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Indian company to execute power project in Sri Lanka





Paltan defeat Steelers for PKL-10 title

# 10 injured in blast at Bengaluru eatery

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All injured out of danger; an explosive material, yet to be identified, was packed in a bag and left at the restaurant by a customer, say police

en people were in-jured in a low-in-tensity bomb blast The Rameshwaram at The Rameshwaram Cafe, a popular restaurant in Brookefield in Bengaluru's Information Technolo gy corridor on Friday after-noon. All the injured are said to be out of danger.

Police said the blast had Police said the blast had been caused by an Impro-vised Explosive Device (IED), which seemed to have been left at the restau-rant by a customer. The blast occurred during the busy lunch hour, shocking customers and others in the vicinity with an ear-shattering explosion, fol-lowed by smoke engulfing lowed by smoke engulfing the area. The quick-service eatery had over 200 pa-trons when the blast oc-

curred, sources said. Karnataka Chief Minis-



Siddaramaiah ter Siddaramaiah con-firmed that an IED had been used in the blast. Se-nior police officials said an explosive material, yet to be identified, was packed with nuts and bolts in a bag with a timer device, which has been recovered

has been recovered.
The IED went off exactly
at 12.55.32, as the CCTV
footage shows. The footage also shows another explo-sion, five seconds later. However, police said that a single IED had been plant-ed there. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who visited the spot, said a man aged around 30 years came to the restaurant at around noon, and left the bag near the hand wash area. It exploded nearly an hour later.

# GST collections up 12.54% in February

**English Medium** 

Admissions Open

Top collection

2 GRAPH SHOWS GST REVENUE IN ₹ LAKH CRORE

Vikas Dhoot

India's gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) grew at a three-month high pace of 12.54% in February to cross \$1.68 lakh crore, marking the fourth-highest monthly collections from the tax. February's GST revenue growth reflected the third highest uptick in 2023-24 and lifted the total collections so far this year to \$18.4 lakh crore, 11.7% above the same period last year. India's gross revenues from

year. The gross GST kitty of

₹1,68,337 crore in February was 3.3% lower than Ja-

nuary's updated collection

mary's updated collection numbers of 17,41,06 crore, the second-highest tally since GST was launched in July 2017.

The GST numbers 'demonstrate continued growth momentum and positive performance', the Finance Ministry asserted, noting that collections from domestic transactions rose 13.9%, while goods imports delivered an 8.5% rise in revenues.

PM Narendra Modi on Friday asked why the leaders of the INDIA bloc were silent on the recent developments in Sandeshkhali. He was addressing a public meeting at Arambagh. » Page 9

Sandeshkhali: PM questions silence of INDIA bloc

Political parties express support for Vakeel Hassan

NEW DELHI
Various political parties
and trade unions on Friday
expressed their support for
Uttarkashi tunnel rescuer
Vakeel Hassan, whose house in
Delhi was razed by the DDA in
an anti-encroachment drive an anti-encroachment drive earlier this week. » Page 4

# Set to sparkle



Clay craft: Potters prepare large earthen lamps (diyas) for sale ahead of the Maha Shi

# Himachal remains on the boil as Minister meets rebel Congress MLAs, visits Delhi

Vikas Vasudeva

A day after the Congress's central observers asserted that "all is well" within the party's Himachal Pradesh unit, it appears the crisis could be far from over with Cabinet Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Friday rushing to New Delhi, seeking a dialogue with the par-ty "high command".

'Get act together'
Mr. Vikramaditya's move
came even as Pratibha
Singh, the State Congress
chief and his mother, indicated that the Congress
needs to get its act together
ahead of the Lok Sabha
election. He also met the
rebel Congress MLAs in
Haryana on Friday. As per
his official programme, he his official programme, he is slated to meet Union Mi-



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu addressing the media after a eting with Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania in Shimla on Friday, PTI

nister for Road Transport

nister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadka-ri on Saturday as part of his two-day visit to the nation-al capital. The political turmoil in Himachal Pradesh started when six Congress legisla-tors cross-voted in favour of the BJP in the Rajya Sab-ha elections on February 27. They were later disqual-ified from the Assembly by

Speaker Kuldeep Singh

Pathania.
After the cross-voting.
Mr. Vikramaditya announced – and then took
back – his resignation,
bringing the leadership
tussle in the State Congress
unit to the fore.
On Thursday, the party
asserted that differences
had been resolved and the
government would com-

plete its tenure. However, a day after the assurances, a meeting of Mr. Vikramadi-tya with some of the dis-qualified Congress MLAs in Haryana's Panchkula at a private hotel on Friday was being keenly watched. The presence of Harya-

The presence of Harya-na Chief Minister Manohar Lal's publicity adviser, Ta-run Bhandari, with Mr. Vik

run Bhandari, with Mr. Visramaditya too raised eyebrows. Mr. Visramaditya later went to Delhi, where he was expected to meet the party's central leadership. In Shimla, Ms. Singh acknowledged that at the moment, the BJP is better placed than the Congress in terms of poll preparedness. She also expressed support for the six disqualified Congress MLAs, pointing out that they would have been hurt.

# Delhi's economy growing despite roadblocks. savs Atishi

The Hindu Bureau

Finance Minister Atishi on Friday said Delhi's econo-my has grown at a strong pace in the past year des-pite the "roadblocks created by the Centre and the L-G" in the functioning of

L-G" in the functioning of the AAP government. Tabling the Economic Survey for 2023-24 in the Delhi Assembly, she said the data show Delhi's per capita income registering a growth of 5.69% over the previous year.

# RJD MLA joins NDA, taking 'defections' from Oppn. alliance to 7 since trust vote in Bihar

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) faced another jolt in Bihar on Friday with its Bhabhua legislator Bharat Bind changing sides and sitting with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MLAs on the last day of the

Assembly session.

With this, a total of seven MLAs of the RJD-led Opposition

Mahagath-Opposition Mahagath-bandhan (Grand Alliance) bandhan (Grand Alliance) have switched sides so far, including five from the RJD and two from the Con-gress. The RJD's numbers have now come down to 74 MLAs from 79, and the

Congress has 17 MLAs left in the 243-seat Assembly. Mr. Bind's 'defection' comes on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the State on March 2, when he is due to ad-dress two public meetings in Auranzabad and Regusain Aurangabad and Begusarai districts. Three RJD MLAs – Che-

tan Anand, Neelam Devi, and Prahalad Yadav – switched sides on Febru-ary 12, the day of the trust ary L2, the day of the trust vote for the new Janata Dal (United)-BJP government. On February 27, two Con-gress MLAs, Murari Gau-tam and Siddharth Sau-rabh, along with RJD MLA Sangita Kumari, had refused to sit in their allotted seats in the Assembly and sat alongside NDA MLAs.

Crucial desertions
Three of the defections are
especially significant in the
run-up to the Lok Sabha
election. Mr. Gautam represents the Chenari Assembly seat, Ms. Kumari represents Mohania, and Mr. Bind was elected from Bhabhua; all three seats fall under the Sasaram Lok Sabha constituency, presently represented by the BJP's Chhedi Paswan.

Mr. Bind, from the Extremely Backward Class, contested the 2015 Assembly election on a Bahurepresents Mohania, and

jan Samaj Party ticket, but faced defeat. Ahead of the 2020 poll, he joined the RJD. Asked about changing sides again, Mr. Bind said he was impressed with the work of the BJP. Soon after this develop-ment, another Congress

ment, another Congress MLA Neetu Singh, who re-presents the Hisua Assembly seat in Nawada dis-trict, said she would switch sides too for the price of a Lok Sabha ticket. "If the Lok Sabha ticket. "If the BJP gives me a ticket from Nawada, I will surely go with them. I have asked for a ticket from the Congress as well, but the party is al-ways giving tickets to out-siders," Ms. Singh said.

# Released after 5 years from U.P. jail, Kashmiri scribe Asif Sultan 're-arrested' in another case

The Hindu Bureau

Kashmiri journalist Asif Sultan, who was released after more than five years earlier this week, has re-portedly been re-arrested by the J&K police in a sepa-rate case in Sringar rate case in Srinagar.

The police have neither denied nor confirmed the move to re-arrest him.

Mr. Sultan, who worked as assistant editor with the magazine Kashmir Narra-tor, was released from the Ambedkar Nagar jail in Ut-tar Pradesh 78 days after

the J&K High Court quashed his detention un-der the Public Safety Act, which allows detention without trial for up to two years, terming it "illegal". The journalist had reached home on Thurs-day after his release on Tuesday, people close to

day after his release on Tuesday, people close to him said. He was, however, first summoned by the Ba-tamaloo police station in Srinagar on the same day and later shifted to the Rainawari police station, where he was re-arrested

The details of the case

could not be ascertained immediately. When contacted, the police officers refused to comment on it. Sources, however, said Mr. Sultan was re-arrested in a case related to "unlaw-ful activities" registered by the police. He was named as an accused in the case, they added. Jailed in 2018, Mr. Sultan

Tailed in 2018. Mr. Sultan faces several charges un-der sections of the Unlaw ful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Ranbir Penal Code. He was accused of "providing logistical sup-port" to militants.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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O.S.NO: 27/2021

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Notice Notice
The above Case O.S. NO:
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efendant Anju jain, for the
reliminary Decree for
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8.03.2024 for the Appearance
4 Defendant is hereby
squired to Appear personally
through because I on r through her counsel on 8.03.2024 at 10.00 AM to epresent, failing which the ase will be decided against

A. MUTHUMANI BA.B.L., Mobile: 99528 70236 Advocate, M/s No. 3147/2010 5-22-1/4, V.P. Complex, Palayampatti.

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDI DISTRICT JUDGE OF VIRUDHUNAGAR

O.S.NO: 27/2021

Notice

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The above Case O.S NO:
27/2021 filed against 5
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# ABVP, Left-backed groups clash at JNU; admin. promises strict action

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Students from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Par-ishad (ABVP) and the Left-backed students' group clashed at Jawaharlal Nehru University late on Thursday night. Students from both sides claimed to have sustained inju-

claimed to have sustained inju-ries and filed complaints against each other at the Vasant Kunj police station.

The incident happened dur-ing a general body meeting of students at the School of Lan-guages called to elect members for an election committee to

for an election committee to conduct the JNU Students' Un-conduct the JNU Students' Un-JNUSU joint secretary Mo-hammad Danish, who was pre-siding over the meeting along with JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, claimed that members of the ABVP threatened him and held him hostage during the meeting.

the meeting.
In a statement released on

Friday, the Left-backed All In-

Friday, the Left-backed All India Students' ASSOciation (AI-SA) said the ABVP members had come to the School of Languages to disrupt the meeting. The ABVP, meanwhile, accused the students of the Left groups of foul play in electing the candidates of the election committee.

The university college administration said an investigation had been ordered into the incident and that strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty. found guilty.

### TO ADVERTISE HC raps MCD over delayed payments PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

THE MARK HINDU

Press Trust of India

The High Court pulled up the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday over delayed payment of salaries to its em-ployees as well as the civic body's failure in implementing recom-

mendations of the Seventh Pay

mendations of the Seventh Pay Commission.

The court cautioned that it would direct the dissolution of the civic body if it does not make itself financially viable.

"If you cannot pay salaries, what development will you do," it asked the MCD.



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# Delhi economy growing at strong pace despite Centre's roadblocks, says Atishi

Finance Minister says AAP government will not stop making life better for Delhiites; targeting L-G even in Economic Survey speech unfortunate: BJP; Delhi Budget to be presented on March 4

abling the Economic Survey for 2023-24 in the Assembly Finance Minister Atishi on Friday said Delhi's econo-my has grown at a strong pace in the past year des-pite the "roadblocks" created by the Central govern-ment and the

ment and the Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena in the functioning of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

The survey shows that Delhi's per capita income at constant prices – which adjusts for the effects of inflation – during 2023-24 is estimated to reach 27,37,687, registering a growth of timated to reach ₹2,73,687, registering a growth of 5,69% over the previous year's ₹2,58,941 in 2022-23 and up from ₹2,44,024 in 2021-22. According to the advance estimate, Delhi's gross state domestic product (GSDP) at constant prices during 2023-24 is likely to be ₹6,72,247 crore, showing a growth of 7.39% likely to be ₹6,72,247 crore, showing a growth of 7.39% over 2022-23. According to the survey, Delhi's GSDP contracted 8.96% in 2020-21 – the first full year under the pandemic – but grew 8.76% in 2021-22 and 7.85% in 2022-23.

Consistent pace

Delhi 2023-24, during the Bu Session of Delhi Assembly.

"The L-G has written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejri-wal on several occasions saying that this government has not been working effi-ciently. However, the Eco-pomic Survey is pure data nomic Survey is pure data and data does not lie. It shows that Delhi's economy is growing at a record pace despite roadblocks and the despite roadblocks and the AAP government will not stop making life better for Delhiites. We will not bow down to attempts to stop us from functioning efficient-ly," Ms. Atishi said while taly," Ms. Atishi said while ta-bling the survey. The bud-get, which has been delayed this year by a fort-night, will be presented on March 4, she said. Ms. Atishi also said that

despite offering free elec-tricity and water, free bus rides for women and a pil-grimage scheme for senior citizens, among other ser-vices, Delhi is the only revenue-surplus State in the country. "In 2021-22, Delhi recorded a revenue surplus of ₹3,270 crore, which increased to ₹14,457 crore in 2022-23. Delhi's tax collec-2022-23. Delhi's tax collection has registered a growth of 18% during 2022-23," she said. She added that inflation in Delhi was 2.81% during January-December 2023, while the national inflation was 5.65%. Speaking about jobs, which was the highlight of the AAP's Rozgar Budger presented in 2022-23, Ms. Atishi said the unemployment rate was 6.3% in 2020-21 but de-creased to 1.9% in 2022-23 due to the government's ef-forts to boost the economy.

Jugglery of numbers Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri described the sur-vey as mere jugglery of numbers. "Delhi's per capi-tai neome has always been high because it is the na-tional capital," he said, ad-ding that while the 'Delhi education model? is a sham, water supply is at its worst. "It is extremely un-fortunate that Atishi has targeted the L-G even in the Economic Survey speech," Mr. Bidhuri said. Bidhuri described the sur

# Senior-level students' pass percentage dips post-2021

Press Trust of India

The learning outcomes of students from Classes 3 to 10 in all subjects in Delhi schools hovered between 30% and 50% in 2021, even as the performance was above the national average for many classes, according to the Delhi Economic Survey 2023-24.

Survey 2023-24. The report stated that the pass percentage of stu-dents at senior and senior

dents at senior and senior secondary levels has dropped in Delhi government schools since 2021. The survey also showed a downward trend in the intake capacity of technical and professional courses in the State-run colleges and universities in 2023-24 compared to last year. It also showed that the proficiency of the city's students was the highest in English, ranging from 52% to 85%, while it was the lowest in Mathematics, between 35% and 47% across classes. The total intake capaci-

The total intake capacity in such courses has mar-ginally declined from ginally declined from 20,069 in 2022-23 to 19,293 in 2023-24, it added.



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# DDA to undertake redevelopment of 3 parks under ASI's supervision

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will redevelop three parks in the city under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), according to a statement issued by Raj

Niwas on Friday.

"In line with Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena's efforts to convert the Capital into a 'City of Heritage', the DDA will now be undertak-ing the work of conserva-tion, restoration, rejuvena-tion and redevelopment of the Mehrauli Archaeologi cal Park, Sanjay Van and Shalimar Bagh, at its own cost, under the overall su-pervision of ASI," the state-

ment read. ment read.

The three parks have several ASI-protected monuments, which were lying in a state of neglect. A memorandum of under-standing (MoU) will be signed between the DDA and the ASI within the next one week, it said.

### Red Fort parks

The Union Ministry of Cul ture has also handed over parks behind the Red Fort and the Walled City to the DDA for rejuvenation and redevelopment.

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ı	4	SENIOR MANAGER - HR	1	
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Ph 2A- A1 A1: ctural Finishing and Public Health ering Works for 6 Elevated Stations entral Silk Board, HSR layout, Agara, Bellandur, and Kadubeesanahalli, se 2A line of Bangalore Metro Rai INR 69.55 Crores No: BMRCL Phase-2A / Arch Works-RT01/ 2024/ 106 INR 59,00 10,00 Hrs. to 15,00 Hrs. (IST) Ph 2A-A2: Architectural Finishing and Public Health Engineering Works for 7 Elevated Stations viz., Kodibeesanahalli, Marathahalli, ISRO Doddanekundi, DRDO sports complex Saraswathi Nagar and K R Puram in Phase INR 79.12 Crores

02.03.2024

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A) Re-Tender Work

,,,,,			
S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	31/DGM/ SM(WC-4)/ ET/2023-24	M/o Drain (Reconstruction of Box Culvert at A-173, H-185 and near Commercial Market H-Block sector-63), Noida.	81.51
2	07/SM (WC-8)/ ET/2023-24	M/o Village (P/L Pavement and Refixing of Jaal and R/o drain in Shri Sai Baba Colony in Salarpur), Noida.	32.88
3	44/DGM/ SM(WC-10)/ ET/2023-24	D/o Sector-155, 156, 157 & 159 (Re-Painting on Central Verge, footpath, repair of footpath & Laying of cover between road Sector-155 & Sector-156) Noida.	55.32
4	48/DGM/ SM(WC-7)/ ET/2023-24	D/o Sector-84, 85, 86 & 87 (Remodeling of footpath in sector-85), Noida.	50.20
5	50/DGM/ SM(WC-7)/ ET/2023-24	Strengthening of road (P/L DBM and BC on Internal roads of Transport Nagar Block-A and B in sector-88), Noida.	81.98
6	62/DGM/ SM(WC-7)/ ET/2023-24	M/o Road (C/o Drain and footpath in front of A-08, Sector-87), Noida.	36.53

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# Government of Jharkhand

GOVERNMENT OF BRAINING
RUTAL WORKS DEPARTMENT
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)

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(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re-e-Tender No.- 350/2023-24 Dated: 29.02.2024

PR no- 316088 Dated 13.01.2024 (3<sup>rd</sup> Call)

I. N. II. - 3.1005. Dated 1.5.01.2024 (3° Call)

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Hudshand invisic isom the bids through e-Procurement from
the eligible bidden registered\* in appropriate class with any StateCentral Government State. Central
Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes
shall be displayed in the website propsytenderspitagov in of Pradham Mantri Gram Sadak Yojina (PMGSV-1).
The bid should be submitted online in the website propsytenderspitagovin. The bidders should
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No.	District/ Block Repackage Road Name		Length (in M)	Cons. Cost (in Lakh)	Maint. cost (in Lakh)	Total (in Lakh)	E/M (in Lakh)	Time Completion	
1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8
1 Palamur Hariharganj JH17JB008 Remaining work of Const. Of Bridge over Batane River on Arauwa to Turi Road		74.84	134.15	2.87	137.02	2.74	06 months		

12.03.2024 12.03.2024

Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding

Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.

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Bid Security and the statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.

Bid Security and the statement/document which hid is lable to be rigeleted. Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of Gol/Gol (including) SRRAD) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.

Bid submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in recention of earlier allated construction minatenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected aummantly.

Participating bidders are free to submit givenance, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at Ja-becopressyncia-in. Girevance submitted after stipulated and Siccellaneous Provisions Act 1925 failing which the bid shall be rejected.

Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fand organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions. At 1925 failing which the bidders.

Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fand organiz

PR 320965 Rural Work Department(23-24)D

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in websi mgsytendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

# **INBRIEF**



### Priyanka Gandhi targets BJP over question paper leak

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday targeted the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh over the question paper leak in the Class 12 mathematics and biology board examinations, accusing the saffron party of hollowing out the foundational education of crores of children while saving the examination mafia and corrupt entitites. "Under BJP rule, from job exams to board exams, almost every paper is getting leaked," she said in a post on X.

### Five arrested in connection with Haldwani violence

The Uttarakhand Police on Friday arrested five women, including a 50-year-old, on charges of rioting in connection with the recent Haldwani violence in the town's Banbhoolpura area on February 8. The violence, which erupted during the demolition of an allegedly illegally built mosque and madrasa as part of an anti-encroachment drive, left five persons dead and over 100 injured.

### VBA ready to contest 46 seats, says Prakash Ambedkar

Varchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar on Friday expressed confidence that his party could independently secure at least six Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in the upcoming polls, and that it was ready to field 46 candidates if the alliance with the Opposition's Maha Vika Aghadi didn't materialise. He added that MVA constituents Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress were experiencing "tensions" over seat-sharine. experiencing "tensions" over seat-sharing

# JMM-Cong. govt. stands for 'jam kar ke khao', says PM at Dhanbad rally

They have looted the people of Jharkhand and created mountains of unaccounted assets for themselves, says Modi accusing both parties of promoting nepotism, politics of appeasement

Amit Bhelari PATNA

ccusing the ruling dispensation in Jharkhand of corruption, Prime Minister endra Modi on Friday called the Jharkhand Mukti

called the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress combine "anti-poor" and "anti-devolopment", and said it believed in the "pol-itics of nepotism and appeasement". Speaking at a rally in Dhanbad's Sindri village as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prepares for the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Modi said he could hear cries of "Abki baar, 400 paar (This "Abki baar, 400 paar (This time, above 400)" wherev-

er he went.
"The only motive of the BJP is fast development. However, the Congress and its allies are the biggest enemies of development. nes anies are the orgest enemies of development. The JMM-Congress combine stands for 'jam kar ke khao (eat until you are full). They have looted the people of Jharkhand and created mountains of unaccounted assets for themselves," he alleged.

The PM also alluded to the seizure of cash and gold worth nearly 4350 crore last year from the premises of Congress Rajya Sabha member from Jhark-



hand Dhiraj Sahu, saying he had "never seen such a huge amount of money in

my entire life".

Mr. Sahu reportedly revised his income tax returns to explain the seized income and paid taxes on some of the assets.

some of the assets.

"I had seen mountains of coal, but never such mountains of currency notes. This money belongs to the poor tribals of Jharkhand. Would you accept if anyone takes your money? There should be strict action against such people and the looted money has to be returned," Mr. Modi told the gathering.
Sharing the stage with

Sharing the stage with Union Minister of Tribal Af-fairs Arjun Munda, BJP

di, and other party lead-ers, Mr. Modi accused the JMM-Congress combine of using the people of the State as vote banks.

'Modi's guarantee "The JMM is run by one fa-mily. They think about their own children, not their own children, not your children. The future of your children is my guarantee and the country trusts in Modi's guarantee. The JMM and the Congress are anti-development and anti-people. The more they throw mud on us, the more the lotus (the BJP's symbol) will bloom, "he added.

The PM also listed various development works undertaken in the State by

the BJP-led Centre, includ-ing the airport and an AI-

IMS in Deoghar. "Hundred percent elec trification of railways has been done and three Vande Bharat trains have been given to Jharkhand,

Taking a jibe at former Chief Minister Hemant So-Chief Minister Hemant So-ren, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directo-rate in January in an al-leged land scam, Mr. Modi asked the crowd to raise the slogan 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' so loudly that it is heard even by those in jail.

Projects inaugurated Earlier in the day, the PM inaugurated projects worth nearly ₹36,000 crore in the State, including the regions of Science in the State. ing the revived Sindri fertilizer plant. Monitored by Hindustan Urvarak and Ra-sayan Limited, the plant is expected to produce around 12.7 lakh tonnes of

around 12.7 lakh tonnes of urea per annum.

"I had guaranteed to start the plant, and today that guarantee has been fulfilled," Mr. Modi said.

He also flagged off the Deoghar-Dibrugarh train service, a long-haul freight train from Shipupt station, and a MEMU train service between Tatanagar and Badampahar on a daily basis.

# Assam braces for anti-CAA protests

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

Assam is set to face another round of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019, with a conglomerate of 16 political parties and about 30 NGOs announcing a series of aditations.

ing a series of agitations. The anti-CAA p grammes are scheduled to starm with a motorcycle rally in every district, followed by the burning of the CAA rules after they are notified. The NGOs headed by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) will also observe a 12-hour hunger strike on March 9 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the State.

The 16-party United Opposition Forum (UOF), headed by Congress, has threatened a mass agitation against the law. "Assam is already burdened with lakhs of foreigners. We cannot take any more. start with a motorcycle ral

We cannot take any more We shall seek an appoint ment with the Prime Minis ter to discuss the issue. We will protest if the Centre is insistent on pushing the CAA," State Congress presi-dent Bhupen Kumar Borah said

said.
"The Assamese people will never accept the CAA and we will continue our democratic and legal fight against the Centre's bid to impose it on us," AASU president Utpal Sarma said on Thursday, slamming Home Minister Amit Shah for announcing that the for announcing that the rules of the CAA would be



UOF leaders submitted a andum against the CAA to the Governor . AN

implementation

implementation.

The Assam government has warned the anti-CAA groups against imposing shutdowns and damaging public property. Referring to a Gauhait High Court order on bandhs, State Director General of Police GP. Singh said the State sustained a loss of \$2,643 crore from a day of bandh. The loss would be recovered from those who call bandhs, he said.

Chief Minister Himanta

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said anti-CAA protests would be irrele-vant as Parliament had vant as Parliament had passed the law. "People have the right to like or dis-like the CAA but they should ideally approach the Supreme Court which has the authority to termi-nate legislation," he said.

nate legislation," he said.
The CAA seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindu, Jain, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, and Parsi people who came to India from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan on or hefore December 31, 2014 before December 31, 2014, after five years of living in the country.

# <sub>+</sub> Support pours in for Hassan as he continues protest near razed home

Various political parties and trade unions on Friday expressed their support for Vakeel Hassan, whose house was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in an antiencroachment drive ear-lier this week. Mr. Hassan, a resident of Delhi, was part of the rescue team that brought out 41 work-

hat brought out 41 workers from the collapsed tun-nel in Uttarkshi last year.

AAP MLAs Akhilesh Tri-pathi and Rajendra Pal Gautam raised the matter in the Delhi Assembly and sought the intervention of the Lieutenant-Governor.

"The poor build their homes painstakingly with their hard-earned money. For years, these authorities do not act, then suddenly, one day, they destroy the



AARANGEMENT houses without notice.'

Mr. Gautam said.

Mr. Gautan said.
Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely also
lashed out at the Central
government.
"Vakeel Hassan's house
was demolished despite
the Centre passing a law
last year that prohibited
demolitions in unauthorised colonies for the next
three years," Mr. Lovely

said.
A CPI(M) delegation led by Brinda Karat met Mr. Hassan and his family on Friday. A statement re-leased by the party later during the day termed the demolition "an example of the DDA's callousness and corruntion".

corruption". In a joint statement, several Central trade unions, including INTUC, AITUC, HMS, and CITU, said reducing Mr. Hassan's house to rubble was "an inhu-man, vindictive action of the Centre".

Protest continues
Meanwhile, sitting with his
family members in protest
near the remains of his demolished house for the second consecutive day, Mr.
Hassan said, "I am not asking for much. I am only
asking the authorities to return my property." turn my property.

# AIADMK leader dares | In major victory for labourers, Modi to field Nirmala, Jaishankar from T.N.

Senior AIADMK function-ary K.P. Munusamy on Fri-day dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prove his claim of the BJP's "soaring popularity" in Tamil Nadu by fielding Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who hail from the State, in any of its two Lok Sabha constituencies.

constituencies.
Addressing a public
meeting in Shoolagiri village, he said, "If you [Mr.
Modi] are so popular, why
did you not field Union Minister of State I. Murugan?
Why did you give him a Rajya Sabha seat (from Madhya Pradesh) instead? You
claim that your party has

grown in stature and popularity on our Dravidian soil. You have two Union Ministers from this State. Field them in any two con-situencies of Tamil Nadu. If you have the courage, bring them here. Then you will know who is popular."

bring them here. Then you will know who is popular."
Mr. Munusamy, the AlADMK deputy general secretary, also challenged Mr. Modi and BJP State president K. Annamalai's claim of their party's "rising stature". "They keep harping on about 300 seats, 400 seats. how many seats will you get here in Tamil Nadag's.

harping on about 300 seats, 400 seats. how many seats will you get here in Tamil Nadu?" He added that the ruling DMK was his party's only competitor in the State, and that the BJP was going to lose its deposit in all the constituencies it contests.

# Rajasthan extends urban jobs scheme to new municipal bodies

The Hindu Bureau

In a big win for the villagers who lost employment on who lost employment op-portunities after the con-version of village pan-chayats into urban local bodies, the BJP govern-ment in Rajasthan has agreed to launch the urban

agreed to launch the urban employment guarantee scheme in 42 newly created Municipal Councils. The decision came over the week-end after a monthlong agitation at 8him in Rajsamand district. The Local Self Government Department has issued orders for starting the guaranteed employment works in the new Municipal Councils, situated in 27 districts, by designating the nearest urban bodies

Villagers had lost out on employment after village panchayats were converted to urban local bodies

as the in-charge for the task. The regular posts of officials for operating the scheme in the newly constituted municipal areas are yet to be created.

The works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gua-rantee Scheme were stopped in the village pan-chayats converted into ur-ban local bodies in July last year, posing a major chal-lenge to the villagers who depended on the scheme for their livelihood. As the demand for restarting the works went unheeded even after the change of go-vernment in the State, the villagers started an indefi-nite strike at Bhim in January-end. The Devdungri village in Bhim tehsil, where the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti San-gathan's (MKSS) headquar-ters are situated. is also

ters are situated, is also known as the centre stage of the movement for right to information, which led to the enactment of the RTI Act in 2005

Act in 2005.

MKSS executive president and RTI activist Shankar Singh said the agitation was aimed at securing the right to work as a guarantee. "We will continue to hold government officials accountable for equitable distribution of work," he said.

# Unrestrained poaching plays big role in decline of Odisha's leopards | Cong. disrupts Assembly

# Satvasundar Barik

Odisha has witnessed a Odisha has witnessed a sharp decline in its leopard population – approximate-ly one-fourth lost – prima-rily due to poaching bet-ween 2018 and 2022. The 'Status of Leopards India' report released on Thursday presented a dis-mal picture of the big cat population in the State.

population in the State

"The leopard popula-tion in Odisha is estimated at 568. The population has significantly declined since the last countrywide esti-mate of 760. However, leomate of 760. However, leo-pard densities from both the tiger reserves in the State have increased signif-icantly. This indicates that major efforts of recovery are restricted to tiger reserves," said the leon

serves," said the leopard census. The drop of 1921-eopards is estimated to be 52.26% of the population. The report added that leopard occupancy has been reported exclusively within protected areas such as Similipal and Sat-kosia tiger reserves, Hira-kud and Kotagarh wildlife sanctuaries, and their ad-joining forest divisions. "Leopard occupancy of

"Leopard occupancy has declined from the prehas declined from the pre-viously occupied regions. Leopard presence was not recorded from Nayagarh and Ghumsur forest divi-sions in this cycle of coun-trywide monitoring," it observed. trywide observed.

Widespread poaching According to the report, the biggest threats to the



police last year. FILE PHOTO

dwindling leopard popula-tion are poaching of prey for bush meat, targeted poaching for tiger and leo-pard skins and body parts, and habitat loss due to mining and other human activities. Road accidents,

The high number of leo-The high number of leo-pard skins seized by both the Odisha police and the State Forest and Environ-ment Department indi-cates how poaching re-mains the prime cause behind the disappearance of leopards in the State.

As per the information furnished by the Forest Department in the State Assembly, as many as 59 leopard skins were seized from wildlife smugglers between 2018 and 2023. Smillarly, the Special Task Force (STF) of the State police recovered 57 leopard skins from poachers and wildlife article dealers between 2019 and 2024. Put together, 116 leopards were killed for their skins. Wildlife experts added that Wildlife experts added that in dozens of cases, leopard skins might have reached their destinations unnoticed and unintercepted.

'Need for State action' "The State should step up efforts towards effective patrolling, prey recovery, and habitat management

outside tiger reserves, since a major population of the leopards, about 55%, lives outside the protected area network," suggested the census report.

J.N. Pankaj, Inspector-General of the police's STF, said, "After the seizure of leopard skins, we deliberately do not disclose the value of the contraband. As its value is greatly exaggerated by the media, wildlife criminals or locals get encouraged, and look at encouraged, and look at the poaching of leopards as a way of making money"

money."
For Odisha, which has a forest cover of 52,156 sq. km, constituting 33.50% of the State's total area, effective patrolling and law enforcement are especially crucial.

:::

# over farmers' agitation

Press Trust of India

Punjab Governor Banwari-lal Purohit's address to the State Assembly on the opening day of the Budget Session on Friday was dis-rupted by the Opposition's Congress MLAs, who raised the issues of protest-ing farmers and resorted to slogancering.

sloganeering.
As soon as the Governor began his address, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raia Warring raised the farmers' issue, saying that homage should be paid to 21-year-old Shubhpard to 21-year-old Shibli-karan Singh, who died dur-ing clashes between the protesting farmers and Ha-ryana security personnel.

Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa added that Haryama had sealed its borders with Punjab. "You have not been able to protect your farmers," he said. As Congress MLAs insisted that farmers' issue be discussed first, the Governor said, "As per the agenda and custom, I am supposed to deliver my speech, Jouc nar raise any issue."

However, due to the uproar, Mr. Purohit cut short his address, leading State Firance Minister Har-

State Finance Minister Har State Finance Minister Har-pal Singh Cheema to slam the unruly MLAs for "dis-respecting" the House. "To gain cheap publicity, the MLAs boycotted the ad-dress," he said.





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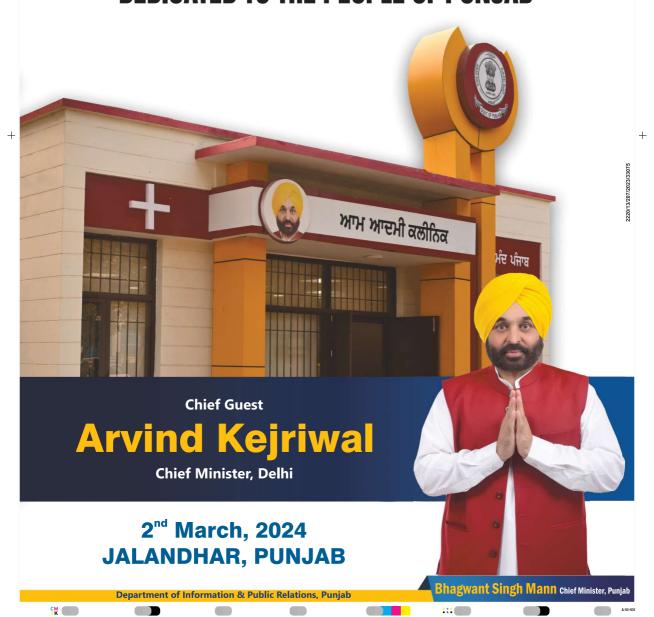
# **Bhagwant Singh Mann**

# **Rapid Strides of Sehat Kranti**

829

**AAM AADMI CLINICS** 

**DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF PUNJAB** 



# **Editorial**



# **Decoding the script**

Findings from the genome sequencing must be shared widely

he Genome India Project, a project fund-ed and coordinated by the Department of Biotechnology, announced that it had fin-ished sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes. This means that the complete genomes – the DNA blueprint that constitutes and maintains human bodies - from 10,000 individuals were analysed bodies – from IJOJOO Individuals were analysed to create a 'reference' Indian human genome. India first sequenced a human genome in 2006. In a way, the latest enterprise would be akin to the creation of the first ever detailed map of India with all political units, key geographical and topographical features – as opposed to a world map prepared elsewhere, with India just one of several countries and devoid of granular detail. Are 10,000 individuals representative of a country of over a billion? Surely not. But for now, it is the best there is and forms a vital template, the basis on which many more insights can be prised. The most immediate application is in combating disease. In 2009, geneticists in India, as part of an international collaboration, discovered that an aberration in a protein, MYBPC3 ice' Indian human genome. Ir

combating disease. In 2009, geneticists in India, as part of an international collaboration, discovered that an aberration in a protein Cl, was correlated with a high risk of heart failure. This genetic variant was present in approximately 4% of those of Indian ancestry – a higher than expected number given that this problematic variant is rare. India has close to 4,500 population groups and the subcontinent's history of being ordered along caste lines through endogamy implies that arregenetic variants, many harmful, that ordinarily dirough the course of evolution ought to have discount of the control of the contr expectations. For one, only a small fraction of disease is monogenic (determined by a single gene). Despite advances in knowledge of how rare, inherited genes caused debilitating disease, little could be done as the necessary medicines, if discovered, were usually too expensive for those in need. In other words, genome sequencing only opened up new realms of complexity. While Genme India should go beyond the 10,000 mark, it must also be truly democratic. The findings ought not be locked up in the ivory towers of academia and should involve imaginative collaborations with scientists, students, technology companies, ethicists and social scientists to push forward India's understanding of itself.

# Vulnerable to criticism

ED's low credibility casts a doubt on its intent behind summoning TN Collectors

he structure of the law against money laundering is bound to throw up perplexing questions about the possible violation of federal principles. One such question has arisen in Tamil Nadu, where the Enforcement Direction torate (ED) is trying to find out whether illegal sand mining in the State is due to corruption and sand mining in the State is due to corruption and if the "proceeds" are being laundered. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) allows the ED to probe the money laundering aspect of crimes registered by the police in various States. Allegations of rampant lilegal sand mining, either by extraction in excess of permitted limits or without any permission, are quite common in Tamil Nadu. In ruling that District Collectors are obliged to respond to summoness issued by the ED, the Supreme Court of India has underscored Tamil Nadu's duty to cooperate with investigations under central laws. However, this may not necessarily mean that the ED's attempt to assess the likely loss to the exchequer as a result of unchecked mining is within its jurisdiction. A final determination may be required on this. The top determination may be required on this. The top court has stayed the operation of a Madras High Court order, which had earlier stayed the summonses to the Collectors. The State government and the District Collectors concerned had filed writ petitions in the High Court against the pation" of the State's powers by the central agen cy and the validity of the summonses.

cy and the validity of the summonses.

The Court has now described these petitions as thoroughly misconceived and that the High Court's order was the to "utter misconception of law". It has cited Section 50 of PMLA on the ED's power to summon any person to give evidence or produce any record necessary for the investigation. It has noted that the probe is based on first information reports registered in Tamil Nadu, and some of the sections in those cases were scheduled offences under the PMLA. However, it does not take into account the High Court's reasoning, based on the Court's verdict upholding the PMLA in Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India (2022), that the summonses indicated that the "proceeds of crime" have not been identified at all, and that the probe was nothing more than a "fishing expedition" to find out whether than a "fishing expedition" to find out whether any scheduled offence has been committed. The High Court had cited the 2022 judgment on the High Court had cited the 2022 judgment on the point that the ED cannot pursue cases on a notional basis, on the assumption that an offence has been committed. While asking officials to cooperate with an investigation is unobjectionable in itself, it cannot be forgotten that the ED's low credibility and obvious lack of independence make its actions vulnerable to the criticism of being biased against States ruled by the political adversaries of those in power at the Centre.

# Change and continuity in India's Palestine policy

istorically, India has been a firm supporter of the Palestine cause. And even when India's relationship with even when India's relationship with

List areal flourished in the past three
decades, New Delhi has maintained a careful
balance between its new partnership and
historical commitment towards Palestine. In
recent years, there have been questions on
whether India is abandoning this balance and
tilting towards the Jewish state in a changing West
Asia, where even Arab nations have been ready to
sidestep the Palestine question for better bilateral
ties with Israel.
Immediately after the October 7 Hamas attack

ties with Israel.

Immediately after the October 7 Hamas attack in Israel, in which at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a post on X, said he was "deeply shocked by the news of [the] terrorist attack". He said, We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult

Mr. Modi, who became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel in 2017, has a good personal chemistry with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Supporters of Mr. Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BP) hardly conceal their admiration towards Israel's aggressive security model. On October 26, barely three weeks after the Hamas attack, India abstained from a vote at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that called for an "immediate, durable and sustainable humanitarian truce" in Gaza. India explained its stand by saying that there was no explicit condemnation of the October 7-terror attack in the resolution". All these factors suggested that India's historical policy towards Palestine was undergoing a paradigm shift. Mr. Modi, who became the first Indian Prime

Evolving a paroach
India's Palestine policy has evolved over the
years. When the UN General Assembly voted on a
resolution to partition Palestine into a Jewish
state, an Arab state and an international city
(Jerusalem) in November 1947, India, along with
Pakistan and the Arab bloc, voted against it.
Prime Minister Jawaharal Nehru had compared
the settler Zionists in historical Palestine to the
Muslim League of undivided India. His position
was that India, having gone through the horrors
of Partition, should not support the partition of
Palestine. But when the state of Israel was
declared in May 1948, India swiftly adopted a
pragmatic line: in 1950, it recognised Israel, but
stopped short of establishing full diplomatic
relations. Throughout the Cold War, India, an relations. Throughout the Cold War, India, an advocate of Third World autonomy, was one of the most vocal supporters of the Palestine cause After it established full diplomatic relations

with Israel in 1992, bilateral ties between New Delhi and Tel Aviv began to deepen and broaden (today, Israel is one of India's major defence and technology partners). But India publicly



Stanly Johny

maintained its support for "a negotiated solution, resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, hiving within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet Road map and relevant UNSC Resolutions" – this means that India supported the creation of a Palestine state with East Jerusalem as its capital and based on the 1967 borders.

This position has evolved further after Mr. Modi became Prime Minister. In February 2018, when he visited Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, he called for dialogue to find a permanent solution to the crists, but stopped short of saying anything on the status of Jerusalem or borders. It

does not mean that India supports Israel's claim over the whole of Jerusalem (New Delhi voted over the whote of Jerusalem (New Delni voted against the U.S. decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital), but it will not talk about the contentious issues such as the capital and border any more, while remaining a partner of Israel and a supporter of the two-state solution. Realpolitik displaces the moral content of India's Palestine

After October 7

A close analysis of India's voting record at the UN, post-October 7, and the statements made by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) suggests that his position of balancing has not changed. It is neither a strong moral critic, like Brazil or South Africa, of the way Israel is conducting the war, nor a mute spectator or enabler of Israel, like the United States or the United Kingdom.

A few days after Mr. Modi's tweet declaring solidarity with Israel over the "terror attack", the

MEAN days after MI. Mout a tweet detail mig solidarity with Israel over the "terror attack", the MEA stated that India backed "a sovereign, independent viable state of Palestine". After its first abstention, there were at least four votes at the UNGA on Israel.

On November 12, 2023, India voted in favour of On November 12, 2023, India voted in favour of a resolution that condemned Israeli settlements "in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan". Two weeks later, New Delhi voted in favour of another resolution that expressed "deep concern" over Israel's continuing occupation of Syria's Golan Heights. On December 12, India supported a resolution that called for "an immediate humanitarian cassefire". And on December 19, it voted for the Palestinian right to self-determination.

self-determination.

The voting record speaks for itself. One cannot have a two-state solution if Israeli settlements continue in Palestinian territories. And the only path towards a solution is diplomacy, not war, as there is no balance of power between Israel, the mightiest military in West Asia, and the Palestinian militants. So, in essence, if one supports the two state-solution, there should be a call for an immediate end to violence, support dialogue, condemn settlements and, in principle, back Palestinian right to self determination. This is what India has done, unlike the U.S., which claims to be supporting the two-state solution while voting against all resolutions at the UN and refusing to back the ceasefire call.

India's interests

The support for the Palestine cause, even if limited, is routed in tangible national interests. Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza, which has killed over 30,000 people, wounded some 70,000 and displaced nearly 90% of Gaza's population of 22 million, is one of the gravest humanitarian tragedies of the 21st century, Israel, destite this route behaviour. managers no avoid destite this route behaviour. despite this rogue behaviour, manages to avoid the wrath of the international laws and system mainly because of the unconditional support it enjoys from the U.S. But America's support for lareal and Tel. Aviv's disregard for Palestinian lives and international laws have created strong reactions in the Global South. South Africa took Israel to the International Court of Justice, while Pazalian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva accuses Israel of committing "genocide" in Gazal. China has repeatedly called for a caesafire, while Russia is hosting different Palestinian factions, including Hamas.

India, which aspires to be a leader of the Global South, cannot ignore these voices and sentiments. That is why External Affairs Minister S. Jaisthankar said at the Munich Security Conference last month that Israel "should be and should have been mindful of the civilian casualties in Gaza", which is India's sharpest despite this rogue behaviour, manages to avoid

casualties in Gaza", which is India's sharpest criticism of the Israel war till now. The October 7 attack and Israel's retaliatory

The October 7 attack and Israel's retaliatory war have also turned the strategic clock in the region back. Before October 7, India was gearing up to work in the post-Abraham Accords strategic reality through its cooperation with the Arab, Israelis and Americans. But further Arab-Israel reconciliation is now on hold. The U.S.'s reputation stands as tarnished as that of Israel. If Saudi-Israel normalisation is not taking place, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (MEC) will have to wait. If the crisis persists and Houthis continue to target vessels in the Red Sea, it would create lasting economic pains for India. A prolonged war in Gaza would also enhance risks of a wider conflict in the region, involving Iran, Israel and America, who are all India's partners. An immediate end to the west Asia and restoration of order and stability in West Asia and a permanent fix to the Palestine question are as much in India's interests as anybody else's in West Asia. This should be the guiding core of India's Act West policy.

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# India's burgeoning death penalty crisis

ith 561 prisoners on death row at the end of 2023, India's death row population has continued to rise to reach its highest-even numbers since 2004. In an unprecedented trend, the Supreme Court of India acquitted nearly 55% of the death row prisoners (six prisoners) in the cases it heard in 2023. This development must be understood alongside the Court initiative (in September 2022) to convene a Constitution Bench to reform death penalty sentencing. However, given the continued evidence of the broken state of sentencing in India's courts, the potential of this Bench to truly urnt hings around appears uncertain. Instead, the high rate of acquittals with a skyrocketing death row population must compel the Court to consider whether India's death penalty reform can ever be limited to the question of sentencing.

More commutations and acquittals
Data from Project 39A's 2023 annual statistics on
the death penalty show that the Court's attempts
to reform sentencing through its directions in
Manoj vs The State Of Madhya Pradesh (May 2022) have failed to trickle down to trial courts for the second year in a row. In 2023, trial courts imposed 86.96% of death sentences in the nce of information pertaining to the accused that was mandated in Manoi.

Additionally, the High Courts continued their reluctance in confirming death sentences in 2023. While the Supreme Court did not confirm the While the Supreme Court did not confirm the death sentence in any of the 10 cases it decided, only one death sentence was confirmed across High Courts. This follows the findings from the Death Penalty India Report (2016) that ultimately, 4.9% of the death sentences imposed by trial courts between 2000-15 were confirmed at the appellate level. Over the years, a majority of the death cases before the Court have resulted in the Court upholding convictions, but commuting the



India's historical policy towards Palestine has

been evolving,

but a permanent fix

to the Palestine

question should not be lost

Lakshmi Menon is with Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi



Death penalty sentencing reform initiated by the Supreme Court of India has failed to percolate to trial courts

death sentences to life imprisonment.

The acquittals of death row prisoners by the Supreme Court deserve particular attention. Despite comprising a smaller proportion of death cases at the Court in previous years, these decisions underscore systemic failures by the police, prosecution, and trial courts. Acquittals have been outcomes of fabricated evidence, manipulated first information reports, the possibility of tampered forensic evidence and dubious recoveries of incriminating evidence by the police. What made the year 2023 particularly striking is the dominance of acquittals in the Court's death penalty decisions in the year.

The Court has confined itself to case-specific reprimands in acquittal decisions, without acknowledging systemic problems within which the death penalty is being administered. When it comes to sentencing, the Court has been more willing to recognise systemic concerns plaguing the death penalty. The decision of the Court in September 2022 to send crucial issues surrounding death penalty sentencing to a Constitution bench reflects that

surrounding death penalty sentencing to a Constitution bench reflects that acknowledgement. However, the growing number of acquittals by the Supreme Court in death penalty cases creates an urgency to recognise the very high chances of error in our criminal system. Repeated instances of acquittals from death row must force us to reconsider the risk we are taking in a system such as ours.

State of the prisoner
Death row prisoners live in constant distress due
to an ever-looming fear of execution. They are
subjected to constant violence, ridicule and
humiliation within prisons. Prison policies
segregating them from work, education and
leisure remove the little means available for them
to cope under such dehumanising circumstances.
The death row experience comes with life-long

psychological ramifications, which continue well after a prisoner has been acquitted or commuted. Yet, the death row population continues to increase every year due to the exaggerated and unjustifiable use of the death penalty by the trial courts. Data from Project 338x report, revealing a 15% decrease in High Court case disposal rate, exacerbates an already deep crisis. A majority of death row prisoners are needlessly subjected to the horrors of death row before their acquittal or commutation. Others may have been less fortunate. In September 2023, a person under the sentence of death in Yerwada jail died by suicide after spending sis years on death row. His case had been pending confirmation in the Bombay High Court since 2019. It should not be acceptable to us as a society that we are increasingly subjecting individuals to a dehumanising punishment using processes that are far from reliable.

In light of such a crisis, the Supreme Court has much to reconsider. The Court's convening of a Constitution Bench, laudable as it may be, may not only be ineffective but also off the mark in tackling the death penalty crisis. Death penalty sentencing reform from the Supreme Court has

tackling the death penalty crisis. Death penalty sentencing reform from the Supreme Court has persistently failed to percolate to trial courts, pointing to the futility of this exercise. More importantly, Project 39A's 2023 report shows a dissonance between the narrow sentencing question that the Court prioritises over the actual scope of the crisis that runs across the criminal process in death cases – from the police to prisons. In effect, the Supreme Court is perhaps undertaking an exercise that does too little, too

The writers authored the 'Death Penalty in India: Annual ics Report 2023'. The views expressed are personal. Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek help and counselling

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Drive' for one-party rule Since the formation of the government by the BJP in 2014, the party seems to have launched a full-fledged nave launched a full-fledge drive to 'organise' defections especially from Congress governments. There seems to be both coercive tactics and the coercive tactics and the carrot and stick policy. The aim of the BJP leadership seems to be to eliminate the Opposition, come what may, and establish a one-party regime. One has

the Rajya Sabha elections in Himachal Pradesh besides the election of Mayor in Chandigarh Municipal Corporation as examples. The Opposition parties should understand that there is an existential fight S.K. Khosla.

The Rajya Sabha elections saw the spectacle of legislators brazenly giving vent to their dissidence by

cross-voting in favour of the BJP's candidates, signifying the decline in the internal structure of the parties in the Opposition bloc. It is wrong to blame the Bharatiya Janata Party for 'engineering and exploiting' the internal strife in the Opposition bloc. Instead. Opposition bloc. Instead, these parties have to shift gears to gain the confidence of their cadres and face emerging challenges. Ravi Mathur, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Health and industry The verdict against the reopening of the Vedanta Sterlite copper unit in Thoothukudi is a great victory for the people, social activists (like Professor Fatima Babu) and political Fatima Babu) and political leaders who were involved in this struggle for over two decades. One cannot forget the 'gunning down of a protest' that led to the killing of 13 people. The fight has been a long one with constant threats from

rested interests. Tharcius S. Fernando,

# Study on obesity rates The Lancet study (Inside

pages, March 1) confirms what is known. Work what is known. Work pressure, a lack of time and an advertising of 'wrong foods' are what make fast foods enticing. A main reason for the popularity of western junk food is that celebrities endorse these products. Policymakers

ould give incentives to healthy products. Veena Shenoy, Thane, Maharashtra

# The course of life It is ironic that Santhan, a convict in the Rajiv Gandhi

case, breathed his last in hospital named after the very leader whose assassination he was associated with. Life is strange. case, breathed his last in a P.G. Menon,



# India's parched IT capital

 $\underline{\text{Households in Bengaluru, dependent on water supply from the Cauvery river or water tankers, }\underline{\text{are preparing}}$ for the current water crisis to worsen as the city stares at a long, hot summer. K.C. Deepika and K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj report on the worries of the people at a time of drought across the State

> harfunnisa, 70, a resident of Varthur in south-eastern Bengaluru, has been struggling for the last one month to ar-range for water for her family's daily needs. As the prices of water tankers have shot up exponentially over the last one month, a few houses in the neighbourhood, all one-room tene-

houses in the neighbourhood, all one-room tenements, have now decided to order one water tanker and share the costs.

"A 4,000-litre tanker was about \$500-7600 as month ago; now it costs \$1,000. Over and above this, we need to buy drinking water cans. Our water expenses grew to over \$4,000 in February. And this is just the beginning of summer. The water tanker operators have been warning us that he costs may double soon," says Samina Taj, 35, another resident of the area. Households in Bengaluru, dependent on water supply from the Cauvery river or water tankers, are preparing for the situation to worsen as the city stares at a severe summer.

Ganga P., a senior citizen who lives in an independent house in east Bengaluru, says she

endent house in east Bengaluru, says she ses clothes less often, preferring instead to wasties comes sees onet; piecerin filsseau to hang them out to dry in the hot surf lifely have been worn only for a few hours. She also hand-washes dothes as far as possible, to sew water. "I have stopped using water to clean the veranda of my house. I do not most the floor daily to save wa-ter so I don't have I was the solid was the see ter so I don't have I was the solid was the life-tive of the solid was the solid was the life-tive of the solid was the solid was the life-tive of the solid was the solid was the solid was the waster was the solid was

Whitefield and Varthur, which house the Information Technology corridor in eastern Bengaluru, are some of the worst affected areas by the drinking water crisis. The Bruhat Bengaluru Managara Palike (BBMP), the city's civic body, has directed officials to dig borewells in 58 areas which are reteling under the crisis. Of them, 16 are in Mahadevapura, 25 in R.R. Nagar, five in Bommanahalli, and three each in the Yelahanka and Dasarahalli zones. No one has been spared; water has become a rare commodity even for those who live in posh apartments and can afford to buy it easily, Unlike the older parts of the city where, despite the drought, the State government has prioritised

drought, the State government has prioritised drinking water needs over irrigation and assured supply till the next monsoon, these areas are not supply till the next monsoon, these areas are not yet serviced by piped water supply from the Cauvery river. On account of unplanned growth over the last two decades, these regions have been stretched beyond their capacity. Basic infrastructure such as drinking water and underground drainage are absent, so they rely on borewells and water tankers.

Karnataka saw a few consecutive years of surplus rain until 2023 when the monsoon failed. The underground water table levels are depleted,



ago; now it

Over and above this.

costs ₹1,000.

buy drinking SAMINA TAJ

aggravating the water crisis. The borewells of the BBMP are the source of water ATMs, or easy ac-cess points to vend safe water. As they have also dried up, the civic body has put up posts at several water ATMs stating that one person can take only one pot of water a day

# Down to a trickle

Down to a trickle
In these areas, water is the most commercialised
and politicised commodity. Even before these
neighbourhoods joined the city's civic limits in
2007, the local panchayats had dug borewells
and laid pipelines to supply water; these are now
overseen by the BBMP. But many of these borewells have gone dry or the force of water is down
to a trickle, disrupting service in many areas.

"The water man (who is in charge of releasing
water in specific areas) acts like a king. We need
to go and beg at his house for water. We pay the
water board, But he doesn't give us water unless
we pay him," says Radha S., 45. She adds that the
local MLA and former councilior also target
blocks that have not voted for them. In such a
scenario, water tainsen have become ubiquitous.

In the absence of any regulatory mechanism, In the absence of any regulatory mechanism, the prices of water tankers have been erratic. Tankers usually come in three capacities - 4,000 litres, 6,000 litres, and 12,000 litres. The prices and these have shot up to ₹1,000, ₹1,500 and over ₹2,000, respectively. For the first time, the price has crossed the ₹2,000-mark in the city.



Women and children collect potable drinking water from a public tap at Nayandahalli off Mysuru road, in Bengaluru. The water is supplied by th Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board. K. MURALI KUMAR

been complaining that sourcing water is becom ing increasingly hard and their monthly mainte-nance costs are going up. Many of them have started rationing water to flats. They use recycled water for gardening and have stopped filling up their swimming pools. Recently, an internal note by an apartment on Kanakapura Road, south of Bengaluru, went viral. It notified its members

Bengaluru, went viral. It notified its members that water would be supplied only after II.30 a.m. after the morning peak hours, to conserve water. Prasad, a resident of an apartment community in Whitefield, says their borewells have dried up, forcing them to rely on water tankers. 'A few days ago, the tankers that used to supply water stopped talking our calls. They suggested we contact other operators. When we did that, those operators quoted far higher prices. We had no option but to buy water at the new rates," he says.

Price cap for water tankers
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently said that 25% of the city's water needs are met by water tankers. The civic administration has made registration of all water tankers in the city, an es-timated 3,500, mandatory by March 7. It has an-nounced that it will cap the tanker prices after a meeting with stakeholders in the next few days.

meeting with stakeholders in the next few days. But water tanker dealers dispute the 'tanker andar' tag, used by citizens and even political parties. They argue that as borewells have gone dry, water tankers are now going at least 40 kilometres away from the city to fetch water. Praveen Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Marathahalli, an eastern suburb, says on average, a water tanker's journey to the source and to the customer has gone up to 50 km from less than 30 km a year ago. "If we were taking half an hour to fill a 12,000 litre tanker from a borewell earlier, now it takes over three hours as the water had epileded. The prices that tandowners are charging for digging borewells have also shot up. We are working under tremendous pressure and are unable to meet the rising demand," he says. He nartests the story of how the residents of an apartrates the story of how the residents of an apartment recently waylaid a tanker demanding that it unload the water to them at any cost.

Jagadish Reddy, a social activist from Varthur,

says a decade ago, their village had been the site of commercial extraction of water. Varthur had

says a uctaute ago, inen' vinage i and ocen' une sate of commercial extraction of water. Varituri had been supplying water to the entire IT corridor and beyond, including areas IS-20 km away.

"We did not realise how it would affect the vilage resources then. Today, the underground water table in the village has depleted extensively and water tankers have to go nearly 20 km beyond Varthur, up to Chikka Tirupati, to fetch water now," he says.

Reddy adds that due to rapid development of the region, the residents had no choice but to allow commercial extraction of water to cater to be burgeoning population. "Some villages will have to pay the price. Now a few surrounding villages are not allowing commercial extraction, forcing tankers to move farther away," he says.

The civic administration has now stepped in to provide some solace to the poor. Bengaluru's provides one solace to the poor. Bengaluru's

provide some solace to the poor. Bengaluru's Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has camer Cavic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has announced that invoking the Disaster Manage-ment Act, 2005, the administration will comman-deer 200 water tankers over the next few days to supply free water to 58 dry patches identified by the administration.

supply free water to 58 dry patches identified by the administration.

Of the 10,955 borewells drilled by the civic ad-ministration in the city, 1,214 have completely dried up. In 3,700 others, the water levels have dropped. The civic body has now released ₹131

crore to redrill some of these borewells and dig new ones in the outer zones. But as the aquifer le vels have depleted, this may be too little too late.

### The changing face of the city

The changing face of the city
While the IT capital reels under a water crisis not
seen in recent times, experts say this was only
waiting to happen. Rashmi Kulranjan and Shashank Palur, hydrologists at WELL Labs under the
Urban Water Programme, point out that though
there are reports of water shortages in other cities due to the variability of rainfall from the
southwest monsoon last year, cities such as Delhi
and Kolkata are not as vulnerable due to their
proximity to major rivers. "Bengaluru is not situated near a major river or coast. So, it relies on
an expensive and unrelable source of water that
is located 90 km away and 350 metres below the
city's elevation. Half its supply is still provided by
groundwater sources. And this fluctuates significantly according to the season," says Shashank.
Bengaluru was not always dependent on net-

cantiy according to the season, 'says shashank.
Bengaluru was not always dependent on networks of pipelines or borewells pumping water from afar of rom below the ground, says Rashmi.
"Most of the city's water bodies were originally tanks', rainwater harvesting structures constructed mainly to serve irrigation and livestock ourposes. The undulating terrain of the city allowed for man-made cascading lake systems to be built; these played a critical role in managing the availability and surplus of water. Despite centuries of effort that went into building the region's water resilience, lakes eventually began to lose their importance with the introduction of piped water supply," she says.

Shashank says with rapid urbanisation, lakes have been directly encroached on or are drying out. "This has not only resulted in a more parched city, but also aggravated the risk of flooding. The lakes and storm water drains have also become a dumping ground for treated and Bengaluru was not always dependent on net-

also become a dumping ground for treated and untreated sewage from the buildings around them. This affects the possibility of using them to

them. This affects the possibility of using them to capture rainwater or storm water," he says. The loss of the city's blue green infrastructure — water bodies and parks and green spaces that allow water to percolate — has resulted in a significant underutilisation of rainwater harvesting and capture methods, he adds. The highly polluted Bellandur lake, one of the largest in the city, is a prime example. Ironically, as the two of them point out, Bengaltur is situated between two river basins. To its west are Vrushabhavathy and Arkavathy, tributaries of the Cauvery, and on its east is the Pouni-yar or Dalshin Pinakini. But Vrushabhavathy, the only river originating in the city, has become poluted due to sewage and effluent discharge.

unted due to sewage and effluent discharge.

T.V. Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, says
Bengaluru receives annual rainfall of 700-850
millimetres, which amounts to 15 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of rainwater. The city requires 18 TMC of water, which means that 70% of the wa-

ter required comes from rainwater.

"We need to make rainwater harvesting mandatory, rejuventate lakes on priority so that we can store rainwater, ensure complete treatment of domestic sewage, apply the 'polluter pays' principle to industries discharging untreated industrial effluents as per the Water Act of 1974, create mini forests of 1-2 hectares with native species in each ward, and re-establish inter-connectivity among lakes by evicting all encroachments of storm water drains," he says.



If we were taking half an hour to fill a 12,000 litre tanker from a borewell earlier, now it takes over three hours as the water lvel has depleted. The prices that landowners are charging for digging borewells have also shot up.

PRAVEEN REDDY

Rashmi says the Cauvery currently supplies 1,460 million litres per day (MLD). An additional 775 MLD will be added to the supply when the lartest stage of infrastructure is completed. "However, water levels in the river fluctuate seasonally. The reservoir capacity in the Cauvery basin has decreased to 40%, even before the onset of summer. The Bengaluru water board spends huge amounts as electricity charges to pump the water into the city. Additionally, the feasibility report for the construction of the Mekadatu reservoir, aimed at augmenting water supply to the city, voir, aimed at augmenting water supply to the city, reveals that the project entails the submergence of 4,996 hectares of wildlife, forest, and revenue

4,996 hectares of wildlie, forest, and revenue land," she says. Instead of expending huge resources to source water from afar, other options must be considered, including those within the city, Shashank says. "The city produces 1,941 million litres of waste water every day. This is likely to go up as the population increases. Treating and reusing it could significantly cut down on freshwater demand and reduce the city's vulnerability to water scarcity. Bengaluru, notably, is unique for its number of or-site sewage treatment plants at apartment buildings and commercial establishments, but there is a need for better standards and mechanisms to treat and reuse this water more effectively. Bengaluru could also benefit from adopting strategies employed by other water-scarce cities like Chennai, which have proactively implemental indirect potable reuse by harnessing surface edi indirect potable reuse by harnessing surface

like Chennai, which have proactively implemented indirect potable reuse by harnessing surface water bodies," he says.

Replenishing groundwater is another crucial step to improve the city's water security, says Rashmi, adding that to address the seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels, utilising open spaces such as fallow land and green areas to recharge shallow aquifers with raimwater during the monsoon season could prove beneficial.

Finally, environment literacy should be enhanced, Ramachandra adds. "Conservation, waste minimisation, and nature-based solutions should be part of our daily routine," he says.

# From Page One

# Blast at restaurant leaves at least 10 injured

The police are now analysing CCTV footage to identify the accused. "There is no need to panic. Bengaluru is a safe city. Our police will crack the

isengaturu is a saie city. Our police will crack the case soon," he assured.

A senior official said that it was a low-intensity blast. "Though the bag was packed with projectiles, the kind of injuries that victims suffered indicates that it was a low-intensity blast," he said.

'Appeasement politics'
The BP said the blast was a result of the "appeasement politics" practised by the Congress government in the State, even as senior police officials said that there were no leads so far on any group being responsible for the blast. The Chief Minister that the Chief Minister was the blast of the Chief Minister was the blast of the Chief Minister. and the Deputy Chief Minister said the incident and the Deputy Chief Minister said the incident was being thoroughly probed and should not be politicised. Ruling out earlier speculation of a fire accident, Divya Raghavendra, managing direction and founder of The Rameshwaram Cafe, told The Hindu that staff members and customers had said

and tounder of the Kameshwaram Cate, told The Hindu that staff members and customers had said that someone came and left a bag below the hand wash area. Started in 2021, The Rameshwaram Cafe has four branches across the city and is known to be bustling with people.

Of the 10 injured, Swarnamba Narayanappa, 9a, an accountant at an IT firm, sustained nearly 40% burns and is being treated in an ICU at the Brookefield Hospital. The institute's medical director, Pradeep Kumar, said Ms. Narayanappa was out of danger but would need plastic surgery. "She has suffered cut injuries on the right due to the loud explosion. There are no rip-off injuries, indicating it was a low-intensity explosion," he said. Another woman, Nagashree, 35, suffered a correal injury to her eya dun was operated upon at

nad injury to her eye and was operated upon at the Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences in Whitefield.

Whiteheld.

The remaining seven have sustained minor injuries and are being treated at these two hospitals.

Doctors said several of them have suffered daments. e to their eardrums

## **GST collections up** 12.54% in February

After refunds, the Ministry pegged last month's GST collection at ₹1.51 lakh crore, 13.6% over February 2023's collections. Overall net GST reve bruary 2023's collections. Overall net GST reve-mest this year have grown at a sharper pace of 13% than gross revenues, and stand at ₹16.36 lakh crore. Among the States, five recorded contrac-tions in revenues in February, while 18 States clocked lower upticks than the national average growth of £3.9% in revenues from domestic tran-sactions. Revenues dropped 4½% and 13% for Miz-oram and Manipur respectively, while Nagaland (5%), Bihar, and Jharkhand (both -1%) reported milder declines. Revenues grew faster than the national average

milder declines.
Revenues grew faster than the national average
in 2S states, including the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir (23%), Assam (25%), Maharashtra (21%), Karnataka (19%), Telangana, and Punjab
(18%), as well as Kerala and Delhi (up 16% each).
February's gross GST intake included 321,785
crore of Central GST (CGST), 739,615 crore of State

GST (SGST) and ₹84,098 crore of Integrated GST or IGST, of which ₹38,593 crore was collected on or IGST, of which ₹38,593 crore was collected on imported goods. The GST compensation cess collections stood at ₹12,839 crore, with a little under a thousand crore rupees received on imported goods. "The Central government settled ₹41,856 crore to GST and ₹35,953 crore to \$GST from the IGST collected. This translates to a total revenue of ₹73,641 crore for GST and ₹75,569 crore for SGST after regular settlement," the Ministry said in a statement.

# With China out, Indian firm to build Sri Lanka power project

New Delhi had objected to a Chinese energy project at the location and offered to give grant for the initiative instead of a loan; Sri Lankan government and Bengaluru-based company sign contract for building hybrid renewable energy systems

Meera Srinivasan COLOMBO

hree years after objecting to a Chinese energy project in northern Sri Lanka, barely 50 km off Tamil Nadu's coast, India is set to imple ment a hybrid power pro ject in three islands off Jaff-na peninsula with a \$11-million grant. The Sri Lanka Sustaina-

ble Energy Authority, the Government of Sri Lanka, Government of Sri Lanka, and Indian company U-So-lar Clean Energy Solutions on Friday signed the con-tract for building "Hybrid Renewable Energy Sys-tems" in Delif or Nedun-theevu, Nainativu and Ana-latituu islands off Jaffra peninsula.
"The project, which is aimed at addressing the energy needs of the people energy needs of the people

energy needs of the people of the three islands, is be-



ing executed through grant ing executed through grant assistance from the Government of India. The hybrid project combines various forms of energy including both solar and wind, towards optimising capacities," the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a press re-lease.

In a post on X thanking the Government of India,

Sri Lanka's Power and Sri Lanka's Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekara said: "The pro-ject with 530 kw Wind power, 1,700 kw Solar pow-er, 2,400 kw fo stand by diesel power system will be constructed at the 3 Is-lands by U-SOLAR."

The Bengaluru-based

Bengaluru-based The company was chosen through a competitive bidding process conducted by the Sri Lankan government for Indian firms, officials said.

3rd project in country The initiative is the third India-backed energy pro-ject coming up in Sri Lan-ka's north and east. The National Thermal Power Corporation is spearhead-ing a solar venture in the

ing a solar venture in the eastern Sampur town, while the Adani Group is while the Adani Group is gy projects in Manmar and Pooneryn in the north. The Sri Lankan Cabinet first cleared Sinosoar-Etechwin Joint Venture in China to execute renewable energy projects in the three islands. The company was chosen through a competitive bid backed by the Asian Development Asian Development Bank. Concerned by the prospect of a Chinese project very close to India's southern coastline, New Delhi offered to implement the same project with a grant instead of a loan, and Sri Lanka took it up. A Memorandum of Un-derstanding was signed in

derstanding was signed in March 2022 during External Affairs Minister S. Jaish ankar's visit to Sri Lanka. China's displeasure at the turn of events is no secret. The Chinese Ambassador in Colombo voiced rare criticism of Sri Lankan criticism of Sri Lankan authorities for suspending the original projects for "unknown reasons" and sending out the "wrong message" to potential in-

message" to potential investors.

Meanwhile, Sino Soar Hybrid Technology, whose energy project was suspended in Sri Lanka in December 2021, signed a deal or implement a similar proto implement a similar pro-ject in the Maldives.

# India 'deeply shocked at attack on Gaza civilians

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India has expressed "ex-treme concern" after more than 100 Palestinians were killed in an alleged Israeli shooting and bombing in northern Gaza on Thurs-day, India has maintained a cautious position so far cautious position so far, calling for a two-state solution to the crisis, and expressing opposition to ter-ror since the beginning of

India has been in contact with multiple stakehol-ders in this conflict, which has so far claimed more than 30,000 lives

than 30,000 lives.
"We are deeply shocked at the loss of lives in Northern Gaza yesterday during delivery of humanitarian assistance. Such loss of civilian lives and the larger humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to be a cause for extreme concern," the External Affairs Ministry said in a state-Ministry said in a state ment on Friday.

# Centre signs five contracts to procure arms and ammunition for ₹39,125 cr.

The Union Ministry of De-fence on Tuesday signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth ₹39,125.39 crore for the three services. Of the five contracts, one was with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for procure-ment of aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft, two with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for procurement of Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) and High-Power Radar (HPR) and two with Brah-Mos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) for procurement of BrahMos missiles and ship-borne BrahMos cruise missile systems.

cruise missile systems.

"These deals will further strengthen indigenous capabilities, save foreign exchange and reduce dependency on foreign origin equipment manufacturers in future," the Ministry said in a statement. The contracts were exchanged in the presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at South Block

The contract for RD-33 aero engines for MiG-29 aircraft was signed with



HAL at a cost of ₹5,249,72 and will be ma crore and will be manufac-tured by the Koraput Divi-sion of HAL manufactured under a Transfer of Tech-nology (TOT) licence from the Russian OEM. The pro-gramme will focus on the indigenisation of high va-lue critical components, which would help increase the indigenous content of the indigenous content of future Repair and Over-haul (ROH) tasks of RD-33

aero-engines, it said.

The Indian Air Force
(IAF) operates three squadrons of Mi-29UPG which have been upgraded.
"These aero engines are
expected to fulfil the need expected to fulfil the need of the IAF to sustain the op-erational capability of the MiG-29 fleet for the resi-

dual service life."

Of the two contracts
with L&T, the contract for
CIWS is worth ₹7,668.82
crore while the deal for
HPR is at a cost of ₹5,700.13
crore. The CIWS will provide terminal air defence
to select locations of the
country, the statement
said, adding that direct and
indirect employment genindirect employment genindirect employment genindirect employment gen-erated by this project would be approximately an average of 2,400 per-

an average of 2,400 per-sons per year for five years. The HPRs contracted will replace existing long-range radars of the IAF with modern active aper-ture phased array-based HPR with advanced sur-

veillance features, according to the statement and will significantly enhance the terrestrial air defence capabilities of IAF with integration of sophisticated sensors capable of detection of small radar cross-section targets. "It will be a boost to indigenous radar manufacturing technology." manufacturing technology as it would be first of its kind radar built by the priv-ate sector in India," the statement said. "The direct

attement said. "The direct and indirect employment generated by this project would be approximately an average of 1,000 people/year over five years." Two contracts were signed with BAPL, one for the procurement of missiles for 419,518.65 crore and procurement of shipborne BrahlMos system for 498.07 crore. "These missiles would be utilised to meet combat outfit and training requirements and procurement of shipborne BrahlMos system for 498.80 crore with the ship of the sh

outfit and training require-ments of the Navy. This project is likely to generate employment of nine lakh man-days in Joint Venture entity and around 135 lakh man-days in ancillary in-dustries [including MSMEs]," the Defence Mi-nistry said.

# India to establish international alliance to protect big cats

The Union Environment Ministry plans to set up and coordinate an Interna-tional Big Cat Alliance (IB-CA), along the lines of the International Solar Alliance, an India-headquar tered initiative to promote solar installations globally.

solar installations globally. The Cabinet approved the proposal on Thursday, "India's global leadership in tiger conservation has been recognised. The IBCA, which will be head-quartered in India and to which India has already committed '150 crore [for five years], will lead initiatives to disseminate good practices in conserving big cats," Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Friday. on Friday

# 16 nations

There is no international There is no international body addressing the con-servation challenges of big cats across their range of habitats. The pioneering and long-standing tiger and other big cat conserva-tion good practices which So far, 16 countries have

given their written consent to be part of the IBCA. There are 96 countries that harbour 'big cats' and the alliance is also open to oth er countries, conservation

er countries, conservation organisations, scientific organisations, businesses, and corporates interested in supporting 'big cats'. The advantages of membership, an accompanying document noted, are a central common repository for technical know-how and a corpus of funds. The alliance will strengthen existing species-specific intergovernmental plat tergovernmental plat-forms, networks, and transnational initiatives on conservation and protection. Frontline staff in member-countries will be trained in eliciting local support for big-cat conservation, and research and vation, and research and development in wildlife monitoring. Communities living near forests will be trained in developing eco-tourism and livelihood opportunities.

# Centre's housing scheme for tribal groups facing hurdles due to lack of accurate data

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

Trying to collect data on

Trying to collect data on possible beneficiaries while simultaneously implementing the project is slowing down the housing component of PM Janjari Adrivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyaan (PM-JANMAN).

Of the nearly five lakh houses that were to be constructed, the government had set a target of sanctioning 2.5 lakh by February 15. But more than a fortnight later, only 1.59 lakh houses could be sanctioned.
Going into an election

Going into an election year, this scheme is being implemented at a lightning speed. The PM-JANMAN was announced in the Un ion Budget in 2023 and was launched by Prime Minis-ter Narendra Modi on November 15, with the target of rolling it out by January

As The Hindu reported on February 17, the govern-ment relied on the PM Gati



Shakti portal to estimate the total population of 75 tribes, which have been grouped under the Particu-larly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) across the country. The government has three different esti-mates for the total PVTG population – 28 lakh to be-gin with in November, which increased to 36.5 lakh by mid-January and ballooning further to 44.64

ballooning further to 44.64 lakh by January-end. Based on the numbers given by the Gati Shakti app, the State governments were given a month to con-duct their own survey be-

They were asked to come back to the Centre with an action plan by January 15, so that the sanctioning of es could begin from

January 25.

A majority of the States, according to sources, began work with half-completed surveys to meet the deadline. 'As we are going along, there are many discrepancies between the data with the Tribal Affairs Ministry and ours. We have been told that for now, we can sanction houses only in the villages notified by the Centre, till the two databases are reconciled,' a tabases are reconciled," a senior official from Kerala explained.

For example, Madhya Pradesh, in multiple letters Pradesh, in multiple letters to the Union government, has flagged the fear that many beneficiaries will be left out. The State govern-ment has listed out several instances where the PVTGs are found in villages out-side the ones notified by

the Centre. Kedar Singh, Director, Madhya Pradesh Rural De-velopment Department, explained that since the count started, PVTGs have been found in 24 district against the initial figure of 16 districts. Fifty thousand additional households have been identified by the State which are eligible for the scheme. Tripura also has pointed out similar problems. "The population is nevbeen found in 24 district

problems.

"The population is never static. Especially since these groups fall under the most vulnerable category, they migrate regularly looking for employment. We are trying to ensure that every eligible household is covered," Sandeep Rathore, Secretary of Trijura Rural Development Department, explained.

The scheme has a total outlay of \$24,104 crore to be spent over three years, of which nearly 80% is only for construction of houses and roads. migrate regularly

# Maitri Porecha

In the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Lok Sabha election, the Union government is spending around ₹15 crore in five States to procure bags with the photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that would be used to distribute foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Activist Ajay Bose re-

Activist Ajay Bose re-ceived replies under the Right to Information (RTI) Act that the regional offices Act that the regional offices of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Rajasthan, Sikkim, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya have final-ised tenders for procuring "woven laminated bags with an indicative logo of with an indicative logo of Mr. Modi" to distribute

foodgrains.

Under the PMGKAY, the government distributes free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana



Food Corporation to spend ₹15 crore in five

States to buy foodgrain bags with PM photo

and Priority Households. The Union government claims that over 75 crore people benefited each year under the PMGKAY in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

According to the reply, the Rajasthan office of the FCI has ordered 1.07 crore FCI has ordered 1.07 crore synthetic bags, each capa-ble of holding 10 kg of grain, at a cost of ₹12.375 per bag, with the total ex-penditure being ₹13.29 crore. Similarly, the Megh-alaya office has awarded lakh bags at ₹12.5 apiece, to Plascom Industries LLP, with the total spending be-ing ₹52.75 lakh.

ing 852.75 lakh.

Another company
named S.S.S. Services has
bagged tenders for both
Mizoram and Tripura at a
slightly higher price of
814.3 per bag.

The FCI's regional office
in Shillong stated in the RTI
reply that Mizoram would
procure 1.75-lakh Modibranded bags for 825 lakh,

while Tripura spent ₹85.51 lakh on 5.98 lakh bags.

The FCI's regional office in Sikkim said Injecto Po-lymers Pvt. Ltd. has been lymers Pvt. Ltd. has been selected for supply of PMGKAY bags in the State, but the process is pending as bags are still being pro-duced. For Sikkim, the FCI is looking to procure 98,000 bags at ₹14.65 apiece, while spending ₹14.35 lakh.

apiece, while spending ₹14.35 lakh.

"For West Bengal re-gion, selection of company for production of bags is under process," the RTI reply stated. "During the free grain

distribution under PMGKAY that started in 2020 when the pandemic began, unbranded 50-kg jute sacks were used to dis-burse grain. The branding of bags with faces of politiof bags with faces of political figures has begun in 2024, ahead of the elec-tion," said an official in the Ministry of Consumer Af-fairs, Food and Public

# PM questions silence of INDIA | Kamal Haasan bloc leaders on Sandeshkhali

Modi says Opposition leaders have closed their eyes, mouth, and ears; accuses Trinamool of betraying the women of Sandeshkhali; he urges people to teach the party a lesson in LS election

rime Minister Na-rendra Modi on Fri-day targeted the Trinamool Congress go-vernment in West Bengal over the developments at Sandachkhali where a Tri-Sandeshkhali, where a Trinamool leader and his supporters have been accused of sexually abusing women, attacking Enforce-ment Directorate officials and grabbing land in the ea. Mr. Modi asked why the

Mr. Modi asked why the leaders of the Indian Na-tional Developmental In-clusive Alliance (INDIA) were silent on the issue. The Trinamool is a mem-ber of the Opposition bloc. "All the big leaders of the INDIA alliance have closed their eyes, mouth, and ears on Sandeshkhali like the three monkeys of

like the three monkeys of Gandhiji. They held meet-ings together at Patna, Ben-galuru, and Mumbai but the leaders of the Left and the Congress sought no answers from the Chief Minister and the government [on Sandeshkhali]. They did not even spare a sight



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Kolkata on Friday, AN

for the women at San-deshkhali," Mr. Modi said deshkhali," Mr. Modi said at a public meeting at-Arambagh in Hooghly dis-trict. He also accused Con-gress president Mallikarjun Kharge of allegedly saying that "such things happen in Bengal"

that "such things happen in Bengal".

"The whole country is sad and angry after seeing what Trinamool, which beats the drum of 'Maa, Mati, and Manush', has done to the sisters of Sandeshkhali. They should be whamped of what they have ashamed of what they have done at Sandeshkhali," Mr. Modi said.

Modi said.

Referring to Sheikh
Shahjahan, prime accused
in the Sandeshkhali incident who was on the run

for two months, Mr. Modi said: "There must have been someone who was trying to protect him. Will you forgive such a Trina-mool? We have to reply to every hurt with votes," Mr. Modi said.

Modi said.

He said the West Bengal ruling party had become arrogant because it felt that it had the support of a particular vote bank. "On this occasion, Muslim women and children will throw away the Trinamool," he said. He added the Trinamool had introduced a "new model of corruption in West Bengal, which the party has institutionalised with the active protection of the administration".

# keen on contesting on 'battery torch' symbol, says MNM

The Hindu Bureau

Parliamentary constituen-cy Makkal Needhi Maiam cy Makkal Needni Makkal (MNM) founder Kamal Haasan will choose to contest from continues, even as a number of options, including Coimbatore, have been mooted by party

Mr. Haasan met party workers in Coimbat

workers in Coimbatore in September last year and expressed his wish to contest from the constituency. While the DMK has reportedly asked the Tamil Nadu unit of the Congress to accommodate Mr. Haasan within their quota of seats and let him contest on the Congress's 'hand' symbol, MNM sources insist that Mr. Haasan would prefer to contest on the 'battery torch' symbol, as 'battery torch' symbol, as he did during the last Assembly election.

Won't benefit MNM The second-rung leaders of the MNM say that they are not aware of the seat-shar-



Kamal Haasan will have to

ing arrangement.

Though it would be easy for Mr. Haasan to contest on the 'hand' symbol and win, it would not benefit MNM in any way, party insiders said, adding that he was unlikely to take that route.

Political analysts, ho-wever, pointed out that it might be easier for the MNM leader to contest on of the 'hand' symbol instead of the 'torch' symbol, par-ticularly to appeal to the people in rural areas across a large parliamen tary constituency.



### Centre, Gujarat govt. failed the youth, says Congress president

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday expressed his concern over the "high suicide rate in Gujarat", and questioned the "defeaning" silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a statement, Mr. Kharge said the data presented in the Gujarat Assembly showed that 25,000 people the cujarat Assembly showed that 25,000 people died by suicide in the past three years, with 500 of them being students. The Congress chief alleged that the BJP-ruled State and the Centre aueged that the sijr-flued state and the centre had failed to create new job opportunities for youths, and the data presents a "grim picture of a populace grappling with despair".

### Supreme Court rejects plea to 'digitally monitor' MPs, MLAs

The Supreme Court on Friday disagreed with a The Supreme Court on Friday disagreed with a petitioner's view that Members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies should be "digitally monitored" to prevent instances of corruption and horse trading. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said lawmakers were not "convicted Felons" who needed watching 24X7 lest they may flee from justice. Surely, the petitioner did not want microchips on legislators to keep track of their every movement. "There is also something called 'privacy'. They too have families," Chief Justice Chandrachud told petitioner S.N. Kundra.

### SC refuses Asaram Bapu's plea for suspension of sentence

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to intervene in a petition filed by Asaram Bapu challenging a Rajasthan High Court decision rejecting his plea for suspension of the sentence on medical grounds in a case of rape of a minor. A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, however, gave the octogenarian self-styled nowever, gave the octogenarian selt-styled godman liberty to approach the High Court seeking permission for treatment at an ayurvedic + hospital. The top court also requested the High Court to expeditiously decide Bapt's pending appeal in the case. The petition, filed by Asaram, said his health was precarious and "rapidly deterioratine"

# President's honours for two IAF fighter squadrons

The first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) squadron of the Indian Air Force, No. 45 'Flying Daggers', along with the No. 221 Squadron 'Valiants' which flew almost one-third of all offensive missions of flew almost one-third of all offensive missions of the IAF during the 1999 Kargil conflict, are set to be awarded the President's Standard. The II Base Repair Depot (BRD) and 509 Signal Unit will be presented President's Colours by President Droupadi Murmu at Hindon Air Force station on March 8. After the war, the squadron was wound down in 2002.

# Don't make appeal on basis of caste, religion, EC tells parties

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

Ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha election, the Election Commission (EC) has directed political par ties, especially star cam paigners, to maintain de

nes, especially star campaigners, to maintain de-corum while campaigning and refrain from making appeals on the basis of caste or communal politics or make false statements, which can mislead voters. In an advisory issued to all political parties on Friday, the EC cited previous examples of such indirect violations using known methodologies to avoid strictures under the model code of conduct (MCC), and conveyed that "stern and conveyed that "stern and conveyed that "stern and remained programs are remained programs. and conveyed that "stern action would be taken against direct or indirect MCC violations".

The advisory comes days before the schedule for elections to the Lok



The Election Commission also asked parties not to make false statements to mislead voters.

semblies is expected. The MCC comes into effect with the announcement of the poll dates.

The EC said in the advisory that political parties, candidates and star cam-paigners should not make any appeal on the basis of or communal feel ings of the electors. No ac-tivity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between difties, religious and linguistic should attempted. The political parties

and leaders shall not make false statements and utte false statements and utte-rances without factual ba-sis aimed at misleading the voters. Criticism of other parties or their workers on the basis of unverified alle-gations or on distortions shall be avoided," the advi-sory further said.

'No personal attacks' It said that no aspect of the private life, not connected with the public activities, of the leaders or workers of

other parties is to be criti-

cised.

Low-level personal attacks to insult the rivals shall not be made. It also warned the parties against giving advertisements masquerading as news items in the media.

# U.S. drone sales to India progress to the next stage

Sriram Lakshman

Bengal CM

terms it a

Shiv Sahay Singh

meets Modi,

'courtesy call'

West Bengal Chief Minister

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Fri-day called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata and said the meeting was less about politics and that they had engaged in a chat. The Prime Minister is on a two-day visit to the State. The leaders met amidst heightened political tension in the State over the Sandeshkhali urnest. Speaking to mediapersons

Sandeshkhali unrest. Speaking to mediapersons outside Raj Bhavan, the Chief Minister said, "It was a courtesy call. Since I could not go to RCGC (Royal Calcutta Golf Club

to receive the Prime Minis

ter), I came here." She also added that since election has not been announced, she can call on the Prime Minister.

The possible sale of 31 MO-9B high altitude long MQ-9B high altitude long endurance armed Un-manned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from U.S. company General Atomics to India progressed to the next stage after a 30-day Congressional notification period concluded on Friday. The deal, pegged at an estimated \$3.99 billion, was announced in June last year during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to Washington DC.

Narendra Modi s State Visit to Washington DC. "The next step after the conclusion of Congression-al review is for the parties to agree upon and sign a Letter of Offer and Acceptance," a U.S. State Depart-ment official told *The Hin*du. The procurement decisions and timelines were now with the Govern-



Eye in the sky: The United States approved the sale of armidrones to India at an estimated cost of \$3.99 billion. FILE PHO

ment of India, according to the official. With general elections looming in India, it is possible that the next steps will be on hold until May, when the poll results

are expected.

The sale had run into The sale had run mto difficulties in January, in the U.S. Congress, before the formal notification period began over allegations that Indian government agents were involved in a plot to kill Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a U.S. Citizen, on American soil. The head of the power-ful Senate Foreign Rela-

tions Committee, Senator Ben Cardin, gave his ap-proval for the deal to progress after receiving assu from the Biden-led administration that India would probe the alleged plot and cooperate with the U.S. in its own

# THE RAJASTHAN SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.

CORRIGENDUM

or transfer business services at Inland Container Depot Jaipur. The last donor bid has been extended to 28.2.2024 till 1 PM &Bid Opening date 4.4 at 3 PM. Other terms & conditions of bid document except Pre-



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMERCIANES

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

# GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600 005, Tamil Nadu, I Invitation for Bids No: IRSHUPSP/NCB/04

ADB Loan No. and Project Title: 4106-IND: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Sector Project in Tamil Nadu.

Contract No. and Title: IRSUPLESPRALUA, Construction of 520 (G+3) tenements including Development works at Pallipalayam scheme in Komarapalayam Taluk at Namakkal District.

Komarpalayam Taluka Namakad District.

The Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Urban Holatic Development Board ("the Employer") invites bids from eligible bidders for the contract package named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (COB) - National procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of AUB.

Detailed National of Invitation for Bids wew.Membeders.gov/in satiring from 0.20.3.2024. Deadline for bid submission is 16:00 hours on 04.04.2024. All required information are provided in the bid document.

2. Online & Offline Pro-bid Meeting will be held at 14:00 hours on 15.03.2024. All the prospective hidders are advised to participate in the Pro-bid meeting.

3. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the www.ttenders.gov/in website and will not be published in Newspapers.

Bidders may contact Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, TNUHDB for any other information on bidding process.

TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1148

Tender No: TIDEL/2023-2024/13 ited invites "e-Tender for the proposed

L. an Authure Invites 'e-Tender for the proposed constitice Building (Ground + 2 Floors + Terrace) including (Ground + 2 Floors + Terrace) including truction, HWAC, Electrical HT/LT, DG Sets, IBMS, Fire Proping, Structural Façade, Landscaping, STP, WTP and is in Kalanivasal Village, Karaikudi Taluk, Sivagangai Distriore details and participation in the above e-Tender, pleability www.htmlanders.com/iii. The more unusual stript participation in the above e-Tender, please view exhibited www.thenders.gov/in. Last date for online submission duly filled in tender documents is 3.00 p.m. on 01.04.2024. TIDEL P. Limited reserves the right to accept /reject any on-eall tenders with assigning any reason thereof.

DIPRIVIS\_UTRADER\_2024 Managing Direc

Managing Director



### भारतीय उष्णदेशीय मौसम विज्ञान संस्थान, पुणे - 411 008 (पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY, PUNE - 411008 (An autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India; (Advt. No. PER/04/2024)

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune invites applications for

recruitment of following posts:    Name of the post   Number of posts			
Name of the post	Number of posts		
IITM Research	10 Posts (Reservation: SC-2, ST-3, OBC-2, UR-3) * 2 posts are reserved for Persons with Benchmark		

Associates Disabi**l**ity. 20 Posts (Reservation: SC-2, ST-2, ORC-8, FWS-1, UR-7) 4 posts are reserved for Persons with Benchmark

Detailed advertisement is available at IITM website www.tropmet.res.in/Careers. Last date of receipt of online application is 15/04/2024.

Disability.

Director, IITM, Pune

# News

# **INBRIDE**



### India to see warmer summer as El Nino conditions continue

India is likely to experience a warmer summer this year with El Nino conditions predicted to continue at least until May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday More heatwave days than normal are predicted over northeast peninsular India – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karı Andhra Pracesn and north interior Kai Hadaka – and many parts of Maharashtra and Odisha, it said. The country is likely to record above-normal rainfall in March. India is likely to above-normal rainfall in March. Includes likely to see above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures in most parts of the country in the March to May period, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. Pri

## ED freezes ₹580.78-crore assets in betting app case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen ssets worth ₹580.78 crore in connection with the "Mahadev Online Book" app case, following searches at multiple locations. The total value of attached/frozen assets in the case now stands at ₹1,296.05 crore. The fresh round of searches re carried out in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai Gurugram. Indore and Raipur. According to the Gurugram, Indore and Kappur. According to the agency, Hari Shankar Tibrewal from Kolkata has partnered with the promoters of Mahadev Online Book. "Security holdings worth ₹580.78 crore in the name of the entities beneficially owned by Hari Shankar Tibrewal have been frozen by the ED," said the agency.

# Google removes matrimony, streaming apps over fee row

The company's long conflict with Indian developers over in-app payment fees enters new chapter with many apps booted out after the Supreme Court declined the developers' interim relief

certain matrimo-nial and dating apps, in-cluding Bharat Matrimony, Madly, and Quack Quack, and two streaming services, Balaji Telefilms's ALTT and the audio plat-form Kuku FM, after the Supreme Court declined to provide the companies be-hind these apps interim re-lief in their battle against

lief in their battle against the platform fees for in-app payments on Google Play, the company's mobile app marketplace for the An-droid operating system. The development is like-ly to come as a shock to the firms concerned, which offer a rare segment of dig-ital services where Indian consumers are willing to consumers are willing to spend money for enter-tainment and companion-

Ship.

Bharat Matrimony says it has a market cap of over

it has a market cap of over \$2,300 crore.
The app's founder Murugavel Janakiraman was quoted by the news outlet TechCrunch as saying that this was a "dark day" for the Internet in India and that the company would



explore legal options.
Kuku FM cofounder Vinod Kumar Meena said in a
statement that Google was
behaving like a 'monopoly,'
and that the search giant
was "on [a] hunt to collect
rent" from developers.
QuackQuack founder
Ravi Mittal said in a statement that the company

ment that the company would comply with Google's rules to get back on the marketplace. "Unfortunately, we will

"Unfortunately, we will have to comply with Goo-gle's current policies as there is no alternative or immediate remedy," Mr. Mittal told *The Hindu*. "This shows the control Google has over the app

economy in a growing country like India." In a statement, Google said that only a small num-ber of firms have to pay any fees over 15% on pay-ments users made in-app and that the companies that it was acting on had a long window of gonortunilong window of opportuni-ty to comply with its rules.

Google requires digital Google requires digital services to pay a platform fee that could range from II-30%, depending on what payment method is used, and the size of the app's user base.

Disney+ Hotstar and exam prep service Testbook, for whom the interim relief granted by the Supreme

Court came later, and is still valid, have not yet been delisted. "Today, we have over 200,000 Indian develop-ersuing Google Play who adhere to our policies ... however, for an extended period of time. 10 compaperiod of time, 10 companies, including many well-established ones, have chosen to not pay for the immense value they receive on Google Play by securing interim protections from the court," Google said in a statement.

said in a statement.

"After giving these deve-lopers more than three years to prepare, including three weeks after the Su-preme Court's order, we are taking necessary steps to ensure our policies are applied consistently across the ecosystem, as we do for any form of policy vio-lation globally," the compa-lation globally," the compalation globally," the compa-

ny added.

Many of these develop-ers coalesced around a rival app store effort by the Walmart-owned payments company PhonePe last month, where Sameer Ni-gam, the firm's CEO, boasted that no app would be re-quired to pay platform fees and that the app marketnd that the app market-ace would find other ays of monetising itself.

# Corporate tax cuts bring in investments, jobs, says Sitharaman

Vikas Dhoot

The government's decision to slash corporate tax rates in late 2019 was a well-con-sidered move to attract in-vestments that has made a lot of difference, and a ma-ior transition is under way jor transition is under way in the industry-labour relationship, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

said on Friday.

She was replying to a query on the efficacy of query on the efficacy of corporate tax cuts and the production linked incentive schemes, some of which may be fuelling capital-intensive investments that create fewer jobs, during an interaction with students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

dents at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Noting that India had a very high level of taxation for companies, the Minis-ter said tax rates were cut with a view to bring in more investments, which more investments, which in turn would create jobs and trigger a "virtuous cy-cle" in the economy. Many countries were "contem-plating" such tax structure changes to attract investchanges to attract invest-ments at the time, she said, stressing that greenfield as well as brownfield invest-ments are now happening. "Even now, I think that is the way to go forward

and ensure additional ca-pacities are coming in areas that are going to be job-creators. If there is a perception that it may not have resulted in as many jobs as was in the olden days of investments, it is al-so becauses... even as we so because... even as we took this decision, we were aware the industrial revolution called 4.0 was set-ting in, Web 3.0 was coming in, which is now talked about as AI and GPT."

# 'Upskilling must' "The matter of fac

The matter of fact is that industry, particularly in manufacturing, is going through a huge transition, a reset. And when resets happen, the labour force is also catching up with skills required to meet with that reset. So there will be requirement of labour... that is why the government has ramped up skilling forl people to get into industry, she said. The industry, she said, wants labour to be at a different level now, as it has

ferent level now, as it has introduced robotics, and digitised the operations. "There is a transition and "There is a transition and reset happening between industry and labour. If we are looking at only the old-fashioned [sectors] like ce-ment and iron and steel... no, there are newer indus-tries coming," she said.

# SC to hear petition by Uddhav camp on March 7

+ The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear an appeal field by the Shiv Sena Uddhaw Balasa-heb Thackeray (UBT) party challenging the decision of the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to dismiss disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp while declaring them the "real" Shiv Sena. Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud on Friday indicated that the The Supreme Court will

India D.Y. Chandrachud on Friday indicated that the appeal will be heard on March 7. Meanwhile, Iawyers for both sides sought an early hearing. On an earlier occasion, Mr. Salve informed the court about an identical petition filed by the UBT camp in the Bombay High Court. He had questioned how the UBT could agitate an identical cause in two courts at the same time.

# Ahead of Ambani wedding bash, Jamnagar airport gets international tag for 10 days

Jagriti Chandra

The Jamnagar airport has been declared an international airport for 10 days as global bigwigs such as Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Rihanna, Ivanka Trump and leaders from various countries descend on the Gujarat city for the three-day pre-wedding bash of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant.

Anant Ambani is the son

ka Merchant. Anant Ambani is the son of Reliance Industries Ltd. CMD Mukesh Ambani and Radhika Merchant is the daughter of Viren Mer-chant, CEO of Encore

Healthcare.
The airport was allowed to receive international flights from February 25 to March 5, said an airport of ficial. The Union Health Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the Home Ministry

have pressed in resources to set up a Custom, Immi-gration and Quarantine

gration and Quarantine (CIQ) facility at the airport. Iammagar is a defence airport where commercial flights are allowed; the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has erected a passenger terminal building for the purpose. However, for the wedding, the Air Force has permitted access to its sensitive "technical" area as well.

"Up to three aircraft are being accommodated in the technical area at a gi-ven time," said an airport official on the condition of nonymity. The civilian area of the

The civilian area of the airport can accommodate six small aircraft such as Falcon-200s or three big ones such as the Airbus A320. On Friday, a total of 140 aircraft movements (arrival and departures)

were expected, up from the usual six movements the airport witnesses, the official said.

official said.

In preparation for the massive inflow of guests, the AAI has also expanded the size of its passenger building from 475 sq m to 900 sq m, allowing it to accommodate nearly 360 passengers during peak hours as compared to 180 earlier. "Expansion work was planned much earlier allowed to 180 earlier." Expansion work was planned much earlier but were expedited for the but were expedited for the event," the official said. The airport has also en-

hanced manpower in "ev-ery vertical". Thirty-five housekeeping staff have been added to the existing been added to the existing strength of 16; the State go-vernment has also doubled the deployment of security personnel from 35 to 70; ground handling agencies have raised the strength of their staff from 65 to 125.

# Elephants take dead calves to be buried in untrodden paths: study

Rahul Karmakar

Elephants in the eastern Himalayan floodplains bury their calves in a 1 legs upright' position, a new study has found. Through long-term observation, the researchers also found that elephant herds tend to avoid the paths where the carcasses were buried and take parallel routes. "We aimed to under-stand the per-inortem strategy and post-mortem behaviour of the Asian ele-phants. The major findings

phants. The major findings reflect that the carcasses were carried by trunks and legs for a distance before being buried in a 'legs upright' position," re-searchers said in the study published in the latest is sue of the Journal of Threa-tened Taxa.

Rampant environmen-tal changes and forest des-truction push Asian ele-



phants (Elephas maximus) and their African counter-parts (Loxodonta africana) to explore human spaces to fulfil their dietary and ecological requirements, leading to 'novel' elephant behaviours in shared spaces. While elephant calf bu-

rial is mentioned in African rial is mentioned in African literature, it has hardly been documented in the Asian context. Parveen Kaswan, an Indian Forest Service officer posted in Alipurduar of West Bengal and Akashdeep Roy of the Education and Research in Pune studied five such cases in the northern Bengal landscape. The study area covered

The study area covered fragmented forests, tea estates, agricultural lands, and military establishments in the vicinity of the Gorumara Wildlife Division and Buxa Tiger Reserve. It explains the burial strategy of elephants in the irrigation drains of the tea estates.

Marks on the bodies of the calves – the youngest

weighing 160 kg was three or four months old while the oldest was about 12 months and weighed 350 kg – suggested the elemonths and weighed 350 kg – suggested the ele-phants dragged them from a distance to be buried at preferred locations.

The locations were irri-gation drains of the tea es-tates where many ele-phants are born too, the study said.

study said.

The "strange" position-ing of each carcass with the legs upright could be because one or more mem-bers of a herd needed a better grip to hold and lay the calf delicately in the

"This strategic beha-viour also reflects the care and affection of the herd member(s) towards the demember(s) towards the de-ceased. The behaviour sug-gests that in a situation of space crunch, the herd member(s) prioritise the head for the burial before the feet," the study said.

# TH CROSSWORD+14112

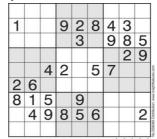
- 8 Not a real way out for an argumentative guy (6) 9 Indian state, partly holy with almost every disorder (8)
- 10 State of love, partly joyful, leads to nothing (4)
  11 Appease, support and spoil without slightest of validity (10)
- 12 One small piece of land, middle of sea (4)

- To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn Prime, not the first, place for Congress in Rajasthan, say
- Oddly prose is starting to metamorphose verse (4)
- 18 Kingdom of infinite bounty (5) 19 Part inside ammunition (4)
- 19 Part inside ammunition (4)
  21 Mariage broker initially upset someone like Patek
  Phillipe (10)
  23 Trembled after avoiding small punch (4)
  24 Inability to move lower body or balance with a slightest
  of pressure on leg in action basically (10)
  28 Got a new robe (4)
  29 This is wanter and longing basically conted (4.4)
- 29 This is wants a30 Stan's tree (6) This is wants and longings basically sorted (4,4)

- A computer man's brief moment of masculinity (8) Redo my chip arrayed under the skin (10)

  Keen? Please turn over small weight to find a puzzle (10)
- English plundered our money (4) An Asian model mostly has one (4) I am good model for sorcerers (4)
- Oddly that also makes a design on skin (6)
  Prepare king for some kind of exercise (5)
  Hot season seasoning reportedly for full-bodied roll (10)
  Gout hit? Deal with determination! (5,2,3)
- Strong old colour (4-4)
- A California Company Plant (6) Painful part of each year (4)
- 26 Resting place of ex-Prime Minister, not the first (4)
  27 Secret agents' hidden backside entrance (4)

# **SUDOKU**





Solution by esterday's Sudoku
7 8 1 2 6 5 3 4 9
4 2 6 3 7 9 8 5 1
3 5 9 1 8 4 7 2 6
1 9 5 7 3 2 6 8 4
6 7 3 8 4 1 5 9 2
8 4 2 5 9 6 1 7 3
5 3 4 9 1 7 2 6
2 6 8 4 5 3 9 1 7
9 1 7 6 2 8 4 3 5







# FAITH

# The message from Rama

Dasaratha asks Sumantra to recount all that happened af

Dasaratha asis Sumantra to recount all that happened af-et he drove the chariot taking Rama, Laishman and Sita from Ayodhya to the forest. Sumantra conveys Rama's message to the royal family, said Navalpakkam Vasudeva-chariar in a discourse. "Rama wanted me to convey His respects to His father. He wanted His mother Kausalya to know that He was safe. She is the wife of Dasaratha, an Agnihort. Thus, she must see Agni as her son, and not cry over Rama's absence. She must not harbour needstive feelines, against the other wives must not harbour negative feelings against the other wives of Dasaratha," says Sumantra.

Rama's message to Bharata is that, as the future king, he must act in accordance with stipulated rules. He mu obey his father and treat all the royal mothers alike.

obey his father and treat all the royal mothers alike. As for Lakshmana, Sumantra says the prince was very angry, He had asked what wrong Rama had done to de-serve exile. Was it right to exile Rama, to please Kaikeyi? The whole world would be against Dasaratha's decision, and having earned the displeasure of the whole world, could he continue to be king? Lakshmana had declared that he could no longer consider Dasaratha as his father. Rama was everything to him – brother, king, relative and father. Sita had had no words to utter. She had just shed tears, Sumantra says.

### GAZA STRIP

Hamas says Israeli 'bombing' has killed seven more hostages in Gaza



Hamas said on Friday that seven more hostages had died because of Israeli military operations in Gaza, Hamas seized around 250 Israelis and foreigners during the October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people. Around 130 are still held captive. AFP

Myanmar is now a 'never-ending' nightmare, says UN rights chief



cruelty, leaving people trapped in an unending nightmare as the conflict spreads, the UN human rights chief said on Friday. The junta is crushing all forms of dissent with total impunity, Volker Turk told the UN Human Rights Council, asking it to salvage the situation. AFP

Maldives parliamentary elections rescheduled for April 21



April 21, after President Mohamed Muizzu ratified a Bill that allowed for the postponement of the polls. The elections were originally set for March 17 this year, but the Opposition sought a deferment, citing Ramadan — from March 10, 2024 to April 9, 2024. THE HINDU

Pakistan parliament elects Speaker as Imran Khan's supporters protest



Pakistan's new parliament elected PML-N's Sardar Ayaz Sadiq as Speaker on Friday, despite protests from lawmakers loyal to jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan three weeks after an election they claim was brazenly rigged. The 336-seat National Assembly convened on Thursday for the first time since the polls. AFP

# Pope Francis labels gender ideology 'dangerous'

Agence France-Presse

Pope Francis launched a fresh critique on Friday of gender ideology, saying it was "the worst danger" which "erases diffaron ---" differences".

differences."
"It is very important that there is this meeting between men and women, because to-day the worst danger is gender ideology," the 87- year-old told a meeting with participants of an international conference on marriage and faith.
"I asked for studies into this ughy ideology of our time, which erases differences and makes everything the same." "Erasing differences is erasing differences is erasing differences is erasing differences.

ferences is erasing humanity," the pontiff

# Call for probe grows as Gaza 'massacre' sparks outrage

Israel's attack on a crowd of Palestinians killed 112 and injured more than 750; China, France, Italy and Germany slam the strike; U.S. looking into 'two competing versions' of the incident, says Biden

# Agence France-Presse GAZA STRIP

orld leaders on Friday called for an investi-gation and a ceasefire near-ly five months into the Gaza war, a day after dozens of desperate Palestinians were killed rushing an aid

were Killed Schools opened fire as Palestinian civilians scrambled for food aid during a chaotic incident on Thursday. An Israeli source acknowledged Thursday. An Israeli source acknowledged troops had opened fire on the crowd, believing it "posed a threat". Gaza's Health Ministry called it a "massacre" and said 112 people were killed



Agonising wait: People sit next to the body of a Palestinian killed in the Israeli bombardment on Deir al-Balah on Friday. AFP

wounded.

The fatalities helped
push the total number of Palestinian war dead in Ga-

"The Israeli Army must fully investigate how the mass panic and shooting could have happened,"

Iranians vote in parliament election as

# 'Independent probe'

Her French counterpart Stephane Sejourne said "there will have to be an in-dependent probe to deterdependent probe to determine what happened", and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani urged Israel "to protect the people in Gaza and to rigorously ascertain facts and responsibilities". "China is shocked by this incident and strongly condemns it," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said. U.S. President to Biden U.S. President to Biden

Ning said.

U.S. President Joe Biden said Washington was checking "two competing versions" of the incident.

# Alexei Navalny laid to rest after his death in prison

### Associated Press

Under a heavy police pre-sence, thousands of people bade farewell on Friday to Alexei Navalny at his funeral in Moscow after his still-unexplained death two weeks ago in an Arctic pe nal colony.

The service followed a

The service followed a battle with authorities over the release of the body of President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critic. His supporters said several churches in Moscow refused to hold the funeral.

Navalny's team eventually got permission from the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God Soothe My Sorrows.

My Sorrows.
As his coffin was re-

moved from the hearse and taken inside the church, the crowd waiting outside broke into respect-



flowing support: Mourners react as the hearse carrying the n of Alexei Navalny leaves for a cemetery in Moscow. AFP

ful applause and then chanted: "Navalny! Naval-ny!" Some also shouted, "You were not afraid, neither are we!" and later "No to war!" Western diplomats, in-

cluding U.S. Ambassador Lynn Tracy, were among those who attended, along with presidential hopefuls Boris Nadezhdin and Yeka terina Duntsova. Both wanted to run against Mr. Putin in the upcoming elections and opposed his war in Ukraine; neither was allowed on the ballot. Navalny's father was al-

so present, but it was not clear who else in his family attended.

# At least 46 killed in mall fire in Dhaka

Associated Press

A six-story shopping mall that caught fire in the Ban-gladeshi capital had no fire exits, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Friday, as the death toll climbed to at least 46 and searched for more victims

The fire started late on Thursday in a restaurant on the first floor of the

Green Cozy Cottage Shop-ping Mall in downtown Dhaka. More than a dozen

firefighting units were deployed. Health Minister Saman-ta Lal Sen said the toll could rise as at least a dozen critically injured peo-ple were being treated in two state-run hospitals.

Ms. Hasina expressed her shock at the loss of lives and said that it was a result of negligence.

# conservatives try to tighten their grip Agence France-Presse

Iranians voted on Friday in elections for parliament and a key clerical body, amid fears of a low turnout and with conservatives ex-pected to tighten their grip on power.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has called for a strong turnout, was the first to cast his ballot.

# found that more than

half of respondents were indifferent about the elections

The elections are the first in Iran since widespread protests erupted after the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, following her arrest for an alleged breach of the country's

women. Since the last elections, Iran has also been badly affected by international sanctions that have led to an economic crisis. More than 61 million out

of Iran's 85-million popula-tion are eligible to vote for members of parliament as well as the clerics of the Assembly of Experts, the bo-dy in charge of selecting Iran's supreme leader. A low turnout is expected, however, after a state TV poll found more than half of respondents were indifferent about the

"Suppose that I vote: what would it change?" said a 21-year-old from western Kurdistan pro-vince who only gave her name as Hanna, out of fear of reprisals. "They (the elected officials) do not res-

# Left-wing firebrand wins U.K. byelection

Agence France-Presse ROCHDALE

Left-wing firebrand George Galloway was elected to the U.K. parliament on Fri-day after tapping into an-ger over the Israel-Hamas war in a chaotic by-election marred by anti-Semi-

tism allegations.
Mr. Galloway, 69, first became an MP in 1987 and will return to the House of Commons for the first time

since 2015 after winning the seat of Rochdale by 6,000 votes. Mr. Galloway, accused of stoking com-munity tensions, focussed on the Gaza war during his campaign in Rochdale, which has a 30% Muslim population. population. "Keir Starmer, this is for

Gaza," Mr. Galloway, leader of the fringe Workers Party of Great Britain, said in his victory speech, referring to Labour's leader.

# COIMBATORE CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Tender Notice No.e 20/2024 Swachh Bharat Mission(2.0)

sion cal Bid : **17.04.2024 at 4.00 P.M** sission of bids is declared as a holid

# SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SL No.	e-Auction Conducted by	Date of au	tion for the m	onth of for	Materials for Auction
1	GSD/PER	10/04/2024	18/04/2024	26/04/2024	
2	CSSD/GOC	05/04/2024	16/04/2024	24/04/2024	1
3	SSD/PTJ	04/04/2024	15/04/2024	23/04/2024	The details of item to be sold
4	MAS Division	05/04/2024	16/04/2024	24/04/2024	in e-auction will
5	SA Division	04/04/2024	15/04/2024	23/04/2024	be available in
6	TVC Division	08/04/2024	19/04/2024	29/04/2024	catalogue in www.ireps.gov.ir
7	PGT Division	08/04/2024	19/04/2024	29/04/2024	Website
8	TPJ Division	03/04/2024	12/04/2024	22/04/2024	1
9	MDU Division	03/04/2024	12/04/2024	22/04/2024	1

# ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (ELCOT), ELCOT CHENNA: 6,00035 CHENNA: 6,00035 TENNO: 1,00035 TENNO: 1,00035 TENNO: 1,00035



The detailed RFP & Terms of Reference are available in the Tamil Nadu Governmente-Procurement Portal - https://intenders.gov.in The detailed proposals (Technical and Financial proposals separately) shall be submitted online in Tamil Nadu Government e-procurement portal as per the RFP.



रिप्ती विश्ववह महानारपालिका कर्मवेशातील मरपाणा शिवाण विभागाच्या प्राविधिक शावत तथेच शिवाण विभाग च आक्रांत्रिक संख्या संख्या संख्या संख्या क्यांच्या १२० प्राविधिक स्थान संख्या महाना देश मार्थीक विभागत तथेच परत्य विभाग क्यांच्या विभागत क्यांच्या १२० प्राविधिक प्रतिकाल क्ष्या स्थान विभागत क्यांच्या क्यांच्य

अ.	कामाचा तपशील	अंदाजपत्रकीय	वयाणा	अनामत	निविदा फॉर्म फी	निविदेचा
क्र.		र. रु.	र. रु.	र. ह.	(परत न मिळणारी)	कालावधी
8.	रियमे विकवस महानापालिका करवेंद्रोजातीय मनपाला शिक्षण विभागाया प्राथमिक शास्त्र करेंद्रोजातीय मनपाला प्राथमिक शास्त्र करेंद्रेण दिश्यण विभागा व्यावस्थिक शिक्षण विभागा व्यावस्था करेंद्रेण विशामा व्यावस्था १९२ प्राथमिक शास्त्र अवस्था १९२ श्रावमिक शास्त्र विशामाचे १९८ माण्यमिक विशासाचे १९८ साम्याचे १३ औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण केंद्र (आयर्दीआय) यांचे इमारती, परिसराची तसेच स्थासीमाधीय स्थास्त्रमाध्रीव स्थास्त्रमाध्यास्त्रमाध्रीव स्थास्त्रमाध्रीव स्थास्त्रमाध्यास्	য় <i>ৼ</i> ,००,७ <b>ৼ</b> ,য় <b>ঽ</b> ४/౼	হং,০০,৬ংছ/-	\$,o4,o8,9८२/-	<b>१७००</b> ०/-	३ वर्ष

ई -निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी	दिनांक	०२/०३/२०२४ ते १८/०३/२०२४
निविदा भरण्याची अंतिम दिनांक व वेळ	दिनांक	१८/०३/२०२४ दु. ३.०० वा.
निविदा पूर्व बैठक दिनांक व वेळ	दिनांक	११/०३/२०२४ दु. १२.००
निविदा उघडण्याचा दिनांक	दिनांक	१८/०३/२०२४ शक्य असलेस

कोमलेली करण न देशा निर्वाद पूर्णतः किया ओवतः मंद्रा अववा नार्यद्र करणेवा अधिकार मा आवृत्त कांचे तथा. कदं राष्ट्रदे देवलेला आहे. मित्रक अंत्रक्षी मित्रकी मित्रक /मोत्रकोशांक्षीत्रक (इ.स.) मा मेक्स्टरकार्य दे-निर्धाद प्रदेशन पूर्व केलेला मार्यद्वासा पूर पार्टील मित्रकार निर्दाद निर्दाद मित्रक अधिक मार्याक स्थान क्षेत्रकार मार्याक अध्याप अध्याप

# RBI appoints S. Ravindran as TMB's part-time chairman

The Reserve Bank has appointed Tamilnad Ravindran as part-time chairman of the bank from February 29 till August 2, 2026. Currently, Mr. Ravindran is an independent director on the boards of NSE, LTIDPL Invit Services, Shriram Finance and Bandhan AMC, the lender said in a regulatory filing. The non-executive part-time chairman post in TMB fell vacant after the exit of S. Annamalai on February 2, 2020.

## NMDC iron ore output, sales race past 40 million tonnes

State-owned MMDC reported 40.24 million tome iron ore production and 40.48 MT sales for the 11 months ended February. These are the best ever cumulative volumes for the 11-month period and an almost 13% and a more than 21% increase, respectively, over the year-earlier period, India's largest iron ore producer said on Friday. Output and sales in the corresponding period of FPZ3 were 35.62 MT and 33.42 MT, respectively. February sales rose almost 6% to 3.99 MT (3.78 MT) and was a record for the month.

# Dr. Reddy's, its unit named in antitrust complaint in the U.S.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and a step down subsidiary have been named defendants in an antitrust complaint related to cancer drug Revlimid in the U.S. The complaint, before U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, asserts claims under federal antitrust law, alleging Dr. Reddy's, with Celgene Corp., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Natco Pharma and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, improperly restrained competition, the Hyderabad-based firm said.

# FIU imposes ₹5.49 cr. fine on Paytm bank for PMLA lapses

The payments bank arm was found to be in breach of KYC, anti-money laundering and terrorism financing norms, letting some entities route their illegal activities' proceeds through its accounts

he Financial Intelligence Unit-India has fined Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) \$5.49 crore for violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, after find. Laundering Act, after find ing substantial proof of money generated from ille-gal activity being routed through accounts held by entities with the bank.

The FILL-IND had initiat-



ties and their network of businesses engaging in "a

number of illegal acts, in-cluding organising and fa-cilitating online gambling", the FIU said in a statement

on Friday about the order issued on March 1.

"Further, the money generated from these illegal operations, i.e. proceeds of crime were routed and channelled through bank accounts maintained by these entities with" by these entities with" PPBL, it said. "Based on the voluminous material available... the charges against Paytm were sub-stantiated," the FIU said.

"The penalty pertains to issues within a business segment that was discontinued two years ago," a PPBL spokesperson said.

# **India's** manufacturing PMI inched up to 56.9 in February

The Hindu Bureau

India's manufacturing sec tor continued its recovery in February from an 18-month low in December, with production levels and sales rising at the fastest pace in five months, as per the seasonally-adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

A reading of over 50 on the PMI, which rose from 56.5 in January to 56.9 last month, indicates an expanmonth, indicates an expan-sion in activity. New export orders grew at the highest pace in 21 months, but em-ployment levels changed little as firms felt existing staff strengths were enough to cope with the workload.

"The upturn in manu-facturing output was the

"The upturn in manufacturing output was the strongest seen for five months and led by the capital goods category... [However] capacity pressures at goods producers in India remained mild [and] the uptick was offer than that uptick was softer than that registered in January," a

statement noted.

Output price increases slowed down to their joint-weakest since March 2023, while input cost rose only fractionally at the weakest rate since July 2020.

"Qualitative evidence highlighted higher prices for iron, paper and plastics parallel to reductions for cotton and steel," the state-cotton and steel, "the state-let," the state-

cotton and steel," the state-ment said. About 8% of firms which raised prices referred to the need to pass on higher costs to clients.

Job No. 2.

Providing LWSS to Koti Bounch village in GP Koti Bounch in 1 Distl. Sirmour HP (SH:- Laying pipe of various dia) JJM

### MARKETS

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,745	1.72
US Dollar	82.91	-0.02
Gold	63,320	0.55
Brent oil	83.80	0.19

Bajaj Finserv	1613.40	19.60
Bajaj Finance	6571.45	76.10
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla	1470.90	-9.45
Coal India	446.35	9.65
Divis Lab	3482.40	-6.40
Dr Reddys Lab	6193.55	-230.70
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco	519.10	15.25
Hind Unilever	2409.70	-2.60
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T	3633.50	155.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5273.55	27.30
M&M	1972.95	40.55
Maruti Suzuki		
NestleIndia		
NTPC		
ONGC	270.55	5.95
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life	1542.15	10.40
State Bank		
Sun Pharma	1559.25	18.70
TataConsumerPro-		
duct	1201.00	

**EXCHANGE RATES** 

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

17456374/

24464/-

44377/-

From 28/02/2024 at 5:00 PM up b 9:00 AM on 12/03/2024 From 28/02/2024 at 5:00 PM up b

9:00 AM on 12/03/2024 Un-to 11:00 AM on 12/03/2024

te of cost. pids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally sign s are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vend r authorized agency at the earliest.

p		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.70	83.02
Euro	89.31	89.66
British Pound	104.37	104.78
Japanese Yen (100)	54.98	55.20
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.53
Swiss Franc	93.33	93.70
Singapore Dollar	61.40	61.65
Canadian Dollar		
Malaysian Ringitt	17.42	17.50
Australian Dollar	53.77	53.99
Source:Indian Bank		

ed a review of PPBL's oper-ations after receiving "specific information"

Sensex, Nifty

surge almost

2% on 'better'

Key benchmark stock in

dices surged almost 2% higher on better-than-ex-pected third-quarter (Q3) Gross Domestic Product

cross Domestic Product (GDP) growth data.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) had on Thursday revised upwards Indias FV24 growth estimate to 7.6% from 7.3% projected in January. The S&P BSE Sensex surged 1.72%, or 1,245.05 points, to an all-time high of 73,745.34 backed by agains in metal and banking stocks.

GDP data

The Hindu Bureau



Paytm decides to cut

ties with beleaguered

banking arm PPBL

agencies about a few enti

The Hindu Bureau

As part of a process to cut dependencies, One 97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm) and Paytm Pay-ments Bank Ltd. (PPBL), mutually agreed to end va-rious inter-company agree-ments, Paytm said in a fi-ing to the stock exchanges.

ost governance Further, the shareholders of PPBL had agreed to sim-plify the Shareholders Agreement (SHA) to en-

hance PPBL's indepen-

Sources monitoring the development said

whatever was being

dence and governance.

"One 97 Communications Ltd.'s Board approved the termination of agreements and amendment of SHA on March I,"

the company added.
Sources monitoring the development said whatever was being done now was

'too little and too late'

# ₹2.000 notes worth about ₹8.470 cr. still in circulation'

The Hindu Bureau

More than 9 months since the Reserve Bank of India announced the withdrawal

amounced the withdrawal of the £2,000 banknotes, about ₹8,470 crore worth ₹2,000 banknotes were still in circulation as on February 29, as per the RBI. "The total value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023 has declined to ₹8,470 crore on February 29, 2024," the RBI said. "Thus, 97,62% of the ₹2,000 banknotes has been returned."

# CG Power to set up Gujarat chip unit for ₹7,600 crore

# The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Solutions Ltd. (CG) said it would invest ₹7,600 crore over five years in a joint venture with Japan's Renesas Electronics and Thai-land's Stars Microelectron-ics to build and operate an outsourced semiconductor

nes to build aid objectate an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in India.

The unit would come up at Sanand in Gujarat. The capacity would be ramped up to 15 million units per day, CG Power said.

GG would hold 92.3% stake in the JV followed by Renesas (6.8%) and Stars Microelectronics (0.9%). The project would be financed via subsidies, equity and bank borrowings.

# Automakers register robust sales in Feb. on strong SUV demand

Press Trust of India

Leading automakers Maru-ti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors on Friday report-ed robust sales for February as demand for sports utility vehicles continued to remain strong.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Honda Cars also wit-nessed higher vehicle dis-patches to dealers last

month.

February turned out to be the third-best month for sales for the industry ever.

The highest-ever passenger vehicle wholesales in a month was reported in January this year with dispatch of 3,94,500 units.

Marufi Suzuki India said Maruti Suzuki India said its total domestic passen-



ger vehicle sales grew 9% to 1,60,271 units in Febru-

to 1,60,271 units in February against 1,47,467 units in the month a year earlier.

Sales of utility vehicles rose 82% to 61,234 units last month compared to 33,550 units in February 2023.

2023.

However, dispatches of mini segment cars declined to 14,782 units against 21,875 units in February 2023. Similarly, sales of compact cars also declined by 10%.

# LIC pays Govt. ₹2,441-crore in interim dividend

The Hindu Bureau

The Life Insurance Corporation of India on Friday paid an interim dividend of more than ₹2,441 crore to the Centre. LIC Chairperson Sidd-

hartha Mohanty presented a cheque for ₹2441,44,91,124 to Finance

R2441,44,91,124 to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the State-owned insurer said in a release. Ms. Sitharaman also virtually inaugurated the LIC International Business Centre at GiFT City, Gandhinagar. The opening of the facility is a strategic move aligned with LIC's commitment to providing world-class insurance and world-class insurance and financial services on a glo-bal scale, the insurer said.

# JBLIC WORKS DEPARTME INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

work		downloading Bid	Money	Submission of Bid	
Construction of Balance	Rs. 3,26,20,132/-		Rs. 6,52,500/-		Eighteer Month
	I.T.I. Building a & S.I. Rain Har	t Swarghat in Distt vesting Tank)	. Bilaspur (H	IP) (SH:- C/o 1	l" filoor &

# IRRIGATION DIVISION, GALUDIH (Email ID: - eeidgal.icha@gmail.com)

E-Procurement Notice

	DATE-	28.02.2024	11
1.	Name of Work	Construction of W.B.M. Service Road in between 0.00 km. to 56.04 km.	
2.	Estimated cost of work (in INR)	Rs. 173242957.48 (Rupees Seventeen crore Thirty Two Lakh Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven & Forty Eight Paise) Only.	
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Rs. 1,732,430.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred Thirty ) only	
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security- As per SOP issued by Information Technology and E-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, Vide letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023	
5.	Cost of Bidding Documents	Rs. 10,000.00 ( Rupees ten thousand only)	
6.	Time of completion	360 Days,(One Year)	
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	04.03.2024 (12:30 P.M.)	
8.	Start Date of Bidding	04.03.2024 (12:30 P.M.)	Ⅱŀ
9.	Last Date and time for online Bidding	24.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M	
10	Type of Bid	Two Envelope Mode (Technical & Financial Bid)	II Į
11	Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid Security and other Documents in online form	24.03.2024 Through e-Tendering Portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in - As per SOP issued by Information	
		Technology and É-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand. Vide letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023	
12	Technical Bid	27.03.2024 At 3.00 P.M by E- procurement cell office of the Chief Engineer, Swarnrekha Project chandil complex Adityapur, Jamshedpur	
13	Name & Address of office inviting Tender Contact no. of Procurement	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Galudih 8092056468	
14	Contact no. of Procurement	8092030408	ш

SOUTHERNESS
Salem Division
Office of the Sr, Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Ende
E-Tender Notice
F-Tender Notice
Section of India The Service Divisional Electrica
was invited for the fattewing work SA\_A\_RS\_ED\_OT\_23\_24\_23, Date: 29.02.2024

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

IP / 6498/23-24 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

# Undersea cable disruptions expose India's crucial telecom vulnerability

In the past week, three un-dersea cables connecting India to global telecom net-India to global telecom net-works — Asia-Africa-Eu-rope-I, Europe India Gate-way, and Tata Global Network – have been dam-aged as a possible result of targeted attacks, forcing te-lecom operators such as Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio

Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Tata Communications to reroute traffic to other cable systems. The damage to the cable systems in the Red Sea as a result of the ongoing conflict in the region exposes the grave vulnerabilities of India's Internet and over-



seas telecom connectivity

seas telecom connectivity systems if infrastructure passing through the region is further mpacted. While Bharti and Jio de-clined to comment, Tata said in a statement it was "keeping a close watch on the situation and [had] in-itiated immediate and ap-

actions".

Two network experts said there would be minimal, if any, impact from the cable damage, as traffic could be rerouted to alter-

Choke point

Choke point While the disruptions highlight a choke point in subsea connections between Europe and Asia, they are of particular concern to India because of the relative ly few connections India has to such cables, and stiff regulatory limits on growing India's submarine cable industry for private firms that are not fullfledged telecom operators.

"It would be very bad for India" if there were further damage to subsea cable systems landing in India, remarked Sunil Tagare, a former telecom in dustry executive.

Mr. Tagare, who shared
on social media the news

off social media the news of the damage, said the reg-ulations put India among the 'unfriendliest jurisdic-tions in the world' to build

tions in the world' to build undersea cable systems. The difficulties, he told The Hindu, would hamper the ability of Indian Internet providers and telecom operators to rely on adequate redundant back-ups, a worrying prospect if more cables in the Red Sea were to get damaged.

Name of work		Starting Date for downloading Bid	Money	Deadline for Submission of Bid	
Construction of Balance	Rs. 3,26,20,132/-		Rs. 6,52,500/-		Eighter Month
	I.T.I. Building a & S.I. Rain Har	t Swarghat in Distt vesting Tank)	Bilaspur (H	IP) (SH:- C/o 1	l⁴ floor
					4. 54

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

No.: WRD/IRRDIVGALUDIH/SBD-04/2023-24

1.	Name of work	Constituction of W.D.M. Service
		Road in between 0.00 km. to 56.04
		km.
2.	Estimated cost of work (in	Rs. 173242957.48 (Rupees Seventeen
	INR)	crore Thirty Two Lakh Forty Two
	1 1	Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven
		& Forty Eight Paise) Only,
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs. in	Rs. 1,732,430.00 (Rupees Seventeen
	Lacs)	Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Four
	Laws)	Hundred Thirty ) only
4.	Initial Bid Security in the	Initial Bid Security- As per SOP
	shape of	issued by Information Technology
	strape or	and E-Governance Department, Govt.
		of Jharkhand. Vide letter no-120
	l	dated-03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding Documents	Rs. 10.000.00 ( Rupees ten thousand
J.	Cost of Bidding Documents	only)
6.	Time of completion	360 Days (One Year)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender	04.03.2024 (12:30 P.M.)
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9.	Last Date and time for online	24.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M
	Bidding	
10	Type of Bid	Two Envelope Mode (Technical &
		Financial Bid)
11	Last Date & Time for receipt	24.03.2024 Through e-Tendering
	of Bid Security and other	Portal
	Documents in online form	www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in - As
		per SOP issued by Information
	l	Technology and E-Governance
	l	Department, Govt. of Jharkhand.
	l	Vide letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023
12		27.03.2024 At 3.00 P.M by E-
	Technical Bid	procurement cell office of the Chief
		Engineer, Swarnrekha Project
	l	chandil complex Adityapur,
		lamshednur
13	Name & Address of office	Executive Engineer Irrigation
	inviting Tender	Division, Galudih
1.4	Contact no. of Procurement	8092056468
1.4	officer	0072070400
15		0657-2371765
13	Cell	0007-2071700

ne applicable.

ve informations are only indicative. Detail NIT and SBD Publish moder Portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on site http://lpaarkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 320832 (Water Resource) 23-24 (D)



### S. Dipak Ragay

tthe start of this decade, Formula One as on the precipice of a big crisis with the onset of the global pandemic Java20. That year, the season shut down days before the first race in Melbourne after a few members of the McLaren team tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The economic failout could have been catastrophic for one of the most expensive sports on the planet. However, FI struck gold in a bleak time when a humble documentary series about the 2019 season got a new set of people – cooped up in their homes because of lockdowns – to discover the sport. t the start of this decade. Formula One

wer the sport. In 2021, when things returned to normalcy, F1 had a season for the ages where the title was con had a season for the ages where the title was con-troversially decided on the last lap of the last race in lavour of Max Verstappen. Since that sea-son, which further boosted the sport's populari-ty, Red Bull and Verstappen have only grown in strength. A cruise to the drivers and construc-tors' titles in 2022 became an obliteration of the field in 2023. Red Bull won all but one race last

field in 2023. Red Bull won all but one race last year, Verstappen claiming 19 of the 22. And so, the 2024 season finds F1 at a cross-roads again. It may not be facing an existential threat but it's certainly nursing some headaches. Ahead of the 75th year of the F1 World Cham-pionship, The Hindu explores the storylines set to play out over the next 10 months.

### Can anybody tame the Bull?

Can anyoody claim the sum:

The big question on everyone's mind is, who can
stop – or even challenge – the Verstappen-Red
Bull juggernati? In sport, nothing good ever
comes from predictability. When an audience
feels that the result is a foregone conclusion, is
there any incentive to tune in?

While it is essential to acknowledge, appre ciate and even celebrate such feats of excellence, extended periods of dominance eventually turn off the neutral and casual fans

Time will tell if they

[the other teams] are or not. I also don't know if we are fast enough In general

not to think about it

MAX VERSTAPPEN

off the neutral and casual fans.

Even for Red Bull and Verstappen, their achievements will have more lustre if they are made to work for it rather than just disappearing into the distance once the five red lights go out.

So, a lot rides on Mercedes, Ferrari, and McLaren finding the means to help both themselves and the sport by taking the fight to Red Bull. But it will be challenging as they have to first douse fires in their own backyards.

Moreover, Red Bull hastr it stood still. Thanks to its significant pace advantage in 2023, the team didn't need to update the car and was able to focus its resources on 2024. This season's car is a fairly drastic evolution of its predecessor. Despite the potential to trip up, it looked quickright out of the box in testing. If it has uncorked new potential, it could be another long, dreary year for the rivals.



How the challengers measure up
It has been a chastening experience for Mercedes over the last two years after winning almost everything from 2014 to 2021. The car the
team produced for the new regulations in 2022
looked visually different from the rest of the
grid, but was neither fast nor driver-friendly,
winning just one race.

The team retained the concept last year but
made no headway and was forced to discard it.
There were also changes within the team after its
technical director, Mike Elliott, resigned and his
predecessor, James Allison, returned to a day-today role.

The evidence from pre-season testing was
reasonably promising, especially the feedback

reasonably promising, especially the feedback from the drivers. However, the headline times suggest it is probably third-fastest behind Red Bull and Ferrari, perhaps not enough for Lewis Hamilton to work with in his farewell Mercedes

Ferrari had a far more encouraging testing ex-perience, and the drivers expressed happiness



about the car's handling. The drivability was so mething both Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz had complained about last year. However, Ferra ri has in the past won a few pre-season testing championships before coming a cropper when the serious business got underway.

In 2022, the Scuderia had a race-winning car

that was in the title hunt for half a season before that was in the title hunt for half a season before things went down a spiral. It took until the se-cond half of 2023 for Perrari to get things back on track when it showed decent form in the final few races. This season is also a test of team boss Fred Vasseur's leadership. The Italian marque needs to be regularly sniping at Red Bull's heels this year to set the stage for a title assault from 2025 when Hamilton arrives at Maranello.

### Open seats, closed doors and the domino effect

The driver market was expected to be buzzing this year, with a lot of contracts running out in 2024. However, that balloon was pricked at the start of the year with three big announcements Leclerc and Lando Norris decided to extend their stay at Ferrari and McLaren. But the big bombshell, the Hamilton-Ferrari deal, dropped a

rew days later.
Though the principal actors are off the table, a
handful will drive for their futures this year. The
two drivers on top of that list are Sainz and Ser-

two drivers on top of that list are Sainz and Sergio Perez.

Sainz, who will make way for Hamilton at Ferari next year, has to show that he is still a top player in the paddock. He was the only non-Red Bull driver to win a race last year and has done well against Leclerc. The Spaniard will, no doubt, attract the attention of any team that wants a seriously fast driver with a great work ethic. Where Sainz goes next could well decide the career trajectories of many others.

On the other hand, it is a make-or-break year

On the other hand, it is a make-or-break year for Perez. Occupying the fastest car on the grid, the Mexican has underperformed Verstappen, which is putting it mildly. Red Bull hasn't needed which is putting it mindy, seed such assist needed Perez's help in the constructors' battle or in tak-ing points off Verstappen's rivals in the last two years. But this will change if there is a threat from another team. It is the last chance for the she time Grand Prix winner to step up and show what he can do.

# The ever-changing sprint conundrum

The ever-changing sprint conundrum
The sprint format was introduced in 2021 at select events to liven up the proceedings on altree days of aweekend. The venues are chosen based on the circuit's overtaking potential, and there will be six events this year.

It has undergone two format changes already. For this year, the format remains the same, but the flow of the events has changed, Sprint qualifying will now be held on Friday evening and the sprint race on Saturday morning, followed by qualifying for the main Grand Prix.

sprint race on Saturday morning, followed by qualifying for the main Grand Prix. Last year, sprint qualifying and the sprint race were held on Saturday, making the middle day of the weekend a bit pointless. This is the latest at-tempt to make the sprint appealing, but the jury is still out on whether it adds to the spectacle.

### STACKING UP



ATI	P Men's Top 15			
ŧ	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	9,855	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,805	18
3	Jannik Sinner	22	8,270	20
4	Daniil Medvedev	28	8,015	19
5	Andrey Rublev	26	5,110	24
6	Alexander Zverev	26	5,085	26
7	Holger Rune	20	3,700	23
8	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,395	24
9	Alex de Minaur	25	3,210	25
10	Taylor Fritz	26	3,150	25
11	Casper Ruud	25	3,120	24
12	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,080	24
13	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,925	23
14	Tommy Paul	26	2,375	27
15	Karen Khachanov	27	2.260	23







W	'A Women's Top 15			
¥	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	10,105	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,725	17
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,975	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,848	19
5	Jessica Pegula	30	5,050	21
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,173	23
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,070	16
8	Qinwen Zheng	21	4,040	21
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,565	24
10	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,548	23
11	Karolina Muchova	27	3,275	12
12	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,063	25
13	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,870	23





*	ASCON VIIII	20	10	**	- 0	20	35	21	52
5	Tottenham	25	14	5	6	52	38	14	47
6	Man. United	26	14	2	10	36	36	0	44
7	Brighton	26	10	9	7	49	41	8	39
8	West Ham	26	11	6	9	40	46	-6	39
9	Wolves	26	11	5	10	40	40	0	38
10	Newcastle	26	11	4	11	54	45	9	37
11	Chelsea	25	10	5	10	42	41	1	35
12	Fulham	26	9	5	12	36	42	-6	32
13	C. Palace	26	7	7	12	31	44	-13	28
14	Bournemouth	25	7	7	11	33	47	-14	28
15	Everton *	26	8	7	11	28	34	-6	25
16	Brentford	26	7	4	15	37	48	-11	25
17	N. Forest	26	6	6	14	34	48	-14	24
18	Luton Town	25	5	5	15	35	51	-16	20
19	Burnley	26	3	4	19	25	58	-33	13
20	Shoffiold	76	- 2	- 4	10	22	66	44	12

n	Team	GP	w	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	26	22	3	1	67	12	55	69
2	Juventus	26	17	6	3	41	19	22	57
3	AC Milan	26	16	5	- 5	50	32	18	53
4	Bologna	26	13	9	4	39	23	16	48
5	Atalanta	26	14	4	8	48	28	20	46
6	Roma	26	13	5	8	48	32	16	44
7	Fiorentina	26	12	5	9	39	30	9	41
8	Lazio	26	12	4	10	32	28	- 4	40
9	Napoli	26	11	-7	8	40	30	10	40
10	Torino	26	9	9	8	25	25	0	36
11	Monza	26	9	9	8	27	30	-3	36
12	Genoa	26	8	9	9	28	31	-3	33
13	Empoli	26	6	7	13	22	40	-18	25
14	Lecce	26	5	9	12	24	43	-19	24
15	Udinese	26	3	14	9	25	40	-15	23
16	Frosinone	26	6	5	15	34	55	-21	23
17	Verona	26	- 4	8	14	23	36	-13	20
18	Sassuolo	26	- 5	5	16	32	54	-22	20
19	Cagliari	26	4	8	14	24	47	-23	20
20	Calamitana	26	2	7	17	20	53	-33	13

# Standings GP W D L GF GA GD PTS

1	Real Madrid	26	20	5	1	54	16	38	65
2	Girona	26	18	5	3	57	32	25	59
3	Barcelona	26	17	6	3	56	34	22	57
4	Atletico Madrid	26	16	4	6	52	28	24	52
5	Athletic Bilbao	26	14	7	5	46	26	20	45
6	Real Betis	26	10	12	4	31	26	- 5	42
7	Real Sociedad	26	10	10	6	35	26	9	40
8	Las Palmas	26	10	6	10	26	26	0	36
9	Valencia	25	10	6	9	29	29	0	36
10	Getafe	26	8	10	8	33	38	-5	34
11	Osasuna	26	9	6	11	30	37	-7	3
12	Alaves	26	7	8	11	25	32	-7	25
13	Villarreal	26	7	8	11	38	48	-10	25
14	Rayo Vallecano	26	5	10	11	22	36	-14	25
15	Sevilla	26	- 5	9	12	30	38	-8	24
16	Real Mallorca	26	4	12	10	23	34	-11	24
17	Celta Vigo	26	4	9	13	29	39	-10	23
18	Cadiz	26	2	12	12	17	37	-20	11
19	Granada	25	2	8	15	27	49	-22	1
70	Almeria	76	0	9	17	25	54	-29	-

*	Team	GP	w	D	L	GF	GΑ	GD	P
1	Leverkusen	23	19	4	0	59	16	43	
2	Bayern	23	17	2	4	63	26	37	
3	Stuttgart	23	15	2	6	52	29	23	
4	Dortmund	23	11	8	4	46	30	16	
5	RB Leipzig	23	12	4	- 7	49	30	19	-
6	Eint, Frankfurt	23	8	10	5	36	30	6	
7	Hoffenheim	23	8	6	9	41	43	-2	
8	Werder Bremen	23	8	6	9	32	35	-3	
9	SC Freiburg	23	8	5	10	30	42	-12	
10	Heidenheim	23	7	7	9	33	40	-7	Ξ
11	FC Augsburg	23	6	8	9	33	41	-8	
12	M'gladbach	23	6	-7	10	41	45	-4	
13	Wolfsburg	23	6	7	10	28	36	-8	
14	Union Berlin	23	7	4	12	23	37	-14	
15	Bochum	23	5	10	8	28	46	-18	
16	Cologne	23	3	8	12	16	37	-21	Ξ
17	Mainz	23	2	9	12	18	37	-19	
18	Darmstadt	23	2	7	14	24	52	-28	

Te:	st Batting			Te:	st Bowling	
p	Player	Rating	Career best		Player	R
1	Kane Williamson	893	919	1	Jasprit Bumrah	
2	Steve Smith	818	947	2	R. Ashwin	
3	Joe Root	799	923	3	Kagiso Rabada	
4	Daryl Mitchell	780	804	4	Pat Cummins	
5	Babar Azam	768	882	5	Josh Hazlewood	
6	Usman Khawaja	765	847	6	Ravindra Jadeja	
7	Dimuth Karunaratne	750	783	7	Prabath Jayasuriya	
8	Marnus Labuschagne	746	937	8	Nathan Lyon	
9	Virat Kohli	744	937	9	Kyle Jamieson	
10	Harry Brook	743	773	10	James Anderson	_

1 Babar Azam	824	898	1	Keshav Maharaj
2 Shubman Gill	801	847	2	Josh Hazlewood
3 Virat Kohli	768	909	3	Adam Zampa
4 Rohit Sharma	746	882	4	Mohammed Siraj
5 Daryl Mitchell	728	750	5	Jasprit Bumrah
6 Harry Tector	723	729	6	Mohammad Nabi
6 David Warner	723	869	7	Shaheen Afridi
8 Dawid Malan	707	730	8	Rashid Khan
9 Rassie van der Dusser	1 701	796	9	Kuldeep Yadav
10 Heinrich Klaasen	697	757	10	Trent Boult
T201 Batting			T2	0] Bowling
T20 Batting			T2	0 Bowl

Ħ	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	800	875
4	Babar Azam	764	896
5	Aiden Markram	755	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
8	Finn Allen	696	723
9	Jos Buttler	680	687

Adil Rashid	726	746
Wanindu Hasaranga	702	797
Maheesh Theekshana	669	684
Akeal Hosein	664	683
Axar Patel	660	667
Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
Josh Hazlewood	654	806
Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
Fazalhaq Farooqi	646	692

Rating Career best

Has Dusan Vlahovic finally found his feet at Juventus?

The 24-year-old's reputation as one of Europe's hottest attacking talents had begun to erode after a big-money move to Turin. But a goal-rich start to 2024 has altered the mood among the Bianconeri. Can he sustain this form and join the ranks of the truly elite?

Reuters Agence France-Presse

hen Dusan Vlahovic scored his second goal against Frosinone last weekend, creating space in the box by wrong-footing his marker before producing an exquisite finish to level the game at 2-2, the official Juventus social media handle exclaimed: "Dusan!! He just can't stop scoring can he?" It was a sentiment the Bianconeri fans ardently agreed with.

This marked a change – in both the tone and mood in Turin – from much of 2002 and 2023, when Vlahovic's reputation as one of Europe's hottest talents was fast eroding. Juventus had acquired the Serbian hitman's services during the January transfer window in 2022, beating serious competition from Arsenal and forking out 480 million. hen Dusan Vlahovic scored his

### Price-tag pressure

Price-tag pressure
But Vlahovic struggled to reproduce the sort of
form that saw him score 38 goals in 58 games
across one and a half seasons before Juventus
signed him. There was a growing feeling at the
Turin-based club that the output was not living
up to the price tag. By the 2023 summer window, the Italian powerhouse was courting
wealthy clubs, hoping to recoup its investment.
Juventus even reportedly offered him to
cash-splashing Chelsea in the hope of securing
komelu Lukaku. But with no club willing to part
with the kind of money Juventus wanted, Vlahovic stayed put. And now many Juventus fans

hovic stayed put. And now many Juventus fans are thanking their lucky stars.

The brace against Frosinone took Vlahovic's Serie A tally this season to 15, second only to Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez. Even more im-pressively, they made Vlahovic the leading scor-

ter Milan's Lautaro Martinez. Even more impressively, they made Vlahovic the leading scorer in Europe's top five leagues in 2024, his nine goals in seven Serie A games having no equal. In addition to deciding matches – he also assisted Daniele Rugani's stoppage-time winner against Frosinone – Vlahovic is looking like a leader at The Old Lady. He has scored 37% of Juventus' goals this season; no one among Serie As top 10 Scorers has a higher proportion. Vlahovic is also setting the tone for the supporters of a club struggling to keep pace in a title race. Juventus is second in the Serie A standings but trails Inter by a large margin. The Serbia international celebrated his first goal against Prosinone by placing his hand under his chin, as if to say the Bianconeri must hold their heads high and soldier on.

What has changed for Vlahovic? "I honestly don't know what happened. I think all the hard work I did finally paid off," he said. "I'm physically well, it's simple. I work as usual, I take care of my body. I sleep well, I eat well and I train well, the difference with the past season is that

Vlahovic is second on the list of the top scorers in Serie A this season. Nine of his 15 goals have come in 2024 37% among the top 10 scorers has contributed as high a proportion of the team's league goals as Vlahovic Lhonestly what

I'm fine and I don't have pro-blems. Nonetheless, I am not happy ... the team results matter more than my goals. We have not been up to our usual standards. Coach Ce-sare Prandelli believes Vla-hovic's desire to prove himself and the trust he has begun to feel in Turin have contributed to the turs. have contributed to the tur naround. "He has more sel esteem and is convinced about his role inside Juventus," Prandelli told *Tuttosport*. "Against

sinone, he lit erally dragged Ju-ventus. He can be-

ventus. He can become a leader and
the reference point
for personality,
technique and
goals. He has a fire
inside and really
cares about the consideration he feels
from his teammates
and the environment. If
he feels trust, he gives his
best."

Best in the world? And Vlahovic's best is truly elite. Former Juventus striker Darko Kovacevic thinks his compa-Darko Kovacevic thinks his compa-triot "can become one of the best in the world". "Dusan is – and has al-ways been – a great striker, he just need-ed to find his best form," Kovacevic told Gazzetta dello Sport. "His talent has never been in question. We are talking about a young but complete entire forward. He has been going through a spectarity entire of few young but complete centre forward. He has been going through a spectacular state of form since January and I hope that this is only the start. I remain convinced that Dusan can be-come one of the best in the world... just like [Erling] Haaland."

lingl Haaland."
Vlahovic is an exceptional ball-striker – with a jackhammer of a left foot that can get the ball to curve and dip, he is a goal threat at free-kicks. His left foot also makes him dangerous from range as well as from inside the box, where he often finds space to receive progressive nasses.

often finds space to receive gressive passes.
Unlike many other left-footers, the 24-year-old isn't one-footed. He is a more-than-competent finisher off his right when defenders shepherd him onto his 'weaker' foot - he is capable of both striking across his body and opening across his body and opening up his hips and side-footing



Against Frosinone, he literally dragged Juventus. He has a fire inside ... If he feels trust, he gives his best. He can become the reference point for personality, technique

CESARE PRANDELLI

The 3-1 win over Lazio earlier this season

the ball.

The 3-1 win over Lazio earlier this season showcased the variety of finishing Vlahovic possesses. He opened the scoring by sweeping home a cross with a technically supreme first-time finish. He later restored the two-goal cushion when he chested down a long ball, opened up space in front of two defenders with a touch and fired home from the edge of the box.

At 6'3", Vlahovic has enough of an aerial presence. He can outjump most defenders and score off towering headers. He is also brave enough to attempt diving headers, his poacher's instinct often getting him to balls other strikers may have given up chasing.

At Juventus, Vlahovic doesn't always get to show off his all-round game. He does not participate in the build-up as often as Lautarro does at Inter, for instance, but the Serb has the skill and touch to roll his defenders under contact. This makes him a good bouncing board for passes to release runners from deep, a facet of his game that makes him an ideal option for both one-striker settles and the two-striker system he al-most always plays in at Juventus. most always plays in at Juventus.

# What the future holds

What the future holds
But for all of Vlahovic's undeniable qualities, he
will be judged on the numbers he puts up and
their influence on Juventus' pursuit of titles. The question both player and club will want the
answer to is whether this run of goal-scoring
form is consistently replicable or a one-off — this
will also have a bearing on their future together.
With Vlahovic's contract set to run until June
2026, this summer could prove pivotal. A 25goal season will attract interes from top clubs,
with several big name strikers set to shift. Juventus will need to ascertain whether
cashing in when Vlahovic's value has risen again is the right move; the risk of
losing his potentially elite peak years
is fairly high as well.

For now, though, the focus is on

is fairly high as well.

For now, though, the focus is on closing the gap to inter and keeping the others behind. If Juventus and Vlahovic can manage that, it's unlikely anybody in Turin will ever question the 680 million price tag again.

DUSAN VLAHOVIO

# **GAME THEORY**

# Gone in 60 metres: the fastest hurdlers and sprinters

Devynne Charlton came within 0.01 seconds of equalling her world indoor 60m hurdles record in Madrid last week The Bahamian athlete is set to threaten her mark again at this weekend's World Athletics Indoor Championships in Glaggow. But Tia Jones, who shares both the world record and the second-best time, is out with an injury and wow face off against Charlton. It's a good opportunity then to take a look at the top times in the women's 60m hurdles a well as those in the 60m flat spinit.

### 60 METRES HURDLES: BEST TIMES (WOMEN)

mark (sec)	Competitor	venue	Date
7.67	Devynne Charlton	New York	11 Feb 2024
7.67	Tia Jones	Albuquerque	16 Feb 2024
7.68	Susanna Kallur	Karlsruhe	10 Feb 2008
7.68	Tia Jones	Albuquerque	16 Feb 2024
7.68	Devynne Charlton	Madrid	23 Feb 2024
7.69	Lyudmila Narozhilenko	Chelyabinsk	04 Feb 1990
7.70	Lyudmila Narozhilenko	Madrid	11 Feb 1993
7.70	Sharika Nelvis	Albuquerque	18 Feb 2018
7.70	Kendra Harrison	Birmingham	03 Mar 2018
7.71	Lyudmila Narozhilenko	Chelyabinsk	04 Feb 1990

### 60 METRES: BEST TIMES (WOMEN)

OF METRES: BEST TIMES (WOMEN)							
Mark (sec)	Competitor	Venue	Date				
6.92	Irina Privalova	Madrid	11 Feb 1993				
6.92	Irina Privalova	Madrid	09 Feb 1995				
6.93	Irina Privalova	Lievin	13 Feb 1994				
6.94	Irina Privalova	Lievin	19 Feb 1995				
6.94	Aleia Hobbs	Albuquerque	18 Feb 2023				
6.94	Julien Alfred	Albuquerque	11 Mar 2023				
6.95	Gail Devers	Toronto	12 Mar 1993				
6.95	Irina Privalova	Wien	06 Feb 1994				
6.95	Irina Privalova	Moskva	14 Feb 1995				
6.95	Marion Jones	Maebashi	07 Mar 1998				
6.96	Merlene Ottey	Madrid	14 Feb 1992				
6.96	Irina Privalova	Madrid	11 Feb 1993				
6.96	Katerina Thanou	Maebashi	07 Mar 1999				
6.96	Mujinga Kambundji	Beograd	18 Mar 2022				
6.96	Julien Alfred	Albuquerque	10 Mar 2023				



happened. I think all the

hard work I

physically vell. it's

simple. I work as usual, I take care of my

body. I sleep well, I eat well and I

train well



# **PICTURE THIS**



### Sand tussle

Brazil prevailed over Italy in a keenly contested final to win a keenly contested final to win a record sixth title at the 2024 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Dubai last Sunday. With the 6-4 victory, the Brazilians added to the crowns

von in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009,

and 2017. Iran defeated Belarus

and 2017. Iran defeated Belarus in the third-place playoff.
The Beach Soccer World Cup, first staged in 2005, was preceded by the Beach Soccer World Championships, which was conducted under the supervision of Beach Soccer Worldwide (BSWW) and its predecessors.

FIFA partnered with BSWW. took over the running of the tournament in 2005 and rebranded it as an official FIFA event. Beach football's roots event. Beach football's roots can be traced to the sands of Rio de Janeiro, so Brazil's dominance isn't a surprise. A game of beach football spans 36 minutes, with teams

consisting of five players consisting of five players (including a goalkeeper) each. The field is considerably smaller that a regular football pitch and great care is taken to clear the sand of pebbles, seashells and other objects that can cause injuries. Seychelles is set to host the 2025 edition of the tournament.



Australia dismissed New Zealand for 179 to take control of the first Test on Friday's second day after Cameron Green had scored 174 not out in a final-wicket stand to drive the visitor to 383 all out The scores: Australia 383 (Green 174 not out, M. Henry 5-70) & 13/2 in 8 overs vs New Zealand 179 in 43.1 overs (Phillips 71, Lyon 4/43)

### SPECIAL WIN

Ireland downs Afghanistan to claim maiden Test victory



Afghanistan by six wickets in Abu Dhabi, ending a streak of seses. It reached its target of 111 in the final session of day three. e scores: Afghanistan 155 & 218 (Shahidi 55) lost to Ireland 263 & 111/4 in 31.3 overs (Balbirnie 58 n.o.)

Bashir is the new Ashwin, hails former England captain Vaughan



superstar in off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who has the skills to emulate the success of R. Ashwin. He impressed with a match haul of eight wickets in Ranchi, "Celebrating another world-class superstar that arthed, Bashir. He's the new Ashwin," said Vaughan

### MUCH-NEEDED STEP

Kapil backs BCCI's decision to protect First-Class events



'A few players will suffer, but let it be," said Kapil Dev on Friday as he backed the BCCI's decision to terminate central contracts for lack of commitment to domestic cricket, calling it a much-needed step to protect First-Class events like the Ranii Trophy. He said the decision to assert importance of domestic cricket was long overdue

# Ecclestone and Harris sizzle as **Warriorz brush off Giants**

The former spins a web around the Gujarat batters with a three-wicket haul before the Australian's unbeaten 60 takes the Uttar Pradesh side home with six wickets and 26 balls to spare

WPL SEASON 2

Mayank Chaudhary

pin it to win it' was the mantra for the UP Warriorz, led by Sophie Ecclestone (4-0-20-3), before Grace Harris' unbeaten fifty (60, 33b, 9x4, 2x6) powered it to a six-wicket win over Gujarat Giants in the Women's Pre-mier League game at the mier League game at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday. Chasing 143, Harris ad-

ded valuable runs with Chamari Athapaththu and Deepti Sharma, taking the Warriorz to the finish line with 26 balls to spare for its second consecutive win.

with 26 balls to spare for its second consecutive win. Earlier, spinners capitalised on a turning track to help the Warrior; restrict the Glants to 142 for five after choosing to bowl. Laura Wolvaardt used Anjali Sarvam's pace and exploited the short off-side boundary, hitting her for three backs boak fours. Skipper Beth Mooney, who had two poor performances with the bat, showed the right intent at the start. She stepped out to Rajeshwari Gayakwad and smashed a straight four.

She then welcomed Ecclestone with a boundary, executing a flawless re-verse lap, as Giants got off





to a brisk start.

But, as the openers looked to change gears, Ecclestone dismissed Mooney, who was caught by Harris at mid-off.

Harris at mid-off.

Ecclestone picked up
one more wicket, removing Wolvaardt in similar fashion. This time, it was Athapaththu who caught the South African at

the first four. Harleen Deol had anoth-

mid-off.

Harris and Ecclestone
bowled in tandem, choking the batters and stopping the boundary hits.

Alyssa Healy's ploy to
operate with the off-spinpers paid off as the Giants

ners paid off, as the Giants could only manage 29 in six overs after scoring 33 in

er underwhelming outing, scoring 18 off 24 before hol-ing out to Anjali off Rajesh-wari's bowling. Ashleigh Gardner (30,

17b, 4x4, 1x6) provided the impetus, her 52-run association with Phoebe Litchfield powering Giants close to the 150-mark but it was enough once Harris

**GUJARAT GIANTS** GUJARAT GIANTS
Laura Wolvaardt c Athapaththu b
Ecclestone 28 (26b, 4x4), Beth
Mooney c Harris b Ecclestone 16
(16b, 2x4), Harleen Dool c Anglial b
Agjeshwari 18 (24b, 1x4), Phoebe
Litchfield run out 35 (26b, 4x4,
1x6), Ashleigh Gardner c
Athapaththu b Ecclestone 30

1x6), Ashleigh Gardner c
Athapaththu b Ecclestone 30
(17b, 4x4, 1x6), D. Hemalatha (
out) 2 (4b), Kathryn Bryce (not
out) 5 (7b); Extras (b-4, lb-4): 8;
Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs FALL OF WICKETS

FALL OF WICKETS
1-40 (Mooney, 5.2 overs), 2-61
(Wolvaardt, 9.3), 3-83 (Harfeen,
12.6), 4-135 (Gardner, 18.1), 5-135
(Litchfield, 18.3),
UP WARRIORZ BOWLING
Athapaththu 4-0-19-0, Anjali
1-0-13-0, Rajeshwari 4-0-33-1,
Harris 3-0-21-0, Ecclestone
4-0-20-3. Deerif 4-0-78-0

Harris 3-0-21-0, Ecclestone
4-02-03. Deepid +0-28-0.

UP WARRIORZ
Alyssa Healy be Byre 33 (21b,
7-86), Kiran Naugire - Hernalatha
b Tanuja 12 (Ba, 26-4), Chamari
Athapaththur e Wolwaardt b
Tanuja 17 (Ilb, 4-86), Grace Harris
(not out) 60 (33b, 9-46, 2-66),
Shweta Sehravast b Meghna 2
(7b), Deepit Shamra (not out) 17
(14b), 3-84); Estras (Ib-1, w-1): 2;
Total (for four wiks. in 15-4

Total (for four wkts, in 15.4 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-42 (Kiran, 4.3), 2-50 (Healy, 5.2), 3-86 (Athapaththu, 8.5), 4-90 (Shweta, 10.4).

GIANTS BOWLING
Meghna 4-1.39-1, Bryce 2-0-19-1, Gardner 3-0-30-0, Tanuja
3-0-23-2, Mannat 1-0-14-0, Sneh
2-4-0-17-0. 2.4-0-17-0.

Toss: UP Warriorz.

UP Warriorz won by six wickets with 26 balls to spare.

Saturday's match: RCB vs. MI, 7.30 p.m.

# Puneri Paltan reigns supreme against Haryana Steelers, clinches its first crown



n: Paltan's title triumph made up for its

Saikat Chakraborty

Puneri Paltan emerged vic-torious in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 final, de-League Season 10 final, de-feating Haryana Steelers 28-25 in a nail-biting en-counter here at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium on

The low-scoring en-counter, which ended with Paltan winning its maiden title, was built as a defen-sive battle between the strongest backlines of the

However, it was Puneri Paltan's raider Pankaj Mohite who emerged the hero on the night, scoring a cru cial nine points and lead-ing his team's offensive charge, particularly in key rge, particularly in key

do-or-die moments.

The first half was a close contest, with Paltan maintaining a narrow lead.

A crucial four-point raid

by Mohite near halftime pushed Haryana to the brink of an all-out, but sub-stitute raider Vishal Tate kept the Steelers in the game with a crucial touch point.

point.
The second half continued to be a tense affair.
Paltan eventually pulled
away to an eight-point lead
in the final two minutes.
Strong defensive play by
right corner Gaurav Khatri,
who secured four tackle
points, helped Paltan slow
down the yame and secure down the game and secure a historic victory.

On the other hand, it was a disappointing night for Haryana, which strug-gled defensively – only ma-naging six tackle points throughout the match

throughout the match. It was tough for coach Manpreet Singh, whose luck in finals as a coach remains poor. He lost two consecutive finals with Gujarat Giants (previously Gujarat Fortune Giants) before this gutting loss with the Steelers.

Paltan captain Aslam In-

Paltan captain Aslam In amdar was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the season for 142 raid points and 23 tackle points. The side's vice-cap tain Mohammadreza Chi yaneh was adjdged the sea-son's best defender, but fell son's best defender, but fell short of a record-equalling 100 tackle points by one solitary point, while Da-bang Delhi's Ashu Malik bagged the best raider ho-nour for his haul of 276 raid points.

The result: Puneri Paltan 28 bt Haryana Steelers 25.

Treesa and Gavatri exit

in the

# Odisha CM Patnaik releases Sportstar's coffee table book on Hockey World Cup

The Hindu Bureau BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Na-veen Patnaiir Pelased a coffee table book titled 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023' brought out by Sportstar, the sports magazine of The Hindu Group, here on Friday. Sportstar meticulously captured every on-field and off-field moment of the 15th chapter of the FIH Od-isha Hockey Men's World Odisha Chief Minister Na-

isha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, showcasing the grand celebration of the sport in Odisha. The cap-tivating coffee table book has preserved the memo-ries of the World Cup for eternity.
The State had success

The State had successfully organised the Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 at two venues – Bhubanes-war and Rourkela. In a message, Mr. Patnaik said, "having played host to top officials and players from 16 nations, global artists, sports champions and hockey lovers from across the world, it was indeed a bigger, more



Odisha CM Patnaik releasing the book in the presence of Ayon Sengupta, Editor of Sportstar and Sridhar Aranala, Vice President of The Hindu group, in Bhubaneswar on Friday, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

exciting, engaging and un-Coup. It was absolutely de-lightful to see the people of India and Odisha becoming part of what was a hockey festival like no

other."
"The two state-of-the-art venues – the iconic Kal-inga Hockey Stadium, in Bhubaneswar as well as the brand-new Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourke-la – stand testimony to Od-

isha's strong commitment and love towards hockey,'

he remarked.
Odisha CM hoped the success of this World Cup

success of this World Cup would inspire the younger generation towards hockey and revive the glory days of Indian hockey. The 252-page coffee ta-ble book has vividly cap-tured sporting actions, cul-tural extravaganza and spectators' excitements. Outstanding photographs

and rich printing produc-tion has made the coffee ta-ble lively.

"The right to host back-to-back FIH World Cups stands as a testament to Odisha's long-standing support for hockey and its

support for hockey and its commitment to promote sports at every level. Under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the State has witnessed a sporting revolution, 'said Ayon Sengupta, Editor of Sportstar. "Sportstar and The Hindu feel privileged to be part of this endeavour to spread the story of the State's love for hockey through this book. The book not only provides a visual treat, but also an insight into the works that made the miracle happen,' said Mr. Sengupta.

made the miracle happen," said Mr. Sengupta.
Odisha's Sports and Youth Services Department Secretary R. Vineel Krishna and Sridhar Aranala, Vice President, SDT Rao, General Manager, of *The Hindu* Group were present at the release of coffee table book.

# Boyer gets the better of fourth seed Syrcina

DELHI OPEN

NEW DELHI

Tristan Bover knocked out

Tristan Boyer knocked out the fourth seed Dalibor Svrcina 7-6(2), 7-6(1) in the quarterfinals of the Dafa News SE2,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis at the DLTA Complex on Friday. The 22-year-old Boyer, ranked 242 in the world, allowed his Czech opponent to fight back, as the two exchanged eight breaks of serve in the match. However, the American handled the tie-breaks with authority, thanks to his strong ty, thanks to his strong serve, to pull through in straight sets.

In the semifinals, Boyer will play Geoffrey Blanca-neaux of France. The Frenchman unleashed his Frenchman unleashed his energetic game after a hesitant start to beat qualifier Philip Sekulic of Australia 7-6(3), 6-2. The Aussie had not dropped a set in four matches including two in the qualifying event. More-



his strong serve, to pull thro

over, Sekulic had not dropped more than six games in any of those matches. Blancaneaux, who had outplayed second seed Adam Walton for the loss of three games in the second round, found a way to break Sekulic's resistance and pulled through with ease after winning the

with ease after winning ...
first set.
The other semifinal will be between Yuta Shimizu of Japan and Coleman Wong of Korea.

Singles: Quarterfinals: Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) bt Enrico Dalla Valle (Ita) 7-5, 7-5, Coleman Wong (Ikg) bt Tristan Schoolkate (Aus) 7-6(10), 6-3; Tristan Boyer (USA) bt Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) 7-6(2), 7-6(1); Geoffrey Blancaneaux (Fra) bt Philip Sekulic (Aus) 7-6(3), 6-2.

Doubles: Semifinals: Jakob Schnaitter & Mark Wallner (Ger) bt Ray Ho (Tpe) & Calum Puttergill (Aus) 3-6, 7-6(6), [10-5]; Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) & Matthew Romios (Aus) bt

# quarterfinals GERMAN OPEN

Press Trust of India

Fourth-seeded Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand crashed out of the German Open Super 300 badminton tournament, after losing to Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min in the women's doubles quarterfinals in Mulheim an der Ruhr on Friday. The Chinese duo, seeded sixth, prevailed over the Indians 21-16, 21-14 in 41 minutes. Fourth-seeded Treesa Jolly

Treesa and Gayatri had defeated the Czech pair of Sona Horinkova and Kate-rina Zuzakov 21-10, 21-11 in a round of 16 match on Thursday. However, it was curtains for India in both women's and men's singles

Other results (round of 16): Men: Nhat Nguyen (Irl) bt Sathis Kumar Karunakaran 2-18, 24-22. Women: Mia Blichfeldt (Den) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13, 21-14.



### Lahiri set to be back at Hero Indian Open after five years

Star golfer and former champion Anirban Lahiri is set to return at the Hero Indian Open, the country's National Open which will have an enhanced prize money of \$2.25 million this year Part of the Asian swing, the Indian Open will have 144 players, including 33 Indians, competing for the top prize from March 28 to 31 at the DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram.

### Anuksha nets thrice as India routs Bhutan

Anulsha Kumari's hat-trick headlined India's commanding 70 win over Bhutan in the SAFF UIG Women's Championship in Kathmandu at the ANFA Complex on Friday. Anulsha, the 3y-yar-old from Hazaribagh, tore into the Bhutan defence with Pearl Fernandes (two goals), Shveta Rani and substitute Anwita Raghuraman being the other goal-scorers for India.

## LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App. 8.30 a.m Ranji Trophy: (semifinals), Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 & 7.30 p.m.

PVL: Sonv Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV. 6.30 p.m.

**LaLiga:** Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 7.30, 10.30 p.m.; Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m

Formula One: Bahrain GP, F1 TV & F1 TV Pro App, 8.30 p.n Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 & 11

New Zealand vs Australia: 1st Test, day 4, Prime Video, 3.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Badminton: German Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cine

# A tantalising semifinal between old foes would be a treat for the ardent fans

TN meets Mumbai in the marquee clash; the scanner will be on Shreyas who would be keen on making a statement on the big occasion

### RANJI TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar

he Ranji Trophy is coming to its busi-ness end. While non-participation of star players in the premier First Class competition may have hit the headlines, the presence of multiple stars has taken the interest in a tantalising semifinal bet-ween old foes Mumbai and Tamil Nadu a notch higher

Boost for TN Tamil Nadu – having seam-lessly hit top gear after a slow start to the season – has received a boost with the addition of B. Sai Sud-harsan and Washington



in Bengaluru, Washington arrived in the morning af-ter being released from In-

dia's Test squad. The duo trained exten-sively at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy ground

on Friday morning. At the other end of the ground, Mumbai also had a long practice session. More than the duo, Shreyas Iyer will be under the scanner over the next five days.

After having made himself unavailable for last week's materinal against

week's quarterfinal against Baroda and now omitted from the BCCI's central contracts list, Shreyas will be keen on making a statement on the big occasion.

The aggressive batter had a long batting stint in the nets on Thursday, but

the nets on Thursday, but took it easy on Friday in an optional session. Shreyas will play for Mumbai in place of Su-ryansh Shedge in a direct swap. It will be interesting to see if Mumbai brings in wicketkeeper Prasad Pa-

war for opener Bhupen Lalwani. Hardik Tamore proved his mettle with the willow in the quarterfinal, but was ordinary behind the stumps, so Mumbai may be tempted to bolster its denth

its depth. Besides Sai Sudharsan and Washington coming in for R. Vimal Khumar and Mohammed Ali, Tamil Na du will also be tempted to field pacer Kuldeep Sen in place of M. Mohammed.

The surface at the Ban-The surface at the Bandra-Kurla Complex facility sported a green look and unless the grass is removed, captain R. Sai Kishore – the highest wickettaker of the season – will know that Kuldeep Sen's pace may make a difference as much as his own skilful left-arm spin.

# Confident Vidarbha takes on Pandit's Madhya Pradesh

Abhishek Saini

Riding on the high of tak-Riding on the high of tak-ing down heavyweight Kar-nataka in the quarterfinals, Vidarbha will look to deny Madhya Pradesh its second final in three years when they face off in the first Ranji Trophy semifinal at the VCA Stadium (Civil Lines) here on Saturday. Aditya Sarwate and

Aditya Sarwate and Harsh Dubey triggered a Karnataka batting melt-down on the final day, and led Vidarbha into the final four after five years, MP. meanwhile, scraped a nar victory against Andhra to continue its bid for a second title un

Gutsy Ankita Raina fights back

past Jacqueline Cabai Awad

The colossal First-Class coach, Pandit, pitted against his former side Viagainst his former side vi-darbha, which he led to back-to-back titles in 2017/ 18 and 2018/19, serves an enticing sub-plot to the contest.

Himanshu Mantri and Himanshu Mantri and Yash Dubey have set the tone at the top for MP. The duo has notched up 500 plus runs each this season and contributed three hundred-plus opening-wicket partnerships. But its collapse from 123 for no loss to 159 for seven in the first innings against Andhra was symptomatic

Andhra was symptomatic of its middle-order frailties, which have been masked by all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer.

Venkatesh has managed to salvage his side from precarious situations with aplomb, scoring 528 runs at a strike rate of 82.28.

Favourable match-up The southpaw will have a favourable match-up The southpaw will have a favourable match-up against the left-arm off-spin of Sarwate, Vidarbha's leading wicket-taker this season with 37 scalps, and will again be tasked with

holding things together for

Taide's coming-of-age cen-tury against Karnataka as sured that the 23-year-old can fill in the big shoes of Faiz Fazal. But its imports. Dhruv Shorey and Karun Nair, will shoulder the maior share of the side's batting hopes. Vidarbha could have be-

Vidarbha could have be-nefited from Jitesh Shar-ma's firepower in the low-er-middle order, but the wicketkeeper-batter has featured Just once in eight games so far. In his stead, captain Akshay Wadkar's six half-centuries have been valuable. Kumar Kartikeya's 32 wickets proved crucial when MP clinched the crown in 2022. The left-arm off-spinner has man-arm off-spinner has man-

arm off-spinner has man-aged 38 this season already and is MP's leading wicket taker. With help from pac-ers Avesh Khan and Kulwant Khejroliya, MP could pose a threat to the home team's batting.



# Kerala, tops Group A FOOTBALL

Services holds

Sports Bureau

Former champion Services finished on top of the Group A standings after it held another former win-ner Kerala I-I in their final league match of the 77th National Football Cham-pionship for the Santosh Trophy at the Golden Jubi-lee Stadium in Yupia, Aru-nachal Pradesh on Fridav.

nachal Pradesh on Friday. Both goals came in the

Both goals came in the opening half.

Kerala took the lead in the 22nd minute through Sajeesh E. who nodded home a corner from Arjun V. Services regrouped quickly and found the equaliser just before the heak through Samir Murbreak through Samir Mur mu, who so far has scored nine goals tournament. in

tournament.

Goa managed to hold
Assam 3-3 in another
match of the same group.
Looking to improve its position, Assam led 3-2 till the
89th minute when substitute Joshua D'Silva found
Goa's equaliser and give
his team the second spot
with nine points from five
matches.

Assam finished fourth with seven points and completed the list of teams progressing to the ressing uarterfinals.

The results: Group A (final round): Kerala 1 (Sajeesh E 22) drew with Services 1 (Samir Murmu 45+4).

Goa 3 (Lloyd Cardozo 3, Delton Goa 3 (Lloyd Cardozo 3, Delton Colaco 12, Joshua D'Sihoa 99) drew with Assam 3 (Pragyan Gogoi 27, Sudeepta Konwar 45+3, Millan Basumatary 56). Arunachal Pradesh (Tarh Dolu 22, Arlunachal Pradesh (Tarh Dolu 22, Rahul Goju Singpho 56) drew with Meghalaya 2/(Chesterpoul Lyngdoh 8, Sheen Stevenson Sohktung 83).

# Pragg loses to Rapport

Press Trust of India

R. Praggnanandhaa blun-dered for the second day running and lost to Richard Rapport of Romania in the third round of the Prague Masters Chess tournament here. The all-In dian duel between Vidit Guirathi and D. Gukesh Gujrathi and D. Gurco. ended in a stalemate. Meanwhile, Arjun Eri

meanwhile, Arjun Eri-gaisi became the new India No. 1 defeating Xiangyu Yu of China in the first round of the Shenzen Masters.

of the Sheftzen Masters.

The results: Round 3: Vincent
Keymer (Ger 1) drew with Parham
Maghsoodloo (In 2.5); R.
Praggnaandhau (1) lost to
Richard Rapport (Rou 2);
bit David Navara (Cze 1); Mateusz
Bartel (Pol 0.5) lost to Nguyen
Thai Dai Van (Cze 1); G Oukesh (2)
drew with Vidit Gujrathi (1.5).

# ITF WOMEN

Kamesh Srinivasan

Ankita Raina recovered from a precarious situation to beat Jacqueline Cabaj Awad of Sweden 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Federal Bank \$25,000 ITF women's tennis at the Tennis Project, Baliawas,

Tennis Project, Baliawas, on Friday.

In a battle that lasted nearly three hours, Ankita trailed 2-4 and was serving at 0-30, when she stepped up her game to deliver the knock-out punch on Jacqueline. The Swede had put her big frame to good use in hammering heavy. use in hammering heavy strokes all over the court to exasperate the India No.1 till then.

From there, Ankita



dropped only two more points in winning four games for a memorable victory. She had earlier fought from being 2-5 in the first set. And later could not serve out the secould not serve out the se-cond set at 5-1, but broke the Swede's serve to take the match into the decider. In the semifinals, Ankita will play the wiry Korean, Yeonwoo Ku who eased

past Zhibek Kulambayeva of Kazakhstan for the loss of three games. Zhibek joined hands with Ankita to make the doubles final later in the day. Sahaja Yamalapalli al-so fought hard but went down in three sets to the top seed Dalia Jakupovic of Slovenia who was stron-ger and crafty to race ger and crafty to race through the decider without dropping a game

The results: Singles: Quarterfinals: Dalila Jakupovio Quartertinats: Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 7-5, 3-6, 6-9; Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Ekaterina Kazionova 6-3, 6-3; Yeonwoo Ku (Kor) bt Zhibek Kulambayeva (Kaz) 6-0, 6-3; Ankita Raina bt Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Awad (Swe) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. **Doubles: Semifinals:** Zhibek & Ankita bt Riya Bhatia & Michika

Ozeki (Jpn) 7-5, 6-2; Jacqueline & Justina bt Yeonwoo Ku (Kor) & Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) 7-6(7), 7-5.

# Sarabjot and Suruchi top the air pistol events



Singh placed third ahead

Hockey mess continues, questions raised on HI finances, elections

Sports Bureau

World Cup gold medallist and Olympic quota winner Sarabjot Singh topped air pistol with 244.8 points in the fourth National shooting selection trials at the Madhya Pradesh Academy on Friday.

Sarabjot beat qualification topper Kunal Rana (585) by 0.9 point. Olympian Gurpreet

ongn piaced third ahead of Naveen, Aditya Malra, Arpit Tomar, Aakash Bhardwaj and Inderpal Singh

Singh.
The rapid fire pistol expert, Gurpreet had placed third in the earlier trial

In women's air pistol, Suruchi topped by beating Surbhi Rao by 2.5 points. Qualification topper, Asian Games gold medallist Pa-lak Gulia (585) placed

Sainyam, T.S. Divya, An-jali Shekhawat, Urva Chaudhary and Mamta Ke-dia were the others to make the final, and placed fourth to eighth in that

The results: 10m air pistol: Men: 1. Sarabjot Singh 244.8 (583); 2. Kunal Rana 243.9 (585); 3. Gurpreet Singh 222.6 (583); Women: 1. Suruchi 242.8 (575); 2. Surbhi Rao 240.3 (580); 3. Palak Gulia 218.7 (585).

# Sahaja, Shrivalli to bolster Indian squad

Sports Bureau

Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty will strengthen the Indian team for the Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania group-1 ten-nis competition to be staged in Changsha, China,

staged in Changsha, China, from April 8. The team will be spear-headed by Ankita Raina and will also have Rutuja Bhosale and Prarthana

Thombare. Rutuja had won the Asian Games gold medal with Rohan Bopanna, and has been doing well in both singles and doubles in the professional circuit.

Prarthana, who has been the best doubles player of the country, com-mands her place.

The team: Ankita Raina, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Rutuja Bhosale, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Prarthana Thombare. Reserve: Vaidehi Chaudhari. Captain: Shalini Thakur Chawla; Coach: Radhika Kanitkar.

The days of factions, in-fighting and alleged admi-nistrative malpractices seem to be returning in In-

dian hockey.

While Hockey India grapples with the resignation of women's chief coach Janneke Schopman coach Janneke Schopman and its long-serving CEO Elena Norman within days of each other, questions have now been raised on alleged financial irregular-ties and election process, specially involving secre-tary general Bhola Nath Singh, treasurer Sekar Ma-

noharan and executive di-rector Cdr. RK Srivastava.
Former Delhi Hockey secretary Mahesh Dayal, in a series of communiques to both the sports ministry to both the sports ministry and Hockey India presi-dent Dilip Tirkey, has also questioned the validity of the current dispensation and the election process in 2022, claiming violation of the National Sports Code and seeking parity with other federations that have been declared guilty of the

"As elections have been stalled in other federations like gymnastics, volleyball, kabaddi etc but no action is

being taken against Hockey India where elections were held after the (Delhi HC) judgement dated 16-08-2022...and still GoI MoYAS recognised these elections.

recognised these elections. Why?" Dayal has questioned. The points raised by Dayal pertain to Bhola Nath contesting despite having completed his tenure with Hockey [hark-hand and being in his third term at Hockey India (after two terms as vice-president) without a cooling-off period. period. He has also mentioned

the presence of an age and tenure limit only for the

president, secretary and treasurer and not being ap-plicable at the district le-wel, the absence of an arbi-tration committee and an ombudsman among others as examples of non-com-pliance with the Sports Code.

Code.

Bhola Nath, however, rubbished all allegations. "I came into Hockey Jhark-hand for the first time in hand for the first time in 2014, which makes this my third term and within the provisions of the code. Al-so, the first term as Hockey India VP was not a full term but only 18 months and so my election is not in viola-tion of the rules," Bhola Nath said, adding disgruntled elements have been raising non-issues. Questions have also been raised on HI's income-tax assessment and its finances in terms of sponsorship money and payments allegedly made to FIH. ly made to FIH.

ly made to FIH.
Interestingly, Norman
had also named the three
officials as being more interested in power and responsible for making her
position untenable in HI position untenable in HI while Schopman had indicated the same while claiming 'disrespect'. There is also a case on in Delhi HC over forensic audit of HI accounts.



# Easy win for Mohun Bagan

# Amitabha Das Sharma

Mohun Bagan Super Giant regained its winning form with a comfortable 3-0 win against Jamshedpur FC (JFC) and rise to the second spot in the current standings, in an ISL-10 fixture here on Friday. Australian Dimitri Petratos found the lead early in the opening quarter of the

the opening quarter of the action before Jason Cummings and substitute Armando Sadiku found the net once each in the third and fourth quarters to complete Bagan's convincing win over its opponent from the neighbouring

# Dyf has the credentials to etch his name on the Stayers' Cup

### Cyrus J. Madan

The ultimate weekend of all racing weekends speeds off at the Royal Calcutta Turf Club race course on Saturday, with the Zavaray S. Poonawalla Sprinters' Cup and the Dr. M.A.M. Ra-

Cup and the Dr. M.A.M. Ra-maswamy Chettlar of Chet-tinad Memorial Cup taking centre-stage.

The last time a Kolkata-based horse won the Sprin-ters' Cup was in 1995, near-ly two decades ago, when Exclusive Virtue, trained by Bharath Singh, pre-vailed.

The most recent victory for a local horse in the

Stayers' Cup was in 2007, with Apperitivo taking the honours On both occas-sions, the weekend was

sions, the weekend was hosted by the RCTC. Will the local challengers do the home centre proud again on Saturday? There are three in the Sprint (Cool Rider, Etosha and Time And Tide) and just one in the Stayers (Third Avenue). All four contenders will

All four contenders will fancy their chances as they have the credentials. It would read like a real fairy tale if they can oblige.

For me, Dyf seems to ap-eal most. His trainer peal most. His trainer wanted to take a crack at the Invitation Cup, but that was only if jockey P. Trevor partnered him. Trevor opt-ed for Jamari in the big one

ed for Jamari in the big one and was prepared to ride Dyf in the Stayers. So into the Stayers went Dyf. He relishes a trip. Won the Golconda Leger in a walk but just missed out in the Indian Leger to the champion King's Ransom. On that form, he's the one the other two will have to the other two will have to beat, while Chamonix and Third Avenue will be right

### Sprinters' Cup open

The Sprinters' Cup looks a lot more open.

Mumbai-based horses have dominated the event, winning it 12 times in 16 years. They are represented by Magiletto and Democracy. Bengaluru has Siege Courageous and Ascoval. Time and Tide, Cool Rider and Etosha from Kolkata have the home advantage. So that makes seven who come into the picture. I'd hate to get involved in unravelling that 'Magnificent 7', but if one had to, I would go with Cool Rider. Mumbai-based horses have

would go with Cool Rider, Ascoval and Siege

Courageous.

The action will be streamed 'live' on You-

# WHAT THE PROFESSION

### SPRINTERS' CUP

Pradeep Annaiah: Ascoval ran a great race to best a top class field in the Sprinters Trial in Chennai. He's at his best and drawn well too. They all have to

beat me.

P. Trevor: Ascoval won well
after a layoff of almost one year.
I am sure he has improved on
that run and definitely has the
class and ability to win.
Neil Darashah: I have two
runners in the Sprinters' Cup.

runners in the Sprinters' Cup.
Cool Rider and Etosha. Though
both have been drawn on the
wide outside, which is a
disadvantage, I feel they will run extremely well.

Suraj Narredu: Magileto won his prep race in Bombay beating the best Western India-based

the best Western India-based horses. The 10 Draw is a worrying factor and he has to overcome that. 
Prasanna Kumar: Siege Courageous went down by a little over a length to Ascoval the

last time they met, but we were

last time they met, but we were giving the winner weight. On level terms I feel we can turn the tables and we will be right there.

Adhiraj Singh Jodha: Time And Tide has done nothing wrong. He likes to race in front, but is capable of coming off the pace. We've proved we are the best in Kolkata and have the home advantage.

Pesi Shroff: After Democracy's 1000 Guineas, I targeted her for the Dr. S.C. Jain Sprinters championship. Despite being completely out on the scale she ran a close second. She's provec with that run that she has the class and I'm sure she will run a mighty race

# STAYERS' CUP

STAYERS' CUP
Adhiraj Singh Jodha: I had the
choice of running Dyf in the
Invitation Cup with Trevor astride,
but he opted for Jamari. I
therefore felt it would be best to
go for the Stayers where I have

Trevor to ride Dvf. I think he'll run a very big race

a very big race.

P. Trevor: Dyf stays really well and goes very well for me. We won the Golconda Leger in a canter and he just lost the Indian Leger to the super class filly King's Ransom. He has to have a great

Arti Doctor: Third Aver matured late, came into his own matured late, came into his own in the Bengaluru Summer and is at his best today after winning the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Cup over 2800 metres. He has home advantage and I hope he will make Kolkata proud.

Yash Narredu: Third Avenue won the Queen Elizabeth II Cup a lot easier than the verdict will lead you to believe. He's met top class horses and held his own in Bengaluru. Will be right there.

Pesi Shroff: Chamonix is in great heart having won three-in-a-row this Mumbai season. She relishes a trip and has a great chance.

# Magileto should score over his rivals in the Sprinters' Cup; Dyf tipped to deliver in the Stayers' Cup

KOLKATA: The five-year-old Magi-leto, who is in good shape as evid-enced by his track performaces, should come good in the Zavaray of S. Poonawall Sprinters' Cup, while Dyf should score over his trvals in the Company of the Company tracks of the Company of the Company and the Company of the Company of the mad Memorial Stayers' Cup, the two stellar attractions to be run on Saturday (Mar. 2).

COROMANDEL GROMOR MIL-LION (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, 1,30 p.m.: 1. Hermes (2) S. Saqlain 56. S. Quenjoi's Moustache (3) Shezad Khan 56.5, 3. Dona Sienna (1) P. Trevor 55, 4. Marcolini (5) F. Norton 55 and 5. Villanelle (4) C. Umesh 55.

Umesh 55.

MENJOU'S MOUSTACHE: First run, moving impressively in morning trials, may win; DONA SIENNA: Working well and may fight for honours; MARCOLINI: ran fourth in her last start, may upset, VII-LANELLE: Ran twice in Mumbai, looks well as evidenced by her track performance, should win.

2. DONA SIENNA.

2. GEOM ; A red 41 to 66, 21 to 46 eligible, 2000: In Multisarre (6) Imran Chisty 61.5, 2. Kimel G) Mudassar Nazar 61, 3. Zuma (10) Neeral §5, 4. Dragon's Gold (7) Neeral §5, 5. Zervan 54, 8. DRD (6) Arman Khan \$3.5, 9. Servan 54, 8. DRD (6) Arman Khan \$3.5, 9. Servan 50. Sa mid (3) Whister Blower (9) D.S. Deora §0.

St.2 and 10. Winster bower by D.S. Deem So, with the Visit St. Deem So, who will be provided in last outling, may make amends; STAR PROSPERTY Won two rose at Mumbal in class IV, posed for a barriely, TRUE STRIP Won Tour case in last Pengaliara summer season, and the Visit St. Deem So, with the Visit St. Deem

PINDERABAD RACE CLUB MILDLUM (4:00m), rate di \$10 85,
41 10 66 diglibe), 2:30 1. Bellator
(8) C.S. Jodha 60, 2. Dandi
Saryughan (00) XR. Jagdeenl 35,
56.5, 4. Perfect Blend (1) Mohit
Singh 34.5, 5 Pink Jasmine (1)
Singh 34.5, 5 Pink Jasmine (1)
Cl. Kirthi S.S. 5, 1. Jongka (6) R.S.
Bhati S.S. Fortmate Son (7) Parmar 53, 9. Meropi (9) Vash
Sarreda 52, 0. Moyal Myore (1)
Cl. Wirthi S.S. 5, 1. Songka (2)
Cl. Wirthi S.S. 5, 1.

(3) Vinay Jaiswal 51.

PINK JASMINE: Ran second over
the same trip, working well and
may have a say at the finish; FORTUNATE SON: Won well at Mumbai, TUNATE SON: Won well at Mumbai, maintains form and may repeat; MEROP!. Ran in good company in her previous outings, in good form and may raise a wining gallop; ROYAL MYSORE: Won very well in his last two starts at Bengalur, may

Rhan 50.

REMY RED: Won running away from the field in his last start, heavy penalty, may upset; KINO'S RETREAT: Ran twice close second in his last two starts at Mundai, should make amends; CHILLLADY. Good third in her last outling at Bengaluru, may fight out the finish; TESS: Winner over HOOm trip in lower class, may repeat.

Reeraj 51.5.
GAZINO: Despite long in tooth, ran twice second in his last starts, mov-ing well on track, may upset; STAR GLORY: Ran third in the Sprinters

6 ZAVARAY S. POONAWALLA SPRINTERS' CUP (Gr. 1),

(1,200m), 4y-0 & over, 4,00: 1.
Ascoval (3) P. Trevor 59, 2. Cool
Ridger (9) S. Zervan 59, 3. Erosh (1)
Ridger (1)
Ri

Dy (2) P. Trevor S9, 2. Pissarro (4)
F. Norton S9, 3. Third Avenue (7)
Yash Narredu S9, 4. Tevalius (1)
Antony Rgl S9, 5. Chamonis (5)
Antony Rgl S9, 5. Chamonis (5)
Antony Rgl S9, 5. Chamonis (5)
Antony Rgl S9, 5. Chamonis (7)
Truth Oliman Chisty S6.5.
Truth Oliman Chisty S6.5.
Truth Oliman Chisty S6.5.
Truth Oliman Chisty S6.5.
Should make amendy. THIRD AVENUE With in a close finish over 2,800 m last outing, maintains form a count of prind avenue his previous start, may go close, CHAMONIX Win comfortably over CHAMONIX Win comfortably over CHAMONIX Win Comfortably or Mandal, retains form.

LDVK,

3. THIRD AVENUE

SCALCITTA BOOKMAKERS' ASSOCIATION MILLION (1,100m), rated 21 to 46, 1 to 26 eligible, 5.00: 1. Indian Tiger (3) P. Tejeshwar 61, 2. Castillo (4) Nikhil Naidh (60,5,3 Mr. Perfect (1) Mohit Singh 57, 4. Cosmic Cowboy (8) J.H. Arul 56,5, 5. I Smell The Danger (10) Arman Khan 56, 6. Regecy Gold (11)

R. Shelar 55.5, 7. C'est L'Amour (14) Mustakim 54, 8. A Wink Annda Smile (13) Ayaz Khan 53, 9. My Princess (7) P. Trevor 53, 10. Ready To Win (12) S.K. Paswan 53, 11. Dia-mond Rain (6) Neeraj 52.5, 12. Dev-ine Chakra (15) P. Uday Kira 51, 13. Cristaldo (5) Vivek (5 50.5, 14. Honey Cake (2) Merchant 50.5 and 15. Dubai King (9) Parmar 50.

15. Dubai King (9) Parmar 50.
CASTILLO: Ran Cose third to Sporting Trainer in his last outling, may
make amends; COSMIC COWBON:
Won well in previous outling, may
repeat; CFST LYMOUS; Good third
to Zukor in her last start should
come from far behind position
to run fifth behind Zukor at Mumbai,
working well on track.

1. CFST LYMOUR,
2. CASTILLO.
2. CASTILLO.

1. C'EST L'AMOUR,
2. CASTILLO,
3. MY PRINCESS
Day's Best: DYF.
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii)
6, 7 & 8.

RISE 06:45 SET 18:22

RISE 00:00 SET 10:15 UNDAY, MAR. 03 RISE 06:44 SET 18:23

22

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Mail i.d.: seccibisr@ampil.com E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.36 of 2023-24

No.839 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 27th February-2024 onstruction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on received in online bidding, double cover system for construction to the available thisp://indendersoits.agovit.n. The details of bid documents will be available above veloate from 5,00 RM, of 01,03,2024 to 5,00 PM of 15,03,2024. The normal control of the contro

Sdi-Er PK-Mohanty
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubanesv

# GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-42 / 2023-24

The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invito percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligib contractors for Road work as mentioned below:

percentage fets bett and oducts cover system in Okultice MOUE from eligible

2. Relative of work

3. Ro. of work

3. Ro. of work

4. Tender Paper Cost

5. Class of Contractor

5. Special Class 5. Super Class

6. Class of Contractor

5. Special Class 6. Super Class

6. Class of Contractor

7. Oate of opening of Bid

10. DAS 0.3.2024 at 11.30 A.W. of 0.403.2024 to

7. Oate of opening of Bid

10. The Bidders have to participate in OAINE Bidding only. Further details can be seen from the widshift in https://innederodishin.gov.kim. Any addendum / comprehen / contractor C

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE RALASOR "e"- Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No.88 of 2023-24 Letter No: - 1303 / WE, 29/02/24

Name of the Work : Road under MMSY-TRIF
Total No. of Work : 3 Nos. of Roads

Eligible Class of Co Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E., R.W.Circle, Balssore Technical Bid 6 7

be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd/- N.V.Harihar Rao, Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Balason

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
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Bid Identification No. 55 /23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

A, Rs. 1792.76 Lakh; B, Rs. 767.85 Lakh; C, Rs. 903.03 A, Rs. 17.03.0004; B, Rs. 7,68,000/-; C, Rs. 9,04,0004 For SI, No. A, B, & C - 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months. 28.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM 30.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M. Date of Opening of bid

9 Name & Address of the 0.1.7 Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, 0/0 the CE&BM, Sub-Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhan

### H,P P W D NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Date and time of receipt of application for the tender form: 04, 03, 2024 upto 4,00 PM
Date and time of issue of tender form: 05,03,2024 upto 4,00 PM
Date and time of receipt of tenders: 06,03,2024 upto 10,00 PM
Date and time of receipt of tenders: 06,03,2024 upto 11,00 AM
Date and time of opening of tenders: 06,03,2024 upto 11,30 AM

_				I
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (In Ra.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time
1.	Restoration of rain damages on RKBU road 27/405 to 41/325 (SH: C/o R/Wall in PCC 1:5:10 at RD 28/880 to 28/901)	443564/-	9000/-	One Month
2.	C/o CHC Baldwara in Tehsil Baldwara Distt Mandi (H.P.) (SH: C/o meeting hall and repair of ward room) Deposit Work	476532/-	10000/-	One Month
3.	R/R damages on Sarkaghat to Cholthara via Paplog road KM 0/00 to 2/00 (SH: P/L CC pavement in KM 0/050 to 0/100 and 0/150 to 0/220)	477173/-	10000/-	One Month
4.	R/R damages on Bharnal Nallah Ra Gehra Kolni road KM 0/00 to 3/500 (SH: C/o R/Wall in wire crate at RD 2/873 to 2/884)	476971/-	10000/-	One Month
5.	R/R damages on Sarkaghat to Cholthara via Paplog road KM 0/00 to 2/00 (SH: C/o 900 mm dia hume pice culvert with both side wing wall at KM 0/075)	494649/-	10000/-	One Month

any reasons.

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and the contractor has to get registered with Labour Officer-cum-Registering Office
cum-Cease Collector within one month from the issue of the award letter.
The contractor will give affidiately that he has not have one or works in hand for execution
falling which the application shall be rejected.

The contractor will give affidiately that the shall be rejected.
The contractor will give a find the registering that the specific contract is the registering of the properties of the registering that the opening.

The Executive Engineer reserves the right to rejecticancel any or all the lenders without assigning any reserves.

Executive Engineer, Sarkaghat Division, HPPWD, Sarkaghat, Distt: Mandi (H.P) HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

(Advt. No: JRIDCL/01/2024, Date: 29.02.2024)

Jharkhand Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (JRIDCL) invites application for filling up the posts of Company Secretary on contract basis. The details of the posts, pay, eligibility criteria and application form are available at the website of the company sww.jridcl.org.in. The interested candidates, who fulfill the criteria, may apply latest by 02.04.2024.

Sd/-Sd/-General Manager (Project) JRIDCL

PR 320871 Jharkhand Rail Infrastructure Dev Co Ltd(23-24).D



IHARKHAND BIILI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED JERAKHAND BIJLE VII KAIN NIGAWI LIMITED (CIN: Udol188H2013SCC001702) Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004. fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail: cesd.jseb@gmail.com

Corrigendum for Notice Inviting Expression of Interest rr selection of Agency for Preparation of DPR, Drawings & Estimates for conversion of whole overhead Distribution ing LT, 11KV and 33 KV line) of Ranchi city, Jharkhand into Underground Distribution Network. Due to some technica

SL No.	EOI No.	Description	EOI Document Cost in Rs (Including GST)	Start date of Down-leading/ Sale of EOI Document	Last Date of Sale of Tender Document	Last Date of submission of Tender Document	Revised date of Opening of Tender
1.	492/PR/JBVNL/ 23-24	Selection of Agency for Preparation of DPR, Drawings & Estimates for conversion of whole overhead Distribution Network (including LT, 11KV and 33 KV line) into Underground Distribution Network for Banche city Brothomd	11,800	20.02.2024	05.03.2024 up to 05:00 PM	05.03.2024 up to 06:00 PM	07.03.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above EoI may be obtained from website http://harkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile 9431/35511/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of EOI document fee will be accepted through online mode only.

a Manager (DN) JBVNL

PR 321086 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24)D

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTP

Re-INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

NABARD RIDF XXIX

INTEGRAL SPYBUL DAIL POR DEBIT OF COMMENT OF IR. Re-INVITES the contine bids on percent

	the work having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids: however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.								
S. No	District / Division	Name of the work	(Rs. Lakh)		(Rs. Lakh)		(Rs. Lakh) Cost		Bid Security (Rs. Lakh) The bid security is two
			Constr- uction	Mainte- nance	(Rs. Lakh)	Completion	percent of the total cost, rounded to the nearest thousand		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)		
1.		Construction of Link road from Jawar to Nari via Bilan Da Thapal, Ghagoh in Distt Una (HP) from Km. 0/0 to 5/950 (SH:- Removal of Formation deficiency. CD works. Retaining wall, CC		34.61	1081.76	18 months	21.64		

Consideration of the Control of the Co

deticiency, CD works, Retaining wall, CC Pavement, SSB, WMM, M/T works, PCC Drain and parapets) and Minor Bridge, CV of 20 meter RCC Girder Bridge at RD 2/920 under NABARD RIDF XXIX including five year maintenance.

ı	3.	3. Key Dates:					
ı			Date of Online Publication	04.03.2024 (10.00 HRS)			
ı			Document Download Start and End Date	04.03.2024 (10.30 HRS upto 14.03.2024 (10.00 HRS			
ı		3	Bid Submission Start and End Date	04.03.2024 (10.30 HRS upto 14.03.2024 (10.00 HRS			
ı		4	Physical Submission of Documents	As per uploaded SBD			
ı		5	Date of Technical Bid opening.	14.03.2024(11.00 HRS)			
ı							

an de seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable t trot. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the E received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest (Er. G. Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, HP P HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

# Advertisement Destination Uttarakhand

Committed to boost economy through pilgrimage and tourism

Under the visionary leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, We are committed to the overall development of our state, preserving and promotting its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. To this end, we aim to promote economic growth, improve infrastructure and improve the quality of life for alc Litznes through effective policies and strategic initiatives. We want to make Uttarakhand and strategic initiatives. We want to make Uttarakhand a model of progress where there is a confluence of a model of progress where there is a communice of tradition and modernity. Every person in the state can get a conductive environment for prosperity and development.

Pushkar Singh Dhami

# **KEDARPURI BECKONS**

TRAVELLERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

hri Kedarnath Dham, situated in the snow-capped peaks of the Himalavan mountain in the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand, holds a nificant place in duism as one of the 12 Jyotirlingas. It is revered as a sacred pilgrimage site and offers a divine experience to all who visit. The Mandakini rive originates from this sacred

spot. The Chardham Yatra is deemed incomplete vithout paying homage at Kedarnath

The Kedarnath Shrine was badly affected by the deadly floods and deadly floods and landslides in June, 2013 in Uttarakhand. Soon after assuming his office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the restoration of the Kedarnath Shrine, PM Modi is committed to

ensuring that the beauty and grandeur of the Kedarnath gets enhanced The reconstruction efforts are being carried out with eds in mind while maintaining the religio and spiritual essence of the site. PM Modi himself has started monitoring the redevelopment work at the

Since 2021, Kedarpuri is experiencing a revival, drawing worshippers from

emphasized the importance of a "Surakshit . Uttarakhand - Surakshit Yatra (Safe Uttarakhand -Safe Yatra)" after his spiritual retreat in the spiritual retreat in the meditation cave at Kedarnath. With its blend of spirituality and natural beauty, Kedarnath is a must-visit destination for those who want to experience a spiritual bliss



I congratulate the Uttarakhand government for the remarkable progress made in the last few years. This has been possible due to sustained policy incentives and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. I am glad that the State has made significant progress in infrastructure development and has set new benchmarks for sustainable development. Uttarakhand's commitment to exploiting its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only strengthened the economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I commend the state's dedication towards inclusive growth and look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

# PM Modi's Dream Project: Enhancing Beauty and Grandeur of Kedarnath Shrine

- Samadhi of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya
- Redevelopment of Sangam Ghat in Shri Kedarnath Construction of administrative office and hospital
- Saraswati Civic Amenity Building
- Museum complex at Kedarnath pilgrimage centre

- Astna Path
  Residence for pilgrimage priest
  Construction of bridge over Mandakini river
  Construction of flood barrier and river banks at raswati river

# **Uttarakhand: A Paradise for Filmmakers**



# Uttarakhand Film Policy

- Single window clearance for shooting.
   At present, exemption in shooting fees has been given on films being made in Uttarakhand.
   If the film is processed within the state, a subsidy of Rs 25 lakh is given to the films in the regional languages of the state.
- Hindi film makers are eligible for a subsidy of Rs 4.5 crore if they shoot 75% of their film in Uttarakhand. The State Govt has also made a decision to provide a 50% discount on guest houses owned by GMVN and KMVN (Tourism Department) to

ttarakhand has received the prestigious title of the 'Most Friendly State for Films', which has been acknowledged by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. He expressed his pride in this accomplishment and extended his congratulations to the residents of the state. At the ceremony, Banshidha Tiwari, the Director Gene Information and CEO of Uttarakhand Film Development Council accepted the award on behalf of Uttarakhano

enhanced even more in the coming years. The State nent, under the adership of CM Pu Singh Dhami, has been tirelessly working towards establishing Uttarakhand as the perfect destination for film shoots. The Single Window Clearance System ensures swift approval of film shooting proposals, while no fees is charged for shooting permits. Additionally, film units are offered security throughout their shooting period.

backdrop for over 150 films, shows, and documentaries, such as 'The Kashmir Files', 'Batt Gul Meter Chalu', 'Kabir Singh', 'Kedamath', 'Student of the Year', and even featured on Discovery Channel. Additionally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an appearance alongside Bear Grylls in ar nde of adve

episode of adventure reall show "Man vs Wild". For shooting purposes all kinds of approvals can now be obtained within 3-4 days, thanks to the single window clearance syst

# **Manaskhand Circuit Redefining Spiritual Tourism**

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami is spearheading the initiative to launch the Manaskhand Express rail service, which will soon connect devotees and tourists from different states to the temples encompassed by the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission

ttarakhand government is gearing up to launch a trair service between Kolkata service between Kolkata and Tanakpur to boost tourism and enhance visitor experience. In addition to this, local buses and various transportation services will be provided from Tanakpu to Purnagir, Hatkalika, Patal Bhuvaneshwar, Jageshwar Dham, Goliu Devta Temple. Nanda Devi, Kainchi Dham, and other temples of Manaskhand Mandir Mala Manaskhand Mandir Mali Mission for the convenier of devotees and tourists. KMVN's guest house homestays, and local hot offer tourists a glimpse in

the art and culture of the region, while local guides trained through Hunar Yoiana ensure top-notch spitality for visitors. Tourists can conveniently take the rail service from

take the rail service from
Kathgodam to Kolkata for
their journey back.
The Tourism
Department has prepared
separate master plans for all
the 16 temples of Kumaon
division under the ision under the Manaskhand Temple Mala Mission, which has also



been approved. The foundation stone of most of these temples will be laid soon. The work of beautification and ent of temples is

Raturi has directed for the swift completion of temple beautification and road widening under the Vlanaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. The Public Works

### **Extreme Outdoor Adventure Sports** and Places to Try in Uttarakhand ttarakhand not alongside religious tourism amidst the hills, mesm

only boasts a inctive reputation in the global tourism industry but also serves as a prime destination for adventure tourism. The state government has made significant efforts to boost

Tourists exploring the state have the opportunity to experience the excitement of adventure sports like bungee jumping, ver crossing, and paragliding, as well as enjoy rafting in Rishikesh. The vating natural beauty of Tehri Lake, nestled

visitors. At this lake, tourists can partake in a range of activities including floating house, shikara boat and cruise rides, boat rides, jet speedboat rides, wate skiing, jobbing, banana boat rides, bandwagon boat rides, hot air balloon rides, and paragliding

# **Enjoy the Thrill of Aviation with** Serenity of Nature on a Gyrocopter

Uttarakhand Tourism has received approval from DGCA to operate the Gyrocopter This is India's first Himalayan Air Safari with safety and expertise, which will also work to connect the remote areas of Uttarakhand I ttarakhand is all set

to revolutionize tourism by introducing the first-ever Himalayan air safari in the nation. This ground-breaking initiative promises an unparalleled adventure experience combined with awe-inspiring

scenery for tourists.
The Uttarakhand
Tourism Development
Board, in collaboration with Raash Aero-sports and Adventures Private Limited, will utilize avrocopters to explore the region's stunning landscapes Gyrocopters, being small and nimble aircraft, have opened up a new chapter in the state's tourism industry, as demonstrated by the successful trial flight from Bairagi Camp, Haridwar

As a component of the Breakfast Tourism initiative in the state, this distinctive service offered under the Himalayan Air Safari Plan is set to captivate tourists. They will soar through the skies, relishing the breathtaking aerial vistas of



the majestic Himalayan Range and the meandering

range and the meandering rivers below. After completing a test flight, Col Ashwini Pundir, Additional CEO of Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, said that the Himalayan Air Safar will soon commence. will soon commence, allowing tourists to effortlessly travel between various scenic spots in the state via gyrocopters. This extraordinary scheme will enable visitors to immerse themselves in the natural splendour of the Himalayan peaks and rivers, explore their chosen destinations

their chosen destinations, and return to their starting point after savoring the destination's charm. The Uttarakhand Tourism is dedicated to

exceptional ways to showcase the magnificence of this destination to visitors The latest gyrocopters have been acquired from Germany for this purpose. Skilled pilots from Germany will oversee the flights initially. Efforts are underway to establish specialized airstrips at different tourist locations through collaboration between the Civil Aviation Department and district officials. This will serve as a link

hidden and distant locations in Uttarakhand. It will offer a one-of-a-kind chance to discover the unexplored areas of the state by embarking on an exhilarating

connecting tourists to the

# **Transforming Tourism** Landscape in Uttarakhand

The Beatles Ashram, also called Chaurasi Kutiya, was established in Rishikesh by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi to teach yoga and meditation

he Beatles Ashram, also known as Chaurasi Kutiva (84 nter for Maharishi meditation movement.
Currently, the Government of Uttarakhand is spearheading a special initiative in collaboration with the Tourism Department and

the Tourism Department ar Forest Department to transform this place into a thriving tourist destination. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's Transcendental Meditation Technique is renowned globally. The ashram imparts in-depth understanding and thorough training on this method training on this method through transcendental meditation instructors and facilities. Progressing from Meditation to Awareness represents a phase in Yoga that cultivates a heightened state of alertness, enabling the yoga practitioner to levitate while seated.

Littarakh nd To Development Board (UTDB) has taken a major step by creating a vision document, master plan, and

design for the ashram with the help of top design the help of top design consultancy firms. The goal is to transform this location into a modern heritage site offering wellness hospitality, art, and culture. The objective is to revive the former splendor of this place in order to fear with visitions. in order to draw in visitors from both near and far.

The ameniti ion will not just educate location will not just educate visitors about the past of the original site, but also offer a rejuvenating experience to those who come here, which is renowned worldwide in Rishikesh. The redevelopment of this cente will give it a fresh look will give it a fresh look, deserving of praise. Consequently, in the future, his place will captivate the nterest of Maharishi's followers, international musicians' fans, and esearchers from across the researchers from across th globe. Additionally, this center will transform into a vibrant hub of cultural and artistic events, showcasing dance, music, and various art forms from around the

# Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023

Under tourism policies, all possible support is provided to hospitality projects and tourism products

upports & encourages both existing and planned tourism projects ncentives to inves



Types of Projects

# HOSPITALITY PROJECTS

Flexible expansion of existing hotels/ resorts etc. in tourism sector inimum 15 rooms added/ expanded pe hotel/resorts unit Resorts Heritage Hotels/ Establishments Hotels/ Motels, other accommodation schemes

# INCENTIVE FOR FOREIGN

Eligible tourism units that Eligible tourism units that qualify/provide permits to foreign tourists receive an incentive of 1 percent of the turnover received from foreign tourists. Such institutions will be required to submit necessary proof of the nationality of the tourists.

SERVICES
Helium and hot air balloon operations, blimps taxi operations (only electric vehicles and electric taxis) vehicles and electric taxis)
Helicopter/ seaplane
services-Caravans, motor
houses, cruise boats,
boats, house boats for
tourist purposes Adventure
activities, other recreational
facilities

# tourists.

Category of region Maximum capital subsidy Grade A 25% of eligible capital property Grade B 35% of eligible capital property

Grade C

50% of eligible capital property