

Jaishankar was responding to a question about India's political stability and whether the upcoming general election will affect foreign policy. Authorities are expected to soon announce the holding of the election in May.

"Hundred percent, we will have 15 years of stable government. It could even be that of 20 years or longer," he said. While developments in every country are different, India's experience has been that the lack of political stability or the absence of a majority in Parliament "makes a very big difference", he added.

A reformist leadership with a vision and commitment backed by a strong political mandate is able to make bold decisions, and a majority in Parliament is equally important, Jaishankar said.

In India's case, the country has had these conditions for the past 10 years "and we hope to continue that", he said. "In many cases, we have seen decisions which were debated for years, but suddenly you found the ability to do it," he added.

Political stability also means



External affairs minister S Jaishankar meets Akie Abe, the wife of Japan's late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Friday. ANI

policy stability, as anyone making a big bet on India will want to know what the country will be like for the next 10 years. "If the investor does not know what it will be like a year from now...then the investor, be it a domestic or a foreign [investor], will be hesitant. When you do a country's risk evaluation, political stability is a very important part of that," he said.

Jaishankar also defended India's stance on Russia amid the Ukraine conflict, saying countries "cherry-picked" principles when it suits them. He noted that Indian territory has been occupied by another country, but the world has maintained a silence on the issue.

"My position would be that the world is a complicated place, and there are many important principles and beliefs in the world. What happens sometimes in world politics is countries pick one issue, one situation, one principle, and they highlight it because it suits them," he said.

"But if one looks at the princi-

ple itself, we in India know better than almost any other country because immediately after our independence, we experienced aggression, an effort to change our boundaries. And even today, parts of India are occupied by another country. But we did not see the world response saying, oh, there's a great principle involved, and therefore, let us all go with India," he added.

Jaishankar said India doesn't think the Ukraine conflict can be decided on the battlefield. "We want to see the end to this conflict, but we believe that every conflict finally ends [when] people come to the table. That's how conflicts end," he said.

Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to Japan during March 6-8 to take forward the bilateral relationship and to frame plans for future cooperation. On Thursday, he co-chaired the India-Japan foreign ministers' strategic dialogue with his Japanese counterpart Yoko Kamikawa.

Top Indian diplomat meets 'foreign minister' of Taliban

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NEW DELHI: India's top diplomat for Afghanistan met Taliban "foreign minister" Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul and discussed relations between the two sides and issues related to economic cooperation, including the use of Chabahar port by Afghan traders.

JP Singh, the joint secretary heading the external affairs ministry's division for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, met Muttaqi on Thursday, the latest in a series of contacts between Indian officials and Taliban leaders. Like other countries, the Indian side doesn't formally recognise the Taliban regime in Kabul. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the delegation led by Singh met senior members of Afghan authorities, former president Hamid Karzai, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) officials and members of the Afghan business community.

"The delegation held discussions on India's humanitarian assistance to the people of



Joint secretary JP Singh meets Taliban's "foreign minister" Amir Khan Muttaqi in Afghanistan on Friday.

Afghanistan and also discussed use of Chabahar port by Afghan traders," he said, referring to the Iranian port where an Indian state-run firm operates a terminal.

Jaiswal said a "technical mission" opened by India in Kabul in June 2022 is facilitating and coordinating humanitarian assistance efforts. "India has historical and civilisational ties with the Afghan people and these longstanding linkages will continue to guide our approach," he added.

A Taliban spokesman claimed Muttaqi and Singh discussed

Afghanistan-India relations, economic and transit matters, fighting the Islamic State-Khorasan province and tackling corruption. While thanking India for its humanitarian assistance, Muttaqi said that in line with the Taliban's "balanced foreign policy", the regime in Kabul "seeks to strengthen political [and] economic relations with India as an important factor in the region".

The Taliban spokesman quoted Singh as saying that India is interested in expanding political and economic cooperation with Afghanistan and enhancing trade via Iran's Chabahar port.

MEA: FOCUSED ON THE SAFETY OF CITIZENS IN ISRAEL

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NEW DELHI: India on Friday said it is focused on the safety and security of all its citizens in Israel following the death of an Indian and injuries to two more in a missile attack carried out by Hezbollah in support of Hamas.

Pat Nibin Maxwell, a resident of Kerala, was killed when a missile fired from Lebanon struck an orchard in Galilee in northern Israel on March 4. Following the death, the Indian embassy in Israel advised Indians, especially those working in or visiting border areas in north and south Israel, to relocate to safer areas.

"We have over 18,000 caregivers and other professionals in Israel. Their safety and security is of prime concern for us," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a regular news briefing.

The Indian embassy is doing its best to ensure the safety of all the Indian nationals working in Israel, he said. "They've opened a helpline. We have issued an advisory for their safety and security," he added.

He further said, "A helpline is there, if anybody needs help, they can contact the embassy."

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India and EFTA set to ink key trade pact tomorrow

Rajeev Jayaswal and Rezaul H Laskar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) group of nations – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – are set to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) on Sunday, which will be the third major trade deal of the Narendra Modi government since early 2022, when New Delhi signed separate bilateral agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia.

A formal signing ceremony is expected on Sunday morning in New Delhi, which will be attended by senior officials of India and four EFTA countries, people aware of the development said, requesting anonymity. Talks on the India-EFTA deal began in January 2008 but remained dormant since 2013 until they were revived last year.

"It is a win-win deal for both parties as they have taken care of sensitivities of each other. It

EFTA countries	Exports	Imports	Trade balance
Iceland	13	5	8
Liechtenstein	0	8	-8
Norway	484	782	-298
Switzerland	1,382	19,657	-18,275
TOTAL	1,879	20,452	-18,574

is also very significant in the sense that it will be the first FTA with any European entities," one of the people with direct knowledge of the matter said. The UK and the EU are also engaged with New Delhi to forge bilateral deals, but it is unlikely before the general elections in India, he said.

The Election Commission may announce polling dates next week.

"The Trade and Economic

Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and EFTA covers wide-ranging matters such as trade in goods and services, rules of origin, intellectual property rights (IPR), investment promotion, trade facilitation and sustainable development," a second person said.

TEPA is expected to help India bridge a huge gap in the balance of trade, which is in favour of the European nations, particularly Switzerland, he

added. In 2023, India's trade deficit with the EFTA states was more than \$18.57 billion mainly on account of gold imports.

According to government data, India's exports to the EFTA region during January-December 2023 was \$1.87 billion, while its imports from the bloc of countries that aren't members of the EU was in excess of \$20.45 billion, with Switzerland's share alone pegged at \$19.65 billion due to gold purchases.

In the case of gold imports, India may allow a quota-based concessional duty regime for EFTA states on the lines of an existing arrangement with the UAE.

India's key imports from the four countries are gold (\$20.7 billion in 2021-22), silver, coal, pharmaceuticals, vegetable oil, dairy machinery, medical items, crude and scientific equipment. It exports chemicals, iron and steel, gold, precious stones, yarns, sports goods, glassware and bulk drugs to these nations.

FTA 'POSSIBLE' BEFORE INDIA ELECTIONS, SAYS UK MINISTER

LONDON: A trade deal being negotiated with India is "possible" to be concluded before a general election in the country but Britain does not want to use that as a deadline, UK secretary of state for business and trade Kemi Badenoch has said.

The minister in charge of signing off on the free trade agreement (FTA), now in its 14th round of negotiations, pointed to India's "protectionist economy" in comparison with the UK's liberalised regime as one of the factors behind the long-drawn discussions.

Badenoch, who was speaking during a Global Trade conference at the think tank Chatham House on Thursday, stressed that she wanted to ensure a "commercially meaningful" pact as opposed to just a pre-election picture opportunity.

"We can actually sign an agreement before the Indian elections. I suspect that is not necessarily going to be the case because I don't want to use any election as a deadline," she said.

"It is possible that will be done but I am very resistant to deadlines being set on trade negotiations because it runs down the clock," she added.

{ CROP DIVERSIFICATION ALSO IN FOCUS }

Govt committed to continue MSP regime: Minister Goyal

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

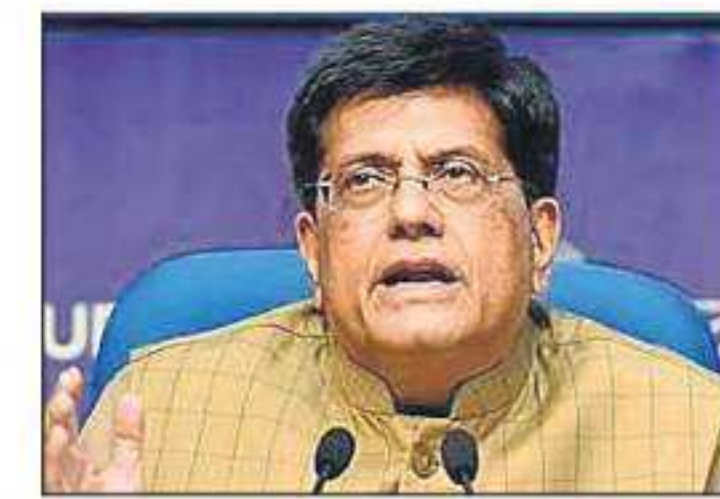
NEW DELHI: The government is "committed to continue" the minimum support price (MSP) regime, Union minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, adding that it is considering to procure the entire quantity of maize and pulses from farmers at MSP to encourage diversification of crops from unsustainable, water-guzzling crops like rice.

On cotton cultivation, he said the government is considering purchasing the entire quantity of the produce from farmers across the country at MSP without any condition of diversification.

According to experts, excessive focus on paddy production in states such as Haryana, Punjab and western UP has resulted in depletion of the water table and deterioration of soil health, which is why maize, pulses and cottons are seen as better alternatives.

A senior official who did not wish to be named said the government is considering nudging farmers with "guaranteed procurement" of three types of pulses – tur, urad and masoor – and maize at MSP for sustainable agriculture.

"Maize and pulses could be grown simultaneously as the



Piyush Goyal

former only has a 40-day cycle," said the official. Procurement could be done through government agencies such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation Of India Limited (NCCF).

While procured pulses could be sold in the market at subsidised rates to citizens under the Bharat brand, maize could be used for producing ethanol in place of sugarcane or rice, he said. "Producing ethanol from sugarcane makes no sense. Yes, molasses could be used for this purpose after extracting sugar," the official added. Similarly, the cotton procured would be sold in the market above the MSP, he said. The government, which has already achieved 12% blending of ethanol with petrol, has raised the target to 20% by 2025.

The government has started working on a plan to implement the move for sustainable agriculture. The food and consumer affairs ministry is setting up an online portal where farmers would register with their details such as Aadhaar number and self-certify details to avail benefits of crop diversification. The move is in line with a proposal of the central government offered last month to farmers protesting at the Punjab-Haryana border. The Centre proposed buying three types of pulses, maize and cotton at MSP for five years after entering into an agreement with farmers. The proposal was not accepted by the protesting farmers.

In an interview with news agency PTI, Goyal said the Modi government is committed to the welfare of farmers and exuded confidence that farmer leaders will call off their protest. Goyal, along with Union agriculture minister Arjun Munda, and minister of state for home affairs Nityanand Rai, has held four rounds of talks with the farmers' groups seeking a legal guarantee on MSP.

"Please don't get misled by the propaganda of some people. This government is committed to the interests of farmers," the report quoted the minister as saying.

PONTIFF HELD FOR RAPE UNDER POCSO

TUMAKURU (KARNATAKA): Balmanjunath Mahaswamiji of Vidya Chowdeshwari Peeth in Kunigal Taluk of Tumakuru district in Karnataka has been arrested on charges of rape under the Pocsso Act following a complaint lodged by a 20-year-old woman, police said.

The survivor alleged that the pontiff sexually assaulted her on several occasions in the past five years even when she was a minor.

"Based on a complaint we received from the victim, we registered a case under the IPC sections and provisions of the Pocsso Act as well as IT Act," a senior officer said, adding, the pontiff was arrested on Thursday.

Shah unveils national digital database of co-ops

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on Friday launched a national digital database for cooperatives, which he said was a "very important step" for the expansion and strengthening of the country's cooperative sector.

Shah said a national policy for coordination of cooperative movements in every state was a long-felt need of the country, which had been fulfilled by the Narendra Modi government with the creation of a ministry for cooperation.

"In the last two years, all primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in the country have



Amit Shah

been computerised and all states have accepted common bylaws to increase their business," Shah said.

Under the Constitution's Seventh Schedule, which divides responsibilities between the Centre and states, state governments have jurisdiction over cooperatives. However, the Centre has control over policymaking for cooperatives that operate

in more than one state, known as multistate cooperatives.

At the heart of the push for a cooperatives-led rural economy lies a little-known network of nearly 63,000 rural grassroots financial centres known as PACS. They have been in existence for decades, some since the time of India's Independence. The Modi government wants to transform these entities, known as PACS, to overcome the challenges of unemployment and spur business opportunities, the minister said.

Under the Modi government's model bylaws, PACS have become multi-dimensional and can now undertake various business activities. "All states in the country have risen above parti-

san politics and accepted these model bylaws, paving the way for the expansion of PACS," the cooperation minister said. Besides the portal, Shah also launched a book, "National Cooperative Database 2023: A Report". The latest computerisation initiative will increase the operational efficiency, accountability and transparency of cooperatives by "standardising business procedures through a Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS)", an official said separately.

The cooperation ministry has set up a national cooperative database, containing data of more than 800,000 cooperative societies in all.

ED attaches assets of sugar mill linked to Pawar's grandnephew

Abhishek Sharan

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MUMBAI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has attached assets worth more than ₹50 crore of a sugar mill owned by a company of Rohit Pawar, the grandnephew of Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar, as part of a probe into a money laundering case related to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) scam.

According to an ED official, the federal agency attached assets worth ₹50.20 crore linked to Aurangabad-based Kannad Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana (SSK), which is part of Rohit Pawar-led firm Baramati Agro Private Limited (BAPL).

The MSCB money laundering case stems from an August 2019 FIR of the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW). The scam pertains to illegal sale of sugar mills by the MSCB.

Rohit, who is an MLA from

Karjat-Jamkhed assembly constituency and is the chief executive officer of BAPL, was questioned twice by the federal agency earlier.

"The acquisition of Kannad SSK by Baramati Agro Ltd was illegal and hence, assets so acquired are proceeds of crime under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act," the ED official said, seeking anonymity.

"The action against my factory is completely illegal and we will challenge it in court," Rohit Pawar posted on X.

PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

Indraprastha International School, Dwarka Shines Bright with Annual Day Extravaganza



Indraprastha International School, Dwarka celebrated its Annual Day for its Primary Wing students with great aplomb and gaiety. Dr. Praggya M. Singh, Director (Academics - Assessment) CBSE, was the revered Chief Guest for the celebrations and Chairman Dr. A.S. Rana, and Chairperson S Rana, of Indraprastha Schools, Dr. Rajesh Hassija, Director, Indraprastha Schools, Anupama Rana, Additional Director, Indraprastha Schools, Shefalee Gupta, Principal, Indraprastha International School and other dignitaries also graced the occasion. Pre-School, Pre-Primary, class I and II children presented the Annual School Report. Appreciation trophies were awarded to many students for their marvelous achievements, amidst loud cheer. The most pleasurable and eye-catching part of the programme was the ballet, अर्जुनस्य - Arise, Awake and Accomplish. The ballet highlighted the preachings of Krishna through a beautiful story of a sparrow and a pigeon. From tiny toddlers to teenyboppers, the event encouraged, rewarded and gave opportunity to all to show their excellence. The students, resplendent in various costumes enraptured the audience with their message-driven ballet. Parents were over whelmed by the presentation of the little ones. Annual Day was a splendid triumph and was cherished by all.

Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar celebrates Junior Annual Day with Zeal

Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar celebrated its Junior Annual Day with great enthusiasm. The grand celebration was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Usha Sharma, Professor, and Resource person from NCERT. The programme commenced with a warm welcome extended by the Headmistress Primary wing, Saakhi Khanna to the Chief Guest and eminent dignitaries. The event was presided by the school Chairman, Dr. A.S.Rana and the Managing Director, Dr. Rajesh Hassija and the school principal, Ruchira Bhatnagar. The programme commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony, the show progressed with the invocation dance. The most pleasurable and the enthralling part of the programme was the message driven ballet titled "Aarohanam - A Journey of Magical Wings." This captivating presentation was a beautiful blend of creativity, talent, music, and dance. More than 1000 young students of Indraprastha showcased their remarkable skills and artistic abilities, leaving the audience mesmerized. The young achievers were felicitated and appreciated by the chief guest for their praiseworthy achievements, pulsating talent and dedication. The Managing Director, Dr. Rajesh Hassija thanked the parents and the guests for their unflinching support. The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the Headmistress Montessori Wing, Ravinder Anand. The Junior Annual Day was a splendid triumph and was cherished by all.



Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh Shines Bright: North Region's Best School Award for 2023 in Unaided Private School Category by DoE

Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh has been recognized as the Region's Best School in the Unaided Private School Category for the year 2023 in the North Region by the Directorate of Education (DoE). This esteemed acknowledgment was graciously received by Asha Saran Srivastava, dedicated Principal, during a ceremony held at Thyagraj Stadium facilitated by the Directorate of Education (DoE). The award presentation was an honour bestowed by the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi, the Education Minister of Delhi. This recognition is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the diligent students, engaged parents, dedicated



teachers and the able guidance of mentors. Together, the school outshined the opportunity to build on this success and uphold the legacy of excellence in education that has earned us this prestigious acknowledgment. The students have played a pivotal role in achieving this milestone, excelling not only academically but also

making significant contributions to the co-curricular domain. They have brought laurels to the school through their outstanding performances in Inter-School, Zonal, District-level, State, and National Level Competitions. As JPKS celebrates this achievement, they continue to nurture the holistic development of their students, combining academic excellence with a rich tapestry of co-curricular experiences. Together, the school inspires and guides the next generation towards even greater heights of success. The school aims to remain committed to providing quality education and fostering holistic development with humility and gratitude.

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buzz

RP Goyal assumes role of Chairman and MD, NHPC

Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC took over the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC, on Mar 1. Goyal joined NHPC on Nov 18, 1988, as a Finance Professional, and has risen the professional ladder with his utmost sense of responsibility. He is a member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and also holds a Master's Degree in Commerce from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Bajaj Auto unveils 2024 editions of Pulsar NS series

Bajaj Auto, the world's most valuable two-wheeler and three-wheeler company, re-launched the variants of its Naked Sports motorcycle range - Pulsar NS 2024 series, NS200, NS160 and NS125. These latest variants, embody the spirit of innovation and performance, marking a significant leap forward in the evolution of the iconic Naked Sports series. Building upon the success of their predecessors, the 2024 editions of the Pulsar NS Series have been expertly engineered to deliver an unmatched riding experience.

NHRC concludes Vijayawada Camp Sitting

NHRC concluded its day-long Vijayawada camp sitting on Mar 6, after hearing 30 pending cases and recommending about Rs 80 lakh as relief to the victims of human rights violations in Andhra Pradesh. The NHRC Chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra, Members, Dnyaneshwar M Mulay, Rajiv Jain and Vijaya Bharathi Sayani heard the cases in the presence of Secretary General, Bharat Lal, Registrar (Law), Surajit Dey, senior officers, the concerned officers of the state government, and the complainants.

AAHAR to unveil new trends and export potential

The 38th edition of AAHAR - the International Food and Hospitality Fair, organised by ITPO and supported by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APE-DA) and APEX Industry bodies, is scheduled to be held from March 7-11, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The show has grown by exponentially in recent years and has become the ultimate destination for global vendors and sourcing professionals.

Petroleum Minister anticipates three-fold increase in Natural Gas consumption

In a significant stride towards achieving 100 per cent coverage of country's area for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) hosted a Concluding Ceremony for the 12th CGD Bidding Round. The event was inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, in the presence of Tarun Kapoor, Adviser to Prime Minister, Dr Anil Kumar Jain, Chairperson, PNGRB,



Board Members and Secretary of PNGRB. There was a large presence of key stakeholders from the

oil and gas sector of the country and the successful bidders of 12th CGD Bidding Round.

POWERGRID pays 2nd interim dividend to Ministry of Power



POWERGRID, paid Rs 20,67,68,20,860/- as the second interim dividend for FY 2023-24 to the Govt of India on Mar 5, 2024, at Ministry of Power,

New Delhi. A cheque was presented to Cabinet Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, in the presence of other eminent officials.

Alliance University unveils its advanced media lab



Alliance University unveiled its advanced media lab that strengthens its commitment to merging technology with advanced education in Film and Media Studies.

DRI Chennai and ICG Mandapam seize drugs



In its hunt against the smuggling of narcotics substances, officers of the DRI Chennai Zonal Unit and ICG Mandapam teamed up to catch a gang smuggling narcot-

ics substances from India to Sri Lanka. The officers mounted surveillance over the Gulf of Mannar through ICG Ship on the intervening night of March 4 and 5.

PM lays foundation stone for POWERGRID projects



The PM inaugurated seven projects of POWERGRID, representing a significant investment of approximately Rs 4,000 crores. Additionally, the PM also laid the

foundation stone for one upcoming project, with an investment of around Rs 3,500 crores. These projects play a crucial role in strengthening the National Grid.

IIHMR University organises FDP



IIHMR University, Jaipur organised an FDP from Mar 4-8. During the inauguration Dr PR Sodani, President of IIHMR University emphasised that the programme will benefit the professional development of faculty members of higher education institutions of management education.

PM inaugurates 17 km of RRTS section



The PM inaugurated the additional 17 km of RRTS from Dubai to Modi Nagar North section virtually. The inauguration function at Muradnagar RRTS station was graced by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Petroleum & Natural Gas, and other dignitaries.

Punjab & Sind Bank opens new branch in Nagaland

Punjab & Sind Bank opened a new branch at Dimapur in Nagaland. The expansion underscores the bank's unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive banking services and fostering financial inclusion in the region by strategically placing branches in various districts. Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank, informed the esteemed gathering that the Bank's vision is to expand its footprint in the North-Eastern Region. The bank has inaugurated its 32nd branch in the North-Eastern region.



The Council, inspired by PM Narendra Modi's vision, approved the preparation of a detailed case for the "Har Ghar Jal" scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission. Rs 12.73 crore was sanctioned for providing individual water connections in JJ Clusters and unauthorised colonies under AMRUT 2.0.



Dr Sekar Viswanathan, VP, VIT Chennai, addressed the media during the press meet organised in Chennai. He announced that The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Chennai, will host Vibrance 2024, its annual international cultural fest from March 6 to 9, 2024.



The Union Minister for Heavy Industries, Dr MN Pandey, upheld the contributions of the Indian capital goods sector in pushing India towards global leadership in its manufacturing capacity. He also pointed out a potential for Rs 1,50,000 crore import substitution in the capital goods sector.



In a step towards building a Natural Gas-based economy as envisioned by the PM, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri dedicated to the Nation 201 CNG stations across 17 states and India's first small-scale LNG unit at Vijapur, Madhya Pradesh.



CWC celebrated its 68th Foundation Day on Mar 2, at Sirifort Auditorium, enumerating the achievements of the past seven decades. The Chief Guest Sadihi Niranjan Jyoti, MoSCAF&PD, graced the occasion and praised their extraordinary work during the pandemic.



The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated "Citra Heights" Residential Apartments at Dwarka, New Delhi for CBIC officials, constructed by NPCC a subsidiary of WAPCOS, in the presence of Vivek Joshi, Secretary, DFS and other eminent officials.



An MoU was signed between Saschastra Seema Bal and Rungta Educational Foundation, for the education of children of SSB personnel. It was signed by Pradeep Kumar Gupta, Inspector General (Admn), Saschastra Seema Bal and Santosh Rungta, Chairman of Rungta Educational Foundation.



Bringing its capacity-building endeavour to the North Eastern region of India, SCOPE organised its 'National Meet on RTI Act' in Meghalaya. The meet was addressed by Heeralal Samariya, Chief Information Commissioner, and senior officials of Meghalaya Govt.

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Madhya Pradesh On The Path of Fastrack Development



Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Government under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav in his first 60 days has intensified pace of development by improving infrastructure and upskilling human resources.

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

MoU between Centre, MP, Rajasthan

13 districts of Chambal and Malwa regions to get benefits

An ambitious Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal project, pending for almost two decades has finally come to being under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It will transform lives in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This will benefit 13 districts of Chambal and Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Water availability will increase in water-deficient districts such as Morena, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Bhind and Sheopur and industrialization will further gain pace in industrial districts mainly Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, Agar-Malwa, Shajapur, Dewas and Rajgarh. It will be a boost and irrigate about three lakh hectares immensely benefiting Malwa and Chambal regions. It is attributed to constant pursuance of the Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. Resultantly, religious and tourist sector in these areas will also develop. This project is a boon for Western Madhya Pradesh.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has resolved to operationalize this project in less than 5 years. The current cost of which is about Rs 72,000 crore. About 1.5 crore population of Madhya Pradesh will get benefits from this project.

This will lead to improvement in quality of life by addressing poverty, unemployment, illiteracy etc. As many as 26 water deficient



districts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will get great relief. The project will irrigate about 6.17 lakh hectare area as well as help raise the water level by storing water in dams and big ponds.

An agreement was reached between the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in a very short time by integrating the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal project with the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project giving it the status of a project of national importance, for which both the governments deserve commendations. This project is an ideal example of cooperative federalism. This project will help ensure efficient utilization of water resources of Chambal Basin of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, which will benefit the industrial and agricultural sectors in both the states. Under the tripartite MoU, this link project envisages providing irrigation in a total area of 6.17

lakh hectares in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as well as providing water for drinking and industrial use in 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan and 13 districts of Malwa and Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh. The MoU covers the scope of work of the link project, sharing of water, exchange of water, sharing of costs and benefits, implementation mechanism and arrangements for management and control of water in the Chambal Basin.

Laboratories will undertake high-end research in the cutting-edge areas and develop new technologies and products for the benefit of industry and society that can be taken up further to prototype development and entrepreneurial ventures. The Discovery Centre will involve hand-holding of the research and augmenting as well as adopting it into useful technologies for the benefit of society. It would involve the help of scientists, industry experts and technology conversion specialists to lead the translational research. The centre activities would involve high-end simulations, packaging, integration of sensors, IoT and semiconductor devices, and

17 dams to provide water to farms and industries and drinking water

Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link this, plenty of drinking water will be available and water will be available for industries in Ujjain, Dewas, Agar-Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Irrigation Malwa, Shajapur, Sehore and Raisen.

Complex, 4 dams will be built in Katila, Gwalior, Bhind, Sonpur, Pava, Dhanwadi and two barrages will be built in Shyampur, Nainagarh. This will irrigate 1,48,400 hectares in Guna, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Gwalior and Bhind districts.

Two dams will be built in Kumbhraj Complex which will provide irrigation to 51,600 hectares in Guna district. Ranjit Sagar and Lakhundar Barrage will irrigate 50 thousand hectares in Shajapur, Agar-Malwa. 07 dams of upper Chambal basin namely Sonchiri, Ramwasa, Bachaura, Padunia, Sewarkhedi, Chitawat and Sikri Sultanpura will irrigate 87,000 hectares in Ujjain, Indore, Dhar districts.

Thus, a total of 17 dams and barrages will irrigate 3,37,000 hectares in Ujjain, Indore, Dhar, Agar-Malwa, Shajapur, Guna, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Gwalior and Bhind districts. Apart from

PROJECT AT A GLANCE District Wise Irrigation Area (in Hectares)

Indore	- 12,000
Ujjain	- 65,000
Dhar	- 10,000
Agar-Malwa	- 4,000
Shajapur	- 46,000
Shivpuri	- 95,000
Sheopur	- 25,000
Guna, Gwalior, Bhind	- 80,000
Total	- 3,37,000

Total And State Wise Shared Estimated Cost

Estimated cost	- Rs. 72,000 crores
Madhya Pradesh	- Rs. 35,000 crores
Rajasthan	- Rs. 37,000 crores

Total Irrigation Area and MP's Share

Total irrigation	- 6.17 lakh hectares
Madhya Pradesh	- 3.37 lakh hectares

Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus (DRDC) of IIT Indore to come up at Ujjain

CM Dr. Yadav extends full support

Ujjain will be having a world class research centre in future technologies with support from IIT Indore. Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus (DRDC) of IIT Indore will come up at Ujjain. Proposed Cost of the Project is Rs. 474 Crores towards the development of the infrastructure in the new campus at Ujjain.

The proposed Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus will support Conglomerate of Deep-Tech Research laboratories, Discovery Centre for realising new dimensions of research through translation and its application through Lab-to-market Centre involving start-up culture and entrepreneurship.

IIT Indore endeavours to establish a leadership in the advanced domains.

Deep-Tech Research
The Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus proposes

to develop and deliver several high-tech technologies and products through its research and discovery processes leading to entrepreneurial ventures in the deep-tech domain. It will build a specific infrastructure to house the Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus at Ujjain to take the culture of translational research to next level of delivering deep technology product in the market. The campus will house a Conglomerate of Deep-Tech Research laboratories, Discovery Centre, and Lab-to-Market Centre with the state-of-art equipment and facilities and necessary buildings to house them.

Deep-Tech Research

Laboratories will undertake high-end research in the cutting-edge areas and develop new technologies and products for the benefit of industry and society that can be taken up further to prototype development and entrepreneurial ventures. The Discovery Centre will involve hand-holding of the research and augmenting as well as adopting it into useful technologies for the benefit of society. It would involve the help of scientists, industry experts and technology conversion specialists to lead the translational research.

The centre activities would involve high-end simulations, packaging, integration of sensors, IoT and semiconductor devices, and



communication technologies and instrumentation.

The Lab-to-market Centre would involve conversion from lab-scale models to prototypes and to products through up-scaling, integration, testing and field trials. It will further involve expert advice and participation of commercialisation experts to evolve business plans for incubators leading to venture creation. To support manpower skilling in the high-tech areas by conducting massive online as well as hybrid programs. Some of

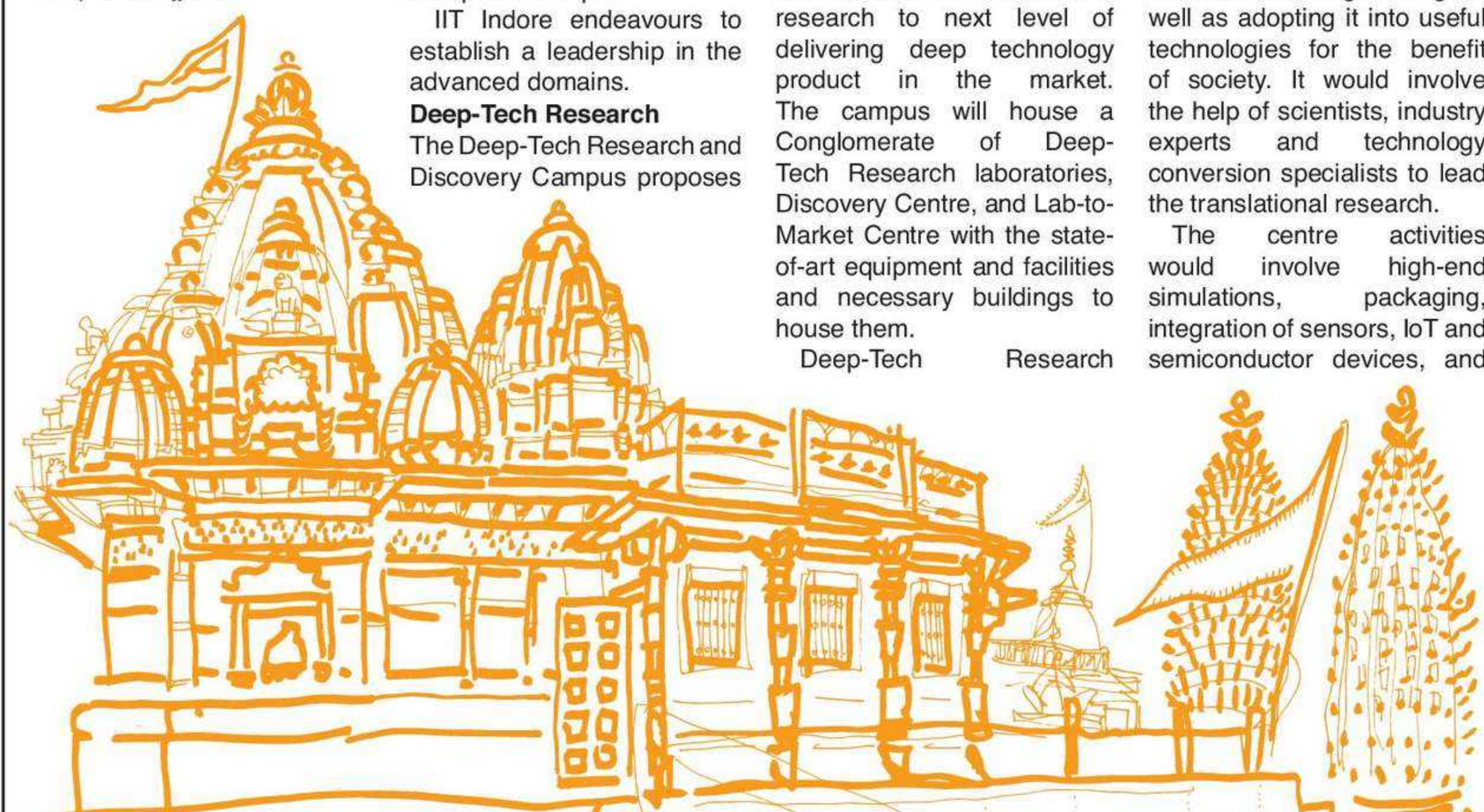
the courses that are being planned include bio-medical device development, industrial laser and optics technology and so on.

Deep-Tech Research Laboratories

These include the following FOUR research domains -

- (A) Astronomy and Space Technology focusing on - Detector technology, Astronomical heritage, Computing and Analytics and Space technology.
- (B) Lasers and Applied Optics Technology focusing on - Photonics fabrication and

- quantum optics, Laser Development for Manufacturing, Measurements, and Medicine, Opto-mechatronics System and Laser Communications, Bio photonics related areas, Advanced imaging and nanophotonic.
- (C) Semiconductor Fabrication focusing on VLSI chip design and manufacturing, Flexible electronics, IoT, Sensors and Display technologies.
- (D) Biomedical Instrumentation focusing on Bio-photonics, Biomedical imaging, Biomedical bioprinting, Biomedical instrumentation.





OPINION

The
Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

OUR TAKE

Mission possible for Battlefield AI

It makes the government both the facilitator and regulator of AI research in India. Competing focuses will lead to a better balance between innovation and regulation

The India AI Mission, approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday, could give Artificial Intelligence (AI) development in the country the quantum leap it needs. The mission eyes a comprehensive bolstering of the AI ecosystem — from setting up adequate computing power to facilitating access to anonymised datasets, and even establishing a pipeline for AI talent. India's size and diversity make it imperative for AI development to happen in a way in which the private sector is able to leverage sovereign capabilities. To that end, the mission aims to catalyse the setting up of 10,000-30,000 graphics processing units (GPUs) through a 50% viability gap funding for private sector players. Further, the vast datasets of anonymised information that the government has are to be used for training foundational models with a capacity of more than 100 billion parameters. The mission also envisages seed funding for AI startups.

These measures will undergird private sector efforts in areas where AI can be deployed for the larger good. While AI deployment by corporations would most likely be limited to areas of their business interests, the necessity for AI applications in agriculture, health care, and education is already being felt. Access to vast datasets and cost-offsets are much-needed catalysts for private sector forays in these areas. All of this will require a robust talent pipeline. The mission's IndiaAI FutureSkills component will focus on lowering entry barriers into AI programmes and driving the expansion of AI courses at the tertiary education level.

The signalling value of the mission, especially for attracting investment, is seminal. India places last among the top 15 geographies for AI development and capabilities as per an analysis published in the Harvard Business Review by researchers affiliated with Tufts University and has a significant gap with leaders such as the US and the UK as well as China. Given how AI capabilities are already starting to have a significant influence on countries' growth trajectories, India can't afford to let the gap remain unbridged or, at the least, significantly narrowed. More so, when China is readying a \$1.5 trillion pipeline for investment in AI innovation by 2030 and has the world's largest internet-using population with concomitant data generation and consumption.

Beyond the obvious gains, the mission makes the government a facilitator of AI development even as it remains the regulator (as sovereign). These competing focuses will likely make the government more responsive to challenges and opportunities and thereby, lead India down an optimal path that balances innovation and regulation for AI security. AI regulation has been a particularly difficult knot to untie. On one extreme is the EU's overly restrictive regime, while on the other is the UK's light-touch regulation. The US has chosen the middle path, of leveraging the government's role as the biggest user of AI to set up guardrails for the private sector. A similar approach could evolve from the government collaborating closely with the private sector and academia, as the India AI Mission envisages — even as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had issued a consultation paper last year, calling for a "risk-based framework" like the EU's.

The fine print of Karnataka caste census

The BJP and Congress have different approaches in the elections — the former will reach out to Lingayats and Vokkaligas, whereas the latter may go hyper-local

The submission of what is popularly called the caste census in Karnataka just before the parliamentary elections has brought to the fore the two very different poll strategies of the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP has predictably targeted the study as being unscientific, suggesting it expects to benefit by rallying behind the Opposition to the report from the two dominant communities in the state: Lingayats and Vokkaligas. By choosing not to postpone the submission of the report till after the elections, the Congress clearly has its own plans.

When seen from an aggregate view of castes in the state, the BJP's strategy is easy to understand. To come near repeating its sweeping victory in the state in 2019, it needs to get back the support of the Lingayats that it lost in the assembly elections. In addition, it hopes to make inroads into the Vokkaligas by aligning with the party most associated with that caste, the Janata Dal (Secular). The submission of the caste census provided the BJP with a significant issue to demonstrate its support for the two dominant castes.

The position of the Siddaramaiah government has more to do with the way reservations have panned out in Karnataka. When princely state Mysore introduced reservations for the first time in India in 1921, it made a sharp distinction between the proportion of seats reserved and the share of the population that would be eligible for reservations. While it limited the proportion of seats that were to be reserved, it made as much as 96% of the population eligible for reservations. The support for

the backward communities took the form of their getting a greater share of the seats than their share of the population, while forward communities would get a lower proportion of seats than their share of the population.

This inclusive approach to reservations ensured it did not generate the resistance that the Mandal Commission was to later face elsewhere in the country. It also required periodic reviews to estimate the population and socio-economic status of each community at different points in time. This task was carried out by the backward class commissions.

Typically, the reports of the backward class commissions were followed by intense political negotiations, often spilling over to the streets. The results of these negotiations did not, by their very nature, leave everyone happy, but the conflicts were reduced to a point where the changed distribution of reserved seats could be put on the back burner.

The Socio-economic and Educational Survey — to give the report its full name — can be seen as the latest in the series of reports of backward class commissions. Unlike some of the earlier reports that specified the share of each community in seats and jobs, this report, by all accounts, seems to be confined to presenting data that is to be interpreted. This opens the field for negotiations between different caste groups.

THE BJP HAS ALIGNED BEHIND ONE SET OF CASTES, THE LINGAYATS AND THE VOKKALIGAS. IT HAS TASTED POLITICAL SUCCESS WITH THE LINGAYATS BEFORE AND IT HOPES IT'S POSITION ON THE CASTE CENSUS WILL HELP IT MAKE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH WITH THE VOKKALIGAS



Narendar
Pani



The Socio-economic and Educational Survey can be seen as the latest in the series of reports of backward class commissions. This report, by all accounts, seems to be confined to presenting data that is to be interpreted

It is in response to these caste-based negotiations that the BJP and the Congress have taken different courses. The BJP has aligned behind one set of castes, the Lingayats and the Vokkaligas. It has tasted political success with the Lingayats before and it hopes its position on the caste census will help it make a major breakthrough with the Vokkaligas. The political benefit the party hopes to gain depends not just on the numerical strength of these castes, but on their economic and social dominance allowing them to influence other smaller castes as well. The strategy of the Congress has been to internalise the negotiations. The leaders of different castes in the Congress have all championed the positions adopted by their caste organisations. Even though the chief minister (CM) has ensured the report has been submitted, the leader of the Lingayat opposition to the report is one of the senior-most leaders of the Congress. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar has also joined other Vokkaligas in signing a petition against the report. At election time, each of these leaders can be expected to take the positions presented by their caste organisations rather than the overall position of the Congress party.

The different approaches of the BJP and the Congress to the caste census are bound to be reflected in their electoral strategies. The BJP can be expected to develop a cohesive strategy aimed at linking the socioeconomic and political clout of the Vokkaligas and the Lingayats to the larger Modi narrative. They may even

believe that this strategy would rely so much on the party and the Prime Minister that local candidates would not matter very much. Such an approach could allow them to make some of the Union ministers, who are currently in the Rajya Sabha, candidates in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress, on the other hand, would need to go completely local. With each of its leaders aggressively supporting the interests of their castes, it would need to work out the caste dynamics for each constituency. As each of its leaders targets their respective caste constituencies the party is unlikely to speak in one voice. And the differences may not even be confined to the caste census.

The battle between a cohesive BJP and a more dissonant Congress would tell us a great deal about the mind of the voter in Karnataka. Voters who are concerned primarily with national and international issues would seek cohesiveness, while others with more local preoccupations may take a closer look at the caste alliances the Congress finally manages to generate. In the approach to the parliamentary elections, there will be much rhetoric over whether the caste census is scientific, but its real influence will be a backdrop for much more complex political negotiations.

Narendar Pani is professor and dean, School of Social Sciences, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. The views expressed are personal

Unravelling secrets of the elusive snow leopard

They are called guardians of the mountains; now we have a number for them. In a first-of-its-kind effort, India has estimated snow leopard numbers from the eastern and western Himalayas. The numbers, gleaned from animal signs and camera trap images, are encouraging — we have around 781 individuals found across four states and two Union Territories. Educated guesses made earlier assumed we have upwards of 400 snow leopards in India.

Snow leopards are mysterious apex predators of high mountain ecosystems. They are large cats with masterful camouflage that blends into the sparse high mountain and trans-Himalayan landscape they belong to. Understanding snow leopard numbers, density, and distribution is thus attempting to fathom the status of the inaccessible places they live in and the wildlife they share these places with. The snow leopard estimation is the result of walking 13,450 square kilometres of trails and 1,80,000 camera trap nights. It was found that there are 477 snow leopards in Ladakh, 124 in Uttarakhand, 51 in Himachal Pradesh and nine in Jammu and Kashmir. It is well known that there are many snow leopards in Ladakh — watching them is an eco-tourism attraction. But it's the eastern Himalayas that throw up a surprise. Both Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim have sizeable numbers of

snow leopards: 36 and 21, respectively. The particularly rugged terrain of Arunachal Pradesh posed significant challenges for conducting snow leopard studies. Here, the survey was possible only because of the dedication of local community volunteers, forest department staff and WWF-India's field biologists. Almost 700,000 camera trap pictures were taken between June and December 2021. Difficulties posed by the terrain are also a reason why we have had nationwide estimates of other iconic mammals like tigers and elephants, but not for snow leopards until now.

Establishing baselines of snow leopard population density equips us with the knowledge to monitor and respond to shifts in snow leopard numbers. Crucially, it can also help pinpoint areas where snow leopards face the greatest threats, such as regions with elevated poaching rates or habitat degradation. In many ways, snow leopards present completely different challenges when compared to other big cats. They live in areas that are difficult, almost impossible, to access, lined by cliffs, gorges, avalanches and low oxygen conditions. This area is also struck by the climate crisis, with extreme weather events

increasing. As mountain areas become warmer, the tree line has been observed going up the mountain. Yet, an animal's ability to go up the slope is limited. For instance, snow leopards cannot possibly exist above 5,500 metres — these areas effectively don't have much wildlife or prey animals. Another unique aspect is that nearly 70% of snow leopard habitat are outside protected areas.

What, then, is the future of the snow leopard? It is clear that the future lies in community stewardship. For this, we need to further understand the social drivers of snow leopard conservation. And while we may not know the full impacts of the climate crisis on the area yet, we do know one thing. Communities need help with climate adaptation and livelihood strategies — and we must work to strengthen their resilience and livelihood options. Unlike the protected area approach we have taken for tigers, snow leopard persistence will need a different conservation paradigm — a bottom-up approach for rangeland management and conservation, which may not necessarily involve protected areas. This underscores the importance of forging strong partnerships with local communities and recognising their vital role as land stewards. We can foster mutual understanding through collaborative efforts, paving the way for innovative coexistence strategies that benefit humans and wildlife.

Ecologically, the next step is to see what is driving snow leopard densities. On the face of it, it seems wild prey availability is the primary

determinant, but there is also an interplay of factors, like topography and terrain, which need to be understood. This estimation shows us valuable steps forward.

Now that we have a sense of numbers, we need to better understand and tackle threats. Poorly planned infrastructure and the presence of free-ranging dogs are pervasive threats throughout the snow leopard range. Other threats vary across regions. For instance, in the eastern Himalayas, snaring and unintentional killings pose the primary threat in Arunachal Pradesh, while poaching of wild ungulates is a concern in Sikkim. In the West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal, retaliatory killing is the primary threat — the snow leopards are targeted when they kill livestock. Another aspect is that other wildlife is also responding to warming conditions. In Kargil, for instance, brown bears are emerging mid-hibernation or have shorter hibernation periods. This means that the habitat of the bear and the snow leopard overlap for a longer time. This will create novel interactions, which could also end in conflict.

Our imagination has traditionally been captured by tigers in forests, birds in wetlands, and whales in seas. In uncovering some of the secrets of the snow leopards, we can take a step closer towards understanding a green-eyed silent cat standing in a remote Himalayan area. This is our chance to celebrate a mountain species.

Neha Sinha and Rishi Sharma are with WWF-India. WWF-India was the partner of state forest departments in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim for snow leopard estimation. The views expressed are personal

Avatars of tulipmania — bulbs to stock bubbles

Visitors on Sunday were clicking selfies with the tulips that had bloomed in the heart of the national capital and survived the small burst of rain

the other day. People had gathered on either side of the roads in Delhi's Chanakyapuri area which houses a number of embassies and high commissions, for the Tulip Festival organised by the New Delhi Municipal Council's horticulture department.

Importing tulip bulbs from Holland, nurturing them in laboratory conditions and later planting them out has worked, though at a heavy cost. Some Delhiites feel now we don't have to go to Holland for a date with tulips. Admiration for tulips and the efforts of the horticulture department's footsoldiers apart, there is

some criticism coming in. Pradeep Krishnan, the author of *Trees of Delhi*, remarked: "Even if it were possible to nurture a polar bear in Delhi, the question is do we need to?"

But tulips, too, have a story to tell. In 17th century Holland, a prosperous trading country at the time, a craze developed around the tulip. And, this tulip fever spread to the rest of Europe, too. But, like all bubbles, tulipmania ended, just as abruptly as it started.

Charles Mackay says in *Popular Delusions* that the price of tulip bulbs reached such heights that the Viceroy bulbs' price shot up to almost 40 times the annual wages of a skilled labourer in the country. As per accounts, at the height of tulipmania, a fanciful Semper Augustus sold

for more than the cost of a fashionable Amsterdam mansion! Unaware of the rise in the price of tulips, a botanist put his hands on a tulip bulb only to be taken to the court and was imprisoned till compensation was paid. Plots in Europe started being diverted towards facilitating the cultivation of these bulbs, which used to be imported from Constantinople till then. The flower even entered the array of marriage transactions.

Economists have since studied tulipmania to understand irrational and unusual human behaviour. This Dutch bubble has become a part of many works on financial history, especially in the works of Charles P Kindleberger and John Kenneth Galbraith. Historians have dug deep into the archives of the past to unravel the story of tulip prices. However, Harvard historian Anne Goldgar does not find any irrationality in the tulipmania of the 17th century. She attributes the same to be the logical outcome of the rise of Dutch cosmopolitanism and the new-found love for whatever was exotic in nature.

When there is a speculative frenzy in the markets for commodities or stocks, news anchors keep reminding us about tulipmania.

The problem, Keynes said, was not with speculation per se, but with enterprise becoming a bubble in the whirlpool of speculation. The lovely tulip came back to the limelight during the Great Depression and crashed in October 1929 — the world was reminded of tulipmania again as land prices soared high in Japan in the 1980s. When the dot com bubble burst in 2000, again tulipmania was brought back into the spotlight. We did this again, during the financial crisis in 2007-08. That crash troubled even the global banks far away in Europe.

Yes, we continue to see this 17th-century phenomenon in the crypto world — in Bitcoin as well as in the soaring prices of tech stocks on Nasdaq. And, now with Nvidia reaching a market capitalisation of \$2 trillion, riding the AI wave and Elon Musk riding the electric vehicle (EV) tide, is it time to recall tulipmania? Perhaps the tulips are here in Delhi to call our attention to the same.

S Krishnakumar teaches economics at Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University. The views expressed are personal

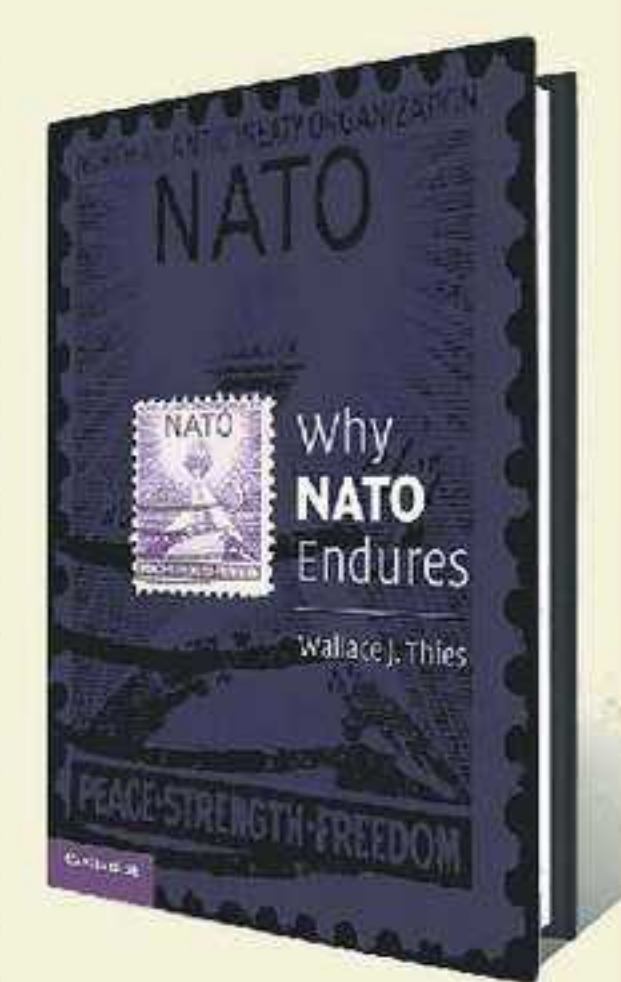
{ EDITOR'S PICK }

HT's editors offer a book recommendation every Saturday, which provides history, context, and helps understand recent news events

AS NATO EXPANDS

Sweden joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Thursday after a drawn-out process that required the Scandinavian country to secure the backing of all member States of the military alliance. This comes two years after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which influenced Sweden to rethink its stance on NATO and formally seek membership of the alliance. This week, we recommend Wallace J Thies's *Why NATO Endures*, examining the role of military alliances in international relations and how it is different from virtually all pre-1939 and several contemporary alliances.

NATO members, 32 of them, are almost all democracies and Thies argues that this has allowed it to endure for over seven decades unlike other alliances, which fell apart within a few years. The book underscores democracies disagree but do not fear each other and also need the approval of each other to execute their policies. It concludes these built-in and self-healing tendencies allow NATO to endure.



Why NATO Endures:
Wallace J Thies
Year: 2009

Hindustan Times BOOKS

Marking the 30th death anniversary of Devika Rani



One of the first major stars of Hindi cinema, Devika Rani (March 30, 1908 - March 9, 1994), a grand-niece of Rabindranath Tagore, acted in films such as *Karma* (1933) and *Achhut Kanya* (1936). The first stood out for a scene featuring a four-minute kiss between Devika Rani and her husband Himanshu Rai, the film's producer and leading man. The second was an anti-caste feature that marked the debut of Ashok Kumar. Above is a still from *Achhut Kanya*. After Rai's death, Devika Rani produced anti-colonial blockbusters such as *Kismet* (1943). She later married Svetoslav Roerich, son of Russian painter Nicholas Roerich, known for his powerful canvases of the Himalayas. The family home in Naggar, Himachal Pradesh, still displays her rather eerie collection of dolls. HT ARCHIVES

{ **JON WESTBORG** } AUTHOR, ON INDIAN CARPETS AND CARPET-WALLAHs: AN APPRECIATION

People cherish their carpets, which harbour a lot of interesting stories.

On the Books & Authors podcast on www.htsmartcast.com

{ **INTERVIEW** } KAREN POWELL, AUTHOR, *FIFTEEN WILD DECEMBERS*

'I feel drawn to Emily Brontë's untamed spirit'

On her evocative reimagining of the 19th-century novelist's life, narrated in that author's own voice

Arunima Mazumdar
letters@hindustantimes.com

1 What drew you to write a novel based on the Brontë sisters and Branwell?

Wuthering Heights was the first adult novel I ever read, given to me by my mother from her precious set of Collectors' Editions. After that, I read Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, and then books by Anne Brontë and Jane Austen. So, long before I ever thought of myself as a writer, the Brontës – and the 19th-century novel – were part of my DNA. I began writing in my early 30s, about the same time that I moved to Yorkshire. I now lived within travelling distance of the Brontë Parsonage Museum – once the Brontë family home – at Haworth, in the South Pennines. The setting of the house is incredibly atmospheric, and the museum is so wonderfully curated that you might imagine the family had just stepped out for a walk. How was it possible, I wondered, that some of the most remarkable novels in the English language came to be written in this remote village, far from London literary circles, in this little dining room overlooking the windswept graveyard; in secret.

2 Why did you choose to write in Emily's voice?

From the very beginning, I was enthralled by Emily's only novel, mesmerised by the punishing landscape and the half-savage, ungendered characters that inhabit the pages of *Wuthering Heights*. At 13, I'd never read anything like it. I still haven't. When I finished the novel, I turned back to the beginning to read the Introduction. I learned that Emily Brontë was the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, that she lived almost all her life in isolated Haworth, before her death at the age of 30. Emily didn't marry or have any known romantic connections. Reserved to the point of silence in company, she had no deep friendships and barely mixed outside of family. Even as a teenager I sensed an intriguing disconnect between that sequestered existence and a novel so passionate and shocking that it scandalised Victorian society, and still has the power to shock. I love the work of all three sisters but feel emotionally drawn to Emily's untamed spirit, intrigued too by the apparent gaps in the narrative of her life.

3 What is it about *Wuthering Heights*, do you think, that makes it so successful?

Wuthering Heights reads differently at different points in our lives. Many of us first discover the book in our teenage years, when a story of wild passions has a particular resonance. The disregard for convention is appealing too. As adults, we are often shocked by the novel's violence. The inhabitants of *Wuthering Heights* threaten one another with knives and lock family members in rooms. They mistreat children and animals, curse one another, dig up the dead and call it love. She simply wrote about the place she loved so passionately, and then peeped it with the kind of creatures, who might inhabit such a land. Emily's characters are as immoral as a stony outcrop or a stretch of windswept moorland.



{ **NOVEL** } CASTE IN THE DIASPORA

Holding fast to the bad old ways

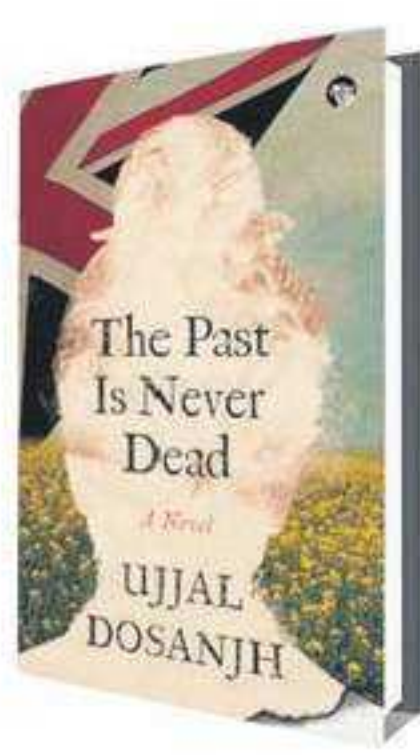
Suraj Yengde
letters@hindustantimes.com

About a decade ago, in the UK, I was confronted by fellow Indian students who did not appreciate my online advocacy for Dalit rights. Once, six of them, each from a different state of India and belonging to different castes, invited me to a mutual friend's home, and proceeded to bully me. I was shocked by their intense hostility. Thus far, they had been friends with whom I had dined, socialised, and shared conversations about longing to return to India. One, a Sikh, was a close friend. I believed then that all Punjabis are open to other people and cultures. This was fated

to be proved wrong, as she took offence to my anti-caste position in the classroom. William Faulkner's *Requiem for a Nun* has a sentence that reads: "The past is never dead. It's not even past". Lawyer and occasional politician Ujjal Dosanjh's debut novel, *The Past is Never Dead*, which is set in Punjab and the UK and takes caste as its central theme, also draws from Faulkner's phrase. The protagonist, Kalu, who left Punjab at a young age, realises the hard way that he hasn't escaped the old social pressures, though he now lives in Bedford. He wants to rent a large hoarding near Great Ouse Bridge and paint "Caste is never dead" on it. *The Past is Never Dead*, whose title rhymes with the words on Kalu's banner, can be read as a

dogged investigation into the Indian diaspora. What made the protagonist reach such a conclusion? His wife, a Jatt, is murdered by her father for daring to marry the man she loved, a fellow Punjabi professor. A father killing his own daughter for marrying a Dalit is not uncommon in India but is unheard of in the Western world. In the novel, the father is shamed by his circle of "macho Jatt caste" friends who "taunted him as weak for not killing Simran immediately upon learning of her intention to marry Kalu". The social pressure to maintain caste purity robs the

father of his humanity and he schemes to eliminate his daughter altogether. The plot opens in Banjhan village in Punjab. Udho, a Chamar farmer, migrates to the UK and then brings over his wife, Banti, and son, Kalu. The child's name is actually Kalha but villagers call him Kalu Chamar, also a derogatory reference, of course, to a darker skin colour, and a term often used to address Dalits. Kalu reaches the UK, where he grows up and marries Simran, a doctor whose father is also one. The couple strives to



The Past is Never Dead
Ujjal Dosanjh
256pp, ₹499
Speaking Tiger

raise their son, Angad, together in a world filled with love, laughter and excitement. However, all this is crushed violently. Largely set in Bedford, this is possibly the first book to be published out of Canada that has a Chamar protagonist, and exposes how the caste system is alive and well within the diaspora. A Jatt himself, Dosanjh's realisation that the template of caste is strongly ingrained, gives his novel heft. The isolation marked by Dalits abroad is atemporal and has a deep psychological dimension. The Dalit body is twin-marked. Take what happens when Kalu and Simran are at a bar. A Jatt gang shows up and assaults Kalu. Anguished, he wants to get back at them but realises, "I can't wish away my caste and colour". Udho, who is intimately involved in the social life of Ravidasias, tells Kalu: "The Jatts hate us. The whites look down upon us". *The Past is Never Dead* packs in a good overview of Punjab's

caste history and social life as it is transposed into the new settlements of second- and third-generation Punjabis in the UK. Despite his devout Sikh self, Kalu is still looked down upon as a Chamar. He is kidnapped and his head forcibly shaven. Ravidass and Ambedkar feature whenever an anxious Kalu races through the phalanx of trauma and rebellion. The plot in the second half revolves around getting justice for Kalu as he fights for justice for his murdered wife and runs political campaigns. When caste is understood rather than hidden, as Udho tried to do all his life, all the pieces fall into place, and every experience from marriage to love, school, family and politics starts to make sense for a Dalit. When caste pride becomes the politics of outcastes, a new identity foregrounds their existence. This is seen when Kalu, who is voted to Parliament, prefers to be identified as "Dr Kalu Chamar", MP of Bedford.



Punjabis in London during Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on June 3, 2022.
MIKE KEMP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Dosanjh is a magnificent writer whose characters live on with the reader. That he is a former premier of British Columbia in Canada gives one hope that an anti-caste agenda will make it to the core of that country's politics. In the UK, where this novel is largely set, Ambedkarite-Buddhist politics has been around for over 50

years and is a testament to the efficacy of Dalit organising. It is now time for Dalits to participate in state affairs to the fullest wherever they are in the world. Suraj Yengde is a WEB Du Bois Fellow at Harvard University. His forthcoming book, *Caste: A New History of the World*, is a study of castes outside India

Music as incitement

Kunal Purohit's *H-Pop* combines reportage and interviews to examine the connection between the lyrics of Hindutva pop songs and anti-minority violence

Deepansh Duggal
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Seemingly benign yet insidious, the Hindutva pop playlist includes songs set to hypnotic beats with lyrics that hint at an Islamic take-over of India, or which claim to tell the truth about India's freedom struggle. Some of these are filled with conspiracy theories and historical inaccuracies meant to stoke communal tensions. In *H-Pop: The Secretive World of Hindutva Pop Stars*, journalist Kunal Purohit begins by conducting a post-mortem of a riot in Jharkhand. A truck with loudspeakers blaring vitriolic songs targeting Muslims drives through town on Ram Navami. A riot breaks out as it nears a mosque and police have to come in to quell it. Later, a local Muslim man is lynched on suspicion of "love jihad". *H-Pop* makes a connection between the anti-Muslim propaganda conveyed through the brand of music blaring from the truck and incidents such as these. "What makes pop-culture-as-propaganda effective is its everydayness, easy access to prey," writes Purohit. The "prey" doesn't need to step out of their homes to attend a rally; they only have to feel the need to be entertained and click their way to satisfaction. The aim here, apparently, is to normalise violence and genocidal tendencies to the extent that when an actual call-to-arms is made, attacking someone for their religion isn't viewed as sociopathic but normal. The book quotes verbatim some of the most vicious, ignorant and bigoted lyrics of Hindutva pop songs and poems. This is accompanied by Purohit's sharp commentary based on intensive research, reportage and extensive interviews with the three artists profiled. Every false claim is debunked with facts and there is also a detailed list of notes and references. While the correlation between lyrics and

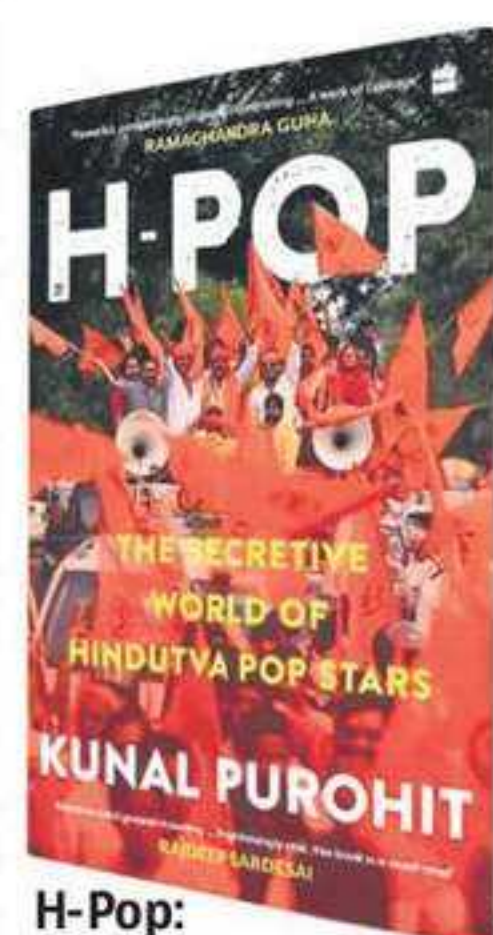
actual violence is difficult to establish, it is true that the impact of pop culture is downplayed in general, and the role of songs, cinema and social-media influencers in propagating certain views is understudied. Purohit attempts to do this and adds an extra layer by viewing a trend in contemporary India against precedents in world history – the US during World War 2, neo-Nazis in 1980s UK, Hitler's Germany – to show how, there too, similar methods of disseminating propaganda were used to demonise sections of society. The three artists, whose extensive conversations with Purohit form the core of this book, do not conform to the usual stereotypes associated with the Hindu right-wing. The first subject is a 25-year-old Harayvi woman, Kavi Singh, who shot to fame with the song *Dhara 370* after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A in Kashmir. The second is 28-year-old poet Kamal Agney, a Godee apologist who attends *kavi sammans* both online and in the real world, where he recites verse that celebrates Gandhi's murder. The third is Sandeep Deo, a journalist and YouTube influencer who dreams of replacing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party with his own party of Hindu warriors well-versed in both *shastra* (Vedic knowledge) and *shastra* (weaponry).

Both Singh and Agney believe in the existence of "good Muslims" who aren't like "others" – those planning a "takeover" of India by increasing their population and forcefully converting women via "love jihad". Muslims aren't entirely absent from their lives either. Singh had two Muslim friends, Salma and Shabnam, as a child, and her mother's landlord, a Muslim, allows her to live in her home rent-free. How then were these individuals radicalised? It is difficult to say, considering that many millions are exposed to the same texts and media with no similar effects. While Deo seems to have appropriated the *Ramayana* and the *Ramcharitmanas* to fashion himself as a saviour of Hindus, Agney's transformation can perhaps be traced to his family's traumatic experience with a Muslim neighbour in Gosaiganj. The hyper-

nationalist Sunny Deol-starrer *Gadar* coloured Singh's perceptions, while her father and manager Ramkesh, who admits to crying when Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991, changed his political allegiance after listening to prime minister Narendra Modi's speeches on social media. Through detailed descriptions of these artists' ambitions and lives, and extensive interviews with their friends and immediate family, *H-Pop* presents a well-rounded picture of their lives and, through that, a political snapshot of post-2014 India. Key events of the past decade, including the abrogation of Article 370, the Pulwama attack and the anti-CAA protests, form the backdrop of Singh, Agney and Deo's stories. For a book on ugly propaganda, *H-Pop* does have its touching moments. The chapter entitled *A Sudden End*, which details the author's meetings with Singh and Ramkesh after the father-daughter duo parted ways, is particularly poignant. Playing Pygmalion to Singh, Ramkesh had tried to curate her popstar image with such overbearing rigour that the young woman was compelled to cut him off. Here, both individuals emerge as human beings with difficult lives and complicated relationships instead of non-state actors furthering an extreme agenda. Full of pathos, it even leaves the reader feeling a bit guilty for having judged the two harshly.

H-Pop is a worrying read. Purohit states that his book lays the "foundation stone to fill the critical void" left by the lack of research on aspects of fascism in India. "Grimmer days are upon us," he writes towards the end of the volume, and the reader is instantly reminded of Ramkesh's chilling words: "This is only going to get bigger. Believe me. There is going to be bloodshed. There will be a massive riot. Trust me. And it will be so big, much, much bigger than 1947." Hopefully, for all our sakes, these predictions of the apocalypse will come to nought.

Deepansh Duggal writes on art and culture. He tweets @Deepansh75



H-Pop: The Secretive World of Hindutva Pop Stars
Kunal Purohit
306pp, ₹499, HarperCollins

{ **HT PICKS** } NEW READS

THE CRISIS FACING A COMMUNITY OF WARRIORS

First to lead and the last to complain, Gorkha soldiers have withstood the test of time despite the challenges thrown their way. Renowned for their bravery, they have a remarkable legacy as warriors who paved the way for the proud modern India that we celebrate today. Instead of being rightfully accorded accolades and acknowledgment, the Gorkhas have come to be treated as outsiders, their families and communities ignored as the rest of the country marches towards greater wealth. Stuck between power players, it would seem that Nepal too has come to a standstill. Who is to blame for this reality and is it too late to make amends? There are many unanswered questions, but through this book, Tim I Gurung shows readers how the vast depths of Gorkha Grief came to be. **The Gorkha Grief**
Tim I Gurung
232pp, ₹495, Vitasta Publishing

AN ANTHOLOGY THAT BRINGS MOMENTS OF SOLACE

Poetry has an aura of the magical; it goes beyond the mundane to reveal deep truths about life, love and the mysteries of the universe. Unlike prose, which can be discursive, good poetry strives to get at the essence of things in just a few words. Perhaps that is why it engages, even in an era of attenuated attention spans. This collection offers readers a moment of escape from daily life through some of the warmest words in the English language. Whether one is searching for wisdom or looking to boost one's well-being, dip into this anthology to savour and share a quiet moment of calm every day of the year. The collection includes the work of a wide range of poets, including Maya Angelou, Kae Tempest, Dylan Thomas and Ocean Vuong. A good gift for a poetry-lover, *365 Poems for Life* is designed to bring readers a moment of solace every day. **365 Poems for Life**
Allie Esiri
563pp, ₹989, Bluebird

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

India is already the world's fifth-largest economy. Unlike most markets of its size, India is, and for a long time will be, driven by lots of small consumers earning and spending just a little bit each, which adds up to an enormous amount. On the supply side, these consumers are served by numerous small, agile suppliers who challenge large companies by innovating to satisfy the buyer's price-performance demands. India's vibrant digital revolution now offers the keys to cracking open this notoriously tricky market. Digital business models will be the future of competition as they harness the power of the small and create large-scale businesses. *Lilliput Land* provides a "people lens" through which to view the paradoxes and challenges that dot India's market opportunity, and discusses the drivers and shapers of its future. A comprehensive three-part framework of structure-behaviour-supply discusses the present and future of India's mega consumption story, the most exciting in the world, with over half of its GDP accounted for by domestic consumption. Consumer India is ready and waiting. **Lilliput Land**
Rama Bijapurkar
304pp, ₹699, Penguin

ontheweb

READ: A tool-book on how to live a long, meaningful, and fulfilling life, *Outlive* by the physician and surgical oncologist Peter Attia, is a manifesto on staying young even as we grow older. An interesting narrative that merges healthspan with lifespan, it makes a strong case for living longer and living better too.

Scan the QR code to read the review by Sudhinder Sharma

EU, US to open Gaza maritime aid corridor as truce talks stall

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

CAIRO/NICOSIA: The European Union and partners including the US are set to launch a maritime aid corridor to Gaza as soon as this weekend — a means to get urgent aid to desperate civilians caught in the Israel-Hamas war.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited Cyprus to announce the initiative on Friday. The plan would see ships carry food and medical supplies from the Cypriot town of Larnaca across the Mediterranean Sea to Gaza, where the US plans to set up a temporary port to receive shipments.

She said "an initial pilot operation" would be launched on Friday, and the United Arab Emirates had helped activate the corridor "by securing the first of many shipments of goods to the people of Gaza".

Her announcement came after US President Joe Biden, in his annual State of the Union address on Thursday, said the US military would establish a "temporary pier" off Gaza's coast to bring in aid.

Biden, whose administration has been increasingly vocal about the war's consequences for civilians, delivered some of his strongest comments yet, as hopes dimmed for a new truce before Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month which could begin Sunday depending on the lunar calendar.

"To the leadership of Israel I say this — humanitarian assistance cannot be a secondary consideration or a bargaining chip," Biden said.

The efforts — including security checks — will be co-ordinated with Israel, which controls all but one of Gaza's land borders as well as its territorial waters and airspace, according to a statement. The EU and the US will also work with the UK and United Arab Emirates.

The move is seen as a way to top up the limited volumes of aid



Palestinians pray in front of a mosque destroyed by the Israeli airstrikes in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Friday, ahead of Ramzan. AP

entering Gaza via the land border with Egypt after five months of war, which have seen Israel relentlessly bombard the enclave of 2.5 million people in pursuit of Hamas militants and infrastructure.

The US last week started airdrops of food, though that's not seen as enough to arrest an increasingly dire humanitarian crisis.

"We are here because Palestinians, and in particular those in Gaza, need all our help," von der Leyen said in a statement. "We are facing a humanitarian catastrophe."

But Michael Fakhri, the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to food, dismissed the measure.

"No-one has asked for a maritime pier — not the Palestinian people, not the humanitarian aid

community," he told a briefing in Geneva.

Neither a pier, nor the increasing airdrops over Gaza would "prevent starvation and famine by any definition", Fakhri said.

That Israel's main ally is resorting to such a measure "is absurd in a dark, cynical way", he said.

He suggested the move was likely "a performance to try to meet a domestic audience, with elections around the corner".

A medic at Gaza's largest hospital said Friday a humanitarian airdrop in the north of the Palestinian territory killed five people and wounded 10.

The casualties were taken to Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, the emergency room's head nurse, Mohammed al-Sheikh, told AFP.

Hamas's unprecedented October attack on southern Israel

resulted in about 1,160 deaths, according to Israeli official figures.

Israel has responded with a relentless offensive that the health ministry in Gaza said has killed at least 30,878 people, mostly women and children.

Hamas militants took about 250 hostages, some of whom were released during a week-long truce in November. Israel believes 99 hostages remain alive in Gaza and that 31 have died.

The focus on delivering assistance comes as attempts to secure a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas — temporary or otherwise — have failed with the Muslim holy month of Ramzan fast approaching.

Negotiations involving Israel, the US, Egypt and Qatar have led to a proposed six-week halt to

fighting and the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in return for dozens of Israeli hostages, though Hamas is demanding a full withdrawal of Israel forces from Gaza.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday it was up to Hamas to agree to a ceasefire that would allow more humanitarian aid into Gaza and pave the way for talks on an "enduring resolution" to the conflict.

Blinken, ahead of a meeting with Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan, said Washington was still pushing for a ceasefire.

"The issue is Hamas. The issue is whether Hamas will decide or not to have a ceasefire that would benefit everyone," Blinken said.

"The ball is in their court. We're working intensely on it, and we'll see what they do."

NO WOMEN'S DAY IN GAZA, SAY THE MOTHERS OF HUNGRY CHILDREN

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

GAZA: Women's Day? At a tent in Rafah where Um Zaki said she was boiling porridge on an open flame to stave off the hunger of her six children, the holiday passed as a cruel joke.

"Now, all our days look the same. The days of feasts, happy occasions, nice food, laughter and hope, are all gone because of the war," she told Reuters by phone. "What is Women's Day? We are deprived of the minimal rights, we are deprived of living. Every day women die by Israeli bombs."

International Women's Day, March 8, is typically a major public holiday in the Palestinian territories, when Gaza families put on their finest clothes and flock to hotels and restaurants to celebrate their mothers, daughters and sisters.

Now, with Gaza's 2.3 million residents nearly all homeless and all struggling for survival, it was painful even to think of such things.

In a statement to mark the holiday, the Gaza health ministry said 60,000 pregnant women in the enclave were suffering from dehydration and malnutrition.

"Five thousand pregnant women give birth each month in Gaza amid harsh, insecure, and unhealthy conditions because of the bombardment and displacement," the statement said.

Health officials in Gaza say nearly 9,000 of the 30,878 people confirmed killed in Israel's offensive were women, and another 13,000 are children of both sexes. Thousands more are believed to be dead under the rubble.

The UN Palestinian aid agency UNRWA, noted on X that the death toll meant 63 women were being killed in Gaza on average per day, 37 of them mothers.



Trams are stranded as thousands of people block the streets in a huge protest march against a controversial anti-subversion law known as Article 23 in Hong Kong on July 01, 2003. AFP

{ HONG KONG }

Life in prison for treason under new security law

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

HONG KONG: Hong Kong unveiled a proposed law that threatens life imprisonment for residents who "endanger national security" on Friday, deepening worries about erosion of the city's freedoms four years after Beijing imposed a similar law that all but wiped out public dissent.

The "Safeguarding National Security Bill" was formally introduced at the city's opposition-free legislature on Friday morning for vetting.

Security chief Chris Tang told lawmakers there was a "genuine and urgent need" for the new law.

"Hong Kong had faced serious threats to national security, especially the colour revolution and black-clad violence in 2019, which was an unbearably painful experience," he said, referring to the democracy protests.

Legislative Council president Andrew Leung vowed lawmakers would "spare no effort and work together to plug the national security loophole as soon as possible".

The law would jail people who damage public infrastructure with the intent to endanger national security for 20 years — or life, if they collude with an external force to do so. In 2019, protesters occupied the airport and vandalized railway stations.

Similarly, those who commit sedition face a jail term of seven years but colluding with an external force to carry out such acts increase that penalty to 10

years.

The bill also reworks Hong Kong's colonial-era crime of "sedition" to cover inciting hatred against China's Communist leadership and socialist system, while upping the maximum penalty from two years to 10 years.

The process has been fast-tracked, with the bill unveiled nine days after a month-long public consultation ended last week.

As legislators discussed the bill Friday, activist Alexandra Wong, also known as Grandma Wong, was the sole voice of opposition outside the government headquarters.

"For such an important bill, how can they spend just over a month to (consult) the public?" she told AFP while being watched by a dozen police officers.

"Even lawyers who specialise in national security won't get it, not to mention ordinary citizens like me," Wong said, calling the draft bill "ridiculous".

The bill has been widely seen as the latest step in a crackdown on political opposition that began after the semi-autonomous Chinese city was rocked by violent pro-democracy protests in 2019.

Since then, authorities have crushed the city's once-vibrant political culture. Many of the city's leading pro-democracy activists have been arrested and others fled abroad. Dozens of civil society groups have been disbanded, and outspoken media outlets like Apple Daily and Stand News shut down.

HT

Italy opens probe into OpenAI's new video tool Sora

ROME: Italy's data protection watchdog said Friday it has launched an investigation into Sora, a new artificial intelligence (AI) tool made by US firm OpenAI. The Italian Data Protection Authority said it was concerned over "the possible implications for the processing of personal data of users located in the European Union and in particular in Italy", and it has asked OpenAI for "clarifications". AFP

'Iran responsible for violence that killed Mahsa Amini'

DUBAI: Iran is responsible for the "physical violence" that led to the death of Mahsa Amini in September 2022 and sparked nationwide protests against the country's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, laws and its ruling theocracy, a UN fact-finding mission said on Friday. It also found that the Islamic Republic employed "unnecessary and disproportionate use of lethal force" to put down protests following Amini's death, and that Iranian security forces sexually assaulted detainees. AP

Zelensky holds Istanbul talks with Erdogan

ISTANBUL: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Istanbul Friday for talks with Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the war with Russia and Black Sea grain shipments. The meeting comes as Kyiv seeks to shore up more support from its NATO allies and as Ankara positions itself as a potential mediator between Russia and Ukraine. AFP

France's Macron pledges to make abortion basic right all over Europe

Agence France-Presse

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PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday said France would not rest until the right to abortion, now protected by the French constitution in a world first, was guaranteed in the EU rights charter and around the globe.

Macron spoke after hot wax was sealed to a constitutional amendment to formally inscribe the right to terminate a pregnancy. The ceremony on International Women's Day came after parliament gave its final assent earlier this week.

"France today becomes the only country worldwide whose constitution explicitly protects the right to abortion in all circumstances," Macron said in front of the justice ministry on the Place Vendôme in central Paris.

But "we will not rest until this promise is kept everywhere in the



French President Emmanuel Macron (right) and Justice minister Eric Dupond-Moretti (center), seal the right to abortion in the French constitution, at the Place Vendôme, in Paris, on Friday. AP

world." Abortion has been legal in France since 1975, but Macron last year pledged to better protect it after the US Supreme Court in 2022 overturned the United States'

half-century-old right to the procedure, leaving it up to individual states to decide.

In a historic vote, a rare congress of both houses of France's parliament on Monday gave a

green light to make terminating a pregnancy a "guaranteed freedom" in the basic text, sparking celebration among feminists.

"Today is not the end of the story. It's the start of a fight," Macron said.

In Europe, "nothing is set in stone any longer and everything has to be defended," he said, alluding to "reactionary forces" in other parts of the continent.

"This is why I wish for this guaranteed freedom to resort to an abortion to be inscribed in the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights," he said.

The sealing ceremony — for the first time open to the public — came a year to the day after the president promised to constitutionalise the right.

Justice minister Eric Dupond-Moretti turned the handle of a 300-kilo 19th-century press to stamp a green wax seal on a ribbon attached to the official amendment document.

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF SUFFERS MAJOR CORAL BLEACHING

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

SYDNEY: Australia's Great Barrier Reef has been hit by a major coral bleaching event, with the results consistent with patterns of heat stress that have built up over summer at the biologically diverse site, a government agency said on Friday.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), the agency tasked with monitoring the reef's health, confirmed that "a widespread, often called mass, coral bleaching event is unfolding" across the reef.

The news comes after the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration earlier this week said the world was on the verge of a fourth mass coral bleaching event which could see wide swathes of tropical reefs die, including parts of the Great Barrier Reef.

{ JAPAN } OVER BAD BEHAVIOUR

Kyoto bans tourists from parts of picturesque geisha district

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

TOKYO: Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto, long a popular destination for tourists, is closing off some private-property alleys in its famous geisha district because of complaints about misbehaving visitors.

Kyoto residents have long expressed frustration with tourists behaving badly, especially in the city's Gion district, home to tea-houses where "geiko" — as geisha are locally known — and their young "maiko" apprentices, perform.

In December, a Gion district council comprised of residents urged Kyoto City to tackle the issue, saying their neighbourhood "is not a theme park".

One member previously told Japanese media about an instance of a maiko's kimono being torn and another who had a cigarette butt put in her collar.

With the problem ongoing, the

council decided to step up its response.

"We are going to put up signs in April that tell tourists to stay out of our private streets," local district official Isokazu Ota on Friday told The Associated Press.

A sign will say in both Japanese and English: "This is a private road, so you are not allowed to drive through it," although the keep-out warning is aimed mainly at pedestrians, not cars, as the Japanese wording refers to generically "passing through."

"There will be a fine of 10,000 yen," the sign adds, which comes to about \$70 under recent currency conversion rates.

The ban covers just several blocks of Gion. The district's public streets will remain open to tourists, so the area and the rest of Kyoto will still be teeming with visitors, both from Japan and around the world.

Gion's outrage highlights brewing resentment at what many peo-

ple feel is "over-tourism," even though the Japanese economy depends more than ever on tourism revenue to sustain growth.

The district of winding alleyways is known for picturesque tea-houses, where geisha and their maiko apprentices, wearing fancy kimono and hair ornaments, perform in dance and music.

Ota said groups of tourists sometimes "act like paparazzi" when geisha emerge from narrow streets, which are just 3-6.5 feet wide.

In a city known for gorgeous temples and gardens, Gion is one of its most scenic and historical spots. Tourists, armed with cameras, like to wander around Gion, hoping to catch the women on their way to dance class or a fancy dinner party.

Complaints about over-zealous tourists began bubbling years ago, though the discontent cooled when the coronavirus pandemic brought a lull in tourism. Now, visitors are back with a frenzy.



Maiko, or apprentice geiko, pose ahead of the Gion Odori dance performance in Kyoto, western Japan, on Aug. 31, 2023. AP

IBC carve-out for realty is off; ball in creditors' court

Govt wants to see how recent change works out before any amendment

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
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NEW DELHI: The government has dropped its plan to amend the bankruptcy law to introduce a special regime for real estate developers, letting creditors instead decide whether individual projects of a distressed developer should be sold piecemeal or as a whole. Last month, the bankruptcy rule maker granted creditors such flexibility, and the government wants to first see how this works, two persons informed about the development said.

The bankruptcy law treats a distressed company as a single entity for debt resolution. But, given the complexities of the real estate sector, the corporate affairs ministry had considered treating individual real estate projects separately. The ministry's original idea was to modify provisions of the Insolvency and



IBBI last month allowed lenders to decide on treating projects separately. HT

Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for the purpose, and to specify such a carve-out for the sector in law. But, the proposal will not make it to the IBC Amendment Bill, said one of the two persons quoted above.

"IBBI's regulations enabling creditors to propose project-wise insolvency resolution will act as a regulatory sandbox. It has to

be seen how it works under the existing ecosystem before further modifying the code," said the first person quoted, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Depending on the experience, the regulations can be modified, the person said.

The thinking in the government now is that amending the code to give a special regime for

one sector, for which Parliament's nod is needed, will complicate the code and spark similar demands from other sectors. The move to give some flexibility for project-wise debt resolution through regulations signals the government's resolve to let creditors decide the direction of debt resolution, rather than writing it into law.

Since 2018, home buyers are classified as financial creditors, and form part of the creditors' panel deciding on bankruptcy reorganization of the distressed business.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on 15 February allowed administrators of bankrupt builders to invite rescue plans for each of the real estate project, or groups of projects. This effectively puts the ball in the court of creditors, who appoint administrators.

Emails sent to a spokesperson for the ministry of corporate affairs and IBBI on March 4 seeking comments remained unanswered.

For project-wise resolution, maintenance of separate books of accounts as well as bank accounts for each of the projects

would be necessary. Such resolution has the advantage of not disrupting inventory of houses in other projects, which will not be covered by the restrictions applicable to the project in distress. That is a desirable feature because unlike banks, home buyers would prefer to get the homes handed over even if it means some extra payment. Meanwhile, banks would prefer to recover their investment even if it means taking a haircut.

Experts said creditors' decision-making is accorded priority under IBC.

"The underlying principle of IBC is to let creditors exercise their commercial wisdom and take informed decisions on resolution of the corporate debtor. It is, therefore, appropriate for the regulation to provide that the committee of creditors can take a call on project-wise resolution. Project-wise resolution offers an effective measure for addressing home buyers' problems. Managing project-wise resolution, however, requires different approach than resolution of corporate debtor as an entity," said Ashok Haldia, an expert in accounting and auditing.

Drying reservoirs raise hydro power worries

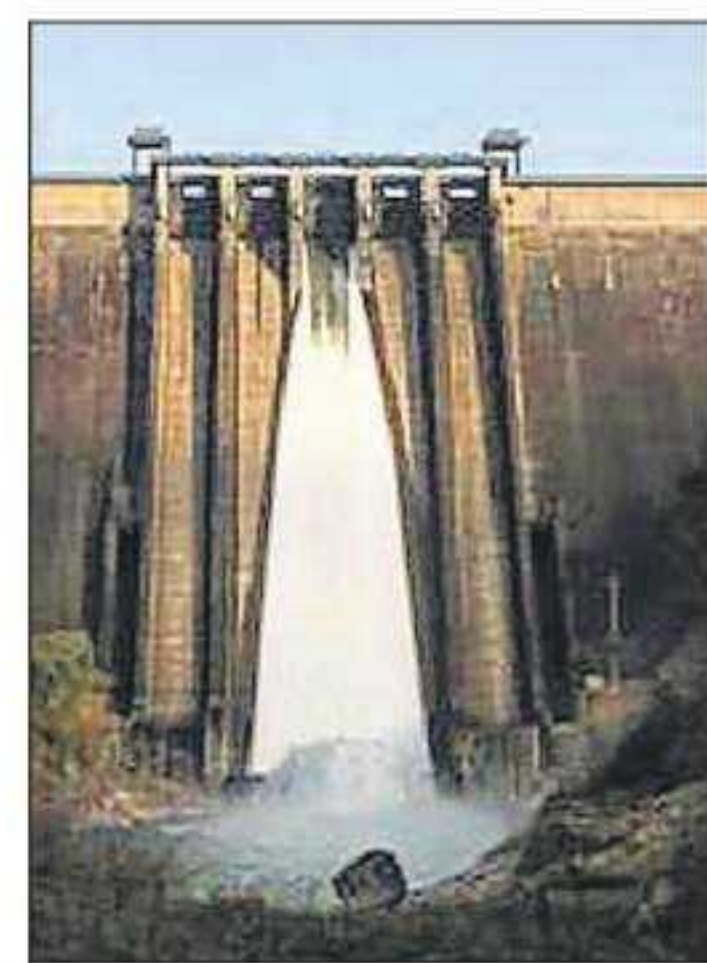
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NEW DELHI: Falling water levels in hydro power dams are raising worries, as a looming summer threatens to turn up power demand and strain the electricity grid.

Thanks to last year's late monsoon, scanty winter rains and the lack of snowfall, reservoir levels fell 17% from a year earlier to 73.29 billion cubic metres (bcm) on Thursday, data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) showed. The levels are also nearly 3.6 percentage points below the 10-year average of 76.06 bcm.

"Reservoir levels are very low currently; in case rainfall is deficient in the upcoming months, hydro power generation would be further impacted," an official with a hydro power generation company said. "Last year, the monsoon was delayed and it hampered generation by hydro projects to a great extent. Govind Sagar, Indira Sagar and others are key reservoirs for hydro power projects," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

India has a hydro power capacity of 46.92 GW, which is 11% of the total capacity of 429.96 GW. Despite this small share, it has an outsized role in



Hydro power generation during April-January was already 17% lower. REUTERS

keeping the power grid stable, since its generation can be regulated when required, unlike other renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, which depend on wind and sunshine.

Most top reservoirs are running low on water levels compared with last year. Govind Sagar reservoir in Himachal Pradesh, which caters to a hydro capacity of 1.37 GW, currently is only 33% full, against 35% a year ago. Koyna dam in Maharashtra, with a hydro power project of 1.9 GW, was 61% full, against 67% last year. Uttarakhand's Tehri dam, which caters to 1 GW capacity, was at

just 3%, against 37% the year before.

One exception is Indira Sagar dam in Madhya Pradesh, where storage has risen to 54% of its capacity from 40% last year, according to data from CWC. It has a hydro power capacity of 1 GW.

Until monsoon rains arrive, melting snow in the Himalayas is a key source of water for hydro power generation from March to June. However, there was little snow this time.

"This year, there was deficient winter rains compared with previous years. Usually, rains during winters in northern India coincides with snow formation in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. However, this winter, we witnessed only some scanty rains in late February and the formation of snow was also lesser, leading to no major source for snow melting and hydro power generation in the coming months. So, power generation may be impacted going ahead," said A.K. Singh, general manager, NTPC, Hydro Headquarters.

Hydro power generation during April-January was already 17% lower at 121.28 billion units from the previous year's 146.12 billion units, data from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed.



Net inflows rose 23% month-on-month to ₹26,865.78 crore, the highest since March 2022, Amfi data showed. ISTOCKPHOTO

Equity mutual fund inflows at 23-month high in February

Mayur Bhalerao

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MUMBAI: Net inflows into equity mutual funds jumped to a 23-month high in February, led by a surge of investments in thematic or sectoral funds. Net inflows rose 23% month-on-month to ₹26,865.78 crore, the highest since March 2022, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Friday.

Thematic or sectoral fund inflows rose a whopping 134.4% month-on-month to ₹11,262.72 crore in February, from ₹4,804.69 crore in January.

Some of these thematic funds included Groww Banking & Financial Services Fund, Quant PSU Fund, SBI Energy Opportunities Fund, WhiteOak Capital Banking & Financial Services Fund and WhiteOak Capital Pharma and Healthcare Fund.

"Equity inflows continue to soar, largely led by some NFOs (new fund offers). Notably, thematic/sectoral have seen massive interest. Small and midcap flows have been buoyant. Most categories have seen positive flows in equity," said Anand Vardarajan, business head - institutional clients, banking, alternate investments and

product strategy at Tata Asset Management.

"The equity inflows continue to surge, led by NFOs. The thematic space has received ₹16,000 crore net in January and February [combined] even as gross equity flows rose to ₹59,000 crore last month from approximately ₹51,000 crore in January," said Mayukh Datta, chief business officer, IIT Mutual Fund. However, there was a notable decline in inflows across several fund categories on a month-on-month basis. Large-cap funds witnessed the steepest drop, with inflows falling by 28.4% to ₹921.14 crore in February. Mid-cap and small-cap funds also saw declines, with inflows dipping by 12.27% and 10.27% to ₹1,808.18 crore and ₹2,922.45 crore, respectively.

Debt funds followed the trend of declining inflows in February, experiencing a 16.5% drop on a month-on-month basis. This brought the inflows down to ₹63,808.8 crore. This decline comes after net outflows in both December (₹75,560 crore) and November (₹4,707 crore).

However, liquid funds bucked the trend, experiencing a surge of 69% in inflows to ₹83,642.33 crore from ₹49,468 crore in January.

MCA raises monetary thresholds for merger regulation

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NEW DELHI: Businesses seeking to merge will need permission from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) only if their combined assets and turnover cross higher thresholds set out on Friday.

The corporate affairs ministry said the first such revision since 2016 was made in view of the changing wholesale price index and the currency exchange rate, calling it a step towards greater ease of doing business. The new thresholds,

specified in two separate orders, cover both individual businesses and groups of entities, having presence either in India alone or both here and abroad.

The thresholds were originally set in the Competition Act of 2002 and revised successively.

After the latest changes, the thresholds are now 150% more than the levels prescribed in the 2002 Act.

Since the 2016 revision of thresholds, transactions between businesses with combined assets of ₹2,000 crore or ₹6,000 crore turnover in India

THE NEW THRESHOLDS COVER BOTH INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES AND GROUPS OF ENTITIES

alone had warranted CCI approval. This has been revised to a combined asset threshold of ₹2,500 crore and turnover threshold of ₹7,500 crore.

In the case of businesses with cross-border presence, the

threshold since 2016 has been aggregate assets of \$1 billion, out of which at least ₹1,000 crore of assets should be in India or combined sales of \$3 billion, out of which at least ₹3,000 crore should be from India. This has been raised to \$1.25 billion assets, out of which at least ₹1,250 crore should be in India or \$3.75 billion in turnover for all the parties in the transaction together, out of which ₹3,750 crore should be from India.

In the case of groups with presence only in India, the thresholds in effect since 2016

has been ₹8,000 crore of assets or ₹24,000 crore sales. These have been raised to ₹10,000 crore of assets and ₹30,000 crore of sales.

Since 2016, business groups with presence in India and abroad were required to take CCI approval if they had \$4 billion assets, of which ₹1,000 crore is in India or \$12 billion sales, of which ₹3,000 crore was from India. This has also been revised up to \$5 billion assets inclusive of ₹1250 crore in India or \$15 billion sales, of which ₹3,750 crore is from India, showed the official statement.

Experts pointed out that the move benefits the industry and makes the thresholds in sync with market reality. Subodh Prasad Deo, partner at law firm Saikrishna & Associates and former additional director general at CCI welcomes the enhancement of threshold for small acquisitions.

"It shows there will be no scrutiny by the CCI for a large number of transactions. It also shows that now, we are more confident that we can allow these transactions to happen without having to review them," said Deo.

Govt to conduct next round of spectrum auctions in May

Guulveen Aulakh
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NEW DELHI: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will conduct the next round of spectrum auctions on May 20, where frequencies valued at ₹96,317.65 crore across eight bands will be up for grabs.

The more expensive 600 MHz and 700 MHz bands, however, have been excluded from this auction. Interested companies have until 22 April to submit their applications.

"The annual spectrum auction calendar is a major reform. Now, telecom service providers will get an opportunity to buy spectrum regularly in a transparent way," telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a social media post on X, after the DoT issued the notice inviting applications (NIA) for the spectrum auction on Friday.

In an interview with Mint last week, telecom secretary Neeraj Mittal had said that the department was planning on holding the auctions in the early part of the quarter ending June.

The auction will include all



Frequencies valued at ₹96,317.65 cr across eight bands will be up for grabs. MINT

available spectrum in the 800, 900, 1,800, 2,100, 2,300, 2,500, 3,300 MHz, and 26 GHz bands, with the total base price set at ₹96,317.65 crore, as per the NIA, which outlines the auction's rules and process.

The DoT will announce the final list of bidders on May 9, and a mock auction will be conducted on May 13-14. A week later, the department will put the airwaves on sale.

However, officials expect this year's auctions to be subdued compared to those in 2022, which generated a record ₹1.5 trillion from the sale of 72,097.85 MHz, including 5G airwaves for the first time.

Mint had reported last month that the government's expectations for this year's auction revenue are modest, projected, at the most, at ₹10,000 crore.

This is due in part to telecom providers focusing on renewing licences that are set to expire between February and August this year.

Winners will have 10 days from receiving the demand note to complete payment, either in full or partially, with an option for 20-year instalment payments at 8.65% interest.

Additionally, there's a provision for a moratorium based on upfront payment, followed by instalment payments.

The auctioned spectrum will not incur any spectrum usage charges (SUC) and will be awarded for a 20-year term, after which carriers must repurchase it from the government.

Indian airports to enhance ATC efficiency with UNO Technology

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NEW DELHI: Indian airports are looking to increase efficiency of their air traffic control (ATC) towers, as aviation focused-UNO Technology witnesses high interest from state-run and private airport operators to introduce new features to their ATC infrastructure.

"We aim to work on 3-4 projects per year. We are talking to 2-3 major private airport operators in India. We are already in touch with the Adani Group," Unni Bhaskar, managing director, UNO Technology, told Mint.

Recently, the company was appointed as a specialist contractor for the Noida international airport in Jewar for construction of high-vision ATC room where it is implementing innovative framing system



UNO Technology sees high interest from state-run and private airport operators. HT

without mullions for glazing in the visual control room.

The company aims to reduce millions or vertical bars between the glass panes of a window, which is expected to

result in an obstruction-free vision for air traffic controllers and decrease fatigue level for them.

"It is difficult to quantify with a number attached to the fatigue level. However, we can say that the controllers have responded quite favourably to the design inputs and improvements by adopting a high vision control cabin design," Bhaskar said.

This also helps in better acoustics, insulation from elements, and the color selection of various elements inside the cabin has a significant impact on the operational efficiency of an air traffic control cabin, he added.

While the company is already associated with several airports in Middle East and North Africa region, it is now witnessing a growing interest in India for the same.

Global beauty brands sign up for India ride

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NEW DELHI: Top global cosmetic companies are making a beeline for India as quality-conscious women—many working, and with rising disposable incomes—seek out premium items such as skin-care products and lip colours in a \$17-billion beauty market.

In the past 12 months alone, large beauty brands such as Fenty Beauty by Rihanna, Laura Mercier, Kylie Cosmetics, Rare Beauty, Nars Cosmetics, Allies of Skin and Paris-based Maison Margiela have either entered India or have announced plans to do so.

Shoppers Stop, which operates a beauty distribution arm as well as the SSBBeauty retail format, has a line-up of interna-



Brands such as Fenty Beauty, Kylie Cosmetics and Laura Mercier have either entered India or have plans to do so. SHUTTERSTOCK

tional brands that it will introduce in India this year, and is in discussions with others for next year.

"The company is actively broadening its distribution partnerships with global beauty brands, including the recent

addition of Nars Cosmetics," said Biju Kassim, customer care associate and CEO, beauty, Shoppers Stop.

The company currently sells fragrances from Armani, Prada and Valentino, with plans for them to launch their make-up

lines by March-April, said Kassim. Last year, it partnered Japan's Shiseido Company via a subsidiary to distribute Nars products in India.

Kassim points to a "noticeable" uptick in demand for premium beauty products at Shoppers Stop.

"As consumers become more discerning, they are increasingly seeking high-quality, luxury beauty brands that offer superior performance and innovative formulations," he added. The fashion retailer draws around 18% of its revenue from the beauty segment—a number that he said could go upwards of 20% in the "near future".

Beauty brands are increasingly courting India as part of their global expansion strategy—a shift from a few years ago when the country did not

figure in their scheme of things.

"Brands that were wary of India just two or three years ago are looking eastward and have an India strategy today, very much so because they recognize the opportunity," said Mansi Sharma, creative director, House of Beauty.

The company operates multi-brand beauty stores under the Boddess brand in India, and holds distribution rights for global brands such as Anastasia Beverly Hills, Kylie Cosmetics and Max Factor.

Sharma said the appetite for beauty products is "very high". "Consumer spending among women is going up, people are travelling more, and they are more exposed to social media—as a result, demand for specific brands and ingredients is on the rise," she said.

{ SUDOKU }

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DIFFICULTY LEVEL
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{ WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE • HIGH • LOW

SATURDAY Strong surface winds during day time 27°C 11°C	SUNDAY Partly cloudy sky 27°C 10°C	MONDAY Partly cloudy sky 29°C 13°C
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ALMANAC

Today is 9th March 2024
27 Shaban, 1445
14 Phalguna, Krishna Paksha, 14
Samvat: 2080
Sunset: Saturday at 06:26 p.m.
Sunrise: Sunday at 06:36 a.m.
Moonset: Saturday at 05:22 p.m.
Moonrise: Sunday at 06:37 a.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS

Delhi 27°C | 11°C
Mumbai 36°C | 21°C
Kolkata 31°C | 20°C
Chennai 35°C | 24°C

Employees' State Insurance Corporation
(Ministry of Labour & Employment Govt. of India)
Regional Office
Panchdeep Bhawan, Wing No. 4, Shivpuri, Premnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Phone: 0135-2774762, E-mail: rd-uchal@esic.nic.in, Website: www.esic.gov.in, https://routarakhand.esic.gov.in

File No.: T-12012/372022-Leg Date: 08.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF ADVOCATES

Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), a statutory body under Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, propose to engage Panel Counsel(s) to represent the 'Employees' State Insurance Corporation before Hon'ble High Court Nainital, State Consumer Forum, District and subordinate Courts and other Tribunals (including CAT), E.I Court, Magistrate Court, State and District Consumer Forum in the districts of Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Bageshwar, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Champawat, Almora.

The practicing advocates who are registered with Bar Council (National/State/District) are eligible for empanelment. The qualification, experience, schedule of fees, other terms and conditions and the application format in which the application has to be made, have been prescribed.

Eligible practicing advocates, who satisfy the eligibility criteria and accept the terms and condition as at ANNEXURE- 'A', should download application (ANNEXURE-'B') in the format prescribed in our website www.esic.gov.in and <https://routarakhand.esic.gov.in>. Duly filed in application, along with all supporting documents in sealed envelope should reach THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR (I/C), ESI Corporation, Regional Office, Panchdeep Bhawan, Wing no. 4, Shivpuri, Premnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248007, on or before 28.03.2024. The envelope should be superscripted with "Application for empanelment of Advocates at ESIC, Regional Office Dehradun".

REGIONAL DIRECTOR (I/C)

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
NH-82, NAGOUR ROAD, MANDORE, JODHPUR-342 304 (RAJASTHAN)
E-Mail: nlu-jod-ri@nic.in Web Site: www.nlujodhpur.ac.in

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

The National Law University Jodhpur invites applications for Faculty positions of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor of Law, Humanities, Management, Insurance, Deputy Registrar and Deputy Librarian and Assistant Librarian. The qualifications, eligibilities, experiences, reservations and terms & conditions of appointment for various positions will be as per UGC Regulations. For details, visit University website www.nlujodhpur.ac.in

Preference will be given to candidates having experience of working at NLUs. National Law University, Jodhpur reserves the right to give additional weightage to candidates working at National Law University, Jodhpur, if desirable.

Applications should be submitted only in online mode latest by 28.03.2024 through the link available on the university website - www.nlujodhpur.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o Dy. Chief Engineer (TD), 5th Floor, Dreamax Plaza, Jalpur, Email: dyceatd.jr@rjvn.com

E-TENDER NOTICE : TN-31(RVU2324GLOB02557)

E-Tenders are invited for Procurement Grinding media balls for BBD-4772/4760 type BHEL supplied coal Pulverizers/mills for CTPP, Chhabra, SSTPS, Suratgarh & KTPS, Kota. Tender details are available on websites <http://e-proc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

Raj.Samwad/C/23/14412 RVUN/PR-3984 Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

No. 1000/01/2024-WF
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS (NIA) FOR AUCTION OF SPECTRUM

Department of Telecommunications (on behalf of the President of India) invites applications for participation in e-auction of spectrum in various bands. The last date of receipt of applications is 22.04.2024.

Further details can be seen, and documents downloaded from the website www.dot.gov.in

For and on behalf of the President of India
(Venkata Praveen Pogiri)
Director (WF)
CBC 06201/11/0015/2324 Ph. 011-23036215

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Shekh Hasmat S/o Shekh Siraj R/o Jhuggi Gali Kabristan, Seemapuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. **82/2021 U/s 457/380/411/120B IPC, dated 01.04.2021, PS Jagatpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Shekh Hasmat** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Shekh Hasmat** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Shekh Hasmat** of Case FIR No. **82/2021 U/s 457/380/411/120B IPC, dated 01.04.2021, PS Jagatpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **15.04.2024**.

By Order
Ms. Aayushi Saxena
Metropolitan Magistrate-05
Room No. 07, Shahdara,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/2817/SHD/2024 (Court Matter)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North-Western Railway, Jodhpur through for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders (Open Tender - Two packet system - Two Stage Reverse Auction), for the following work- 1. Tender No.: T.No. JU/Const./T-34/2023-24/LN-SMR-BLDI Doubling 2. Name of the work with its location: Earthwork in filling/cutting in formation, Blanketing, construction of Station Building, Platforms, Platform shelter, Foot Over Bridge, Passenger Amenities work, Electrical & S&T structures, RUBs, Minor Bridges, Retaining walls, Toe wall, Pitching, Electrical General work and all other ancillary works between Luni-Samdari stations from Km.656.51 to 705.04 and Samdari-Bishangarh stations from Km.0.00 to 49.00 in connection with Luni-Samdari-Bhildi doubling project. 3. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 354,42,54,976.11 4. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 1,00,00,000.00 5. Tender Closing date & time: 03.04.2024 upto 15.00 hrs 6. Date, time & place for Pre-bid conference: On 16.03.2024 at 11.30 hrs. in the office of Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North-Western Railway, Jodhpur. 7. Detail of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filled up: www.ireps.gov.in 8. Official e-mail address: dycecu@nwr.railnet.gov.in 320-AC24

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उत्तराखण्ड पावर कार्पोरेशन लि० कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चम्पावत

निविदा संशोधन एवं तिथि बढोत्तरी सूचना

इस मण्डल से आमंत्रित निम्न निविदाओं में उनके सम्बन्ध अंकित संशोधन किया गया है।

1. निविदा संख्या 07/2023-24 एवं 08/2023-24 वि०वि०ख० (सि०)- न्यूनतम प्रतिभाग प्राप्त न होने के कारण निविदा तिथि विस्तारित कर निविदा जमा एवं खुलने की तिथि क्रमशः दिनांक 18/03/2024 एवं 19/03/2024 की जा रही है।

2. निविदा संख्या 13/2023-24, 24/ 2023-24, 25/ 2023-24 एवं 26/2023-24 वि०वि०ख० (सि०)- अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदा जमा एवं खुलने की तिथि विस्तारित कर निविदा जमा एवं खुलने की तिथि क्रमशः दिनांक 11/03/2024 की जा रही है।

निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। निविदा की अन्य जानकारी उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की वेब साईट www.uktdenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चम्पावत

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Government of NCT of Delhi
DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY
B-Block, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

Applications are invited from trained & experienced candidates having good academic record (Min. 50% marks throughout their career), excellent communications skills, interest & proficiency in co-curricular activities & well versed in computer for the following posts.

1. Principal	8. Academic Counsellor	15. Lab. Asst.
2. Vice-Principal	9. Computer Teacher	16. Clerk
3. PGT- English, Hindi, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Commerce, Economics, History, Pol. Science, Phy. Edu., Painting, IT	10. Special Educator	17. Receptionist
4. TGT- Eng., Social Science, Maths, Natural Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu	11. Nurse	18. M.T.S
5. PRT/Asst. Teacher General	12. Librarian	19. Hostel Warden (M/F)
6. Music & Dance Teacher	13. Accountant	20. Teacher Coordinator
7. Drawing Teacher	14. PET	

Minimum Educational Qualification & Experience for Above Posts:

Post No. 1 & 2 - M.A, B.Ed with min. 5yrs as PGT/10yrs as TGT 5yrs in Admin, Excellent Academic Record, Proficiency in Eng & Hindi.
Post No. 3- PG in respected subject, B.Ed. with min.3 yrs as PGT/ 5yrs as TGT.
Post No. 4 - CTET is mandatory. B. Ed with min.3 yrs teaching experience.
Post No. 5 - CTET is mandatory. DIET/JBT candidates with min. 2 yrs teaching experience.
Post No. 6 - Degree in respective discipline with min 3 yrs experience.
Post No. 7 - Graduation in respective discipline with min. 2 yrs experience.
Post No. 8 - PG in Psychology with min. 2 yrs experience. (Female Preferred)
Post No. 9 - BCA/ MCA candidates with 2 yrs experience.
Post No. 10 - D.Ed/B.Ed in Special Education with min. 2 yrs experience.
Post No. 11 - Female ANM/GNM with min 2 yrs experience as a staff nurse.
Post No. 12 - B. Lib. with min. 2 yrs experience.
Post No. 13 - Commerce Graduate or PG with min. 3 yrs experience.
Post No. 14 - B.P. Ed / M.P. Ed having participated in outdoor/indoor games at least at state level. Both male & female candidates.
Post No. 15 - 12th Pass candidate with min. 2 yrs experience of maintaining secondary level school Science Lab.
Post No. 16 & 17 - Graduate with min. 2 yrs experience of working in Office and Proficient in Spoken & Written Language (Eng & Hindi) and Computers.
Post No. 18 - 10th Pass candidate with min. 2 yrs experience.
Post No. 19 - Graduate in any discipline with min. 2 yrs experience in boarding school or hostel setup as a Warden. (Female candidates Preferred)
Post No. 20 PG in any discipline with min 5 yrs teaching experience and having good communication, organizing and leadership skills.

Candidates from Dwarka & nearby areas shall be given preference. Drop hardcopies of your CV at the address of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Delhi Govt. Sr. Sec. Residential School, Vill: Issapur, Najafgarh, Delhi or apply online at www.kissdelhi.ac.in within 10 days of publishing of this advertisement. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. Kindly note that all the above posts are purely on temporary basis. Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Delhi Govt. Sr. Sec. Residential School is fully free & fully residential school 100% supported by Dept. for the Welfare of SC/ST/OBC & Minorities, Govt. of NCT of Delhi run & managed by Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

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GOVERNMENT SENIOR SECONDARY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
(A Joint venture between Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha)
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0378/23-24 Village : Issapur, Najafgarh, Delhi - 110073

Transforming Maharashtra...

Narendra Modi Prime Minister
Eknath Shinde Chief Minister

- Hindu Hriday Samrat BalaSaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samridhi Highway:**
 - 701 km long highway directly connecting 10 districts.
 - The 625 km long Highway opened for transportation after the inauguration of the third phase from Bharvir to Iगतपुरी.
 - Nagpur to Mumbai journey now in just 8 hours.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri - Navha Sheva Atal Setu:**
 - The 22 km long Sea Link is the longest in the country which will boost development by connecting Mumbai with Navi Mumbai.
 - Huge cut-off in travelling time.
 - Emergency Lanes on both the sides of 6 Lane Sea Link.
- Coastal Road (South):**
 - Work of Coastal Road in Mumbai near completion. One lane will be opened.
 - Length of road 10.58 kilometers. Number of roads on both sides of the lane is 8. (Six in the Tunnel).
 - 70 percent of the time and 34 percent of the fuel to be saved due to Coastal Road.
 - Congestion of traffic to the lessen along with decline in noise and air pollution.
- New railway route:**
 - Rupees 3552 crore for Jalna- Jalgaon new Broad Gauge railway and 750 crore for Nanded- Bidar new railway line approved as a part of state's contribution.
 - Facilities being increased at 126 railway stations under the Amrit Bharat scheme.
 - 5 Vande Bharat Trains started.
- Metro network:**
 - 337 km Metro network to be spread in Mumbai. 46 km route opened. This year a 50 km long road will be opened. Colaba-Bandra-Seeepz Metro route-3 project accelerated.
 - Online Bhumi Pujan of Pimpri-Chinchwad to Nigdi Metro at the hands of the Prime Minister. Green signal for Metro from Ruby Hall to Ramwadi.
 - First phase of Nagpur Metro railway inaugurated at the hands of the Prime Minister and laid the Foundation stone second phase.
- Road development:**
 - Development of a 451 km long road with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. The work of constructing a 468 km long road in the second phase is in progress.
 - 2470 km long road renovated under the loan assistance scheme of NABARD. 731 bridges completed.
 - More than 13315 km of National Highway was constructed.
 - Construction work of 7426 kilometer long roads under the Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana is ongoing.
 - Maharashtra State Infrastructure Development Corporation (MSIDC) established for implementation of infrastructure projects like Road, ports, airports, railway, metro, electricity etc.
- Maharashtra Shakti Peeth Mahamarg:**
 - Prime Shakti Peeths will be connected due to this express highway as it will be passing through 12 districts between Wardha to Sindhadurg.
 - Communication has gained momentum and hence the development of the region will be as per the planned speed.

Devendra Fadnavis Deputy Chief Minister
Eknath Shinde Chief Minister
Ajit Pawar Deputy Chief Minister

Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, Government of Maharashtra
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SPORT

Rohit, Gill headline India's day of dominance with tons

The gulf between the hosts and England in home conditions was glaringly evident on Day 2 of the fifth Test

Vivek Krishnan

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DHARAMSALA: This was just the sort of chastening day that England's players, for all their ostensible optimism, may have dreaded when they embarked on this five-Test marathon in India via Abu Dhabi. That Ben Stokes's men won the opening Test and went toe-to-toe with India for most of this series is a credit to their resolve, but the gulf between these two teams in these conditions was glaringly evident on day two of this fifth and final Test.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill racked up wonderful centuries to headline a day of complete dominance, taking the hosts to 473/8 at stumps for an overall lead of 255 runs. Youngsters Devdutt Padikkal, on debut, and Sarfaraz Khan, in his third Test, also hit brisk fifties. England's players have pulled off some special feats over the past couple of years under Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, but the match situation is so stacked in India's favour that they would do well to avoid an innings defeat here.

With India already in a strong position at 135/1 at the start of the second day, Gill and Rohit were quick to stamp their authority. Two quiet overs were enough for Rohit to decide to go after Shoaib Bashir, picking out the long-on boundary for a six before hitting a four through mid-off.

As their partnership grew, Gill emerged as the more dominant partner. Unlike the opening day when Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj got the ball to deviate in the air in the morning session, there was no movement for Anderson on a day when not a dark cloud was in sight. And so, Gill charged at the veteran bowler, still two shy of 700 Test wickets at this stage, and presented a straight bat for a six down the ground — possibly the shot of the day.

An expansive cover drive by Gill to the left of mid-off against Mark Wood was perhaps a close second. There were plenty of these exquisite shots through a wicketless first session, something you expect from two batters who are aesthetically ever so pleasing to the eye.

So untroubled was the Indian pair that Stokes quickly resorted to the short-ball tactic and a strong leg-side field for Wood. Neither did it yield a wicket nor did it curtail the run-flow as Gill and Rohit found ways to keep targeting the boundary. On one notable occasion, Rohit made

room and slapped a short ball by the fast bowler through vacant mid-off for four.

The spinners were equally ineffective against Gill and Rohit. Gill had been pinned leg-before wicket by Bashir in the first innings in Ranchi, but since then, he has decided to be nimbler with his footwork and smother the spin as much as possible. While the slightly tense run chase in Ranchi meant Gill was largely content stepping out and defending, he had the freedom to unleash big hits here. He did that effortlessly against Bashir more than once, knowing there was little risk in hitting with the turn.

One such shot — straight as an arrow and over the sightscreen — took India into the lead. Thereafter, the remainder of the morning session became a contest between Rohit and Gill about who gets to the three-figure mark first. Rohit got there with a single off Tom Hartley to midwicket. Just two balls later, Gill joined his skipper with a sweep against Bashir towards square leg for four.

The fare at the lunch break would have been much easier to digest for India's players, firmly in the driving seat at 264/1. There was fleeting respite for England immediately after lunch, and it came from an unexpected source. Stokes, having not bowled for eight months owing to an injury in his left knee, decided to bring himself on and rattle Rohit's off stump off his first ball in this series — a peach no less that pitched on middle stump and jagged away. Anderson pegged back Gill's off stump in the next over for his 699th wicket, the centurion perhaps a tad lazy in bringing his bat down to a ball that hadn't moved all that much.

But that was just an interlude offering hope to the sizeable number of English spectators that their team could be back in the game. Padikkal and Sarfaraz regained the initiative quickly enough, stitching together a 97-run partnership to rub more salt into England's wounds.

As is customary for most left-handed batters, Padikkal showed impressive fluency on the off-side, driving and punching England's pacers elegantly for a streak of boundaries. Sarfaraz was slow off the blocks — he took 30 balls to reach 9 — but switched gears rapidly to race past the debutant.

The 26-year-old toyed with Wood for three fours and a six in successive overs — a thumping off-drive, a ramp towards third man, a flick past midwicket and a power-packed pull all part of the mix. He would move to 51 off just 55 balls when a sublime sweep at Bashir's expense sped to the square leg boundary.

Similar to the second session, England were quick to strike after tea. Off the first ball after resumption, Sarfaraz offered a straight-



Shubman Gill (R) celebrates after scoring a century with captain Rohit Sharma.



I wanted to put Anderson under pressure. I feel good every time I go out with the bat. I missed out on a big one but I'm feeling good.

SHUBMAN GILL, India batter

forward catch to Joe Root at slip for Bashir's second wicket. With India's lead already in excess of 150 though, Padikkal had the license to bring up his maiden half-century in some style with a six over long-on.

Some solace came Bashir's way when Padikkal got caught on the crease to be bowled for 65.

With the ball misbehaving a bit even for England's spinners by this stage, three wickets fell in quick succession thereafter. But by adding 45 runs for the ninth wicket and stretching that lead even further, Kuldeep Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah ensured India ended the day just like they began: in complete command.

SCORECARD

India 1st Innings	218
England 1st Innings overnight	135/1
R Sharma b Stokes	103
S Gill b Anderson	110
D Padikkal b Bashir	65
S Khan c Root b Bashir	56
R Jadeja lbw b Hartley	15
D Jurel c Duckett b Bashir	15
R Ashwin b Hartley	0
K Yadav batting	27
J Bumrah batting	19
Extras (lb4, nb2)	6
Total (8 wks, 120 ovs)	473
Fall of 2-275, 3-279, 4-376, 5-403, 6-427, 7-427, 8-428	
Bowling Anderson 14-1-59-1 (nb1), Wood 15-1-89-0, Hartley 39-3-126-2, Bashir 44-5-170-4, Stokes 5-1-17-1 (nb1), Root 3-0-8-0	

Padikkal shows promise with gritty fifty on debut

Vivek Krishnan

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DHARAMSALA: Devdutt Padikkal's first scoring shot in Test cricket wasn't the kind he would have visualised when he was given his baggy blue cap by R Ashwin on Thursday morning. It was unremarkable and a tad fortuitous, loosely driving at a fullish delivery by Ben Stokes and edging to the left of first slip for four shortly after lunch on Friday.

Padikkal will cherish it long into the future nevertheless. "Every boundary is enjoyable but the first boundary, off the edge, was most enjoyable because those were my first runs in Test cricket," Padikkal told reporters at the end of the second day's play.

More glimpses of Padikkal's ability came later in the day as the left-handed batter, standing tall at 6 feet and 3 inches, unfurled crisp cover drives and elegant back-foot punches on his way to a score of 65 off 103 balls. Streaky edges kept England's fielders interested too, but Padikkal, 23, deserves all the luck in a young career already full of ups and downs. The first element of fortune came on match eve, when an injury to Rajat Patidar opened the door for Padikkal to make his Test debut at No.4. Padikkal's call-up to the Test squad in Rajkot was also because KL Rahul hadn't recovered from a thigh injury.

"Regardless of when you get to know (about making your debut), there is always going to be nervousness around. That was still there," Padikkal said. "I got a message the previous night saying that I could be playing. I was nervous, it was a tough night's sleep but it is something you also enjoy at the same time. You live for those days."

Padikkal's promise was first on view when he played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in IPL 2020 — 473 runs in 15 matches at 31.53 revealing his ability to sweetly time the ball most of all. In the cut-throat world of



Devidutt Padikkal in action on Day 2 of the fifth Test.

Indian cricket, brimming with young and talented batters, Padikkal — a Malayali who lives in Bengaluru and plays for Karnataka — had to keep performing to stay ahead of the competition though. He did feature in two T20Is for a second-string India on the tour of Sri Lanka in 2021, but that year also saw his progress derailed by a battle with Covid-19 and subsequent stomach-related health issues that included severe weight loss.

His struggles were acutely felt in domestic cricket. In his first four seasons for Karnataka, his first-class average was never above 45, clearly sub-par when you consider that Sarfaraz Khan was averaging in the high 60s and still yearning for an opportunity at the Test level until this series.

Padikkal's fortunes changed this season, accumulating 556 runs in four matches in the Ranji Trophy at an average of 92.66 — the most prolific run-getter for a team comprising Mayank Agarwal and Manish Pandey. Padikkal also impressed for India A in the four-day matches against England Lions, scoring 105, 65

and 21 in three innings in Ahmedabad. "Obviously runs give you confidence and it was not any different for me," said Padikkal.

"For the first couple of years, I wasn't doing well in first-class cricket but you keep working hard, try to improve your game and make those small adjustments. I am still learning and still making adjustments."

The adjustments that Padikkal speaks about aren't just technical. "I made a couple of small changes technically but mentally yes, I made the changes. I wanted to ensure that I enjoy the game a lot more because the last couple of years I couldn't play that often and missing games made me realise how much I missed the sport. How much I want to be in the action, doing things I loved as a kid," he said.

It's unlikely that Padikkal will play India's next Test a few months down the line given the calibre of batters — Virat Kohli, Rahul and possibly Rishabh Pant — due to return to the middle-order. But by grabbing his opportunity on debut, Padikkal has done his bit.

He should have continued to open for India, says Gill's dad

Vivek Krishnan

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DHARAMSALA: In the winters, strolling around Dharamsala's cosy cafes amid snow-capped peaks can tend to have a soothing influence and wipe out all worries. If you were watching cricket at the HPCA Stadium on Friday, Shubman Gill's languid strokeplay likely had that same calming effect. It must have certainly done for Lakhwinder Singh, the 24-year-old's father and first coach.

Witness to Gill's fourth Test century from one of the corporate boxes, Lakhwinder knows his son's game perhaps better than

anybody else. So when Gill stepped out repeatedly against the spinners, continuing from the second innings of the Ranchi Test, Lakhwinder was very pleased.

"Stepping out has made a big difference, he had stopped doing that and that created pressure. Since his U-16 days, he has been stepping out to spinners. That's his natural game," Lakhwinder said during lunch interval on Day 2.

That Gill is back among the runs is certainly a big plus for India. Before this series, he was averaging 23.71 in eight innings at No.3 but a productive run against England — he is the second-highest scorer with 452 runs in the five

Tests — has pushed that number to 41.2. He had moved down to No.3 from the opening position at his will during the tour of the Caribbean last year. As an opener, he averaged 32.37 in 29 innings.

Lakhwinder, however, believes that Gill should have continued to open. "He should have continued to open. When you sit in the dressing room, the pressure tends to increase. When the ball is new, you get more loose balls. When you come in after 5-7 overs, the bowler is also set," Lakhwinder felt. "But I don't interfere in his decisions, I just make him train. He is old enough to make his own decisions."

For generation of sports' superheroes, is 40 the new 30?

Somshuvra Laha

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KOLKATA: Pat Cummins isn't beating around the bush. He wants Nathan Lyon, 36, to play for at least four more years. And it's only obvious, considering how Lyon has been one of Australia's most consistent match winners and is currently the world's most prolific spinner.

"The only barrier really is his body, so if he looks after his body and makes sure he's right for 10 Tests a year, or whatever it is, I'd absolutely love him to play until 2027," said Cummins after Australia's first Test win against New Zealand last week. "And I don't

think there's much that's going to get in his way."

Could the same, and probably more, be envisaged about Ravichandran Ashwin as well?

Already 37, Ashwin has had his fair share of injuries. But he has shown no sign of slowing down. Four five-wicket hauls in 2023, another already this year, backed by astounding averages and some match-altering innings with the bat, Ashwin continues to be integral to India's indomitable run.

Age certainly doesn't seem to be a hindrance when you see James Anderson still going strong at 41. Rangana Herath played his last Test at 40, Muttiah

Muralitharan, Anil Kumble bowled till they were 38. So precedence isn't an issue.

World over too, more and more athletes are willing to push the boundaries. If the 36-year-old Novak Djokovic defends his US Open title this September, he will topple Ken Rosewall as the oldest Grand Slam winner in the Open era.

Serena Williams was a few weeks shy of 41 when she played her final professional match in 2022. Sue Bird was 42 when she retired from the WNBA. American football quarterback Tom Brady was 45 when he played his final season for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; and Ronaldo is still

putting bulges in the back of the net at 39.

The motivation

What drives these outstanding athletes to push themselves? Achievements and landmarks can only motivate till a certain point. Beyond that prevails an unequivocal love for the game.

Sachin Tendulkar and Federer are living proof of it. Ashwin is cut from the same cloth. "I can't see Ashwin staying away from cricket," WV Raman, Ashwin's coach at Tamil Nadu, told HT in a recent interview.

"He might even resort to playing tennis ball cricket with kids after a few years. He is absolutely

cricket mad."

Like Tendulkar or Federer, trust Ashwin to also not let age blunt his instincts or the will to keep reinventing his game. Two months of IPL and the rest of the year largely devoted to Tests, Ashwin's career graph hasn't thrown up many white-ball surprises in the last two years.

Yet, Ashwin has never stopped learning, be it while turning out for Dindigul Dragons or just at his academy ground when he isn't touring with the India team. Every trick, every elaborate play or setup that you see at the highest level traces its roots back here. A higher cricket IQ, knowing the limits of his body and a more

defined role have already helped Ashwin maintain significant influence without depending on sheer athleticism. Little more fine tuning and there's no reason he can't play in the 40s like Anderson.

Triumph of sports science

In many ways, the increasing longevity of the middle-aged athlete is also a triumph for sports science, serving as a combination of data analysis, feedback and nuanced physical adaptation.

Anderson still bowls at 41 largely because of an evolved understanding of the sport. His concept of fitness entails not only high intensity workouts but also

careful workload management and a detailed consideration of what he eats throughout the year. Which is why Anderson had the ECB's nutritionist send him meals for the week to his house when England's cricketers were preparing to come out of Covid-19 lockdowns.

But there's age, and then there's fitness age. And Anderson is an exception when you see how time hasn't been kind to the bodies of Mohammed Shami or Jasprit Bumrah. Ageing anyway triggers slower reaction times, failing vision and increased cardiac activity. Athletes, however, have to contend with the added burden of accelerated musculoskeletal

ageing. This is where Ashwin has to emulate Anderson.

On the face of it, spin bowling doesn't require a lot of athleticism. But bowling long spells still requires physical perseverance of a certain level. Ashwin still probably is the first name on the sheet when India plays at home. So, with another 14 Tests scheduled in India till the end of the 2027 World Test Championship cycle, there's no reason why he shouldn't feature in each of them, if not in some more in Sri Lanka, Australia (2024-25) and even England (2025). Should Ashwin manage to preserve himself till then, brace for bigger records to fall.

WHEN AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

James Anderson is approaching his 700th Test wicket at 41. At 37, R Ashwin remains an integral part of India home series. Here's some of world's golden oldies

TOM BRADY
45 YEARS

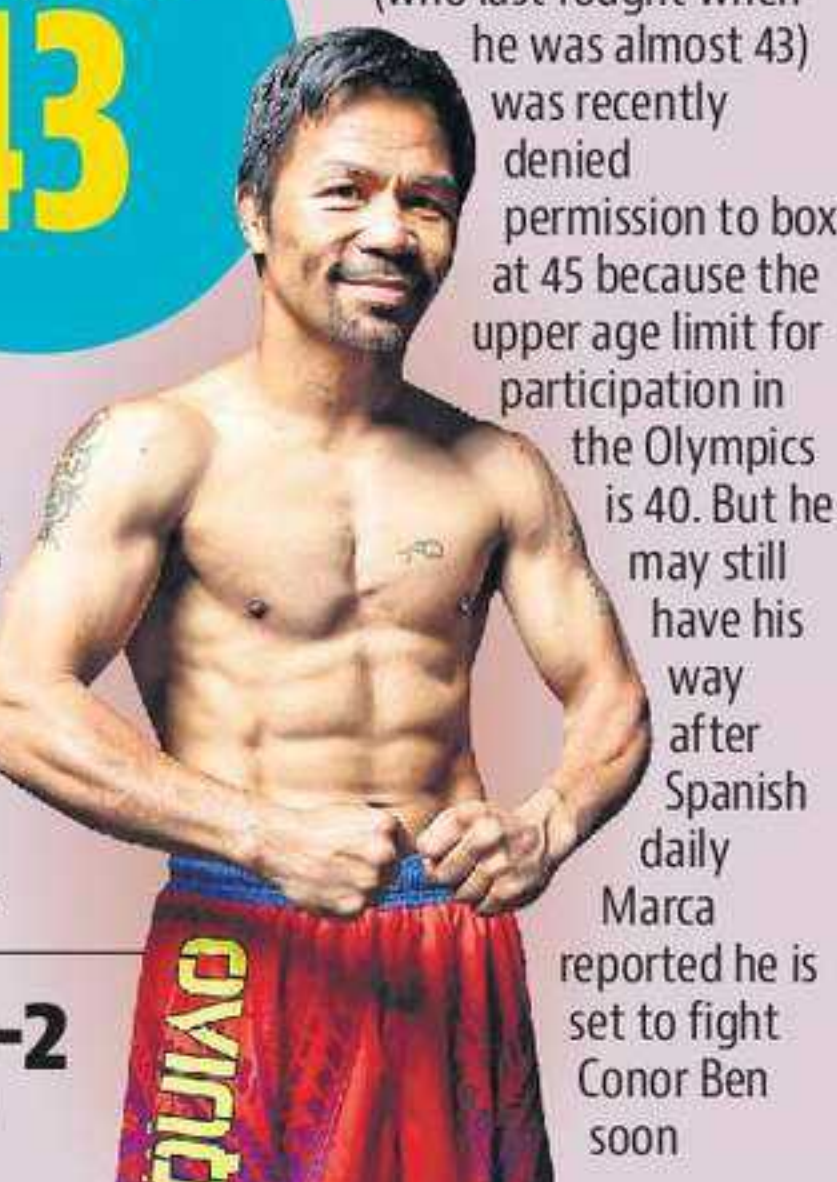
7,753 Completions
12,050 Attempts
89,214 Passing yards
649 Touchdowns

American football's most decorated quarterback played NFL for a record 23 seasons. In his final season in 2022, Brady had become the oldest quarterback to start a game in NFL history



MANNY PACQUIAO
43

60-4 Amateur record
39 Knockouts
62-8-2 Pro record

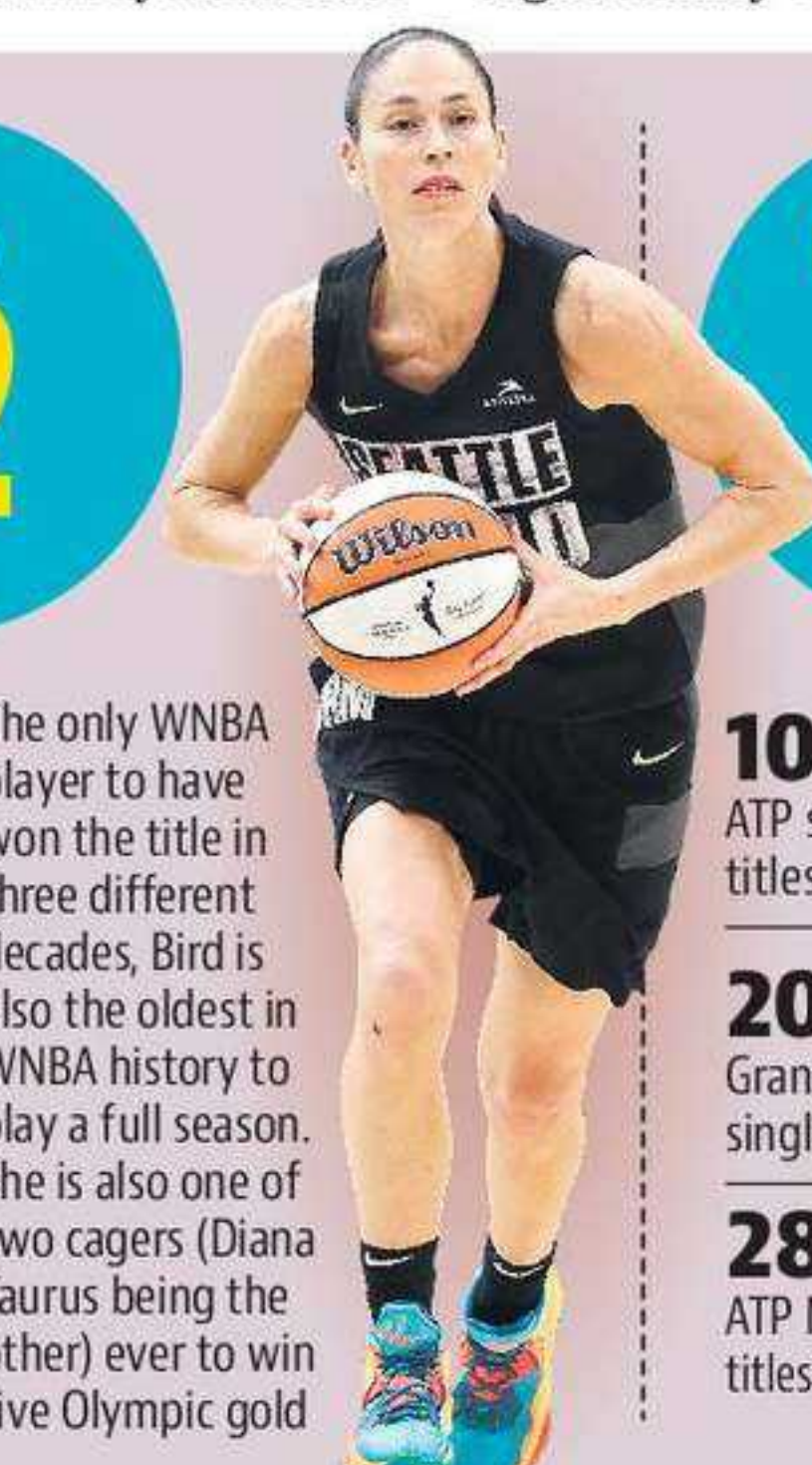


One of the all-time boxing greats, Pacquiao (who last fought when he was almost 43) was recently denied permission to box at 45 because the upper age limit for participation in the Olympics is 40. But he may still have his way after Spanish daily Marca reported he is set to fight Conor Ben soon

SUE BIRD
42

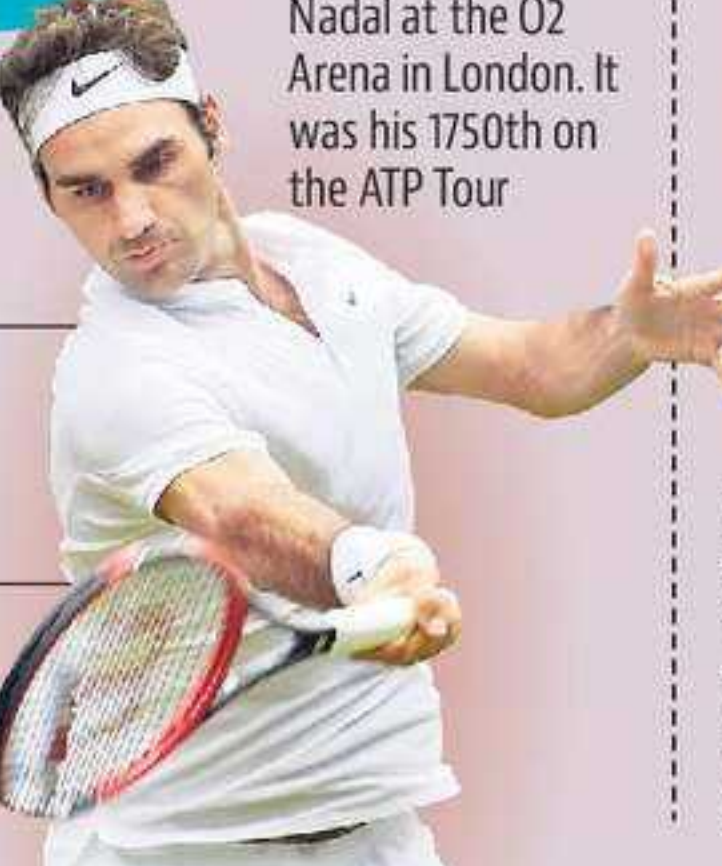
580 Games played
18,079 Minutes played
6,803 Points
3,234 Assists

The only WNBA player to have won the title in three different decades, Bird is also the oldest in WNBA history to play a full season. She is also one of two cagers (Diana Taurasi being the other) ever to win five Olympic gold



ROGER FEDERER
41

103 ATP singles titles
20 Grand Slam singles titles
28 ATP Masters titles



Tennis loved him back so much that Federer couldn't hold back his tears in his final professional game, a doubles match partnering Rafael Nadal at the O2 Arena in London. It was his 1750th on the ATP Tour

JAMES ANDERSON
41

187* Tests
699* Wickets

One shy of 700 Test wickets, he is the 3rd-highest wicket-taker ever and is 13 matches away from equalling Tendulkar's record of 200 Tests. Quite possible, given how he has managed his career (*Test in Dharamsala in progress)





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PR - EVENTS - INFLUENCERS

An all-round show by Deepti takes UPW to thrilling 1-run win over DC

Shantanu Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: In a match that ebbed and flowed wildly in pretty much every over of the chase, UP Warriorz (UPW) held their nerves to eke out a one-run win over hosts Delhi Capitals at the Ferozshah Kotla on Friday.



WPL 2024

Chasing a modest 139 for their fifth win on the trot, DC went from 112/4 to 137 all-out — losing six wickets for 25 runs — thanks to their collective brainfade.

That, however, must not gloss over some superlative death bowling from UPW who had just 28 runs to defend in the last four overs with seven DC batters yet to bat. Deepti Sharma, not for the first time in the match, did a star turn for UPW with a dramatic 19th over that brought three wickets.

Sharma castled Annabel Sutherland and Arundhati Reddy on the first two deliveries of the over to complete her hat-trick — she had dismissed DC skipper Meg Lanning on the last ball of her previous over, 14th of the innings — before taking out Shi-

kha Pandey a ball later to trigger a dramatic collapse.

Needing 10 runs in the last over, Radha Yadav hit a six off the first ball of Grace Harris before DC lost Yadav and Jess Jonassen of successive deliveries. With two needed off two balls, No. 10 Titus Sidhu hit straight to mid on as UPW ended DC's four-match winning run.

In what should have been a regulation chase, DC batters huffed and puffed their way on a good batting track with none, barring skipper Meg Lanning, showing the game to ace such tricky chases.

Lanning starred with a 46-ball 60 as batters from both the sides laboured to find boundaries. After losing Shafali Verma in the fourth over, Lanning formed a crucial 47-run all-in with Alice Capsey to put DC firmly on track.

Brief scores: UPW 138/8 (Deepti Sharma 59, Alyssa Healy 29; Titus Sadhu 2/23, Radha Yadav 2/16). DC 137 in 19.5 ovs (Meg Lanning 60; Deepti Sharma 4/19, Saima Thakor 2/30). **UPW won by 1 run.**



UPW's Deepti Sharma scored 59 and followed it up with 4/19 against Delhi Capitals.

Team	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
DC	6	4	2	8	1.059
MI	6	4	2	8	0.375
RCB	6	3	3	6	0.038
UPW	7	3	4	6	-0.365
GG	5	1	4	2	-1.278

Only WFI can send India teams: UWW

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NEW DELHI: In a fresh twist to the wrestling saga, the world wrestling body said Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) as its "affiliated member" alone has the right to "elect and announce teams" for international tournaments including Paris Olympics qualifiers.

"From the outset it is reminded here that, after the lifting of the suspension imposed by the UWW on your federation on Feb 13, 2024, UWW considers your federation as any other affiliated federation, duly functioning in compliance with the UWW regulations and subject to all rights and obligations conferred by this status," wrote United World Wrestling president Nenad Lalovic to WFI president Sanjay Singh.

"It is the responsibility of the national federations affiliated to UWW to elect and announce their teams for the continental championships, the world championships, the Olympics Qualifiers as well as the ranking series and other international tournaments on the official calendar."

Lalovic, who is also IOC executive board member, said the registration in international events can be made only by UWW affiliated national federations and "no other entity may take this role on your behalf."

This comes a day after Indian Olympic Association's ad hoc panel was handed over the responsibility to conduct selection trials for Asian Olympic Games Qualifier and Asian Championships after the matter was heard by the Delhi high court.

WFI withdrew its notice on conducting selection trials for the two tournaments after court said two parallel selection trials cannot be held. "The selection trials shall proceed as per the circular dated 09.02.2024... Needless to say, the ad hoc committee shall ensure that all eligible athletes are permitted to participate," the court said.

The Delhi high court was hearing a plea filed by the four potestant wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian, challenging WFI's Feb 26 notice, claiming that federation had deliberately issued the notice to hold trials despite being barred by the Sports ministry.

"UWW is the world body and it has said WFI is its affiliated body and it will only accept entries sent by WFI. In this situation the government should find a solution so that wrestlers do not suffer. Our wrestlers should get to compete and whatever is best for the country should be decided," said Sanjay Singh.



Lakshya enters semis, Sindhu out

PARIS: Lakshya Sen rallied to beat Loh Kean Yew 19-21, 21-15, 21-13 to cruise into the semi-finals of the French Open on Friday. He will take on Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semis. But it was curtains for PV Sindhu, who bowed out of the quarter-finals losing 24-22, 17-21, 18-21 to Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei of China. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty too entered the semi-finals with a 21-19, 21-13 victory over Thailand's Supak Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren.

Pragg finishes second in Prague

NEW DELHI: Praggnanandhaa tried hard but was held to a draw by David Navara of the Czech Republic in the final round of the Prague Masters chess. Nodirbek Abdusattorov had won the event with a round to spare with 6/8 and he consolidated it to 6.5 points to win the event. Praggnanandhaa, with five points, finished second alongside Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran and Ngyen Thai Dai Van of the Czech Republic.

Jamshedpur FC play an Indian less

KOLKATA: Jamshedpur FC are likely to lose the point they got from Friday's 1-1 draw against Mumbai City FC in ISL for having less than the required numbers of Indian players on the pitch. JFC forward Daniel Chima Chukwu sent off in the 82nd minute and four minutes later, JFC substituted Indian Imran Khan with Swiss Alen Stevanovic. That brought down the number of Indian players in the JFC lineup to six instead of the mandatory seven.

AFI's no-needle policy goes for a toss at U-20s

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LUCKNOW: The 'no needle policy' of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) seems to have been flouted as a good number of used syringes were found at the main athletics stadium of the SAI centre here as the three-day 22nd Junior National Federation Athletics Championship began on Friday.

HT has pictures of the syringes scattered in the men's toilets, which are adjacent to the dope collection rooms at the venue. Though the identity of the athletes who used the syringes is not known, their presence at the venue raises many questions.

The event is a qualifier for the 21st Asian U20 Athletics Championships, scheduled in Dubai from

April 24 to 27, took the organisers Uttar Pradesh Athletics Association by surprise.

"We don't have any idea of such syringes in the men's toilet, and it seems almost impossible as we have a strict no-needle policy in the athletics, but still, I am going to check this on my own," chief executive officer of the Uttar Pradesh Athletics Association PK Srivastava said when asked for his reaction on Friday.

He, however, confirmed that in the room next to the bathrooms for men and women sports persons adjacent to the athletics arena at the SAI centre, the AFI has set up its dope control centre where a team of doctors are deputed for the purpose. A six-member NADA team led by BN Mishra is stationed there.

'India wants to break into top 10 of Olympics'

{ ANURAG THAKUR } UNION SPORTS MINISTER

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sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Paris 2024 is just a few months away and as always, the question leading up to the Games is simple: is India ready? The seven medals won at Tokyo and the success at Hangzhou Asian Games have raised expectations but Olympics attract the best talents in the world and there are no guarantees. Still, with Neeraj Chopra leading the group, there is more than just the solitary hope.

HT caught up with Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to understand the overall sports ecosystem in the country and how the government is aiding athletes in their Olympic preparation:

Your thoughts on India's

preparation for the Olympics. What medal count the ministry has in mind?

While we do not have a particular number in mind, I am confident that our athletes will come home with India's best haul in an Olympics. We have supported our athletes to secure qualification and prepare well. Our athletes are fearless and compete on equal terms with the world's best.

How much money has the government spent over the last four years since Tokyo to improve the country's medal tally in Paris?

We have left no stone unturned in ensuring that maximum Indian athletes qualify for Paris and are well prepared. More than 350 foreign exposure trips for training



and competitions were sanctioned in this Olympic cycle. It has encouraged athletes to be ready to deliver their best without facing the pressure of expectation.

As of now, 58 of our athletes have qualified for Paris. For the first time, both the men's and women's TT teams have earned Olympics berths. Similarly, India have won a quota each in women's

sneet and in equestrian (dressage) for the first time. PM Narendra Modi has always motivated athletes to compete fearlessly in keeping with the brave new India that is emerging as a world leader.

How does the ministry view non-performance?

We would not want athletes to suffer due to lack of support, therefore fund cuts as a measure for non-performance is not on the cards. The sports ministry has graded NSFs as high priority, priority and general based on performance and expectations. These lists are reviewed periodically with previous performance and the sport is accordingly graded.

As India aspires to host Youth Olympics and Olym-

pics, what kind of investment has been made to increase medals tally?

Of course, we wish to break into the top 10 in the Olympic Games medal tally and we believe that we can achieve this target. We have encouraged sports like cycling and swimming which offer many medals to step up and contribute to the tally. As for investment, suffice to say that the Government has enhanced the size of the Ministry's budget three times in the past decade from ₹1,093cr in 2013-14 to ₹3,397.32cr in 2023-24 and the right support at the right time is being extended to athletes. Besides, corporate and private investments in sports through CSR funds have also contributed to the evolution of Indian sport.

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY
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Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi Govt. Sr Sec. Residential School (Co-Education)

General Information:

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Delhi Govt. Sr. Sec. Residential School is a non-profit joint venture of Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar. Applications are invited for admission from children of SC/OBC/Minorities/Orphan categories.

- Admissions are open for Class I to VIII, IX & XI.
- The school follows the CBSE pattern of education.
- Number of seats in Class I to VIII, IX & XI is based on the vacant seats in the class which may vary accordingly. 50% seats are reserved for girl students.
- As the school mandates to promote girl child education, we prefer more girl students. Moreover 50% seats are reserved for girl students.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age of child should be between 5 to 15 years on 31st March, 2024.
- Child should belong to SC/OBC/Minorities/Orphans and Resident of National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- The annual family income of the parents should be upto Rs. 3,00,000/-.
- Reservation is provided for SC/OBC/Minorities and Orphans in the following ratio 40:20:20:20. In case of shortfall in any one category, students from the other category will be offered seat. Out of the total seats 50% of the seats are earmarked for girl students. If sufficient girl students are not available for admission the seats available will be offered to boy students.
- 3% seats are reserved for physically disabled students. Applicants should possess Caste Certificate duly issued by the competent authority.

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Vill: Issapur, Najafgarh, Delhi-110073
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0377/23-24

Government of NCT of Delhi
DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY
B-Block, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from registered manufacturer/wholesale dealers/distributors for supply of Books & Periodicals, School Stationary and study materials, Sports Items, School and Hostel Uniform, School and Hostel Furniture, Bedding Items, Groceries, Toiletries and Cleaning Items, Clearing of Septic Tank, Housekeeping Services, Security Services, Computer Hardware software & Service and Maintenance, Supply of water tanks in Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Delhi Government Senior Secondary Residential School. For details & Tender form, kindly refer to our website www.kissdelhi.ac.in/tender. Tender details and forms can be downloaded from the school website. The last date for submission of tender is **21st day from the date of publishing of this advertisement till 10.00 AM. Technical Bids of Tenders will be opened at 11.00 AM on the same day and the Financial Bids shall be opened only for the qualified bidders of the technical bids on the next day.**

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GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works (South) Division, Pune - 411 001
Phone No. 020/26121765
Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail- integratedpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.143 FOR 2023-2024

Sealed Online **B-1 Tender Format** Tender is/are Invited By The Executive Engineer, Public Works (South) Division, Pune - 411 001. (Telephone No. 26121765) Invites bids for Given works from Registered as well as Unregistered contractor in B-1 Tender Format.

Bids document can be downloaded from website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids without assigning any reasons. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

The detailed Tender Notice can be available on

- Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in (Only Tender Notice)
- <https://mahatenders.gov.in> (Details of Tender Notice & Detail Documents)

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

Sd/-
(Amol A. Pawar)
Executive Engineer,
Public Work(South) Division,
Pune 411 001.

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 9511

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN
e-Tender Notice 77 (2nd Call) for 2023-24

Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran invites e-Tender Notice for the work of supply & Delivery of Liquid Chlorine Gas Tonner of 900 Kg. as per IS 646:1986 (reaffirmed 2010) at various water treatment plants at Bhokarpada, Matheran, Badlapur, Chikholi and Govane (In state of Maharashtra) for the period of one year. Valued at Rs.39,63,961/- (Rs. Thirty Nine Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One only) The e-Tender details are available on www.mahatenders.gov.in from dated 04/03/2024.

All relevant dates will be as per the tender published in web portal www.mahatenders.gov.in

Place :- Ambarnath
Date :- 27/02/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MJPWM Dn., Ambarnath

DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 9475

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Service: New Delhi: Moti Nagar: Anyaveer Motors: 9871864545; Mathura Road: Jai Auto: 011-45877777; Jahangirpuri: Ring Road Motocorp: 9289109546; Gurugram: (Sector 18): Ring Road Motocorp: 0124-4851200; (Sector 15) Jai Auto: 0124-4762700; Noida: (Sector 6): Brite Auto Wheels: 0120-6779999; (Greater Noida): Brite Auto Wheels: 70316 80316; Faridabad: Excel Cars Pvt. Ltd.: 8588858411; Sahibabad: (Zedex) Shekhawati Electronics: 9871633311; Kundli: Ring Road Motocorp: 0130-6633355; Ghaziabad: Brite Auto Wheels: 7031680316; Dehradun: DPM Automobiles: 07217098711; Karnal: Sidak Automobiles: 9896600111; Hisar: BLC Autosales: 9729100943; Chandigarh: Krishna Auto: 0172-5041065; Ludhiana: Krishna Auto: 9914307500; Jalandhar: Krishna Auto: 01824-500636; Amritsar: HD Autowheels: 7888399361; Mandi: Dev Bhoomi Motors: 8894800658; Jammu: Wheelcity Motors: 9086166666; Panchkula: Berkeley SKODA: 7064866666; Bhatinda: Krishna Auto Sales: 7572889999; Solan: Dev Bhoomi Motors: 7574828280; Patiala: Krishna Auto: 7837230490; Rohtak: Sidak Automobiles: 9896600111; Panipat: Sidak Automobiles: 9896600111; Ambala: Berkeley SKODA: 9041052606; Sirsa: Sidak Automobiles: 9729100943; Agra: Prem Garages: 7500777777; Lucknow: (Kamta): Kamal Kishore Autocorp: 0522-2701225; 7521002382; (Transport Nagar): Speedworks Auto: 08810716976; Sahibabad: (Zedex) Shekhawati Electronics: 9871633311; Prayagraj: Avya Automobiles: 8188065003; Kanpur: Speedworks Auto: 8810719362; Bareilly: Commercial Automotives: 9917575205, 8398809955; Hardoi: Kamal Kishore Autocorp: 1800 1805 322; Varanasi: Avya Automobiles: 8188065003.

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Hindustan Times

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BOOK II

SPORT

Cycling team targets tracks of LA

Kevin Sireau, India's first foreign cycling coach, plans to trim down core group as CFI eyes '28 Olympics

Shantanu Srivastava
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Kevin Sireau had no inclination towards cycling till the time he tried out the track variant of the sport. Two decades on, the kid who loved fishing with his grandpa in their native Centre-Val de Loire is a decorated international cyclist. In his maiden assignment as India's first foreign coach, the two-time Olympic silver medalist delivered six medals — all juniors — at last month's Asian Track Cycling Championships.

"I joined CFI just a week before the competition, so I am quite happy with the results. India has some very exciting talent and I am looking forward to working with them," he said.

Before Kevin forayed into cycling, he tried his hand at football and judo, but they didn't quite excite him. "France is crazy about football but I never liked it enough to pursue it. I tried judo for a year but soon got bored. I picked up a bicycle on a whim and it began to fascinate me," he recalled.

Kevin started with road cycling, but the thought of participating in Tour de France never struck him. The first time he got really smitten with the sport was



when he tried track cycling. "Moving from road to track was a tough choice. Although road and mountain cycling are huge in France, I realised quite early that I didn't have the required endurance. A coach advised me to try track cycling and I took the plunge," he said.

By the time he completed his second lap, Kevin, then 12, was sold. "It is a completely different sport within the same sport. I liked the thrill of speed. Going toe to toe with other riders really

fascinated me." Gradually, Kevin's career began to take shape. After spending five years at state level competitions, he competed in his maiden age-group nationals and finished third. Next year, he won the sub-junior nationals championship, a medal that paved his way into one of the two centres of excellence for cycling in France.

As much as Kevin's success was down to skills, the robust structure did have a role to play.

"In France, government's support to federations is strictly dependent on the latter winning medals, so the focus is always on performance. Talent identification happens at a really early age, competitions are organised from a very basic level, and it is very tough to get into national teams because of very high level of competition. Even when you make the national team, the influx of juniors keeps you on your toes."

"Out of 100 riders, less than 1

Know Kevin

KEVIN SIREAU

Age: 36
From: France
Current role: Chief national coach, India

Major achievements

- | | |
|--|--|
| OLYMPICS
Silver: Beijing 2008 (Team Sprint)
Silver: London 2012 (Team Sprint) | WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Gold: Manchester 2008 (Team Sprint)
Gold: Pruszkow 2009 (Team Sprint)
Gold: Yuvelines 2015 (Team Sprint) |
| EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Gold: Apeldoorn 2011 (Sprint) | |

percent reach the top. In a basic age group competition, we get about 25-30 entries in each category and roughly 1 percent go ahead. In sprint, we have a scheme like TOPS for 2-3 best riders. For women, we have only three seats for a fully-funded programme. In juniors, only four juniors are under government-funded programme. We have about 125 velodromes, so getting a practice venue is not a problem," he informed.

Cycling Federation of India

(CFI), perhaps taking a cue from the French model, is planning a systemic overhaul of the sport. Their sights set on the 2028 Olympics, the federation is planning to decentralise its training centres while also identifying the core discipline of each rider.

"We are changing our approach now. We are identifying cyclists on the basis of the events. For example, Esow is good at Kierin, Ronaldo is good at time trials, and Beckham is good at sprint. We will make

them focus on these events rather than making them compete in multiple disciplines," CFI chief Onkar Singh said.

"Delhi's IG Stadium will be available only for the senior Indian team because there is no point keeping 40-50 riders here. The endurance centre will either go to Guwahati or somewhere else and Delhi will be kept only for the sprint. Riders can't go out cycling here in Delhi due to high pollution levels, so it makes no sense to waste them here."

Kevin believes the core group needs to be trimmed. "I know the plan of CFI and I am beginning to understand what each rider needs to do to upgrade. Underperforming cyclists should be sent back after a year. Having an elite core of 25-30 doesn't help. I want to have a group of no more than 10 elites and 10 juniors," the coach said.

While it's too early for the Frenchman to judge the Indian cyclists, he does have an intangible parameter to gauge the quality.

"It helps if one has a strong build but the first thing, I look at in a cyclist is mentality. Some riders can appear super fit but the moment they are on track, they are scared. Our cycles do not have brakes. We have only one gear. When you ride on corners at 55 degrees, all you think is that you are going to crash. If a junior shows some confidence there, I know he/she can do well," Kevin, who set up the junior and sub-junior cycling programmes in French Polynesia, said.

"He has the most important attitude a striker needs to have in these chances," Klopp said of Nunez.

"He's just a constant threat and he gives us some spaces and areas and options."

LIVERPOOL SAIL PAST SPARTA, ROMA THRASH BRIGHTON IN EUROPA LEAGUE

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Liverpool surged towards the Europa League quarter-finals with a 5-1 win at Sparta Prague on Thursday, as Roma thrashed Brighton 4-0 in the Italian capital. AC Milan beat 10-man Slavia Prague 4-2, but Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen had to come from 2-0 down to preserve their unbeaten season in a 2-2 draw against Qarabag.

Liverpool remain on course to send Jurgen Klopp off with a quadruple of trophies as the Reds were not distracted by Sunday's mammoth Premier League showdown against Man City. Klopp named a strong side and got what he wanted by killing off the tie in the first leg, even if there was a price to pay in injury problems as centre-back Ibrahim Konate limped off.

Alexis Mac Allister got the visitors off to the perfect start in the Czech capital as he won and converted a penalty after just seven minutes. Darwin Nunez's dipping shot from long range outfoxed Peter Jensen to make it 2-0, before the Uruguayan smashed home Mac Allister's through ball in first-half stoppage time.

"He has the most important attitude a striker needs to have in these chances," Klopp said of Nunez.

"He's just a constant threat and he gives us some spaces and areas and options."

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
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E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. invites the following e-tenders. 1. Annual Maintenance Contract of 220KV, 132KV & 33 KV bays & substation equipment's along with 220KV, 132KV Lines under 220KV O&M Division, Pinar Kalihar against e-tender specification No.CE/GZR-39/2023-24. Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is 15.04.2024 upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on 16.04.2024 at 15.00 hrs.

2. Annual Maintenance Contract of 132 & 33 KV Switchyard of 132 KV Substation Manglore and Laksar and its associated 132KV lines against e-tender specification No.CE/GZR-40/2023-24. Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is 15.04.2024 upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on 16.04.2024 at 16.00 hrs.

Details of E-tender can be obtained from E-tender website www.ukttenders.gov.in and information of E-tender can be seen from PTCUL website www.ptcul.org. For any assistance on e-tendering, please contact on Mb. No. +91-8899890000.

CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)
No. 441/CE(O&M)/GZR/Advt. Dated: 07/03/2024
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NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 82244982 Dated: 08.03.2024

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	82244982	Osteoporotic Fracture Fixation set with fenestrated screw	20	02.04.2024

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
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Advt. No. 01/2024

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S. No.	Name of the post	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	Mode of Recruitment	No. of post (s)
1.	Director (Finance & Administration)	14	Deputation	01*
2.	Deputy Director (P/T)	12	Deputation/ Contract basis	02*

*The no. of vacancies may vary as per actual requirement.
The last date of receipt of application in NRIDA is 23.04.2024.

For detailed eligibility criteria and application format please visit website www.pmgsvi.nic.in under 'Advertisement/Circulars' icon or <https://rural.nic.in> under 'Advertisement/Tenders' icon. CBC 35104/12/0018/2324 Deputy Director (F&A)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/87/2023-24/W-3 Dated :- 07.03.2024

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work	Construction of 05 Nos. metering and switching rooms at different locations including cable for state electricity authority for new 11 KV electricity connection near Ajmeri Gate ROB towards Paharganj, SSE/W/ NDLs Entry, Sick Line Ajmeri Gate, Lahori Gate Power House, Anand Vihar Railway terminal and Old Delhi Ind Entry in the section of Sr. DEN-III
2	Approx cost of work	Rs. 1,49,90,067.94/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Thousand Sixty Seven and Ninety Four paise only)
3	Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 2,25,000/- (Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Rupees only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	29.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

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ईमेल: securivity@vsnl.com, वेबसाइट: <http://energy.rajabastan.gov.in/jdvnl>

ई-निविदा सूचना 13/2023-24

केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के विभागों में 'ए' एवं 'ए' श्रेणी सेवा जो वि. नि. नि. नि. के उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत, अनुमति, वस्तु एवं सेवाकर (GST) विभाग से पंजीकृत निविदाकारों से अधिवासी अधिनियम (सिविल) जोधपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट, जोधपुर, 361335/913/बा.ड.मे. 941335/945/श्रीका.मे. 941335/953 के अधीन विभिन्न सिविल निर्माण कार्यों के लिए ई-प्रोक्वैमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य का विवरण, अनुमानित लागत, निविदा शुल्क, प्रक्रिया शुल्क, अमानत राशि, निविदा खोलने की तिथि व सामान्य अनुबंध की शर्तें आदि संस्तर विवरण, वेबसाइट <http://energy.rajabastan.gov.in/jdvnl> एवं <http://sppp.rajabastan.gov.in> व <http://eproc.rajabastan.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है। नविद्य में संशोधन/अधिवि किरादार, यदि कोई हो तो, उसकी सूचना <http://energy.rajabastan.gov.in/jdvnl> एवं <http://sppp.rajabastan.gov.in> पर प्रकाशित की जावेगी।

UEN No. : JVV2324WSCR00733, JVV2324WSOB00748, JVV2324WSOB00749, JVV2324WSOB00750, JVV2324WSOB00751, JVV2324WSOB00752, JVV2324WSOB00753, JVV2324WSOB00754, JVV2324WSOB00755, JVV2324WSOB00756, JVV2324WSOB00757, JVV2324WSOB00758, JVV2324WSOB00759, JVV2324WSOB00760, JVV2324WSOB00761, JVV2324WSOB00762, JVV2324WSOB00763, JVV2324WSOB00764, JVV2324WSOB00765, JVV2324WSOB00766, JVV2324WSOB00767, JVV2324WSOB00768, JVV2324WSOB00769, JVV2324WSOB00770, JVV2324WSOB00771, JVV2324WSOB00772, JVV2324WSOB00773, JVV2324WSOB00774, JVV2324WSOB00775, JVV2324WSOB00776, JVV2324WSOB00777, JVV2324WSOB00778, JVV2324WSOB00779, JVV2324WSOB00780, JVV2324WSOB00781, JVV2324WSOB00782, JVV2324WSOB00783, JVV2324WSOB00784, JVV2324WSOB00785, JVV2324WSOB00786, JVV2324WSOB00787, JVV2324WSOB00788, JVV2324WSOB00789, JVV2324WSOB00790, JVV2324WSOB00791, JVV2324WSOB00792, JVV2324WSOB00793, JVV2324WSOB00794, JVV2324WSOB00795, JVV2324WSOB00796, JVV2324WSOB00797, JVV2324WSOB00798, JVV2324WSOB00799, JVV2324WSOB00800, JVV2324WSOB00801, JVV2324WSOB00802, JVV2324WSOB00803, JVV2324WSOB00804, JVV2324WSOB00805, JVV2324WSOB00806, JVV2324WSOB00807, JVV2324WSOB00808, JVV2324WSOB00809, JVV2324WSOB00810, JVV2324WSOB00811, JVV2324WSOB00812, JVV2324WSOB00813, JVV2324WSOB00814, JVV2324WSOB00815, JVV2324WSOB00816, JVV2324WSOB00817, JVV2324WSOB00818, JVV2324WSOB00819, JVV2324WSOB00820, JVV2324WSOB00821, JVV2324WSOB00822, JVV2324WSOB00823, JVV2324WSOB00824, JVV2324WSOB00825, JVV2324WSOB00826, JVV2324WSOB00827, JVV2324WSOB00828, JVV2324WSOB00829, JVV2324WSOB00830, JVV2324WSOB00831, JVV2324WSOB00832, JVV2324WSOB00833, JVV2324WSOB00834, JVV2324WSOB00835, JVV2324WSOB00836, JVV2324WSOB00837, JVV2324WSOB00838, JVV2324WSOB00839, JVV2324WSOB00840, JVV2324WSOB00841, JVV2324WSOB00842, JVV2324WSOB00843, JVV2324WSOB00844, JVV2324WSOB00845, JVV2324WSOB00846, JVV2324WSOB00847, JVV2324WSOB00848, JVV2324WSOB00849, JVV2324WSOB00850, JVV2324WSOB00851, JVV2324WSOB00852, JVV2324WSOB00853, JVV2324WSOB00854, JVV2324WSOB00855, JVV2324WSOB00856, JVV2324WSOB00857, JVV2324WSOB00858, JVV2324WSOB00859, JVV2324WSOB00860, JVV2324WSOB00861, JVV2324WSOB00862, JVV2324WSOB00863, JVV2324WSOB00864, JVV2324WSOB00865, JVV2324WSOB00866, JVV2324WSOB00867, JVV2324WSOB00868, JVV2324WSOB00869, JVV2324WSOB00870, JVV2324WSOB00871, JVV2324WSOB00872, JVV2324WSOB00873, JVV2324WSOB00874, JVV2324WSOB00875, JVV2324WSOB00876, JVV2324WSOB00877, JVV2324WSOB00878, JVV2324WSOB00879, JVV2324WSOB00880, JVV2324WSOB00881, JVV2324WSOB00882, JVV2324WSOB00883, JVV2324WSOB00884, JVV2324WSOB00885, JVV2324WSOB00886, JVV2324WSOB00887, JVV2324WSOB00888, JVV2324WSOB00889, JVV2324WSOB00890, JVV2324WSOB00891, JVV2324WSOB00892, JVV2324WSOB00893, JVV2324WSOB00894, JVV2324WSOB00895, JVV2324WSOB00896, JVV2324WSOB00897, JVV2324WSOB00898, JVV2324WSOB00899, JVV2324WSOB00900, JVV2324WSOB00901, JVV2324WSOB00902, JVV2324WSOB00903, JVV2324WSOB00904, JVV2324WSOB00905, JVV2324WSOB00906, JVV2324WSOB00907, JVV2324WSOB00908, JVV2324WSOB00909, JVV2324WSOB00910, JVV2324WSOB00911, JVV2324WSOB00912, JVV2324WSOB00913, JVV2324WSOB00914, JVV2324WSOB00915, JVV2324WSOB00916, JVV2324WSOB00917, JVV2324WSOB00918, JVV2324WSOB00919, JVV2324WSOB00920, JVV2324WSOB00921, JVV2324WSOB00922, JVV2324WSOB00923, JVV2324WSOB00924, JVV2324WSOB00925, JVV2324WSOB00926, JVV2324WSOB00927, JVV2324WSOB00928, JVV2324WSOB00929, JVV2324WSOB00930, JVV2324WSOB00931, JVV2324WSOB00932, JVV2324WSOB00933, JVV2324WSOB00934, JVV2324WSOB00935, JVV2324WSOB00936, JVV2324WSOB00937, JVV2324WSOB00938, JVV2324WSOB00939, JVV2324WSOB00940, JVV2324WSOB00941, JVV2324WSOB00942, JVV2324WSOB00943, JVV2324WSOB00944, JVV2324WSOB00945, JVV2324WSOB00946, JVV2324WSOB00947, JVV2324WSOB00948, JVV2324WSOB00949, JVV2324WSOB00950, JVV2324WSOB00951, JVV2324WSOB00952, JVV2324WSOB00953, JVV2324WSOB00954, JVV2324WSOB00955, JVV2324WSOB00956, JVV2324WSOB00957, JVV2324WSOB00958, JVV2324WSOB00959, JVV2324WSOB00960, JVV2324WSOB00961, JVV2324WSOB00962, JVV2324WSOB00963, JVV2324WSOB00964, JVV2324WSOB00965, JVV2324WSOB00966, JVV2324WSOB00967, JVV2324WSOB00968, JVV2324WSOB00969, JVV2324WSOB00970, JVV2324WSOB00971, JVV2324WSOB00972, JVV2324WSOB00973, JVV2324WSOB00974, JVV2324WSOB00975, JVV2324WSOB00976, JVV2324WSOB00977, JVV2324WSOB00978, JVV2324WSOB00979, JVV2324WSOB00980, JVV2324WSOB00981, JVV2324WSOB00982, JVV2324WSOB00983, JVV2324WSOB00984, JVV2324WSOB00985, JVV2324WSOB00986, JVV2324WSOB00987, JVV2324WSOB00988, JVV2324WSOB00989, JVV2324WSOB00990, JVV2324WSOB00991, JVV2324WSOB00992, JVV2324WSOB00993, JVV2324WSOB00994, JVV2324WSOB00995, JVV2324WSOB00996, JVV2324WSOB00997, JVV2324WSOB00998, JVV2324WSOB00999, JVV2324WSOB01000

राज.सं.सं/ली/23/14401
जोधपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट, जोधपुर

विकासी संशोधी विकारकों के लिए टेंडर प्रो नंबर 1800 180 6045

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
G2

E-Tender Notice

NIT No. TMC/CPH/PRY/J23-24/06 Date: 07.03.2024

CWM/CPH/Workshop/North Central Railway/Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites "Open" E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work upto 15.00 hrs. on 28.03.2024. The details of the Tender are as under:-

Tender No.	Approx. cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
TMC-CPH-PRY-10-23-24	10256166.06	201300.00

Name of work: Repairing of general Mechanical Items (Pneumatic Hose & Components, Gear Boxes etc.) for POH of Machines as per schedule of works.

Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): Nil. Completion Period: 24 Months. Date of opening of tender: 28.03.2024 Similar Work for Eligibility Criteria: Any type of Pneumatic repair work or mechanical repair work on Track Machines. Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form letter head, if attached by vendors shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 5. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 6. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 7. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only or as per provision stipulated in applicable GCC. 8. In case of any difficulty, helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 9. Tender online can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs. on 28.03.2024 423/24(K)

<http://northcentralrailway> North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

एयू आहार संरक्षण-अन्नपत्र
Ref. No. : RCFD/CFP-AJM/2023-24/7539 - 53 Date :- 05/03/2024

निविदा सूचना

एयू आहार संरक्षण अन्नपत्र पर अनुमोदी सलाहसूचक/फार्मा से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से निम्नलिखित निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

S. No.	Name of Bid	Tender ID	UBN No.	Bid Value (in Crore)	Bid Publishing Date	Bid Opening Date
01	Rate Contract for Trace Mineral Items, Raw Materials for Mineral Mixture, Dried Ferrous Sulphate, Natural Magnesium Oxide, Manganese Sulphate, Zinc Sulphate, Cobalt Sulphate, Copper Sulphate, Potassium Iodide, Sodium Thioc sulphate & By Pass Fat	2024.RCFD.385986.1	CDP2324 GLR501595	3.00	03.03.24	22.03.2024

निविदा डाक-बंद एवं अप्रोलोक किये जाने व प्राप्ति करने की तारीख, निविदा खोलने की तिथि, निविदा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.sarasnilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in & E-Procurement & SPP Portal पर अथवा संरक्षण कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।

एयू आहार संरक्षण/ली/24/14392

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidya Bhawan", Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Mehra, Dehradun - 248002
Corporate ID No. U40101UR20045GCC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Appointment of consulting firm for Advisory support of Consultant for preparation and approval of Multi Year Tariff & Business Plan for the control period FY 2025-26 to FY 2027-28 of PTCUL & SLDC separately" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/ARR-11/2023-24. The last date submission of e-bid is 10.04.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website www.ukttenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU4_71125_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
Letter No.: 383/HQP/PTCUL
Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
Dated : 07-03-2024 "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation."

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MAHARASHTRA STATE CO-OPERATIVE TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
ADIVASI VIKAS BHAVAN, SECOND FLOOR, GADKARI CHOWK, OLD AGRA ROAD, NASHIK - 422001

Invitation for Tenders
E-TENDER NOTICE 7157 FOR 2023-2024
(Electronic tendering system only)

Online percentage rate tenders in B-1 form are invited by the Managing Director, MSCTDC, Nashik for the following work from capable and eligible Civil Contractor registered in Class 3 and above with Tribal Development Department of Maharashtra State. The names of work, estimated cost, earnest money, security deposit, time limit for completion are as under. For Construction of Pre Engineered building, Interior & allied works at Nashik District.

Location details are as below.

Sr. No.	The Name of Work	Cost put to tender in Rs. (Excluding GST)	Time Limits In Months	Class of Contractor	E.M.D. In RS.	Security Deposit In Rs.	Cost of tender form + GST 18%
1	Renovation & Interior Work of Head office & Regional office at Nashik	1,53,53,690/- Total Cost put to tender = 1,53,53,690/-	09 Months	Class 3 (Registered with Tribal Development Department in Maharashtra)	1,50,000/-	1,54,000/-	1180/- (1000/- +180/-)

1.1 Tender form, conditions of contract, specifications and contract drawings can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal of Government of Maharashtra i.e. <https://mahatenders.gov.in> after entering the details of payment of tender document Fee of Rs. 1180/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only) Tender Document Fees shall be Paid online using payment gateway. The fees of tender document will be non-refundable. Further information regarding the work can be obtained from the Office of the Managing Director, MSCTDC, Nashik & PMC M/s. Pravin Pagar Architects, Nashik.

1.2 The tender form, conditions of contract, specifications & contract drawings can be downloaded online using payment gateway. The EMD applicable amount shall be paid via online mode from the authorized account in the name of Bidder only. Bids will be opened as per tender schedule. In the presence of such intending tenderer or his/their authorized representatives who may be present at the time opening.

The prebid meeting will be held on Date 15/03/2024 at 03.00 Hrs. at Nashik (As. per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> tribal development department) in the presence of bidders who wish to attend in the office of the Managing Director, Adivasi Vikas

HT brunch

RELAX. THE WEEKEND'S HERE



So much more in HT Brunch! Stories about life, love, good times and good vibes. People, places, and strange new worlds. All a swipe away in the compact, shareable, e-magazine out every Saturday. Check it out. It's free!



{ HOW ARE WE FEELING? } This week, we're...

Brushing up on Bushido

The story goes that James Clavell wrote Shogun (1975) after a single line in his daughter's schoolbook: "In 1600, an Englishman went to Japan and became a samurai." The novel, which fictionalises the tales of William Adams, military ruler Tokugawa Ieyasu and noblewoman Hosokawa Gracia, spawned an epic '80s mini-series. The 2024 version, two episodes in, is subtle, subtitled and immersive. Keep watching, Gai-Jin. It's got promise.

Dreaming of Batman too



Need a sign to call it off with a lousy partner? Do it like Billie Eilish. "A couple years ago I had a dream about Christian Bale and it was at a little cafe in the sunlight, and it made me realise that I had to break up with my boyfriend at the time," the singer shared at a pre-Oscars event. She's not into Bale (he's been married since 2000). But we'd like one Dark Knight too, please.

Relating so hard

Athletes, they're just like us. If you were the kind of kid who overturned the Ludo board when you lost, then Instagram handle @AthletesGettingSlightlyMad is the page you need. From Neymar making faces to Djokovic slamming his racket on the ground repeatedly, it captures the little explosions male athletes can't seem to avoid. It's therapeutic.

Cancelling mosh pits at gigs

Hip-hop fans don't deserve them. At a concert by Seedhe Maut and Chaar Diwaar in Mumbai last week, an evening of cheering turned into a brawl. Punches were thrown. So were kicks. Videos went viral. "This is why it should only happen at metal gigs," said metalheads. Makes sense?

Urdu in a multi-verse

Urdu poetry, fuelled by love and longing, fired up by politics, amplified by Instagram, and remixed by indie bands, is finding new fans. Ghazal, nazm, shayari, it's all hearts

Karishma Kuenzang
karishma.kuenzang@hindustantimes.com

What's your love language? For young people in India today, it's literally a language: Urdu. It's been around for at least 800 years; the 2011 census shows that India has well over 67 million Urdu speakers. "But that audience has surged with the rise of Instagram poetry in the last decade," says Aamir Aziz, 33, a poet, musician, composer and actor in Mumbai.

Poems are unfolding, couplet by couplet, on platforms such as Terribly Tiny Tales (@TTT_Official). Urdu poetry is referencing ghosting and mobile phones. It's getting quoted in Pakistani rap. Rekhta, a decade-old archive for poetry and literature in the language, has close 925K followers on Instagram (@Rekhta_Foundation). Online searches for Pakistani poet Jaun Elia (1931-2002) have surged.

And Urdu itself seems to have relaxed somewhat. It had a stricter form around Independence, when it emerged as a symbol of identity among Muslims of the subcontinent. Ghazals structured around couplets and refrains flourished then. "Today, the nazm is more popular because its single-theme descriptive style offers liberty of expression," says Akshita Nagpal, 32, from Mumbai. Nagpal has been teaching Urdu via Google Meets since 2020. She says she's taught more than 400 students across 36 batches.

In cinema, Urdu is inextricably linked to music. If you can follow the words to Chaiyya Chaiyya (Bombay, 1998), Jiya Dhadak Dhadak Jaye in Kalyug (2005), and Kun Faya Kun in Rockstar (2011), you've understood a bit already. Urdu was pushed back

somewhat, as the millennium turned and a newly connected generation began to respond to English lyrics, says poet, musician and lyricist Sameer Rahat. But in a twist worthy of its own nazm, the same connected world is cheering the return of Urdu in South Asian music.

"The language isn't complex. It appears so because we aren't used to speaking it outside of homes," says Aziz.

See how music, Reels and workshops are giving an old language a smitten new audience.



زبان کو زندہ رکھنے کے لیے، اس کو بولیے، پڑھیے اور اسے لکھیے۔ آپ زبان کا استعمال کیسے کرتے ہیں یہ آپ کی صحبت پہ مبنی ہے۔ مجھے خود اندازہ نہیں ہے کہ میں کتنی دفعہ "برو" بولتا ہوں۔

To keep the language alive, speak, read and write in it. How you use language depends on whom you hang out with. I don't know how many times I say "bro" these days.

Aamir Aziz

Writing the balance
Aamir Aziz, 33

"Even fifteen years ago, Urdu poetry was a small-town endeavour," says the poet, musician, composer and actor. "Now, writing Urdu in the Roman script is common. The internet, especially Instagram, has a big role to play in this."

Aziz was born in Patna and grew up in Delhi. He's heard Urdu being spoken at home, listened to qawwali in the neighbourhood, and consumed poetry in the language, writing his own from the age of 17. He worked as a civil engineer for four years and moved to Mumbai in 2016, exploding on to the scene in 2019 with his lightning-speed protest poem Sab Yaad Rakha Jaayega, in the midst of the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Pink Floyd guitarist Roger Waters quoted it, in English, at a London event months later, catapulting Aziz to global fame. He's since released Blues songs with Urdu lyrics and worked on the soundtrack for Anurag Kashyap's Kennedy (2023).

Aziz isn't sure whether Urdu's new popularity is a win or a loss for the language. "Much of it now is missing a crucial element — the script," he says. Most people learning Urdu today tend to write in English. It allows for more people to understand the basics, but it's in the details — the delicate differences between ja and za, sha and shah — that the flavour of the language lies.

"There's a Pakistani qawwali song that's been adapted from Bol Kaffara Kya Hoga to Bol Hamara Kya Hoga," Aziz says. "Kaffara means repenting after a betrayal. Changing one word throws off the whole meaning."

Another worry: New fans tend to put



شاه رخ خان، جن کا تعلق اردو تہذیب سے ہے، اس بات کا ہمیشہ دھیان رکھتے ہیں کہ ان کا اردو کا تلفظ درست رہے۔ آپ سن کے دیکھیے وہ لفظ غلط کو کس طرح بولتے ہیں۔

Shah Rukh Khan, who is from an Urdu-speaking culture, ensures his Urdu pronunciations are immaculate. Listen to how he says the word Ghalat.

Akshita Nagpal

Urdu on a pedestal, revering the poetry without reveling in the bite and sarcasm the language allows. But, Urdu is actually a very shararti language. "Bh**wa is used a lot. That's not what a language full of tehzeeb and sophistication sounds like," he says.

In matters of love, thankfully, the poets have been busy. "Urdu has always talked of love, but the way people love has changed," he says. "How do we define the love of our time, when it's all window shopping?"

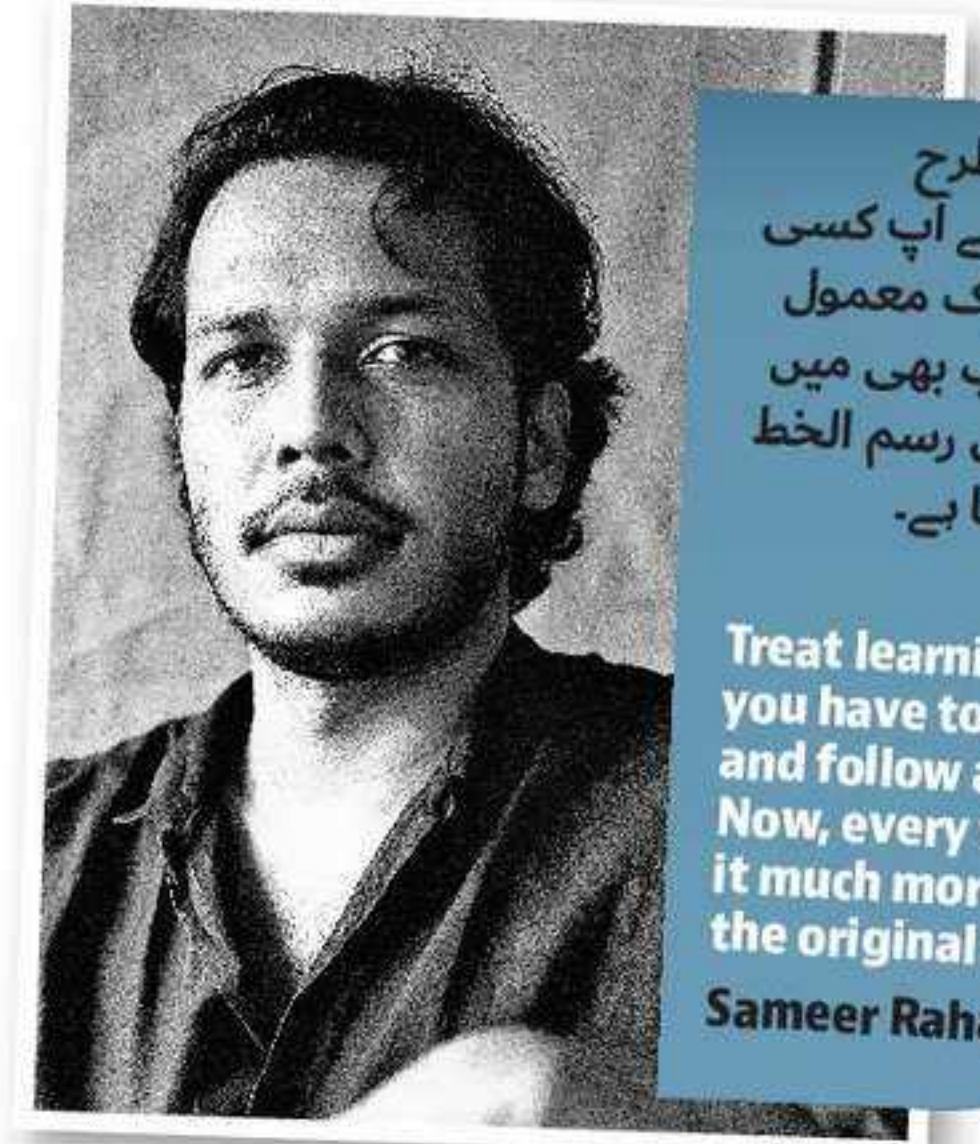
Love across the border

Akshita Nagpal, 32

Akshita Nagpal grew up in Delhi, in a family that crossed over to India from Lahore, Pakistan at Partition. Her grandfathers wrote in the Urdu script, she picked up poetry during summer vacations, and by 22, she'd taught herself enough to be able to write in Urdu fluently. "The land was lost. I wanted to hold onto the language. We have very harsh political borders. I learned Urdu to transcend them," she says.

Nagpal worked a corporate job, dabbled in journalism, produced films for non-profits. Then, in the pandemic, she read a 1970s poem by Parveen Shakir, which examined romance and desire from a woman's perspective. It's what fired her up to move to Mumbai and teach the language to others. Her workshops use pop-culture references.

"For the social class that has the privilege of English-language education (The class I also belong to), the workshops involve a lot of unlearning that English is the only aspirational language," Nagpal says. It's exactly



اردو کی تعلیم کو ریاضت کی طرح دیکھیے۔ بالکل ویسے ہی جیسے آپ کسی ساز کو لے کر بیٹھتے ہیں اور ایک معمول کے ساتھ کام کرتے ہیں۔ اب جب بھی میں لکھنے بیٹھتا ہوں، مجھے اصلی رسم الخط استعمال کرنا زیادہ فطری لگتا ہے۔

Treat learning Urdu like riyaz. Just like you have to sit with your instrument and follow a certain routine. Now, every time I write, I find it much more natural to use the original script.

Sameer Rahat

Who's a space cadet now?

If these 10 aliens are anything to go by, we don't mind a bit of an abduction or an intergalactic takeover

Arshia Dhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

Fongoids from Ratchet & Clank (2002-).

The Fongoids in this video game hail from planet Torren IV in the Vela Sector of the Polaris Galaxy. They live in tribal communities, and resemble small humanoid aliens, please.

with violet and black skin, funny-looking blue ears and flat noses. They don't really care for tech, but somehow have crazy engineering skills, repairing various parts of the broken universe as they travel. More useful aliens, please.

Harry Vanderspeigle in Resident Alien (2021-).

Alan Tudyk plays Harry Vanderspeigle, the alien in the title, who flew here to destroy humanity. But he crash-lands, loses his tools, and lives as a human until he can recoup. He's learnt English from bingeing Law and Order. Oddly, he's good at reading the cues humans miss. Three seasons in, and Harry still hasn't killed us. How nice of him. We added him to this list out of fear.

Marvin the Martian (since 1948).

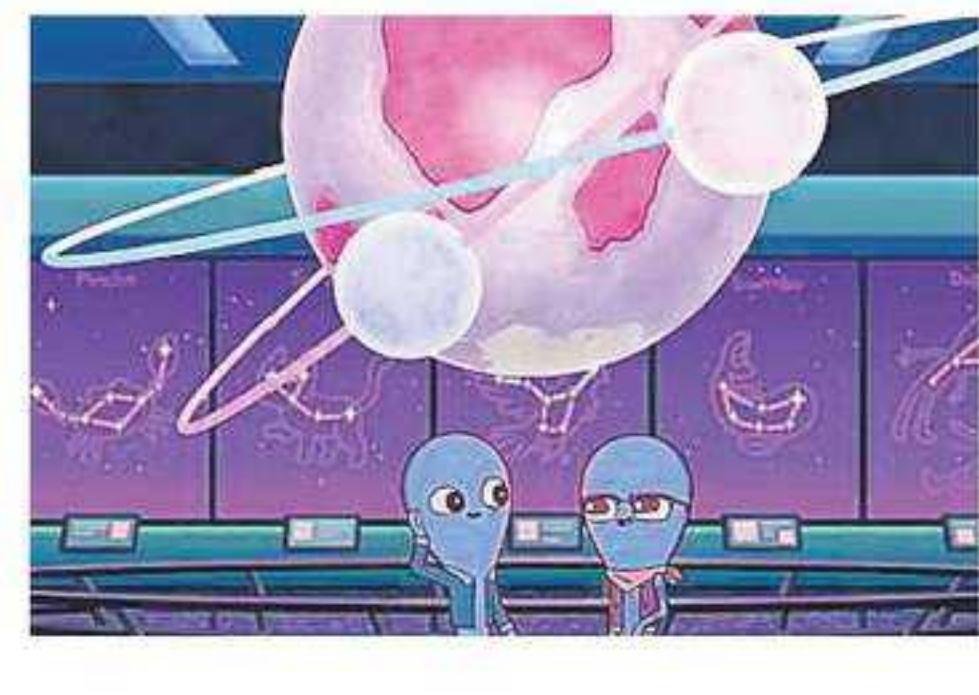
Bugs Bunny's green friend, the one who struts around in a Roman helmet and skirt, is a sketchy kind of alien. He has a dog, K-9. Mars is home but he wants to blow up Earth with his Illudium Q-36 Explosive Space Modulator because it obstructs his view of Venus. He is also known to have fought with Daffy Duck to take over Planet X. But 76 years of Looney Tunes adventures later, he's too cute to take seriously. Fire away, Marvin.

Paul from Paul (2011).

The big-eyed, big headed, little green man from our emojis is, in this story at least, an actual extra-terrestrial. Two comic-book geeks pick up what they think is a hitchhiker. It turns out to be Paul, from an M-Class planet of the Andromeda Galaxy, who has just escaped from Area 51, where he's been stuck for years. Paul is chill, low-key, loves tech and can transfer knowledge, heal wounds, and resurrect the dead. A most handy man on a road-trip.

The aliens from Strange Planet (2019-).

Spoiler alert: We're the aliens. Illustrator Nathan W Pyle's comic strip imagines how someone from another world might view humans, our everyday obsessions and pre-occupations. His Earthlings look like blue Q-tips. Some of them love sunbathing "I crave star damage". Others warn about the house cat "Respect the death blades". The TV show version isn't as fun. But the blue beings remain adorable.



The Trisolarians from The Three-Body Problem (2008).

The residents of Trisolaris, in the nearby Alpha Centauri system, did not come to play. Liu Cixin describes them as having giant brains, with a possible mix of skeleton, tentacles and gooey stuff, in his sci-fi bestseller. They hate their home-planet. They want ours instead. They're plotting to end us all. But gosh, they're so clever. Both species are doomed. May as well enjoy the adventure.

Mork from Mork & Mindy (1978-1982).

Robin Williams is Mork from the planet Ork, pretending to be human while studying human behaviour. Orkans grow younger with age, Mork just gets more eccentric as he learns how life here unfolds. He can mimic celebrity voices, a handy trick to get out of a mess. The show catapulted Williams and actress Pam Dawber (who plays Mindy) to fame. Williams, gone too soon, was the perfect playful innocent. Nanu Nanu!

Roger from American Dad! (2005-).

Seth MacFarlane's tribute to Spielberg's ET. Roger crash landed on Earth in 1947 and just never left. Oh, he's also an androgynous, pansexual, wine-guzzling, alien living with the Smith family in New Mexico. Oh, and he has countless alter egos. Roger may seem like he's dodgy, depraved and a bit unhinged. Is he too different or too much like us? The confusion is why we love him. He's one of us.

Groot (1960-).

The tree alien from the Branch World's Planet X in the Marvel Universe landed on Earth in the '60s to (you guessed it right), study humans! Back then, he could converse normally. But specially bred termites ate up his innards and almost killed him. Ever since, all he can say is "Groot". But he's torn through NYC, faced off against the Hulk, the Thing, Giant Man and Beast. Throw no shade at this tree. He's a hero.

ET, from ET, the Extra-Terrestrial (1982).

Little, lost and looking to get back home. Steven Spielberg arguably gifted us the nicest on-screen alien. He hates potato salad but loves Reese's Pieces candy and beer. And he seems to understand humans better than they understand themselves. Give him his one phone call. And cycle away, haters. There's nothing to dislike about ET (OK, maybe the voice).

{ RIGHT NOW }

Making Reels come true

Filters. Collabs. Transitions. Only 10 seconds to grab attention. See how directing videos for Instagram changes the rules of the game

Noor Anand Chawla
letters@hindustantimes.com

We're Instagrammers, of course we're gonna hire a Reel director. We're Instagrammers, of course we view the world in a vertical frame. We're Instagrammers, of course we know our transition points, voice-over speed, 10-second rule and timelapse style. We're Instagrammers, of course we know how repetitive the Of Course trend is getting.

In a world where all eyes are on the mobile screen, it's no surprise that specialised crews have emerged, aiming to get the best out of the medium. Parika Gogia (@parikagogia), Nikhil Rana (@nikhil.ranaofficial) and Diya Ahuja (@diyaahujaa) all stylists and creative directors, hit pause on their filming schedule to offer insights into a job where the algorithm and authentic selves fight new battles every day.

Every second matters.

Reel directors don't have a three-minute music video to play with. Even a 90-second trailer is too long. They know their audience gives them only 10 seconds before they scroll on. "We have to craft a compelling visual experience that leaves a lasting impression within this slot," says Rana. "The message must be crisp – either through content or with imagery." And it must be something that other Reels don't have. The current formula is a montage of 2-second clips with a few slower-paced ones thrown in.

Gogia says that the ever-changing template is just what she needs to get creative.

But in the same breath she acknowledges another challenge: "We have to deliver content that educates the consumers about the brand or their range in a way that doesn't feel like an advertisement."

For an ad showcasing a clothing brand, Kathak dancer Shivani Verma was roped in. She modelled the outfits as she danced in the packed, busy lanes of Varanasi, embodying Radha. An old Bollywood number played in the background.

Trends change every day.

Beyonce's song, This Ain't Texas, is the background score of the moment. That means, it's already dated. Ahuja says her strategy is to stay on top of what's trending is to be permanently plugged in. "I'm on Instagram all day, every day, whether it's for research, random scrolling, reaching out to brands, sourcing for a shoot or more."

The algorithm isn't all powerful. It's learning from us as much as we're learning from it. Rana, who also creates his own content, says creative folks shouldn't rely on it too much. "What keeps you ahead is consistently creating high-quality engaging content that focuses on storytelling."

Same tools, new tricks.

Trends keep changing. But tools and techniques don't evolve that quickly. Most Instagram members recommend understanding the filters, extensions and user options already available to create new work. Think of it as writing a new poem with the same 26 letters of the alphabet. In one ad, meant to show the versatility of a designer bag, the crew filmed transitions with a popular fashion influencer. Her outfits, occasions, locations and vibe change seamlessly. The bag she carries remains the same.

One video she shot for a home-grown coffee brand is set amidst a backdrop of vibrant yellows and blues. It narrates a story via products and tools and has a male voiceover describing the scene. It's like a beer ad for the coffee crowd.

Gogia, like most creative people, knows that old rules are still in play. Professionalism counts, and it's necessary to build a team of photographers and videographers to offer a comprehensive package to a client. Rana's crew usually has day-long shoots for brands and 3-4 hours of filming for individuals. There are moodboards, scripts, post-production sessions. "Teams can be two or three people or as many as 50," he says.

Ahuja admits that the field is tougher and more competitive now. Untrained crews clutter the space, offer services for cheap, lower standards. There are no end credits on a Reel. Good work is often plagiarised and amplified without acknowledgement to the OG creator. Clients rarely keep track of weekly trend changes. "You have to keep pushing yourself to

make something fresh and new."

Brace for change, again.

"Content is becoming more data-driven," says Rana. Info about the best time to post keeps getting updated, there's immediate feedback on whether last week's viral trend actually boosted last week's sales. "With AI integrations through AR and VR, creative directors will now play a greater role in visual storytelling," Rana says.

It's creative but still business.

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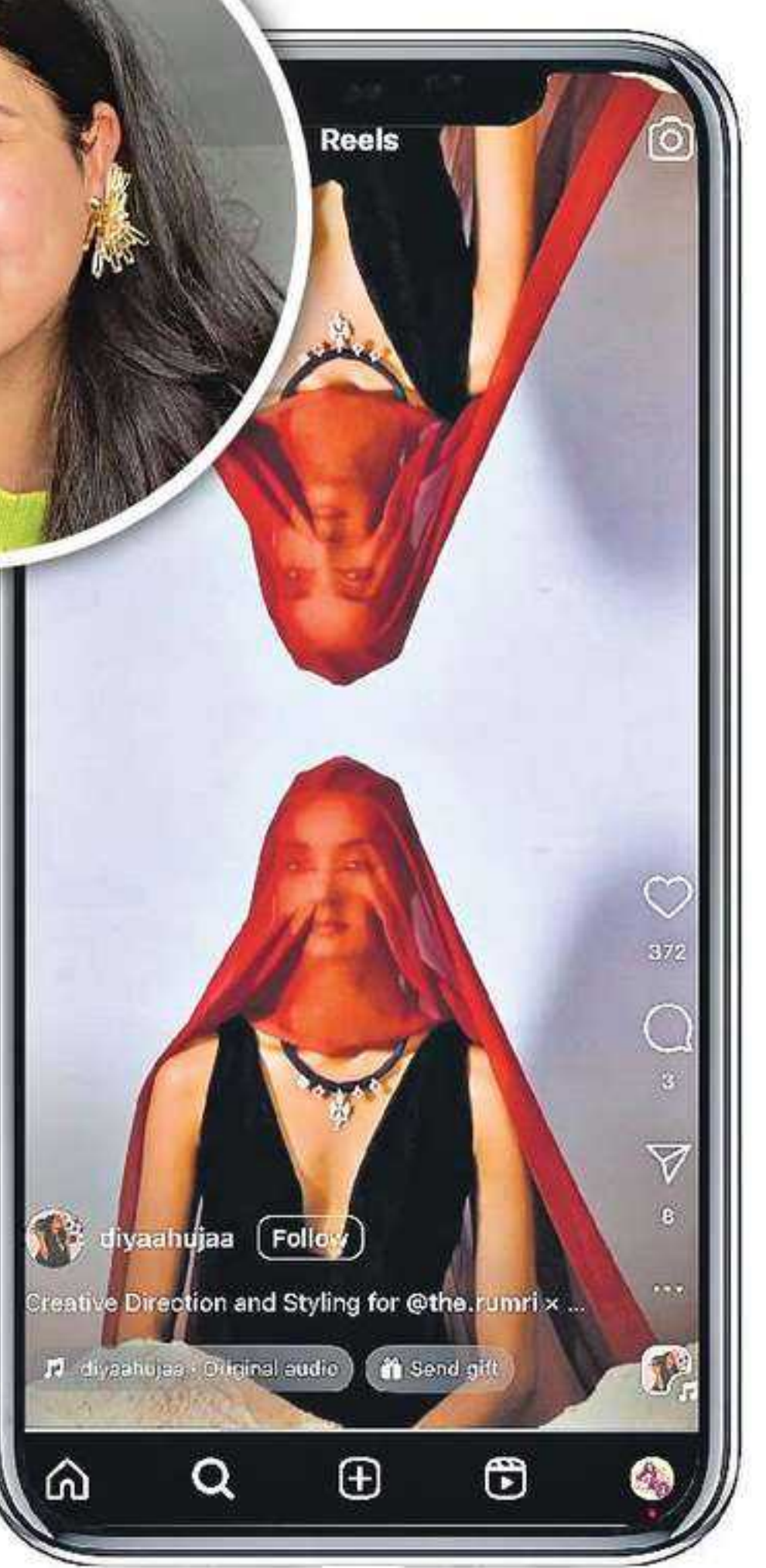


Parika Gogia says short form content needs to educate consumers about a brand without making it feel like an ad. Diya Ahuja (below) 'studies' Instagram to analyse brands and how their visual direction is or should be.
INSTAGRAM/ @PARIKAGOGIA; INSTAGRAM/ @DIYA AHUJAA

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{ PERSONAL AGENDA }

Bibhu Mohapatra

Fashion designer, @BibhuMohapatra

Tanisha Saxena
letters@hindustantimes.com

Currently I am:

On an island with my love.

On my playlist:

Tum Pukar Lo, from Khamoshi; Life For Rent, by Jonny Drille; Houdini by Dua Lipa.

On my speed dial:

My brother, who I lost to Covid two years ago.

Today I'm craving:

Prawn Koliwada from Trishna in Mumbai.

Next big splurge:

A small house on a deserted beach.

App I check before bed:

BBC and the family WhatsApp group.

Advice I'd give my 18-year-old self:

Have more fun and travel the world.

A secret skill I have:

I am an audiophile. I can take apart hi-fi sound systems and put them back together.

My favourite Sunday memory while growing up:

The excitement of a goat meat lunch



Last thing I ordered online:
Presents for my team.

made by Mom.

My favourite bad habit:

Sneaking fried chicken into my diet.

A trait I despise in people:

Lack of kindness.

I won't leave the house without...:

My keys and my music.



My most star-struck moment so far:

Dancing in 2009 with President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House while Usher performed.

The key, according to Nikhil Rana, is to keep the brand message crisp – either through content or with imagery. "Keep evolving and conceptualising ideas you yourself would love to watch and engage with."
INSTAGRAM/ @NIKHILRANAOFFICIAL



column { rude food }

Tracking the package

We know intuitively that highly processed foods, from bread and pasta to sausage and sauces, can't be a good thing. But is it actually bad for our health?



VIR SANGHVI

Do you remember your grandmother telling you that "outside food" was bad? That you should eat only at home?

Well, it turns out that she was right. But she was also wrong. Restaurant food is not necessarily unhealthy. What our grandmothers did not take into account is that the food you cook with at home may actually be much worse for you than restaurant cuisine.

Many of us now shop on the internet. So, we have no real idea where the vegetables we order have come from. Likewise, with the meat which comes in fancy packaging, but which we know so little about. Because the world has got more international, we also buy ready-made pasta sauces or Chinese sauces to liven up our cooking.

There is nothing wrong in cooking food that is more international or even with ordering your provisions on the internet. But bit by bit, we are losing control over information regarding the provenance and full composition of ingredients.

If you order meat products, say sausages or burger patties, remember that they probably come from factories and you may not want to hear how they were made. So it is with nearly all bread that is not made by an artisanal bakery. As for ready-made pasta or

cheese sauces, they are almost certainly industrial. We haven't even got around to discussing ready meals, frozen pizza, etc.

There is a basic – and fairly obvious – problem with all food that is made in large quantities, whether it is a loaf of bread or a hot sauce. For products like these to travel from a factory to a shop (or to your home if you have them delivered), the manufacturer has to pump them full of chemicals that let them stay fresh and keep their shape.

There is a second problem. Because internet shopping allows you to compare prices much more easily than, say, local grocer's shops, there is a competitive advantage for manufacturers who can keep prices low. This usually means that they have to tinker with the recipe (or the formula) to reduce the dependence on expensive ingredients.

To make up for the relative lack of flavour in items made with cheaper ingredients or with low-cost recipes, manufacturers turn to chemicals – what they call flavouring agents – to add some oomph to the taste.

This means that the food products you buy today are likely to be more chemical and more processed than ever before. All of us know, intuitively, that this can't be a good thing. But is it actually bad for our health?

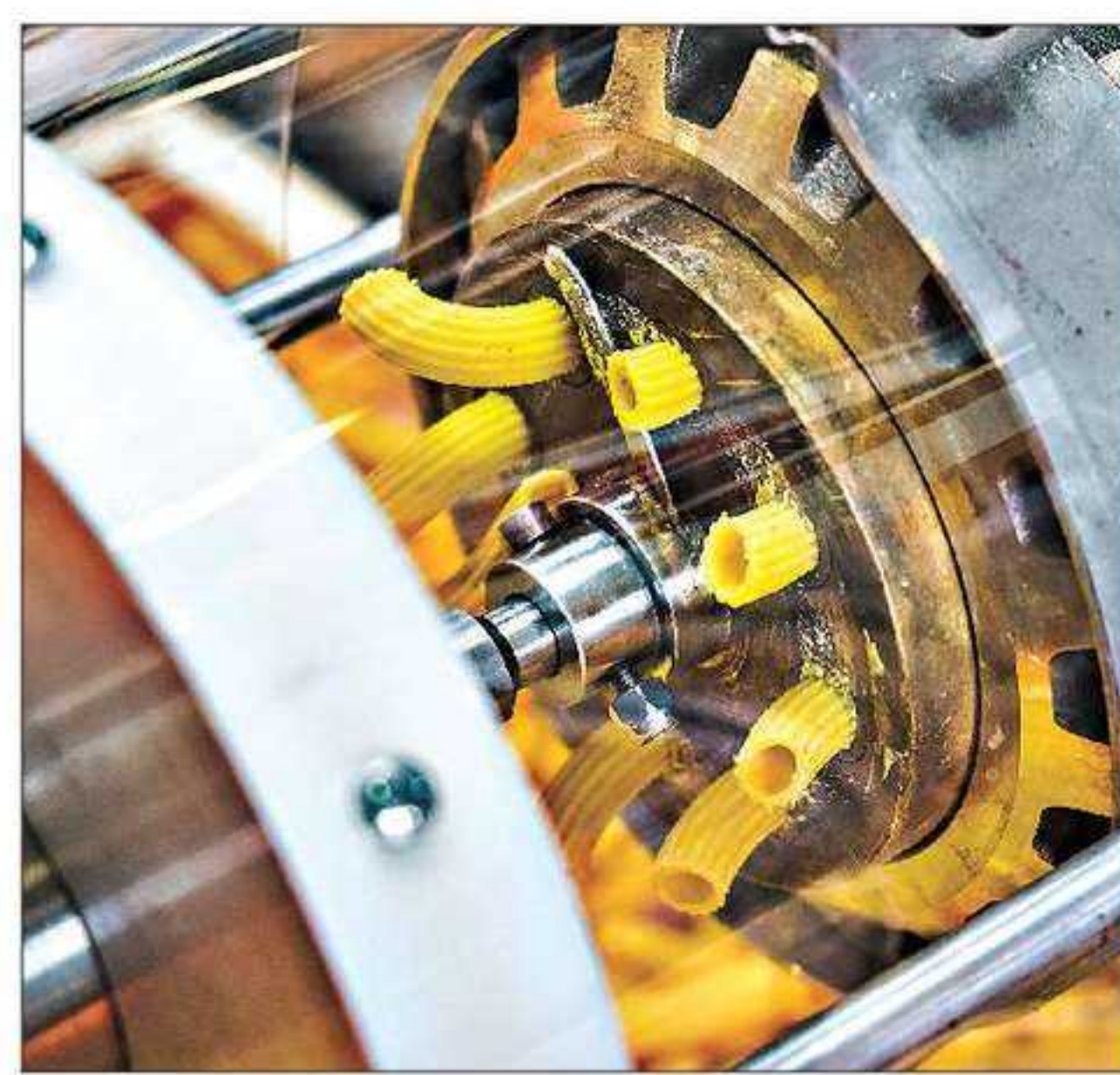
Over the last decade (and especially over the last five years) a global movement has developed to discourage people from eating what are called Ultra Processed Foods (UPFs). Like all such movements, the initial rhetoric has often been overblown.

Therefore while I have always respected some of the arguments of the anti-UPF campaign, I have been sceptical of their overly scary sloganeering.

Even so, the movement has been remarkably effective.

In the UK, a committee of the House of Lords was shocked to discover last week that UPFs make up 55%

Vanillin, usually passed off as the more expensive vanilla, can be extracted from pine cones and wood pulp, not from the vanilla orchid.



of the typical British diet; one reason for the UK's obesity problem. This has coincided with the publication of a study in the British Medical Journal, which concluded that UPFs were linked to 32 conditions including diabetes, cancer, heart disease and depression.

The problem with all such research is that it is usually based on observational studies, where you compare the health of people who consume many UPFs with people who don't.

You can always make a counterclaim about such research and say that UPFs are not the real villain. People who don't eat packaged foods tend to be more health conscious anyway (and richer so they can afford fresh fruit and vegetables and be better nourished).

The reason why people who eat more UPFs have a greater incidence of poor health conditions could be because they are not particularly health-conscious anyway: they eat junk food (usually characterised by a combination of fat, sugar, salt and carbohydrates) and don't bother too much with exercise.

Scientists still have not been able to convincingly explain the biology: how exactly do UPFs lead to poor health consequences? One theory, gaining popularity, is that the chemicals in processed food have an effect on



Sausages come from factories. You may not want to hear how they were made. Ready-made pasta (above left) is almost certainly industrial. Truffle oil (above right) is often made with molecules that come from petroleum.

the microbes in our gut. This may or may not be accurate but the truth is that we still don't know enough about how exactly the bacteria in our gut affect our overall health to make convincing links to UPFs.

Nevertheless, it is fair to say that anyone who eats packaged food is consuming more chemicals than is immediately apparent. Many packaged foods contain artificial flavours. In America, flavour chemicals are even added to butter to make it taste more like butter. According to the bestselling book The Dorito Effect, there are added flavours in ready-to-cook burgers, frozen pizza, oatmeal, coconut cream pie, French fries, Earl Grey tea, pasta sauces, canned soups, steak sauces, breakfast cereals, canned tuna, ice-cream, chocolate chip cookies and many other products.

The chemicals are rarely identified on the packaging and even when the term natural flavours is used, it only means that the fla-

avour was extracted from a non-petrochemical source. For instance, vanillin, which is usually passed off as the more expensive and complex vanilla, can be extracted from pine cones and wood pulp, not from the vanilla orchid. Truffle oil, on the other hand, is often made with molecules that come from petroleum.

Does it matter? Well, even if the effects on health can be disputed, would you be inclined to buy a product if the ingredients were accurately listed as, "hydrolysed corn, soy protein, and autolysed yeast extract, wheat protein, disodium inosinate and guanaylate"?

I guess not. So, what is to be done? Personally I think it is a matter of individual choice. Until there is more evidence, I cannot support a ban on UPFs. But the suggestion that some products should carry a health warning (or maybe just a black star) is worth considering.

Until then, eat well. But eat naturally. Restaurants are not necessarily the problem. Processed food, on the other hand, should always be approached with caution.





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DLF 1 200 & 500 @ 12m Rd 109Y Park East Fcng Villa 500 yd 18m Rd 5YR Old Villa DLF 4 New 270 B+S+4 Floors Building 9871733233

RAJESH KATHURIA 981020-9711

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DESRAJ 98110-72035

DLF CITY 500 yds Exclusive Ready built 5+4 Bedrooms Floor Top Construction, Modern Interior / Gadgets See To Believe More Details 981072035 Desraj Kaundal

DESRAJ 98110-72035

SUSHANT LOK-1 & DLF-1, 2&4 418/300/270 Yds Full Blgs With Shits Parking + 4 Floors Top Construction Full CR Floorwise 981072035

CHIRAG ESTATE 9871733233

DLF 1 200 & 500 @ 12m Rd 109Y Park East Fcng Villa 500 yd 18m Rd 5YR Old Villa DLF 4 New 270 B+S+4 Floors Building 9871733233

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NEELAM M.S. B.Ed. 9873255806

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PROPERTY

NORTH DELHI

ROHINI Properties
8826452499

BEST INVESTMENT Option Sec 24, 33, 36, 37, 38 Availability of Plots in Rohini. DDA Liaison Freehold of Plots. 8826452499, 8447259739

ROHINI Properties
9873409999

ROHINI SALE/ Purchase Plots Allotted by DDA Sector-1 to 38, Liaison/ Collaboration/ New Allotment Investment. 9873409999

WEST DELHI

PUNJABI BAGH West for Sale 2200 Sq. Yards Kothi Only Actual Purchaser Broker Excuse Contact SK Gupta 7303373915

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160YD KOTHI Floor Hsdn Line / 400-3700Yd Civiline / 500-1600Yds B/D-Estate / 200-1250Yd Model Town / Tager Park / Gajwala / 200-900Yd Ashok Vihar & around 987325806

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HIG (100 sqm) 100 sqm 2.5 Side Drawing + 3 Bed + Toilet + Lift + Parking H.No.125 Pk-16 Sec-20, Rohini. Loan Avail 90 Lac-UGR, 85 Lac-FF, 82 Lac-SF, 10-11 TF, park facility 9811134984, 9650045100

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99117-14666

PLOTS HI Plots Yamuna Ex-way Residential & Industrial Authority Commercial Land. Corporate Plot Sec-17, 18, 20, 220, 292, 32, 33 Call :- 991174666, 9982356604

NOIDA SECTOR 36 old built up house 232 mtr corner 18mtr road & block Contact: 9871800565/ 9717718658

RESIDENTIAL PLOT 765sqmtrs, cc, CHI-03 Greater Noida, Expressway/Green belt facing. Contact: 9818077228

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DESIGNER KOTHI North East 173mtr, Duplex, Sector-26, GF, 1 BR, DD, Kit, FF, 1 BR, Balcony, Lobby, SF, 1 BR, Balcony, lobby, Lift upto terrace. 9500603000

NOIDA SECTOR 108 plot size 250 mtr green belt back near park, completion, O.T.L paid, Financier deal. Contact 977718658

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DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL Plot in Kapurbur, Nehrugar, Faridabad for Sale. 1750 sq. yds. 9810623055, 9200248752

LUXURY BUILDER floor on 510sq yds (24 mtr Rd) North facing sec 46, Faridabad constructed as per vastu. tastefully built ready possession. 981077668, 9810782700

MUSSOORIE

PLOTS FOR SALE (5000 per sq yard) near Kemply Fall Mussoorie & Airport Road Dehradun. Contact: 7895388446

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5* HOTEL APPROVED LAND ON G.T. ROAD
9811041546

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FOR SALE Resort in Kasauli HP (Kanda road) with 20 Deluxe Suites on 5.16 Bha. (4850 sqm) of Land. High-quality Construction in scenic area. Company Sale # 9582796861

SOLAN SALE 2BHK Flat, Fully Furnished, Servant Quarter, Parking Bagicha (Land) Near Degree College. Contact Owner Mr. Vinod Gupta: 98104-46014, 98102-01642

DWARKA
PREMIUM 2 bhk floor in Sector 28 Dwarka. Only 5 mins drive from Exhibition Ground Pragati maidan and metro station. Contact 7735500005

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
INDUSTRIAL PLOT & Building for Sale in HP Prime Location. Situated in Industrial Area Solan. Total Land Area 2400 Sqm. and Built Up Area Three Stories 25068 sq Ft, 25% Central Govt Subsidy on Plant & Machinery and GST Exemption Etc for New Unit Contact: 9816500065 Email- Sharma.gaurav01@yahoo.com

HOTEL/RESTAURANT/RESORTS
4BHK + SERVANT Quarter high rise Flat 16th Floor 2070 sqft. with great view available on Rent in Amrapali Terrace Homes Noida Extension. Whatsapp 952744869

NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA
4BHK + SERVANT Quarter high rise Flat 16th Floor 2070 sqft. with great view available on Rent in Amrapali Terrace Homes Noida Extension. Whatsapp 952744869

TOILET
WEST DELHI

SPACE AVAILABLE for Rent in Mayapuri Ph-1, Comm. Complex, 1024 sqft Each Floor, G.F., FF., SF & TF. Respectly Three Side Open Bldg/Ample Parking Space. Call 9811335999, 9911799999

GURUGRAM
FOR RENT Centrally a/c, fully furnished, Commercial building, Still, main road, Defence Colony, Suitable for Corporates / MNC. Contact 925055 5544, 989155 5544

CALIS ANAND Nicketan 3rd floor & more 1/2nd flr with lift @Lala Diwan Chand Memorial Hosp. Sec-77, Faridabad. For medical nursing / educ. centre or any other activities with full or partly social purpose. Interested mail contact: 9999843077. Email with details: diwanchandfl37@gmail.com

OFFICE SPACE Available for Lease / Rent in DLF South Court Mall Saket. Area 880 sq ft. Fully furnished with full Prime. Prime Location. Contact: 9810109682

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE
HAUZ KHAS E-Block Market
Ground Floor 1800 Sq.Feet

SOUTH DELHI
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RENT/LEASE About 1100 Sqft. & more 1/2nd flr with lift @Lala Diwan Chand Memorial Hosp. Sec-77, Faridabad. For medical nursing / educ. centre or any other activities with full or partly social purpose. Interested mail contact: 9999843077. Email with details: diwanchandfl37@gmail.com

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DLF - SUSHANT LOK
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FOR LEASE
OPERATIONAL FLOOR AT MAGNUM GLOBAL PARK Sector-58, Golf Course Extn Road
5500-9000 SQ.FT (Super Area) on 18th floor
3500-12000 SQ.FT (Super Area) on 19th floor
Owner: 8851540867
HANDSOME BROKERAGE OFFERED TO BROKERS

SHANTI NIKETAN First Floor 4 Bedrooms, Attached Baths, Big D/D, Kitchen, Servant Qtr. wide road, Ready To Be Occupied. # Dogra 9811087358, 9811764082

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E-BLOCK East of Kailash, 1700 sqft. Corner, Main Road, Ample Parking, Huge visibility, near Metro, for Professionals. Contact: Owner 9811707661, 981087765

GOVINDPURI MAIN ROAD Commercial Space 4000 Sqft for Lease G.F. + UG Floor for Banks/Brands/Insurance/Automobile/Restaurant / Full & Part Avl. Owner 9838659139, 9810002129

RENT/LEASE Area: 2500 sq ft, Ground Floor, East of Kailash, Best suitable for F&B, Retail Store, Grocery, Health Clinic etc. Contact Ankur Gupta: 99587-66999.

FOR SALE - Pre-Rented Properties Tenant : NBFCL (Rent - 3.05 Lacs) Tenant : NBFCL (Rent - 1.10 Lacs) Tenant : Co-Working (Rent - 88,500/-) Cont Owner : 9311227079

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NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA
4BHK + SERVANT Quarter high rise Flat 16th Floor 2070 sqft. with great view available on Rent in Amrapali Terrace Homes Noida Extension. Whatsapp 952744869

INDIA No. 14872952N Sep Palte Amol Jagran, R/o- Villi -Takra, Post- Miteewari, Teh- Mohshi, Distt- Bhandara, Maharashtra - 441012, has changed my name to Anshika Amol Patil. vide affidavit dated 08/03/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

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EMPLOYMENT
GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES
REQUIRED
• Sales Exec.: with Exp. for Valves / Rubber Goods in NCR for Dealer / Project Sales.
• Office Assistant: Male / Female with Exp. & English Proficiency / MS Word.
• Accounts Assistant: with knowledge / Exp. in Excel / Tally / for Billing / E-way Bill etc.

CHANGE OF NAME
IN THE high school certificates of my son Ashish Sharma, my name is mentioned as Ravi Sharma whereas in other documents my name is Ravi Kumar Sharma. Which is right, I should be known by my correct name in future. Ravi Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Banwari Lal Sharma R/O D-168, European State, Kankarkhera Meerut

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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

E-Tender Notice Dt: 07.03.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) Maneri Bhal Stage - Ist, Maneri, Uttarkashi invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:

Tender No :- 30/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24, 31/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24 & 32/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24

Name of work :- (1) Restoration of Bhagirathi river in its original stream and filling of diversion channel at barrage site of Loharinag-Pala HEP (600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.
(2) Filling of desilting chamber and desilting tunnel and plugging of adits at barrage site Dabrani of Loharinag-Pala HEP (600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.
(3) Safe closure of adits, tunnels, surge shaft from Gunga Gagnani to TRC site near Pala of Loharinag-Pala HEP(600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.

Estimated cost : Rs 15,42,77,008.00/(GST Extra), Rs 15,06,78,078.00/(GST Extra) & Rs 15,03,72,598.00/(GST Extra) respectively.
Date of availability of bid document on website: 20.03.2024 from 17:00 hrs
Last Date for submission of bids on website: 18-04-2024 upto 17:00 hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (Civil) MB-I Maneri
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No : JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-35 Approx Cost : 14883472.00

Description of Work : Supply & Executive of AT Weld portions in jurisdiction of ADEN/ HQ-I/JHS

Earnest Money : 224400.00, Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 12 Months., Date of closing Tender : 29.03.2024 at 15:00 hrs. • Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 29.03.2024. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. 395/24(AN)

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

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

E-Tender Notice Dated 07.03.2024

R.O. No. 347

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) Maneri Bhal Stage - Ist, Maneri, Uttarkashi invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below :

Tender No.- 33/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24, 34/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24, 35/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24 & 36/EE(Civil)/MB-I/TN/2023-24

Name of work- (1) Protection works at Barrage site of Loharinag Pala HEP (600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.
(2) Protection works at Dabrani and Gunga Adit site of Loharinag Pala HEP (600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.
(3) Protection works at Surge shaft site of Loharinag Pala HEP (600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.
(4) Protection works at Power house site of Loharinag Pala HEP (600 MW) discontinued in district Uttarkashi.

Estimated cost- Rs. 1,72,87,300.00 (GST Extra), Rs. 1,82,78,105.00 (GST Extra), Rs. 1,77,88,946.00(GST Extra) & Rs. 1,75,56,187.00 (GST Extra) respectively.
Date of availability of bid document on website:- 21-03-2024 from 17:00 hrs.
Last Date for submission of bids on website:- 19-04-2024 upto 17:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>" Executive Engineer (Civil) MB-I Maneri
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT (Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited for filling up following post in National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), National campus, Andhra Pradesh on Deputation (ISTC) basis:

S. No.	Name of the post	No. of posts	Pay Level
1.	Accounts Officer	1	10

The details for the above post and prescribed format of application are available at <https://nidm.gov.in>. The last date to apply is 45 days from publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

CBC 19107/11/0035/2324 Executive Director, NIDM

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03, MACHADOLI, DISTT.- KORBA (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. : 153678/NIT No. : 23/SAC/2023-24, Dated: 06-03-2024

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 27.03.2024 at 17:30 Hour.

Name of Work : TREATMENT OF SPILLWAY OF MINIMATA BANGO DAM MACHADOLI (Block No.-19 to Block No.-30)

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 953.59 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 13-03-2024, at 17:30 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE : All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. Other terms and condition of this tender visit WRD website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> under Live Tender available.

2. It is mandatory for the tenderer to use the certificate issued for Pre Bid Qualification (Valid upto 30.09.2024) in the year 2023 in this tender.
Other terms and condition of this tender visit WRD website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> under Live Tender available.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03, MACHADOLI (C.G.)
G-08400/5

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, महानदी परियोजना जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.) ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट नविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए प्रथम नविदा आमंत्रण दिनांक 26.03.2024 सयं 17:30 तक ऑन लाईन नविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसर है :-

सिस्टम नविदा क्रमांक	नविदा सूचना क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (एस.ओ.आर. दिनांक 01.08.2010 से प्रचलित (यथा संशोधित दिनांक 22.08.2022 तक))
153624	22/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 05.03.2024	पालकोट जलशय्य के दांबी तट नहर के आर.डी. 9480 मी. से आर.डी. 14000 मी. तक नहर लाईनिंग एवं स्ट्रक्चर का मरम्मत / जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	रु. 695.66 लाख
153625	23/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 05.03.2024	पालकोट जलशय्य के दांबी तट नहर के आर.डी. 5430 मी. से आर.डी. 9330 मी. तक नहर लाईनिंग एवं आर.डी. 9330 मी. से 9480 मी. तक ट्रंक निर्माण तथा स्ट्रक्चर का मरम्मत / जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	रु. 729.81 लाख
153626	24/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 05.03.2024	पालकोट जलशय्य के आर.डी.सी. एवं एल.डी.सी. का गेट का मरम्मत कार्य तथा दांबी तट नहर आर.डी. 0 मी. से 3090 मी. तक लाईनिंग एवं स्ट्रक्चर का मरम्मत/ जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	रु. 874.71 लाख
153627	25/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 05.03.2024	पालकोट जलशय्य के दांबी तट नहर के आर.डी. 3360 मी. से आर.डी. 4980 मी. तक नहर लाईनिंग एवं आर.डी. 4980 मी. से 5430 मी. तक ट्रंक निर्माण तथा स्ट्रक्चर का मरम्मत / जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	रु. 947.94 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत नविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट वेब साइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 12.03.2024 सयं 17:31 बजे से देवे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
नोट :- नविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदार को ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीवन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीवन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीवन कराना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
जल संसाधन विभाग, कांकेर
कृते मुख्य अभियंता, महानदी परियोजना
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.
G-08363/4

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर (छ.ग.) ई-प्रोक्वैरमेंट नविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(प्रथम आमंत्रण) श्रद्धि पत्र क्रमांक 01

सिस्टम नविदा क्रमांक 152740/ नविदा सूचना क्रमांक 22/व.ले.लि./2023-24/वेमेतर, दिनांक: 15.02.2024

कार्य का नाम	पूर्व में	संशोधित
वेमेतर जिले के विकासखण्ड बेरला की शिवनाथ नदी पर किरौतपुर चेदवा बाढ़ निवर्ण एवं दोनो ओर पक्की निर्माण कार्य।	(1) सिस्टम नविदा क्रमांक 152740/नविदा सूचना क्रमांक 22/व.ले.लि./2023-24/ वेमेतर, दिनांक 15.02.2024 को राशि रु. 282.38 लाख किरौतपुर चेदवा की जगह किरौतपुर चेदवा पक्का जावे। (राशि रु. 282.38 लाख)	(1) सिस्टम नविदा क्रमांक 152740/नविदा सूचना क्रमांक 22/व.ले.लि./2023-24/ वेमेतर, दिनांक 15.02.2024 में सलया की जगह किरौतपुर चेदवा पक्का जावे। (राशि रु. 282.38 लाख)
(2) नविदा प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि 07.03.2024, 17.30 Hours	(2) नविदा खुलने की तिथि 11.03.2024, 11.30 Hours	(2) नविदा प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि 14.03.2024, 17.30 Hours
(3) नविदा खुलने की तिथि 11.03.2024, 11.30 Hours	(3) नविदा खुलने की तिथि 15.03.2024, 11.30 Hours	

नोट :- नविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(1) विज्ञान क्रमांक 07886/दिनांक 20.02.2024

कार्यालय अभियंता
जल संसाधन विभाग, वेमेतर
जिला वेमेतर (छ.ग.)
कृते मुख्य अभियंता, महानदी गोदावरी कछार
G-08396/5

Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited
CIN - U40102GJ2003SGC042906
Regd. & Corporate Office, Visnagar Road, Mehsana, Gujarat-384001
Toll free No.19121 OR 1800 233 155 335 www.ugvcl.com

Tender Notice:UGVCL/R&C/CGM/123-24/01-Mehsana, Gujarat
Tender ID No.56130.

Tenders are invited for appointment of agency for "Centralized call center management of UGVCL with FRT"
Interested Vendors are requested to locate the same from www.ugvcl.com and <http://ugvcl.nprocure.com> and www.tender.nprocure.com Website.

C.E. (OP), UGVCL, R&C OFFICE, MEHSANA

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER BARIPADA IRRIGATION CIRCLE AT/PO:- TAKATPUR, BARIPADA, DIST.-MAYURBHANJ Mail Id : sbiccbed@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. 19/23-24 of ACE/BIC

1. Name of work	: Bank protection work on Right bank of Mohanty Nalha near Village Kosha under Sulapada Block.
2. Estimated cost	: Rs.2,51,42,225.00
3. Bid Security/E.M.D.	: Rs. 2,51,42,230.00
4. Period of Completion	: 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor	: 'A' & 'B' Class
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: 13.03.2024 at 10:00 AM
7. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	: 28.03.2024 up to 5:00 PM
8. Date of opening of bid	: 30.03.2024 at 11:00 AM.
9. Name & Address of the O.I.T	: Additional Chief Engineer, Baripada Irrigation Circle, AT/PO:- Takatpur, Baripada, Dist.- Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>"

Additional Chief Engineer
Baripada Irrigation Circle, Baripada
OIPR - 321621/110016/2324

Office of Chief General Manager, Construction Wing, UTTARAKHAND Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
3rd Floor Vishveshwarya Bhawan, Kamla Nagar, (Opp. ONGC Hospital), Dehradun-248001
e-mail: cgmnirmanwing@yahoo.com, gmnrmanwing@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

Bid Identification no.- 1165/Nivida (Garhwal) Dehradun/48 Dated: 07-03-2024

S. No.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Period of Completion
1	CONSTRUCTION OF INCUBATION & INNOVATION CENTRE (U-HUB) AT I.T. PARK, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD, DEHRADUN.	Rs.3515.44 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T)	18 Months

Address of Officer Inviting the Bid :-
Office of Chief General Manager Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Third Floor (Opposite ONGC Hospital), Kamla Nagar, Dehradun

3	Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal :-	11/03/2024 - 17.00 Hrs.
4	Pre Bid Meeting	14/03/2024- 12.00 Hrs.
5	Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :-	02/04/2024 - 17.00 Hrs.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://www.uttarkhand.gov.in>"

General Manager (Garhwal)

NOTICE INVITING BID CAD-4502

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar -751 001
Notification No. 1642 Date: 06.03.2024
Tel. : (0674) 2380950, Website : www.osmcl.nic.in, Email : drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2024-25/DRUGS-DHS-ACC-GR-11/02 Date: 07/03/2024
Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Anti Cancer Items (Group-I) as per the particulars mentioned below

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	07/03/2024, 3 PM
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	13/03/2024, up to 5:00 PM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 18/03/2024, 3 PM 10/04/2024, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 11/04/2024, 10 AM 19/04/2024, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	19/04/2024, 11:30 AM
6.	Date of Opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in time to time for any published notice against the tender.

SD/-
Managing Director, OSMCL Ltd., Odisha
OIPR - 10112/11/0056/2324

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B. Colony, Sathyagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2571444 / E-mail - ceowalcoodisha@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) - 51 /2023-24 Dtd.04.03.2024
WATCO No. 1594 Date: 04.03.2024

1. Name of the work	: Sewerage network and pumping stations in newly developed areas of Bhubaneswar City (left out area) on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Contract including Operation & Maintenance for a period of Five years. (12 Packages)
2. Estimated cost	: Rs.5249.00 Lakhs to Rs.6349.00 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion	: 24 (Twenty-Four) Months
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11:00 AM of Dt.28.03.2024 to 5:00 PM of 13.05.2024
5. Last date & time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5:00 PM of 13.05.2024
6. Date & time of opening of technical bids	: 12:30 PM of 17.05.2024
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Chief Executive Officer, WATCO, Telefax- 0674-2571444 E-Mail: ceowalcoodisha@gmail.com

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

(CEO)
WATCO
OIPR - 13194/11/0092/2324

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION POWER HOUSE BHEP-II CHANDERKOTE
Email: xenegenbhepii@gmail.com, Tel/fax- 01998-288052

E-NIT No:- GEN/BHEP-II/20 of 2023 Dated: 04.03.2024

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tender (in two parts) on behalf of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation, are invited for SUPPLY OF ELECTROMECHANICAL SPARES FOR 450 MW (3X150) BAGLIHAR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-II from the registered Electro-mechanical contractors for below mentioned scope of work:

S. No.	Scope of work	Estimated Cost (Including GST) (Rs.)	EMD	Cost of Tender document	Date of opening of Bid
1.	SUPPLY OF ELECTROMECHANICAL SPARES FOR 450 MW (3 X 150 MW) BAGLIHAR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-II	2,18,13,000/-	4,36,260/-	10,000/-	27.03.2024

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.03.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.03.2024
3	Pre bid meeting	11.03.2024
4	Bid submission Start Date	11.03.2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	26.03.2024 at 04.00 PM
6	Date & time of opening of tech Bids (Online)	27.03.2024 at 06.00 PM

- Complete bidding process will be on line.
- Bid must be accompanied by (i) Bid security (EMD), which should be in the shape of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR of any NATIONALISED BANK pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer BHEP Chanderkote & (ii) The cost of the downloaded Tender Document in the form e-challan or Demand Draft (DD) (of J&K Bank or SBI Bank) in favour of Chief Pay & Accounts officer BHEP payable at Chanderkote District Ramban (J&K).
Account No. as 0240010200000002
IFSC code as JAKAACHNDR
Bank: J&K bank Ltd Chanderkote
- The original documents in respect of cost of document, EMD documents etc. Should reach in the Office of Executive Engineer Generation Division, BHEP-II on or before 27.03.2024. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt as specified, the same will be received on the next working day up to 4.00 pm at the same venue. JKSPDC will not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.

No:- GEN/BHEP-II/3005-3012
Dated:- 04.03.2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division
BHEP-II, Chanderkote

DIP-J-5647-P-23

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION POWER HOUSE BHEP-II CHANDERKOTE
Email: xenegenbhepii@gmail.com, Tel / fax: 01998-288052

E-NIT No:- GEN/BHEP-II/17 of 2023 Dated: 04.03.2024

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPCD on Tender basis, are invited for "SUPPLY OF MANDATORY TURBINE, MIV and OTHER ASSOCIATED SPARES" for 450 MW (3X150) BAGLIHAR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-II from the Hydro-Mechanical Contractors / Original Equipment Manufacturers for below mentioned supply:

The Scanned copies of the bids should be uploaded online on www.iktenders.gov.in.

Complete bidding process will be online

S. No.	Scope of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Estimate cost inclusive of all taxes and duties (in RS)	Date of opening of Bid
1.	Supply of Mandatory Turbine, MIV and other associated Spares For 450 MW (3x150) Baglihar Hydro Electric Project Stage-II	Rs. 41,480/-	Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 20,74,000/-	27.03.2024

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.03.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.03.2024
3	Pre bid meeting	11.03.2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	11.03.2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	26.03.2024 at 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of tech Bids (Online)	27.03.2024 at 06.00 PM

Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully before uploading the tender.

- Complete bidding process will be on line.
- Bid must be accompanied by (i) Bid security (EMD), which should be in the shape of Bank Guarantee/CDR/FDR of any NATIONALISED BANK pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer BHEP Chanderkote & (ii) The cost of the downloaded Tender Document in the form e-challan or Demand Draft (DD) (of J&K Bank or SBI Bank) in favour of Chief Pay & Accounts officer BHEP payable at Chanderkote District Ramban (J&K).
Account No. as 0240010200000002
IFSC code as JAKAACHNDR
Bank: J&K bank Ltd Chanderkote
- The original documents in respect of cost of document, EMD documents etc. Should reach in the Office of Executive Engineer Generation Division, BHEP-II on or before 27.03.2024. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt as specified, the same will be received on the next working day up to 4.00 pm at the same venue. JKSPDC will not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.

No:- GEN/BHEP-II/2082-89
Dated:- 04.03.2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division
BHEP-II, Chanderkote

DIP-J-5649-P-23

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
No. SB/Store/2024-25 (53), Bhopal, Dated 16-02-2024

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> :-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	L.I. Monitoring & Analysis System	01	10,000/-	12,00,000/-	2 nd Tender

1. 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/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website : <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. Tender Schedule :

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries- through e-mail : sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	26/02/2024 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	27/02/2024 at 1100 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	04/03/2024 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	11/03/2024 up to 1600 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	12/03/2024 up to 1600 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	14-15/03/2024 at 1100 hrs.

A.I.G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel.No. 0755-2443654
G-25700/23

HAVE FUN WITH FACTS ON SUNDAYS

Catch the latest column of

TWTW THE WEEK THAT WAS

A quiz on the week's development.

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B. Colony, Sathyagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2571444 / E-mail - ceowalcoodisha@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) - 51 /2023-24 Dtd.04.03.2024
WATCO No. 1594 Date: 04.03.2024

1. Name of the work	: Sewerage network and pumping stations in newly developed areas of Bhubaneswar City (left out area) on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Contract including Operation & Maintenance for a period of Five years. (12 Packages)
2. Estimated cost	: Rs.5249.00 Lakhs to Rs.6349.00 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion	: 24 (Twenty-Four) Months
4. Date & time of availability	