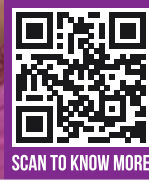




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Thirteenth Anniversary



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 (Retd., Loyola College, Chennai)
 06.05.1933 - 08.03.2023
 It has been a year since you left us.
 We miss you more than words can express.
 Your wisdom, kindness and strength continue to inspire us and all whose lives you touched.
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 Jacintha & Joseph Felix
 Family & Friends

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 समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर/मद दर निविदा
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- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता (Tech), आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-800004
- निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अवधि एवं समय : दिनांक 14.03.2024 से 21.03.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक 16.03.2024 को 15:00 बजे आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी मैदान के पूरव, पटना।
- निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 22.03.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- अग्रघन राशि की मूल प्रति अथवा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक भुगतान का प्रमाण और परिमाण विपत्र मूल्य भुगतान का प्रमाण जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक 23.03.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक पी0डी0ए0 शाखा, आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी मैदान के पूरव पटना-800004
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 23.03.2024 को 15:30 बजे (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पर्याप्त। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- निविदा कैता की अवधि : 120 दिन
- कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (₹0 में)	अग्रघन की राशि (₹0 में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय रूप में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)
1	Construction of Boundary Wall at Vilopit Malwari, Motihari	3,82,70,075.00	7,65,500.00	10,000.00	06 Months
2	(Re-Tender) Construction of Building, Boundary wall, UG tank including Fire-Fighting, PHE, Land Development at Primary Processing Center, Kumarbagh, West-Champaran	5,71,76,616.00	11,44,000.00	10,000.00	06 Months
3	(Re-Tender) Construction of Building, Boundary wall, UG tank including Fire-Fighting, PHE, Land Development at Primary Processing Center, Begusarai	5,70,97,068.00	11,42,000.00	10,000.00	06 Months
4	(Re-Tender) Construction of Building, Boundary wall, UG tank including Fire-Fighting, PHE, Land Development at Primary Processing Center, Darbhanga	5,62,64,206.00	11,25,500.00	10,000.00	06 Months
5	(Re-Tender) Widening and Strengthening of RWD Road from Lohat Sugar Mill to Lohat Farm Land, Madhubani (Ext.)	6,62,00,000.00	13,24,000.00	10,000.00	06 Months
6	(Re-Tender) Construction of Precast Compound wall and Road Work at Lohat Farm Land, Madhubani (Ext.)	4,99,00,000.00	9,98,000.00	10,000.00	06 Months
7	(Re-Tender) Construction of Precast Compound wall Lohat Sugar Mill, Madhubani (Ext.)	4,59,00,000.00	9,18,000.00	10,000.00	05 Months
8	(Re-Tender) Construction of Boundary wall, Campus Development & Road work at Industrial Area Gogari, Khagaria	8,55,95,961.00	17,12,000.00	10,000.00	06 Months

10. अन्य विवरणी प्राधिकार के वेबसाइट www.idabihar.com/ सूचना एवं जन-संपर्क विभाग के वेबसाइट www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar अथवा अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालयके नोटिस बोर्ड पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (NIT) में देखी जा सकती है या अधोहस्ताक्षरी से संपर्क कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस को कार्यालय अवधि में प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

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IN BRIEF



3 get life term in Ankit Saxena murder case

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Thursday awarded rigorous life imprisonment to three persons for killing 23-year-old photographer Ankit Saxena in 2018 over an interfaith affair. » Page 2

Citizens have right to pan revocation of Art. 370, says SC

NEW DELHI
Every citizen has the right to offer criticism of the action of abrogation of Article 370, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while quashing an FIR against a person who termed the day of revocation a "black day". » Page 16

Sena row: SC asks if Maharashtra Speaker contradicted verdict

A Constitution Bench had held that legislative majority must not be used as a criterion to declare CM Eknath Shinde's faction as the 'real' Shiv Sena

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked whether Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar "contradicted" a Constitution Bench judgment while banking on 'legislative majority' as a criterion to declare Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's faction as the "real" Shiv Sena.

"The Speaker says the 'real' political party is discernible from which faction held the legislative majority at the time of the emergence of the rival factions... Is this not contrary to what we had laid down on May 11?" Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge

The Speaker says the 'real' political party is discernible from which faction held the legislative majority at the time of the emergence of the rival factions... Is this not contrary to what we had laid down on May 11?

D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
Chief Justice of India



Bench, asked.

Deciding the disqualification petitions filed against Mr. Shinde, Mr. Narwekar had on January 10 declared the Chief Minister's camp as the true party based on a finding that he had commanded the legislative majority at the time Shiv Sena splin-

tered in June 2022.

On May 11, 2023, a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud had made it clear that the Speaker should not be swayed by the factor of a legislative majority.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

SC to consider contempt plea against SBI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday said the Supreme Court would consider listing a contempt petition against State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara for seeking time till June 30 to provide complete details of electoral bonds purchased since April 2019 to an anonymously fund political parties.

The contempt petition, filed jointly by petitioners Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Common Cause, said the Supreme Court, while striking down the electoral bonds scheme, had directed the SBI to share details of the bonds sold to anonymous donors and political parties who had benefited from the transactions to the Election Commission by March 6.

The Election Commission



The bank has said it needs time till June end to provide details about electoral bonds. REUTERS

However, the bank has put a spoke in the wheel by filing a nine-page application in the Supreme Court on March 4, just two days before the deadline.

The bank said it needed time till June end to provide the Election Commission details about the bonds.

sion was ordered to publish the data obtained from the bank on its official website by March 13.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 16

Kashmiris 'breathing freely' now, says Modi

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Claiming that the people of Kashmir were now "breathing free" thanks to the revocation of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - on his first trip to Jammu and Kashmir since it lost its autonomous status and Statehood - pledged to "keep winning the hearts of Kashmiris".

Addressing the crowd in Srinagar on Thursday, Mr. Modi targeted the Congress and its allies over Article 370. "Kashmir is touching new heights of progress and prosperity after the revocation of Article 370. Locals are able to breathe free," the Prime Minister said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16



L-G Manoj Sinha presents a memento to the PM in Srinagar. NISSAR AHMAD

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IN BRIEF



Delhi Cabinet extends power subsidy scheme till 2025

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved the continuation of the power subsidy scheme for the financial year 2024-25, under which government provides free electricity to households that consume less than 200 units, and a 50% subsidy to those using 201-400 units a month. Power Minister Atishi said the AAP government has been fulfilling its election promise for the last nine years. In a post on X, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that such a scheme is only available in the AAP-ruled States of Delhi and Punjab, thanks to a government of "honest and educated people".

Excise case: judicial custody of Sisodia, Singh extended

A Delhi court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh in a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped excise policy. Special Judge M.K. Nagpal extended the custody of the two after they were produced before the court on the expiry of their judicial remand. The Enforcement Directorate sought their judicial custody, saying that the case was at a crucial stage, and if released, the two accused may hamper the investigation. The ED had earlier told the court that the money the AAP leaders earned through the excise "scam" was diverted through "hawala" channels for AAP's poll campaign in the 2022 Goa Assembly election. PTI

Six years after Ankit Saxena's murder, Delhi court sentences three to life imprisonment

Court says it did not award death sentence in the case as there was a possibility of rehabilitation of the convicts, crime not the 'rarest of rare'; the 23-year-old was stabbed to death by his girlfriend's kin who were against the affair because the two belonged to different religious communities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A court here on Thursday awarded rigorous life imprisonment to three persons for killing 23-year-old photographer Ankit Saxena in 2018 over an interfaith affair. The court said it did not award the death sentence in the case as there was a possibility of the rehabilitation of the convicts - Akbar Ali and Shahnaz Begum, the parents of Saxena's friend and her maternal uncle Mohammad Salim.

Ali, Begum, and Salim stabbed Saxena to death in broad daylight on February 1, 2018, in west Delhi's Raghurajpur area as they opposed the interfaith relationship. The court had convicted the three in December 2023, and the prosecution had sought the death penalty for them.

Additional Sessions Judge Sunil Kumar Sharma observed that the death sentence could only be awarded in the "rarest of rare" cases. He noted that at the time of the commission of the offence, all three convicts "had clean antecedents" and "no previous [criminal] involvement".



Ankit Saxena was stabbed to death on February 1, 2018, in west Delhi's Raghurajpur area. FILE PHOTO

"Further, no history of any criminal inclination, drug abuse or any other addiction has been brought on record. Before being arrested in this case, the convicts were living with their families and were well-rooted in society," the court said. It added that the three have been in judicial custody for the past six years.

"Considering the mitigating and aggravating circumstances, age, gender, social background, previous antecedents, and the period of custody already

undergone, as well as their family responsibilities, this court is of the opinion that it is not a fit case for the imposition of the death penalty," the judge said.

Fines imposed

The court sentenced the three to rigorous life imprisonment and directed each to pay ₹50,000 to the deceased's mother.

The three were sentenced for offences under IPC Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention).

'Will never forget or forgive anyone': grieving mother still awaits 'justice'

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

Kamlesh Saxena's only son was hacked to death by her neighbours right in front of her eyes. Six years on, she is still haunted by one question: "Why didn't they try to talk to us? Why did they have to kill my child?"

On the fateful day, Ankit's 19-year-old girlfriend reportedly had an argument with her parents as they were against the interfaith relationship. After the argument escalated, she, according to the police, left her house, locking the main door from outside. She then reportedly asked Ankit to pick her up. When her parents managed to unbolt the main door, expecting their daughter to be with Ankit, they rushed towards his house. While he was on the way to meet his girlfriend on a two-wheeler, they stopped him. The woman's father stabbed him in the neck while other family members - mother, uncle and a minor brother - had pinned Ankit down, ac-

ording to the police. They also thrashed Ankit's mother, who tried to save her son during the fight, the police had said. His father was not at home at the time of the incident. Ankit was taken to hospital by his mother in an autorickshaw. "I still remember his last words. As they continued to hit him mercilessly, he kept saying, 'I don't know where she is... I will not forget that or forgive anyone,'" said the 55-year-old mother after the court's order on Thursday.

More tragedy

While she struggled to come to terms with her loss, she was dealt another blow as the pandemic claimed her husband in 2021, leaving her alone to manage her finances at a time when she could barely think straight. Ailing and unable to do much, she is now forced to make ends meet with a meagre ₹2,500 widow's pension a month. Mostly living alone when her extended family isn't visiting, Ms. Kamlesh often

experiences panic attacks. Despite all her hardships, she still hopes for justice and a world where people do not harbour hate. "I have not seen any difference in the last six years. There is a lot of hate in the society, it's scary to live alone now," she said.

The two families used to be next-door neighbours. Three years before the incident, the woman's family had moved to the next block. "Her family was like ours... I never thought they could do something so brutal," Ms. Kamlesh said. She still believes that had the woman's family initiated a conversation with them, such an incident wouldn't have happened. "If only they spoke to us... they shouldn't have done this." While she hoped for a death sentence, Ms. Kamlesh said she will consult her lawyers regarding the next course of action. "They should be sentenced to death to send out the message that nobody can get away with a crime like that," said Ms. Kamlesh.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI
AT NEW DELHI
PROCLAMATION OF SALE
Execution Petition No. 1 of 2023
(Arising out of Judgment/Final Decree
dated 20.09.2022 passed in
CS(OS) No. 1214/2014)

Rajeev Chawla ... Decree Holder
Deepak Chawla ... Judgment Debtor
The General Public
Whereas the above noted execution petition has been filed by the aforesaid Decree Holder for realising the Judgment / Final Decree dated 20.09.2022 passed in CS(OS) 1214/2014 for recovery of amount and whereas this Court has ordered to sell the property bearing no. E-64, G.K. Enclave, Part-1, New Delhi-110048, of Judgment Debtor by Auction through bids by the Court Auctioneer, 01.04.2024 on or before 06:00 PM.
The details of the property mentioned above for realization of the amount shown herein are as under:
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: The property bearing no. E-64, G.K. Enclave, Part-1, New Delhi-110048. DATE OF AUCTION: 01.04.2024 ON OR BEFORE 06:00 PM.
RESERVE PRICE: The Reserve Price for the sale of the above property is Rs. 18 crores, which includes any kind of statutory liabilities in relation to the above property.
Interested bidders shall submit their bids in a sealed cover with Demand Draft of 15% of the quoted amount in the name of "Registrar General, Delhi High Court" to the Court Auctioneer on or before 06:00 PM on 01.04.2024 at 05:00 PM by the Court Auctioneer. The highest bid shall be declared as the Successful Bid and the Demand Draft accompanying the same shall be deposited with the Registrar General, Delhi High Court by way of Earnest Money.
4. Within 15 days of the opening of bid, the Successful Bidder shall deposit through DD/Bankers Cheque in the name of the "Registrar General, Delhi High Court", the remaining 85% of the quoted amount at the Registry of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. In the event the successful bidder fails to deposit the balance quoted amount within 15 days, the Earnest Money shall stand forfeited.
5. Prospective bidders may inspect the property on 11, 12 & 13 March, 2024 between 11:00 AM & 05:00 PM. In the Court, if they want to, on 14, 15 & 16 March, 2024 between 11:00 AM & 05:00 PM through the Court Auctioneer as per Rules.
All persons interested in the purchase of the mentioned immovable property are invited to bid at the auction as specified in the proclamation of sale. However, the sale of the property will be subject to confirmation by the Hon'ble Court.
Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court, in terms of orders dated 05.03.2024, 19.02.2024 & 18.12.2023.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
The sale of property shall be subject to usual terms and conditions including but not limited to the following:-
1. The bids are invited for the sale of said property on "As is Where is Basis" in terms of the direction dated 18.12.2023 of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Execution Petition (Ex P) No. 1 of 2023 titled Rajeev Chawla Vs. Deepak Chawla. The Reserve Price for the sale of the above property is Rs. 18 crores, which includes any kind of statutory liabilities in relation to the above property.
2. Interested bidders shall submit their bids in a sealed cover with Demand Draft of 15% of the quoted amount in the name of "Registrar General, Delhi High Court" to the Court Auctioneer on or before 06:00 PM on 01.04.2024 at 05:00 PM by the Court Auctioneer. The highest bid shall be declared as the Successful Bid and the Demand Draft accompanying the same shall be deposited with the Registrar General, Delhi High Court by way of Earnest Money.
4. Within 15 days of the opening of bid, the Successful Bidder shall deposit through DD/Bankers Cheque in the name of the "Registrar General, Delhi High Court", the remaining 85% of the quoted amount at the Registry of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. In the event the successful bidder fails to deposit the balance quoted amount within 15 days, the Earnest Money shall stand forfeited.
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Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court, in terms of orders dated 05.03.2024, 19.02.2024 & 18.12.2023.

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NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 30th March 2024 at 04:30 p.m. to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the EGM.

Notice dated 29.2.2024 was dispatched to all members by Registered Post / Courier on 8th March 2024.
The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Sec.108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/S Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K.M. Subramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 27.03.2024 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 29.03.2024 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5:00 PM on 29.03.2024. During this period, Members whose name appears in the Register of Members as on 10.03.2024 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process. Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting can exercise their right to vote at the meeting. The facility for voting by manual ballot will be made available at the meeting venue.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website www.cosmopolitanchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43.
/By order of the Executive Committee /
Date: Chennai SP. Sivalingam /
Date: 08.03.2024 President

PUBLIC NOTICE

Buzz Hotels Private Limited
Regd. Office: 305, 3rd Floor,
Kanchan House, Karam Pura
Commercial Complex,
New Delhi-110015
Email: buzzhotels@gmail.com,
CIN # U55101DL2017PTC130369

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, Buzz Hotels Pvt Ltd and Base Exports Pvt Ltd. (in short "Licensees") have applied for "Assignment of Joint Development Rights and or Marketing Rights" to Base Buildwell Pvt. Ltd. for a Group Housing Colony on land admeasuring 8.19375 acres in the revenue estate of village Beltrampur, Sector-59 Gurugram forming part of Licence Nos. 16 of 2008 dated 31.01.2008, 28 of 2008 dated 16.02.2008, and 44 of 2011 under Policy dated 18.02.2015.

WHEREAS, the In-principle approval for above request for Assignment of Joint Development Rights and or Marketing Rights has been granted by the Office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana (in short "DTCP") vide letters dated 12.02.2024.
AND WHEREAS Licensees have also applied for approval of Phasing plan of total 34.175 acres colony wherein the project Mahindra Luminaire and the project Elevate being developed by Heritage Max Realtech Pvt Ltd are indicated as RERA registered Phase and balance area of 34.175 acres colony are indicated as independent phase(s) in terms of Phasing Plan policy dated 24.04.2023.

Notice dated 29.2.2024 was dispatched to all members by Registered Post / Courier on 8th March 2024.
The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Sec.108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/S Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K.M. Subramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 27.03.2024 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 29.03.2024 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5:00 PM on 29.03.2024. During this period, Members whose name appears in the Register of Members as on 10.03.2024 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process. Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting can exercise their right to vote at the meeting. The facility for voting by manual ballot will be made available at the meeting venue.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website www.cosmopolitanchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43.
/By order of the Executive Committee /
Date: Chennai SP. Sivalingam /
Date: 08.03.2024 President

(Nareesh Gupta)
Authorised Signatory
Buzz Hotels Pvt. Ltd. &
Base Exports Pvt Ltd

Eviction notices issued to Hindu refugees from Pakistan: AAP, Congress attack Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress on Thursday took on the Central government-run agencies for issuing orders to evict Hindu refugees from Pakistan from their houses near Gurdwara Majnu Ka Tila in New Delhi.

While senior AAP leader and Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj urged the Lieutenant-Governor to roll back the "anti-poor" actions, Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely termed the orders to evict the refugee families from their homes as "inhuman and illegal". The BJP accused both parties of playing "dirty politics".

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had issued notices to the families living on the Yamuna floodplains to clear the area for a two-day anti-encroachment drive starting on Thursday. An official said the demolition drive, which was to be carried out on the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), was delayed due to the unavailability of police personnel.

"The DDA has issued notices to Pakistani Hindu refugees residing in Majnu Ka Tila since 2011 to pack their belongings and go to a night shelter in Dwarka as their



The Delhi Development Authority has issued notices to families living on the Yamuna floodplains to clear the area. FILE PHOTO

houses will be bulldozed soon," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

He added that settlements across the city have been cleared over the past few months on the orders of the DDA, Land and Development Office, and Archaeological Survey of India. "The agencies, under directions from the Prime Minister's Office, are driving the poor to the streets in an attempt to make Delhi free of jhuggis," he said.

"How are people expected to leave the place where they have been staying and relocate far away, that too to a night shelter which is not meant for families?" the Minister added.

Mr. Lovely lashed out at the BJP-led Centre, saying the eviction notices were illegal. "Parliament recently passed a law prohibiting demolitions of jhuggi jhopri clusters till 2026. The BJP is playing petty politics at the cost of the

2020 riots: can't wait endlessly for forensic report, says court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Thursday said that it cannot wait "endlessly" for a forensic report in a 2020 communal riots case. The court's remarks came while hearing the case of the death of a man who was allegedly forced to sing the national anthem during the riots. Kismatun, the mother of the deceased, Faizan, had moved the court in 2020 seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into the death of her 23-year-old son.

A purported video of the incident showed Faizan and four other young

Muslim men being beaten up by policemen and forced to sing the national anthem and the national song.

The petitioner claimed that her son suffered grievous injuries from the assault. She also alleged that the police denied him medical treatment, due to which he succumbed to his injuries on February 26, 2020.

The police told the court that the National Forensic Sciences University in Gujarat was yet to conclude the forensic analysis of the purported video footage. The matter was listed for further hearing on April 3.

Delhi Police holds self-defence workshop for delivery partners



Women were taught how to make use of their dupattas, stationery, and handbags to protect themselves. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As part of their self-defence training programme, a special unit of the Delhi police on Thursday held a self-defence training session for 40 Zomato female delivery partners, who make doorstep deliveries in the Capital.

The self-defence programme, which began in 2002, includes steps on training women how to make use of their dupattas, stationery, and handbags

to protect themselves from attack.

It also helps build the self-esteem of women so that they do not feel vulnerable or humiliated, an officer said.

The workshop was conducted for the delivery partners as they work odd hours while making deliveries and often face harassment, an officer said.

The Delhi police has, so far, trained over 5.48 lakh women through this initiative. Over 65,000 women were trained in 2023-24.

Branded T-SHIRT SALE upto 60% off

Introducing huge range of Shorts & Lowers By Economy Sales: 9212758425

ARROW PARK AVENUE ColorPlus SMART CASUALS LOUIS PHILIPPE Levi's

• GURUGRAM 306, City Center, Sector 29 (Near Hotel Pillazio)
• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

MADHYA PRADESH Infrastructure Development

The People-Centric Governance of Madhya Pradesh has made a great start in just 60 days under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. The state has received massive infrastructure projects for faster economic growth.

24 national highway projects
worth Rs. 10,405 crore



Dr. Mohan Yadav
CM, Madhya Pradesh

Robust railway infrastructure coming up in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh, led by Dr Mohan Yadav as Chief Minister is galloping with widening infrastructure for advancement of economy. Infrastructure development projects in every sphere of economy have come up at massive scale in just 60 days.

As many as 33 railway stations of Madhya Pradesh are being modernized. They figure among 554 railway stations taken up under the Amrut Bharat Station Scheme worth Rs. 41 thousand crores. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stones for redevelopment projects.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav unveiled the stone plaques of railway stations and inaugurated 133 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and underpasses. These include Sehore, Jabalpur, Bina, Ashoknagar, Khirkiya, Sanchi, Shajapur, Beohari, Bargawan, Narsinghpur, Pipariya, Indore, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Maksi, Nagda, Neemuch, Shujalpur, Khachrod, Balaghat, Chhindwara, Khandwa, Mandla Fort, Nainpur, Seoni, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Bijuri, Morena, Harpalpur, Datia and Bhind station.

ROBs include two ROBs of Jabalpur Railway Division and four ROBs of Bhopal Railway Division. Under the underpass, work will be done at one place in Jabalpur and two places in Bhopal division. The ROB/underpass will do away with manned level crossing gates.

Madhya Pradesh is witnessing

constructions worth Rs 77 thousand crores. Railway facilities are continuously expanding. World class railway stations and rail facilities with new technology will be available.

The State is developing rapidly with Centre's support. Located in the heart of the country, it has immense potential for development of railway infrastructure. Not only two major railway lines of the country are operational here, but the laying the railway line via Sehore to Ramganj Mandi and Budhni is being accelerated. Railway infrastructure development will be completed fast to further speed up development. Bhopal-Sehore-Raisen, Bhopal-Vidisha, Ujjain-Indore and Ujjain-Dewas will be developed as twin cities.

As many as 24 National Highway projects, 724 kilometres of roads, worth Rs. 10,405 crore.

These have been awarded to Madhya Pradesh which will support the coal industry in Katni, enhance connectivity to renowned pilgrimage sites, and stimulate agricultural commerce in the Mahakaushal region. Enhanced interstate connectivity will benefit the Budhni textile and woodcraft industries, as well as well-known tourist destinations such as Khajuraho, Orchha, and the National Pench Tiger Corridor. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi will all experience an



improvement in connectivity.

The construction of a bridge across the Jamni River on the Tikamgarh-Jhansi Road of NH-539 will be inaugurated in Jabalpur. Additionally, NH-339 lane enlargement works will involve the construction of a four-lane Bamitha to Khajuraho section and the

upgrading of a two-lane road with a paved shoulder from Chadiya Valley to Katni bypass.

The foundation stone has been laid for the following: two-lane road upgradation with paved shoulders from Gulganj Bypass to Barna River; two-lane road construction from

Barna River to Ken River; two-lane road upgradation with paved shoulders from Shahdol to Sagar Tola Road; construction of a total of 23 bridge service roads in the Lalitpur-Sagar-Lakhnadon section under NH-44 (MP); three-foot overs at Suktara, Khurai, and Khawasa along NH-44; bridge construction work; and improvement work on two black spots.

The foundation stone laying ceremonies for 15 National Highway projects, totalling 498 kilometres in length and costing Rs 8.38 crore, were conducted in Bhopal. Similarly, in Jabalpur, foundation stone for 9 National Highway projects, spanning 226 kilometres in length and costing Rs 2,367 crore was laid.

Bhopal will have a six-lane Ayodhya bypass segment of NH-46, the four-lane widening of the Shahganj to Bari segment of NH-146B, and the Madhya Pradesh segment of NH-552 (extended). Additionally, construction began on the two-lane road with a paved shoulder connecting Sheopur-Goras to the Rajasthan border and the Sujalpur bypass along NH-752C and NH-552 (extended). A two-lane road (with a paved median) connecting the Ater and Bhind bypass, the Goras to Shyampur road of NH-552 (extended), and the NH-552 (Extended) will be available.

Two-lane road construction with a paved median from NH-56's Dahod (Gujarat border) segment to Ambua, and from NH-347A Multai to the Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra border.

Cyber Tehsils in all districts: An unprecedented measure to reform revenue administration



Madhya Pradesh's revenue administration reform will involve the implementation of the Cyber Tehsil System, which will usher in a paradigm shift in the interest of the people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Cyber Tehsil Project virtually in all districts on February 29, 2024, concurrently with the initiation of several development initiatives totalling Rs. 17,000 crores.

As envisioned by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, revenue cases and disputes will be amenable to resolution in an exceptionally brief period. The concerned beneficiary and stakeholder will have access to a verified copy of the land records and the pertinent order following implementation in the land records.

Currently, pending cases can be effectively resolved through the utilisation of technical assistance. Cyber-tehsils require an average of 15 to 17 days to dispose of cases. This is a substantial accomplishment in comparison to the sixty days required for the manual process.

Approximately 14 lakh cases of mutation are reported annually in the state. Eight lakh cases pertain to mutations that occur after the

execution of sale deeds. Around two lakh unresolved cases pertain to the procurement and sale of khasra in its entirety.

In light of this, Cyber Tehsil has been established to facilitate the transfer and updating of land records online, in a paperless, impersonal, and 15-day timeframe.

Two lakh mutation cases associated with the purchase and sale of Khasra can be resolved electronically through tehsils. In addition to expediting the disposition of land records, concurrent updates are also performed.

Reducing the burden associated with resolving undisputed cases at the tehsil level. The Revenue Department has amended section 13-A of the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1959 to include provisions for the cyber tehsil system. The Cyber Tehsil Project commenced as a demonstration initiative in the districts of Sehore and Datia on June 1, 2022. Currently, the initiative has been implemented in all districts.

How does it function?

In Cyber Tehsil, the entire procedure from registration to name transfer has

been executed.

Four distinct platforms have been integrated with Cyber Tehsil: Sampada Portal, Bhulekh Portal, SAARA Portal, and RCMS Portal.

Cases that qualify for resolution in Cyber Tehsil include complete Khasra that has not been divided, as well as land that has not been mortgaged or otherwise mortgaged.

The case will be promptly entered into the revenue portal following registration.

The investigation will then be conducted by Cyber Tehsildar. Following the data, a memorandum concerning the advertisement and Patwari report will be issued. Following this, an order will be issued to amend the land records.

Instead of receiving the claim within ten days, instructions will be communicated via WhatsApp and email.

In the Registrar's office, during the execution of the sale deed (registration), the applicant must provide the required processing fee and general information in the format specified.

When registrations encompass the entire Khasra number or the entire plot without any division of Khasras or plots, an automated process will be



employed to generate the details of the registered sale deed (registry).

It is transmitted via the RCMS portal to the tehsil.

Cyber Tehsildar verifies the correspondence between the registered documents and the revenue land records, subsequently notifying the buyer, vendor, and all inhabitants of the affected village via SMS. Additionally, this notification includes a hyperlink for expressing opposition. In addition, an electronic memorandum is published regarding the Patwari report.

If no objection is lodged within a period of ten days and no objection is present in the memorandum of the Patwari, the Cyber Tehsildar issues the transfer order and updates the records about the case.

Upon order resolution/passage, the relevant party is notified via SMS and the order's status is communicated via email.

Which cases require immediate disposal?

Cyber Tehsil facilitates the resolution (transfer) of cases involving the complete Khasra number or the entire plot, without any division of Khasra or plot.

Move-out of more than 17,000 cases

As of this moment, definitive orders have been issued in 17,152 cases, and an automated process has been utilised to verify land records.

Complete implementation has been achieved. The final orders have been transmitted to the

The Advantages

- ▶ Even without an application, a case for title transfer is registered following registry.
- ▶ The presence of both the buyer and vendor at the Tehsil office is not a prerequisite for the name transfer procedure.
- ▶ The decision-making process is conducted entirely online and without the use of paper.
- ▶ The procedure is entirely transparent. No human intervention occurs.
- ▶ Notification shall be delivered to the buyer, vendor, and all inhabitants of the village via SMS. Also noted on the RCMS portal.
- ▶ Online objection filing is possible.
- ▶ A copy of the final order is transmitted to the petitioners via email or WhatsApp.
- ▶ The land records (khasra/maps) are promptly updated once the order is executed.
- ▶ Except for government holidays, the implementation of orders and revenue records will be concluded within a period of 15 days.
- ▶ Judicial boundaries have been eradicated by this system.
- ▶ This system has provided the unprecedented capability of real-time land record updates. There will be no further need for manual intervention.
- ▶ Online submission of Patwari reports is possible.
- ▶ It will be resolved as quickly as possible. These processes previously required an average of sixty days. Averaging fifteen, this procedure will be concluded in both Cyber Tehsils.
- ▶ A PDF copy of the Cyber Tehsil-approved order will be mailed or delivered via WhatsApp to the applicant. Additionally, a copy will be published on the RCMS portal.

applicants via WhatsApp and email, containing verified documents.

Revised tehsildar/naib tehsildar configuration

It is necessary to appoint 15 Tehsildars/Naib Tehsildars to the cyber tehsil that is to be established within the office of the Chief Revenue Commissioner.

The immediate implementation of this arrangement is possible through the attachment of supplementary Tehsildars/Naib Tehsildars. A proposition for the establishment of 15 Tehsildar/Naib Tehsildar positions in Cyber Tehsil will be included in the proposal for the review of the Tehsildar/Naib Tehsildar structure.

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice Inviting Request For Proposal for Authority Engineer (1st Call)

RFP No: SHAJ/Tech/SC/HL Bidge over Barakar River/2024 Date: 04.03.2024

- State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request of Proposal for services of Authority's Engineer for Supervision of Construction of Four Lane Bridge over Barakar River at Barbendiya (Nirsa) on Jamatara-Nirsa road in the state of Jharkhand on EPC Basis. The approximate cost of the work is Rs 222.50 crore.
- The interested consultancy firm who have experience in services of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request of Proposal (RFP) document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 11.03.2024 (12:30 hrs) to 04.04.2024, (12:00 hrs). The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by 04.04.2024 (upto 12:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in as per instruction in RFP-Instruction to Bidder for e-tendering. All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website.
- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.
- To participate in the bidding, it is mandatory for the applicants to get registered their firm /Joint Venture with e-tendering portal of <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> to have user ID & password. The consultancy firm are required to submit non-refundable document fee of Rs. 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty thousand only) & Bid Security (EMD) of Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rs. One Lakh) only. Tender fees and Earnest money Deposit(EMD) shall be deposited online as per Information Technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023. The undersigned will open the received bid online on 05.04.2024 at 15:30 hrs.

Sd/-
Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand
Deen Dayal Nagar (Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306
E-mail: membertechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

PR.NO.321870 State Highway
Authority of Jharkhand(23-24):D

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in,
Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001 and one of the Branch Offices at Ground Floor, Door No 30, Block-B1, New Delhi - 110058, Janakpuri Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 18-07-2023 calling upon the borrowers No.1) Mrs. Uphar Finvest Limited, 402, 403, 404 Fourth Floor, 73-74, Sheela, Nehru Place, Delhi - 110019. No.2) Mr. Pradeep Sharma, S/o. Ramesh Chandra Sharma, 58 Seemant Vihar, Kaushambhi Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad, No.3) Mr. Ashu Mathur, S/o. Sukhbir Kishore Mathur, House No.A1, Nawalkha Aptt. Bharat Mata Sukhbir, Kishore, Mathur JLB, Marg C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302109. No.4) Mr. Mohan C Pandey, S/o. Late Hari Datt Pandey, A-56, Karampura New Delhi, New Delhi - 110015. No.5) Mr. Prakash Pandey, Brother of Mohan C Pandey A-56, Karampura, Purjabi Bagh, New Delhi - 110026. No.6) Mrs. Chandra Kanta Sharma, W/o. Ramesh C Sharma, H.No.118, Village Nakta Kaun, Shikohabad, Firozabad, (UP) District - 280203. No.7) Mrs. Neelam Sharma, W/o. Pradeep Sharma, No.58, Seemant Vihar, Kaushambhi, Ghaziabad, (UP) District - 201012 to reply the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.10,59,38,077/- (Rupees Ten Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand and Seventy Seven only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 14-07-2023 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 02nd day of March 2024.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs.11,01,49,886/- (Rupees Eleven Crore One Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Six only) and interest thereon from 30-10-2023 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - C

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Chandra Kanta Sharma, W/o. Ramesh C Sharma & Mrs. Neelam Sharma, W/o. Pradeep Sharma)
Duplex Flat, Residential Flat, Second & Third Floor, Duplex Flat No.D-27, Area of Second Floor, 780 sq.ft. and Area of Third Floor, 780 sq.ft. Total Area 1,560 sq.ft. At Seemant Vihar, Kendriya Karamchari Evarn Mitra Sehkari Awas Samiti Ltd., Kaushambi Link Road, Ghaziabad, Pargana Loni Tehsil, District Ghaziabad. Boundaries : East : Colony Road 25 feet wide, West: Flat No.D-42, South: Flat No.D-32, North: Flat No.D-29.

Place : Delhi-Janakpuri, Date : 02-03-2024

Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110T1904PLC001287,
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

WELCOMING ENTREPRENEURS TO THE FIELD OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IN KERALA

Suchitwa Mission, Kerala is looking forward for partnership with private players in the field of waste management.

Facilities offered by the Mission to the entrepreneurs

- Empanelment for experienced agencies in the field of waste management
- Technical Support to potential investors and facilitation for establishing linkages with local bodies for ensuring consistent supply of waste
- Opportunity for entrepreneurs with innovative ideas through "Swiss Challenge" model

Potential areas of partnership

- Development of modern bio-waste processing plants
- Production/supply/maintenance of equipments for decentralized management of bio-waste
- Processing plants for recyclable plastic/sanitary/hair/E-waste/ C & D waste
- Processing plants for reject waste
- Production and supply of inoculum

SCAN OR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS

www.suchitwamission.org

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax : +91-674-2391444 ; E-mail - ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com; md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No.WATCO/WJ-49/2023-24 Dtd. 02.03.2024

WATCO No. 1530 Date : 02.03.2024

- Name of the work : Sewerage Network and Pumping Station for Slums from ward no.1 to 67 in BMC area.
- No. of Works : 10 (Ten) Nos
- Estimated Cost : Rs.1899.29 Lakh to Rs.3645.93 Lakh
- Cost of Tender Paper : Rs.11800.00 (18% GST included)
- Class of Contractor : "A", "Super" and "Special".
- Period of Completion of work : 12 (Twelve) months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the website. : From Dt.12.03.2024 to 5.00 PM of 28.03.2024
- Date & Time of opening of technical bids : 12.30 PM of 30.03.2024
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : E-Mail : ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

CEO, WATCO
OIPR-13194/11/0085/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF
RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR BUILDING WORKS IN ODISHA THROUGH e-procurement

No. - Online-05-Bid.-2023-24 Letter No.9949 Date: - 06.03.2024

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work	Construction of Multi Purpose cyclone shelters in the different District of the State.
2. Estimated cost	Rs.2.00 Crore to 4.00 crore (approx)
3. Class of Contractor	"A" Class & "B" Class
4. Time for completion	15 Calendar Months
5. E.M.D. required	As mentioned in the Annexure at coloumn-4
6. Cost of tender paper	Rs.10,000/- per set.
7. Mode of submission of tender	Tender should be submitted online in http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in
8. Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date of opening of tender papers	The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of the bid	
		From	To		Technical bid	Financial bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur	Online-Tender-005-2023/24	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Jajpur	Tender Online-426-49-2023-24	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	CCB-RLS&C.B. No.49/2023-24	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Building Online-41-C.B. No-35/2023-24	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online-RWC-09/24	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapada Jajpur	Tender Online-RWC/19/24	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Central Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender Online-CG-19/2024	22.03.2024 11:00 A.M.	06.04.2024 3:00 P.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	08.04.2024 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, (Buildings & Bridges)
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

O-2749 OIPR-25123/11/0054/2324

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
(DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ART-CULTURE, SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS)
Gate No. 29-30, Birsu Munda Football Stadium, Morhabadi, Ranchi
E-mail- sajha9@gmail.com

Notice For Request for Proposal Date: 07/03/2024

RFP No: SAJHA/69 Sports Authority of Jharkhand invites sealed Bids under two bid-bases, i.e., Technical Bid and Financial Bid from reputed Agencies for "Development of Integrated Website and Mobile Application for Sports Authority of Jharkhand (SAJHA)".

Description of work	Location	Bid Document Cost (Non-Refundable)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) (Refundable)	Period of Contract
"Selection of Agency for the Development of Integrated Website and Mobile Application for Sports Authority of Jharkhand (SAJHA)"	Sports Authority of Jharkhand, First floor, Gate No.-28/29, Birsu Munda Football Stadium, Morabadi, Ranchi.	₹25,000/- [Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Only] BOQ cost in the form of Demand Draft in favour of "Sports Authority of Jharkhand, Morabadi" Payable at Ranchi.	₹5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Only) EMD in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Sports Authority of Jharkhand, Morabadi Payable at Ranchi.	3 Years from LOA, Subject to extension.

□ Time Schedule of Tender

S.No.	Particulars	Date
1	Name of RFP	Request For Proposal (RFP): Development of Integrated Website and Mobile Application for Sports Authority of Jharkhand (SAJHA)
2	Type of RFP	Open Tender
3	Last date for sending queries to SAJHA Office	Date: 15.03.2024, Time: 11:00 AM Queries may be sent by email to: sajha9@gmail.com
4	Pre - bid meeting (Online)	Date: 18.03.2024, Time: 04:00 PM Link will be provided on the website.
5	Bid Due Date	Date: 28.03.2024, Time: 11:00 AM
6	Opening of Technical Bid	Date: 28.03.2024, Time: 04:00 PM (Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs cum Sports Authority of Jharkhand, Birsu Munda Football Stadium, Gate No: 28/29, Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834 008.
7	Opening of Financial Bid	After Technical Bid evaluation.
8	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	BID SECURITY DECLARATION as per the above table in prescribed format (Given in RFP), duly filled by the bidder to be submitted along with bid document.

- Tender documents can be downloaded from the SAJHA Website (www.sajha.in) from 08.03.2024, 10:00 AM onwards.
- The interested bidders should submit their bids in SAJHA office by Hand/Registered Post/ Speed Post before the prescribed time. Details regarding the tender can be accessed through the RFP document as uploaded on the website.
- Sports Authority of Jharkhand (SAJHA) reserves the right to cancel the bid at any time or amend/ withdraw any ion the terms and conditions in the RFP Document without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Director,
Sports Authority of Jharkhand

PR 321910 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs (23-24)_D

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Notification No. 1650 Date : 06.03.2024
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref.No.:OSMCL/2024-25/(SUT,SURG. & OTHER)-DHS/04 Date:07/03/2024

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Surgical, Suture & Other Items as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	07/03/2024, 3 PM
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	13/03/2024, up to 5:00 PM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 22/03/2024, 3 PM End Date & Time: 16/04/2024, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time: 17/04/2024, 10 AM End Date & Time: 25/04/2024, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Sample submission as per section-IV of tender documents	25/04/2024 upto 11:30 AM
6.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	25/04/2024, 11:30 AM
7.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in in time to time for any published notice against the tender.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL Ltd., Odisha
CAD-1503 OIPR-10112/11/0057/2324

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail: serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax: 0680-2404287)

At- Ambapua
Po- Engineering School
Near Income Tax office,
Berhampur-760011

NOTICE
FOR PM-JANMAN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e"-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/101-2023-24/PMGSY/BPR

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads / Bridges under PRADHAN MANTRI JANMAN AADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM-JANMAN Batch-1/2023-24) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Ganjam & Gajapati for 02 (Two) number of packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs.9.80 Cr (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd.11.03.2024

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security declaration and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur // Superintendent Engineer of the concerned divisions on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 27.03.2024 upto 5.30 PM
For further details and corrigendum (if any) please for on to www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur
O-2757 OIPR-25071/11/0118/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST.-MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 57 /23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1. Name of Work	A. Construction of C.C. Lining of Bisol dihed, RD 13300m to RD 23540m including resectioning of canal of Sunei Irrigation Project. B. Renovation and Development of Kalo Canal (Within RD 10325mtr To 15275mtr)
2. Estimated Cost	A. Rs. 693.20 Lakhs ; B. Rs.691.44 Lakhs
3. Bid Security / E.M.D.	A. Rs.6,93,200/- ; B. Rs.6,91,500/-
4. Period of Completion	For S.I. No. A & B - 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months.
5. Class of Contractor	For S.I. No. A & B - "A" Class and "Special" Class.
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	11.03.2024 at 10.00 AM
7. Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	30.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM
8. Date of Opening of bid	02.04.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
9. Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CEB&M, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "tendersodisha.gov.in".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.
A-1679; OIPR-32429/11/0023/2324

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: 28191890/28190259; Fax: 044-28190636.

Sl. No.	Online Tender No. / Rate Contract (RC) No. / Item with qty. / Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Last Date Submission	Opening
1	RC Tender No.E1157/EY/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 04.03.2024- Non-contact Tonometer (5) - Rs.2,290/-	11.03.2024 to 25.03.2024	18.03.2024 11:00 AM	26.03.2024 11:00 AM	26.03.2024 12:00 Noon
2	RC Tender No.E1158/DEN/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 04.03.2024- Dental Chair with accessories (25), Chair Mounted Dental X-ray (5), LED Curing Light Source (5), Intra Oral Dental X-ray (5) - Rs.5,725/-	11.03.2024 to 25.03.2024	18.03.2024 11:30 AM	26.03.2024 11:00 AM	26.03.2024 12:00 Noon
3	Tender No.E1159/MON/KCSSH/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 04.03.2024- Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring System (1) - Rs.2,290/-	11.03.2024 to 25.03.2024	18.03.2024 12:00 Noon	26.03.2024 11:00 AM	26.03.2024 12:00 Noon
4	RC Tender No.E1160/MAN/RC/DME-11MCH/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 04.03.2024- Various Mannuquins (110 nos., 143 nos. & 253 nos.) - Rs.5,725/-	11.03.2024 to 25.03.2024	19.03.2024 11:00 AM	27.03.2024 11:00 AM	27.03.2024 12:00 Noon
5	Tender No.E1161/SPECT/DME-11MCH/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 04.03.2024 Mass Spectrometry based Bacterial Identification System (1) - Rs.5,725/-	11.03.2024 to 25.03.2024	19.03.2024 11:30 AM	27.03.2024 11:00 AM	27.03.2024 12:00 Noon
6	RC Tender No.E1162/CRYO/RC/DME/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt: 04.03.2024- Cryo unit (5) - Rs.2,290/-	11.03.2024 to 25.03.2024	19.03.2024 12:00 Noon	27.03.2024 11:00 AM	27.03.2024 12:00 Noon

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
DIPR/1462/Tender/2024 General Manager (Equipment)

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR-751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscctd456@gmail.com

Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Apple Budded / Grafted Year - 2024-25

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender from Registered Private Nursery Owner Licensed from Directorate of Horticulture or any other Govt Institute or Licensed Suppliers dealing with Horticultural Planting Materials on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Apple Budded/Grafted Plant for the year 2024-25 in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Apple Budded/Grafted Plant for the year 2024-25.
No of work	One
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.11.03.2024 to 17.00 hrs of dt.20.03.2024
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.20.03.2024
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.21.03.2024

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
CAD-4524; OIPR-01106/11/0118/2324

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesd.jbvn@gmail.com

1st time Extension Notice against NIT No. 492/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

EoI is invited for selection of Agency for Preparation of DPR, Drawings & Estimates for conversion of whole overhead Distribution Network (including LT, 11KV and 33 KV line) of Ranchi city, Jharkhand into Underground Distribution Network.

Sl. No.	E.O.I. No.	Description	E.O.I. Document Cost in Rs. (Including GST)	Start date of Download Sale of EOI Document	Last Date of Sale of Tender Document	Last Date of Submission of Tender Document	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 Ranchi city, Jharkhand	11,800	20.02.2024	20.03.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.	20.03.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.	22.03.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.

Note:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website jharkhand.tenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9471527611 NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178.
(ii) The EMD, BG/ DD (Original copy) can be submitted through speed post/ registered post. Firm may physically submit these documents in the office of GM (ST&DN) on or before bid opening date & time positively failing which their offer may be rejected. Scan copy of original EMD/ BG must be uploaded along with offer. The speed post/ registered post must reach in the office of GM (ST&DN) on or before the due date, failing which offer may be rejected.
(iii) Tender fees must be paid in the form of DD (Original copy) or through online mode. The details for the online transaction is mentioned in the tender document.
(iv) Tender fees is non - refundable.

Sd/-
General Manager (DN)
JBVNL

व्यक्ति एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बनाई, कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को 18003468870(कील सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करावें।
PR.NO.321868 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24):D

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Notification No. 1642 Date : 06.03.2024
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref.No.:OSMCL/2024-25/DRUGS-DHS-ACD-GR-II/02 Date:07/03/2024

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project
Division, Beguru Main Road, Bommanahalli,
Bengaluru - 560 068.
No:BBMP/EE/BPD/Tend-05/2023-24 Dated: 07.03.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)
The Executive Engineer Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP, Bengaluru-68 invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/ BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works mentioned in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the works
Reserved for Others	
1.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Sector-6 in (I.A.S Officers Colony) Park. Estimated amount: ₹ 154.79 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 2,32,185/-
2.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Sathya Sai Baba Temple Park. Estimated amount: ₹ 101.77 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 2,00,000/-
3.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to AGS Layout 16th Cross Part-1 Park. Estimated amount: ₹ 171.42 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 2,57,130/-
4.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to AGS Layout PF Office near Park No.33 Estimated amount: ₹ 189.87 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 2,84,805/-
5.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Sector-6 in 1st Main (I.A.S Officers Club) Park. Estimated amount: ₹ 50.94 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 1,01,880/-
6.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to IAS Park Estimated amount: ₹ 84.82 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 1,69,640/-
7.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to High Tension Line Park Estimated amount: ₹ 64.49 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 1,28,980/-
8.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to AGS Layout-4 Park Estimated amount: ₹ 20.44 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 40,880/-
9.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to AGS Layout Park-2 Park Estimated amount: ₹ 95.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 1,90,000/-
Reserved for SC	
10.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Hosapalya Horticulture Farm Mangammanapalya Park Estimated amount: ₹ 84.82 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 84,820/-
11.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Arakere Hulimavu Shankara Narayana Park in Bommanahalli Zone. Estimated amount: ₹ 45.29 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 45,290/-
Reserved for ST	
12.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Jayanagara Housing Layout Side Viranjaya Nagara Near (Srichakra Temple) Park. Estimated amount: ₹ 75.22 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 75,220/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **22.03.2024 at 4:00 pm.** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **13.03.2024 at 11:00 am.** (3) Pre-bid meeting will be held on **16.03.2024 at 11:00 am.** (4) Technical bids will be opened on **23.03.2024 at 4:30 pm.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division

**TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT**
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE NO-16D/01/03/24
Invitation of Tenders through E-procurements system
Dy. Chief Material Manager/North Eastern Railway/Gorakhpur and on behalf of the president of India, invites tender through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in & www.tenders.gov.in. Sr. : 1. Tender No & Due Date : 10238377 Dt. 21/03/24 Brief Description of stores : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane 10 Ton etc. Qty Required : 01 SET Earnest Money (Rs.): 96410/- Sr. : 2. Tender No & Due Date : 10239135A Dt. 19/01/24 Brief Description of stores : Supply of Roof Mounted AC Package Unit RMPU Type-I etc. Qty Required : 03 SET Earnest Money (Rs.): 92410/- Sr. : 3. Tender No & Due Date : 10237152A Dt. 26/03/24 Brief Description of stores : Perforated Plate Assembly to item No-4 etc. Qty Required : 245 Nos Earnest Money (Rs.): 167300/- 1. Above Tenders are available on IREPS site ie <http://www.ireps.gov.in> the firm desirous in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically regd. Themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT ACT, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. 2. Advertised tender and bulletin in tenders of DY.CMM/Depot office/NER are being opened through EPS (E-procurement system) only. Firms desiring to participate in DY.CMM/Depot. Tenders should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/NEW Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 3. In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. 4. Head of allocation towards, S D Money in 00844517 & Earnest Money is 00084506. 5. The tender cost & EMD will be accepted through on-line payment on IREPS portal only for the tender published on or after 01.09.2016 against all the DY.CMM/Depot/NER/GKP tenders except Global tender.
Dy. Chief Material Manager/Depot CPROS-144 Gorakhpur
Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

**Your feedback will keep us
Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder**

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD CANCELLATION OF TENDER	
Sl.No.	Description
1	The notice inviting tender for Coal - 155 Dated 06.03.2024 issued for the procurement of imported Steam coal of any origin for delivery at Kamarajar Port, Ennore and Karaikal Port for a period of 2 years (2024-25 and 2025-26) through e-tender followed by e-reverse auction in the e-procurement platform in NIC portal and published in the Newspaper "THE HINDU DATED 07.03.2024" is hereby cancelled.

DIPR/1457/Tender/2024 CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL TANGEDCO /CHENNAI-02

Govt. of Bihar
Rural Works Department
Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/MMGSY(AWSESH)/HQ/ET/2023-24/41)

The Government of Bihar has applied for a loan/credit through the Govt. of India (GoI), to the New Development Bank (NDB), for Bihar Rural Roads Project (Phase-II) (Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana- AWSESH) and intends to apply the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Table-1.

Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites, **SBD** based Percentage rate tender in electronic tendering system under **Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana-AWSESH** for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES/Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments.

Table-1

Sl. No.	Package	Description of the Works [CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B)]		Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable* (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division	
		From	To							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-819-MADHUBANI	A1	Chandrasenpur	Pashchim Tola Chandrasenpur	0.700	77.818	4.989	82.807	1.656	Madhubani
	TOTAL		1		0.700	77.818	4.989	82.807	1.656	
2	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-820-MUZAFFARPUR EAST 2	A1	Belhwar Najipur Road	Garbhi Ghat Bandh Tak	0.970	102.172	8.406	110.578	2.212	Muzaffarpur East-2
	TOTAL		1		0.970	102.172	8.406	110.578	2.212	
3	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-821-MUZAFFARPUR EAST 2	A1	Susil Misra	Laxmi Mandal	0.122	18.006	0.666	18.672	0.373	Muzaffarpur East-2
	TOTAL		1		0.122	18.006	0.666	18.672	0.373	
4	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-822-PATORI	A1	Rcd Road	Sultanpur Purvee Rajpoot Tola Sahid Aman Singh House	0.400	43.235	2.457	45.692		
		A2	Chapar Panchayat Yojna Pcc Road	Chapar Margangpar Bind Tola	0.500	62.106	3.442	65.548		
		A3	Bin Bochha Rajiv Sah Ke House & Panchayat Yojna Pcc Road	Chaklapar Mahadalit Tola Near Pipal Tree	0.500	62.087	3.442	65.529		
		A4	Panchayat Yojna Pcc Road Bochha	Laxman Tola	1.000	110.666	6.390	117.056		
	TOTAL		4		2.400	278.094	15.731	293.825	5.877	Patori
5	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-823-PATORI	A1	Rwd Road	Pasban Tola	0.400	45.636	2.457	48.093	1.571	Patori
		A2	House Of Mahendra Raut	Rcd Road	0.250	28.929	1.536	30.465	1.571	
	TOTAL		2		0.650	74.565	3.993	78.558	1.571	
6	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-824-PATORI	A1	Pcc Road	Mahadalit Tola	0.335	37.763	2.058	39.821		
		A2	Mahadalit Tola	Pcc Road (Ward No_1 Garhsisai)	0.385	42.870	2.365	45.235		
		A3	Anusuchit Jati Tola (Sherpur Ward 8)	MMGSY Road	0.300	33.397	1.843	35.240		
		A4	Tatma Tola (Sherpur Ward No_8)	Pwd Road	0.260	29.300	1.597	30.897		
	TOTAL		4		1.280	143.330	7.863	151.193	3.024	Patori
7	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-825-SAMASTIPUR	A1	Bandh	Ram Jatan Sahani	0.350	42.669	1.601	44.270		
		A2	Bandh	Sahni Tola	0.500	57.516	2.216	59.732		
		A3	T03 Sivasingpur	Bakil Paswan House	1.000	65.467	9.101	74.568		
		A4	Kothiya Tola	Bankul Tola	1.000	69.219	8.566	77.785		
		A5	Masina Hanuman Mandir	Simri Pokhar Basti	1.800	141.745	16.556	158.301		
	TOTAL		5		4.650	376.616	38.040	414.656	8.293	Samastipur
8	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-826-SAMASTIPUR	A1	Devan Ram Ke Ghar	Navsrijit Primary School, Rampur Bishun Ward No-14	0.400	43.282	1.642	44.924	1.366	Samastipur
		A2	Brahmsthan Tola	Pmgys Path	0.200	22.576	0.822	23.398		
	TOTAL		2		0.600	65.858	2.464	68.322	1.366	
9	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-827-SAMASTIPUR	A1	Morsand Siman	Harijan Tola	0.250	27.735	1.027	28.762	0.575	Samastipur
	TOTAL		1		0.250	27.735	1.027	28.762	0.575	
10	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-828-SHEOHAR	A1	Mahranisthan Kamrauli Siman	Anup Paswan Ke Ghar	0.550	49.785	4.081	53.866	1.077	Sheohar
	TOTAL		1		0.550	49.785	4.081	53.866	1.077	
11	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-829-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Mathiya Champapur Reo Road	End Poit	0.795	107.000	6.500	113.500		
		A2	Bhavanipur Mitti Chok	Guyavari Idargah Tak	1.540	214.730	12.990	227.720		
		A3	Nahar Chok	Nagendra Raut Ghar Tak	0.555	83.790	2.610	86.400		
		A4	Jagdish Jha Ke Ghar	Narkayiya Chbela Balitha Ke Ghar Tak	1.525	192.750	13.440	206.190		
	TOTAL		4		4.415	598.270	35.540	633.810	12.676	Sikharina (Dhaka)
12	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-830-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Sri Narayan Parsad Ke Ghar	Panchayat Bhawan Tak	1.030	151.360	8.610	159.970		
		A2	Nahar Tak	Mathiya Main Road	1.530	216.910	12.350	229.260		
		A3	Gagan Thakur Ke Ghar	Gadva Devi Tak	1.225	186.516	10.666	197.182		
		A4	Kharuhi Kabaristan	Gorgava Chauhad Tak	0.850	121.350	6.900	128.250		
	TOTAL		4		4.635	676.136	38.526	714.662	14.293	Sikharina (Dhaka)
13	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-831-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Kharudi Ram Mandir	Nepal Sima Tak	1.150	178.100	10.100	188.200		
		A2	Hardia Main Road	Bramsthab Tak	0.675	98.800	3.100	101.900		
		A3	Bakhrihar Nahar Side Se	Semra Gramin Pul Tak	2.030	295.820	17.600	313.420		
		A4	Ramlochan Pandit Ke Ghar	Jamua Road Siwan Tak	1.595	228.390	12.490	240.880		
	TOTAL		4		5.450	801.110	43.290	844.400	16.888	Sikharina (Dhaka)
14	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-832-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Ramvishwash Mahto	Muna Singh	0.870	128.330	7.850	136.180		
		A2	Vidyanandan Mahto Ke Darbaje	Siwan Tak	0.480	83.360	2.220	85.580		
		A3	Rajjui Mia Ke Ghar Se	Chammar Toli	1.630	215.420	14.830	230.250		
		A4	Satrudhan Singh Ke Ghar	Bankatva Nahar Chok Tak	1.880	240.240	16.370	256.610		
	TOTAL		4		4.860	667.350	41.270	708.620	14.172	Sikharina (Dhaka)
15	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-833-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Manoj Singh Ke Ghar	Jiyatal Saw Ke Ghar Tak	1.040	146.240	9.140	155.380		
		A2	Rajkij Madhy Vidalay Bukulia	Nanhka Ghughua	0.530	89.560	2.420	91.980		
		A3	Santpur Road	Triveni Thakur	1.200	157.310	10.560	167.870		
		A4	Champapur Koeriya Basudev Parsad	Nimoeya Chok	1.555	196.720	13.240	209.960		
		A5	Champapur Koeriya Dabra	Kharjhakhya	0.610	99.350	2.750	102.100		
	TOTAL		5		4.935	689.180	38.110	727.290	14.546	Sikharina (Dhaka)
16	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-834-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Purbari Tola	Chhath Ghat	0.515	87.970	2.360	90.330		
		A2	Vijae Nahar Chok Se	Barva Nahar Tak	1.250	165.610	10.800	176.410		
		A3	Padiya Teka Road	Barva Nahar Chok Tak	1.560	197.960	13.270	211.230		
		A4	Bijae Samudaeek Bhavan	Bijae Pokhar Tak Nadi Pul	1.550	194.310	13.180	207.490		
		A5	Balapur Shiv Mandir	Shuva Ray	0.510	87.330	2.340	89.670		
	TOTAL		5		5.385	733.180	41.950	775.130	15.503	Sikharina (Dhaka)
17	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-835-SIKHARNA (DHAKA)	A1	Lotha Pul	Kasba Sri Pur	1.015	138.040	8.890	146.930		
		A2	Sripur Kaswa State Boding	Manae Toli	0.820	120.460	7.620	128.080		
		A3	Bhaglu Ray Ke Ghar	Sundarpur Jahar Devi Mandir Tak	2.010	257.320	16.920	274.240		
	TOTAL		3		3.845	515.820	33.430	549.250	10.985	Sikharina (Dhaka)
18	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-836-SITAMARHI	A1	Pwd Road Govind Fandah	Govind Fandah Kanu Tola	0.500	44.564	5.538	50.102		
		A2	Near Kapali Mandir Of Rasalpur	Misroliya Harizon Tola	2.400	207.346	25.317	232.663		
		A3	Sitaram Raut House	Jalim Singh Tola	0.950	93.668	10.397	104.065		
		A4	Near Pralahad Ray House	Deuwa Prakash Ray Tola	1.900	171.585	17.301	188.886		
		A5	Near Deuwa Harijan School	Dhobauli Laldhari Tola	1.950	176.657	19.836	196.493		
	TOTAL		5		7.700	693.820	78.389	772.209	15.444	Sitamarhi
19	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-837-SITAMARHI	A1	Boarder Highway Road	Belwapar Tola	1.100	120.315	8.789	129.104		
		A2	Dharmani Tola	Hirilawa	1.225	133.125	10.131	143.256		
		A3	Bala Paswan House	Manariya Tola	1.600	182.729	14.831	197.560		
	TOTAL		3		3.925	436.169	33.751	469.920	9.398	Sitamarhi
	GRAND TOTAL		59		57.322	7025.014	471.516	7496.53	149.931	

CBI busts network trafficking Indians to Ukraine war front

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday busted a major human trafficking network that took young Indians to the Russia-Ukraine war zone in the guise of providing them jobs abroad, officials said.

They said the agency has found 35 instances in which youngsters were taken to Russia after being lured with false promises of high-paying jobs via so-

cial media channels and local contacts and agents. Efforts are underway to identify the victims, the officials said.

In a statement, a CBI spokesperson said the trafficked Indian nationals were trained in combat roles and deployed across front bases in the Russia-Ukraine war zone against their wishes, putting their lives in danger. The federal agency has registered an FIR against some visa consultancy firms and agents.

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	26	09
Safdarjang	26	09
Palam	26	12

Delhi Palam Today
25°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight cold with mist & haze. Day will be pleasant with cool breeze. Night also will be very cool.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool.

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Timings
DELHI

FRIDAY, MAR. 08	RISE 06:39	SET 18:26
	RISE 05:18	SET 16:11
SATURDAY, MAR. 09	RISE 06:38	SET 18:26
	RISE 06:00	SET 17:23
SUNDAY, MAR. 10	RISE 06:36	SET 18:27
	RISE 06:37	SET 18:32

THE HINDU
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ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTIFICATION FOR e-Procurement No-E-610001533
APGENCO invites online tenders for "Providing of 21 Nos Drivers for entrusting the driving work on Dept., Vehicles meant for daily routine, emergency and day to day maintenance works of Dr.NTPS including on all holidays for the period from 01-04-2024 or from actual date of commencement of work up to 31.03.2026 through APGENCO e-procurement".
Approximate Value of Tender : Rs.2,15,56,884/-
Last date for submission of bids : upto 12-03-2024 @ 15:00 hrs
For further details visit <https://tender.apgenco.gov.in> or by using the link through APGENCO website www.apgenco.gov.in Contact No.(0866)2526411/6839/6427
DIPR2761PP/CL, Dt.07-03-2024 Chief Engineer / Civil Hydrel, GS, C&I

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No. :- 1036 Dated :- 06/03/2024
NIB :- 01/2023-24
Bid for the work of Construction of Remaining WBM Road in Flats 8∓ E/W Filling Berms of main road in independent houses at New RHB Scheme Near DTO Hanumangarh, Rs. 184.05 Lacs, of subject matter (s) of (Procurement) are invited from interested bidders from 12.03.2024 to 03.04.2024 (up to 6.00 PM). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the state and Rajasthan Housing Board Department websites <https://www.rhb.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN :- (1) RHB2324WSOB00437
Raj.Samwad/C/23/14455 Dy. Housing Commissioner, Circle-Bikaner

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"
(e-Tendering Mode Only)

Online tender (Two part bid) are invited for the supply of following item (s), on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The Start, End dates and times of submission and opening of Techno Commercial Bid of tender are as per detail given below. The Detailed Tender Notice, terms and conditions along with tender documents can be viewed / downloaded from website <https://www.hptenders.gov.in>

Sr. No	Tender No.	Description of Items	Qty. (in Nos.)	Estd.Cost (in Lacs)	Tender fee inclusive of GST@18% (Non-refundable) (in Rs.)	Date of online publication and download of tender documents from website	Start date & time of bid submission	End date & Time of bid Submission	Date & Time of opening of Techno Comm. bid.
1.	CE(MM)-04/2024	ISI Marked 11/0.433 kV and 22/0.433 kV Class,3 Phase Distribution Transformers of assorted ratings	785 Nos.	1672.76	1475/-	08.03.2024 (from 11:00 a.m.)	08.03.2024 (from 11:00 a.m.)	18.03.2024 (upto 11:00 a.m.)	19.03.2024 (at 11:00 a.m.)
2.	CE(MM)-05/2024	Copper wound Combined CT-PT units of oil immersed out door type of various ratings of accuracy class 0.5 S; 11kV & 22kV/110V	442 Nos.	244.98	1180/-	08.03.2024 (from 11:00 a.m.)	08.03.2024 (from 11:00 a.m.)	18.03.2024 (upto 11:00 a.m.)	19.03.2024 (at 12:30 p.m.)
3.	CE(MM)-06/2024	ISI Marked (IS:335) EHV Grade Transformer oil, packed in non-returnable brand new steel drums.	163.02kl	170.05	1180/-	08.03.2024 (from 11:00 a.m.)	08.03.2024 (from 11:00 a.m.)	18.03.2024 (upto 11:00 a.m.)	19.03.2024 (at 03:30 p.m.)
4.	CE(MM)-07/2024	ISI Marked, 3 Phase 1/2 Wire, HT Static DLMS, Compliant Trivector meters of accuracy class 0.5S, system of capacities having PT ratio-/110 Volts & CT ratio -/5 Ampere of assorted categories:-	273 Nos.	18.28	590/-	07.03.2024	08.03.2024 (from 11:30 AM)	19.03.2024 (upto 12:00 PM)	20.03.2024 (at 03:30 PM)
5.	CE(MM)-08/2024	ISI Marked, 3-Phase,4-Wire, Whole Current Static DLMS Compliant Energy Meter of accuracy class 1.0 of 10-80 Ampere rating (Category-C), with Metallic Meter Box.	5312 Nos.	258.52	1180/-	07.03.2024	08.03.2024 (from 11:30 AM)	19.03.2024 (upto 12:00 PM)	20.03.2024 (at 03:00 PM)

Chief Engineer, (MM),
HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-171004.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT SECTION, DEOGHAR
Ref no. :- 241/Dev Date: -07.03.2024
VERY SHORT EXPRESSION OF INTREST FOR: - Selection of Agency for Supply and Installation of Fire Extinguisher at Government School in Deoghar District Mines Affected Area.

SL. NO	INFORMATION/SUBJECT	DETAILS.
01	NAME OF WORK	Selection of Agency for Supply and Installation of Fire Extinguisher at Government School in Deoghar District Mines effected area.
02	DATE OF PUBLICATION OF BID	07.03.2024
03	EARNEST MONEY TO BE DEPOSITED	RS 50,000.00 MSME Registered Organization to be exempted
04	LAST DATE & TIME FOR BID SUBMISSION	14.03.2024 (02:00 PM)
05	BID SUBMISSION PLACE	District Development Section, Deoghar
06	DATE AND TIME FOR BID OPENING	14.03.2024 (04:00 PM)
07	BID OPENING PLACE	District Development Section, Deoghar
08	NAME AND OFFICE FOR INVITING EOI	District Development Section, Deoghar
09	HELPLINE NO. AND EMAIL ADDRESS	Incharge Officer, District Development Section, Deoghar. Contact No.:06432-232344 Email Id:- ddc-deo@nic.in

NOTE: - FOR FURTHER DETAIL PLEASE VISIT www.deoghar.nic.in
EXPRESSION OF INTREST complete in all respects must reach the undersigned by Speed Post/Registered Post/By hand latest by 14-03-2024 by 02:00 PM in sealed envelop clearly marked on the top it " Selection of Agency for Supply and Installation of Fire Extinguisher at Government School in Deoghar District Mines affected Area." The EXPRESSION OF INTREST received beyond the last date and time will be rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any/all proposals without assigning and reason thereof.
Sd/-
Deputy Development Commissioner
-Cum-Member Secretary
PR 321918 Deoghar(23-24)#D DMFT, Deoghar

Email ID: serwcbarpada@gmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No:- Online Tender - SACI N.C.B. No. 352 for 2023 - 24
Letter No. 1285 / Date: 07.03.2024 //

- Name of the work :- SACI Road Works in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2023 - 24.
- Total No. of Work :- 02 Nos. (Two)
- Estimated Cost :- Rs.311.20 Lakhs & Rs. 338.63 Lakhs (approximately).
- Eligible Class of Contractor :- As per annexure.
- Period of Completion :- As per annexure.
- Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada.	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Road On-line N.C.B. No. 352	Dt. 13.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 28.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 27.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 30.03.2024 up to 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.
Chief Construction Engineer R.W. Circle, Baripada.
Q-2759 OIPR-25130/11/0097/2324

GRIDCO LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022, ODISHA
E-Tender Notice No-04/2023-24

Design, fabrication, supply, transportation, civil works, installation and commissioning including 12 months O&M of 120 Mtr. and 150 Mtr. tall lattice masts (WRA) along with allied wind data measuring instruments including data acquisition, validation and report generation.

GRIDCO Ltd. being the nodal agency for implementing the Renewal Energy Policy-2022 in the state of Odisha, invites bids in e-Tender mode only from reputed and eligible bidders for "Design, fabrication, supply, transportation, civil works, installation and commissioning including 12 months operation & maintenance of 120 Mtr. and 150 Mtr. tall lattice masts (WRA) along with allied wind data measuring instruments including data acquisition, validation and report generation" conforming to the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document.

The interested bidders would be required to enrol themselves on the e-tender portal, www.tenderwizard.com/gridco. Complete set of bidding documents are available at the tender portal, www.tenderwizard.com/gridco or GRIDCO website: www.gridco.co.in / www.greenenergyinvest.odisha.gov.in for downloading the scope of supply and terms and conditions in detail.

Date of publication of tender - 11.03.2024
Date of submission of queries/ clarification if any - 18.03.2024
Date of Prebid meeting - 22.03.2024, 1:30 AM at GRIDCO Conference Hall / VC
Last date of submission of proposal- 11.04.2024, 1:00 PM
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid - 11.04.2024, 5:00 PM
Sd/- Chief Project Manager, RE Nodal Agency
OIPR-04056/11/0036/2324

Government of Odisha, "e" Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.DkI.(R&B) 35/2023-24
Letter No. 636/Dt.04/03/2024 Email Id- sedklpvd@gmail.com

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building works as detailed below:

- Name of the work : Building works.
- No of works : 04 (Four) Nos
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 1.36 crore to Rs. 5.92 crore (as given in column No.03 of table)
- Cost of tender paper : Rs. 10,000.00
- Class of contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class (as given in column No.07 of table)
- Period of Completion of work : 05 (Five) to 11 (Eleven) Calendar months (as given in column No.08 of table)
- Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt.12.03.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.26.03.2024
- Date of opening of bid : Dt.27.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only, further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal
OIPR-34132/11/0044/2324

GRT
G.R.Thanga Maligal
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(Deemed to be University) U.P.GEC, K.V. Road

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INSPIRING ICONS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

This International Women's Day, let's come together to recognize the enduring strength and perseverance of women who continue to inspire us with their bravery and tenacity. Presenting The Hindu World of Women Awards, where each award, rigorously chosen by The Hindu's editorial team, honours the accomplishments of women who break barriers and inspire the next generation with their stories of resilience.

CATEGORIES

- Contribution to the Society
- Music
- Arts and Culture
- Entertainment
- Sports
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Achievement Surpassing Disability
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Education, Science & Technology
- Health and Hygiene
- Entrepreneurship
- Lifetime Achievement
- Generational Pride

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Padmaja Venugopal

Karunakaran's daughter and KPCC general secretary joins the BJP

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Padmaja Venugopal, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) general secretary and the late Kerala Chief Minister K. Karunakaran's daughter, has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. BJP Kerala in-charge Prakash Javadekar formally welcomed her into the party fold at a brief function at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

Ms. Venugopal said she was pained to renounce the party "she was born into".

"I greatly respect Sonia Gandhi, but she has become remote and inaccessible. My father also felt similarly shunned by the Congress leadership, which is ultimately responsible for my shift to the BJP. The Congress has no single unifying leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Ms. Venugopal said.

Mr. Javadekar declined to comment on the BJP's plans for Ms. Venugopal.

Ms. Venugopal denied forsaking her father's stridently anti-Sangh Parivar political legacy. She said Karunakaran was more anti-Left than anti-BJP.

Governor Khan sacks V-Cs of two universities in Kerala

The V-Cs have 10 days to challenge the orders in Kerala High Court; Raj Bhavan directs them to vacate the positions saying their appointments are found to be 'not in terms with UGC regulations'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as Chancellor of universities on Thursday invalidated the appointments of the Vice-Chancellors of Calicut University and Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit M.K. Jayaraj and M.V. Narayanan respectively.

The move comes around two weeks after Mr. Khan conducted hearings for four Vice-Chancellors, including the duo who have been removed from their positions.

Suspense continues over the fate of Saji Gopinath,



Arif Mohammed Khan

Vice-Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, and P.M. Mubarak Pasha of Sree Narayanan Guru Open University, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) seeking two weeks to provide a clarification on "the application of regulations on the appointment of the first Vice-Chan-

cellors and the point of time from which they would apply".

The Chancellor has not accepted a resignation letter submitted by Prof. Pasha thus far.

Citing a Supreme Court order that had set aside the appointment of former Vice-Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University M.S. Rajasree, Raj Bhavan directed Prof. Jayaraj and Prof. Narayanan to vacate the positions citing that their appointments were found to be "not in terms with UGC regulations".

"Therefore, it (the appointments) has to be treated as void ab initio in

light of the law laid down by the Supreme Court," the order read.

Mr. Khan found Prof. Narayanan to have been the sole name to have been proposed by the search-cum-selection committee for appointment as Vice-Chancellor. This contravened the requirement for a panel of short-listed candidates.

In the case of Prof. Jayaraj, the selection panel included the then Chief Secretary and thereby, violated the UGC regulations.

The two academics will have 10 days to challenge the orders in the Kerala High Court.

Telangana HC quashes Governor's order rejecting nomination of 2 MLCs

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

Telangana High Court on Thursday quashed the order of Governor rejecting nomination of Dasoju Sravan Kumar and Kurra Satyanarayana as Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) under Governor's quota.

Pronouncing verdict in the two writ petitions filed by Mr. Sravan Kumar and Mr. Satyanarayana challenging Governor's order

issued on September 19 of 2023, the High Court also quashed the notification issued by the State government on January 27, 2024 nominating M. Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan as MLCs under Governor's quota. The Bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti, disposing of the two pleas, said that the Governor was bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising powers under Article 171

(5) of the Constitution of India.

However, it was open for the Governor to re-examine the issue of eligibility of the petitioners on the recommendation made by the Council of Ministers, the court noted. The Governor also had the power to remit the matter back to the Council of Ministers asking the latter to furnish request afresh for re-consideration of the recommendation made by it.

The names of Mr. Sra-

van Kumar and Mr. Satyanarayana were recommended for nomination as MLCs by the previous government led by Bharat Rashtira Samithi party. The Governor rejected their nominations. The Council of Ministers of the new government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of Congress, which came to power this January, recommended the names of M. Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan as MLCs under Governor's quota.

Covishield vaccine demonstrated more robust immune response compared to Covaxin, says study

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

A new study by a consortium of 11 institutes, led by scientists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), has found that the Covishield vaccine demonstrated more robust immune responses compared to Covaxin.

The study compared the immunogenicity of Covishield and Covaxin, the two primary COVID-19 vaccines widely used in India.

The findings of the study, which have been published in the journal *The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia*, offer valua-



The study compared the immunogenicity of COVID-19 vaccines Covishield, Covaxin.

ble insights into the quality and quantity of immune responses induced by these vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, with significant implications for shaping future vaccination strategies.

The key findings state

that Covishield, leveraging a virus vector to deliver the spike protein of the coronavirus, consistently demonstrated more robust immune response compared to Covaxin, an inactivated virus vaccine.

"Notably, Covishield exhibited a near-complete immune response in the majority of participants, whereas the response to Covaxin was variable," states the key findings released by NCBS.

The study, carried out from June 2021 to January 2022, involved assessing 691 participants, aged between 18 and 45 years, from Bengaluru and Pune.

Life as usual



Nothing special: While many women gear up to celebrate the International Women's Day on March 8, for some it is just another day. A woman working in a brick kiln to make both ends meet, near Gandrai village in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. G.N. RAO

NIA traces trail of cafe blast suspect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency and Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru Police, which have been trailing the suspected bomber in the Rameshwaram Cafe case, have found new leads. Sleuths have found CCTV footage of the suspect at Tumakuru bus stand on the night of March 1. NIA officials have questioned a few in Tumakuru. Further, they have footage to show that he went to Ballari and from there to Bhatkal. The police said the accused changed his attire multiple times and took a circuitous route to mislead the probe.

Bengaluru caps tanker supply price

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to address water scarcity and skyrocketing tanker prices, Bengaluru district administration has capped water tanker prices at a maximum of ₹1,200 for a load of 12,000 litres.

At present, a 12,000-litre tanker load costs anywhere between ₹1,800 and ₹2,500 depending on the locality. Whitefield and Varthur are the areas worst hit by drinking water crisis.

The move comes amid escalating demand and soaring price of tankers, with all taluks in Bengaluru Urban district declared as drought-hit.

The order does not specify the cost of a tanker load for distances beyond 10 km.

Kerala comes up with long, short-term measures to prevent man-animal conflict

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A smart elephant fence is among the long-term measures proposed by the Kerala government to prevent marauding wild elephants from reaching human habitations and reduce the instances of man-animal conflict in Wayanad.

The removal of undergrowth in private estates in the district has also been proposed. The service of workers of the employment guarantee scheme would be used to remove the undergrowth, according to a set of proposals submitted by the State government to a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court.

Eradication of invasive plants such as senna, eco-



Eradicating invasive plants such as senna is one of the measures proposed by Kerala to contain human-animal conflict.

restoration activities by removing eucalyptus and acacia plantations, supporting the regeneration of natural vegetation, improvement of wildlife habitats, and charging fees for entry of private vehicles into the forest area will also be explored.

Plans for protecting the life and property of people and putting up fences to prevent the entry of wild animals into human habitations are also there in the long-term measures suggested by the State government.

The State has also in-

itiated 17 short-term measures to check man-animal conflicts in the district.

The meetings of the inter-State coordination committee, the setting up of a Command Control Centre in Wayanad, and steps for strengthening the early warning system to alert people about the possible presence of wild animals in human habitations are part of the measures taken forward by the State government.

Deployment of drones for surveillance, clearing compensation to victims of wild animal attacks, setting up of a new forest station, and closure of ecotourism destinations in the forest till the issue of man-animal conflict is reduced are also being implemented, the State informed the court.

V-P asked not to administer oath to Naseer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the Bharatiya Janata Party urging Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar not to administer oath to the newly elected Rajya Sabha member Syed Naseer Hussain, 22 retired all-India services officers and Central services officers have urged the Vice-President, who is also the Chairman of RS, to put the oath-taking on hold.

They have urged the Vice-President to put it on hold till the completion of judicial proceedings in the incident of allegedly raising "pro-Pakistan" slogans by the supporters of the newly elected member.

The police have arrested three persons in connection with the case.

Kerala-owned OTT platform launched

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala on Thursday launched a government-owned OTT platform CSpace with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan terming it as a decisive step in the onward journey of Malayalam cinema.

Inaugurating CSpace at a function held at the Kairali Theatre here, the Chief Minister termed it a pioneering initiative that would give prominence to films with artistic and cultural value without hurting the mainstream film industry.

"Private OTT platforms give prominence to films in the most widely spoken language since their prime motive is to maximise profit. The priority of CSpace,

on other hand, is to onboard and stream contents with artistic and cultural values," Mr. Vijayan said.

The launch of CSpace also signifies leveraging of the cutting-edge technologies, he said.

The decision that CSpace will only stream films that are already released in theatres signifies that this is not a move that will harm the interests of the film industry.

CSpace will be managed by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation. The platform, which operates on pay per view basis, allows viewers to watch a feature film for ₹75 and shorter contents for much lesser price.

Viewers can download CSpace app from Play Store and App Store.

BJP MLA from West Bengal's Matua belt joins Trinamool

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

In a jolt to the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha poll, Mukut Mani Adhikari, a party MLA from the Matua belt in West Bengal's Nadia district, joined the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Thursday.

Mr. Adhikari, who represents the Ranaghat Dakshin constituency for the BJP, expressed his dissatisfaction with the party's decision to repeat sitting MP Jagannath Sarkar from Ranaghat. "I think the TMC is the only platform where you can work for the masses. So I decided to join them," he said.

During a TMC rally in Kolkata, Mr. Adhikari was spotted walking alongside Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and national general secretary of the party, further solidifying his move to the party.

"When BJP leaders leave their anti-women party and extend support, you know that you are on the right side of history. Standing tall for women's rights through thick and thin!"

Adhikari becomes 8th Oppn. MLA to join ruling party since declaration of 2021 Assembly poll results

the TMC posted on X.

This shift is not an isolated incident. Mr. Adhikari becomes the eighth MLA to switch sides to the TMC since the announcement of the Assembly poll results in May 2021.

Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition, highlighted allegations of domestic violence against the Ranaghat Dakshin MLA, painting him as an ironic choice for a TMC rally celebrating International Women's Day.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Shankudeb Panda attributed its MLA's departure to his aspirations for a Lok Sabha ticket from the Ranaghat parliamentary constituency. Ranaghat holds significance due to its large Matua community representation, similar to the Bongaon area in North 24 Parganas district. The Matua community's cohesive voting behaviour has made it a crucial voting bloc.

Sukhu hints at reconciliation with rebel MLAs, leaves for Delhi to meet Cong. top brass

Possibilities can be worked out for those who make amends, says Himachal Pradesh CM; State Cabinet expresses full faith in his leadership, condemns BJP for 'subverting democratic process'

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Amid turmoil within the Congress in Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday travelled to New Delhi to meet the party's central leadership.

Prior to leaving for the national capital, he hinted at reconciliation with the six rebel Congress MLAs who have been disqualified from the State Legislative Assembly.

"If anyone has committed a mistake but makes amends, there's always an option to talk, and all possibilities can be worked out," Mr. Sukhu told journalists in Shimla.

Sources in the party said that Mr. Sukhu is expected to meet Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior party leaders. Deliberations on the ongoing political situation in the hill State are expected to take place, the source added.



Strong backing: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presiding over a State Cabinet meeting in Shimla on Thursday. ANI

pected to take place, the source added.

Cabinet statement

Earlier, the State Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Mr. Sukhu, expressed full faith in his leadership, and condemned the alleged use of official machinery by the Central government to destabilise a democratically elected government.

"The State Cabinet con-

demned the nefarious designs used by the BJP to subvert the democratic process. The Cabinet resolved to inform the public of Himachal Pradesh about the propaganda of the BJP and asserted that the State government will complete a full term of five years," a statement by the State Cabinet read.

The State Cabinet also gave the nod to provide

₹1,500 per month under the 'Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi' scheme to all eligible women of the State above the age of 18, an official statement said.

The six Congress MLAs - Sudhir Sharma, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhnani, Devinder Kumar Bhu-ttoo, Ravi Thakur, and Chetanya Sharma - were disqualified from the Legislative Assembly by Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania after they cross-voted in favour of the Opposition BJP in the Rajya Sabha election on February 27. BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan won the poll to the lone seat.

They later approached the Supreme Court against their disqualification. The ground for their disqualification was their absence from the Assembly when the State Budget and the Finance Bill were being put to the vote, defying a party whip to vote in favour of the government.

Suspense over BJP teaming up with TDP, JSP likely to end soon

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

The suspense over the BJP joining the TDP-Jana Sena Party (JSP) alliance is likely to end soon as the BJP's top brass invited TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president Pawan Kalyan for discussions in New Delhi on Thursday night. Both leaders got invitations from the BJP leaders to come for talks to reach an understanding at the earliest.

The BJP earlier proposed the TDP's re-entry into the NDA, which will be the crux of the whole episode while the JSP claimed to be a part of the BJP-led ruling coalition. It is pertinent to mention that the JSP political affairs committee chairman Nadendra Manohar expressed confidence at a press conference on Thursday that the BJP would join the alliance and Mr. Kalyan had been making efforts towards it notwithstanding his party's tie-up with the TDP.

Obviously, the BJP is under pressure to act quickly as the election notification is expected to be issued so-

metime later this month. All this is against the backdrop of the announcement of the first list of candidates by the TDP and the JSP on February 24.

The TDP had declared the names of candidates for 94 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) while the JSP announced the names of candidates for five out of 24 constituencies in addition to three Lok Sabha (LS) seats which it intends to contest. How their next list of candidates is going to shape up essentially depends on the likelihood of the BJP making it a tripartite alliance.

Consolidating votes

Mr. Kalyan had said that he had settled for 24 constituencies to accommodate the BJP, which was a clear indication that the BJP is in favour of joining the alliance and it was just a matter of time. He has maintained that the purpose of the alliance is to consolidate the anti-YSRCP votes.

It is with that goal that the TDP-JSP alliance moved ahead and wanted the BJP to come onboard in public interest.

Delhi court summons Kejriwal on March 16 after ED complaint

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Rouse Avenue Court on Thursday issued summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to physically appear before the court on March 16 following a fresh complaint by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against him for not complying with its summons in the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

This is the second complaint by the ED against Mr. Kejriwal, filed two days after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief skipped the eighth summons by the probe agency on March 8.

Mr. Kejriwal, however, had earlier said that he is ready to appear before the



Arvind Kejriwal

ED for questioning through videoconferencing after March 12.

According to official sources, the latest ED complaint pertains to summonses No. 4 to 8, sent by the central probe agency under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act between January 14 and March 4.

Additional Chief Metro-

politian Magistrate Divya Malhotra took cognisance of the complaint, and issued summons to the Delhi Chief Minister.

The court maintained that considering the material placed on record, there are sufficient grounds for proceedings against the AAP national convener.

AAP, meanwhile, has rubbished the probe agency's multiple summonses as "politically motivated" and "illegal".

The case against Mr. Kejriwal is based on an FIR by the Central Bureau of Investigation, which alleges multiple irregularities in the formation and implementation of the Delhi excise policy, which was subsequently withdrawn.

Why aren't Jagan and Naidu questioning BJP on bifurcation promises: A.P. Congress chief

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

None of the promises made to the State in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act has been fulfilled by the BJP-led government at the Centre, and yet the ruling YSRCP and the Opposition TDP have become slaves to the saffron party, State Congress president Y.S. Sharmila said on Thursday.

Speaking at the 'Nyaya Sadhana Sabha' organised by the party, Ms. Sharmila said her foray into Andhra politics should not be seen as a step taken by her for any political gain.

Special status demand

"If it is so, I should have come in 2019 itself. It is because the State does not have one leader who can fight for Special Category Status (SCS) that I stepped in. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has given an assurance that he would help the State get SCS," she said.

Ms. Sharmila lambasted both TDP and YSRCP for not raising their voice on



Andhra Pradesh Congress chief Y.S. Sharmila speaking at the 'Nyaya Sadhana Sabha' in Vijayawada on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Andhra Pradesh, BJP stands for Babu, Jagan, and Pawan Y.S. SHARMILA APCC president

the promises, including projects worth ₹15 lakh crore. "The promises made to the State such as SCS, Polavaram project, steel factory in Kadapa, Visakhapatnam railway zone, Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor, Dugarajapatnam port, and special economic package for Rayalaseema

and North Coastal Andhra have not been fulfilled. And yet, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu to the line of the BJP," she said, adding that there would be development and employment only if SCS was accorded.

She lambasted Mr. Reddy for not saying a word against the Centre when atrocities were being committed against people of his religion in Manipur. "The BJP does not have a single MLA or MP in Andhra. But it still rules it. BJP stands for Babu, Jagan, and Pawan [Kalyan of the Jana Sena Party]," she said.

Govt. of Bihar									
RURAL WORKS DEPARTMENT									
Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/MMGSY(AWSESH)/HQ/ET/2023-24/34)									
The Government of Bihar has applied for a loan/credit through the Govt. of India (GoI), to the New Development Bank (NDB), for Bihar Rural Roads Project (Phase-II) (Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana- AWSESH) and intends to apply the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Table-1.									
Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites, SBD based Percentage rate tender in electronic tendering system under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana-AWSESH for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES /Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments.									
Table-1									
Sl. No.	Package	Description of the Works (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B))	Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division	
1	2	From To	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-649-ARWAL	A1 SH-68 BAIDRABD - BELKHARA ROAD	Halbatpur Mahadalit tola	1.750	139.977	16.378	156.355	3.127	Arwal
TOTAL		1		1.750	139.977	16.378	156.355	3.127	
2	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-650-BIHARSHARIF	A1 RCD Road	Purwari Tola Badi Durga mandir Tak	1.000	98.044	8.735	97.779	4.081	Bihar Sharif
TOTAL		2		2.000	108.432	23.613	204.045	4.081	
3	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-651-GAYA	A1 NH road	Naili Mahadalit tola	0.450	49.843	4.039	53.882	2.240	Gaya
TOTAL		2		0.950	103.610	8.376	111.986	2.240	
4	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-652-GAYA	A1 Manikpur Sonarkharp road	Manikpur Mahadalit tola	0.300	32.036	1.928	33.964	3.800	Gaya
TOTAL		2		0.500	54.151	4.445	58.596		
TOTAL		4		3.200	296.577	33.797	330.374	8.800	
5	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-653-GAYA	A1 Sudhami Basua road	Basua tola babupur	0.473	38.425	5.463	43.888	1.807	Gaya
TOTAL		2		0.400	43.795	2.650	46.445		
TOTAL		2		0.873	82.220	8.113	90.333	1.807	
6	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-654-HILSA	A1 Harwanishpur Road	Hisanpur Mahadalit tola	0.400	46.280	2.848	49.128	8.835	Hilsa
TOTAL		3		0.775	63.665	11.535	75.200		
TOTAL		3		1.200	100.643	13.674	114.317		
TOTAL		5		4.475	387.015	54.738	441.753	8.835	
7	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-655-HILSA	A1 Chikisaura main road	Mahadalit tola chikisaura	0.495	59.038	3.388	62.426	11.241	Hilsa
TOTAL		2		3.000	253.361	31.033	284.394		
TOTAL		5		0.505	47.638	2.946	50.584		
TOTAL		5		0.300	31.135	4.082	35.217		
TOTAL		5		1.200	113.502	15.913	129.415		
TOTAL		5		5.500	504.674	57.362	562.036	11.241	
8	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-656-HILSA	A1 Elangarsarai bihar road to alawan	Shankardih Dhanuk tola	0.300	28.154	2.520	30.674	0.613	Hilsa
TOTAL		1		0.300	28.154	2.520	30.674	0.613	
9	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-657-IMAMGANI	A1 Bishkarama tola	Parasachua hagni tola	0.600	58.688	3.932	62.620	6.418	Imamganj
TOTAL		7		0.550	53.230	3.625	56.855		
TOTAL		4		0.650	63.925	4.240	68.165		
TOTAL		4		0.600	61.271	4.178	65.449		
TOTAL		5		0.590	51.030	8.231	59.261		
TOTAL		6		0.500	49.841	3.318	53.159		
TOTAL		7		0.410	49.435	2.712	52.147		
TOTAL		7		3.900	387.420	30.236	417.656	8.835	
10	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-658-IMAMGANI	A1 RWD road to dubabth	Golmari bhuluya tola	0.690	53.640	9.515	63.155	6.418	Imamganj
TOTAL		2		0.350	28.893	5.012	33.905		
TOTAL		3		0.530	57.472	3.502	60.974		
TOTAL		4		0.750	54.751	10.378	65.129		
TOTAL		6		0.600	59.231	3.809	63.040		
TOTAL		6		0.310	32.660	2.028	34.688		
TOTAL		6		3.230	286.647	34.244	320.891	6.418	
11	MMGSY(AWSESH)-NDB-BRRP2-659-NIMCHAK BATHANI	A1 Gaya khizarsarai road	Jehana primary school (Beldar tola)	2.860	158.271	35.256	193.527	9.959	Nimchak Bathani
TOTAL		2		1.920	104.458	21.104	125.562		
TOTAL		3		2.190	148.873	29.978	178.851		
TOTAL		3		6.970	411.602	86.338	497.940	9.959	

Table-2									
Downloading of Bidding Documents		From 21.03.2024 (0900 Hours) to 12.04.2024 (1500 Hours)							
Online Bid Submission last Date		on 12.04.2024 up to 1500 Hours							
Offline Bid Submission last Date		on 12.04.2024 up to 1500 Hours							
Online Bid Opening Date		on 12.04.2024 at 1330 Hours							
Cost of Bid		Rs. 10000.00 per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of concerned Executive Engineer.							
Place, date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting		Concerned office of Superintending Engineer on 28.03.2024 from 1100 Hours							
For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prbihar									
Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Additional Commissioner -cum-Special Secretary, RWD, Patna									
PR. No. 019083 (RWD) 2023-24									
नये से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।									

SPOTLIGHT



Keeping close watch: Police personnel guard the plot, which was converted into a park, where a Dalit boy was allegedly killed in police firing at Silai Baragaon village in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district on February 27. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Murder in blue blood

In Silai Baragaon, north-western Uttar Pradesh, a Scheduled Caste community builds a park on a plot that was once a dumping ground with help from the local administration, and names it after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Then, adolescents are allegedly shot at after policemen show up to probe a complaint of land grabbing, and one dies of a bullet injury. **Abhinay Lakshman** reports on the unravelling of deep-rooted prejudices that still form a part of Indian society

The blue lights beckoned Somesh Kumar, 17, on his way back home after his Class 10 Mathematics paper. He followed the unmetalled road into Silai Baragaon village in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district. It was dusk and the sky in parts matched the deep blue of the poster erected at the centre of the park he and his community had collectively cleaned and christened Ambedkar Park, after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the head of the drafting committee of India's Constitution, who was a Dalit, and seen by the community as an emancipator. It had been inaugurated just a few weeks ago in the presence of village elders and the gram pradhan, the Bharatiya Janata Party's Ranjeet Kaur. Somesh's house was just behind the safe space created by the village's Jatav neighbourhood, where children played and women gathered.

But something was different. In addition to the blue and red of Ambedkar's suit on the park's board, there were blue and red lights bouncing off the walls around the park. Then, the yellow of a bulldozer. Soon, police uniforms. By the end of the evening, Somesh was dead, with a bullet through his head; two other boys had bullet injuries in their legs, and yellow police tape had cut the park off from the community that used it.

There is an eerie silence in Silai Baragaon, punctuated only by the wails of Somesh's mother, who has not spoken since the day her son died, February 27. Every day, workers of the Bhim Army or the Azad Samaj Party, both Dalit political organisations, show up, promising to mobilise people to demand action against the 25 accused, including four police personnel from Baragaon chowki named in the FIR and two unnamed home guards. The now "moved-out" Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) has been named in the written police complaint by Somesh's father.

Organisations like the Bhim Army, which have grown in prominence over the last decade, have consistently raised their voices against symbols of Dalit assertion in public spaces being targeted. In the past couple of years, at least six cases have been reported in Uttar Pradesh of statues of Ambedkar either being vandalised or defaced.

More than a name

A seemingly civic activity has brought a temporary standstill to the peace between the village's dominant, landed Gangwar families that belong to the Kurmi community, an Other Backward Classes (OBC) group, and the Jatavs, a Scheduled Caste community, who live on the outskirts of the village and work mostly as daily wagers.

The Jatavs, sombre, describe the events of the day of the alleged murder as the culmination of an unravelling that began with the decision to clean up the plot of land in the middle of the colony of 30 to 40 houses. They say about a dozen policemen showed up at the park, led by the Tehsildar and the SDM, after a complaint of land grabbing was filed at the Milak police station.

"The SDM told the police to open fire and then the bullets came. Two police personnel from the Baragaon chowki were up on one of the roofs and no one saw it coming. The lathi charge was on and not one policeman was present when we were being beaten up," says Anita Kumar, 39, one of the women who rushed out to the park when

Everyone in the village knows... how important Babasaheb is to us... We decided to assert it and name a public park after him. Is that what their problem was? That it was now in the public?

ANITA KUMAR
Member of the
Jatav community

she saw the police.

On the day of the incident, Mukesh Kumar, Somesh's paternal uncle, says even the bulldozer brought in to uproot the Ambedkar board belonged to a Gangwar leader's relative. "It was apparent whose side the police were on," he says.

A day after the FIR was registered following Somesh's killing, in which local Gangwar leaders were also named, the Milak police registered another FIR against unknown men and women, and Saranjeet, the gram pradhan's son.

The FIR stated he had provoked the Jatav community to name the park after Ambedkar, and attack the police and district administration when they arrived to remove the board. It also said at the instigation of people from the gram pradhan's office, the villagers had encroached upon the plot of land that belonged to the government, and illegally installed the board with Ambedkar's picture on it in the dead of night.

After a string of gram pradhans from the Gangwar community, the BJP had fielded Kaur, a Sikh woman from a nearby village. Her term is set to expire sometime next year. Kaur and her son have been unreachable over the phone for several days now.

Tulsiram (name changed on request), a 60-year-old farmer from the Gangwar community, who lives off the around nine-acre farmland that has been with his family for generations, says, "The pradhan should have been more careful. How could she and her family appear to be taking the side of this community without even considering what we were feeling, or asking us even once? She is not even from our community."

No man's land

Until January 22, the day of the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the two-acre plot in Silai Badagaon's Jatav neighbourhood had been a dumping ground for the villagers. "I remember the stench clearly," says Mukesh.

As part of the countrywide cleanliness campaign run by State governments in the lead up to the Ram Temple consecration, Kaur and the villagers, mostly Jatavs in the area, started cleaning up the dumping ground. The district administration helped with earth movers to flatten the plot. Within days, the place was transformed into a meeting place for the community.

"By the end of January, we thought it had be-

come a nice, clean space and we could name it after Babasaheb [Ambedkar]. We asked everyone in the village: the Gangwar families, the Muslims, and residents belonging to other castes. They said they were okay with it as the land was in our neighbourhood anyway. We went to the pradhan and the board was installed. We had our Ambedkar Park. It was a public event; the pradhan was there; we served everyone food, sweets," Mukesh says, adding, "I guess there were some people there with whom this did not sit right." He says there were Gangwar families too. "We celebrated till dusk that day."

A fractured village

A crowd of Bhim Army supporters leaves Somesh's inconsolable mother on her cot. Villagers

— both Jatavs and Gangwars — say this is a first in their memory of a conflict between the two communities. Tulsiram says, "My neighbours are from the Jatav community. Their daughter ties *rakhi* on our wrists. We have always lived peacefully. Why would we have a problem with Ambedkar? But why did they not ask us? None of this would have happened had they just sought our permission once."

In the Jatav neighbourhood, Anita says, "There is absolutely no history of any argument between the communities in this village. I married into this village and have been here for 15 years. Even before that, my in-laws and their parents have never seen anything like this. I don't know what got into them. Maybe they just couldn't let us have this one thing."

Chiranjee Lal, 60, could see only chaos as he returned from work on February 27. A daily wage labourer, like most Jatav men in Baragaon, he and his friends had heard the women screaming and seen the police personnel posted around the park when they left for work that morning.

"The children started showing us videos of what had happened, and we watched in horror," he says, as a teenager whips out his smartphone, scrolling through the video library full of clips from that evening. In one, the then SDM, Aman Deol, shows up at the village amid heavy police presence, and women and children guarding the Ambedkar board on the field. "Get away; get away," he is heard saying, as he approaches them in the park. In another video, shot by a teenager from between the cracks in the brick wall of his home, gunshots and police sirens can be heard. In the next, one of the boys is rushed into the house, with his leg bleeding profusely.

While the accused police personnel and the SDM have been removed from their positions, the FIRs registered on charges of land encroachment present a version of events that accuses the villagers of pelting stones and firing at the police personnel first. However, all eyewitnesses *The Hindu* spoke to denied the presence of any arms with any of the locals that day.

Rajesh Kumar, the new SDM, says, "Inquiries are under way. I have just been posted here, so more will be known once the probe is over."

A Special Investigation Team has been constituted to probe into Somesh's death, and a magisterial inquiry is under way. In addition to Deol and the policemen named in the FIR, the government has moved out the Milak police station's head and another officer in the circle.

Under the same sky

Through the lanes of the Jatav colony, homes are decorated with blue flags, with pictures of Ambedkar on the gates. In fact, the flags and photos are an identifier of the village's outskirts, and can be spotted from miles away. Azure has been a unifying colour for Dalits, symbolising the non-discriminatory nature of the sky. Scores of public spaces like canteens and petrol pumps though have been named after the Gangwars in the area, highlighting their dominance in the Rampur-Bareilly belt of north-western Uttar Pradesh.

"Everyone in the village knows our community and how important Babasaheb is to us. What happened was that we decided to assert it and name a public park after him. Is that what their problem was? That it was now in the public?" says Anita, who has four children.

A crowd of women around her joins in. "Why are they suddenly interested in this land?" one of them asks, as Anita elaborates, "All these years, they had no problem dumping their garbage there and not looking this way twice. Now that it is a usable plot of land, they are interested, is it?"

Back in the lanes of the Gangwar neighbourhood, Tulsiram says, "Look everyone is sad for the family... Yes, the family should get the appropriate compensation, but what happened to the suspended officials is wrong. They were just defending themselves."

Sitting in the courtyard of his home, 17-year-old Kunal (name changed on request) says, "None of the Gangwar families were present at the spot during the incident. We had shut our doors and gone inside. I could hear the commotion. It was their fault. The police were just acting to save themselves." He adds that the Jatavs should not have named the park without consulting with the other caste groups in the village.

"We also do pujas, and tell all caste and religious groups," he explains, hesitating. "Nothing formal, but we go around asking for donations and people are made aware of it. This just seems like a coup." Kunal says after a pause, "I knew Somesh, not well, but we used to see each other around quite often. What happened is sad."

As Bhim Army supporters leave Somesh's home, Anita says, "No arrests have been made. The family has got no compensation, and not a word from the top people in government. How can we move on without justice?"



Members of the Bhim Army at the home of Somesh Kumar, the deceased Dalit boy; (right) Somesh's mother. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP





Colourful craft Puppets made by women craftspersons in Rajasthan travel the country now; (below) Gulab Devi. GETTY IMAGES AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vibrant testaments to the power of collective spirit. "It is a culturally loaded craft that gives power and confidence to women. While remaining an embodiment of tradition, the puppets are a source of economic independence for the women who create them," says Gulab Devi.

The SHGs have provided a platform to women puppeteers to showcase their work beyond their villages. Events such as the Surajkund Mela, the trade fair, and Saras Ajeevika Mela have opened the doors for women to boost their sales, enhance networking opportunities and help them understand the dynamics of the market.

Sarla Devi, 50, says earlier they relied solely on local markets and the sales were uncertain. "Some days, we wouldn't sell a single doll," she remembers, adding, "Now we are able to showcase our work in national markets."

"The SHG has been a game-changer for us," says Rama Devi, 42. "We now travel to different states.



My monthly income has increased from below ₹2,000 earlier to over ₹5000 now," she says. The amount enables her to send her two daughters to school.

Challenges to overcome

There is a demand for commercially manufactured dolls and toys now, says Rama Devi. "The fluctuating cost of raw materials makes it difficult for us to plan and invest in expanding our production capacity."

The Internet has opened up new possibilities for women puppeteers as they explore online marketplaces to tap into a broader customer base. Kesar Devi says new opportunities help them to fend for themselves and their families. "Earlier I used to feel trapped and dependent. Now, we women even pool a portion of our earnings to create a small emergency fund that can be used by members in emergency situations."

From the beginning to the final product, more women are now at the heart of this craft, ensuring its legacy lives on through each handcrafted doll. "It is our heritage, our livelihood, and a symbol of our fight for empowerment," says Sarla Devi.

Gamechanger Kesar Devi who fled home at a young age and learnt the art for a living, says artisans like her now visit many schools and organisations across Rajasthan to teach the craft and empower young girls to make them self-reliant. Sarla Devi, 50, says, though the Government has introduced initiatives for empowering rural women, regressive beliefs and customs still exist in remote villages. A mother of three girls and a boy, she says that in her village in Nagaur when a boy is born, the family hangs a green wooden puppet in front of the house as a symbol of joy. "But when a girl is born, it is not done; the irony is these parrots are made by women."

The Rajasthan dolls are more than just toys; they are ambassadors of culture and

Changing the narrative

Women puppeteers of Rajasthan are rewriting their story, travelling to showcase their handicrafts and teaching the art to empower girls

Arpita Chowdhury

Silk fabric in vibrant hues spread out on the dusty floor at a workshop in the city where Gulab Devi, Kesar Devi, Sarla Devi, Rama Devi and other women wait to stitch them into a story. The sunlight streams through the open doorway and illuminates the intricate embroidery done on miniature *ghoda* (horses) and *bhandamwars* (festoons) of cloth, brought to life by the calloused hands of the women puppeteers from a Self Help Group (SHG) in Nagaur, Rajasthan.

The traditional craft in their hands is not merely a relic of the past but a tool of empowerment and a symbol of resilience, challenging the narrative of a dying art. Gulab Devi, 37, recalls her mother-in-law introduced her to the ancient art of *gudde-gudiya* (dolls) when she was a shy 16-year-old bride. According to her, the origin of this craft goes back centuries, to the reign of Amar Singh Rathore in the 17th Century, when skilled artisans breathed life into wood and cloth. The tradition continues, with each stitch carrying the whispers of history and the spirit of its creators.

For many women, doll making is not a passive activity; it is a skill that has helped open up entrepreneurial avenues. "Women in our community sit together to make dolls and other artifacts," she says. The process of making a puppet is captivating to watch

as the women rhythmically tap the hammer against wood to shape the base of a puppet. The wood mostly used is mango wood for its strength and ability to hold intricate details, or lighter woods like *semul* for the smaller figures. After the carver's chisel dances across the wood, forming delicate features like the expressive eyes and graceful limbs of a puppet,

the hands sift through a treasure of fabrics - simmering silks, cottons and velvets. Each piece is carefully chosen for either a vibrant sari, a regal turban, or a flowing ghagra, for the diverse characters brought to life by the artisans.

A symphony of needles and thread begins to stitch the fabric pieces together in tiny and bold weaves and transforms them into miniature garments for the wooden bodies. The embroidery patterns, says Gulab Devi, have been passed down through generations.

Bells are carefully chosen for their size and sound and attached to limbs or clothing, to tinkle with every movement and add playful music to the narrative. The final touches to the puppet in making are hands painting expressive faces, each unique and full of character.

Feathers and beads are attached as adornments to embellish a breathing story.



While remaining an embodiment of tradition, the puppets are a source of economic independence for the women who create them

(woman), takes viewers on a poignant journey through the lives of Kashmiri women facing conflict. Her images capture their resilience and strength as they go about their daily lives.

Several intricately detailed embroidery works by local artists add another layer of cultural richness to the exhibition. There is a recurring theme of the mythical and spiritual. From Jayasri Burman's painting in watercolours representing Krishna sitting atop the *naga* (venomous snake) to save humanity from its deadly bite, to Shanthamani Muddaiah's charcoal installations, each piece presents a unique perspective on the artists' perception of the feminine within the realm of myths and spirituality.

The exhibition is a powerful testament to the diverse voices and visions of women artists. By embracing a multitude of artistic expressions and narratives, it celebrates the strength, resilience, and creative spirit inherent in the feminine energy that shapes the world.

At National Gallery of Modern Art, Jaipur House, India Gate Hexagon, New Delhi; Till March 31; 10am to 6pm (Monday closed)

Saluting feminine power

To mark International Women's Day, the National Gallery of Modern Art is celebrating the works of 55 contemporary women artists



Creative energy Lumena by Charuvi Agarwal and Horo Parbati by Jayasri Burman on display at NGMA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

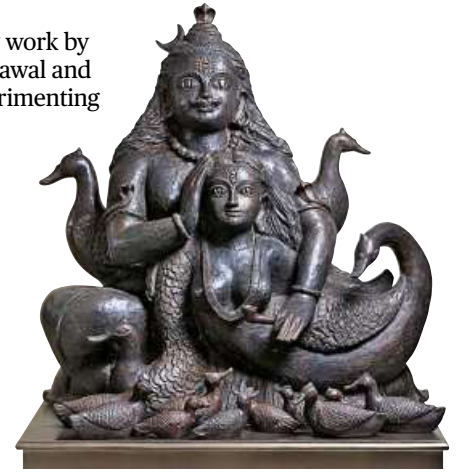
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Shakti: Fair & Fierce, a captivating exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art, which celebrates the energy and creativity of women, offers a platform to 55 contemporary female artists to share their perspectives through over 100 multi-layered works.

Shakti, a concept present in various world philosophies, embodies the divine feminine principle - the source of all creation, sustenance, and transformation. This exhibition, in collaboration with the Museum of Sacred Art, Belgium, explores the potent energy through different creative lenses and showcases the artists' unique interpretations of the feminine experience.

The collection boasts a rich tapestry of artistic mediums, from paintings and sculptures to photographs, digital media, and intricate embroideries. Senior artists such as Madhvi Parekh, Jayasri Burman, and Arpana Caur have showcased their works along with emerging talents such as Keerti Pooja and Sonal Varshneya. The exhibition features captivating photography by Saadiya Kochar and thought-provoking work by artists Charuvi Agrawal and Richa Navani experimenting with digital media.

Divided into three distinct sections, the exhibition offers a multifaceted exploration of the theme. Saadiya Kochar's photographic series, inspired by Kaifi Azmi's poem 'Aurat'



STEP OUT



Devotional music

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Shanmukhananda Sanheetha Sabha will jointly present the 10th edition of Thyagaraja Aradhana at Samvet auditorium, Janpath Building (near Western Court); March 9 and 10; 6pm

Festival of letters

Sahitya Akademi's annual Sahityotsav will feature 1,100 writers and scholars representing 175 languages across 190 sessions. Gulzar will deliver the Samvatsar lecture. At Sahitya Akademi auditoriums, Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road; From March 11 to 16; 10am to 7pm



Diverse cultures

Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya has curated Paris-based artist Anju Chaudhary's works in a solo show titled Paysage Ephemere. The artist's masterful brushstrokes capture the essence of human life and the unifying power of art and culture. At Art Magnum, 60/2C 3rd Floor, IOC Complex, Yusuf Sarai; Till April 10; 11am to 7pm



Film carnival

Germany is the focus country of this year's Habitat International Film Festival that will showcase 60-plus films from 30 countries over the next 10 days. The spotlight is on women directors and women-centric films. At India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road; March 8 to 17; For timings and free passes log on to www.habitatworld.com



Special collection

The Circle and The Square is an exhibition of paintings, prints, collages and sculptures by multiple artists and presented by Apparao Galleries. Living Traditions Centre, Gate 3 Bikaner House, Shahjahan House; Till March 12; 11am to 7pm

Sanjana Ganesh
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A highlight reel from the Mahindra Percussion Festival from last year (2023) starts with slow beats. Glimpses of the biggest names in the business - (drums) A Sivamani, kanjira exponent V Selvaganesh and bassist Mohini Dey - can be seen giving the stage their all. Sweat beads on a sea of people, artistes and audience alike, form a rare sight in the Bengaluru weather but the beats at the festival command movement. They build to a crescendo and fall, promising an exciting, bigger second edition. Keeping with the promise, the festival is back at Bengaluru's Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts. It has also been bumped up to a two-day show on March 23 and 24. The aim of this edition is to spotlight young artistes. While the big guns like Vikku Vinayakram and his ghatam symphony and



Drumroll moment (Clockwise from far left) Taufiq Qureshi; Kozhikode Nanthalakootam; and Charu Hariharan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Taufiq Qureshi's band Surya, will be pulling their weight at the fest, the festival promises a deluge of rhythms in the form of rap, dance and a variety of instruments in the mix.

New rhythm For instance, mridangam artiste Charu Hariharan will be on stage with a 25-member ensemble, bringing together the Jenu Kuruba community from the border towns and villages of Kerala and Karnataka and the folk music group Kozhikode Nanthalakootam.

Charu will be performing her own compositions as part of the quartet. "Most artistes performing as part of this festival are new to the idea of arrangement despite

knowing their compositions entirely. The Jenu Kuruba artistes also use interesting elements like plastic drums and antenna dishes in their performance, adding a beautiful texture to the music," she says. Jay Shah, vice president (cultural outreach), Mahindra Group, says that percussion has always been language agnostic and can be attributed to the sound of civilization. "Because of its universality, the festival boasts an interesting local and international lineup," he says. VG Jairam, founder, Hyperlink and the festival director, says that a sense of raw energy from contemporary musicians can be expected at the festival.

The Mahindra Percussion Festival, in association with The Hindu, is co-sponsored by Mahindra Finance, Paul John Visitor Centre and Carlsberg Smooth Soda and promoted and produced by Hyperlink Brand Solutions. Tickets are on bookmyshow.com



THE HINDU

The lineup

On March 23, Charu Hariharan quartet, Two Summ featuring Viveck Rajagopal and Anantha R Krishnan, Vikku Vinayakram's ghatam symphony featuring Grammy award-winner V Selvaganesh, V Umashankar and Swaminathan Selvaganesh among others, will be performing. The final act of the day will be Swarathma Percussive Experience, featuring Thavil Raja and Beat Gurus. The second day's lineup will begin with a performance titled Rhythms of India, an ensemble bringing together artistes who blend the Indian classical sounds and the contemporary sounds by Darshan Doshi, Varjashree Venugopal, BC Manjunath, and Praveen Rao. The next performance will show eight archetypal heroines from ancient Indian literature in a performance titled Ashtanayika through classical Indian music, modern jazz, Bharatanatyam and rap narratives. Taufiq Qureshi's band Surya, will be the closing act of the festival.

A beat for every mood

The Mahindra Percussion Festival is back and aims to spotlight young artistes





A slippery slope

Tourism in wildlife parks should not be at odds with conservation efforts

The Supreme Court of India has come down heavily on the Uttarakhand government for the felling of about 6,000 trees in the Jim Corbett National Park. That forest officials and a top politician in the State connived to vastly expand the scope of a tiger safari in the park precincts was a travesty of conservation practices, according to the Court. In the judgment by a three-judge Bench, Justice B.R. Gavai observed, "The presence of tigers in the forests is an indicator of the well-being of the ecosystem. Unless steps are taken for the protection of tigers, the ecosystem which revolves around tigers cannot be protected... Events like illegal construction and illicit felling of trees like the one in Corbett cannot be ignored." The link between political corruption and environmental damage is especially relevant in this case as the Court's judgment has consequences for the management of wildlife parks, particularly on the question of whether 'tiger safaris' in the buffer and fringe zones of wildlife parks gel well with conservation measures. The Court also alluded to various resorts in the vicinity of the park that often played loud music and posed a threat to animals.

Both the Central Zoo Authority and the National Tiger Conservation Authority are expert bodies affiliated to the Union Environment Ministry, and tasked with the conservation and protection of wild animals. These organisations, in principle, have no objection to the existence of tiger safaris, provided these are conducted within the ambit of an array of guidelines. Wildlife safaris in a designated spot draw attention away from the core zones of the forest and hence promote its in-violate nature as well as raise public awareness about conservation. This is the underlying rationale for safaris. Their overarching aim, thus, ought to be eco-tourism and not commercial tourism. However, in recent times, the argument that this could be a source of employment opportunities for locals, and that State governments should be promoting this, has been gaining ground. The recent translocation of cheetahs from Africa to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, also aims to revive the cat's presence and promote tourism. This, however, is a slippery slope and can very easily lead to political capture, as the proceedings in the Corbett Park demonstrate. The Court has recommended that the Centre evolve guidelines on the conduct of safaris and the government would do well to deliver on this at the earliest and be extremely circumspect on its messaging regarding tourism and conservation.

Troubled waters

China should adopt dialogue to resolve disputes with neighbours

Tensions between China and the Philippines soared on Tuesday after Manila spoke of China's "reckless and illegal" actions in the South China Sea, blocking its resupply mission. According to the Philippine Coast Guard, its boats were stopped near Second Thomas Shoal, where a group of sailors have been living on board a warship that was sunk by the Philippine forces 25 years ago to reinforce their sovereignty claims. One of the Philippines's boats suffered "minor structural damage" in the incident, the Coast Guard said. There have been repeated incidents between Chinese and Philippine Coast Guards in the South China Sea. In September last year, Philippine forces removed a 300-metre floating barrier installed by China near the disputed Scarborough Shoal, which triggered a warning from Beijing. In Tuesday's incident, China blamed the Philippines, saying its ships had illegally intruded into the waters around the Shoal. The source of the problem is contesting claims. China claims almost all of the South China Sea. It seized Scarborough Shoal, a triangular reef encircling a resource-rich lagoon, from the Philippines in 2012. Manila got a favourable ruling from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague over the Shoal but Beijing ignored it. The Philippines sends regular resupplies to Second Thomas Shoal, known as Ren'ai Jiao in China, which lies about 200 km from the Philippine island of Palawan. But in recent months, activities by Chinese vessels around the Shoal have enhanced tensions.

What is adding to the tensions is the overall deterioration in ties between the two countries. When China took over the Scarborough Shoal, the Philippines was cautious not to provoke its giant neighbour further. Rodrigo Duterte, the former President, constantly tried to play down tensions, but President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who assumed office in June 2022, took a different approach. He strengthened the Philippines's strategic and defence cooperation with the U.S., angering Beijing. The U.S. now has access to nine Philippine military bases, and last year, Manila hosted its largest military exercise with the U.S. In the long term, Mr. Marcos Jr. wants to bolster the Philippines's defence capabilities and strengthen its strategic standing in the region, while in the short term, he seems ready to stand up to China's coercive moves to protect his country's sovereignty claims. On the other side, China sees the growing U.S.-Philippines ties as a key challenge and has accused Washington of using Manila as a "pawn". But China should realise that its sweeping unilateral claims over the South China sea and coercive steps towards its neighbours are not winning it any friends in the region. Instead, Beijing should opt for benign engagement and dialogue to address the disputes in one of the busiest waters in the world.

A bold step towards a cervical cancer-free future

As the world observes International Women's Day, India's interim Union Budget 2024-25 has emerged as a beacon of hope, particularly in the realm of women's health. The Narendra Modi government's support in encouraging the vaccination of girls (from nine to 14 years) against cervical cancer stands out as a pivotal move towards safeguarding women's well-being.

The '90-70-90' targets, global programmes Despite advances in health care, cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women in India, with 1.27 lakh cases and around 80,000 deaths being reported annually. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a primary culprit in the development of cervical cancer. In response to this pressing public health challenge, HPV vaccination emerged as a cornerstone of a comprehensive strategy for disease prevention and health promotion. The World Health Organization has outlined the '90-70-90' targets by 2030 – for 90% of girls to be fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by age 15, for 70% of women to undergo cervical cancer screening tests by the age of 35 and 45, and for 90% of women with cervical cancer to be treated. These targets represent milestones in the global effort to eradicate cervical cancer and highlight the pivotal role of India's call for HPV vaccination in achieving this goal.

Across the world, over 100 countries have implemented HPV vaccination programmes, resulting in a notable decline in the incidence of cervical cancer. A study out of Scotland illuminates the real-world impact of HPV vaccines. The findings show that there have been no reported cases of cervical cancer among women born between 1988 and 1996 who received full HPV vaccination between the ages of 12 and 13. Australia, which initiated HPV vaccination for girls in 2007 and expanded to include boys in 2013, is poised to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035.

Similarly, the successful HPV vaccination campaign in Rwanda, Africa, has significantly reduced the prevalence of vaccine-targeted HPV types, particularly among women who participated in their catch-up programme in 2011. These global success stories underscore the importance of prioritising vaccination for tackling cervical cancer.

Closer to home, six out of the 11 South East Asia Region countries have introduced the HPV vaccine nationwide, i.e., Bhutan, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Bhutan was the first low-middle income country (LMIC) to introduce a nationwide HPV vaccination programme for girls (12 to 18 years) in

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The push for HPV vaccination for girls, in the 2024-25 interim Budget, marks a new era in women's health in India

2010 and achieved an initial coverage of 95% of targeted girls. Bhutan is also one of the only LMICs to have begun vaccinating boys as well (in 2021). Ongoing programme assessments and research in Thimphu have observed a reduction in the prevalence of HPV types targeted by the vaccine, indicating the programme's broader impact on reducing HPV transmission in the community.

The Sikkim model

The key to the success of any vaccination campaign is a robust communication strategy that educates and empowers communities. Within India, Sikkim's exemplary approach to HPV vaccination is an example of an effective public health strategy. Through targeted efforts to educate teachers, parents, girls, health-care workers, and the media about the benefits of the HPV vaccine, Sikkim achieved vaccination coverage of 97% during its campaign rollout in 2018. It provides a compelling example of effective communication and outreach. This rigorous effort has not only dispelled myths and misconceptions but has also fostered trust and confidence in the vaccination process.

India's recent milestone in developing its indigenous quadrivalent vaccine, Cervavac, marks a significant stride towards ensuring accessibility and affordability. Developed by the Serum Institute of India in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology, and priced at ₹2,000 a dose, Cervavac is cheaper than available vaccines, and holds promise in the fight against HPV infections and cervical cancer.

Whenever India plans to expand its vaccination programme, there is also an opportunity to include adolescent boys, thereby maximising the impact of HPV vaccination in preventing HPV transmission and HPV-related diseases. Also, in line with recent evidence, it has been recognised that one dose of HPV vaccine provides similar protection to that provided by two or three doses.

Drawing inspiration from global and local triumphs, India is ready to make significant strides in combating cervical cancer through HPV vaccination. India's track record in vaccination campaigns, exemplified by the widespread acceptance and coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine, instils confidence in the feasibility of scaling up HPV vaccination efforts. India's ability to reach remote and underserved populations highlights the inclusivity and accessibility of its vaccination programmes, laying a solid foundation for the success of the HPV vaccination initiative.

The importance of HPV vaccination extends beyond individual health outcomes. It has the

potential to alleviate the societal and economic burden of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer predominantly strikes women during their prime years, exerting a profound toll on both their families and communities. Premature deaths of young mothers due to cervical cancer negatively impact health and education outcomes in children. By preventing HPV infections, vaccination diminishes the occurrence of cervical cancer and its associated health-care expenses, ultimately fostering the overall welfare and productivity of women.

Meet the challenges

However, challenges persist, particularly in addressing vaccine hesitancy and ensuring equitable access to HPV vaccination. To overcome these hurdles, concerted efforts are needed to engage communities, dispel misinformation, and strengthen health-care infrastructure. The interim Budget also announced the rollout of U-WIN throughout the country. U-WIN, like Co-WIN that was designed to track the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, is a portal that will maintain an electronic registry of all immunisations across the country and enable vaccination programmes to be responsive in real time.

On the supply side, ensuring access to vaccination services is imperative, particularly in underserved populations. And to improve demand among the community, awareness must be improved. Vaccine hesitancy, fuelled by myths and misinformation, poses a significant barrier to the acceptance of HPV vaccines across different regions. Cultural and societal norms are also a factor, highlighting the importance of tailoring messages to resonate with diverse communities. Utilising diverse channels such as social media and community workshops can amplify reach. Including HPV information in health education in schools can be a step to generate demand among adolescents.

Collaborations between government agencies, community partners, health-care providers, and civil society organisations will be instrumental in building trust and ensuring the success of HPV vaccination programmes. We can build upon our experiences of the successful nationwide rollout of COVID-19 vaccines amidst a landscape of pervasive digital and mass misinformation. Moreover, public-private partnerships are instrumental in ensuring equitable access to vaccination services, thereby advancing the collective goal of safeguarding women's health against cervical cancer.

Thus, India's inclusion of HPV vaccination in the interim Union Budget 2024-25 heralds a new era in women's health.

The determinant in 'more women in the job market'

There is growing demand from social scientists, governments and international organisations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that women's participation in the economy/labour market should increase to promote economic growth of India. It is believed that when women's participation rate, which is one of the lowest in Asia, increases, it will bring prosperity to the Indian economy.

Key factor of patriarchy

Why is women's participation in the labour market in India so low?

Though there are various explanations such as low human capital, and even discrimination against women, the root cause is patriarchy, which is a social system marked by the supremacy of the father/man in the family, community and society. As Marina Watanabe says, patriarchy is "a social structural phenomenon in which males have the privilege of dominance over females". This supremacy is manifested: in values, attitudes, and customs in the society; in ownership of assets, incomes and wealth; and in institutes and organisations that govern our society and economy. With economic growth and increasing education, the strength of patriarchy has perhaps declined in some ways. However, the overall culture of male dominance over women has not changed much in our traditional society.

Under patriarchy, men are considered to be the breadwinners and women are expected to be the homemakers. That is, women are responsible for household upkeep, and for providing care to the child and those who are old, sick and the disabled in the family. Even when there is hired help, it is the woman who is responsible for household upkeep and care.

Though performed with love, this work of women is inferior work for several reasons. This work is unpaid and invisible as time use data are not available on a regular basis in India, and, therefore, not covered under national policies. It is repetitive (performed every day) and boring. There is no upward mobility, and, therefore, a dead-end job. There is no retirement and no



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India raising the participation rate of well-educated women in the labour market could also lead to a huge army of exploited domestic workers

pension. This implies that a significant part of the total labour force available to the economy is locked up in low productivity and inferior kind of work, which is performed mainly by women. Women perform this work not necessarily by free choice or by any particular efficiency in this work but because it is largely imposed on women as a social construct. As this work is outside the purview of economic policies, the drudgery of work, the time stress, technology and low productivity of this type of work and working conditions of workers are outside the purview of policy making. This is unjust, unfair, and unacceptable.

As a result, many women do not enter the labour market due to their high domestic responsibilities. When the others enter the labour market, they enter with domestic responsibilities on their shoulders, implying that there is no level playing field for them from the beginning. Again, they usually have lower human capital (thanks to social norms); restricted mobility due to their domestic responsibilities.

Therefore, their choice is gendered in the labour market. They tend to prefer work that is close to home, part time or flexible work, and which has a safe work environment. Consequently, they overcrowd in stereotyped low productivity jobs and lag behind men in all average labour market outcomes such as participation, wages, and diversification of work. This is clearly not the optimum use of women labour power in the economy. Therefore, women's participation in the labour market must be raised.

Greater participation, but also exploitation

As women with higher education and professional qualifications in India tend to participate more in the labour market, it is argued by experts that greater women's education will raise their participation rate in the labour market.

However, this is only half truth, as this increase in participation is backed by an army of domestic workers, who are known to be highly exploited in the Indian economy.

Women's participation in the labour market

can increase at all levels mainly by reducing their burden of unpaid domestic work and care by reducing the drudgery/strain of work or improving productivity of women's work (for example, providing fuel-efficient stoves in cooking in place of primitive stoves that use fuel wood); by providing infrastructural support to reduce the burden of their work (for example, water supply at the doorstep); by shifting a part of unpaid work to the mainstream economy (for example, child care, disabled care, care of the old can be provided by the government, the market or by civil society organisations to the mainstream economy).

The burden of unpaid domestic work on women can also be reduced by redistributing this work to other household members, mainly men. These steps will release women from the burden of unpaid work to a significant extent and give them free time to acquire higher education and new skills, or to participate in productive work in the labour market.

Address the issue of subordination

If we want not only women's participation but also gender equality in the labour market, households will have to provide equal opportunities to men and women within the household, i.e., by sharing the "inferior work", or unpaid domestic work and care by men and women. However, irrespective of sharing, what is critical is removing the subordination of women in the household by sharing the responsibility of unpaid household work by men and women.

On hired domestic workers, there is an International Labour Organization Convention that provides minimum basic rights to domestic workers in the world. These include a weekly day off, limited hours of work, overtime compensation, minimum wages and minimum social security. It is unfortunate that India has not even ratified this Convention. If India raises the participation rate of (well-educated) women in the labour market along with a rapid increase in the size of domestic workers, the gains in terms of economic growth will be lost as it will create a huge army of highly exploited domestic workers also.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Even at Jim Corbett...

Jim Corbett National Park is the most prominent and internationally well-known tiger reserve. That it would be well protected from encroachments and other illegal activities is a given. But if this national park of international importance could be encroached upon

so audaciously and converted into commercial property in the name of eco-tourism, by felling as many as 6,000 trees, one shudders to think about the fate of other reserve forests around the country (Page 1, "Trees in Corbett fell prey to greedy nexus, says SC", March 7). Eco-tourism has

become a convenient avenue for the veiled encroachment of forest lands, the developing of commercial properties and the plundering of natural resources. Forests are already dwindling at an alarming rate for developmental purposes such as highways. Elephant

corridors are being obliterated, causing much distress to the great animal and forcing animal-human conflicts. It is incumbent on the authorities to protect at least the reserve forests and parks earmarked for the conservation of habitats. **Kosaraju Chandramouli**, Hyderabad

Exonerated

The public reposing its faith and confidence in the judiciary is clear in the acquittal of Professor G.N. Saibaba and five others (Editorial, March 7). But can anyone recompense the trials and tribulations which they had to undergo in their long incarceration? The

conflicting and confusing judgments in this case leave one flabbergasted. Incidentally, one wonders how a wheelchair-bound person can go to the extent of indulging in activities that are inimical to his country. **Mani Natarajan**, Chennai

Fall and rise in women's work participation

Arguably, the debate around trends in Indian women's employment is only outclassed by a similar one regarding trends in poverty. Unfortunately, the scrutiny of the measurement of poverty is not matched by similarly close attention to the measurement of employment.

The broad contours of the debate, mainly relying on data from the National Sample Surveys (NSS) and Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS), are the following: the work participation rate for women ages 15 and above fluctuated around 42% between 1993-94 and 2004-05, declined to 28% in 2011-12, and plummeted to 22% in 2017-18. From 2017, it miraculously surged, and reached 36% in 2022-23.

Two contrasting narratives

In an era of heightened politicisation of statistics, these observations became a ping-pong between pessimists and optimists. The pessimistic story explained the decline in women's work participation as a sign of declining job availability and later increase as a sign of poverty. The optimistic story painted the initial decline as a sign of growing prosperity, allowing women to focus on their families, and the surge as a sign of increasing job opportunities. Others have tried to see this as a natural transformation of the economy chronicled by Claudia Goldin's famous U-shaped curve where women are displaced from the labour market as the agricultural workforce moves to industrial employment, with female employment rebounding with the service economy again making space for them.

We must examine the foundation of these narratives. We see a striking trend when we break down the 25-59-year-old women's work participation into three categories: self-employment in agriculture, self-employment in other activities, mainly in petty manufacturing or shopkeeping, and wage and salaried work in

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Instead of debating the cause of the fall and the rise in the proportion of women farmers and family helpers, we should look to expand women's opportunities outside of agriculture, which are better paying

manual or white-collar work.

Women's work on family farms dropped from 23% to 10% between 1993 and 2017. During the era of increasing employment, the work on family farms bounced back to 23%, thus more than doubling in the last five years. Wage labour and self-employment in non-farm work remained more or less steady at 14-16% and 5-6%, respectively, although we see a slight upward trend in wage employment in recent years. So, most of the changes are driven by the ebbing and flowing tide of women's work on family farms.

Before we start spinning tales to explain these trends, let us explore the challenges faced by our labour force surveys, which try to pigeon-hole women who raise both chickens and children. NSS and PLFS surveys ask interviewers to fill out a grid containing brief descriptions such as "usual principal activity" and "whether engaged in any work in a subsidiary capacity."

But questions about principal and subsidiary activity status are alien for rural women whose day is full of demands for bathing and feeding children, fetching water, washing cattle, harvesting grains, and making pickles for sale. The interviewer's job is to provide context and ask questions that elicit information about the key indicators of interest. For example, a study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research traced the impact of question-wording on women's work participation rate. Women's work participation was initially measured using NSS-style questions and later through probing questions. This increased the rural women's work participation rate from 28% to 44% for the same women. Most of the omissions were of women who were self-employed in agriculture and animal care.

Historically, these challenges were addressed by relying on trained and experienced field investigators who learned to interpret their questions, keeping

local conditions in mind. However, India's once-vaunted statistical system has been in crisis. As Pramit Bhattacharya noted, until the late 1990s, interviewers were regular employees recruited locally. Since then, supervisors have been centrally recruited and often posted in areas they may not be familiar with, and interviewers are short-term contractual workers hired locally. This has led to a steep decline in quality, culminating in the government disputing the quality of the NSS consumption expenditure survey in 2017-18. A recognition of the declining quality of NSS surveys may have led to increasing attention to data quality, as evidenced by the increase in the strength of subordinate statistical services from 2,181 officers in 2009-10 to 3,121 in 2019-20. This suggests that increased attention to capturing women's work on family farms rather than an actual increase in farm work accounts for the doubling of women farmers over a short period of five years.

The counterargument

A counterargument might be that this increase is due to economic shifts, particularly men's movement out of agriculture, creating space for women. Yet, a modest decline in male self-employment in farming, from 33% to 25%, occurred between 2004-05 and 2017-18, when the female work participation rate also declined. Since then, the proportion of men classified as farmers/family helpers has increased slightly, accompanied by a much more significant increase for women.

Instead of debating the cause of the fall and the rise in the proportion of women farmers and family helpers, attention needs to focus on the relative stagnation in the proportion of women who are wage workers (around 16%) and owners/family helpers of small businesses (around 6%) and seek to expand women's opportunities outside of agriculture, which is generally better paying.

The burden of women in construction

How the construction sector can absorb more women, especially migrants

Namrata Chindarkar & Divya Ravindranath

Low female labour force participation remains a pressing concern in India. Even among women who are employed, it is imperative that we ask how they fare in their sector of employment, in terms of the quality of employment, which includes parameters such as skill development and training, social protection, work-life balance, income, and employment security.

One sector that is often overlooked in discussions on women's employment is construction, which is traditionally seen as a male-dominated sector in most parts of the world. In India, the construction sector is one of the largest employers of the migrant female labour force, especially those from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households. In several parts of the country, especially in seasons when agricultural work is scarce, the construction industry becomes a vital source of employment for women.

We reflect on the quality of women's employment in the construction sector by combining data from a sub-sample of women workers in the 2019 Time Use Survey (TUS) with insights from ongoing primary research at construction sites. Analysing quantitative data from the TUS alongside qualitative primary data helps us scrutinise and understand not just how much time women spend on paid work but also the nature of their work in particular sectors. Subsequently, it can help identify potential interventions to enhance conditions of work and the overall quality of work.

According to TUS data, women in the construction sector spend an average of 483



minutes per day on paid employment, 240 minutes on unpaid domestic work, and an additional 111 minutes on childcare. Furthermore, about 18% reported performing simultaneous activities, that is, engaging in more than one activity in a 10-minute time slot.

Simultaneity stems from the disproportionate amount of time women spend on unpaid domestic work and unpaid childcare in addition to time spent on paid employment. There are several examples of this. For instance, women breastfeed or tend to their children while also carrying a bag of cement on their shoulders. This is the only way they can accomplish both tasks, given the long hours of paid work and the burden of domestic chores and childcare. In resource-constrained housing for construction workers, social protection measures such as availability of childcare at the workplace can provide critical support in reducing women's burden of unpaid childcare responsibilities.

The TUS also suggests that 84% of women engage in multiple activities. This is defined as engaging in more than one activity in a 30-minute time slot, with each activity being done for at least 10 minutes. On average, they engage in seven such multiple activity slots in a single day. Our primary research shows that em-

ployers in the construction sector often break down tasks to circumvent minimum wage requirements, forcing women to undertake multiple tasks throughout the day to meet minimum wage thresholds. These include menial tasks with quick turnarounds such as moving bricks, mixing, and sifting sand and cement throughout the day. These tasks, though considered unskilled, are extremely laborious and usually without safety equipment. Women are often paid by piece or the quantum of work completed. This means that these tasks necessitate women to do high-intensity work within short durations.

With greater use of technology and automation, many of these tasks may become redundant, potentially reducing opportunities for women. While skilling is critical to seek and sustain better forms of work in the industry, employers remain hesitant to train women, assuming they are incapable of operating equipment and machinery. Skilled work is critical for achieving better quality of work and improving wages for women in this sector.

Construction is among the fastest-growing sectors, employing approximately 4% of the female labour force in rural and urban areas. With better provisioning of social protection, skills training, and improved workplace safety, it has the potential to absorb a significant portion of the female labour force, especially migrant women, into productive paid work.

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Bridging the gender gap in health research

By prioritising women's health, we can create a future where health equity is a reality

Preetha Reddy

As of 2023, there were 4 billion women in the world, accounting for approximately 49.75% of the population. Despite this, it is unfortunate that our approach to health and well-being has been shadowed by a deep-seated gender bias. For far too long, women's health has been confined to gynaecological and reproductive issues.

Moreover, the historical bias in medical research, favouring the male body as the standard, has resulted in dire consequences. Women face disproportionate risks in various health domains, from disability and obesity to cardiovascular health. Additionally, systemic biases in data collection perpetuate these disparities, leading to misdiagnoses, ineffective treatments, and unnecessary suffering. On this International Women's Day, we must scrutinise the path towards gender parity, especially within healthcare.

The recently released World Economic Forum's report, 'Closing the Women's Health Gap', underscored the profound disparity between men's and women's health worldwide. It elucidated historical neglect in women's health research, funding, and policymaking, and highlighted the need for a global effort to address the women's health gap by urging governments, the private sector, and civil society to realign their strategies with a gender-sensitive approach. A definitive, oft-reiterated point is that by prioritising women's health, we can create a future where health equity is a reality. Likewise, in India, several research studies have observed that many Indians have genetic variations that make them more susceptible to certain diseases. For example, Indians have higher levels of insulin resistance than Caucasians, which is a major reason for the increased prevalence of type 2 diabetes in this population.

Therefore, regarding health research, to effect meaningful change, we must undertake concrete actions. First, we need to champion the analysis of gender differences in clinical trials. Going forward, it is imperative that all clinical trials diligently analyse and report gender-specific findings to tailor treatments effectively.

Second, we must advocate for including gender differences on drug labels, including information on safe use during pregnancy. Empowering healthcare providers and patients with this information enhances treatment decisions and fosters a more inclusive healthcare landscape. Third, we must prioritise the recruitment of women in clinical trials. Ensuring adequate representation is not just a matter of fairness but a necessity to understand treatment efficacy across diverse populations. Fourth, it is imperative that we delve into data with a gender lens. By dissecting data through the prism of gender, we uncover nuances crucial for refining healthcare strategies. This could be different patterns of disease, divergent responses to treatment, and different safety profiles. Finally, it is important to embrace precise terminology on sex and gender. Clear and accurate language fosters understanding and inclusivity, laying the foundation for more effective healthcare communication.

It is equally crucial to encourage the participation of more women in the research and scientific arenas. The unique insights and experiences women bring can enrich our understanding and approach to health challenges, fostering a more inclusive, women-centric perspective in research. Women's inclusion is essential in dismantling the one-size-fits-all approach that has dominated medical research, allowing for the development of more nuanced, effective healthcare solutions that benefit everyone.

Above all, it is vital to note that these actions are not just about ticking boxes; they're about building a future where healthcare truly serves everyone with compassion, insight, and equity.

Good health is a fundamental human right. It is time to dismantle the invisible barriers hindering equitable healthcare access. By bridging the gender gap in health research and practice, we pave the way for a future founded on equality and fairness. This issue transcends gender – it is about reshaping healthcare systems to serve everyone equitably and effectively.

Preetha Reddy is Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Group

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Celebrations in full swing



Children enjoy themselves at Jalaripeta, a fishing colony, on the eve of Mahashivratri, in Visakhapatnam. K.R. DEEPAK

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 8, 1974

T.T. Krishnamachari dead

Madras, March 7: We record with profound regret the death of Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari, former Union Finance Minister, at his son's residence in Santhome to-day. He was 74. Mr. Krishnamachari, who recovered from a serious illness in May last, was suffering from acute kidney failure since Saturday. Despite doctors' best efforts, his condition worsened yesterday and the end came at 12-55 p.m. to-day. He is survived by three sons.

His body was cremated in the evening with police honours at the Mylapore crematorium. During the last four days when Mr. Krishnamachari had been seriously ill, Mr.

The Hindu

Kamaraj spent most of his time at his bedside.

Close friends and relatives of Mr. Krishnamachari had been keeping a round the clock vigil and during the last hours, they arranged for playing of records of Vishnu Sahasranamam and Purusha Suktham, the divine hymns which he loved to hear.

Within minutes after Mr. Krishnamachari's death, a large number of his friends called at his house. The Governor, Mr. K.K. Shah, the Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, the Education Minister, Mr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, the ADMK General Secretary, Mr. M.G. Ramachandran, the TNCC-O President, Mr. P. Ramachandran, the TNCC President, Mr. V. Ramiah, representatives of trade and business organisations, officials of the Central and State governments and consular representatives came to pay their last respects.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 8, 1924

Recognition of Mexico

Leafield, Oxford (Mid), March 8: Senoor Neito, Mexican Minister to Sweden, has just returned to Stockholm after a visit to London. While here he had conversations with the Foreign Office on the subject of British claims against Mexican Government and he took opportunity to broach the question of British recognition of the Mexican Government. It was not found possible, however, by the Foreign Office to enter into any formal conversations with Sr. Neito on the question of recognition since Sr. Neito did not appear to be armed with the necessary powers. Sr. Neito's return to Sweden is not therefore to be regarded as indicating that the British Government has changed its attitude regarding the recognition of Obregon's Government.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of national parties whose income is from electoral bonds

82.42 in percentage. Out of the ₹1,832.88 crore as income from unknown sources, the share of income from electoral bonds was ₹1,510 crore in 2022-23, the Association for Democratic Reforms said. PTI

UN raises alert for people displaced in Mozambique

7.8 in lakh. A vast majority of people were displaced in Mozambique because of a seven-year insurgency by a jihadist group that has thrown the country's Cabo Delgado province into turmoil. Around 1.3 million people were forced to flee. AP

People abducted by extremists in northeastern Nigeria

200 Islamic extremists abducted mostly women and children displaced by violence in northeastern Nigeria. The victims were looking for firewood in Borno state's Gamboru Ngala area when they were ambushed. AP

Increase in funds for tea development and promotion for 2024-26

82 in percentage. The outlay for the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme has been increased to ₹528.97 crore for the next two financial years, the government said. The scheme is to support the development of improved varieties of tea. PTI

Losses announced by Chelsea in first year under new owners

114.8 in \$ million. The English Premier League club announced its pre-tax losses for the first year under U.S. owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

The JVP, one of the major opposition parties of Sri Lanka, has historically viewed India as an expansionist power seeking to colonise Sri Lanka. However, of late, the party is of the view that the reality of India as Sri Lanka's closest neighbour and a 'major political and economic centre' cannot be ignored

WORLD INSIGHT

Nirupama Subramanian

The story so far:

On February 5, an unlikely visitor landed in Delhi from Sri Lanka on an official invitation. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the leader of the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, received a red carpet welcome, following which two top officials spent time with him in the capital. The main constituent of the NPP is the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), and Mr. Dissanayake is its leader. The Indian outreach to the JVP has set off much speculation in Sri Lanka. The country is to go through a presidential election this year followed by parliamentary elections this year or the next. A survey conducted by the Health Policy Institute showed that 50% of respondents favoured Mr. Dissanayake as the next President. Since its inception, the party has had a bad history with India. But Mr. Dissanayake's meetings with National Security Adviser A. K. Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar have created new optics in the run-up to the election.

Who are the JVP?

Over its five decade-existence, the JVP, which calls itself Marxist, but has been mostly a Sinhala nationalist party, has viewed India as an expansionist power seeking to colonise Sri Lanka.

The JVP was formed in 1965. Its founder Rohana Wijeweera, who came from a family of modest means in coastal southern Sri Lanka, already had exposure to leftist ideologies through the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, before he went as a student to Moscow's Patrice Lumumba International University, where he mingled with leftists from all over the world. On his return, he aligned himself with the Ceylon Communist Party (Maoist), before breaking away to form the JVP, with the intention of creating a revolution to turn Sri Lanka into a socialist state. Its members were mostly the youth who were unable to find jobs in the Sri Lankan economy, comprising British-era trading houses manned by Colombo's English-speaking elites.

The cadres of JVP imbibed the party ideology from lectures known as the Five Classes — on the crisis of the capitalist system in Sri Lanka; history of Sri Lanka's left movement; history of socialist revolutions; Indian expansionism; and the path of revolution in Sri Lanka. However, within no time, JVP found it more expedient to push class struggle to the back-burner, and became a vehicle for majoritarian Sinhala-Buddhist sentiments.

What happened in 1971?

In the 1970 election, the JVP campaigned for Sirima Bandaranaike's leftist United Front coalition comprising of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the Communist Party. But the JVP's support for Sri Lanka's 'bourgeois' left was short-lived. In April 1971, it carried out an armed insurrection. The plan was to take over police stations first. The government, despite receiving prior intelligence, was caught unprepared. A state of Emergency was declared and Wijeweera was jailed. But the Sri Lankan tri-services were a ceremonial force and the government had to appeal to foreign nations for help. The Indian Army, Navy and Air Force played a part in thwarting the rebellion. The insurrection was overcome after a few weeks and some 15,000 JVP cadres were arrested. The death toll was over a 1,000,



Shifting narrative: A portrait of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna founder Rohana Wijeweera. HINDU ARCHIVES

including civilians, police personnel and Sri Lankan armed forces personnel.

In 1977, with the election of J. R. Jayewardene, who went on to politically dominate the country for a decade, the Sri Lankan economy changed full tilt from the Bandarnaike era of socialist nationalisation, to liberalisation and the entry of free market forces. Jayewardene also released all JVP prisoners including Wijeweera, who went on to contest the 1982 presidential election, polling 4% of the vote. Some make the case that Jayewardene used the JVP to weaken the SLFP and the "old left". Indeed, the JVP made SLFP's Sinhala Buddhist plank its own from about the time of the 1983 anti-Tamil riots and the flaring up of the Sinhala-Tamil ethnic conflict.

What was the context for the JVP's second insurrection?

Delhi's growing involvement in the conflict led to anti-India sentiment among the Sinhalese majority. In June 1987, the Indian Air Force carried out Operation Poomalai to airdrop food to the north of Sri Lanka, which was Tamil-dominated, at a time when Sri Lankan forces had laid siege to the province, believing that they had cornered the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. The next month came the India-Sri Lanka Accord under which Sri Lanka introduced an amendment in its Constitution to devolve political power to the Tamil north and east. However, the LTTE rejected the Accord, and the soldiers that India sent under the banner of the Indian Peace Keeping Force to disarm the LTTE, soon found themselves in a war against the group. JVP launched protests against the presence of Indian troops on Sri Lankan soil. Among the Sinhalese, the protests found widespread support. The Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi narrowly

escaped an assassination attempt when he was attacked by a sailor at a guard of honour at the airport after the signing of the Accord in Colombo. Even SLFP workers joined hands with the JVP on the ground. However, the JVP did not take on the Indian Army or even the Tamils, directing its violence on fellow Sinhalese in southern Sri Lanka. Government officials, police personnel, teachers, students of rival unions and political activists — with its lists of "traitors", the JVP went after all of them. Lampost hangings, tyre pyres and bodies on roads were a common sight. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's husband, Vijaya Kumaratunga, a charismatic film star-turned-politician, was shot dead. The government's brutality in putting down the insurgency was no less. The bloodbath lasted until 1989. The number of people killed is cited as 60,000. Wijeweera was also among the dead.

What happened to the JVP after that?

In the 1990s, the JVP tried to put its past behind and entered the political mainstream under a new leadership. It won one seat in the parliamentary elections of 1994. It even contested elections for provincial councils, which it had opposed as an Indian imposition under the 13th Amendment.

In the 2001 parliamentary election, the JVP won 16 seats, indicating that it had gained the trust of sections of voters. Its high point came when it contested in coalition with the SLFP-led People's Alliance in 2004. The election was fought on an anti-ceasefire plank. The previous United National Party (UNP) government had entered into a Norway-brokered truce with the LTTE in 2002, on terms that were seen as favouring the LTTE. In 2004, President Kumaratunga called for fresh elections, naming Mahinda Rajapaksa as the prime ministerial face of the People's

Alliance-JVP coalition, called the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). Of the 105 seats UPFA won in the 225-seat parliament, the JVP's share was 39, its highest ever tally. Months later it pulled out of the cabinet over the mechanics of sharing tsunami relief aid with the LTTE. It continued to support the government from the outside, and also supported Rajapaksa's campaign in the 2005 presidential election.

However, in the post-war period, JVP's fortunes waned. Not only did President Mahinda Rajapaksa dominate the political landscape as the architect of the May 2009 military victory over the LTTE, a host of Buddhist nationalist parties that had come up by then were competing for the same space as JVP. In 2008, the JVP also suffered a vertical split.

In 2015, Mr. Dissanayake formed a coalition with 25 other organisations, including civil society groups, women's organisations and others called the NPP. The JVP now contests elections under the banner of the NPP, seen by some as a "rebranding" exercise to shake off its violent past that continues to haunt it. Mr. Dissanayake has described the NPP as a national liberation movement.

How does the NPP function now?

When the mass uprising against the Gotabaya Rajapaksa regime began in March 2022 over worsening economic circumstances, the protests were at first neighbourhood candle light vigils that grew to large gatherings in the city's Galle Face sea front. Later, opposition parties including the NPP and JVP, breakaway organisations like the Frontline Socialist Party and Inter University Students' Federation also converged at Galle Face. The involvement of these organisations, and some incidents of violence became the justification for a crackdown on the protests by the government under the new leadership of President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Subsequently, the JVP/NPP position against the International Monetary Fund deal, whose conditions included sale of public sector enterprises, higher utility bills, higher taxes and other "anti-people" measures, earned it praise and a huge following. It has also taken popular positions against the "sale of national assets" to foreigners. In 2020-21, it had been steadfast in its opposition to the plan to offer 49% stake in the East Container Terminal at Colombo Port to the Adani group, which led the Gotabaya Rajapaksa government to cancel a tripartite agreement with India and Japan to develop the terminal. It also questioned the wind farm deal with Adani, and the deal with India to develop the oil tank farm in Trincomalee. It has been an opponent of the Indian Oil Corporation's presence and expansion in Sri Lanka since 2002, when IOC first began operations in Sri Lanka. In 2017, despite its reported proximity to China, it had also protested the sale of the Hambantota Port to China.

However, of late, the JVP is of the view that the reality of India as Sri Lanka's closest neighbour and "major political and economic centre" cannot be ignored. While India and JVP have had some contact previously, this is the first time that its leaders were invited to Delhi as an opposition party. In politically charged Sri Lanka, various signals are being read from this new friendship. But perhaps India is learning from its experience in the Maldives, where a new President that India failed to get to know better before his election, has junked his predecessor's "India First" foreign policy, and given a distinct pro-China tilt to his foreign policy. The writer is an independent journalist.

THE GIST

Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the leader of the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, received a red carpet welcome in Delhi, following which two top officials spent time with him in the capital. The main constituent of the NPP is the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

The cadres of JVP imbibed the party ideology from lectures known as the Five Classes — on the crisis of the capitalist system in Sri Lanka; history of Sri Lanka's left movement; history of socialist revolutions; Indian expansionism; and the path of revolution in Sri Lanka.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT



A scene from the *Anatomy of a Fall*. AP

'Anatomy of a Fall': how the legal drama goes beyond the confines of labels

Is the Best Picture contender at the Academy Awards, *Anatomy of a Fall*, a relationship drama, a legal thriller, a whodunit, a writer's tale, a story about a dog, all or none of them? Like all the best stories, the film goes beyond its genre boundaries

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

These days it is impossible to go to a film blind – unless you are living under a rock in which case you would not be watching films anyway. Since human beings have been proven to respond positively to categories, everything is put in a box.

Supermarket shelves are arranged like that and so too our consumption of content. In fact, the first sentence of a Wikipedia entry on a book or a movie tells you what genre the work belongs to. Labels make choosing our poison easier while swimming in digital oceans of content. Rom-com fans can staunchly avoid grim police procedurals while adrenalin junkies can quickly skip serious relationship dramas spread over three generations and two World Wars.

A legal drama?

And then you come across an outlier like *Anatomy of a Fall*, which Wiki promptly describes as a French legal drama. The Best Picture nominee at the Academy Awards is directed by Justine Triet from a screenplay she wrote with Arthur Harari. The legal drama brings to mind respected and well-loved films such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), where Gregory Peck made for a fine Atticus Finch in this

adaptation of the Harper Lee classic, Sidney Lumet's *12 Angry Men* (1957) and Billy Wilder's *Witness for the Prosecution* based on the Agatha Christie play.

Then there is Tom Cruise defending marines in Rob Reiner's *A Few Good Men* (1992), where Jack Nicholson as Col. Nathan R. Jessep thundered very effectively about the truth. There was also Al Pacino as the devil chewing up the scenery in *The Devil's Advocate* (1997). Legal dramas also have a good history at the Oscars with Julia Roberts winning the best actress trophy for Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich* (2000) and Jodie Foster for *The Accused* (1988), while George Clooney got a nomination for 2007's *Michael Clayton*.

Anatomy of a Fall has been described as a "Hitchcockian procedural thriller", and reminds one of all the courtroom thrillers where the Perry Mason-type lawyer conducts their investigations to prove the innocence of their client while revealing the real criminal. Courtroom thrillers also offer the opportunity for drama, filled with razor-sharp interrogation and bombastic speeches punctuated by objections and overruling.

Marriage story

While *Anatomy of a Fall* has a death and a trial to prove the innocence or guilt of a person, like all the best stories, the film

goes beyond its genre boundaries. A person cannot just be their crime, the film suggests. In a remote chalet in Grenoble, a university professor, Samuel Maleski (Samuel Theis), is found dead from a fall from an attic window by his son Daniel (Milo Machado-Graner). Was it suicide, an accident or homicide? Maleski's wife, Sandra Voyter (Sandra Hüller), a successful writer, is accused of killing Maleski on the basis of a recording of an argument between the couple.

As Sandra tries to explain how one cannot deconstruct a marriage on the basis of one recorded conversation, we get to learn more about the relationship. Sandra holds Maleski partly responsible for Daniel's accident that led to his (Daniel's) visual impairment while Maleski resents Sandra's success as an author and her infidelity.

Triet uses the courtroom, where incidentally, everyone seems to be able to talk at the same time without the judge banging the gavel and bringing the court to order, to dissect a marriage. Does that bring to mind 1979's *Kramer vs. Kramer* where Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep play the divorcing couple fighting for the custody of their son?

Writing wrongs

In *Anatomy of a Fall*, Maleski accuses Sandra of plagiarism. The prosecution

uses a passage from one of Sandra's novels where a minor character plots to murder her husband as proof of Sandra's intentions. There are quite a few movies featuring writers and the creative process. There is *Trumbo* (2015), a biopic with Bryan Cranston playing the screenwriter, Dalton Trumbo, and *Misery* (1990) based on a Stephen King novel about a fan (Kathy Bates) forcing a writer (James Caan) to rewrite the ending of his novel.

There is also *American Fiction*, another of this year's Best Picture nominations, where literary author Monk Ellison (Jeffrey Wright) writes a pulpy novel rife with stereotypes as a joke which turns on him when the book becomes a runaway success.

And while we are at it, let us not forget the blue-eyed border collie, Messi, who plays Snoop, Daniel's guide dog. Messi won the Palm Dog award at Cannes and plays an important part in *Anatomy of a Fall*, just by being a dog – that is method acting of the highest degree. Messi also brings to mind *What Just Happened* (2008) and the fate of the dog in *Fiercely*, the film within the film.

Anatomy of a Fall, apart from being an engrossing, enthralling film, also conclusively proves however much we might wish to box and label events and feelings, they resist and find their own path, quite like life itself.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the occasion of International Women's Day, here is a quiz on some women leaders across the world who broke the glass ceiling in politics

Abhinava. K

QUESTION 1

This political leader is a two-time Chief Minister and was the face of her party in this north India State. A member of a royal family, this leader also celebrates her birthday on this day. Identify the leader.

QUESTION 2

Who was the first woman Prime Minister of the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote? Also, identify the year she came to power.

QUESTION 3

In 2022, Francia Márquez became the first person of the

African-Colombian community to become the Vice-President of this country. An environmental activist, this leader was awarded the Goldman Prize in 2018. Name the country.

QUESTION 4

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first female President elected in Africa. She served as the head of the state of Ghana. Is the statement true or false?

QUESTION 5

The current Prime Minister and the leader of the largest Opposition party are both women in this country. Both represent extreme opposites of the political spectrum in this European country. Identify the country.



Visual question:

Identify this leader who served as the first ever woman Chief Minister of any State in India. Also identify the State. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

- The ground where Ashwin has played the most Test matches. **Ans: Eden Gardens, Kolkata**
 - The ground where Ashwin has picked up the most wickets. **Ans: Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai**
 - Ashwin has picked up 10 or more wickets in these test matches against these teams eight times and twice outside India. **Ans: Against Sri Lanka at Galle in August 2015 and West Indies at Roseau in July 2023**
 - Ashwin has scored five centuries against these two opponents. **Ans: West Indies and England**
 - Ashwin has not played against this nation. **Ans: Pakistan**
 - Ashwin has scored at least one fifty against all but these two opponents. **Ans: New Zealand and Afghanistan**
 - Ashwin has picked up at least one five-wicket haul in an inning against all but this opponent. **Ans: Afghanistan**
 - Ashwin has dismissed these two batsmen more than 10 times. **Ans: Ben Stokes and David Warner**
- Visual: Name these players and their connection to Ashwin. **Ans: Ajinkya Rahane (most catches as a fielder of Ashwin (34)) and Rajat Patidar, who took the catch which gave Ashwin his 500th Test wicket**
Early Bird: **Animesh Mohan**



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. Gurudath Pai Kulyadi, Canara Bank, Mangalore, wants to know which is correct: (a) dispose of (b) dispose off."

"It is 'dispose of'; you dispose of something. To dispose of means 'to get rid of something that one does not want or keep.'

He wants to dispose of his furniture.

All his paintings have been disposed of.

'Dispose off' is frequently seen in newspapers and magazines in India, even in judgments and learned articles. Also, 'wash one's hands of something,' not 'wash one's hands off something.'

"Ms. S. Samyuktha, Jayanagar, Bangalore, wants to know how the terms 'co-brother' and 'co-sister' originated."

"Indian languages are rich in kinship terms. We have a word for the maternal uncle, another for the paternal uncle. We have a word for the wife's sister's husband and another for the husband's brother's wife. 'Co-brother' and 'co-sister' were coined by us to stress special relationship. 'Co-brother' is wife's sister's husband and 'co-sister' is husband's brother's wife. These words do not exist in English as such relationships are not as significant for the British as they are for us. If there is a distinct kinship term in a language, the relationship is significant in that culture. In English, a co-brother is a brother-in-law and a co-sister is a sister-in-law. 'Brother-in-law' and 'sister-in-law' cover several relationships in English. We coined 'co-brother' and 'co-sister' to specify a special relationship. They are not used either in British English or American English. But they have become part of Indian English."

"Mr. I. S. Sachdeva wants to know the meaning of the proverb 'Money will make the mare go.'"

"It means that you can accomplish anything if you have money. Nothing is impossible if you have money. This proverb is from a song which runs thus: Will you lend me your mare to go a mile?"

"No, she is lame leaping over a stile." "But if you will her to me spare, you shall have money for your mare."

"Oh, ho, say you so? Money will make the mare to go."

"Mr. P. V. Srinivasan, retired scientist, CLRI, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'leap year.'"

"A leap year is a year of 366 days. In a leap year, February has 29 days. There is a leap of one day in that year. It occurs once in four years."

"Mr. A. Jayaraman, Railway Qrs., Secunderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'mealy-mouthed person.'"

"A mealy-mouthed person is one 'who is unwilling to speak plainly or directly, especially when this may offend'; he is afraid to assert himself.

She will not tell you what she feels about the situation. She is mealy-mouthed.

One of the meanings of 'meal' is 'coarsely ground grain.' Coarsely ground grain is dry and soft and lacks in form and grit. Hence 'mealy-mouthed' means soft, yielding, not firm."

Published in *The Hindu* on May 14, 1991.

Word of the day

Expedient:

a means to an end, not necessarily a principled or ethical one; serving to promote your interest; appropriate to a purpose; practical

Synonyms: self-interest, self-seeking, opportunism

Usage: *She came up with a simple and expedient solution.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/expedientpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪkˈspiːdi.ənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

SC asks if the Speaker contradicted verdict

"The Speaker must not base his decision as to which group constitutes the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the Legislative Assembly. This is not a game of numbers, but of something more. The structure of leadership outside the Legislative Assembly is a consideration which is relevant to the determination of this issue," Chief Justice Chandrachud had observed in the judgment.

The Constitution Bench had differentiated between the legislative wing, composed of the MLAs of the party, and the political wing of the party, made up of the cadre. It had held that the answer to which faction was the real party should be gleaned from the support from the political wing and not the numbers on the legislative side.

"A majority faction of the legislature party cannot be construed as the political party for the purposes of the Tenth Schedule," the May 11 judgment had noted.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi and Devadutt Kamat said the Speaker had also stumbled by refusing to accept the 2018 Constitution of the Shiv Sena party, which appointed Mr. Thackeray as president.

"The 2018 Constitution was relied upon by the High Court and the Supreme Court. Nobody disputed it then. But the Speaker said he will not depend on this Constitution as it was not filed with the Election Commission of India. So, he went by a Constitution from 1999 when nobody had even talked about it," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Mr. Salve countered that the documents produced by the Thackeray camp before the Speaker had been "brazenly fabricated". He said that a similar case against the Speaker's decision of January 10 was pending in the Bombay High Court. He said the Thackeray camp could not file petitions in multiple courts at the same time over the same issue.

However, the Supreme Court decided to go ahead and list the case for further arguments in the week commencing April 8.

SC to hear contempt petition against SBI

The information and documents were scattered across its various branches and decoding them was tough and would take time.

Making an oral mentioning in court on Thursday, advocates Prashant Bhushan, Cherul D'souza and Neha Rathi, for the contempt petitioners, urged the court to list the contempt plea along with the SBI's application on Monday (March 11).

"Once it (contempt petition) is verified by the Registry, your junior can send an email. I will pass orders," Chief Justice Chandrachud told Mr. Bhushan.

The contempt petition said the bank was deliberately trying to ensure that details of donors and the amounts contributed to political parties anonymously were not disclosed to the public before the Lok Sabha elections due in April-May.

The petition said the bank's stand was directly contradictory to an affidavit filed by the Union Government on March 15, 2019, which said information about the bonds was completely traceable and quickly available.

The Centre's affidavit had said that the electoral bonds scheme envisaged a transparent system of acquiring bonds with validated KYC and audit trail. The SBI would record KYC, PAN, details of identity and address in full of all the donors.

"The SBI maintains a secret number-based record of donors who buy bonds and the political parties they donate to," the contempt petition submitted.

"A simple query on the database can generate a report in a particular format which does not require any manual verification," it said.

Kashmiris 'breathing freely' now, says Modi

"This *azadi* [freedom] has come after Article 370's removal. For decades, the Congress and its allies misled the people of J&K as well as the country about Article 370," Mr. Modi added.

"This is the new Kashmir we all were awaiting for decades. This is the new Kashmir for which Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life," he told the crowd, claiming that over one lakh people were attending the event.

Mr. Modi announced ₹5,000 crore worth of schemes for the farming sector and promised to increase cold storages and warehouses in the Union Territory. "Kashmir is progressing at a fast pace. There are two AIIMS, seven medical colleges, and two cancer hospitals now. Two Vande Bharat trains ply in Kashmir. Jammu and Srinagar are becoming smart cities and new projects are in the offing," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha highlighted the developmental initiatives taken up in Kashmir after the revocation of Article 370. "No more youth are hit by pellets or lose their sight. No innocents get killed. Youth have laptops rather than stones in their hands. We always said that we will not buy peace but establish peace in Kashmir," Mr. Sinha said.

He also highlighted the return of late night life in Kashmir. "We have pedestrian markets like Europe and the Jhelum river front under the Smart City initiative. Not only locals but tourists also visit these places. The tricolour at Lal Chowk is witness to the change in Kashmir," he added.

SBI took the stand due to pressure from govt.: CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Thursday called for protests against the State Bank India for failing to provide details about electoral bonds to the Election Commission (EC) by March 6, calling it an "obvious ploy" to keep the details hidden till the Lok Sabha election.

The Supreme Court on February 15 struck down as "unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary" the electoral bonds scheme and directed the SBI to provide the details to the EC by March 6. The bank on Monday moved the top court seeking time till June 30 to comply with the direction.

"This is an obvious ploy to ensure that the details of electoral bonds are not made public till the elections are over. It is unbelievable that the SBI, whose operations are digitised, cannot compile all the relevant details of electoral bonds in a few days time," the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement.

It alleged that the SBI "could have taken this untenable stand only due to the pressure of the Modi government".

Congress questions 'hide and seek' over electoral bonds data

Party criticises SBI for seeking more time from the SC to furnish details of bonds; it says PM is terrified of 'revealing his corporate donors to people'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the State Bank of India (SBI) for seeking more time from the Supreme Court to disclose details on electoral bonds, the Congress on Thursday asserted that the bank's arguments were flawed, and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "absolutely terrified of revealing his corporate donors to people".

Asked to furnish data on the electoral bond scheme by March 6 by the Supreme Court, the SBI had approached the top court for time until June 30 to make the data available. "Hide and seek in New India: Nation seeks, Modi hides!" Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in statement posted on social media platform X.

The former Union Minister said the SBI's request for extension was "conveniently timed for after the upcoming Lok Sab-



Hit hard: Former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh says the SBI's request for time until June 30 was 'conveniently timed'. FILE PHOTO

ha elections". "The SBI's excuse was that its data on sale and encashment of electoral bonds is decoupled to maintain anonymity. According to the SBI, it would take months to match the buyers of the 22,217 electoral bonds issued since 2019 with the beneficiary parties. However, we know that each electoral bond was sold with two conditions - 1. Detailed Know Your Customer (KYC) exercise by the SBI branches to identify the buyer 2. Hidden serial

numbers on the bonds," the Congress leader said.

In 2018, the Congress leader claimed, the SBI was able to identify the number and date of purchase of expired bonds when a political party tried to encash these expired bonds.

"The man who famously said *na khaunga, na khaane dunga* [won't be corrupt nor allow corruption] is now insisting on *na bataunga, na dikhaunga* [won't tell, won't show]," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

'Political parties got 60% of funds from unknown sources'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Almost 60% of the funds received by political parties cannot be traced and come from "unknown" sources, including electoral bonds, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR, which analysed the audit reports and the donations declared in statements filed by political parties with the Election Commission of India each year, said that between the financial years 2004-05 and 2022-23, the country's six national parties collected ₹19,083.08 crore from unknown sources.

At present, political parties are not required to reveal the names of individuals or organisations giving them less than ₹20,000. As a result, three-fifths of the funds received cannot be traced and are from 'unknown' sources, the report said.

Of the ₹3,076.88 crore declared as income by national parties in 2022-23, ₹1,832.87 crore - or more than 59% - came from unknown sources. Of this, the share of income from electoral bonds was ₹1,510.61



The vast majority of these funds went to the BJP.

crore, or 82.42%.

The vast majority of these funds went to the BJP. During 2022-23, the ruling party declared ₹1,400.23 crore as its income from unknown sources. This amounts to 76.39% of the total income from unknown sources declared by all national parties; the other five national parties together have received only ₹432.63 crore from unknown sources.

The Congress came a distant second, claiming 17.19% of the national pie and declaring ₹315.11 crore as its income from unknown sources.

The other parties included in the ADR's analysis were the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Aam Aadmi Party, and the National People's Party.

Citizens have right to criticise revocation of Article 370, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday quashed an FIR accusing a college professor in Maharashtra of spreading enmity and disharmony by terming the day of revocation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 a "black day" and wishing "happy independence" to the people of Pakistan on a WhatsApp group of faculty and parents.

"Describing the day the abrogation happened as a 'Black Day' is an expression of protest and anguish. The right to dissent in a lawful manner must be treated as a part of the right to lead a dignified and meaningful life guaranteed by Article 21," Justice A.S. Oka, heading a Division Bench, observed in the judgment.

Justice Oka said a "simple protest" registered by Professor Javed Ahmed Hajam against the decision to revoke Article 370 cannot be used by the police to lodge a case under Section 153A (promoting enmity among different classes of people) of the Indian Penal Code.

To invoke Section 153A, he said, there should have been an intention to promote feelings of enmity or hatred among different classes of people. The provision should not be used to silence dissent, it noted.

"The Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression. Every citizen has the right to offer criticism of the action of abrogation of Article 370 or, for that matter, every decision of the state. He has the right to say he is unhappy with any decision of the state," he asserted.

J&K resident designated terrorist under UAPA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday designated Mohammad Qasim Gujjar, a 32-year-old resident of Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir, an individual terrorist under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967. It said that Gujjar is a member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a banned terrorist outfit.

The Ministry said in a notification that Gujjar is an individual with an intention to wage war against the country, and is involved in terrorist activities, which include "coordinating, supplying, identifying locations of drones for dropping of arms, ammunition, improvised explosive device and cash and delivering and managing consignments from across the border."

Cabinet approves 4% hike in DA for Central government employees and pensioners

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, which met here on Thursday, decided to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from January 1.

The increase will be four percentage points over the existing rate of 46% of the basic pay/pension, to compensate against price rise, the government said. Other allowances, including house rent allowance, canteen allowance and deputation allowance, will also be increased subsequently.

Beneficial for lakhs

Talking to presspersons after the meeting, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said the combined impact on

The hike will be four percentage points over the existing rate of 46% of the basic pay or pension

the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be ₹12,868.72 crore per annum. "This will benefit about 49.18 lakh Central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners," he said.

Mr. Goyal said the increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, based on the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, major unions of Central government employees have decided to go on an indefinite strike demanding implementation of the old pension scheme.

Employees had also taken out rallies asking the Centre to address the anomalies in promotions, pension, and salaries.

This financial year, the Centre will spend ₹15,014 crore towards the payment of additional DA.

Other allowances

Mr. Goyal added that transport allowance, canteen allowance, and deputation allowance will also be increased by 25%.

House rent allowance has been raised from 27%, 19%, and 9% of the basic pay to 30%, 20%, and 10%, respectively.

Benefits under gratuity will also be increased by 25%, with an increased ceiling of ₹25 lakh from the existing ₹20 lakh. For this, the government may have to fund ₹9,400 crore annually.

'Employees were forced to attend Modi's Srinagar rally'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

J&K's former Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah on Thursday claimed that the J&K Lieutenant-Governor's administration "forced" government employees to attend the public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium and Kashmir International Convention Centre.

Ms. Mufti, president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), claimed the government employees were herded at 5 a.m. into vehicles, ferrying them to the PM's rally.

"Disheartening to see employees being forcibly mobilised to paint a pretty picture that all is well post 2019," Ms. Mufti said.

It is a wonder that I came out of jail alive, says G.N. Saibaba

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

Former Delhi University Professor G.N. Saibaba on Thursday said it was only by chance that he had come out alive despite experiencing "brutal" jail life. He was speaking to presspersons after being released from the Nagpur Central Jail.

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on March 5 set aside his life sentence in a Maoist links case, citing the failure of the prosecution to prove charges beyond reasonable doubt and deeming the sanction for prosecution under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as "null and void".

Professor Saibaba, who had been lodged in jail since 2017 after a trial court in Gadchiroli convicted him and others in the



Sigh of relief: Former Delhi University Professor G.N. Saibaba with his wife during a press conference after he was released. PTI

case, expressed concern about his health and the need for medical treatment upon his release.

"My health is very bad. I can't talk. I will have to first take medical treatment," he said. A family member awaited Professor Saibaba outside the jail premises.

The 57-year-old wheelchair-bound professor earlier refused to speak to the media about his eight years

of incarceration. However, he changed his mind after requests from lawyers and presspersons.

Describing prison life as "very rigorous and brutal", he said: "There was every chance that I would not have come out alive. I had no accessibility inside the prison."

He asked who would give him back the years spent in jail.

Centre extends Ujjwala subsidy by another year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Union Cabinet on Thursday decided to extend the subsidy of ₹300 per LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year till the end of next financial year. About 10.27 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will be covered by the scheme, said Union

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal after the meeting of the Cabinet. The total expenditure for the continuation of the scheme will be ₹12,000 crore.

The Centre had started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum to the PMUY consumers in May 2022. In October 2023, the Centre increased the subsidy to ₹300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum.



APPEAL

Ms. Umaiza Fatima, daughter of Abdul Rashid 6 years admitted in Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center is suffering from Thalassemia Major. The only curative treatment is bone marrow transplant. We are planning TCR Alpha/Beta and CD 45RA depletion therapy for this patient. The estimated cost of transplant at this hospital is approximately Rs. 40,80,000/-. Please send donation however small and save the girl baby. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Umaiza Fatima. Our Account Details: SBI Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbil. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT. SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. 044 42044165 & 044 35691848, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Names for three Delhi Lok Sabha seats discussed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Election Committee of the Congress on Thursday discussed the names of candidates for the three Lok Sabha seats - Chandni Chowk, North East Delhi and North West Delhi - it is contesting in alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Sources said there was more than one contender for each seat and the screening panel will meet again to finalise the names.

While the names of Alka Lamba, J.P. Agarwal and Sandeep Dikshit came up for discussion for Chandni Chowk, the contenders in North East Delhi were Arvind Singh Lovely and Anil Chaudhary, sources indicated. For the reserved North West Delhi seats Rajkumar Chauhan and Udit Raj's names are said to have been discussed.

Rahul likely to seek re-election from Wayanad; Cong. list expected today

Party's poll committee holds first meeting, where candidates for the northeastern States, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana were discussed; Tharoor may be fielded again from Thiruvananthapuram, where he has won three consecutive LS elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress's top election body is said to have cleared the candidature of party leader Rahul Gandhi for the Wayanad constituency in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Sources also said that Shashi Tharoor would be again fielded from Thiruvananthapuram, where he has won three consecutive Lok Sabha elections. There is, however, no official announcement from the party.

The party's Central Election Committee (CEC) met on Thursday evening to discuss the first batch of names. Sources indicated that several names had



Deliberations on: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with leaders Sonia Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

been cleared and the first list could be released on Friday.

The discussion focused on candidates for the northeastern States, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Delhi. The Kerala unit, in fact,

had proposed the names of all MPs.

Apart from Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, the meeting was attended by party leaders Sonia Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal and others. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K.

Shivakumar and senior leaders Bhupesh Baghel and Ramesh Chennithala were also invited. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy joined the call at 9.30 p.m.

While names for most of the seats from Karnataka are said to have been cleared, a decision on four or five seats has been put on hold. A few seats from Telangana are also to be decided. For Chhattisgarh, the names of several senior leaders are said to have been cleared, including that of Mr. Baghel, Tamradhwaj Sahu, Jyotsna Mahant, and Shiv Dahariya.

Responding to queries from reporters on whether he would contest, Chhattisgarh-in-charge Sachin Pilot

said that the candidates would be decided according to the winnability criteria. "Whichever person is in a position to win the election, will be asked by the party to contest and the last call lies with the CEC," he said.

If Mr. Gandhi returns to contest the Wayanad seat, he will be facing senior Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Annie Raja.

The Left has been running a campaign to dissuade Mr. Gandhi from candidature in Wayanad, saying that it would send a confused message to the electorate, as Mr. Gandhi is leading the anti-BJP battle but would primarily contest against the CPI instead of a face-off with the BJP.

Odisha turncoats in a spot over possible BJP-BJD alliance

NEWS ANALYSIS

Satvasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

At a time when the announcement of a formal alliance between the BJP and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha appears imminent, leaders who switched sides to the saffron camp from the regional party find themselves in a tight spot. They fear being sidelined in the discussions over seat allocation for the elections.

Recently, four MLAs, all formerly associated with the BJD, and over 10 former MLAs, had joined the BJP, anticipating that the party would mount a serious challenge against the regional party. They harboured hopes of contesting the elections on BJP ticket.

Pradeep Panigrahi, the MLA representing Gopalpur in Ganjam district, was seen as a valuable acquisition for the BJP. Once a trusted ally of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, he held the responsibility of representing Mr. Patnaik in his Hinjili constituency. Mr. Panigrahi also served as the BJP's Ganjam president. Ganjam is the home district of the Chief Minister.

However, his standing within the BJD took a hit due to allegations of making false assurances regarding job opportunities. Mr. Panigrahi had, however, vehemently denied these charges, claiming that they were orchestrated by the ruling party to tarnish his reputation. He

In the negotiations over seats between the two parties, they might find themselves overlooked

later joined the BJP.

Similarly, Premanand Naik, a former Minister and legislator representing the BJD, faced public embarrassment in his Telkoi constituency when the party purportedly supported another leader. This led to his resignation from the party, after which he joined the BJP.

Prasant Jagdev, the MLA from the Chilika constituency, holds significant sway in three constituencies within Khordha district. However, his tenure with the BJD came to an halt after he was suspended for allegedly assaulting a Dalit BJP leader. Despite his reputation for employing strong-arm tactics, Mr. Jagdev's potential to challenge the ruling party in the election cannot be underestimated.

Arabinda Dhali, a six-time MLA, has been representing the Jayadev constituency for the BJD. He recently made a return to the BJP after a decade, possibly foreseeing being sidelined by the BJD during candidate selection.

Given the evolving situation, these leaders might not be as valuable to the BJP any more. In the negotiations over seat allocations, these leaders might find themselves being overlooked, thereby losing their opportunity to contest the elections.

Rahul announces jobs, other guarantees for youth

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR/AHMEDABAD

Reaching out to the young population of the country ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday announced five promises of the party, including recruitment to 30 lakh vacant government posts and apprenticeships.

He said the Congress would treat these promises as its guarantees if elected.

Accompanied by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Gandhi addressed a rally at Banswara



Poll promises: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a public rally at Zalod in Gujarat on Thursday. VIJAY SONEJI

in Rajasthan as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

Mr. Gandhi said the Congress would enact a law to curb the govern-

ment recruitment exam paper leaks, provide social security to gig workers by implementing a legislation nationally on the pattern of

the law passed by the Ashok Gehlot government, and create a ₹5,000-crore fund for start-ups.

He said since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP had failed to fill up 30 lakh vacancies, the first step of the Congress after coming to power would be making the appointments, which would benefit the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the minorities. "On the lines of the right to employment given by the UPA government through MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gua-

rantee Scheme), we are now going to give a legal right to apprenticeship to all the youth," he said.

The yatra later entered Dahod district in Gujarat, where Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders joined the Congress workers in welcoming Mr. Gandhi.

He questioned the Centre for "handing over natural resources to a few corporates" and on the "₹16 lakh crore corporate debt waiver". From ports to airports everything is being handed over to corporates while the youth are struggling for jobs, he said.

Cong. to take out Mahila Nyay Yatras

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To mark the International Women's Day on Friday, the All India Mahila Congress will take out Mahila Nyay Yatras across the country to highlight the plight of rape victims and their families.

Mahila Congress chief Alka Lamba asked President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to assure speedy justice to the rape victims.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-63/1001/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under one cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-III & above (Electrical) registered in KCEI, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works (1) Arranging Power Supply to Plot No.59C, 21 & 22 and Shifting of IOC feeder HT line passing over the various plots of Mahalbagayath Industrial Area, Vijayapura District. (Reserved for ST) (2) Reconditioning, Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Mulwada Industrial Area, Phase-I Vijayapura District. (others)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 27.03.2024 upto 04.00 pm.

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4164/Zen/2023-24 Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

TENDER NOTICE
Adv.No.102/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.442/SE-II/TTD/2023-24, Dt: 06.03.2024

Name of Work: 1) Construction of Yagasala for Sri Srinivasa Divyanugraha Homam at Alipiri, Amount Rs. 550 Lakhs. Time for Completion: 18 Months
Note : For full details log on to the website: <https://www.tirumala.org>.

ROC No. PR4/13963/Adv. No.394/ PRO/2024, Dated: 07.03.2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT
No.MD/ACCTS/NK/IB-08/2023/265
Date : 29/02/2024

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (TCN)
Name of the work : "Manning, Operation and Maintenance of Oil Spill Response (OSR) facility at South Oil Jetty including supply of required materials and working boat for a period of 05 (five) years".
Estimated Cost: Rs.6,19,57,100/- . Last Date & time of submission : 15:30 hours on dt.23/03/2024. Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid : 15:30 hours on dt.25/03/2024. For details, please log on to the Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/95/2023-24, Dt.06/03/2024

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E- TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Kasaragod

E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647585_1, PAC: Rs. 8,79,43,156/-, Last Date: 13.03.2024, 03.00 pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647983_1, PAC: Rs. 13,32,14,500/-, Last Date: 13.03.2024, 03.00 pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647389_1, PAC: Rs. 15,41,46,939/-, Last Date: 13.03.2024, 03.00 pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647859_1, PAC: Rs. 12,81,61,634/-, Last Date: 13.03.2024, 03.00 pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref: PR/MCI/E478/E-tender/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 312/SS(DI)-363/Spares Dated : 06.03.2024

Dy. CE/Substation (Design)/ TS Organization, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of Tubular Type Lead Acid DC Batteries of various ratings. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 11.03.2024 (11:00 AM onwards).

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

C-203/24 76155/12/2801/2023/33376

धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे
बांधकाम विभाग - ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.266, सन 2023-24

मा. (ऑनलाईन) धुळे हे खालील कामाकरिता ई निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे, धुळे महानगरपालिका, आयुक्त शासन सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग महाराष्ट्र यांचेकडील नोंदीकृत ठेकेदारांकडून कालोबांधी / संस्था / B1 पद्धतीने Percentage Rate नुसार निविदा द्याव्याची अटी आहेत.

क्र.	कामाचे नांव	अंदाजपत्रकीय रक्कम
1.	मौजे चलावाडी हद्दीतील आरक्षण क्र. ५० च्या जागेत भाजी मंडई व वाणिज्य संकुल बांधणे, ता. जि. धुळे	10,49,21,492/- (GST वाढून)

उपरोक्त निविदाबाबचा सविस्तर तपसिल <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या संकेतस्थळावर दि. 07-03-2024, सां. 17.05 वाजेपासून पहावयास मिळेल.

सही/-
जा.क्र./ धु म पा / पा पु / १०९२/2023-24 आयुक्त तथा प्रशासक
दिनांक : ७/३/२०२४ धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PIMPRI-411018
Tender Notice No. 09/2023-24

Selection of Service Provider for Supplying, Commissioning, Implementing & Maintaining of IT infrastructure for establishing network connectivity in the PCMC Offices

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) intends to appoint a Service Provider for Supplying, Commissioning, Implementing & Maintaining of Internet Leased Line (ILL) connectivity in the PCMC offices. The Successful Bidder will be selected based on the lowest fee payable by PCMC to the bidder after qualifying both the technical and financial criterion. More details about the bid submission procedure and the selection methodology are available in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

PCMC thereof invites bids from companies having experience as envisaged in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document. Interested bidders may download the RFP document from the website of PCMC i.e. www.mahatenders.gov.in from Dt. 11/03/2024, 10 am to Dt. 12/04/2024, 3.00 p.m. The queries regarding the RFP shall be submitted in writing (enclosed letter or email) within 3 days from the publishing of the RFP on PCMC's website. The Bidders shall pay Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) towards the purchase of the RFP documents through the e-tendering system of PCMC while submitting the Bid.

The bidders may contact Chief Information & Technology Officer, PCMC on telephone nos. +91 (20) 67331100, 67331120; Fax: +91 (20) 27425600 and email: egov@pcmcindia.gov.in for any further information/ clarifications.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Pimpri - 411018

Adv. No.: 621
No.IT/12/WS/68/2024
Date: 07/03/2024

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website:www.osmcl.nic.in; Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in

Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.1600/OSMCL/2024 Date : 06.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF RADIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	Bid Reference No: OSMCL/2023-24/RADIOTHERAPY_EOP/27	TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF RADIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	06/03/2024, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	13/03/2024, 11.30 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time : 21/03/2024, 3 PM End Date & Time : 10/04/2024, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	16/04/2024, 3 PM
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof of all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director, OSMCL
CAD-4500 OIPR-10112/11/0048/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, MAHANADI, BRAHMANI & BAITARANI SYSTEM, CHANDIKHOLE
E-mail ID : cembbschandikhole@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER-E-Procurement Notice No:CE&BM, MBBS 12 OF 2023-24

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line percentage rate tender through e-procurement in double cover system.

Table-1 : Details of Critical Dates, details of Work, Bid Security

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Improvement of Mouth of River Hansua Against the Sea Erosion & Flood in Rajnagar Block of Kendrapara District.	Protection to scoured bank on Kharasota Right near Ekmania, Nabpai & Daakhinadha
2.	Bid Identification No.	CE&BM, MBBS AUL 06 of 2023-24	CE&BM, MBBS AUL 07 of 2023-24
3.	Tender Cost	Rs.5045.61 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T)	Rs.1562.19 Lakh (Excluding G.S.T)
4.	Cost of Bid Document (Non-Refundable)	Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment)	Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment)
5.	Bid Security/EMD (Online)	Rs.50,45,700/-	Rs.15,62,200/-
6.	Class of Contractor	Super	A & Special
7.	Period of Completion	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months

Table-2 : e-Procurement Details

Procurement Officer	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Date of Seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		Place of Opening
	From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole	Dt.13.03.2024 up to 10.00 Hrs.	Dt.04.04.2024 up to 17.00 Hrs	Dt.13.03.2024 at 30.03.2024 at Office during office hours	Dt.05.04.2024 at 11.00 Hours	To be initiated after evaluation of Technical Bid	Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in
*Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
*The Corrigendum/ cancellation of tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, MBBS, Chandikhole
OIPR-32415/11/0016/2324

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA
4th T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 041,
Ph No.080-29601928

No.RGU/ENG/CON/ALL/COL/MYS/47/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka Invites tender for the work of Construction of Allied Health Sciences College at Mysuru. More details on the work are provided in <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> portal vide Tender No: RGUHSK/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT2

Tender document available for downloaded	07/03/2024
Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarification	20.03.2024, 12:30 Hrs
Date and Time for Pre-Bid Meeting	21.03.2024, 12:00 Hrs
Last date for receipt of Tender	15.04.2024, 17:30 Hrs
Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	17.04.2024, 11:30 Hrs

Place of Pre-Bid Meeting and Tender Opening: Office of the Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Jayanagara, Bengaluru

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

DIPR/4155/2023-24

IN BRIEF



Air India deboards woman passenger at Delhi airport

A woman business class passenger on an Air India flight to London was deboarded at the Delhi airport following an argument with cabin crew earlier this week. The incident happened on flight AI 161 on March 5 and the passenger involved was a senior corporate executive, according to sources. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said a passenger travelling in business class was deboarded on the advice of the captain before the scheduled pushback. "The passenger who was off boarded was travelling for some compelling reasons and was accommodated on a subsequent flight following a written assurance," the spokesperson said. PTI

Government raises MSP for raw jute by ₹285 for 2024-25

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has increased the minimum support price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2024-25 season by ₹285 to ₹5,335 a quintal. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told presspersons that the decision would ensure a return of 64.8% over the all-India weighted average cost of production. "In the last 10 years, the government has increased MSP for raw jute from ₹2,400 a quintal in 2014-15 to ₹5,335 a quintal in 2024-25, registering a growth of 122%," Mr. Goyal said. The decision is expected to help jute farmers in West Bengal, Bihar, and Assam. Mr. Goyal said the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as the nodal agency to undertake Price Support Operations. He said the JCI will procure jute if the market prices go below the MSP.

AI knowledge consortium formed by 12 organisations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Twelve research institutions and think tanks have joined forces to establish the Artificial Intelligence Knowledge Consortium (AIKC) in India, "dedicated to championing [a] multi-stakeholder approach to AI governance", the bodies announced on Thursday.

"As AI becomes an integral part of our daily lives, the AIKC recognises responsible business practices and comprehensive societal oversight are dual imperatives," the organisations said. The AIKC's secretariat will be housed at Koan Advisory, a private consultancy that advises foreign firms on entering the Indian market.

The launch was accompanied by a report titled "What Indian Parliamentarians Think of AI", which surveyed 37 MPs on the technology. "Nearly all MPs emphasised the importance of a human-centric approach to AI regulation, while 82% also stressed the centrality of innovation-centricity," Congress MP Manish Tewari said.

The members include Aapti Institute; Cyber Saathi; Communeeti; Esya Centre; Institute for Governance, Policies and Politics, and New Indian Consumer Initiative.

Centre to rope in ISRO to provide Internet in 80 remote tribal villages

This collaboration will see the government set up V-SAT stations for tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain

Abhinav Lakshman
Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Tribal Affairs Ministry is planning to collaborate with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to deploy V-SAT (very small aperture terminal) stations on a pilot basis for around 80 tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra to bring Internet services there, according to a proposal unveiled on Thursday at a Ministry event meant to brainstorm innovative projects for tribal development.

ISRO chief S. Somnath confirmed to *The Hindu* that they were going to collaborate with the Ministry on this project and that the two bodies would soon sign a memorandum of understanding to give pilot connectivity (services such as Internet, medical and educational connectivity) to these tribal-dominated villages.

This proposal was among the many that were tabled at Thursday's meet-



Union Minister Arjun Munda presiding over a meeting on projects for empowering tribal communities on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing, chaired by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, on innovative projects for empowering tribal communities.

Various projects

In addition to the collaboration with the ISRO, proposals for projects with other eminent institutes such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru

were discussed.

The collaboration with the ISRO will see the government set up V-SAT stations for these 80 villages that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain, challenges that have kept them out of reach of connectivity for the longest time.

Officials at the Tribal Affairs Ministry said the pilot project would be monitored so that it could be scaled up to other similar tribal villages in other States as well, adding that the goal was also to help

with e-governance in these remote areas. They added that the Ministry was in the process of identifying these 80 villages in these four States and soon the modalities of the project would be worked out.

Apart from this, the Ministry is partnering with the AIIMS to conduct advanced research on tribal health issues with special emphasis on sickle cell anemia and in organising training programmes for doctors and paramedical staff working in tribal areas. Plans are also on for setting up a Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chair of Tribal Health and Haematology at the AIIMS.

In addition, a proposal has been brought to set up a similar specialised department for appropriate technology and entrepreneurship in collaboration with the IIT, Delhi and the IIM, Kolkata.

One other proposal was also tabled to collaborate with the IISc for setting up a training facility which will offer courses on semiconductor to tribal students.

Pakistan PM thanks Modi for greetings after election

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his greetings on social media on Thursday, even as the two countries showed no signs of any thaw in ties at present.

"Thank you [PM Modi] for felicitations on my election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan," Mr. Sharif said in response to Mr. Modi's equally short message of "Congratulations to [PM Sharif] on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan."

Significantly, the messaging was welcomed by Washington on Wednesday, which said it would also welcome talks between the two countries. "The United States values its relationship with both India and Pakistan, and we want to see them have a productive and peaceful relationship," said U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller at a regular briefing. "We would welcome productive and peaceful talks between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope, and character of any dialogue is a matter for India and Pakistan to determine," he added when asked a specific question about talks on Jammu and Kashmir.

5th generation fighter jet project gets CCS approval

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the project for the design and development of India's fifth-generation fighter jet, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), to be undertaken by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, defence sources confirmed on Thursday. The AMCA is envisaged as a 25-tonne twin-engine stealth aircraft with an internal weapons bay and diverterless supersonic intake which has been developed in India for the first time.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., the production agency for the project, has initiated manufacturing activities.

Centre estimates dip in onion, potato production

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fruit and vegetable production in the country could touch 355.25 million tonnes (MT) in 2023-24, according to the first advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Thursday. The area of production will be 28.77 million hectares. The final estimates for 2022-23 stand at 355.48 MT in 28.44 million hectares.

The data for 2022-23 show a 2.39% (8.3 MT) increase in production over that of 2021-22. "An increase in area of 1.41%, or 0.40 million hectares, is observed in 2022-23 (final estimates) over 2021-22," the Ministry said.

Fruit production is esti-

India's horticulture production in 2023-24 largely steady at 355.25 million tonnes

mated to be 110.21 MT in 2022-23 (final estimates), mainly due to increases in production of apples, bananas, grapes, mangoes and watermelon. Production of vegetables has increased from 209.14 MT in 2021-22 to 212.55 MT in 2022-23.

In the first advance estimates for 2023-24, the production is estimated to be about 355.25 MT. "An increase in area of 1.15% or 3.27 lakh hectares is observed in 2023-24 (first estimate) over 2022-23 (final estimate)," the government said. "The production of

fruits is expected to reach 112.08 MT, mainly due to increases in production of banana, mandarin and mango. Production of vegetables is envisaged to be around 209.39 million tonnes. Increase is expected in production of cabbage, cauliflower, pumpkin, tapioca, tomato and other vegetables," it added.

While the production of tomatoes is expected to increase by 1.93% over the previous year's numbers, the production of onions is expected to be around 254.73 lakh tonne, much less than the 302.08 lakh tonne of last year.

Production of potatoes in 2023-24 is also expected to be lower at around 589.94 lakh tonne compared with around 601.42 lakh tonne last year.

INS Kolkata assists vessels hit in Gulf of Aden; rescues 21 crew members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian Naval destroyer *INS Kolkata* responded to two instances of missile/drone attacks on merchant vessels in the last few days. On Wednesday, the warship rescued 21 crew members, including one Indian, from Barbados-flagged bulk carrier *MV True Confidence* after it was hit in the Gulf of Aden and the crew was forced to abandon ship.

In another incident, on March 4, *INS Kolkata* responded to a request from *MSC Sky II*, a Liberian-flagged container vessel, which was hit around 7 p.m. approximately 90 nautical miles south-east of Aden.

"*MV True Confidence* was reportedly hit by a drone/missile, approxi-



Rescue mission: The rescued crew, including the critically injured personnel, were evacuated to Djibouti. AFP

mately 55 nm south-west of Aden, on March 6, resulting in a fire onboard and critical injuries to some of the crew members. *INS Kolkata*, deployed for maritime security operations, arrived at the scene of action at 4.45 p.m. and rescued 21 crew members, including one Indian

national," the Navy said on Thursday.

"Critical medical aid was provided to the injured crew by the ship's medical team. The rescued crew including the critically injured personnel were evacuated to Djibouti later on Wednesday."

On *MSC Sky II*, the Navy

said that following the attack, the master reported smoke and fire onboard in response to which *INS Kolkata* was diverted and arrived at the scene of the incident and the vessel was escorted to the territorial waters of Djibouti.

'All safe'

"In the early hours of March 5, a specialist fire-fighting team of 12 personnel from *INS Kolkata* embarked the vessel and provided assistance in extinguishing the residual fire/ smoke. Additionally, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team also embarked the vessel for residual risk assessment," the Navy said, adding the crew of 23 personnel, including 13 Indian nationals are safe and the vessel is proceeding to her next destination.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14117
(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

- Foot part used in marching (4)
- Oregon trip arranged for ancestor (10)
- Duck! Two-wheeler has lost one wheel! (6)
- State, "Little hunger" (8)
- What a dentist might give to a child who is yet to learn writing... (4,4)

Down

- Rep is confused by debt notes covering vehicle that is likely to fall (10)
- Well-meaning untruth that may be told while tie is knotted (5,3)
- In short, about academic paper predicting rarity of xenon, for starters (6)
- Therefore, note piece of furniture (4)
- Temporary worker delayed producing pattern (8)
- Get obi wound around hallus (3,3)
- Female model carries spectacles for Tootsie (4)
- Compels girl to hug a king before end of June (5)
- 36-inch ruler's standards of judgement? (10)
- Cadet mimed (5,3)
- Boy left flowers for workmen using explosives for demolition (8)
- Setter with violent bear goes around one peninsula in Europe (6)
- After leaving turbulent sea, saboteurs regrouped and became strong (6)
- A part of the foot kept in the elbow (4)
- Regressive frame of mind leads to destruction (4)

SUDOKU

					6	5		7
5	3							2
		4			5		9	
	1	7		8				6
		8	5		2	1		
2				1		8	3	
	2		4			7		
8							4	5
7		6	8					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

G	O	D	O	W	N	I	N	F	L	A	M	E	S
F	F	G	Y	O	R	A	U						
O	F	F	A	L	S	E	A	H	O	R	S	E	
R	E	E	T	L	P	S	P						
M	I	N	O	R	I	C	A						
A	I	D	G	O									
T	R	I	A	D	M	E	A	S	L	I	E	S	
P	U	G	L	I	S	T	S	C	A	L	P		
O													
W	A	S	A	L	I	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	
E	L	L	A	T	R	L	C	O					
R	E	A	L	I	G	N	E	D					
E	N	A	G	A	E	T	T	E					
D	O	G	I	N	T	H	E	M	A	N	G	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	8	4	6	9	7	2	5
6	9	4	7	5	2	3	8	1
2	7	5	1	8	3	9	4	6
5	8	7	9	1	4	2	6	3
4	6	1	2	3	8	5	9	7
9	3	2	6	7	5	8	1	4
1	5	6	8	2	7	4	3	9
8	4	3	5	9	6	1	7	2
7	2	9	3	4	1	6	5	8

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FAITH

Maha Sivaratri significance

The Hindu tradition has many festivals and each one is meant to propitiate a certain deity and further one's divine quest. Among all the auspicious occasions, the one occupying the pre eminent position is Maha Sivaratri, when devotees pray to Lord Parameshwara, to dispel the darkness of ignorance and usher in the light of gnanam, said Tiruvaidaimarudur Brahmasri Nidhiswara Shrowthigal in a discourse.

As per the Hindu calendar, a Sivaratri occurs every month. Among these, the most auspicious one is the Sivaratri falling in the Tamil month of Maasi during Krishna Paksham. This is the day when Parameshwara took the form of a blazing flame when Brahma and Vishnu defied each other to find the head and the feet of Lord Siva. The two Gods sported thus in order for mankind to realise the folly of egoism. Hence, this day is supremely auspicious for praying to Mahadev Parameshwara. Siva's form of a blaze symbolises the light of wisdom, emphasising that real riches lie in god consciousness.

There are four parts to vratam. Fasting, forsaking sleep, offering prayers and charity. On Maha Sivaratri, fasting, forsaking sleep and doing puja are important. One should start the day by offering of prayers and fast through the day and night.

IN BRIEF



Tata Motors to increase CV prices by up to 2% from April 1

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced it will increase the price of its commercial vehicles effective April 1 by up to 2%. "The price increase is to offset the residual impact of the past input costs. While the price increase will vary as per individual model and variant, it will be applicable across the entire range of commercial vehicles," the company said in a statement. Moody's had on Wednesday affirmed Tata Motors Ltd.'s Ba3 corporate family rating.

TVS Supply Chain Solutions adds warehousing capacity

TVS Supply Chain Solutions has added 6,50,000 sq.ft. of space to its modern, multi-client warehouse at Hosur. With this, the firm's total warehousing capacity in India has risen from 21.2 to 21.85 million sq.ft., creating 1,200 jobs. The expansion is in line with its customers growth needs, said the firm. "We have strategically positioned our Global Parts Distribution Centre in this new facility," said TVS Motor Company CEO K.N. Radhakrishnan.

FMCG to see subdued growth till September quarter: Kantar

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector will have a "subdued" growth till September quarter due to factors, including an uncertain outlook for the agricultural sector, according to a report from data, insights and consulting firm Kantar. The agricultural sector has uncertainty and the upcoming general elections would not raise the consumption of FMCG products, as per Kantar Worldpanel's FMCG pulse report. PTI

'After 3 years, steel demand to grow in single digits in 2024-25'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With imports from China and Vietnam rising since last October, India is likely to be a net finished-steel importer in 2023-24 after a gap of five years, and is likely to remain so in the coming year as well unless the external demand environment improves meaningfully, rating agency ICRA has said.



Local demand has been slowing over December and January, growing by just 6.5%.

Moreover, domestic steel consumption growth is expected to slide to 7%-8% after three years of double-digit growth, down from about 12%-13% this year, while higher input costs and soft steel prices will squeeze operating profit for margins for producers by 110-115 basis points

in 2024-25, according to a ICRA research note. Domestic demand has already been slowing over December and January, when it grew just 6.5%, after six months of about 16% growth. "While these are early

Cabinet approves ₹10,372 cr. AI corpus

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved a ₹10,371.92 crore corpus to fund Artificial Intelligence computing infrastructure and start-ups in the AI space. This corpus would provide viability gap funding, subsidise projects that may face steeper costs for setting up datacentres and other such facilities.



Piyush Goyal

It will also contribute to application development for government use. The corpus is the Centre's largest direct investment in AI, even as efforts to bring more semi-conductor fabrication, design and assembly facilities are underway. The corpus will be dis-

bursed through the India AI Mission launched last year. "In the Artificial Intelligence area, the progress and solutions from India will be strengthened," Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal said announcing the corpus. "Graphics Processor Units will be made in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode," Mr. Goyal added.

Inflation likely stayed over 5% in Feb. too: Bank of Baroda

A sharp uptick in prices was seen in potatoes, which rose 16.6%, tomatoes (30.3%), pulses such as chana dal or gram dal (15%) and urad (15.5%) compared with the February 2023 levels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Despite the pace of price rise in some food items like onions, potatoes and pulses hastening in February, overall retail inflation is likely to have stayed at about 5.1% in February, the same level as January, Bank of Baroda (BoB) economists said on Thursday.

Expensive essentials

Prices of half of the 20 items tracked by the bank's Essential Commodities Index (ECI) saw momentum building up in Feb.



Prices of about half of the 20 items tracked by the bank's Essential Commodities Index (ECI) saw some momentum building up last month with the index

rising 4.2% y-o-y compared with January's 3.8%. A sharp uptick in prices was seen in potatoes, which rose 16.6%, toma-

toes (30.3%), pulses like chana dal or gram dal (15%) and urad (15.5%) compared with February 2023 levels. On a sequential basis, prices

rose for 16 of the 20 commodities in the index, including onions, vegetables, rice, pulses, edible oils, and sugar, compared to their January prices. "For the first five days of March, the BoB ECI has inched up further by 5.5%, on a y-o-y basis," the bank's economist Dipanwita Mazumdar said. "We expect inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to settle at around 5.1% in February." If the recent, broad-based pressure in prices persist, the headline inflation may not get near RBI's 4% target level.

'JM Financial barred from debt mandates'

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred merchant banking firm JM Financial Ltd. from taking new mandates to act as lead manager for the public issue of debt securities "in order to protect the integrity of the securities market".



However, JM Financial can continue as lead manager for public issue of debt securities for 60 days for existing mandates, the markets regulator said. SEBI on Thursday pub-

Moody's pegs India's FY24 growth at 8%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said India's robust economic growth will continue and its real GDP growth will accelerate to around 8% in 2023-24 from 7% in 2022-23.

'Government capex and strong domestic consumption will underpin India's economic growth'

Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said real GDP growth is likely to be closer to 8% as NSO's current estimate of 5.9% GDP growth for Q4 of FY24 is likely to be overshoot. "Government capital expenditure and strong domestic consumption will underpin India's economic growth," said Moody's.

The global rating major's growth estimate for this year is higher than the 7.6% uptick projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in its second advance national income estimates released on February 29. On Wednesday, Reserve

Govt. panel backs higher carbon tax on coal imports

Reuters
SINGAPORE

A panel of officials from Indian Ministries has called for a bigger carbon tax on higher quality imported coal while cutting rates for domestic coal, in a bid to slash shipments of the polluting fuel, the Coal Ministry said on Thursday.

Coal is among India's top five commodity imports by value. Despite surging local output, mainly of low-quality coal with high ash content, it failed to cut back on imports and ranks as the world's second-largest importer. India's imports of thermal coal rose nearly 10% in 2023 to 176 million tonne.

'Auto sales rose 13% in Feb. on 2, 3 wheelers'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Indian auto retail segment grew 13% year-on-year (y-o-y) across vehicle categories led by two- and three-wheelers.



highlighting a shift towards e-rickshaws and a rise in first-time users, it added. PVs grew 12%, the highest February sales ever.

"2W, 3W, PV, tractors and CV sectors registered growth rates of 13%, 24%, 12%, 11% and 5% respectively," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) said in a statement. The 2W market growth of 13% y-o-y was notably driven by the rural sector, demand for premium models and strong performance of entry-level segments, FADA said. The 3W market saw a significant 24% -o-y increase, with EVs constituting 53% of this growth,

"Elevated inventory levels in the PV segment, at 50-55 days, pose a significant concern, necessitating OEMs to adjust production to reduce dealer carrying costs," it said. CV sector rose 5%, overcoming challenges such as cash flow issues, it added.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No.: 386/2023-24/KWA/PHC/TVAIRF-2, 370(A)/2023-24/KWA/PHC/TVA...
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakti Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040
No.: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-11/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
Tender on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakti Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040
No.: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-11/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
Improvements to road infrastructure works and other developments works in Ward 138 - Kaveripura, Ward 139- Mudalapalya, Ward 140- Maruthimandira at Maruthimandira Sub Division. **BBMP/2023-24/OW/WORK_IDENT2764 Call-2. Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00. EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.50.**
Calendar of events: (1) Tender document can be downloaded from the GOK e-procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. (2) Last date for uploading the filled proposals is **14.03.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.** (3) Date of opening of Technical proposals is **15.03.2024 after 4:30 p.m.** (4) Date of opening of Financial proposals: **after approval of Technical proposals.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP

KERALA MARITIME BOARD
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
Expression of Interest (EOI) for Operating Passenger Ships / Cruises / Vessels to connect Middle East / GCC with Kerala, leveraging the Port Infrastructure in Kerala, India
EOI Ref No: HOKMB-TVM/569/2023-B3, Date: 07-03-2024
The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) is soliciting Expressions of Interest from competent firms with expertise in operating Passenger Ships / Cruises / Vessels / Inland vessels or with relevant experience. The aim is to operate/facilitate passenger ships/ cruises / vessel services between Middle East/GCC with Kerala, utilizing the port infrastructures namely Vizhinjam/ Bepore/Kollam/ Azhikkal.
Interested operators/firms are invited to submit their proposals for operating Passenger Ships / Cruises / Vessels in one or more of the following categories 1. Mega/Large 2. Midsized 3. Small categories. The detailed Expression of Interest (EOI) document can be downloaded from our official website: www.kmb.kerala.gov.in from 07-03-2024.
Proposals must be submitted on or before 15:00 hrs. April 22, 2024, in both hard and soft copy.
Please send your queries to the address/email id:
Chief Executive Officer, Kerala Maritime Board (KMB), TC XXII/1666 (4&5), 1st Floor, Mulamootil Building, Pipinmoodu, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram-695010. Phone: +91 9544410029 Email ID: kmb.kerala@gmail.com
Sd/- CEO

MARKETS
MARKET WATCH
THURSDAY % CHANGE
Sensex 74,119 0.05
US Dollar 82.67 0.19
Gold 65,650 0.77
Brent oil 82.82 -0.50
NIFTY 50
PRICE CHANGE
Adani Enter 3226.55 -7.40
Adani Ports 1325.45 0.65
Apollo Hosp 6048.80 -5.50
Asian Paints 2870.55 43.25
Axis Bank 1111.45 -13.55
Bajaj Auto 8879.05 273.25
Bajaj Finserv 1582.80 28.20
Bajaj Finance 6421.05 109.80
Bharti Airtel 1199.70 6.00
BPCL 624.70 -13.65
Britannia Ind 4889.15 2.10
Cipla 1483.15 -8.40
Coal India 458.60 -3.00
Divis Lab 3601.60 56.95
Dr Reddys Lab 6324.15 9.50
Eicher Motors 3785.25 -9.95
Grasim Ind 2228.10 -8.40
HCL Tech 1637.65 -6.55
HDFC Bank 1446.10 3.50
HDFC Life 621.95 8.00
Hero MotoCorp 4652.90 17.60
Hindalco 536.70 9.75
Hind Unilever 2419.55 18.75
ICICI Bank 1087.95 9.15
Indusind Bank 1563.75 9.20
Infosys 1616.45 -1.10
ITC 413.55 5.70
JSW Steel 830.00 17.10
Kotak Bank 1748.05 -11.70
L&T 3676.95 34.75
LTIMindtree Ltd. 5122.70 -41.50
M&M 1897.55 -73.10
Maruti Suzuki 11510.05 -57.00
NestleIndia 2560.95 27.90
NTPC 352.20 0.25
ONGC 278.10 -2.15
PowerGrid Corp 292.65 -1.05
Reliance Ind 2957.85 -48.15
SBI Life 1510.40 -10.00
State Bank 788.05 4.15
Sun Pharma 1605.70 -1.70
TataConsumerPro- 1261.55 41.50
Tata Motors 1039.30 21.65
Tata Steel 157.25 5.65
TCS 4108.60 44.30
Tech Mahindra 1288.15 17.15
Titan 3786.90 -23.85
UltraTech Cement 9673.15 32.10
UPL 482.30 9.10
Wipro 515.50 2.35
EXCHANGE RATES
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 07
CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar 82.59 82.91
Euro 89.98 90.34
British Pound 105.33 105.74
Japanese Yen (100) 55.90 56.11
Chinese Yuan 11.47 11.52
Swiss Franc 93.88 94.25
Singapore Dollar 61.84 62.09
Canadian Dollar 61.18 61.42
Malaysian Ringitt 17.54 17.63
Australian Dollar 54.55 54.76
Source:Indian Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz., the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions.
"The MoU on establishing a framework for cooperation in the area of cross-border transactions in local currencies between India and Indonesia, aims at promoting the use of INR and IDR bilaterally," the RBI said in a statement.
The MoU covers all current-account transactions, permissible capital-account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries.
"This framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of an INR-IDR foreign exchange market. Use of local currencies would optimise costs and settlement time for transactions," the central bank added.
"The use of local currencies in bilateral transactions will eventually contribute to promoting trade between India and Indonesia as well as deepen financial integration," the Reserve Bank of India said in the statement.

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आर्यविज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
इलुवरतिल नगर, पुदुचेरी / Onwventari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
वेबसाइट / Website: www.jipmer.edu.in / फोन: 0413-2296022
No. JPADMM-IREC0312/2024 Dated: 08.03.2024
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Sl. No. Post Code Name of Posts JIPMER Campus Number of Posts & Reservation
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2. 092024 Child Psychologist Puducherry 1 (UR)
The format of the application, other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience, application fees, mode of examination/payment and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the above posts are available in the JIPMER website "<https://jipmer.edu.in/announcement/jobs/>"
The last date for receipt of filled-in application is **06.05.2024 till 4.30 P.M.**
DIRECTOR

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (ni-msme)
(An Organization of the Ministry of MSME, Govt of India) (ISO 9001:2015 Certified)
Yousufguda, Hyderabad-500045, Telangana State.
Ph.No.040-23633213, 040-23633209. E-mail: nismse-admn@nismse.org
NOTIFICATION FOR FILLING-UP OF POSTS
Advertisement No./ni-msme/Vacancies notification/2024/01 Date 06.03.2024
Sl. No. Name of the Post No. of Vacancies Method of Recruitment and Category Scale of Pay and Other Information
1 Director 3 Short Term Contract 7th CPC, Level-12 For further details regarding Eligibility, Age, Qualifications, Experience and Job Description please visit the official website of the organization www.nismse.org
2 Faculty Member 6 Short Term Contract 7th CPC, Level-11
3 Associate Faculty Member 2 Direct Recruitment 7th CPC, Level-10
4 Assistant Registrar 1 Direct Recruitment 7th CPC, Level-10
NB: a. Candidates fulfilling the Eligibility Criteria may submit Online application in the prescribed format. Age for eligibility will be calculated as on the last date of receipt of applications.
b. Duly filled in applications along with updated CV, scanned copies of Certificates (Qualification, Age, Experience and other relevant certificates) are to be uploaded on the ni-msme website.
c. The Last Date for receipt of online applications will be 23.03.2024.
d. Shortlisted candidates will be informed through their e-mail. Candidates should check the website notifications only.
e. The number of vacancies is subject to change and need based.
Sd/- Admin. & Accounts Officer

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संगम-अजमेर
क्रमांक: अमअ/अज/लक/एम्-2 (30ए) निविदा/बी-5764 दिनांक: 27.02.2024
NIB No.: PWD2324A4769
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-35/पौखजीएसआई-III, बैच-1/2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना-तृतीय (केच-प्रथम) वर्ष 2023-24 के अन्तर्गत सड़क चौड़ाकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण कार्य मय पांच साल की समतल के 01 पैकेज के लिए उम्मीदवार श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के भी, ए एवं ए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रथम में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाइन निविदाओं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://pmsysendersraj.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
निविदा की कुल लागत ₹. 1237.28 लाख
ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 28 फरवरी, 2024 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 10 मार्च, 2024, दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा करने की तारीख 10 मार्च, 2024, दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तारीख 10 मार्च, 2024, दोपहर 3:00 बजे
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट <http://pmsysendersraj.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
UBN No.- PWD2324WLOB20624
(बी के जैन)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संगम-अजमेर
मोबाईल नं.: 9414483061
DIPR/C/1906/2024

CANBERRA

Malaysia PM Anwar warns against attempts to block China's rise



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim warned on Thursday against attempts by other countries to block China's military and economic rise in the Asia-Pacific region. As the U.S. and China jostle for regional influence, Southeast Asian countries should defend the "sanctity" of international law and urge cooperation, he said. AFP

WASHINGTON

Sweden officially joins NATO after completing its accession process



Sweden on Thursday formally joined NATO as the 32nd member of the transatlantic military alliance, ending decades of neutrality as concerns about Russian aggression have spiked following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The White House said that having Sweden as a NATO ally "will make the U.S. and our allies even safer". AP

LAHORE

Pakistan gets first Sikh Provincial Minister in post-partition Punjab



Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, an influential minority leader, has been sworn in as Provincial Minister, making him the first Sikh to occupy a ministerial position in post-partition Punjab. Belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party, Mr. Arora has returned to the Assembly for the third term after winning the February 8 polls. PTI

MOSCOW

Russia's FSB says it shot dead a man planning an 'act of terrorism'



Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said on Thursday that it had shot dead a Belarusian man who had been planning "an act of terrorism" on behalf of Ukraine in the northern Russian region of Karelia, the RIA state news agency reported. The FSB said it had "seized weapons and an improvised explosive device". REUTERS

China calls conflict in Gaza 'a disgrace to civilisation'

Mediators in Egypt struggle to overcome tough obstacles in their attempts to negotiate a pause, while the United Nations has warned that famine looms for Palestinians trapped by the fighting

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

China described the war in Gaza as a "disgrace to civilisation" and called on Thursday for an immediate ceasefire as the conflict stretched into its sixth month despite efforts by mediators to reach a truce. U.S. President Joe Biden has urged Hamas to accept a ceasefire plan with Israel before the Muslim fasting month begins, which could be as early as Sunday, depending on the sighting of the crescent moon.

However, mediators in Egypt have struggled to overcome tough obstacles in their attempts to negotiate a pause, while the United Nations has warned that famine looms for Pal-



Sympathetic push: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks during a press conference in Beijing on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

estinians trapped by the fighting.

"It is a tragedy for humankind and a disgrace for civilisation that today, in the 21st century, this humanitarian disaster cannot be stopped," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a news conference in Beijing.

China, historically sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, has been calling for a ceasefire since the war began when Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7.

"The international community must act urgently, making an immediate ceasefire and the cessation of

hostilities an overriding priority, and ensuring humanitarian relief an urgent moral responsibility," Mr. Wang said.

The war has reduced vast stretches of Gaza to a wasteland of gutted buildings and rubble and sparked a humanitarian disaster for its 2.4 million people.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Wednesday that 20 people have died of malnutrition and dehydration, at least half of them children.

Only limited aid has reached Gaza's north, where the UN's World Food Programme has warned that hunger has reached "catastrophic levels" in northern Gaza, where aid has been limited.

Former President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa turns author, defends regime

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Two years after his dramatic ouster from office by a popular people's movement, Sri Lanka's former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has sought to defend his regime, by launching a book that attributes his political downfall to a "conspiracy" involving foreign and local parties.

Announcing his book *'The Conspiracy to oust me from the Presidency'* on Wednesday, Mr. Gotabaya said in a statement: "From the time I was elected President in November 2019, certain foreign and local parties were intent on removing me from power."

During Mr. Gotabaya's Presidency from November 2019 to July 2022, Sri Lanka experienced its worst economic crisis since Independence in 1948, as the country ran out of dollars for essential



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

imports, following a host of fiscal decisions taken by his government. Citizens spent days in long queues, struggling to access basic food items, cooking gas, and medicines, while grappling with prolonged power cuts in their homes. Holding his government responsible for their suffering, people from diverse backgrounds took to the streets in a historic protest across the island nation.

They relentlessly agitated with the demand "Gota go home", eventually forcing the besieged leader to

flee the country and subsequently resign in July 2022, less than three years since he was elected President.

Sri Lanka crisis

In a significant judgment last year, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court reiterated the position held by the citizens' movement, ruling that the Rajapaksa brothers — Mr. Gotabaya, Mahinda Rajapaksa, Basil Rajapaksa — along with top officials in their government, "demonstrably contributed" to the 2022 economic crisis and "violated public trust". However, taking no responsibility for the country's financial collapse, Mr. Gotabaya squarely blamed "conspiratorial forces" for his removal from office.

In a reference to the time he took the decision to resign while in Singapore, Mr. Gotabaya writes that he had, by then, decided Mr. Wickremesinghe

would be his successor, "because I saw him as the only person capable of restoring law and order in the country." On July 20, 2022, Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected President through an urgent parliamentary vote, in which the Rajapaksa party, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front) backed him. Mr. Gotabaya returned to Sri Lanka in September 2022. He lives in a state bungalow in Colombo with special security accorded to him by the Wickremesinghe administration.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan newspaper *Daily Mirror* reported that Mr. Basil, the SLPP's strategist, is scheduled to meet with President Wickremesinghe and former President Mr. Mahinda on Thursday evening to discuss a possible alliance for the presidential polls and general elections scheduled later this year.

Russia warns U.S. that it will expel diplomats

Reuters
MOSCOW

The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday it had summoned Lynne Tracy, the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow, to warn her it would expel U.S. diplomats it deems to be interfering in its internal affairs.

Moscow issued the warning ahead of a March 15-17 presidential election, which President Vladimir Putin, Russia's paramount leader for over 20 years, is certain to win but an unexpected development.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement it would look out for what it called "subversive actions and the spread of information" related to the election and what the Kremlin calls its special military operation in Ukraine.

It said such behaviour would be "firmly and resolutely suppressed, up to and including the expulsion as 'persona non grata' of United States Embassy staff involved in such actions". A U.S. Embassy spokesperson said they had no immediate comment.

200 people, mostly women and children, abducted by extremists in Nigeria: UN

Associated Press
ABUJA

At least 200 people, mostly women and children displaced by violence in northeastern Nigeria, were abducted by Islamic extremists while they were searching for firewood near the border with Chad, the United Nations office in Nigeria said late Wednesday.

The victims had left several displacement camps to look for firewood in Borno state's Gaboru Ngala

council area when they were ambushed and taken hostage, the UN said, in the latest attack in the conflict-ridden region where frequent abductions and killings limit movement.

"The exact number of people abducted remains unknown but is estimated at over 200 people," the UN humanitarian coordinator for Nigeria Mohamed Fall said in a statement about the attacks, which occurred several days ago but whose details are only emerging now because of

limited access to information in the area.

Local people blamed the attack on Islamic extremist rebels who launched an insurgency in Borno in 2009 seeking to establish their radical interpretation of Islamic law in the region.

At least 35,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million displaced due to the violence by the militant Boko Haram group and a breakaway faction backed by the Islamic State group.

Many of those fleeing the violence are in displacement camps like the ones in Gaboru Ngala where security is limited to areas near the camp, leaving them either to starve in the camps — amid dwindling aid — or risk their safety in search of food.

'Two Filipinos among dead in Houthi attack'

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

Two Filipino crew members were among those killed in a missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on a ship in the Gulf of Aden, the Philippine government said on Thursday.

The Iran-backed Houthi has been targeting merchant vessels transiting the vital Red Sea trade route for months but Wednesday's deaths were the first reported fatalities resulting from such an attack.

"The Department of Fo-

reign Affairs expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the two Filipino crew members of the civilian bulk carrier *True Confidence*, which was the subject of a missile attack from Houthi rebels in Yemen," the Ministry said.

The Indian Navy rescued 21 of the ship's crew, including 13 Filipinos, the statement added.

Houthi military spokesperson wrote on social media that the *True Confidence* was targeted "after the ship's crew rejected warning messages".

Sport

Manchester City rumbles past Copenhagen and into quarters

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Manchester City cruised into a seventh consecutive Champions League quarter-final as a much-changed side still put FC Copenhagen to the sword 3-1 on Wednesday to progress 6-2 on aggregate.

Goals from Manuel Akanji and Julian Alvarez killed the tie as a contest inside 10 minutes before Erling Haaland drilled in his 29th goal of the season.

That took Haaland's total to 41 Champions League goals, matching the tally of City's all-time leading goalscorer Sergio Aguero, but in just 37 appearances for



Early strike: Akanji fires in City's opener in the fifth minute against Copenhagen. AFP

three different clubs.

Guardiola's men are rounding ominously into form for those trying to dethrone them in England and in Europe.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid scraped through into the quarter-finals with a 1-1 second-leg draw against RB

Leipzig on Wednesday, progressing 2-1 on aggregate.

The results: Last 16, second leg: Manchester City 3 (Akanji 5, Alvarez 9, Haaland 45+3) bt FC Copenhagen 1 (Elyounoussi 29) (City wins 6-2 on aggregate); Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 65) drew with RB Leipzig 1 (Orban 68) (Real wins 2-1 on aggregate).

Services beats Mizoram, Goa stages stirring fightback

SANTOSH TROPHY

Amitabha Das Sharma
YUPIA (ARUNACHAL)

A 10-man Services held off a late resurgence from Mizoram for a narrow 2-1 win in the first semifinal of the 77th National Football Championships for the Santosh Trophy here on Thursday.

Rahul Ramakrishnan and substitute Bikash Thapa scored one apiece in either half to give Services a two-goal lead. Substitute Malsawmfela pulled one back for Mizoram in injury-time but failed to fetch the equaliser as Services successfully thwarted the late surge from the North-East powerhouse.

The win took the six-time champion Services to its 12th final in the long his-



On target: Thapa scores Services' second against Mizoram. RITU RAJ KONWAR

tory of the tournament.

Services controlled the proceedings from the very start and appeared more cohesive in its attacks and defensive organisation.

Services had a chance in the first quarter of the action, but Mizoram's defence countered the offensive that saw Vijay J. moving close to the goal.

Services finally got the break in the 21st minute when left-back Subham Rana moved up the flank to set up Ramakrishnan with a sharp cross. The latter controlled the ball well while shielding his marker and finished with a left-footed drive.

Services continued to hold strong after the break and doubled the lead in the 83rd minute when Bikash Thapa, a 74th minute substitute, pounced on a back-pass that the Mizoram goalkeeper F. Lalmuanawma failed to control and slotted home the insurance goal.

Malsawmfela then found the net from a free-kick three minutes into added time and almost found the equaliser in the last minute of play. But Shafeel P.P. saved the situation for

Services, clearing Malsawmfela's header from the line.

In the other semifinal, Goa staged a stirring comeback against Manipur to post a similar 2-1 win. The North East team thought it had the match in the bag after it held on to its lead following Ngangbam Pacha Singh's 18th minute strike.

But Necio Maristo Fernandes had other ideas. The midfielder's first drew Goa level in the sixth minute of added time in the second half to take the match into extra time before netting the winner in the 116th minute.

The result: Semifinal: Services 2 (Rahul Ramakrishnan 21, Bikash Thapa 83) bt Mizoram 1 (Malsawmfela 90+3); Manipur 1 (Ngangbam Pacha Singh 18) lost to Goa 2 (Necio Maristo Fernandes 90+6, 116).

WORLD-BEATER

'Kuldeep is in rich form and was too good for the England batters'



R.V. MOORTHY

England succumbed to the pressure of standing up to a world-class band of Indian spinners, felt former England spinner Graeme Swann. "India has got an absolute world-beater at the moment and he is bowling like a dream. England came up against Kuldeep who is in rich form at the moment and he was just too good for them."

FALLING FLAT

A disappointing day as we were hoping for a lot more: Trescothick



R.V. MOORTHY

England assistant coach Marcus Trescothick said the team expected to score a lot more than the 218 it managed on a flat track. "A disappointing day as we were hoping for a lot more after winning the toss. Kuldeep spun the ball hard, more than we've seen from anyone else so far," said Trescothick.

THE BUBBLY 16

Giants' Shabnam Shakil becomes the youngest player in WPL



SPORTSPICS/WPL

The 16-year-old Gujarat Giants pacer Shabnam Shakil became the youngest to play in the WPL, making her debut against RCB on Wednesday. "She has lots of energy and is always smiling during training. But she has got that bit of aggression and bowled really well... you wouldn't know it's her first game," said skipper Mooney.

THE PICK

I throw her in the deep end and she loves it: Mooney on Tanuja



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Gujarat Giants captain Beth Mooney hailed Tanuja Kanwar as the pick of Indian talent in the WPL. Tanuja has taken seven wickets in five games for Giants this season. "I throw her in the deep end and she loves it. Hopefully one day, we will see her in an India jersey," said Mooney.

Kuldeep sends England on a downward spiral

The left-arm wrist spinner's five-for triggers a collapse as the visitors lose seven wickets for 43; Ashwin finishes with a four-for; hosts end the day at 135 for one as Rohit and Jaiswal hit fifties



Spin masterclass: Kuldeep had the England batters in a web. R. V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
Zak Crawley b Kuldeep 79 (108b, 11x4, 1x6), Ben Duckett c Gill b Kuldeep 27 (58b, 4x4), Ollie Pope st. Jurel b Kuldeep 11 (24b), Joe Root lbw b Jadeja 26 (56b, 4x4), Jonny Bairstow c Jurel b Kuldeep 29 (18b, 2x4, 2x6), Ben Stokes lbw b Kuldeep 0 (6b), Ben Foakes b Ashwin 24 (42b, 3x4), Tom Hartley c Padikkal b Ashwin 6 (9b, 1x4), Mark Wood c Rohit b Ashwin 0 (2b), Shoaib Bashir (not out) 11 (22b, 2x4), James Anderson c Padikkal b Ashwin 0 (3b); Extras (b-2, lb-1, nb-2): 5; Total (in 57.4 overs): 218.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-64 (Duckett, 17.6 overs), 2-100 (Pope, 25.3), 3-137 (Crawley, 37.2), 4-175 (Bairstow, 43.4), 5-175 (Root, 44.2), 6-175 (Stokes, 45.4), 7-183 (Hartley, 49.2), 8-183 (Wood, 49.4), 9-218 (Foakes, 57.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 13-2-51-0, Siraj 8-1-24-0, Ashwin 11.4-1-51-4, Kuldeep 15-1-72-5, Jadeja 10-2-17-1.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal st. Foakes b Bashir 57 (58b, 5x4, 3x6), Rohit Sharma (batting) 52 (83b, 6x4, 2x6), Shubman Gill (batting) 26 (39b, 2x4, 2x6); Total (for one wkt in 30 overs): 135.

FALL OF WICKET
1-104 (Jaiswal, 20.4).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Anderson 4-1-4-0, Wood 3-0-21-0, Hartley 12-0-46-0, Bashir 11-2-64-1.

Toss: England.

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Rakesh Rao
DHARAMSHALA

When spin claims all 11 wickets on the opening day of a Test, it is not surprising to find the preparedness of the pitch under scrutiny. But the contrasting ways in which the two teams dealt with spin, soon put a lid on the simmering discussion.

After England opted to bat, Kuldeep Yadav and R. Ashwin took turns to claim nine wickets and Ravindra Jadeja made his presence felt by taking out Joe Root as England tumbled from 175 for three to 218.

The gains provided the spinners stood further enhanced after India raced to 135 for one at stumps. Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal posted their first century stand of the season in under 21 overs.

Soon after reaching his half century, Jaiswal gifted his wicket to Shoaib Bashir, the man whom he hoisted for three sixes in an over. All three Indian batters on view did not hold back their strokes. Rohit and Shubman Gill, too, hit two sixes each. The Indian innings has produced 13 boundaries and seven sixes in 30 overs and quickly moved within 83 runs of England's tally.

The batters did provide a 'feel-good' feeling at the end of a full day's play. But the hero of the day was Kuldeep, who made a spectacular return to the venue where he made his debut with four for 68 against Australia in March 2017.

After Ashwin was introduced in the 15th over and Kuldeep in the 18th, the left-arm wrist-spinner got his act right off the sixth ball. Welcomed with boundaries by Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, Kuldeep came back almost immediately by mixing drift and turn.

Duckett went after a googly from Kuldeep but his miscued shot ended up in a brilliant running catch by Gill, who ran back to dive in time to take it. Ollie Pope stepped out but misread the spin to be stumped at the stroke of lunch.

In the second session, England was cruising along and reached 137 when Crawley, after producing his best of 79 in this series, became Kuldeep's third victim. The ball turned and crashed into Crawley's stumps as the batter shaped to play defensively.

Though Root continued his form from Ranchi, Jonny Bairstow looked keen to enjoy his 100th Test outing. But his 18-ball 29, during which he reached 6000 Test runs, ended with Jurel producing a reflex catch off a faint edge. Root was trapped leg-before by Jadeja and danger-

man Ben Stokes surprisingly chose a back-foot on-drive to become Kuldeep's fifth scalp.

After three wickets fell in the space of 13 dot balls, England looked at Ben Foakes to rebuild with the tail-enders but did not reckon with Ashwin's strike-power.

The off-spinner removed Tom Hartley and Mark Wood in one over before tea, returned to pack off Foakes and James Anderson.

Learnt a lot from Ashwin and Jadeja, reveals Kuldeep



Support cast: Kuldeep, after his five-for, credited the support he received from senior partners Ashwin and Jadeja. R. V. MOORTHY

Rakesh Rao
DHARAMSHALA

After playing a pivotal role in restricting England to 218 by taking five for 72, Kuldeep Yadav was quick to acknowledge the contributions of seniors like R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja here.

Underplaying his efforts on the day, Kuldeep said, "I have been playing international cricket for seven years and I have played a lot with Ash and Jaddu bhai. In some series, there were not many opportunities (for me). I have learnt a lot from Ashwin and Jadeja. In Hyderabad, I had a long chat with Ash bhai and he told me the changes that I needed to make in terms of the mindset. He gives a lot of ideas and he's a special player."

Asked about him and Ashwin prompting each other to lead the team into the dressing room after England's innings, Kuldeep said, "I wanted him to lead the team since it was his 100th Test. But Ash Bhai reminded me that he had 35 balls (with which he took five or more wickets in a Test innings) and told me to keep this one and walk on."

Kuldeep once again underplayed his effort of becoming the fastest to get 50 Test wickets in terms of the deliveries bowled. "I don't think too much about records because they are meant to be broken. You are playing for India and you only want to put your skills to test. A lot of players don't get opportunities, so I am grateful and lucky to have played for the country. I always want to contribute to the team's success."

Earlier, England's assistant coach Marcus Trescothick admitted that his team did not put enough runs on the board. However, he did not miss the opportunity to sound rather brazen.

"We are a very unique side in how we go about things. I don't think we will study what India does too much. We don't get too down when we have bad days, we don't get too high when we have good days."

"You just have to stay level and recognise what you can do better. Hopefully, we come back and improve," he signed off.

'I think Test cricket is what life is, it will teach you to adapt'



Extra special: Ashwin's wife and daughters were in attendance as he received a cap to mark his 100th Test. R.V. MOORTHY

Press Trust of India
DHARAMSHALA

"Test cricket is the closest synergy that you can find to life."

R. Ashwin's voice trembled with emotion and pride during the gratitude-speech after receiving his special 100th Test cap from India head coach Rahul Dravid here on Thursday.

Ashwin did not restrict that landmark moment — which came during the fifth and final Test against England — to himself, but he championed the cause of Test cricket amidst money-spinning T20 leagues.

"IPL has been a hugely popular tournament; a lot of kids want to play T20 and get into the IPL. I really do wish that they get there. But remember one thing, this format (Test)... it is in a lot of things that life wouldn't teach you," Ashwin said.

"I think Test cricket is what life is. It is the closest synergy that you can find to life. It will teach you to adapt, dealing with pressures."

The 37-year-old Ashwin, who made his Test debut in 2011, also paid tribute to his father — Ravichandran — for believing in him and supporting his journey.

"It's quite an emotional moment. Not just not just for me. But today is a huge emotional moment for a man who is sitting back in

Chennai. Unfortunately, he couldn't make it here," Ashwin began before making a quick recollection of early days.

"The first day (as a kid), I still remember it very clearly, I would put my kit in front of the petrol tank, and then he would put me on the bike and take me to the coaching camp."

"A government employee (his dad) wanted to take his son all the way miles ahead in life, somewhere he imagined I would ever get. He got me here because of the help of my mom and, of course, my granddad," he added.

His wife Preeti has been a big pillar of support for him in periods of struggles. "My wife didn't know what she was getting into. She's gotten into it and she's standing next to me today. I have got two lovely kids who are also enjoying my journey over the last few years," Ashwin said.

After handing Ashwin the cap, Dravid said it was a well-deserved moment for the Tamil Nadu cricketer.

"You have given everything faithfully to the team and today is your 100th Test. It was a journey that started from the streets of Chennai. It's been a long and eventful journey. It wouldn't have been possible without your family. Congratulations to them as well."

Saika gets into the act after Sciver-Brunt revives MI

WPL SEASON 2

Lavanya L
NEW DELHI

"Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home."

One wouldn't blame the UP Warriorz for muttering this under its breath during the entire period of the chase, hoping for a miracle as the to-order wobbled again, this time pursuing 161 against Mumbai Indians at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Thursday. Alas, Grace Harris can only bail you out so many times, as UP Warriorz discovered in a deflating 42-run win.

Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat on a fresh central strip at the Kotla. Chamari

Athapaththu made early inroads, removing the openers with just 17 on the board. Rajeshwari Gayakwad cleaned up Nat Sciver-Brunt (45, 31b, 8x4) with a slightly faster delivery that kept low. Harmanpreet (33, 30b, 3x4, 1x6) had cautiously kept her company but soon lost her off-stump to a ripper from Saima Thakor, the latter's first WPL scalp.

Deepthi Sharma removed Amanjot Kaur before a quickfire 43-run stand between Amelia Kerr and S. Sajana helped MI reach 160.

Shabnim Ismail breathed fire, as expected, leaving Alyssa Healy and Kiran Navgire feeling claustrophobic at the crease. Saika Ishaque sent Kiran

back first, the batter not picking the line of the ball yet again. Hayley Matthews dismissed Athapaththu while Ismail bowled Healy to leave Warriorz reeling.

The desperation for a win that would open up the table weighed heavily on Harris' shoulders as she nervously played out 14 deliveries without scoring. She managed two massive sixes, one of which she opened her account with, but fell after a laboured 23-ball 15.

Deepthi the lone warrior Deepthi, who scored her maiden WPL fifty, smashed a six off the final ball of the innings, against the last-ball-six hero Sajana, but Warriorz' fate was sealed long before that.



Beaten all ends up: Kiran fails to read the line of a Saika delivery and pays the price. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Yastika Bhatia c Shweta b Athapaththu 9 (13b, 2x4), Hayley Matthews c Ecclestone b Athapaththu 4 (3b, 1x4), Nat Sciver-Brunt b Rajeshwari 45 (31b, 8x4), Harmanpreet Kaur b Saima 33 (30b, 3x4, 1x6), Amelia Kerr run out 39 (23b, 6x4), Amanjot Kaur c Saima b Deepthi 7 (6b), S. Sajana (not out) 22 (14b, 4x4); Extras (b-1): 1; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 160.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Matthews, 1.3 overs), 2-17 (Yastika, 3.4), 3-76 (Sciver-Brunt, 11.2), 4-104 (Harmanpreet, 14.1), 5-117 (Amanjot, 15.4), 6-160 (Kerr, 19.6).

WARRIORZ BOWLING
Harris 3-0-18-0, Athapaththu 4-0-27-2, Rajeshwari 3-0-34-1, Ecclestone 4-0-30-0, Deepthi 4-0-31-1, Saima 2-0-19-1.

UP WARRIORZ
Alyssa Healy b Ismail 3 (9b), Kiran Navgire b Saika 7 (8b, 1x6), Chamari Athapaththu c Sajana b Matthews 3 (5b), Grace Harris b Saika 15 (23b, 2x6), Deepthi Sharma (not out) 53 (36b, 6x4,

2x6), Shweta Sehrawat b Pooja 17 (15b, 2x4, 1x6), Poonam Khemnar b Sciver-Brunt 7 (10b, 1x4), Sophie Ecclestone c Sajana b Sciver-Brunt 0 (1b), Uma Chetry c Sajana b Saika 8 (10b, 1x4), Saima Thakor c Saika b Sajana 0 (1b), Rajeshwari Gayakwad (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 118.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Kiran, 1.5), 2-15 (Athapaththu, 3.3), 3-15 (Healy, 4.1), 4-41 (Harris, 9.2), 5-58 (Shweta, 12.2), 6-69 (Poonam, 14.3), 7-69 (Ecclestone, 14.4), 8-106 (Uma, 18.6), 9-107 (Saima, 19.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Ismail 4-0-6-1, Saika 4-0-27-3, Matthews 4-0-22-1, Pooja 2-0-8-1, Sciver-Brunt 2-0-14-2, Kerr 2-0-23-0, Amanjot 1-0-5-0, Sajana 1-0-12-1.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.
Player-of-the-Match: Nat Sciver-Brunt.
Mumbai Indians won by 42 runs.
Friday's match: Delhi Capitals vs. UP Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



International umpire Erasmus set to retire

South Africa's Marais Erasmus will retire from international umpiring after officiating in the second and final Test between New Zealand and Australia in Christchurch starting on Friday. The 60-year-old Erasmus, whose long career as an umpire began in 2006, on Thursday announced his decision.

Thunderbolts finish with a commanding win

Kolkata Thunderbolts concluded its campaign in the third season with a 15-12, 16-14, 15-11 victory over the Mumbai Meteors in the RuPay Prime Volleyball League in Chennai on Thursday.

National junior Federation Cup athletics from today

Madhya Pradesh's pole vaulter Dev Meena, Tamil Nadu's Abhinaya Rajarajan are among the stars who will be in action in the 22nd National Federation Cup junior under-20 athletics which begin in Lucknow on Saturday.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs England: 5th Test, day 2, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m.

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

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

Formula One: Saudi Arabian GP (Qualifying), F1 TV & F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 10.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

New Zealand vs Australia: 2nd Test, day 2, Prime Video, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Sindhu in last eight; Srikanth bows out

Playing her first BWF tour event since returning from a knee injury, the two-time Olympic medallist battles her way past Zhang

FRENCH OPEN

Press Trust of India
PARIS

India's P.V. Sindhu produced another impressive show as she rallied to a three-game win over USA's Beiwen Zhang to advance to the women's singles quarterfinals but it was curtains for K. Srikanth at the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Playing her first BWF tour event since returning from a knee injury, Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, battled her way from an opening-game reversal to outgun World No. 10 Zhang 13-21, 21-10, 21-14 to enter her first quarterfinal of the season.

Srikanth once again hit a roadblock, this time against Guang Zu to suffer yet another round-of-16 loss, something which will bother him as he held a 5-0 record against the Chinese ahead of the match.

The former World No. 1 lost 19-21, 21-12, 22-20 to the World No. 17 Chinese

In women's singles, Sindhu started the proceedings with a cross-court winner but Zhang put up a defensive wall, engaging the Indian in long rallies dominated by a series of high tosses and clears.

Sindhu struggled with the conditions as, going for the backline, the Indian committed too many unforced errors to allow Zhang lead 11-7 and 14-9.



Digging deep: Sindhu entered her first quarterfinal of the season. GETTY IMAGES

Zhang's lifts repeatedly found the lines, while Sindhu missed time and again. Soon the American re-established a five-point lead at 16-11 before grabbing eight game points. The Chinese converted when Sindhu sprayed into net again.

Zhang had good control over her shots as she led 3-0 with a couple of lovely drops in the second game. Sindhu managed to level things at 4-4 before pouncing on a weak return near the net to go 6-4 up.

Sindhu soon started dictating terms in the rallies to move to 9-5 with her steep returns troubling Zhang. The Indian held an 11-7 lead at the break. Sindhu opened an eight-point gap with an over-the-head smash which was followed by a cross hit.

The Indian moved to 11

game points with another precise return at the back and roared back into the contest when Zhang tossed one out.

Two smashes helped Zhang take a 4-2 lead in the decider but Sindhu made it 5-5 after winning a 34-shot rally.

Zhang's strokes were choppy as Sindhu moved to 8-5 before grabbing an 11-7 advantage.

Sindhu held on to the four-point lead at 17-13 with another over-the-head smash.

A drop shot gave Sindhu six match points and she sealed it when Zhang made a net error.

In women's doubles, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand beat Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto 16-21, 21-19, 21-17 in the first round.

Karthik to quit IPL after the current edition



Karthik.
FILE PHOTO: EMMANUEL YOGINI

Press Trust of India
DHARAMSHALA

India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik is all set to make his last IPL appearance in the 2024 edition beginning on March 22, and he will decide on his international retirement after the lucrative T20 league.

The 38-year-old, who is currently contracted with Royal Challengers Bangalore, has played in all the 16

editions of the IPL since 2008 and has only missed two matches across 16 seasons.

"This 2024 edition will be his (Dinesh Karthik's) last IPL. He will decide his international retirement after the IPL," a BCCI source said on the condition of anonymity.

One of the most experienced wicketkeeper-batters in the IPL, Karthik has represented six teams in the league.

Aussies out to spoil Williamson and Southee's 100th Test

AUSTRALIA IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Seamer Mitchell Starc said Australia's bowlers aim to ensure New Zealand world-class batsman Kane Williamson doesn't stay long at the crease on his 100th Test appearance.

Both Williamson and New Zealand Test captain Tim Southee will play their 100th Test. Starc says the Australians want Williamson removed quickly.

"During the game, (the aim is) to make it as short as possible," Starc told reporters on Wednesday when asked about Williamson's milestone. Anytime you can get one of the best batters in the world out is always a nice little touch. The sooner the better."

Williamson, who has chalked up nearly 9,000 Test runs, had a torrid time in the first game against Australia.

Starc said specialist spinner Lyon, who finished with ten wickets on the green wicket in Wellington, has a plan up his sleeve for Williamson.

"Nathan mentioned the other day he has worked something out, so we might just toss him the ball and let him go," Starc joked.

The Australian paid tribute to the two New Zealanders' lengthy careers.

"For Kane and Tim, it's a huge milestone this week," Starc added. "Especially for Tim - we all know how taxing it can be as a fast bowler on the body, so to play 100 Tests is a huge achievement. I'm sure they will both enjoy the week."

Kalyanpur enters the quarterfinals in Kish Island

Sports Bureau

Adil Kalyanpur defeated Fadi Bidan of Lebanon 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis in Kish Island on Thursday.

Adil also made the doubles quarterfinals with Ishaque Eqbal.

The results:
\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles, quarterfinals: Men: Petr Biryukov & Amr Elsayed (Egy) bt Ali Habib (GBR) & Madhwin Kamath 6-1, 6-4; **Women:** Jian Ibrahim & Sandra Samir (Egy) bt Mirjana Jovanovic (Srb) & Prathyusha Rachapudi 6-2 (retired).

\$15,000 ITF men, Kish Island: Pre-quarterfinals: Adil Kalyanpur bt Fadi Bidan (Lbn) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Gabriel Donev (Bul) bt Ishaque Eqbal 6-1, 6-0; **Doubles, pre-quarterfinals:** Ishaque Eqbal & Adil Kalyanpur bt Dragos Cazacu & Gheorghe Schinteie (Rou) 6-3, 6-0.

'Sad' Nadal withdraws from ATP Indian Wells comeback

TENNIS

Agence France-Presse
INDIAN WELLS

Rafael Nadal abandoned his planned ATP Tour comeback at the Indian Wells Masters on Wednesday, saying he was not ready for the demands of tournament tennis on the eve of his opening match in California.

The Spanish icon's bombshell decision came four days after the 37-year-old lost a Las Vegas exhibition to compatriot and World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz. Nadal missed almost all of the 2023 season with abdominal and other injuries and has played only the Brisbane International this



Wait continues: Nadal says he is not ready for the demands of tournament tennis. AP

season, where he suffered a flare-up of a hip injury.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion had been due to open at Indian Wells on Thursday against Canada's former Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic.

"It is with great sadness

that I have to withdraw from this amazing tournament at Indian Wells," Nadal said in a statement.

"I have been working hard ... but I don't find myself ready to play at the highest level at such an important event.

"It is not an easy decision, it's a tough one as a matter of fact but I can't lie to myself and lie to the thousands of fans.

"I will miss you all and I am sure the tournament will be a great success."

Nagal in main draw

Sumit Nagal has advanced to the main draw as a 'lucky loser' after Nadal withdrew from the event.

The 26-year-old Nagal had lost in the second round of the qualifying tournament but got the big break as he was the highest ranked player in that draw.

He is currently placed 101st in the ATP rankings and was entitled to go through in case of a last-minute main draw withdrawal.

ONGC dethrones Indian Oil for men's title

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Yuki Bhambri and Rithvik Bollipalli helped Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to a 2-1 victory over Indian Oil in the men's final of the 42nd PSPB inter-unit tennis at the DLTA Complex here on Thursday.

In a very entertaining match, Yuki and Rithvik beat Ramkumar Ramathanan and Chirag Duhan 6-2, 6-3 to win the decisive point.

Earlier, Ramkumar levelled the match by beating Rithvik in straight sets, after Karan Singh had set the tone for ONGC by cruising past Chirag Duhan in



Champions: The ONGC team of V.M. Ranjeet, Vishnu Vardhan, Rithvik Bollipalli, Yuki Bhambri and Karan Singh. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

straight sets.

Indian Oil had won the title in the last edition, but it was without the services of stars like Sumit Nagal and Rohan Bopanna this

time around.

The results (final):
Men: ONGC bt Indian Oil 2-1 (Karan Singh bt Chirag Duhan 6-2, 6-2; Rithvik Bollipalli lost to Ramkumar Ramanathan 2-6,

4-6; Yuki Bhambri & Rithvik bt Ramkumar & Chirag 6-2, 6-3).

Veterans: BPCL bt OIL 2-0 (Raj Kumar bt Hakim Ali 3-6, 6-3, 6-0; Monish Sharma bt Ashim Kumar 6-3, 6-0).

Gil scores the winner for Punjab FC

ISL-10

Sports Bureau
GUWAHATI

Punjab FC secured its fourth win in its last six matches of the Indian Super League (ISL) as it beat NorthEast United FC 1-0 on Thursday. A 63rd-minute spot-kick by Wilmar Jordan Gil ensured that the debutant moved to 20 points from 18 matches and was ninth in the standings.

The win kept the resurgent Punjab FC firmly in the race for the top-six. The team is just a point behind the sixth-placed Bengaluru FC, having played the same number of games.

SNAPSHOTS

Siddhant stars for Jindal Panther

Siddhant Sharma scored four goals to help Jindal Panther beat Achievers 6-5 in the last league match of the Sawai Man Singh Gold Vase polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Thursday.

The results (league): Jindal Panther 6 (Siddhant Sharma 4, Simran Shergill 2) bt Achievers 5 (Abhimanyu Pathak 4, Vishwarup Bajaj).

BAI announces cash incentives for players, support staff

Badminton Association of India announced a cash incentive of over ₹1.12 crore to the players and support staff for their success in major international tournaments.

The women's team that won the Badminton Asia Team Championship last month will get ₹35 lakh, 2022 Asian Games gold medallist men's doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are awarded ₹12 lakh, 2022 Asian Games men's singles bronze medallist H.S. Prannoy will receive ₹5 lakh while the men's team that bagged the 2022 Asian Games silver will collectively get ₹40 lakh.

Other awardees: BWF World Championships bronze medallist Ayush Shetty (₹ 1 lakh), Asia Junior U-15 boys singles champion Bornil Aakash Changmai (₹ 2 lakh), U-17 girls singles silver medallist Tanvi Sharma (₹ 1 lakh) and U-15 boys singles bronze medallist Jagsher Singh Khangurra (50,000).

Sanjeet goes down to Aibek Oralbay in round-of-64

BOXING

Sports Bureau

National champion Sanjeet (92kg) lost to 2022 Asian champion Aibek Oralbay of Kazakhstan 5-0 in a round-of-64 bout in the first World Olympic boxing qualifier at Busto Arsizio (Italy) late on Wednesday.

Nishant Dev (71kg) will face Olympian Eskerkhan Madiev, a Russia-born Georgian, in the round-of-32. Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), who received a first round bye, will begin his campaign against Jude Gallagher of Ireland on Friday.

Sahaja plays Dayeon in quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Fifth seed Sahaja Yamalappalli raced past wild card entrant Sonal Patil 6-2, 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of Maha Urja \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Nagpur on Thursday.

In the quarterfinals, Sahaja will play Dayeon Back of Korea.

The finalist of the last tournament in Gurugram, Yeonwoo Ku of Korea knocked out the top seed Irina Maria Bara of Romania in three sets to set up a quarterfinal against Ekaterina Yashina who beat Soha Sadiq for the loss of five games.

In doubles quarterfinals, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Vaidehi Chaudhari knocked out the second seeds Fanny Ostrlund and Ekaterina Yashina 6-2, 7-6(0).

The Indian pair will play

Yeonwoo Ku and Justina Mikulskyte in the semifinals.

The results:
Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Yeonwoo Ku (Kor) bt Irina Bara (Rou) 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; Ekaterina Yashina bt Soha Sadiq 6-4, 6-1; Rinon Okuwaki (Jpn) bt Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; Daria Kudashova bt Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) 7-6(5), 6-2; Sahaja Yamalappalli bt Sonal Patil 6-2, 6-1; Dayeon Back (Kor) bt Ayumi Koshishi (Jpn) 6-0, 6-1; Miriana Tona (Ita) bt Anastasia Zolotareva 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) bt Aiko Omae (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Irina Maria Bara (Rou) & Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) bt Thasaporn Naklo (Tha) & Akiko Omae (Jpn) 1-6, 6-4, [10-4]; Yasmine Mansouri (Fra) & Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Daria Kudashova & Anastasia Zolotareva 7-5, 6-1; Yeonwoo Ku (Kor) & Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Miriana Tona (Ita) & Sahaja Yamalappalli 6-3, 6-1; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Fanny Ostrlund (Swe) & Ekaterina Yashina 6-2, 7-6(0).

I am training hard and feeling good: Neeraj

ATHLETICS

ANI
KOLKATA

Indian world champion and Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra said that ahead of Paris Olympics to be held this year, he feels at the very top, preparation-wise, and his best is yet to come.

Neeraj, who is one of India's top medal prospects for the Paris Olympics 2024, where he will be defending his javelin throw title, was speaking on RevSportz Trailblazers Conclave 2.0 in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Joining through a video link from South Africa, Neeraj said he will be in the best shape for Paris 2024. "I am training hard and feeling good. I feel I am yet to perform to the best of my



Neeraj Chopra. GETTY IMAGES

abilities. I also get a feeling that this is the best prepared I have ever been. It will get better in the days to come.

"Competition will be tough. A young German has recently cleared 90m. And I will be defending my title. I enjoy this competition," said Neeraj.

Patience, perseverance and pace — the Umesh Yadav formula for success

After going down the national side's pecking order following an under-par outing in the WTC final against Australia, he has bounced back in the domestic circuit

Abhishek Saini
NAGPUR

The effort with which Umesh Yadav plied endlessly for a greater part of his Test career, hitting the deck and grunting on release, on tracks that left the likes of R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja rubbing their hands, remains.

Among the fabled battery of fast bowlers, which was India's self-discovery of its pace trove under Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami made the ball talk at will, Ishant Sharma had his freakishly-high release point to exploit blended with reverse-swing, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar broke the batter down with his unerring consistency and natural swing.

Umesh could swing the ball away from the right-hander and wielded a bit of reverse swing too, but was not nearly as menacing as the names above. All he had to call for inclusion into the coveted club was effort. That was enough.

"You cannot escape that. You can be called in to bowl 20 overs in a day, at times even more if you are bowling well. So, the more you bowl, your body gets more used to it," Umesh says.

He emerged from Vidarbha with the promise of being one of India's quickest quicks, yet the trials of international cricket made for a rough entry onto the big stage. While his Test debut against the West Indies at home was largely impressive, India really turned to him for the Australian tour of 2011/12. With a panache for searing back-of-a-length deliveries spitting onto the batter, Umesh was tailor-made for conditions down under.

In four matches in the series, Umesh scalped 14 wickets at an average of nearly 40. The record does not look brighter through his later tours of Australia. In 10 Tests overall, Umesh picked up 31 wickets at 44.22. Through his 57-match Test career, Umesh has played just one match in South Africa. Bizarre for a talent poised to be India's fastest.

Yet for the same bowler, to come back and average 25.22 on home soil, conditions where the tweakers rule the roost, warrants a scratch of the head at first. On deeper inspection, it is a testament to Umesh's ability to wait for his turn, remould, and work in tandem with his partners.

"You know if the bowler from one end is not giving runs, the one from the other end is well placed to pounce on that. You have to stick to bowling well together to create those chances. It's just like a batting partnership.

"I am happy that if not me, my teammate is getting wickets. As a team, that is more important. At times, it will be the spinners, and at times the pacers. All you can do is stick to the length and keep the batters under pressure," Umesh says.

Somewhere between persisting with hard lengths, tirelessly banging the ball into the surface, and learning to hold one end, Umesh carved a niche in India's pace unit. While it may not have elevated him to poster-boy status, a luxury well-earned by a Bumrah or a Shami, Umesh quietly helped himself to a career haul of 170 odd wickets.

As he goes through another trough in his career, Umesh is back where it all started for him, Vidarbha, falling back on the same effort that held him for long.



GETTY IMAGES

Umesh has not been in the scheme of things following a poor outing in the World Test Championship final against Australia last year. Chosen over Ashwin in the favourable England conditions, Umesh returned just two wickets in the match.

But his 27 wickets in seven games in the Ranji Trophy this season have been a case worth at least a pondering if not a nod. "See I can not say when or how I will come back. That is purely up to the management and the selectors in terms of what they're looking for and what they expect from which player. It depends on

them," Umesh says. At 36, sticking to convention might call for the doors to be closed on a fast bowler. Umesh stimulates a second consideration even here. In the semifinal against Madhya Pradesh, Umesh bowled extended spells lasting as many as eight overs.

"What clicks for me, is my body. I know the more I bowl, the fitter I will stay. My body is fit, I played seven games this season, it's for everyone to see. I definitely feel I have the ability," Umesh says.

Casting an influence with his trademark hit-the-deck deliveries, Umesh

has been a central piece as Vidarbha sits one step away from its third Ranji Trophy crown.

"Our batting and bowling units have stepped up when needed. We're clicking as a unit. The confidence and morale are quite high in our camp heading into the final. So, we are 100 percent sure we will do well," Umesh says.

The few who attended the semifinal at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur were loud enough with their chants of "Umesh, Umesh". For once, the local boy used to slipping under the radar was brought front and centre, and for good measure.

THE GIST

▼ Umesh, who was preferred to Ashwin in favourable conditions in England, took just two wickets in the WTC final against Australia

▼ The speedster has turned it around in this year's Ranji, scalping 27 wickets and guiding Vidarbha to the final

▼ In the semifinal against Madhya Pradesh, he bowled extended spells lasting as many as eight overs

Lee — from a versatile player to Torpedoes' guide and game-changer

Tarun Shastry

David Lee's illustrious career can be summed up in one phrase: *Veni, Vidi, Vici* (I came, I saw, I conquered).

The 'Vici' came when the American volleyball team won the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics back in 2008. He followed it up with a bronze at the Rio Olympics in 2016.

A versatile player, he excelled at multiple positions — be it as a middle-blocker, opposite-hitter, outside-hitter, or even server — making him an invaluable asset to any team he represented across the globe in various leagues and tournaments.

That versatility was evident in his squad Bengaluru Torpedoes in the third season of the Prime Volleyball League, where he is the head coach.

"Torpedoes' Srajan Shetty said: "He [Lee] has changed my game and my life as well. I started as a substitute and was a very average player. Though I did not have experience, he

felt I had the skill and gave me a chance, since he liked the way I played.

"My game was plodding initially. In India, if someone is a middle-blocker he'll concentrate only on blocking; if someone is an attacker, he'll focus only on that. But, Lee turned me into a libero, attacker, middle-blocker and made me serve as well. He ensured I learned everything."

Speaking about Srajan, Lee said, "He is the future. He is young and has so much potential. He watches the game closely and makes good decisions while blocking. He is fast in attack. These are two important things to be a successful middle. I want him to be a complete player. His serve is good, but he needs to improve on his consistency. As long as he is focused and remains a student of the game, he will be the guy to watch out for."

This is Lee's second season as the Torpedoes' coach. In his first, he led the team to the final, but



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

unfortunately ended as runner-up. "This season has been much easier than the first, where I made a lot of mistakes. However, after gaining experience, this time it has been much less stressful for me. I know

the players well as we have retained the same squad. Our goal is to improve every year. Our players on the court are getting better, especially Sethu (T.R.) His serve is phenomenal, and he is a

game-changer."

Sethu displayed exceptional skills in the game against Calicut Heroes, keeping the opponent on its toes with his aggressive serves throughout the match. He single-handedly carried the team with his player-of-the-match performance. Speaking about Lee's impact, Sethu said, "Right from the start, the coach instructed me to be aggressive. He is extremely professional and is an Olympic gold medallist. He has a well-planned system in place. I have no words to explain the changes he has brought to game."

The Olympian was effusive in his praise for the youngster. He said, "Sethu is a game-changer. If there is an award, he should get it every single game. His serve can get us out of the deficit or even put us in the lead.

"He literally changes the game with his aggressive serve. Even in today's game, we didn't see a lot of attack from Tom, Pankaj, and the middle-blockers. But, Sethu stepped

up and carried the team. He is the best, and just getting better and better. He plays good defence, passes the ball well, and will be the best server in the league, for sure."

Managing a group of young men from diverse cultural and social backgrounds requires exceptional leadership skills. Lee is adept at that and understands his players well. It was evident in the team's performance during the league.

"These boys are talented. They are very receptive to listening and learning. This gives me a great experience as their coach. That's why I enjoy having such a young team, which is not overconfident. They know they are the underdogs in the league and want to prove themselves."

Lee has definitely made the team stronger with his tactics and strategy. With a top-class performance, Torpedoes is now in the third spot with 10 points from seven outings. It would now aim to finish on top of the table and gear up for the Super Fives.

For India's homeless women, TB care is shaped by gender norms and economic precarity

Today is International Women's Day, and many homeless women in India are facing the most terrible predicament — managing the economic and clinical challenges of TB while they struggle to get by without a roof over their heads or anyone they could call on to support them in a trying time

Saumya Kalia

There are two explanations for how Reshma (name changed) died. In one, she is a disease statistic. A 30-year-old new mother, living on the pavement in Jaipur, died from contracting tuberculosis. The bacteria settled in her lungs, immunity weakened, medicines failed.

The other story is not as linear or logical. Reshma's family cast her out when the diagnosis came belatedly. She fought disease and destitution on the streets, between the stifling summer sun and crisp cold at night. The absence of proper treatment, and minimal food, however, allowed the TB pathogen to evade her immune defence.

Reshma's story — as a woman and as a person without shelter — isn't singular. A new study, supported by the Dr. Amit Sengupta Fellowship on Health Rights (ASFHR), captures the gendered lens of a clinical disease and challenges rigid mortality numbers. In addition to economic precarity, patriarchal norms decided if Reshma's cough was accurately diagnosed, when she reached a health facility, how often she followed the six-month drug regimen, and if she would go on to develop drug-resistant TB infections. Experts suggest that stigma and isolation further wrinkle women's access to care in a system that becomes hostile to people lacking institutional agency or autonomy.

The data gap

The recent survey illustrated how this cycle of inequity plays out, documenting 17 cases of homeless people living with TB in Jaipur. Overcrowded and unsanitary conditions accelerated TB transmission; malnutrition and weak immunity further increased their risk of contracting TB. HIV coinfection, alcoholism, smoking and tobacco chewing also worsened their TB infection. Lack of shelter further complicated access to healthcare — homeless people were less likely to receive a timely diagnosis and treatment, and in turn, more likely to develop drug-resistant strains of the disease.

The study found a pronounced impact on women like Reshma, who feel unseen by both the community and the medical system. India in 2022 accounted for the world's highest cases of tuberculosis, per this year's World Health Organisation Global Tuberculosis Report. Local estimates show the overall occurrence of TB among the homeless population was around 85 cases per 1,000 population. Within them, the prevalence of TB among homeless females was 1.5 times higher than homeless males.

Anupama Srinivasan, Assistant Director of REACH, explains that women's experiences often play out in a blind spot. "We do not as yet know enough about the specific experiences of homeless persons with TB... Homeless women are one step beyond that."

In larger national surveys, more men



Bureaucratic hurdles make it difficult for women to access TB care. AP

are notified than women, driving the perception that TB is a 'male disease', says Ms. Srinivasan. However, "it's not just the numbers we need to focus on; it's the experience of healthcare itself." TB is a disease of inequity, she explains, where women's health-seeking behaviours and adherence to treatments depend vastly on the social support available to them.

Access to nutrition, finance

India's *Nikshay Poshan Yojana* (NKY), integrated in 2018 in the national TB programme, promises a monthly cash incentive of ₹500 through direct benefit transfers (DBT). India launched another nutritional support programme in 2022, *Nikshay Mitra*, which offers food baskets worth ₹700. Under this, patients can register on a web-based portal to access information or connect with doctors. Experts, however, suggest homeless women struggle to navigate this map of TB care. In this map, an insistence on ID cards and bank accounts creates barricades.

Most women without shelter lack documents to show identity proofs, do not have bank accounts and are disconnected from digitised services, says Dr. Sugata Mukhopadhyay of NGO Humana India. Since a majority of homeless people migrate from neighbouring states, "illiteracy rate is very high, and more so for women" who end up working as contractual labour living in shacks. Because they lack permanent accommodation, and by extension, identity proof, they struggle to access nutrition services, he suggests.

When and if women have individual accounts, patriarchal norms compromise the autonomy women exercise over their earnings, studies show. In Delhi, NGO Humana observed that behavioural habits



Homelessness and social stigma contributed to her isolation, mental struggle and marginalisation

associated with poverty, like alcoholism, meant husbands used the woman's money for alcohol or drugs.

In other cases, the money given to the women was used for buying food for the entire family, "not giving special focus to supplementing the nutritional requirements of the women", says Mr. Mukhopadhyay. Food is critical in TB care: at least 55% of new TB cases annually in India are due to poor nutrition, Health Ministry sources said in 2019. Conversely, regular nutritional support, to the individual and the family, could lead to a 39-48% reduction in TB disease, according to the landmark RATIONS trial published in *The Lancet* recently

Reaching the point of diagnosis, care

Diagnosing TB is challenging for multiple reasons, one being its vague early symptoms. Recurring cough, fever or a low appetite — early signs of the disease — are often quotidian realities for people living in poverty or without access to good nutrition. And for a woman living on the street, who has no family, the 'odds are very high' that she may not reach the point of diagnosis, experts suggest. Moreover, from the day one starts coughing to the day TB is confirmed, the journey is longer, delayed and more arduous for women in comparison to men, a 2018 report showed. A 2023 study in *PLOS One* showed one-third of TB cases in India go undiagnosed each year, a gap

that is "more pronounced among female patients". Women may also delay seeking help due to a lack of awareness and stigma associated with the disease.

A TB diagnosis is also prolonged, rarely promising an instant answer. Suspected patients are required to give a sputum sample (a mixture of saliva and mucus from the respiratory tract) and/or undertake an X-ray. Without counselling and privacy, women may feel 'inhibited' and 'shy' in bringing out sputum, thus affecting the quality of the sample and results. Experts have flagged the efficacy of sputum microscopy in detecting extrapulmonary TB (an infection which affects organs other than the lungs), which is more common among women. The prolonged process and repeated visits may also seem unnecessary to women who may interpret their cough as a consequence of, say, living on Jaipur's polluted roads.

Since 2017, the National Tuberculosis Programme has undertaken active case finding (ACF) outside the healthcare settings among high-risk populations. However, the first report on the strength of active case finding revealed the quality of this process was "sub-optimal nationally": at the national level, 9.3% of the population were screened, just 1% of the screened were tested and 3.7% of the tested were diagnosed.

The process becomes a punishment, going back more than once for diagnosis, and multiple times for medicines during the six-month-long regimen. Until COVID-19, most centres gave medicines for a week, a way to get people to come back and monitor adherence and side effects. Women already face mobility and financial challenges; for someone living on the streets, moving around a city, the odds they can always return to the same dispensary to collect medicines are low. The Humana survey also found treatment literacy and counselling quality for homeless women is lower in comparison to other groups — they were likely to drop off medications once they started feeling better. Shortage of anti-TB drugs would further deter homeless women from returning.

Building ecosystems of care

The study recommends recognising homelessness and gender in the TB Mukht Bharat programme, legally weaving their rights to health care under Union and State government schemes. If a TB patient requires X amount of effort in terms of counselling and tracking, a homeless TB patient would require 2X, and a homeless woman TB patient would require 4X. A strange mathematical equation, but it boils down to this: "Are we willing to invest that time and energy?"

(This story is part of the Dr. Amit Sengupta Fellowship on Health Rights. The survey was conducted by Hemant Mohanpuriya in 2021, during the COVID-19 lockdown. The author may be reached at saumya.k@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

In addition to economic precarity, patriarchal norms decide if symptoms are accurately diagnosed and how often the patient follows the six-month drug regimen

India in 2022 accounted for the world's highest cases of tuberculosis. The overall occurrence of TB among the homeless was around 85 per 1,000 population. Within them, prevalence among homeless females was 1.5 times higher than homeless males

Money given to women is often used to buy food for the entire family. Food is critical in TB care: at least 55% of new TB cases annually in India are due to poor nutrition

The unmasking: how make up and skin care products impact children

Monisha Madhumitha

"She runs straight to the skin care aisle now instead of the snacks or toys section when we visit a mall. She's just 12 and looks for "anti-ageing" labelling on creams", says a concerned mother about her daughter. On social media, you will encounter a lot of content on skincare, skincare routine for children and teens, routine for glowing skin, skin whitening regimes... But what is the actual risk that children bear? Do these products cause more harm to children than they do to adults? Will exposure to make up early have a long lasting impact on children? These are some of the questions that will have to be answered before any regulation is contemplated.

For instance, in a survey done in the U.S., researchers discovered that up to 70% of children had used Children's Makeup and Body Products. The results of the survey were published in a paper 'Usage of Children's Makeup and Body Products in the United States and Implications for Childhood Environmental Exposures', in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, last year. The auth-

ors Eleanor Medley et al noted that children are particularly vulnerable to adverse health risks associated with makeup and body products. Behavioural patterns such as hand-to-mouth activity may increase exposure to products through ingestion. Additionally, children's small body size, rapid growth rate, developing tissues and organs, and immature immune systems make them biologically susceptible to toxicants

The recent uptick in skincare product usage among children is likely a development driven by a complex interplay of marketing, social media influence, and changing societal norms. A child's skin is thinner, more delicate, and the natural moisturising factor and skin lipid production are reduced compared with adult skin, making it more susceptible to irritation and the effects of UV radiation. Additionally, the skin barrier in children is not as fully developed, which can lead to increased sensitivity to irritants and allergens. This fundamental difference necessitates a gentler approach to skincare for children. If at all it must be used, the focus should be on mild products designed to protect and maintain their skin's natural balance.



Dermatologists suggest prioritising gentle care, hydration, and protection from environmental factors. AI GENERATED IMAGE

Regulation is critical

Ramesh Bhat, senior dermatologist and research head at Father Muller Medical College in Mangalore, is deeply concerned by unsupervised use of cosmeceuticals by children and adolescents. "There is a craze among teens to use skin lightening creams which contain steroids and hydroquinone, (Schedule H drugs) and peeling agents. These substances can cause severe irritant reactions and profound damage to the sensitive skin of children." Dr. Bhat emphasises regulatory measures: "Due to the efforts of the Indian Association of Derma-

tologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL), over-the-counter sales of fairness creams containing steroids has been restricted since 2018. Similarly, regulation to protect children from skincare products that are inappropriate for their age is crucial."

Sahana Srinivas, consultant pediatric dermatologist at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bangalore, warns against the misdirected concerns of parents influenced by social media. "Often, parents of children as young as 10 or 12 years ask us for skincare routines, concerned about tanning

and believing they need sunscreen or vitamin C for their children," she says. "Tanning is a protective response to UV rays. In our tropical climate, the pursuit of fairness, especially for children, should not be a priority."

Dr. Bhat warns against assumptions that could lead to inadvertent harm, for instance that anything labelled herbal is safe to use. "The belief that 'natural' means 'safe' is particularly dangerous in the context of skincare for children," he cautions. "Natural ingredients can still cause skin irritation and sensitivity to sunlight. Parents must carefully evaluate these products, always in consultation with dermatologists, to ensure they are truly safe for their children. The promotions for such products claim the benefits of "natural" or "herbal" products without scientific backing, misleading viewers about their efficacy and safety, but it is important for parents to check if the product is safe first."

Flawed standard

There is a deep psychological angle to this as well. As long as a flawless, blemish-free complexion is held up as the ideal standard, children will aspire to it. It

imposes unrealistic expectations on the young, influencing their self-esteem and body image. While some brands are conscious of this bias and try to make amends, by and large, the industry remains idealistic and exacting, holding up appearances over all else.

The growth of the children's cosmetics market, expected to reach approximately \$1.80 billion by 2030, reflects the effectiveness of these strategies. However, the ethical implications of targeting young consumers, who may not fully understand the long-term effects of these products on their skin and self-esteem, warrant scrutiny. Amid the influx of information and products, parents find themselves in a challenging position.

As parents navigate the skincare maze for their children, the key is to prioritise safety, simplicity, and skin health. Dr. Srinivas advocates a return to basics when it comes to children's skincare. "I always emphasise the importance of a healthy diet, cleansing, and a

good moisturiser used two to three times a day. Most importantly, a positive attitude is the best skincare routine," she advises. For child performers, skincare is a functional necessity to counteract the effects of heavy stage makeup. Dr. Srinivas recommends a gentle cleanser to thoroughly remove makeup and fragrance-free moisturisers to rehydrate the skin. The goal is to protect the integrity of their young skin, preventing immediate irritation and long-term damage.

By prioritising gentle care, hydration, and protection from environmental factors, dermatologists suggest that it is possible to support the skin's functions from a young age, fostering a healthy relationship with skincare that values function over appearance.

(Dr. Monisha Madhumitha is a dermatologist passionate about exploring the ethical dimensions of medicine and combating misinformation. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com)

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