



# YUVA NYAY GUARANTEE

Congress guarantees to ensure the rights of 5 crore youth of the country within the first year itself.



**Bharti Bharosa:** **30,00,000** government jobs will be filled.



## Pehli Naukri Pakki:

Guaranteed one-year apprenticeship to every diploma holder or college graduate below the age of 25. Over 1 crore apprentices will get **₹1,00,000** a year.



## Paper Leak se Mukti:

Compensation for the paper leaks that have occurred so far and will secure the future of 2.5 crore youths every year by enacting strict laws against it.



## Gig Economy mein Samajik Suraksha:

Legislation to ensure better working conditions and social security for 1.2 crore gig workers.



## Yuva Roshni:

Creating a ₹5,000 crore corpus for startup fund, with allotments spread across all districts of the country. Youth below the age of 40 years can avail startup funding for their business.



# HAATH BADLEGA HALAAT



**DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

DTL intends to invite onlinetender for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 13 No. 220/66/11kV, 160MVA Power Transformers with associated civil works at various substations of DTL on Turnkey Basis in Delhi against Tender No. T23R220361.

For complete details of tender please visit website: - <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

(Tender ID No. : 2024\_DTL\_253375\_1) and [www.dtl.gov.in](http://www.dtl.gov.in)

(Tender Reference No. - DTL-9254-140324)

Last date for bid submission: - 29.04.2024 at 01.30 P.M.

All corrigendum, addendum, amendments, time extensions, clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052

**Invitation for Short Term Tender**  
(Through KPP Portal only) (Two cover)

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with BBMP / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive developmental works at Shivanashetty Garden Bharathi Nagara in Ward No. 91. Approximate value of work : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 1,00,000/- Category : SC
2	Comprehensive developmental works at Nehrupuram Shivaji Nagar in Ward No. 92. Approximate value of work : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 1,00,000/- Category : SC
3	Comprehensive developmental works at M.V. Garden Halasuru in Ward No. 90. Approximate value of work : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- Category : General
4	Comprehensive developmental works at 11th Cross to 14th Cross Sampangi Ramanagar in Ward No. 110. Approximate value of work : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- Category : General
5	Comprehensive developmental works at Payappa Garden Jayamahal in Ward No. 63. Approximate value of work : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 1,00,000/- Category : ST
6	Comprehensive developmental works at Chinnappa Garden and Muddamma Garden in Ward No. 62. Approximate value of work : Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- Category : General

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from 14-03-2024. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 16.00 hours on 22-03-2024 and the opening of tenders will be as per KPP portal guidelines. (3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 21-03-2024 at 12.00 Hrs noon in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 52 to clarify the issue and answer questions on any matter that may be raised at the stage as stated in "Instructions to Bidders" of the Bidding document. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on 25-03-2024 at 12.30 Hrs. if possible or next working day. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER CUTTACK(R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK ('e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)**

E-mail: [ldsectrb\\_2006@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ldsectrb_2006@yahoo.co.in) / Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751

**Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc(R&B) 49/2023-24**

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:

2. No. of work : 01 No.

3. Nature of work : Road work

4. Class of contractor : 'A' & Special Class

5. Tender paper cost : Rs. 10000/- (online)

6. Available of bid document in the website : From 20.03.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 30.03.2024

7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 02.04.2024 at 11.00 Hours.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle  
OIPR-340121/11/0080/2324

**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](http://www.osmcl.nic.in); Email: [proc.osmcl.od@nic.in](mailto:proc.osmcl.od@nic.in)

**Notification No.1885/OSMCL/2024** Date: 13.03.2024

**NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF NEUROSURGERY EQUIPMENT FOR SCB MC&H-CUTTACK AND VIMSAR-BURLA**

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/NEUROSURGERY_EQP/30	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Neurosurgery Equipment for SCB MC&H-Cuttack and VIMSAR-Burla	Rs. 5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	13/03/2024, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	21/03/2024, 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 : 30/03/2024, 3 PM End Date & Time : 22/04/2024, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	25/04/2024, 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, Pre-qualification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://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.

Managing Director, OSMCL  
OIPR-10112/11/0061/2324

**ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)**  
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.  
Tel-MD 0674-2340573, E-mail - [mdosscltd456@gmail.com](mailto:mdosscltd456@gmail.com)

**NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-86/2024**  
**Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Turmeric Rhizomes for Kharif-2024**

OSSC Ltd. invites e-Tender only from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis for Procurement of Certified Turmeric Rhizomes for Kharif-2024 in double cover system through online mode only for the works below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Turmeric Rhizomes for Kharif 2024
No of work	One
Availability of bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.15.03.2024 to 17.00 hours of dt.21.03.2024
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hours of dt.21.03.2024
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hours of dt.22.03.2024

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](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.  
OIPR-01106/11/0124/2324

**INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
Shaikhpura, Patna-800014 (Bihar)  
Tel.: 0612-2297631, 2297099, Fax: 0612-2297225, Website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org)  
E-Mail: [director@igims.org](mailto:director@igims.org)

**Short Urgent Quotation Notice**

**Tender Notice No. : 22/2023-2024/IGIMS/Store**

IGIMS, Patna invites bids from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorized distributors / agents for Rate Contract for the supply of Surgical Consumables for all Surgical Units of the Institute.

The last date of submission of bidding document along with EMD and Tender document fee is 05/04/2024 up to 4 P.M. The technical bids will be opened on 08/04/2024 at 3.30 P.M.

Details of terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org).

The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.

Sd/- Director, IGIMS, Patna

**INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
Shaikhpura, Patna-800014 (Bihar)  
Tel.: 0612-2297631, 2297099, Fax: 0612-2297225, Website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org)  
E-Mail: [director@igims.org](mailto:director@igims.org)

**E-Tender Notice**

**E-Tender Notice No. : IGIMS/EC/EW/13/2023-2024**

IGIMS, Patna invites sealed Tender in two bid system (Technical and Price) from reputed agency/ authorized dealer for supply, installation, commissioning and testing of 03 nos. of 20 Passenger Elevators at Ward Block and Polyclinic Block of this Institute.

The last date & time for submission/ uploading of complete tender document at [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) is 22.04.2024 up to 3:00 P.M. The technical bids will be opened on 25.04.2024 at 3:00 PM at [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).

Details of specification of equipments, terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) & [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).

The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.

Sd/- Director, IGIMS, Patna

**TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Panisraha Bhavan, 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN-500004, Telangana, Phone:23237625/26 Fax:040-23240205, Email:[vomd@tsiic.telangana.gov.in](mailto:vomd@tsiic.telangana.gov.in)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TSIIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial infrastructure in the State, invites proposals from reputed consultancy firms with relevant experience for Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of Advanced Technology Workshops including PEB Structure Civil and MEP works across the Telangana State with a Total Project Cost of INR 300 Crores (approx).

The RFP can be downloaded from [www.tsiic.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tsiic.telangana.gov.in) from 14.03.2024. Last date for submission of proposals: 15.04.2024, 15:00Hrs (IST). Further updates on this RFP will be available in this website only.

Sd/- Vice Chairman & R.O. No.:1044-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Date:14.03.2024 Managing Director

**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](http://www.osmcl.nic.in); Email: [proc.osmcl.od@nic.in](mailto:proc.osmcl.od@nic.in)

**Notification No.1883/OSMCL/2024** Date: 13.03.2024

**NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PSYCHIATRIC EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY OF PSYCHOMETRIC TEST MATERIALS ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS**

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/ Psychiatric_EQP/22	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Psychiatric Equipment and supply of psychometric test materials on Rate Contract Basis	Rs. 5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	13/03/2024, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	20/03/2024, 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 : 30/03/2024, 3 PM End Date & Time : 20/04/2024, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	24/04/2024, 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, Pre-qualification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://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.

Managing Director, OSMCL  
OIPR-10112/11/0060/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e" - PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
E-mail : [ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com)

**Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 63 / 2023-24**

1. The Chief Engineer (Bridges), World Bank Project, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :

2. Nature of work : Bridge work

3. No. of work : 01 no.

4. Tender Cost : Rs.10,00,00,00 (on-line)

5. Class of Contractor : Special / Super Class Contractor

6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 AM of 15.03.2024 to 5.00 PM of 03.04.2024

7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.04.04.2024 at 11.30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer-in-Chief, (I/C) Chief Engineer (Bridges), WBP, Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-34003/11/0094/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR**  
Unit-IX, (Near Boys High School) Po-Bhoingar, BBSR Email: [se\\_ccrw@yahoo.co.in](mailto:se_ccrw@yahoo.co.in)  
Phone No: 0674 2540742 (0)

**No. Tender Online - 15 of 2024** Letter No.-1678 Date:- 13.03.24

**Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads under PMGSY & Other Scheme NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central R.W. Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites percentage rate bids with double cover in electronic tendering system for Repair/Maintenance of the Rural Roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Khurda & Puri for 5 number of Roads with approximate estimated cost totaling to Rs.2.44 Cr including maintenance for five year 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 with in 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.18.03.2024.

**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <http://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 document securely in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause-4.4B (a) (ii) of ITB with C.C.E., Central R.W. Circle, Bhubaneswar, 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:** 02.04.2024 upto 5.00 P.M

For further details please log on to <http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in>.

Chief Engineer, Central R.W. Circle, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-25194/11/0018/2324

**DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR**  
No. /DES/OSCRGPP/005/2023/15.03.2024  
**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) from eligible firms/ bidders for hiring of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) under Odisha State Capability & Resilient Growth Policy Programme (OSCRGPP). The details of the RFP is available in official website of DES, Odisha i.e. [www.desorissa.nic.in](http://www.desorissa.nic.in).

The interested firms/bidders may submit the RFP along with enclosures through Regd Post/Speed Post/Courier to the undersigned on or before 09.04.2024 (5.00PM)

Sd/- DIRECTOR  
OIPR-01483/11/0005/2324

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)  
No.B3/AEE(IT)/EE(NW&D)/45479/2023-24 Date: 15.03.2024

**NOTIFICATION**

**Expression of Interest**

KPTCL invites expression of interest from interested bidders for the Development of GIS based sub-station and commercial real estate at Anand Rao Circle under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model. Interested participant may visit KPTCL website (<https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in>). For further details/queries, kindly email to [contact@kptcl.com](mailto:contact@kptcl.com).

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec), (IT), KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-09.

**भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला, अहमदाबाद**  
(अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार)  
**Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad**  
(Department of Space, Government of India)

**Admission to JRF Programme 2024**  
Advt. No. PRL/JRF/06-2024

**Online Applications are invited for admission to Junior Research Fellowship Programme 2024**

**Important Dates**

- Starting of filling up of online application form : 15.03.2024
- Last date for filling up of online application form : 26.04.2024
- Interview Dates : 27-31 May 2024
- The upper age limit is 28 years as on 01.07.2024

For more details and online application form please visit <https://www.prl.res.in/prl-eng/phd>.

DEAN, PRL

**TIDEL PARK LTD.**  
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)  
CIN No. U74999TN1997PLC099529

No. 4, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600 113  
Phone: 044 2254 0500 / 501 Mail: [md@tidelpark.com](mailto:md@tidelpark.com) / [tenders@tidelpark.com](mailto:tenders@tidelpark.com) www.tidelpark.com

**Tender No: TIDEL/2023-2024/15**

TIDEL Park Limited invites e-Tender for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 321 Nos of Air Handling Units (AHU of 25TR, 20TR, 15TR and 10TR with necessary modification in the pipes and replacement of required valves).

For more details and participation in the above e-Tender, please visit the website [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in). Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is 3.00 p.m. on 17.04.2024. TIDEL Park Limited reserves the right to accept/reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/1646/TENDER/2024 Managing Director

**BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg., Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Tel: No: 080-22537519  
Tender No.: BMT/2023-24/SE0217/Call-5 Date: 14.03.2024

**SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
(Through e-procurement mode only)

(1) BMTCT invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 120 Nos. 900mm floor height, 9 mtr City type Non AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model. (2) Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal is on 10.04.2024 at 17:30 Hours. Any changes in calendar of events, scope or other tender terms & conditions etc., will be uploaded in e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> For further assistance, contact e-procurement Help Desk for support on bid submission over Ph: 080-46010000 or 080-68948777 or email at [eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com](mailto:eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com).

Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

**TNP/ TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.  
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines), E-Mail: [purchase.auto@tnpl.co.in](mailto:purchase.auto@tnpl.co.in)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 007856	Procurement of Fire Tender Vehicle	05.04.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNP Website & NIC Portal only. TNP will follow Two Bid System and E-Tender cum auction. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / <https://tenders.gov.in> / <http://nicgepp/app>

DIPR/1624/Tender/2024 TNP - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

**RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)  
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone: 0141-2227751, 4593201  
Fax: 0141-4593210 E-mail: [riico@riico.in](mailto:riico@riico.in) Website: [www.riico.co.in](http://www.riico.co.in)

**TENDER NOTICE**

RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through [eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.1	Unit Head, Bhillwara	613.52
2.1	Construction of Drains at Industrial Area Soniyana. UBN-RDC2324WLOB01804	
2.1	Advisor (A&M), RIICO, Udyog Bhawan, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2324SLRC01836	186.00
3.	Unit Head, Sawai Madhopur	
3.1	Construction of CC Road and Construction of Paved Shoulder at Industrial Area Kherda & Strengthening and Recarpeting of Roads at Industrial Area RTR, Unit Office Sawai Madhopur. UBN-RDC2324WSOB01815	300.14
3.2	Construction of Protection Wall of Natural Nallah at Industrial Area Jatlav Gothda, Bonli, Unit Sawai Madhopur. UBN-RDC2324WSOB01816	348.30

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites [www.riico.co.in](http://www.riico.co.in) and [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)

For queries please contact: AGM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593243  
Raj.Samwadi/23/14819

**The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd**  
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691583  
Phone: +91 9646212191 E-mail: [md@kmmcl.com](mailto:md@kmmcl.com) URL: [www.kmmcl.com](http://www.kmmcl.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmmcl.com](http://www.kmmcl.com)

No.	E-Tender ID	Items
1.	2024 KMM 66832	For the supply of Pipe Inconel 600 SMLS 19mm thickness
2.	2024 KMM 66746	For the supply of Roaster Discharge Grating Assembly
3.	2024 KMM 66072	For the work of Design, Engineering, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Performance Testing & Commissioning of (1 No.) compact screw conveyor electric heating system for Mineral Separation Plant
4.	2024 KMM 66809	Dismuting and application of Refractory castable and Bricks in H-Stream process separator in U-300
5.	2024 KMM 66593	For the supply of 1100V grade PVC insulated PVC overhead steel armoured and overall PVC sheathed 3-core conductor cable

Chavara, 14.03.2024 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**  
**ARULMIGHU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE, Samayapuram**  
Tiruchirappalli - 621 112 E-mail: [symmariamman@gmail.com](mailto:symmariamman@gmail.com)  
Landline No -0431-2670460

**E-RENDER NOTICE**  
CONTRACT TYPE : TWO COVER SYSTEM

Joint Commissioner / Executive officer of Arulmighu Mariamman temple invites E-Rate Tender for the following work. The tender document will be available in [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in) from 19.04.2024 upto 11.00 AM. Received tenders will be opened through online on 19.04.2024 at 3.30 pm.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Rs.	Period of Completion	Contractors Qualification
1.	Formation of Approach road from peruvalla canal upto A/m Mariamman temple parking area and Construction of 0 - 300 m retaining wall in peruvalla canal.	2227.00	11,23,500	18 months	Class 1 registered Contractor in Public Works Department and above or Class 1 registered Contractor in Highways Department.

If any condition in the tender document including the contractor's eligibility, corrected or modified will be intimated through the above website.

A.R. Prakash, B.Sc, M.L. S.Kalyani, M.L.  
Fit person / Joint Commissioner DIPR/1650/TENDER/2024 Joint Commissioner / Executive officer.

**BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi**  
... A Joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Date: 15.03.2024

Sealed tender under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for the following work:

NIT No.	Brief Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	EMD Value (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY-23-24/RS/SvS/VK/41	Civil work for construction of a Pre Engineer Building (PEB) warehouse for storage of Materials in BYPL	6 Crore	6 Lakh	05.04.2024 14:00 Hrs	05.04.2024 16:00 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹1,180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com) -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Tender-> Open Tenders. Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525  
Website: [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice**

The Superintending Engineer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Solan on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under New Technology "Cement Stabilized Base Layer with Cement(CBT)" under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna in the District of Solan & Nos. of package with estimated cost detailed as below:-

S.No.	Name of work	Package No.	Estimated cost excluding GST (Rs.in lakhs).		Time Period
			Construction cost	Maintenance cost	
1	(A) Up gradation of Kiyaranu to Chillar road (T-10)KM 0/00 to 8/000 with CBT PMGSY-III Batch II	HP11-170	62		





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For IAS GS Foundation  
Course Enquiry  
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Prelims + Mains | Offline Batches

Delhi	English Medium 28 March	हिंदी माध्यम 29 मार्च
Jaipur	English Medium 28 March	हिंदी माध्यम 28 मार्च



Scan to Register



### FORMER BUREAUCRATS Kumar and Sandhu appointed as ECs

NEWS » PAGE 15



### OBSCENE CONTENT Centre blocks 18 OTT platforms

NEWS » PAGE 16



### SC TO AJIT PAWAR FACTION 'Don't use the name of Sharad Pawar for votes'

NEWS » PAGE 14

## Panel recommends simultaneous polls



**Backing the proposal:** Former President Ram Nath Kovind presents the report to President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday. ANI

**Sandeep Phukan**  
NEW DELHI

The high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind has recommended simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step, and holding municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election in the next phase.

The committee on Thursday submitted its report, running into more than 18,000 pages, to President Droupadi Murmu. The report that is put in

the public domain, however, is a 321-page one.

The 22nd Law Commission, which is examining the simultaneous polls issue, is also expected to submit its report to the Law Ministry anytime now and recommend the same from the 2029 general election cycle.

The Kovind panel report will not have any bearing on the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14  
**CONG. SLAMS REPORT**  
» PAGE 15

## Poll bonds: 22 firms donated over ₹100 cr., BJP got highest share

Election Commission publishes data received from SBI; lottery magnate's firm, which was under ED scanner, is the single largest donor at ₹1.368 cr.

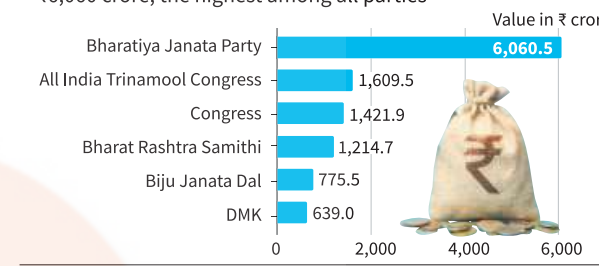
**The Hindu Data Team**  
CHENNAI

Future Gaming and Hotel Services PR, whose managing director is lottery magnate Santiago Martin, was the single largest donor to political parties between April 12, 2019 and January 24, 2024, according to the electoral bonds data released by the State Bank of India and published by the Election Commission on Thursday, on the orders of the Supreme Court.

The firm donated a cumulative sum of ₹1.368 crore through electoral bonds during this period. Incidentally, the Enforcement Directorate had attached ₹411 crore in the bank accounts of this firm and other

### Top recipients

The Bharatiya Janata Party encashed electoral bonds worth ₹6,060 crore, the highest among all parties



companies in March 2022 and had later filed a prosecution complaint against it under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 before the PMLA Court, Kolkata on September 9, 2023.

Among parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party encashed electoral bonds

worth ₹6,060.5 crore – the highest among all parties – within this period. In fact, the BJP's share of the total bonds encashed by parties was over 47.5%.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 14  
**RETURN DOCUMENTS: EC**  
» PAGE 15

## IN BRIEF 'GST exemption for farmers if INDIA bloc wins'

**NASHIK**  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday pledged that the INDIA bloc would champion farmers' rights if elected, vowing to exempt them from the Goods and Services Tax and work on only one tax, revamp crop insurance, and ensure a fair MSP. » Page 15

## Five Ministers in AAP first list for Punjab

**CHANDIGARH**  
The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday declared its first list of eight candidates for Punjab for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. Five of them are State Cabinet Ministers. » Page 15



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## Title no. 42



**Triumphant:** Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane (centre) is all smiles after defeating Vidarbha by 169 runs in the Ranji Trophy final and securing his team's 42nd title in the 89th edition of the tournament at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, on Thursday. EMMANUEL YOGINI (REPORT ON PAGE 19)

## Will find a way for people without documents to apply under CAA: Shah

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government will soon find a way for people who do not have the required documents to apply for benefits under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

The CAA facilitates the citizenship process for undocumented migrants belonging to six non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. However, according to the CAA rules notified earlier this week, applicants will have to produce a clutch of documents that includes at least one document issued by a government authority in

### It will have little impact on Assam: Chief Minister

**GUWAHATI**  
The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019 would be "a fiasco" in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday. He underlined the conditions a refugee has to fulfil to predict that Assam would have the lowest number of people applying for citizenship under the CAA.

**DETAILS » PAGE 14**

one of these countries. In an interview to news agency ANI, Mr. Shah said that according to government estimates, 85% of the people seeking to apply

under CAA had the required documents, adding that the government would soon find an alternative for those who did not.

**Retrospective effect**  
Mr. Shah said there was no official count as of now about the number of people getting citizenship under the CAA, adding that a "lot of them" had applied for citizenship.

"Many people may hesitate to file an application due to the mis-campaign going on against CAA. I want to assure everyone to apply and the citizenship will be given with retrospective effect. If you have entered India illegally, there will be no criminal case against you. There is no need for anyone to get

scared. Everyone will be given equal rights as they will become citizens of India," he said.

The CAA rules reduce the qualification period of application for citizenship from 11 to five years for migrants who entered India before December 31, 2014.

Asked about the stand taken by the governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal that the CAA will not be implemented in those States, Mr. Shah said: "Article 11 of the Constitution gives all the powers to make rules regarding citizenship to Parliament. This is the Centre's subject, not the State's. I think everyone will cooperate after the elections. They are spreading misinformation for appeasement politics."

## Will oust BJP this election: Kisan Mahapanchayat

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Thousands of farmers, who gathered here on Thursday for a 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' under the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) banner, resolved to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha election.

Alleging that the policies of the Centre were pro-corporate and anti-farmer, the SKM gave a call for mass protests against the BJP, and to observe "save democracy day" on March 23 against the BJP's decision to field Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni from the Kheri Lok Sabha seat again. The SKM alleges that Mr. Teni is the "mastermind" behind the



**Dissent mode:** Farmers attending the Kisan Mahapanchayat at the Ramlika Maidan in New Delhi on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

killing of four farmers and a journalist at Lakhimpur Kheri during the 2020-21 farmers' protests. A resolution adopted at the mahapanchayat also decided to "expose and punish" the BJP for not im-

plementing the Swaminathan Commission formula on minimum support price. "The real homage to M.S. Swaminathan is not conferring the Bharat Ratna on him, but implementing the farmer-friendly re-

commendations in his report," senior SKM leader Ashok Dhawale said.

He said more than one lakh farmers died by suicide in the first eight years of the Modi regime.

The SKM also demanded action against Union Home Minister Amit Shah and former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal over the recent death of farmers in police action on the Punjab-Haryana border.

They also resolved to convert the ongoing struggles of farmers and workers as a people's movement to protect livelihood. It urged mass organisations to unleash a massive and strong protest against the BJP across the country under the banner of United People's Movement.

"The mahapanchayat appeals to the people to punish the BJP for atrocities unleashed on the democratic, secular and federal character of the Indian republic," it said.

**Trade unions' backing**  
Promising their support, 10 Central trade unions, in a message to the mahapanchayat, said the workers were with the farmers after understanding that the "corporate-communal nexus" was posing great danger to the core values outlined in the Constitution. "The secular democracy, right to dissent, freedom of expression, right to diverse cultures, languages and religious beliefs are under attack," the statement said.

## Kejriwal moves sessions court against ED, seeks exemption from personal appearance

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday moved a sessions court here challenging his summoning by a magistrate court on a complaint by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for not appearing before the agency for questioning in connection with the Delhi excise policy. Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, representing the AAP national convener, submitted before the court of Special Judge (PC Act) Rakesh Syal that his perso-

nal appearance in front of the magistrate on March 16 would be nothing more than a publicity stunt by the ED and sought exemption for his client.

Mr. Gupta pointed out that the ED officer who summoned Mr. Kejriwal and the one who filed the complaint in the court are different and hence the ED's complaint violates Section 195 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju, representing the ED, refuted Mr. Gupta and pointed out that the Delhi CM himself had given an

assurance to the magistrate court that he will appear before it on March 16.

Mr. Kejriwal's plea came after Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Divya Malhotra summoned him on March 16 in two cases filed by the ED. The court had first summoned Mr. Kejriwal on February 7 and the CM submitted that he could appear any time after March 10 as the Assembly session was on. The court had noted that Mr. Kejriwal was "legally bound" to comply with the summons but he "purportedly failed to do so".



## GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER : PWD BUILDING : : ASSAM :: GUWAHATI-3  
No I/498054/2024

## PRESS NOTICE (RE-TENDER)

In cancellation to the earlier press notice published vide No I/414778/2024 dated 20.01.2024 The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Building), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam re-invites Bids for Technical & Financial offer as per Request for Proposal from qualified and experienced firms (criteria as per RFP document) for providing "Project Management Consultancy Services" for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of the project	Approx. PMC Value
1	PMC services for "Construction of Open Stadium at Amingaon Sports Complex, Kamrup, Assam"	Rs.274.07 Cr	Rs.6.46 Cr including GST

- The details/RFP document may be seen in a-procurement portal website [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)
- The validity period of the Bid shall be 180 days from the date of submission.
- The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>)
- The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Building), Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without showing any reasons what so ever.
- Formal Work Order will be issued after receipt of Administrative Approval from Govt.

Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.)  
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog /C/17928/ 23/15-Mar-24

Health and Family Welfare Department  
Himachal Pradesh.  
PUBLIC NOTICE:-

No. Swa-Ni(1)Kh(2)/91(EXM) Dated: Shimla-171009,

In reference to this Directorate requisition dated 23.06.2023 n for recruitment of Medical Laboratory Technician (Ward of Ex-Servicemen) in the Health and Family Welfare Department against vacancies on contract basis through Batchwise basis for filling up 30 posts of MLT Gr-II(WEXM) amongst the candidates covered under following categories :

Category / subcategory	No. of Posts
Gen(WEXM)	18
OBC(WEXM)	4
SC(WEXM)	6
ST(WEXM)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

Candidates names already been sponsored by the Employment / Sub Employment Exchange of HP in reference to this Directorate requisition letter dated 23.06.2023 for appointment to the post of Medical Laboratory Technician Gr-II (WEXM). The counseling for screening of documents has been fixed on 05.04.2024 at State Health and Family Welfare Training Centre, Parimahal, Shimla-171009. sharp 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. It therefore, directed to the candidates through counseling letters to appear in person for counseling on the scheduled date & time and venue given against their name and bring the original certificate of examination passed and other required documents (if any) alongwith one set of self attested.

- Bio-Data Proforma which is available on the official website i.e. [www.hpealth.nic.in](http://www.hpealth.nic.in) (dully filled),
- One passport size colored photograph.
- Employment Exchange Card/ Certificate with date of validity.
- Matriculation certificate for age verification.
- Certificate of Educational Qualification 10+2 Science, B.Sc. Medical Laboratory Technology/ B.Sc. Medical Technology Laboratory/ B.Sc. Medical Technology(Laboratory)/ B.Sc. Medical Laboratory Sciences/ B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology(lateral) from a recognized University or an Institution affiliated to a recognized University along with "Detail Marks Certificate".
- Certificate of Registration in HP Allied Healthcare Council/ HP Paramedical Council for above said qualification alongwith latest/ valid renewal certificate.
- Valid Category certificate(s) in support of their eligibility, if any viz. SC/ST/OBC/EWS. All these certificate should be on Proforma prescribed by the Government of HP from time to time. SC, ST, OBC Certificates should be in accordance with the instructions of the Government issued vide letter No. PER(AP)-C-F(10)-42010 dated 05.08.2019.
- Dependent Certificate/ Ward of Ex-Servicemen Certificate issued by the competent authority and a latest affidavit duly attested by the authority authorized under the Indian Oath Act/ on Annexure-A and Annexure -B(Affidavit) as per Government of HP Department of Personnel (AP-III) letter No. PER(AP)-C-B(12)-197-Vol.VIII dated 15.09.2010, No. PER (AP)-C-B(12)-12013 dated 18th March, 2020 available on the official website i.e. [www.hpealth.nic.in](http://www.hpealth.nic.in).
- Character Certificate from Magistrate/ Executive Magistrate.
- Certificate of Bonafide resident of HP.

- Note:-
- The Candidate who do not fulfill the education qualification and other criteria for the said post is not required to appear for counseling. Only the documents/ proof given by the candidate at the time of counseling will be considered and no supplement document will be entertained after counseling.
  - That no column is wrongly filled or kept blank on Proforma therein would be used to determine the eligibility of candidates to be called for counseling.
  - No representation / correspondence will be entertained against final rejection of candidature.
  - Candidates are also advised to visit the Health Department Website from time to time for updates in their own interest.

Sd-  
Director Health Services  
Himachal Pradesh

HP/ 6912/23-24 him suchna avam jan sampark

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान  
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology(वि. अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)  
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग के तहत स्वायत्त संस्थान  
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India)वसियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम 695 547, केरल  
Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, KeralaADMISSION TO PG PROGRAMME (SPONSORED) FOR  
CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES - 2024

Online applications are invited for admission to Post-Graduate programmes under Sponsored category for Central Government Employees for the Academic Year 2024-25.

## Application process will be done ONLINE only

- Starting of filling up of online application : 14.03.2024
- Last date for filling up of online application : 27.03.2024
- Last date for submission of No Objection Certificate (NOC) : 03.04.2024
- Online Interview Dates : 08 & 09.04.2024

15 M.Tech and one Master of Science Programmes

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Contact 0471- 2568477/ 618 / 418 (on working days 0915 - 1715 hrs)  
Email: [admissions@iist.ac.in](mailto:admissions@iist.ac.in)

Dean (Academics)

## GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA

Harbour Engineer, Ratnagiri Harbour Division, Ratnagiri  
Phone No. 02352-295808Web-[www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com) & e-mail- [harbourratnagiri.ee@mahapwd.com](mailto:harbourratnagiri.ee@mahapwd.com)

## E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 69 FOR 2023-24 ONLINE

Online "B-1" e-tender for the following works are invited by the Harbour Engineer, Ratnagiri Harbour Division, Ratnagiri from the contractors registered with the Public Works Department (Government of Maharashtra) in appropriate class.

1.	Construction of Proction Wall at Jaygad Sakhar Mohalla part-2 Taluka and Dist Ratnagiri 2,39,03,933/-
----	---

- Tender documents are available for online bid preparation & submission from web site main portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 14/03/2024 at 17.00 PM
- Any doubts / clarification sought by the intending / participating tenderers regarding online website and digital signature certificate can be got clarified by contacting the telephone no of Toll Free Number 180030702232/7878107985-86  
E-mail: [eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in) e-Tender will be valid up to 75 days from the date of opening tender.
- All documents to be submitted by the participating eligible tendererees are necessary.
- The cost of Blank tender form Fees and EMD to be paid via online mode only. The Affidavit is mandatory to scan and upload only online on website. Otherwise the said participating agency will not be allowed to take part in further e-tendering process.
- Other terms and conditions are included with e-tender form. The right to cancel or reject the above said e-tender without assigning any reason tests with the competent authority.
- In future if any corrigendum published it will be available only on Main Portal = [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)
- For any clarification contact at phone no 02352/295808

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
(Harbour Engineer)

Ratnagiri Harbour Division Ratnagiri

DGIPR/2023/2024/9872

## 2 children, couple killed as massive fire rips through building in Shastri Nagar

Eleven people injured, four of them in serious condition; police suspect sparks in wires led to fire; eyewitnesses say residents had to jump onto terraces of the adjacent buildings to save their lives

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Two children and a couple were killed after a massive fire broke out in a residential building in Shastri Nagar area of Shahdara on Thursday morning, the police said.

The deceased persons have been identified as Manoj, 30, Suman, 25, and their two nieces, aged 10 and 7.

Eleven others suffered burn injuries in the fire, suspected to be caused by sparks flying from electrical wires, the police added. A car and a motorcycle were also damaged in the incident. The police said they received information about the incident at 5.20 a.m. and nine fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames.

DCP (Shahdara) Surendra Choudhary said, "As per the preliminary observation by the forensic team, sparks in wires may be the reason behind the fire."

The police said the



building where the fire broke out has four floors and a car parking area.

They said the fire started from the parking lot and the smoke soon engulfed the entire building.

"Fire department officials managed to reach the spot on time and douse the flames even though the streets were narrow," the DCP said.

Flames block exit Eyewitnesses said since the building entrance was blocked by the leaping flames, some residents ran

to the terrace and then jumped onto the roofs of adjacent buildings to save their lives. An eyewitness said the firefighters doused the flames in no time but due to the smoke and fire in the main exit area, people could not leave the building immediately.

The DCP said those injured were sent to Dr. Hegdewar Aarogya Sansthan Hospital in Karkardooma. The police said they received information from the hospital that four of them have died. Later, four of the severely injured per-



(Left) The ill-fated building in Shastri Nagar; one of the injured persons. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA/PTI

Probe 'nature' of pets in area where toddler was mauled to death: HC

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Thursday ordered Delhi Police to investigate the "nature" of pets kept by residents at Dhobi Ghat in Tuahlaq Lane, where a one-and-a-half-year-old girl was allegedly mauled to death by a pack of dogs last month.

"...It is also stated that there was a pitbull in the area. Investigate this. Status report to be filed by Tuesday," Justice Subramonium Prasad said while hearing a petition by the infant's father seeking a compensation of ₹50 lakh for the child's death. The court also asked the police to ascertain whether there were any pet dogs in the nearby houses where the incident took place to rule out the apprehension of a ferocious pet dog attacking the child.

Earlier, the court had issued a notice to the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Delhi government, asking them to take steps to ensure that such incidents are not repeated.

## 'Dogs fed in parks'

On February 24, the toddler, who was sitting outside her home, was allegedly attacked by a pack of four-five dogs and dragged for several metres, before leaving her badly mauled. She later succumbed to her injuries. Her father Rahul Kanaujia, in his plea, said that the attack had occurred due to administrative lapses and the New Delhi Municipal Council's negligence. His counsel argued that dogs were being fed in parks, putting children at risk. The petitioner also urged the court to issue directions to the authorities to shift the dogs elsewhere. The court had earlier said people feedings stray dogs had made them "too territorial" and they attack anybody. They are becoming a menace for pedestrians, it had said in a hearing in the case.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (BUILDING)  
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No. CE/TB-VII/30/2024/3

## PRESS NOTICE

The Addl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Planning), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids from Govt. registered eligible Contractors having experience in similar nature of works for the following works.  
Details of bid may be seen at e-procurement portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)  
The bidders must be enrolled in [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security drawn in favour of	Approx value of work	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Girls Hostel at Paragona -Chatia Hoor, Mouza -Sillicoorie Grant, Silchar, Dist.- Cachar Assam	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Silchar, Sonai & Dholai Dist. Territorial Building Division	Rs. 2,38,03,690.00	12 months	2% for General Category (i.e., Rs. 4,76,074.00) & 1% for Reserve Category (i.e., Rs. 2,38,037.00)	4,800.00

- N.B.:-
- Value of work may vary according to the detail NIT.
  - The Press Notice will form a part of the Bidding Document.

Janasanyog /C/17933/ 23/15-Mar-24

Addl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D.(Planning),  
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

## GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	UHBVN	DESIGN, ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, CONSTRUCTION & ERECTION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING OF SOLAR POWER PLANTS, ASSOCIATED 33KV OR 11KV LINE AND REMOTE MONITORING SYSTEM (RMS) AND COMPREHENSIVE O&M FOR 5 YEARS OF GRID CONNECTED GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR POWER PLANT.	11.03.2024 01.04.2024	EMD 1 LAKH	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a> NT No. TICE/ Comm/PM/ KUSUM/FY 2023 24	01722583722 <a href="mailto:commercial@uhbvn.org.in">commercial@uhbvn.org.in</a>
2	UHBVN	ENGAGEMENT OF AGENCY/FIRM FOR RECONCILIATION OF COLLECTION ACCOUNT (RIS-REMITTANCE INTO BANK), DRAWING ACCOUNT (CDS-CHEQUE DRAWIN STATEMENT) AND RECONCILIATION OF POSTING IN CONSUMERS ACCOUNTS IN UHBVN.	14.03.2024 05.04.2024	3 LACS	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a> TENDER NO - FA/C/Collection/ UH/10/2024 Dated 14.03.2024	9569666604 <a href="mailto:accountsonuhbvnfr@uhbvn.org.in">accountsonuhbvnfr@uhbvn.org.in</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

SAMVAD- 13/2024/60/25925/1/199/7

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU  
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-600 028.

E-TENDER NOTICE Dated : 13.03.2024

Online tenders are invited by the Director of Municipal Administration, towards Procurement of Satellite Imageries for 10 cities under Directorate of Municipal Administration, Tamil Nadu.  
The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded at free of cost from <https://tntenders.gov.in/> from 18.03.2024, 16.00 hrs.

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled online on 25.03.2024 at 11.30 hrs through video conference (VC) by DMA and the link for the VC can be referred in the RFP.

EMD for an amount of Rs.1,00,000/- has to be paid through online mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids through e-Tendering website <https://tntenders.gov.in/> is 30.04.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. Technical Bid shall be opened online on 30.04.2024 at 16.30 hrs. Bidders are advised to participate in the pre-bid meeting scheduled by Director of Municipal Administration.  
Director of Municipal Administration,  
Chennai-600 028.

DIPR/ 1599 /TENDER/2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANIPhone:-06842 254004 E-mail : [sernbphulbani@gmail.com](mailto:sernbphulbani@gmail.com)

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Bid Identification No. CCE R and B PLB 25 of 2023-24

No. 455 Dated : 12/03/2024

1.	The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Bridge and Building works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.
2.	Nature of work : Bridge & Building Works.
3.	No. of tenders : Two Nos
4.	Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor : Special, A & B Class
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids : 10.00 AM of 22.03.2024 to 5.00 PM of 06.04.2024
7.	Date of Opening of Bid : 11.00 AM of 08.04.2024
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> . Any addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&amp;B) Circle, Phulbani.

B-1924:

OIPR-34129/11/0027/2324

## GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DRAINAGE CUTTACK, GANDARPUR-753003

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. CE-DR-CTC-04/2023-24

e-mail Id:- [cedrainage@gmail.com](mailto:cedrainage@gmail.com)

1.	Name of Works	Renovation of Palpa Nallah and it's Link Drains with construction of structures and slope protection works in Ballipali and Basta Block of Balasore District - DOAB-IX.
2.	Nature of Work	i) Earth Work ii) Structural Work iii) Stone pitching work
3.	Total number of Packages	1 no. individual package.
4.	Estimated Cost	Rs.1170.00 Lakh
5.	Bid Identification No.	CE-DR-CTC/00-BLS-05/2023-24
6.	Period of completion	18 (Eighteen) Calendar months.
7.	Availability of Tender On-Line	20.03.2024 16.00 Hours to 09.04.2024 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	10.04.2024 at 11.30 hours in the O/o the Chief Engineer, Drainage, Cuttack.
9.	Class of Contractor	Special & A Class.
10.	Bid Security/EMD	11,70,000/- (To be remitted online)
11.	Cost of Tender paper	Rs. 10,000/-
12.	Procurement Officer	Chief Engineer, Drainage, Cuttack, Gandarpur-753003

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). Chief Engineer Drainage, Cuttack  
A-1734 OIPR-34266/11/0005/2324

## JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by undersigned on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from experienced & Registered contractors with I&P Department now JSV H.P. so as to reach in the office of the undersigned on or before 20.03.2024 up to 3.00 P.M. and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M. in presence of intending contractors or their representatives. The Tender documents can be had from the office of the undersigned against cash payment (non refundable) up to 4.00 P.M. on 19.03.2024. After applying on prescribed application Form available in this office. The date of sale/receipt and opening of tenders shall be considered as next working day, if any holiday is declared of above specified date the earnest money in the shape of National Saving certificate / time deposit account / Saving account in any of post office or Nationalized Bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of undersigned must accompany with each tender. Conditional tender and the tender without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The undersigned reserves the right to except or reject the tenders without assigning any reasons. The contractors who do not abide by the completion Schedule are requested not to quote. The contractor must have cleared the Income Tax and clearance Certificate thereof and the photo copies of registration also required to be submitted along with the application.

Sr. No.	Description of Item/Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Form	Time
1.	Stock Storage Special Repair To transit Accommodation at Dhalli in Tehsil & Distt. Shimla H.P.(Providing tiles Flooring, painting and sanitary fitting & Electrical installation etc.in Ground Floor).	1,99,064/-	3940/-	250/-	3 Months
2.	Stock Storage Special Repair To transit Accommodation at Dhalli in Tehsil & Distt. Shimla H.P.(Providing & Fixing of Electrical installation etc.in Ground Floor).	1,93,708/-	3880/-	250/-	3 Months
3.	CAD of LIS Gania in G.P. Peeran under Jal Shakti Sub-Division Koti Tehsil and Distt Shimla HP (SH-laying and Jointing of gravity main 100mm dia).	1,56,502/-	3130/-	250/-	3 Months

Assistant Engineer,  
Jal Shakti Sub Division,  
Koti, Shimla 12.

HP / 6919/23-24

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK



HC imposes fine on man claiming ownership of land between Yamuna, Ganga

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The High Court here on Thursday dismissed a writ petition filed by a man claiming ownership over the land between the Yamuna and Ganga from Agra to Meerut. The court also imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on the petitioner, who also staked claim to 65 revenue estates of Delhi, Gurugram and Uttarakhand.

The petitioner, who identified himself as Kunwar Mahender Dhwan Prasad Singh, claimed to be the ruler of the Beswan Avihajya Rajya, which he said consisted of United Provinces of Agra running between the rivers from Agra to Meerut, Aligarh and Bulandshahr.

**Timings**  
DELHI

**FRIDAY, MAR. 15**  
RISE 06:31 SET 18:30  
RISE 09:44 SET 00:00

**SATURDAY, MAR. 16**  
RISE 06:30 SET 18:30  
RISE 10:31 SET 00:12

**SUNDAY, MAR. 17**  
RISE 06:28 SET 18:31  
RISE 11:23 SET 01:15

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 30 15  
Safdarjang 30 15  
Palam 29 17

**Delhi Palam Today**  
31°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm with gusty winds. Night also will be cool.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
32°C The weather will be mostly dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool.

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# Why seek votes when you did nothing for T.N., Stalin asks PM

Is it fair that the Prime Minister is coming to the State only to seek votes, asks Chief Minister. He says the PM did not visit the people when floods hit Chennai, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for visiting Tamil Nadu "only for seeking votes". The DMK did not need anyone to teach it patriotism, the Chief Minister said.

"Like the AIADMK, the BJP government did not do anything for Chennai over the past 10 years. But Mr. Modi is coming to Kanniyakumari tomorrow [on Friday]. Why is he coming?"



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. FILE PHOTO

Will he announce special projects for Tamil Nadu? No. He is coming to seek votes," Mr. Stalin said, speaking at a government

function in Chennai.

### 'Not faulting the PM'

Maintaining that he did not fault the Prime Minister for seeking votes, Mr. Stalin asked, "Is it fair that the Prime Minister, who did not visit the people when floods hit Chennai, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari, is coming only to seek votes?"

Claiming that Mr. Modi visited flood-affected Gujarat on a helicopter the very next day and announced relief, he asked why Tamil Nadu had not been granted relief even three months af-

ter the floods. "When I ask this, they are trying to project me as a secessionist," the Chief Minister said.

Referring to the ongoing Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail and the funds due from the Union government, Mr. Stalin said he had made repeated requests for funds over three years, adding, "They are giving funds to States that sought them much later. They did not give [anything to us]."

Mr. Stalin said Tamil Nadu was giving more funds to the Union government in taxes.

# Desertions continue to hit BRS ahead of Lok Sabha elections

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) continues to face a setback ahead of the Lok Sabha elections with many leaders either quitting the party or crystallising plans to leave the party in the coming days.

Former Minister and Medchal MLA C. Malla Reddy along with his son C. Bhadra Reddy met Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister

D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Thursday, leading to speculation that they are planning to exit the BRS.

Mr. Malla's meeting with Mr. Shivakumar, considered close to Telangana Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, assumes significance as it comes close on the heels of the State government action against the educational institutions run by Mr. Malla and his son-in-law, Rajasekhar Reddy, on the charges of encroachment.

Mr. Bhadra has backed out from contesting following the developments.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Malla said he had met Mr. Shivkumar regarding the take over a private university in Bengaluru. "I met him at a reception and a friend of mine facilitated the meeting for the university," he said.

Meanwhile, two-time BRS MLA Aroori Ramesh quit the party on Wednesday.

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- 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

### APPOINTMENT

# TMB Foundation

## Recruitment for the position of Director for Skill Development Centre

TMB Foundation, a CSR arm of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd is on the lookout for a visionary and dynamic academic leader to head its proposed Skill Development Centre (Based at Madurai).

**The candidate should:**

- ◆ Have the ability to lead, motivate and inspire team of professional faculty.
- ◆ Assist in recruitment/selection of faculty/trainers.
- ◆ Have the ability to identify skill areas that will aid in placement in Industry- Engg (machine operators, electrical, plumbing, carpentry etc, Health / Diagnostics, Hospitality and such. Evolve curriculum covering theory and practice in selected skills.
- ◆ Train IAS and TNPSC aspirants.
- ◆ Have the ability to build the brand and credibility in Industries around the region for placement after certification.

- ◆ Be able to work with the Trustees of TMB Foundation to identify CSR projects which will benefit the society (Annual budget 15-20 Crores).
- ◆ Have the professionalism to not compromise quality and safety all areas of administration and operations.
- ◆ Prepare budget and monitor the expenses.

**Qualification and Experience:** Person with high academic background having experience in running a Skill Development Centre/Institute.

**Age** : Not more than 68 years as on 01-01-2024.  
**Salary** : Negotiable  
**Job Location** : Madurai

Please send your resume to the following address, with all testimonials, within 15 days by registered / speed post.

Call letters will be sent to the shortlisted candidates for personal interview. The Foundation has the right to reject any application without assigning any reason. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

**The Managing Trustee, TMB Foundation,**  
379A/10, DSF Grand Plaza, Ground Floor, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi - 628002

### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

Chennai - 600 036

#### Admission to M.Tech Programme 2024-25

Applications are invited for admission to the M.Tech programme for the Academic Year 2024-25 commencing from July 2024, as per the following schedule:

Programme	Mode of Application	M.Tech Admission portal opens	Portal closes on the given last date	Website
M.Tech (Regular)	Online	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 (at 23.59 hrs.)	<a href="http://mtechadm.iitm.ac.in">http://mtechadm.iitm.ac.in</a>
M.Tech (Sponsored)				<a href="https://mtechspns.iitm.ac.in">https://mtechspns.iitm.ac.in</a>

Seats are reserved for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer)/ PwD/ EWS (Economically Weaker Section) as per Government of India rules. Please visit the above websites for online applications, information brochures and further details.  
Date: 15.03.2024 Deputy Registrar (Courses)

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For sponsorship & queries, Contact: 90940 41021, 90030 77030, 99622 26550



## IN BRIEF



## Found evidence of illegal sand mining by Cong. MLA, says ED

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) found evidence of illegal sand mining during recent searches at 20 locations linked to Jharkhand Congress MLA Amba Prasad, the Central agency said on Thursday. The probe agency conducted searches at multiple locations in Ranchi and Hazaribagh linked to the MLA, her father and their other family members and associates on March 12. In an official statement on the search operation, the ED said it had seized unexplained cash of ₹35 lakh, fake seals of circle offices and banks, as well as various hand-written receipts/diaries.

## Case against Swami Prasad Maurya over CAA remark

A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against Rashtriya Shoshit Samaaj Party (RSSP) president Swami Prasad Maurya at the Manchi police station in Sonbhadra on Thursday for hate speech, insulting religious belief over his statement on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). In his petition, the complainant Bindu Kharwar, a local, alleged that Mr. Maurya in his post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) tried to promote enmity between different groups and committed acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony. The Manchi police could not be reached despite multiple attempts for a response.

## Sambar deer antlers seized, two arrested in Maharashtra

The Palghar police in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region on Thursday seized sambar deer antlers valued at ₹60 lakh, and arrested two persons. Based on a tip off that a group of smugglers were coming to Nalasopara in Vasai, police set up a trap and arrested the two when they arrived in an auto-rickshaw with a bag. When the bag was opened, a deer antler worth ₹50 lakh was found inside, the police said. After interrogating the accused another antler worth ₹10 lakh was seized, the police added. A case under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act was filed against the two accused. A probe is on to find out the source of smuggling, the police said.

## ED issues fresh summons to ex-CM Hemant's press adviser

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's press adviser Abhishek Prasad, Preeti Kumar, wife of a senior IAS officer, and DSP Pramod Mishra for questioning in money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal mining and land deals in the State, official sources said on Thursday. Mr. Prasad has been asked to depose at the federal agency's Ranchi office on March 18, Mr. Mishra on March 19 and Ms. Kumar on March 20, they said. Sources said their statements will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Mr. Prasad had appeared before the ED on February 9 and 10 for questioning in the same case, officials said. PTI

## Students in Gujarat school forced to remove hijab

Press Trust of India  
BHARUCH

The Gujarat Education Department took action against a private school official on Thursday after he allegedly forced some students to remove hijab. Parents of the students appearing for Class 10 examination in Lions School in Ankleshwar, Bharuch district, complained that exam centre administrator, Ilaaben Suratija forced their wards to remove hijab before appearing for a paper on Wednesday.

Following the allegation, the State Education Department on Thursday ordered the removal of Ms. Suratija.

## Case filed against T.N. Minister in Delhi for remarks on Modi

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A case has been registered against Tamil Nadu Minister T.M. Anbarasan for his alleged threatening remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public rally in the State, the Delhi Police said on Thursday.

According to the police, the first information report (FIR) was filed at the Parliament Street station on Wednesday following a complaint from Supreme Court lawyer Satya Ranjan Swain.

According to the FIR, Mr. Anbarasan, the Minister of Rural Industries, Cottage Industries, and Small and Medium Industries in Tamil Nadu, had openly

## Kejriwal has lost his calm, says Shah on CAA doubts; country first: AAP chief

Union Home Minister asks why AAP national convener remained mum on Rohingya infiltration; Kejriwal says CAA's implementation to create law and order problems, jeopardise women safety

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) shows that he has "lost his calm" due to the uncovering of his corruption and the "tough" Lok Sabha election his party faces in the Capital.

Mr. Shah also said that while the AAP chief has opposed citizenship to persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries, he has so far remained silent over the Bangladeshi and Rohingya "infiltration" into the country.

Mr. Shah's statement drew a sharp reaction from Mr. Kejriwal, who said he doesn't care if the BJP leader calls him corrupt as the country comes first for him. He claimed that the implementation of the Act will trigger larger migration than the Partition, creating law and order pro-



Refugees from Pakistan staging a protest outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal residence in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

blems and jeopardising women safety.

The Centre on Monday notified the rules for the implementation of the CAA that was passed by Parliament in December 2019. It facilitates citizenship to "persecuted" people belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, Christian and Jain communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Mr. Kejriwal on Wednesday alleged that the Centre's move will snatch

away job opportunities from the countrymen, and it is aimed at "only creating a vote bank" for the BJP in the areas where it is weak.

Reacting to the allegations, Mr. Shah in a podcast with a news agency said the minorities in neighbouring countries faced persecution ever since India was partitioned on the basis of religion in 1947. "They were being converted and women were being tortured. Don't they have the right to get our citizenship?" he asked.

"Why doesn't he [Kejriwal] protest against Rohingyas? Are Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators not taking away our jobs?" Mr. Shah added.

'Questions unanswered' Hours later, Mr. Kejriwal in a video message said Mr. Shah did not answer the questions raised by him and only "abused" him.

He asked why had the BJP not done anything to stop those belonging to the Rohingya community (predominantly Muslims from Myanmar) from entering India after assuming power in 2014.

He expressed concern over the security situation after the refugees settled in the country.

"If slums from Pakistan are built right in front of your homes, would you accept it? Will your daughters be safe? Will you feel safe among the people whom you don't know? What if Pakistan sends people intentionally?" he asked.

## Nine of 20 BJP candidates in Maharashtra Lok Sabha list come from political families

Abhinav Deshpande  
NASHIK

The BJP is facing charges of nepotism as nine out of the 20 candidates in its second list for Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra come from political families.

BJP candidates on the list from political families include Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State Bharati Pravin Pawar, and former State Minister Pankaja Munde.

Mr. Goyal is the son of Ved Prakash Goyal, a long-standing RSS activist, and Chandrakanta Goyal, who served as a corporator post-Emergency and represented the Matunga seat in the Maharashtra Assembly for three terms. Mr. Goyal has now been fielded from Mumbai North.

Ms. Munde is being fielded from Beed, taking over the mantle from her sister, Pritam Munde, and

Piyush Goyal, Pankaja Munde among those who will continue their family's legacy

continuing the political legacy of their father, Gopinath Munde, a BJP leader and former Union Minister.

Ms. Pawar, Dindori's sitting MP, represents the second generation of leadership, succeeding her father Harishchandra Chavan in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll.

The BJP has retained its sitting MPs Sujay Vikhe-Patil, son of BJP leader and State Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, from Ahmednagar; and Raksha Khadse – whose father-in-law, Eknath Khadse, is an MLC from the NCP's Sharda Pawar faction – from Raver. Heena Gavit, two-time MP from Nandurbar, is the daughter of Minister

Vijaykumar Gavit. Ranjeet-sinha Naik-Nimbalkar, son of former Shiv Sena MP Hindurao Naik-Nimbalkar, has been fielded again from the Madha seat.

Anup Dhote, the son of Akola MP Sanjay Dhote, will contest the seat in the Vidarbha region. Sangli MP Sanjaykaka Patil's uncle Dinkarrao Patil is a three-time MLA from Tasgaon-Kavathe Mahankal seat.

Slamming Mr. Modi's "double standards", Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "The Prime Minister constantly criticises dynastic politics, but if you look at both the lists of candidates, you will find they are replete with candidates who represent parivarvad," he told *The Hindu*.

'Merit-based selection' However, a senior BJP leader claimed that candidate selection for the seats was "merit-based".

## 'CAA rules, police deployment attempt to provoke Muslims'

Sobhana K. Nair  
NEW DELHI

The move to notify the rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the subsequent deployment of police forces in Muslim-majority areas look like an attempt to contrive a reaction from the community, Samajwadi Party MP Javed Ali Khan said, pointing out that the rules were notified on Tuesday coinciding with the first day of Ramadan.

Mr. Khan asserted that the CAA rules are not part of the Samajwadi Party's electoral discourse, which, he said, is mainly centred around farmers' demand for MSP, rising unemployment and crimes against women, and exploitation of Dalits and minorities under the BJP in Uttar Pradesh and at the Centre. "Rules are being framed for so many laws in the country, but we have never seen police

## Nitish Kumar, Rabri among 11 elected to Council in Bihar

Amarnath Tewary  
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Rabri Devi were among 11 candidates elected unopposed on Thursday to the State Legislative Council. Earlier, the Election Commission had announced biennial polls for 11 seats of the Upper House in the State.

Mr. Kumar, who is also JD(U) president, was elected to the Council for the fourth consecutive term while party leader Khalid Anwar was elected for the second consecutive term.

Manjhi's son elected The other alliance partner of NDA, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) leader Santosh Kumar Suman, who is the son of former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi, too was elected to the Council. The three BJP candidates Mangal Pandey, Anamika Singh and Dr. Lal Mohan Gupta were elected to the Council as well.

From the Opposition Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance), all four candidates of the principal coalition partner RJD – Rabri Devi, Abdul Bari Siddiqui,



CM Nitish Kumar being greeted after his election to Legislative Council on Thursday. PTI

Urmila Thakur and Faisal Ali – were elected along with one candidate Shashi Yadav from ally Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) to the Council unopposed as March 14 was the last date for the candidates to withdraw their papers.

Except these 11 candidates, no other candidate filed the nomination for the Council seats.

No Congress candidate Earlier, it was speculated that grand alliance ally Congress too would field one candidate for the Council seat as party leader Prem Chandra Mishra's term had come to an end while the party has a total of 19 MLAs in the Assembly. But the Congress kept itself away from the polls.

## India 134th in global human development index: UNDP

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

India has moved up a rank on the global Human Development Index (HDI), according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report 'Breaking the gridlock: Reimagining cooperation in a polarised world', released on Wednesday.

The report stated that while India ranked 135 in 2021, it had moved up to 134 in 2022. A total of 193 countries were ranked in 2022, and 191 countries in 2021.

India's southern neighbour Sri Lanka has been ranked much ahead at 78, while China is ranked 75, both categorised under the High Human Development category. India also ranks below Bhutan, which stands at 125, and Bangladesh, which is in the 129th position. Switzerland has been ranked number one.

## Kerala CM Pinarayi slams Congress for being mute in its opposition to the CAA

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan slammed the Congress for being mute in its opposition to the "patently anti-Muslim" Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Mr. Vijayan said Rahul Gandhi, who is seeking re-election from the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, has not uttered a word about the Centre's Lok Sabha election eve push to impose the communally divisive law that seeks to relegate Muslims to a subaltern status by setting religion as a criterion for citizenship.

Mr. Vijayan said Congress president Mallikarjun



DYFI supporters taking part in a night protest march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, in Thiruvananthapuram. FILE PHOTO

Kharge restricted himself to a cursory remark against the Centre's framing of rules to implement the law.

Mr. Vijayan said AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal questioned the Centre's delay in implementing the contentious law. "He found the Centre's timing inappropriate and

saw no fundamental flaw in the anti-Constitutional legislation," he said.

He said Mr. Venugopal, by contesting from Alappuzha, further did a disservice to the secular cause by attempting to cede his Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan to the BJP.

"The BJP disposition in

Rajasthan will nominate a party person to the seat if Mr. Venugopal wins from Alappuzha. The LDF will ensure that Mr. Venugopal keeps his RS seat by trouncing him in Alappuzha," he said.

Mr. Vijayan said that in 2019 the Congress initially supported the Kerala Assembly's resolution urging the Centre to annul the divisive law. Later the party changed tack.

None of the Congress MP's from Kerala challenged the CAA in the Lok Sabha, he said.

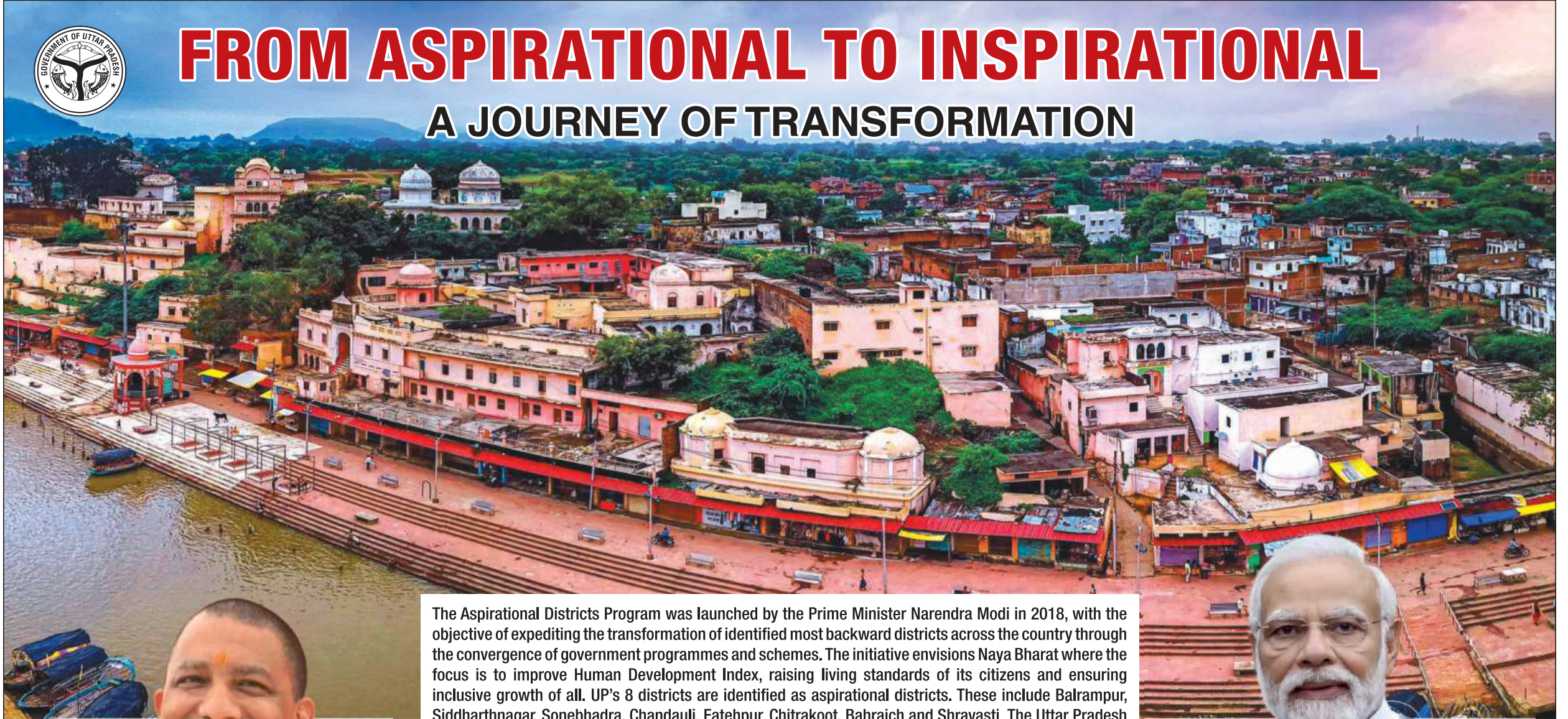
Mr. Vijayan reiterated that the LDF government would not implement the CAA in Kerala, despite the Congress's best efforts to undermine the State's resolve.





# FROM ASPIRATIONAL TO INSPIRATIONAL

## A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION



The Aspirational Districts Program was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, with the objective of expediting the transformation of identified most backward districts across the country through the convergence of government programmes and schemes. The initiative envisions Naya Bharat where the focus is to improve Human Development Index, raising living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all. UP's 8 districts are identified as aspirational districts. These include Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot, Bahraich and Shravasti. The Uttar Pradesh government has made its sincere efforts through a detailed workplan and in a planned manner ensuring a holistic development of the identified districts. Moving a step further Uttar Pradesh takes the lead as the first state in the nation through identification of 100 aspirational blocks on the pattern of aspirational districts and efforts to bring about improvement on the socio-economic front. As a result of improved law and order, development of basic facilities, improved infrastructure, these districts have not only been included in the mainstream, but are also contributing big time to the economic development of the state.



GBC 4.0		
Target (Rs. crore)	Acheivement (Rs. crore)	Percentage
1,53,400	1,57,651	102

OVERACHIEVED TARGET			
District	Target (Rs. crore)	Achievement (Rs. crore)	Percentage
Sonbhadra	100000	1,21,221	121
Chandauli	20000	23,458	117
Fatehpur	1,600	1,687	105
Bahraich	2,500	2,549	102

Uttar Pradesh government is committed for the success of this programme. All the persons concerned have to work with a positive frame of mind. With public co-operation, the targets of the programme can be achieved and for this, there is no paucity of resources

**Yogi Adityanath**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

We are living in an era of immense possibilities which in turn creates opportunities. We need to identify existing aspirations in the districts and channelise them to create a ripple effect for transforming Aspirational Districts. The development of every village of these 115 districts is vital to our commitment to social justice

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

### MAJOR INVESTOR COMPANIES

- Torrent Power (Sonbhadra)**  
Rs. 22800 crore
- Greenko Group (Sonbhadra)**  
Rs. 17182 crore
- JSW PSP Six Limited (Sonbhadra)**  
Rs. 8000 crore
- India Glycol (Sonbhadra)**  
Rs. 4000 crore
- Varun Beverages Limited (Chitrakoot)**  
Rs. 496 crore
- Tusco Limited (Chitrakoot)**  
Rs. 47 crore
- ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited (Chandauli)**  
Rs. 9450 crore

#### BALRAMPUR

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
194	1402

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
58	438

With the help of the government, a brick kiln has been set up in 60 bighas in the village. Rs. 31 crore has been invested in the project which will give a new dimension to the development of Tulsipur. Besides, 250 people will get employment opportunity.  
Brijesh Singh, Balrampur

#### SHRAVASTI

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
439	2422

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
43	866

Our company has invested Rs. 10 crore for manufacturing e-rickshaw and agricultural equipment. There has been a lot of cooperation from the district administration and government. 200 people have got employment in both the projects.  
Shailendra Tiwari, Shravasti

#### SIDHARTHANAGAR

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
299	9869

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
110	441

GBC 4.0 is a commendable initiative of the government. By connecting with this, we are setting up a rice mill in Siddharthnagar district. Here work will be done from paddy threshing to rice packing which will also provide employment to 80 people directly and indirectly. This will also strengthen the economic condition of the local people.  
Rohit Jaiswal, Siddharthnagar

#### SONEBHADRA

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
101	182338

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
62	121277

A friendly investment environment has been created in Uttar Pradesh. Our company is investing Rs. 550 crore for a hydroelectric project. Electricity will be produced by setting up a power plant at location provided by the district administration. This project will provide direct and indirect employment to 600 people of the district.  
Devesh Rai, Sonbhadra

#### CHANDAU LI

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
275	33481

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
85	23662

Shivganga Industries has been established with an investment of Rs. 10 crore in phase two of the industrial area of Chandauli. There will be work of high quality flexi packaging printing etc. This will provide employment to local people of the area.  
Rakesh Jaiswal, Chandauli

#### FATEHPUR

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
147	2999

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
82	1798

80% of the people in the district are based on agriculture. The district is suitable for enterprises related to food processing. Farmers will get direct benefits and the entire process will be completed soon.  
Manoj Gandhi, Fatehpur

#### CHITRAKOOT

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
280	67422

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
88	7147

The state government is paying special attention to Chitrakoot. Investing Rs. 500 crore in food processing unit. There will be business of spices, dry fruits, millets, coarse grains etc. The legal process has been completed. This will boost the economy.  
Phulchandra Kushwaha, Chitrakoot

#### BAHRAICH

UPGIS-2023	
Projects	MoUs (Rs. cr)
254	5171

GBC-4.0	
Projects	Investment (Rs. cr)
159	2749

For the first time, an investment of Rs. 150 crore has been made to develop a housing society in Bahraich. Housing construction work is going on near Tikora turn of Bahraich - Lucknow highway. About 300 people have got employment directly and indirectly.  
Rakesh Kumar Agarwal, Bahraich

### Training under One District-One Product program 2023-24

District	Target	Achievement
Fatehpur	400	400
Sonebhadra	300	300
Shravasti	250	250
Chitrakoot	200	200
Chandauli	350	350
Bahraich	350	350
Balrampur	150	150
Siddharthnagar	200	200



**BALRAMPUR**  
Food Processing (Pulses)



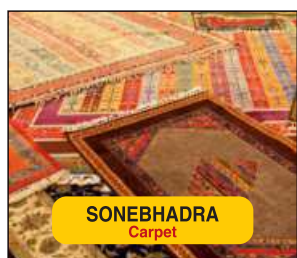
**CHANDAU LI**  
Zari-Zardozi



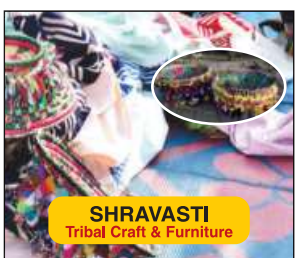
**CHITRAKOOT**  
Wooden Toys



**BAHRAICH**  
Wheat Stalk, Handicrafts



**SONEBHADRA**  
Carpet



**SHRAVASTI**  
Tribal Craft & Furniture



**SIDHARTH NAGAR**  
Kala Namak



**FATEHPUR**  
Bedsheet & Iron Fabrication work

### One District-One Product Program Margin Money Scheme Loans sanctioned by banks 2023-24 (Rs. lakh)

District	No. of Projects	Projects Amount	Margin Money
Balrampur	23	550.47	80.97
Bahraich	65	5877.42	613.36
Chandauli	25	263.12	58.84
Chitrakoot	17	189	43.5
Fatehpur	23	607.67	120.02
Shravasti	5	53	13.25
Siddharthnagar	61	748.95	179.99
Sonebhadra	6	57	14.25



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Work Experience (at least 1 year)

Have written Civil Services (Main) examination

Send your updated resume to recruitment@visionias.in

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT MUNSIF, SATTUR I.A.NO.4/2022 IN O.S.NO.50/2020

M.Chakkammal, W/o.Muniyandi, 3/1,Ramalingam Post, Rukkuminji, Sattur Taluk, Virudhunagar District.

Petitioner / Plaintiff Vs S.Tarochan Singh, S/o.Sadhu Singh, Bhojemajra Village & Post, Ropar Taluk & District, Punjab State.

- 3rd Respondent / 3rd Defendant

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the partnership firm in the name of M/s Capital League having registered office at GL-502, 5th Floor, DLF Cross Point, Gurgaon - 122002 has been dissolved by mutual consent of partners w.e.f. 29th February 2024.

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the partnership firm in the name of M/s Capital League having registered office at GL-502, 5th Floor, DLF Cross Point, Gurgaon - 122002 has been dissolved by mutual consent of partners w.e.f. 29th February 2024.

It is publicized notified that the Plot No. D-079, Sector-30, Noida has been allotted in the name of Jaswant Singh Chhabra S/o Gurucharan Singh Chhabra R/o 5130/29, main Bazar Pahar Ganj, New Delhi, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:

A GPA was executed in favour of Suresh Kumar Sharma S/o Om Prakash Sharma R/o D-79, Sector-30, Noida executed at GPA executed at Sub Registrar Delhi Vide Book No. IV, Volume No. 368 on Pages 187/188 at Document No. 13003 dated 22.07.1986 and Agreement to Sell was not registered.

As informed the transfer of the above plot in favour of Usha Sharma/W/o Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma R/o D-79, Sector-30, Noida. If any one/bare partners have any objection heltshe may submit his/her objection in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice.

Suresh Kumar Sharma

Office of Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department. NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) List of Important Dates of Bids for Construction/Upgradation of Road using New Technology 'Cement Treated Base' under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and their Maintenance for five year, Accordingly Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Nurpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system for construction of below mentioned roads.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No, Name of Employer for Execution of Contract Bond, District, Package No., Name of work, Period of completion, Estimate Cost Excluding GST (in Lacs), Total cost including GST (in Lacs), Bid Security (in Lacs).

2.Date of Publishing of e-procurement notice through News Papers:-18.03.2024, 3.Publishing date of Bid on-line:-19-03-2024 (10.00 AM), 4.Start Date of downloading of bids-20-03-2024 (11.00 AM), 5.Deadline for submission of bids-03-04-2024 (5.00 PM), 6.Date of opening of bids-04-04-2024 (11.00 AM), Pre-bid meeting on dated 27-03-2024 at 11:30 AM. For further details please log on to https://mpgstendershp.gov.in

Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Nurpur-176202, Email: hp-kan2@nic.in, 01893-220098.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL

Recruitment Notification for various Group-A, Non-Faculty posts on deputation basis at AIIMS Bhopal.

Opening of Window for submission of Applications for various Group-A, Non-Faculty posts on deputation basis at AIIMS Bhopal.

In continuation to the Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recct.Cell/Deputation/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023 inviting applications for various Group-A Non-Faculty Positions at AIIMS Bhopal on deputation basis, it is to notify that the window for submission of applications in the prescribed format for the following vacant posts is being re-opened for 45 days from 15/03/2024 to 29/04/2024.

Table with 5 columns: S.No., Name of Post, Level in Pay Matrix (As per 7th CPC), No. of Posts

1. Medical Superintendent, 2. Executive Engineer (Civil), 3. Chief Librarian, 4. Chief Nursing Officer, 5. Senior Analyst (System Analyst), 6. Chief Dietician, 7. Chief Medical Social Service Officer, 8. CSSD Officer, 9. Deputy Chief Security Officer, 10. Executive Engineer (A/C & R), 11. Librarian Selection Grade (Senior Librarian), 12. Nursing Superintendent, 13. Principal Private Secretary (PPS), 14. Senior Procurement-cum-Stores Officer, 15. Accounts Officer, 16. Assistant Nursing Superintendent, 17. Chief Medical Record Officer, 18. Deputy Nursing Superintendent, 19. Security Officer, 20. Hospital Architect

2. Those candidates who have earlier applied against the rolling advertisement dated 16/10/2023 but were not considered for interview because of late submission of applications, they need not apply again.

3. For further details regarding eligibility and other terms & conditions, application format etc. Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM 2 (2) / AIIMS / Bhopal / Recct.Cell/Deputation/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023, available at the Institute's website: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in may be referred.

Deputy Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online bids on item's rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nahan on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Description, E/ Cost, E/ Money, Time, Cost of Form

1. Providing installation and maintain a Real Time Water Quality Monitoring station at Markandey River under JSV Division Nahan as per directions from Hon'ble NGT)

2. Providing LWSS to PC habitation under GP Koularwla Bhood, Burmapapri, Pallon, Nahan and Bankala in Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH-: Drilling lowering assembling and development of Twell 300mm dia 1 No Twell LWSS Gumati Pallon) under JIM.

3. Providing LWSS to Nahan Town (from Giri river at Dadahu) Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH-: Outsourcing of operation and maintenance (O and M) for 5 years)

4. C/O LIS Gadda Bhuddi and 2 Nos Medium Height Multipurpose Check Dam on Markanda River Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH-: C/O Gabion structure in wire crate, C/O open well cum pump house and attendant Qtr. C/O 30 Nos anchor block, C/O boundary wall around the pump house, C/O retaining wall for protection of pump house and C/O RCC MDT 2 Nos) under NABARAD.

5. C/O LIS Gadda Bhuddi and 2 Nos Medium Height Multipurpose Check Dam on Markanda River Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH-: Laying and jointing of HDPE pipes in distribution system) under NABARAD.

6. C/O Rain water Harvesting Structure at Chassi Khad in GP Surta Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH-: C/O RCC sumpwell 25000 ltrs capacity 1 No., C/O RCC chamber for valve 10 Nos, C/O RCC pillar for Khalla crossing 7 Nos, C/O RCC water collection tank, C/O single room pump house and C/O toilet for pump house) Job No. 3 under NABARAD.

7. C/O Rain water Harvesting Structure at Chassi Khad in GP Surta Tehsil Nahan Distt. Sirmour HP (SH-:Laying, jointing and testing of HDPE pipes of 110 mm dia in distribution system) Job No. 2 under NABARAD.

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal http://hptenders.gov.in by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

3. Key dates will be as under:-

Table with 2 columns: No., Details of key dates

Note: Other Tender information may be checked online portal website: www.hptender.com

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nahan

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

MANONMANIY SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY Abishekapatti - Tirunelveli 627 012. website: www.msuniv.ac.in STATE LEVEL ELIGIBILITY TEST(SET) - 2024 Notification No. 01/2024 Date : 20.03.2024 ANNOUNCEMENT

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli E-Tender Notice no. - MCF-ELECT-PR-08 Date: 13.03.2024 On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ PS, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender, based on single packet system from capable & experienced tenderers through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for the under mentioned work.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd. Gandhiji-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 Ph. No. : 0141-2223887, Fax: 0141-2228065, E-Mail : edepmmssc-f@nic.in

TNPPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED Kagitapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines), Extn. 4206/4295. E-Mail: pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE DEATH MR. S.SITHARAMAN (94) Rtd Commissioner CBDT, attached, Sivakokkrapathi on 14.3.24 at 4PM, Cremation on 16.3.24 @Guindy, Usha & Sridhar. 26161357 & 9445970358.

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION Central Offices, Mechanical Engg., Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthanagar, Bengaluru-560027. Tele No: 080-22537519 Tender No.: BMTCC/2023-24/SE0280/Call-2 Date: 14.03.2024 SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-procurement mode only)

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**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Telephone No. 01970233116  
E-mail ID: ee-deh-hp@nic.in

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer Dehra Division HPPWD Dehra H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Starting Date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	C/O Govt. Senior Secondary School at Seharpain in Tehsil J/ Mukhi Distt. Kangra (H.P) (SH- C/o six rooms ( Three Rooms in ground floor and three rooms in first floor with verandah)	1,05,73,901=00	15.03.2024	Rs.211500/-	20.03.2024
2.	C/O Govt. Senior Secondary School at Surain in Tehsil Khundian (SH-C/o six rooms ( Three Rooms in ground floor and three rooms in first floor with verandah)	1,05,73,901=00	15.03.2024	Rs.211500/-	20.03.2024
3.	C/O Govt. Senior Secondary School at Silh in Tehsil Khundian (SH-C/o six rooms ( Three Rooms in ground floor and three rooms in first floor with verandah)	1,05,73,901=00	15.03.2024	Rs.211500/-	20.03.2024
4.	C/o Bridge over Khappar Nallah at RD 0/815 on Marera to Naun Didu Bridge Gram Panchayat Khabli road in District Kangra (HP) (Sub Head- Construction of 30.00mtr Span RCC Box Girder Bridge Sub-Structure). Under SCSP	Rs.1,43,66,739/-	15.03.2024	Rs.288000/-	20.03.2024

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender form the department website .www.hptenders.gov.in. Executive Engineer, Dehra Division H.P.P.W.D., Dehra, Pin No. 177101. Tel. No. 01970-233116. e-mail- ee-deh-hp@nic.in on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP / 6916/23-24 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Himachal Pradesh Forest Department  
HP Integrated Development Project (HPIDP)  
For Source Sustainability and  
Climate Resilient Rain-fed Agriculture,  
HPIDP Head Office, Forest Road, Solan-173212

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNCTIONAL REVIEW OF FORESTRY INSTITUTIONS**

HPIDP, Solan Himachal Pradesh invites Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) from consultancy agencies/firms/organization for conducting Functional Review of Forestry Institutions in Himachal Pradesh.

The REOI document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work as per Term of Reference (ToR) and evaluation criteria, etc. can be downloaded from the project website www.hpdp.org

Last date for submission of REOI is 05/04/2024 upto 05:00 PM

Executive Director  
Integrated Development Project,  
Forest Road, Solan-173212 (H.P.)

HP / 1434/2023-2024

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PHE (WATER), ASSAM**  
**CUM**  
**ADDITIONAL MISSION DIRECTOR, JAL JEEVAN MISSION, ASSAM HENGRABARI, GUWAHATI - 781036**

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO. 56 of 2023-24**

e-Tenders are invited from the intending 'not for Profit Organizations/Agencies' for "Empanment as Implementing Partner of Jal Doot Programme under Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam". The tender documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in from 20.03.2024 (10:00 hours).

a) A pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 01.04.2024 at 12:00 hours. Address for the meeting is O/o Chief Engineer (PHE) Water Assam, Hengrabari, Guwahati - 36.  
b) The last date of submission of tender document is 16.04.2024 at 16:00hrs.  
c) The bid will be opened online on the e-procurement portal on 17.04.2024 at 15:00 Hr. The tender inviting authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/tender and to cancel/annual the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award.

Chief Engineer (PHE), Water, Assam  
Cum  
Addl. Mission Director, JJM Assam  
Hengrabari, Guwahati - 36.

Janasanyog /C/17890/ 23/15-Mar-24

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER : PWD : BUILDING : ASSAM**  
**CHANDMARI:GUWAHATI-3.**

NO.TECH-II/245/2023/5

**PRESS NOTICE**

The Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari,Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites online EPC Mode-I e-tenders in two bid system (Eligibility and Financial) on **Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode-1** basis from eligible firms / Contractors of repute having experience in similar nature of work, for the following works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in

The bidders must be enrolled with e-tendering web-portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Bid Value (Rs. in Lakh)	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid
1	Construction of 100 bedded Boy's and 100 bedded Girls' Hostel for Golaghat Engineering College	1185.51943	18 (Eighteen) Months	2% of Bid value for General category and 1% of Bid Value for reserved Category	Rs. 20,000.00

The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering for which no claim will be admissible.

Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),  
(Health & Education)  
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog /C/17936/ 23/15-Mar-24

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, UNION TERRITORY, CHANDIGARH, (PLOT NO. 701 INDUSTRIAL AREA PHASE-I).**

**E-Tender Notice**

E-tenders (Online tenders) are invited from the manufacturing Firms/ companies on Rate contract/Trial Rate Contract with ASRTU, New Delhi for the purchase of procured tread rubber and its allied products/tyre retreading material as per latest ASRTU specifications & as per detail at Annexure- 'A' to the tender documents and technical specifications as set out in the Tender documents which can be downloaded from the website <http://chdctu.gov.in> or [etenders.chd.nic.in](http://etenders.chd.nic.in) or [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). The important dates with regard to uploading the tenders are as under:-

Description	Date & Time	Place
Date of uploading the Tenders (by CTU)	14/03/2024	In Computer Section office of The Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh (Plot No. 701, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh)
Last Date of depositing the EMD in physical form and uploading of e-tender (Technical & Financial Bid) on web portal	04/04/2024 upto 2.00 P.M.	In the office of Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh (Plot No. 701, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh-160002)
Date of Opening/ downloading the Technical Bids	04/04/2024 at 3.00 P.M.	In Computer Section office of The Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh (Plot No. 701, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh)
In case of any query/ clarification	---	The bidders can approach the Nodal Officer/General Manager, Depot-I, CTU, Chandigarh on any working day between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in case of any query/clarification regarding e-tendering process (Ph. No. 0172-2679003 Extn. 216) or mail at <a href="mailto:ctuchd@nic.in">ctuchd@nic.in</a>

The Divisional Manager, CTU & Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh shall have every right to (a) cancel / withdraw / amend the advertisement or extend the due date at his sole discretion or (b) accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Divisional Manager CTU & Director Transport,  
Union Territory,  
Chandigarh

**SECTION 1**  
**Superintending Engineer 4<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD Shimla HP**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

The Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the Percentage Rate Bids, in electronic tendering system, for following work from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

District	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs lacs) i/c all taxes and GST		Total Cost (Rs lacs) i/c all taxes and GST	Period of completion	Bid Security (Rs. lacs)
		Construction	Maintenance			
Shimla	Periodic Renewal of PMGSY road Shillaroo to Reog km. 0/00 to 13/500 in District Shimla (HP) and 5 year Routine Maintenance (PMGSY Financial Incentive)	194.51	100.52	295.03	9 months	3.89

1. **Cost of Bid Form:** Rs. 5000/- per package/job (non-refundable) only.

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). \*Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in NABARD may obtain the same from the website: [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in). Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

\* Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

3. **Submission of Original Documents:** EMD and Cost of form only if done Offline, not later than two working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid.

4. **Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:** 28.03.2024 upto 1400 hrs.

5. The site for the work is available.

6. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in). The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1500 Hours on 28.03.2024 in the office of Superintending Engineer, 4<sup>th</sup> Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla-3 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

7. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities and the bidder is required to accept the rates in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

**All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc. shall be arranged by Contractor at his own level.**

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than Seventy Five (75) days after the deadline date for bid submission.

9. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Superintending Engineer,  
4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D.,  
Shimla-3  
E-mail: [hp-shi3@nic.in](mailto:hp-shi3@nic.in)

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## SPOTLIGHT



Drone operator Kavita Dhull in Rohtak, Haryana. R.V. MOORTHY

# The long, bumpy road from 'drone didis' to 'lakhpati didis'

Fertilizer companies have taken the lead in facilitating and funding the first leg of a Central government programme that will train 1,000 women to own and operate drones for spraying pesticides. **Maitri Porecha** reports from Haryana, on the initial challenges of the scheme for women's entrepreneurship

A month before farmers began their protest along the Punjab-Haryana border, with the police dropping tear gas shells from drone-based launchers, Ram Raji, 36, had been issued a drone and an electric autorickshaw by a fertilizer company. Raji and several women like her were to spray liquid pesticide over the ripening wheat crop. But when the protests broke out, the drone operator from Qila Zafargarh village in Haryana's Jind district was disappointed.

"There was a 12-day Internet shutdown in the districts bordering Punjab and Haryana, including Jind. While working in the fields, I need an Internet connection for the GPS signal connecting to the drone," she explains, standing in front of a field of wheat, and locking an acre to be sprayed on her remote control. February is a crucial month for spraying nano urea over the wheat crop, right before it flowers, and now, farmers feel it's too late, Raji says. Each workday lost also means a loss of income.

Raji is one of the initial 1,000 drone *didis* selected by fertilizer companies from across India to be trained under the Central government's Namu Drone Didi scheme to fly agricultural drones that will spray fertilizers over crops. Armed with a pilot's licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), they are meant to be seen as changemakers.

In November last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the decision to engage 15,000 women from rural self-help groups (SHGs), at an outlay of ₹1,261 crore, to cover the cost of drones and battery sets. This amount has not yet been spent, says a Central government official working closely with the scheme.

Over two months after the announcement, PM Modi interacted with the first 1,000 drone *didis* on March 11. However, officials say exact modalities and the future road map are still unclear. "The government has planned for another 6,000 drone *didis* to be trained in 2024-25, and another 8,000 in 2025-26," the official says.

## Costs to companies

The official adds that the cost of training the first batch of drone *didis*, equipping them with the drone and its components (four battery sets, a generator), and an electric autorickshaw is being borne by fertilizer companies like Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and Coromandel International Limited (CIL).

"IFFCO is supporting training and supply of equipment worth ₹42 crore at the rate of ₹14 lakh per woman, including the electric autorickshaw for 300 drone *didis*, while CIL is supporting another 200," the official adds. IFFCO has cited this expense as "benefits to farmers" in its books.

Among other companies that have assured a joint supply of 500 additional drones are Krishak Bharati Cooperative (KRIBHCO), Indian Potash Limited (IPL), Matix, Indorama India Private Limited, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, and the public-sector National Fertilizers Limited.

"The cost for each set of equipment (including a drone, four battery sets, a generator; excluding the electric autorickshaw) is ₹10 lakh, of which the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has agreed to fund up to ₹8 lakh, while ₹2 lakh will have to be arranged by the SHG," says the of-

There was a 12-day Internet shutdown [during the farmers' protest] in the districts bordering Punjab and Haryana including Jind. While working in the fields, I need an Internet connection for the GPS signal connecting to the drone

RAM RAJI  
Drone didi

ficial, referring to the drone *didis* who will be trained after the first batch.

## Influencer marketing

The Haryana government will foot the bill for the service provided by the drone *didis*, promising them ₹400 for every acre sprayed. No other State has offered this. "In Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, farmers must spend their own money for spraying," the Central government official says.

Raji was given a target of 257 acres in Julana block over two months. Her counterpart, Kavita Dhull, 35, in Rohtak district, had a target of 800 acres, of the 4,000 acres to be covered exclusively by drone *didis* out of the total two lakh acres.

However, in 40 days of work, between January 14 and February 25, Raji has been able to cover only 180 acres, averaging 4.5 acres per day, where she was supposed to cover six to eight acres every day. She is helped by her brother-in-law, who drives the electric autorickshaw and assists her in operating the drone. "We are incurring EV charging costs and labour costs and are spending from our own pockets. We hope the promised reimbursement comes through in March," Raji says.

The Drone Didi project is a subset of the Centre's Lakhpati Didi programme, for women from SHGs to earn an annual household income of ₹1 lakh. The aim is for the women to be influencers at home and in their communities, shifting the focus from social and financial inclusion to entrepreneurial success. The Prime Minister, through his Sunday radio broadcast, *Mann Ki Baat*, often refers to 'lakhpati didis'. The term also found mention in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech this year, and appears in government advertisements.

## Farmer trials

To encourage farmers to apply to get their crops sprayed via drones, Haryana's Agriculture Department, along with fertilizer companies, announced enrolment through the online portal, Meri Fasal Mera Byora. Farmers would also get a

1-litre nano urea bottle at ₹100, instead of the ₹225 marked on the bottle, and a drone *didi* would visit the fields for spraying. One bottle, mixed in 10 litres of water, serves an acre.

Kuldip Singh Hooda, 40, is among a minority of 1,000-odd farmers in Dhamar village, Rohtak district, who has a substantial landholding of 15 acres. Most others own land between two and four acres. "I had registered to get 15 acres sprayed. However, the drone *didi* who came sprayed six acres and said she didn't have the time to do the rest. No one came again to spray the other nine acres," he says.

Farmers in Haryana had a difficult 2023. Their rice crops were destroyed due to heavier than usual rain during the monsoon, between July and August. "Half our annual income has been washed away," says Manjit Hooda, another farmer from Dhamar village. Manjit says he had tried registering on the portal, but his application did not go through; no one contacted him either.

For farmers to avail themselves of the subsidy, their farm will have to fall under the earmarked acreage allotted to drone *didis*, or else they will have to shell out ₹400 per acre. Many who are debt-ridden or those with small landholdings prefer to do the job manually, themselves or through less-expensive hired labour.

Traditionally, farmers procure granular urea in sacks, each sack of 50 kg at a subsidised rate of ₹268. Labour costs for manual application is between ₹80 and ₹100 per acre, making the cost of fertilizer purchase and application no more than ₹368 per acre. If they choose to use the water-based medicine through spray cans, the application is still ₹200 per acre, half of what the drone *didi* charge. "Drones then will only be useful on large plantations like that of coffee, tea, or sugarcane, to make it cost-effective," the government official says.

"A big landowner can afford drones, but there are only five to 10 such rich farmers in the village," says Harinder Singh, in his mid-40s, who owns two acres and farms on another 17 acres leased out from

another landowner. "I don't have enough money to build my own house, buy a tractor, or send my children to a good school. What use are drones for me?" he says.

## The women's challenges

Dhull makes her way down a bumpy *kuccha* road of Dhamar village along with her assistant, who drives the electric autorickshaw, and then helps her unload the heavy metal box that contains the 25-kg drone.

"I cannot venture into the fields alone, because of safety concerns. I need a helper who can drive the EV. The vehicle does not easily reverse, and has even toppled over. The drone weighs nearly 30 kg after being loaded with fertilizer and water. It takes two people to lug it around," Dhull says. She pays her assistant ₹15,000 a month. "There is no provision for helpers in the scheme," she says.

As soon as she covers three acres, she exhausts one charged battery set needed to fire up the drone. She simultaneously charges another set in her EV to cover more ground. Dhull ends up charging four battery sets each day to finish her day's work on the field. "I spend nearly ₹500 to ₹600 each day on fuel to run the generator that charges the battery sets." She isn't sure how the job will work out economically in the long run.

On paper though, the earnings are large: if each drone *didi* covers 20 acres a day for 200 days, her earnings, at ₹300 to ₹400 per acre, will be ₹12-₹16 lakh per year.

## Push for pesticide

India uses 3.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT), or 65 crore bags, of granular urea annually, of which 2.95 lakh MT is met with domestic production, while the remainder is imported. The Central government then extends ₹2.45 lakh crore in subsidy to make granular urea bags affordable for farmers. Only 7.42 crore bottles of liquid nano urea have been manufactured in the last two years. Manufacturing liquid nano urea costs ₹225 per bottle, while granular urea costs ₹2,000.

"Our vision is to augment the capacity of nano urea production to 48.5 crore bottles annually by 2026-27, so that we can reduce our dependence on the import of expensive granular urea," the government official explains. However, liquid nano urea (which is sprayed by drones or by the knapsack method) cannot completely replace traditional granular urea, as farms need fertilizers thrice in every crop cycle. Liquid can be sprayed only once, as only granular urea is effective at the sowing stage, and a fertilizer can only be used at the roots once the flowering begins, they add.

Many questions remain to be answered. "For instance, who will have the ownership of the drone? Will it be with the individual, the SHG she belongs to, the village organisation (VO) under which the SHG comes, or the cluster level federation (CLF) that consists of many village organisations?" says a source working in the Namu Drone Didi implementation committee. Again, there isn't clarity around future earnings. Will the money be the woman's or will some of it flow to the SHG, VO, or CLF?

Last year, the Agriculture Ministry had floated a proposal for procuring 300 drones under Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), centres attached to agricultural universities that conduct research. "While some KVKs are using drones, others are not. Before announcing another drone-related scheme, it would have been important to understand the learnings of KVKs while using drones," an official from the Agriculture Ministry added. "Also, farmers are free to buy their own drones, so imagine if a few farmers band together to buy their drone, it will eat into the business of drone *didis*," the official adds.

Meanwhile, Dhull has sprayed nearly 600 acres in Rohtak, and is now waiting for her money to be reimbursed by the Haryana government for her services. Now that the wheat is flowering, there is a lull in work for two months. "Let's see when we will get paid," she says.



Drone operator Ram Raji at Qila Zafargarh village, Jind district, Haryana. THE HINDU



Pooja Kashyap

Mehrauli is one of the seven important cities that make up Delhi apart from Siri, Tughlaqabad, Jahanpanah and Shahjahanabad. Hidden in every nook and corner are architectural marvels. There are a number of tombs of prominent people from the Sultanate (1206 to 1506) and Mughal (1506 to 1857) era. These tombs are usually placed near the dargahs of saints. Hence, the tombs of the later Mughals are near the dargah of Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki in Mehrauli or Humayun's tomb near Nizamuddin Auliya's dargah.

Home to 55 historic structures built by various rulers, including the Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Lodhis, Mughals, and the British, the Mehrauli Archaeological Park (MAP), spread over 200 acres, is a UNESCO World Heritage site and was revamped recently for the G-20 summit. There is a lot to see, from the Jamali Kamali Mosque, Metcalfe House, Rajon ki Baoli to the tombs of Mamluk king Ghiyas-ud-din Balban and Mughal governor, Shah Quli Khan.

Start from the 16th Century tomb of Adham Khan and his mother, Maham Anaga. It is a reminder of Akbar's wrath on Adham for murdering his favourite general and prime minister Atgah Khan. This Mughal-era tomb was built in an octagonal shape with low towers at corners. It consists of Lodhi-style domed octagonal chambers with verandahs on each side. Nicknamed Bhoor-Bhulaiya (labyrinth) for its maze-like passages, it stands on the ramparts of Lal Kot, North of Qutub Minar. Converted into British officer Blake's residence, this also served as a police station and post office before being restored by Viceroy Lord Curzon.

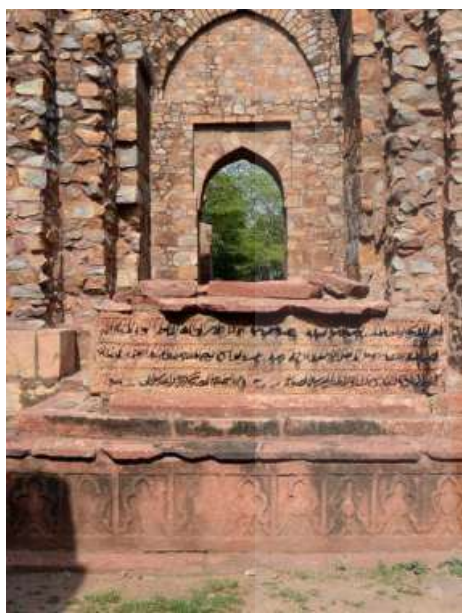
**Merging of beliefs**

A few metres away is Zafar Mahal or Lal Mahal built in red sandstone. The palace built by Akbar Shah II in 1820 was renovated by Bahadur Shah Zafar II, the last Mughal emperor in 1847-48. It stands next to the dargah of 13th-Century Sufi saint Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki.

That is probably the reason why three generations of later Mughal emperors – Bahadur Shah I (1701-1712), Shah Alam II (1759-1806) and Akbar Shah II (1806-37) were buried next to each other inside a marble enclosure beautifully decorated with screens or



# Mehrauli, a place of rich history



jaalis, a part of which was unfortunately knocked down recently.

A vacant spot in between reminds us of Bahadur Shah Zafar II's last wish to be buried here. However, due to his arrest in 1858 by Major William Hudson and, later, deportation to Rangoon, his wish remained unfulfilled.

This palace is also a reminder of the syncretic culture of Delhi, which witnessed the Phoolwalon Ki Sair pass through the streets with the emperor enjoying the view from his mahal. The procession would later reach the Yogmaya Mandir dedicated to goddess Yogmaya, sister of lord Krishna. This festival was started in 1812 by Akbar Shah II's wife Mumtaz Mahal, after her son Mirza Jahangir was exiled to Allahabad by the British Resident Sir Archibald

Seton.

A Sultanate-era grey sandstone tomb of Alauddin Masud Shah (1242-46), the sultan of the Mamluk dynasty in Delhi, is believed to be the oldest surviving structure in the palace complex.

At Jamali Kamali mosque, there are tombs of Balban, Shahid Khan, Quli Khan and few unknown ones. It is a pleasant walk across greenery and thoughtfully put up signposts.

**Twin tombs**

Jamali Kamali tomb and mosque contain the tombs of Sufi saint Jamali or Shaikh Fazlu'llah and his disciple. Jamali, a well-known court poet, enjoyed the patronage of the Lodhi dynasty and that of Babur and Humayun as well. To see the exquisite decoration on the ceilings with the tombs embellished with

blue and red tiles imported from Iran, prior permission has to be sought from the authorities.

In front of this is an open area with the tombs of Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266-87) and his son, Shahid Khan. Shahid had died fighting against the Mongols near Multan in Balban's lifetime.

Balban of Mamluk dynasty is remembered for taking strong steps to control dacoity and robbery on Delhi roads in the 13th Century. His tomb is housed in the building Dar-ul Amaan (Haven of Safety) and as the name suggests, it served as a haven from debt collectors. This stone and masonry structure of 1287 is of utmost significance since it is the first site where the true arch and dome, a prominent feature of Indo-Islamic architecture, introduced by the Turks, made its

## A walk around the Mehrauli Archaeological Park near Qutub Minar is both mesmerising and memorable



appearance.

**Grabbing eyeballs**

A few steps away is Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe's boathouse and the 17th Century tomb of Mohammad Quli Khan. After climbing a flight of stairs, what catches the visitor's attention is an intricate ornamentation full of calligraphic, floral and geometric patterns and the glazed blue tiles on the octagon shaped wall outside. This point throws up a beautiful glimpse of the Qutub Minar.

As one enters the Qutb Complex, close to the North-West of Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque stands the tomb of Shamsuddin Iltutmish (1211-1236 CE), son-in-law and successor of Qutbuddin Aibak. Built by Iltutmish himself in 1235, a year before his death, the cenotaph is made in white marble, surrounded by exquisitely carved arched entrances on the three sides. The West side of the tomb serves as a place for prayers. Also, there are designs such as wheel, bell-and-chain, lotus, and diamond – a reminder of indigenous decorative motifs, the handiwork of local craftsmen.

The MAP is a treasure trove of history, culture and chronological learning.

Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Anuvrat Marg, opposite Qutub Minar Metro Station; Open from 6am to 6pm and entry is free.

# Portraits of courage

Stories of survival of eight women in Rachna Singh's new book, *Phoenix in Flames*, are testament to the fortitude of ordinary women

Soma Basu

soma.basu@thehindu.co.in

Losing a child, a beloved's death, coping with a parent's illness, cancer taking over life...everybody grapples with their personal demons and tragedies. When these real life stories are told, it can help others understand complex issues, face adversities, promote positivity, create connections and emerge stronger.

Three years ago when COVID-19 snatched away friends and family, and confined people to their respective physical and mental spaces, Rachna Singh, then a Principal Income Tax Commissioner, realised how ephemeral life is and set herself on a journey of retrospection.

"With my father in the Army I had travelled all over the country and later my work took me to different places. In the last 30-odd years, I met many extraordinary people," she says. Her associations with women in anguish resurfaced in her mind and sparked the idea for *Phoenix in Flames* (Vishwakarma Publications). In 2021, she quit the Indian Revenue Service to focus on her first love, reading and writing, with four books on economic matters already under her belt.

**The next door neighbour**

"You will not find the stories of women I chose to tell, in the pages of history books, they may be living next door, they are all ordinary women who walk the tightrope of life with grit and determination," says Rachna.

And so there is Sana, Safeena, Kudrat, Sahar, Malini and Mrityunjayi, in whose life every woman will find an echo. Rachna says her book is a fiction based on stories drawn from true incidents. She has used composite characterisation to narrate them because she did not want to break the trust of those who gave her entry into the deepest and darkest corners of their life.

"Some of them have emerged rejuvenated from their pain, some were consumed by their torment. So, the book is a bit of an emotional roller coaster, mirroring



what happens around us all the time," says Rachna, who believes in connecting with people and deriving strength from each other. No matter which echelon of society you are from, grief unites like nothing else, she says.

**Tough to endure**

"It tore me up to see Malini's maternal grief when her teenaged son lost his battle with cancer. She loses herself dealing with that enormous emptiness and tries to claw herself out," Rachna recalls. Mrityunjayi grapples with the death of her father and her lover in quick succession and the shock and confusion that envelops her life thereafter. There is a heart-breaking empathy in there, Rachna says.

Besides death, pain and depression, the book also dwells on social obstacles women face. Like Safeena who was given in adoption as a baby by her parents who chose her over her brother because they could not afford raising a daughter. Before writing the story, Rachna met the brother, who told her he still lives with the burden of that guilt. Or how Kudrat, a golfer from an affluent family rebuilds her life after facing domestic and psychological abuse in her marriage. "Sadness is the underbelly of our society which can't be ignored," says Rachna and hopes her stories will help people deal with reality.

The book is a myriad of emotions with the phoenix as the pervasive metaphor. "It is a symbol of immortality and rejuvenation and every resilient woman emerges from pain to look at tomorrow as another day," says Rachna who is next working on the biography of a well-known photographer.



## STEP OUT



**Textile mural**

Hand For Handmade Foundation is celebrating the richness of India's artisanal textile sector with an exhibition titled Hamari Virasat (Our Heritage). It features 75 individual panels stitched together to form a unique mural. At India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road; Till March 17; 10am to 8pm

**Nataraja and the cosmos**

Shivaarghya, a festival of male dancers, by Ganesa Natyalaya will feature 25 dancers from across the country showcasing seven Indian traditional dance forms curated by Rama Vaidyanathan. At C-16, Qutub Institutional Area; March 17; 11am to 8pm Entry free



**Expressions of art**

Georgina Maddox has curated artist Anwar's engaging work using colour on canvas, paper collage and mixed media. The solo exhibition, Gestural Intuition, is presented by Gallery Art Positive and Anu Bajaj. At LT Gallery, Bikaner House; March 15 to 21; 11am to 7pm

Navantara Singh

navantara.singh@thehindu.co.in

Tucked inside the dusty lanes of Lado Sarai, a carefully curated collection of art is celebrating femininity. Reflections of Womanhood, blooms to life with paintings, sculptures and photographs by 54 acclaimed artists including Alka Raghuvanshi, Aparna Caur, Anjolie Ela Menon and Gogi Saroj Pal. The works illustrate the enduring nature of art made by women, of women, and for women.

"I curated this project to highlight the gender biases that still exist in everyday life, and the urgent need to create a more equal society," says the exhibition's curator, Manisha Gawade. She adds that while most of the contributing artists are women, she made a conscious decision to include the works of Arup Das, Krishen Khanna and Asit Patnaik, too. "There can be no fair chance for an equal world if men do not support women," she says.

The featured pieces borrow deeply from the physicality of women and also evoke a subtle reminder of the universal experience of womanhood. The

# Invoking the feminine

The aesthetics and power of women in creativity on display at Lado Sarai art galleries

themes of inheritance, loss, and fortitude echo throughout the curated works.

Rashmi Khurana's piece featuring patchwork embroidery is a result of her trying to sew during the pandemic. "Sewing isn't new to me; it is an extension of all that I've learnt from my grandmother and mother, who were avid embroiderers," she says, adding that matrilineal inheritance is a defining experience of womanhood.

**Unsaid pain**

Globally lauded artist Aparna Caur's work is an understated study of the struggles of womanhood. An effortless pencil-on-paper piece, titled Yogini in Ukraine, presents a placid-faced lady watching the world around her go up in flames. "Wars, massacres and



riots are invariably initiated by men. But it is women, as bystanders, who bear the ultimate brunt," she says. Another piece, called Where Is My Tree?, features a woman

An ode to women Artworks on display at Reflections of Womanhood. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

looking on forlornly at the ghost of a tree. "When India hosted the Commonwealth Games, authorities felled hundreds of trees near Siri Fort. It was an awful thing to see the living things being torn down," she says.

While more overtly feminine, Kanchan Chander's digital art conveys a somewhat overlooked feature of womanhood – seeing beauty in ordinary household items despite being surrounded by them all the time. Her large, colourful digitally-printed piece features a four-armed goddess bearing the head of Frida Kahlo and a few iterations of the artist, Kanchan, herself. "My domestic help and son know to save odd

bits and bobs from me, ranging from the free toys found in chips packets to sequins that have come loose from items of clothing. One never knows when items that most people would discard will ultimately come in handy," she says.

Durga Kainthola's multimedia portrait of Amrita Shergill, pays homage to the artist's mammoth legacy. "She was a strong woman who made her mark in a man's world and died before turning 29," she says when asked why she picked Shergill as a muse. Durga adds that she has left threads of gold embroidery hanging all over the canvas on purpose. "The thread of life, snipped off early," she explains.

The underlying theme of the exhibition envelops the viewer quietly and gracefully. None of the curated pieces are in-your-face, and instead, encompass the totality of womanhood. As curator Manisha Gawade puts it, the feminine makes up exactly half of humanity. The exhibition only signals that it is time to make that half count.

At Divine Art Gallery (F213-A) and Pioneer Art Gallery (F322), Old M B Road, Lado Sarai; Till March 28; 11am to 6pm





## Inevitable collapse

By calling off their alliance, BJP and JJP have sought to appease their base

The coalition of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) in Haryana was set for inevitable collapse as both political parties intensified efforts to consolidate their mutually antagonistic support bases. By cutting off its ties with the JJP, which draws its support largely from the agrarian class Jat community, the BJP is, yet again, focusing on the electoral dialectics of 'Jats' and 'non-Jats' in Haryana. Going into elections along with the JJP could have made it difficult for the BJP to remain as the preferred vehicle of 'non-Jat' interests in the State. BJP leaders had on several occasions made it clear that the BJP-JJP alliance was not forged on any ideological ground, but only to form the government in 2019, and not to contest elections. The BJP also installed Nayab Singh Saini as the new Chief Minister of the State, a member of the Other Backward Class (OBC) community, by replacing Manohar Lal Khattar. OBCs account for around 40% of the State's population. By removing Mr. Lal, who has been Chief Minister for around nine and a half years, the BJP also hopes to combat the 'anti-incumbency factor' ahead of the elections in 2024, for the Lok Sabha first, and for the Assembly later. With the appointment of Mr. Saini, a Member of Parliament from Kurukshetra and the BJP's Haryana State president, the party is also aiming to strengthen its political base in districts of north Haryana, where non-Jats have relatively more influence.

Haryana saw a violent stir for quotas for Jats in the year 2016, which pitted the community against the rest, and its impact is still felt in the politics of the State. Around 36 castes make up the State's social mosaic, and Sainis, Baniyas, Brahmins, Yadavs, and Punjabis, among others, tend to band together in opposition to the party that is aligned with the Jat interests at any given point. Jats form about 25% of the population and the JJP, which is the breakaway outfit of Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), has emerged as the primary platform of the community which also has sway in the Congress in the State. The JJP fought the 2019 Assembly election on an anti-BJP plank, but after the BJP failed to get the majority in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the BJP and JJP forged an alliance of convenience to form a government. The BJP had won 40 seats in the Assembly polls while the JJP had 10 MLAs in its kitty. The JJP has the numbers now even after the collapse of the alliance. Despite the party's claim of confidence, abrupt moves in Haryana show that the BJP has reasons to worry ahead of the Lok Sabha election. Pre-poll alliances need ideological affinities and aligned values unlike post-poll relationships that can run, in the short term, solely on the desire to share the spoils of political office.

## Square one

Both Republicans and Democrats need alternative voices to articulate vision

With the exit of Nikki Haley, former Governor of South Carolina, from the U.S. Republican nomination race for the 2024 presidential election, the country is now set to witness a rematch of the 2020 contest between the incumbent, President Joe Biden, and his challenger, former President Donald Trump. It is hardly a surprise that the contest has reverted to this match-up yet again, given that they are the only two leaders who have made the cut as viable candidates for their respective parties over the many months on the campaign trail. On the Republican side, Ms. Haley likely reflected the hopes of some among those who stood for the conservative values of the Republican Party mainstream, which is facing an unprecedented challenge from Mr. Trump and his nativist-populist style of politics. Nevertheless, voters at the primaries and caucuses clearly leaned towards Mr. Trump, perhaps under the assumption that he had left behind, at the end of his term in the Oval Office, an unfinished political agenda to Make America Great Again. On the Democratic side, at 81 years of age, it is Mr. Biden's ability to yet again live up to the rigours of being in office that remains a question mark, even among the party faithful. Yet more worrying from the perspective of the long-term prospects of the Democratic Party is the fact that there has been no other leader from among their ranks with the national stature and sufficient charisma to navigate the party through an election in which they are challenged by the likes of Mr. Trump.

While polls have given Mr. Trump a robust lead over Mr. Biden, at this stage in the election cycle, the outcome of the political clash between the two men will depend on factors such as voter turnout, the preferences of independent voters in swing States, and the impact that the many legal cases against Mr. Trump could have on his ability to campaign and persuade voters that he is a victim of a conspiracy by the Democrats. The absence of alternative leadership in both parties beyond the two current contestants suggests that politics in America has not moved past pre-existing conditions of partisan deadlock, even though it is abundantly clear that business-as-usual politics does not serve the U.S.'s national interest. The best that the country could hope for in the next election cycle, perhaps, is for alternative voices within both parties to articulate a new vision undergirding the American Dream, a brand of leadership that embraces the new paradigm of national and global politics today.

# In issuing AI advisory, MEITY becomes a deity

Until a few years ago, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY/MeitY) was called the Department of Electronics and IT, or DEITY. The abbreviation often led to its overzealous and early attempts to censor the Internet, or regulate technology, open to ridicule. Underlying it is the comic act of government departments that demand divine obedience but do their work with clumsy incompetence. This very avatar was adopted on March 1, 2024, when MEITY issued an advisory to several large platforms for the regulation of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). It was immediately criticised by both a cross-section of experts in regulation and AI and even the more reticent start-up founders.

### An ambiguous stance on legal status

The crux of the issue lies in understanding the legal basis of the government's text. The term "advisory" lacks definition under the principal legislation empowering MEITY, and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act). Unlike regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India, MEITY has no residual powers. But still, it has regularly issued advisories at least since March 2020, with four published on its website until June 2022 and none thereafter. These advisories, aimed at "all social media platforms", demand vague censorship without citing any legal authority. Contrary to optimistic interpretations, these advisories are more than mere suggestions. One is even titled "notice", indicating MEITY's ambiguous stance on the legal status of these advisories. They imply compliance without stating clear penalties. In a weak rule of a country like ours it is common sense for citizens and corporations to perform a compliance charade after an unreasonable demand rather than asking for the official's rulebook. Hence, these vague advisories are an offer you cannot refuse.

The recent advisory on AI, dated March 1, 2024, marks an escalation following earlier advisories on generative AI (November 7, 2023, and December 23, 2023). Each one of them, triggered by mercurial policymaking, is made at a frantic pace to serve a media cycle rather than be an exercise in sober assessment. In November, the Rashmika Mandanna deepfake video went viral. In December the Prime Minister issued a public warning to "...be very careful before



Apar Gupta

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There has been a policy flip-flop on an 'illegal' MEITY advisory on Artificial Intelligence, but it refuses to admit its mistake

believing the authenticity of a video or an image". And in February, a Twitter/X user posted a screenshot of Google's AI response to the question, "Is Modi a fascist?". MEITY shortly afterwards issued an advisory on each of these occasions. The other common link between all three advisories is the opportunistic transparency adopted by MEITY. Here, their full text has been withheld, with only a press release for the two issued last year. In addition to the press release, there are extensive social media posts and press interviews by the Minister for State, Rajeev Chandrasekhar. These reports show that the November advisory cited social media platforms' censorship obligations under the IT Rules, 2021. The December advisory reminded platforms to educate users about Indian law under the IT Rules, 2021. In many ways, these were meaningless other than being official coercion for social media companies to perform more proactive censorship.

The March 1, 2024 advisory is a divergence, as Meghna Bal from Esya Center notes, by introducing an illegal AI governance model that requires licensing of AI models. On this, only Minister Chandrasekhar's press interviews and Twitter/X feed have been the official sources of information. Further, only some Twitter users have published the advisory, indicating selective distribution to media and private firms.

### 'Undefined' terms

This advisory vaguely directs compliance for AI models, including bias prevention and a licensing regime for "under testing" or "unreliable" AI. These terms escape definition under the IT Act, the IT Rules or even the advisory itself. Glaring errors and phrases such as "Indian internet" increase uncertainty.

When many of these issues were highlighted, the Minister's response was to provide direct interpretation on Twitter/X. On March 4 at 11:43 a.m. he claimed that the advisory "needs to be understood" and abruptly exempted "startups". Uncertainty was only compounded as none of the terms in his tweet was defined.

Facing growing online criticism and ridicule, the Minister issued his second clarification on Twitter/X at 2:32 p.m., addressing "noise and confusion being created, many by people who shd know better". This sentence ended with an emoji of a man shrugging his shoulders. But there were signs of a climbdown: "Advisory was simply

that - advise". The Minister avoided any comment on the licensing requirement that goes far beyond the dictionary meaning of "advice".

### Deliberation is old-fashioned now

Dismissing this as just another example of bureaucratic red tape only understates the problem with MEITY's "advisory regulation". Technology regulation in India is advancing under questionable legality. The IT Rules, 2021 that were initially intended to regulate user-generated content, have expanded into the "everything law", as highlighted in the article, "India's juggernaut of censorship" (*The Hindu*, January 26, 2023). Its overreach encompasses digital news, video streaming, and online gaming, prompting many High Courts to question its constitutionality.

The practice of issuing advisories without amendments to the IT Rules, but merely making reference to them, represents a further decline in administrative standards. Worse, advisories are subsequently modified on social media posts without any official documentation. This demonstrates how technology policy is increasingly driven by an influencer culture that masquerades short-term ministerial visibility as public interest. Policy decisions are swayed by press coverage and social media metrics rather than the 'dull and deliberative' processes of working groups and stakeholder consultations. All of this is rarely put to question and has increased administrative arrogance as a response to government buffoonery.

This was not always the case. As Amber Sinha wrote in Tech Policy Press in 2014, the government quickly retracted a Draft Encryption Policy after online backlash. The times have changed as the recent AI advisory maintains its validity with a muscular if not bungling ministerial defence. Even expert and technical commentary is self-censored. Gone are the vibrant and combative challenges that used humour and directed sharp criticism at the highest officers of the Union Government. Developments now signal an environmental change in which there is a greater risk of consequences in questioning policies of digital authoritarianism. The options for us are to pray, be polite and hope for good sense to prevail for there is little else to do. For today, despite an illegal and embarrassing AI advisory, MEITY seems more like a deity.

# Bhutan's opening move, its Gelephu gambit

In an age where connectivity projects, mega-highways and smart cities are in currency worldwide, Bhutan's plans for a regional economic hub at Gelephu, a town bordering Assam in India, are high on Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's agenda in Delhi this week in talks with the government in Delhi and India Inc. in Mumbai. The plan, launched by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in December 2023, is to build a "Gelephu Mindfulness City" (GMC) with a unique Bhutanese architectural blueprint across 1,000 square kilometres, as a special administrative zone with separate, investor-friendly laws.

As a carbon-neutral city, Gelephu would include only non-polluting industries (mainly IT, education, hotel and hospital sectors), and would be promoted as an investment destination and health and wellness hub in the middle of the region. In that sense the city is more like newer global peers - planned cities such as Saudi Arabia's Neom and Indonesia's Nusantara than financial hubs with glass-cased skyscrapers such as Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore. It would also lie at the crossroads of India's "Act East" plans for connectivity to Myanmar, and on to Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Indo-Pacific region as well as the new India-Japan connectivity plans between India's north-eastern States through Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. At the 7th Indian Ocean Conference 2024 in Perth in February, External Affairs Minister highlighted the "need for lateral land-based connectivity across the Indian Ocean region,.... essential to supplement and complement the maritime flows" through "initiatives like the IMEC [India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor] to India's West and the Trilateral Highway to India's East".

Despite the lofty ambitions, the Gelephu gambit will require a major leap of faith from India. To begin with, the geography of Gelephu, a rare broad plain in an otherwise mountainous country, poses challenges. With warmer temperatures than in the mountains, Gelephu gets high amounts of rainfall during a monsoon season that lasts several months, leading to considerable flooding each year. The surrounding forests and wildlife populations place Gelephu right in the middle of elephant corridors. Insurgencies in Assam and the northeastern States and just across the Indian border in Myanmar have been an area of great concern in the past, leading to a major military operation (Operation All Clear) by Bhutan's former (Fourth)



Suhasini Haidar

The mega project is a huge gamble for Bhutan but can be a gamechanger for the region, with help from India

king in 2003, working with the Indian Army to drive out militant groups sheltering in the area. As Gelephu is landlocked, it is dependent on other countries, primarily India, to provide the infrastructure for trade and transport out of the special administrative region.

### A necessity for Bhutan

For Bhutan, the Gelephu project is necessitated by its economic challenges. Apart from hydropower, tourism is Bhutan's mainstay, but the kingdom has always discouraged mass tourism, preferring instead a "high value, low volume" motto to ensure sustainability. However, if Bhutan wants to increase these revenues, it must scale up its capacity to take in more tourists and visitors and land bigger planes, which need a much larger airport than the present one in the narrow Paro valley.

The first part of the Gelephu project involves scaling up the Gelephu airport and tarmac to international standards, which will need financing and expertise from India. The growing "outmigration" of Bhutanese youth in search of jobs abroad is another challenge, and the government hopes a mega project such as Gelephu will stem that. Finally, there is Bhutan's most pressing geopolitical concern: pressure from its northern neighbour China to conclude a boundary resolution deal and to establish diplomatic ties. Far away to the south, Gelephu offers Bhutan a way to open itself up in a controlled manner to the rest of the world, while also continuing negotiations with Beijing for a stable border.

For India too, the worry of Bhutan - its only direct neighbour not currently in Beijing's orbit - broadening its ties with China should keep it focussed on the Gelephu project. India and Bhutan have thus far built an idyllic relationship, based on a strong understanding between every Bhutan's king and Indian Prime Minister over the past 75 years. Bhutan's requests have seldom ever been rejected, and India is the leading source of investments in Bhutan, comprising 50% of its total foreign direct investment. New Delhi would also be wary of "missing an opportunity" of the kind seen in Sri Lanka's Hambantota a decade ago, which sent the close neighbour to China, caused unsustainable debt and is a project that risks becoming a "white elephant". When it comes to investment in infrastructure, Gelephu's needs will dovetail with New Delhi's own plans for the region: railway lines right up to the border with Bhutan; better roads to feed into the

trilateral highway to Myanmar and South East Asia; cooperation with Japan to coordinate roads and bridges construction in Bangladesh in order to access Chattogram and Mongla ports; and upgrading border posts with all three land neighbours to allow efficient trade. In addition to climate-friendly solar and wind power generation projects, India's plans for a South Asian power grid that would draw electricity from Nepal and Bhutan, with supply to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka would lend itself to more consistent power supplies needed for Gelephu.

Gelephu faces immense challenges, but New Delhi's other grand plans for connectivity confront challenges too. The International North-South Transport Corridor (through Iran-Russia via Chabahar to Central Asia) faces western sanctions, and the IMEC (through the United Arab Emirates-Saudia Arabia-Greece), and I2U2 initiative (Israel-India-UAE-U.S.) are challenged by Israel's bombardment of Gaza and Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. Meanwhile, nearly a decade of deteriorating ties with Pakistan have seen the Narendra Modi government virtually cut off any plans for land connectivity over India's western border.

### It can recast ties

Obviously, the conditions for a mega-smart city with no immediate returns from the investment envisioned for the GMC, are not optimal at present. However, as the global setting grows more polarised and countries increasingly opt for "tribal" foreign policies that draw more from traditional allies in their respective neighbourhoods, India too must find its tribe in South Asia: a region that shares language, faith, culture, geography and climate. The goodwill generated by India's generous support to Sri Lanka during its economic crisis and steadfast relationship with Bangladesh can be multiplied by similar forays in other directions, such as helping Nepal defray the costs of its new airports by allowing overflight rights, continuing the projects committed to the Maldives despite recent setbacks in ties, and even considering a new chapter with Pakistan, amidst all its other political and economic turmoil. To that end, the Gelephu project offers a chance for the region to conjure an imagination beyond the problematic present - one that is a huge gamble for Bhutan, but also a potential gamechanger for the region, with help from India.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Democracy's course

Political adventurism and its relentless onslaught on democratic principles, continue to ensure a precarious perch for democracy in India, on the three-legged stool of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The

onerous task of propping up democracy in the world's most populous democracy is hardly the sole responsibility of the judiciary. Deeming political funding through electoral bonds as 'unconstitutional' by the judiciary led to the subsequent avowal by the

Chief Election Commissioner to publish details of poll bonds 'in time'. Whether an informed perspective on transparency and accountability influences the electorate is a hazardous guess. **Anthony Joseph,** New Delhi

### Parched Bengaluru

The front-page photograph (March 14), of people in

Bengaluru waiting with pots for water, paints a grim picture of the crisis.

### Corrections & Clarifications

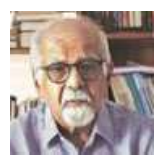
The reference to "four EU nations" in the strapline of "A fresh stance" (Editorial, March 14, 2024) was erroneous. The countries are part of the European single market accord and are EFTA nations.

In the report "Centre signs ₹200-cr pact for anti-drone systems" (March 12, 2024), Vivek Virmani is the Chief Operating Officer and not the CEO of iDex.

The problem is not a resource-based concern, but an issue emerging out of poor policy implementation. Water governance in the State and Bengaluru must be examined as a whole. **R. Sivakumar,** Chennai



# Has poverty really dropped to 5% in India?



**Surjit Bhalla**  
is a former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council



**Jayati Ghosh**  
is a development economist and author of 'The Making of a Catastrophe: The Disastrous Economic Fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic in India'

**PARLEY**

**N**ITI Aayog B.V.R. Subrahmanyam recently claimed that less than 5% of Indians now live below the poverty line. He made the claim based on the findings of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), 2022-23. Mr. Subrahmanyam argued that the average consumption expenditure in the bottom 5% of India's population, as estimated by the survey, is about the same as the poverty line in India, suggesting that the poverty rate in India is somewhere in the range of 0 to 5%. Has poverty really dropped to 5% in India? Surjit Bhalla and Jayati Ghosh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Prashanth Perumal J. Edited excerpts:

**The claim is that less than 5% of Indians live below the poverty line. Can you explain how the poverty line is defined in India? Does the poverty line need to be raised?**

**Surjit Bhalla:** We are talking about the change in the level of poverty. In 2011-12, the poverty level in India, based on the same poverty line (as of today), was 12.5%. Now it's down to 5%. If you apply the poverty line, which is today close to ₹1,500 in rural areas and ₹1,800 in urban areas according to the Tendulkar poverty line, you get something close to a poverty level of 2%. Therefore, we have moved from something like 12.5% in 2011-12 to 2% in 2022-23 and that definitely suggests that the poverty line needs to be raised around the world. Extreme poverty is what has been eliminated. We have made good progress, but we have to raise the poverty line. If we apply the World Bank's lower-middle-income line to calculate poverty, we get a poverty level of something like 25% in rural areas and 11% in urban areas, which gives you a poverty rate of 21%. So, there is no question that the poverty line needs to be raised.

**Jayati Ghosh:** Whatever is being used as the poverty line today is inadequate. But I want to highlight a couple of things. First, officially, there is no declared income poverty line right now. What Surjit is using is the Tendulkar line adjusted for consumer price inflation and the World Bank's purchasing power poverty line of \$2.15 a day, both of which would give you less than 5% extreme poverty or extreme destitution. However, there is a problem. The Tendulkar line itself was not really conceptually based on anything. It broke away from the idea that you need a certain minimum calorie requirement to be fulfilled and therefore households that spend at least that much on calories would be above the line. So, we don't actually have a poverty



Farmers near Raipur, Chhattisgarh. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

line in India. The government has not announced any clear poverty line. Also, we have to be careful when comparing this survey over time because the official report makes it explicit that this is not comparable with earlier surveys.

**The survey says consumption expenditure has gone up about 2.5 times since 2011-12, but critics say income has not risen in tandem to corroborate this claim. What explains the gap?**

**SB:** Well, that's in nominal terms. Consumption has gone up per capita by about 40% over the last 11 years in real terms. So, I don't see what the problem with that is. There are other figures that corroborate the claim. Look at wages. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) provides you with data on the wages of different workers. For agricultural workers, wages have gone up 3.2% per year since 2011, so real wages have really gone up. Further, tax data show a reasonably strong, robust growth since 2011 in the wages of salaried workers. So, you have data showing that incomes have gone up and therefore consumption has gone up.

**JG:** It's unfortunate that we have to keep disagreeing even on data, but there are so many different studies that looked into real wage data and show that real wages have grown by less than 1% per annum since 2017. And they have fallen for construction workers. What's more important is that the increase in employment that has been celebrated in the latest PLFS in 2022-23 doesn't actually exist because it's generally due to the dramatic increase in unpaid family helpers. That is, people who work in family enterprises in unpaid forms. At the moment, the PLFS shows us that 37.5% of women workers are unpaid, which is an increase from 32% in 2011-12 and 2017-18. If you look at only the paid employment rate (that is, of



We really do not have any indications that real wage incomes are growing for most working families

JAYATI GHOSH

people who are working and getting paid for their work), it's only 48% for men and 13% for women. So, we really do not have any indications that real wage incomes are growing for most working families.

The National Sample Survey Organisation is showing us that real consumption grew at around 3% per annum. Yes, but what's really happening here is a dramatically increased consumption of the top 10 to 15%, and this is widely documented. The fact is that whatever consumption we have is driven by the upper deciles. We also have many other indicators, like the demand for mass consumption goods and fast-moving consumer goods; they are hardly increasing. There is stagnation in demand for two-wheelers; sales are less than they were pre-demonetisation (pre-November 2016).

GDP growth is now driven by capital expenditure, largely public capital expenditure, because we really haven't seen the same revival in private investment, largely because mass consumption demand is stagnant.

**What do you have to say in response to the arguments made by critics about the unreliability of the government's data?**

**SB:** We need a larger discussion about the quality of private sector data. I'm particularly concerned about data from the CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) which show that female labour force participation rate in India is lower than that in Yemen and Iraq. This implies that only 9% of women are working in India. Second, regarding government data, we know that the 2017-18 consumer expenditure survey data were not released because of bad quality. The government should have released that data, but it doesn't negate the fact that that data was of awful quality. The point is that the data offered by the private sector is perhaps much worse than government data.

**JG:** I don't agree because numbers in India now are politicised like never before. The consumer expenditure survey of 2017-18 was scrapped apparently because it was of poor quality, but we need to have the survey results and see what exactly was wrong. But look at the way the PLFS was not even released until after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Look at the attack [last year] on the head of the agency [the International

Institute for Population Sciences] that provides guidance for the National Family Health Survey because the survey came out with results on open defecation, etc. that were not to the liking of the government. Look at the suppression of many audit reports like the Clean Ganga mission. Look at the fact that we haven't even had a Census yet, four years after we are supposed to have started this process. Look at selective publication of partial reports that do not provide all the usual details, whether it was the Economic Survey before the Vote on Account this year, which came out more like a propaganda sheet than an actual Economic Survey, or even this particular consumption report which does not give us sufficient details. This is something of deep importance because we had one of the best statistical systems in the world for a low- to middle-income country, and for this to be destroyed in a very blatantly politicised way is a serious problem.

**NITI Aayog's CEO argues that more people are spending on items beyond just basic food stuff like cereals. Isn't this a sign of economic progress?**

**JG:** Absolutely. But this has to happen with an increase in income, right? This is not a surprise and it certainly is valid. It's also true that as there is much more mechanisation, much less walking etc., you need to eat less cereals and you should have a much more balanced and nutritious diet. But you know there's a new United Nations report that just came out and it says 74% of the Indian population cannot afford the minimum nutritious diet prescribed by the FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) for South Asia. So, we are still very far behind.

**SB:** In the 1980s, we all thought calories were an important indicator of poverty. A survey in the U.S. at that time said that 80% of American women were malnourished according to caloric consumption standards. Thankfully the World Bank has changed and got to an absolute income level by which to define poverty.

**JG:** Nutrition is a critical part of well-being. The indicator that is produced by 12 UN agencies put together does not rely on only calorie consumption. It is a much more sophisticated indicator and it's on that basis that they have realised that 3/4th of the Indian population cannot afford the minimum nutritious diet.



To listen to the full interview  
Scan the code or go to the link  
[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

**NOTEBOOK**

## The journalist's fight against the rumour mill

It is not that easy to prove that something does not exist

Ramya Kannan

**W**inston Churchill could not have imagined how prescient his words would be; how decades after he uttered them, they would be truer than they ever were. "A lie gets half way around the world before truth gets a chance to put its pants on," he once said. This is equally true of rumours too.

Kate-gate, as the infamous doctored photo incident might well be called, has a voyeuristic world in its hold. An image of the Princess of Wales, Kate Middleton, posing with her three children, her arms wrapped around two of them, released by Buckingham Palace on the occasion of Mother's Day, was in the news for all the wrong reasons. The media discovered that the image had been manipulated and spent time and energy speculating about it. Rumours swirled at greater speed after Kate herself admitted that she had edited the photo. The memes and updates fed the relentless interest of the world, as the 'non story' travelled everywhere.

Across the world, journalists battle with the ability of rumours to capture the imagination and attention of the public. Sometimes, this support from the public offers a bulwark of resistance against truth itself, making the job of countering rumours with facts burdensome.

In the Indian subcontinent, it has become common for rumours to gather momentum until rigorous fact-checks lead people to sometimes delete their posts. But rumours are most resilient; they keep cropping up. It is true that some may not be very harmful – for instance, old videos of heavy rainfall often circulate repeatedly, much like boot cuts become fashionable every few years. But others are more significant and impact the life of the person/persons involved. All of them, though, are gloriously at odds, in varying degrees, with the facts of the case.

It is not that easy to prove that something does not exist. This makes a journalist run around in circles to look for evidence that something has not happened. Among journalists who have done this,

the worst job is to confirm that some one is not yet dead. A well-known example is the recent declaration by a fake account on social media that Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen was no more. Telugu film star Sarath Babu, too, suffered a hasty end at the hands of social media, while he was ailing. Journalists who constantly and compulsively trawl social media probably caught this rumour earlier than the families, and the scramble began to "break the news". But how do you decently ask someone if they are alive? Or for that matter, ask them if their mother, spouse or children are alive? We journalists hem and haw. Sometimes we may also come across as slow-witted to the people to whom we say, "I hope all is well. Just calling to check."

The lack of access to the truth is frustrating. Some of the toughest things to confirm are facts about the hospitalisation of celebrities or political leaders. Unlike parts of the West, where a culture of voluntary disclosure of information by the managers of celebrities is common, in India, you hear only what the celebrity's family or coterie want you to hear. Even those in the know are probably barred from speaking. Fair enough, but it only creates an atmosphere where rumours not only germinate but also thrive.

The case of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha, who spent months at a private hospital before she passed away, was one such instance. A Tamil news channel announced one night that she had died, but there was nothing official to confirm this – neither a bulletin nor an official release from the government that she was technically still heading. The short period that followed that "news break" might best be slotted in the 'berserk phase' of every journalist's life. It turned out, of course, that the channel had jumped the gun. In this age where there is a burning desire to break news, even if tragic, without confirmation, there is no peace, neither for journalists nor the people involved.

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**PICTURE OF THE WEEK**

### Embarking on a new journey



Newly commissioned Officer Cadets at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai. Cadets who graduated included those from three African countries. The foreign cadets will go on to join the armies of their respective countries now. Velankanni Raj B.

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 15, 1974

### "Coca Cola not detrimental to health"

New Delhi, March 14: Mr. A.K. Kisku, Union Deputy Minister for Health, said to-day that Coca Cola was neither detrimental to human health nor did it impair appetite.

Intervening in the debate on the expansion of the Coca Cola Export Corporation's activities in India and facilities extended to it

**The Hindu**

by the Government, Mr. Kisku said he was quoting from the latest report of the National Institute of Nutrition. The discussion was raised by Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu (CPM).

Mr. Kisku who intervened at the fag end of the discussion was interrupted by Mr Basu, who alleged that the report of the Nutrition Institute about Coca Cola had been changed. "Now they have managed to change the report," Mr. Basu shouted.

Earlier, initiating the debate, Mr. Basu had quoted from a report of the same Institute to support his assertion that Coca Cola was injurious to health.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 15, 1924

### Rejected by Commons

London, March 14: The Commons to-day by 211 votes to 129 rejected the second reading of the Trade Union Act 1913 Amendment Bill, providing that when a trade union passed a resolution in favour of political objects shall indicate their desire in writing and shall not as heretofore be automatically included as supporters unless they contracted out.



# Text & Context

THE HINDU

**NEWS IN NUMBERS**

**Land in J&K allotted to build Maharashtra Bhawan**

**2.5** In acres. The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved a proposal to construct a Maharashtra Bhawan in the Ichgam area, clearing the decks for the first State-run guest house to come up in the Valley. PTI

**Prize money for the Mumbai team for winning Ranji trophy**

**10** in ₹ crore. Mumbai won a record-extending 42nd Ranji title after beating Vidarbha. The triumphant Mumbai team will receive an additional ₹5 crore on top of the ₹5 crore prize money already decided. PTI

**Blue Star AC firm's planned investment in Andhra Pradesh**

**250** in ₹ crore. Leading home appliances company Blue Star will invest ₹250 crore in the next financial year to raise the manufacturing capacity of air conditioners at its Sri City facility. PTI

**People arrested in Mizoram for not having ILP**

**1,187** According to the provisions of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, people from other States need to possess Inner Line Permit to enter and stay in Mizoram. PTI

**India's ranking in HDI among 193 nations in 2022**

**134** After a drop in its Human Development Index value in 2021 and following a flat trend, India's HDI value has increased marginally to 0.644 in 2022. PTI  
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## CAA and status of judicial proceedings

How have the newly notified rules eased the process of granting Indian citizenship to specific communities under the CAA? What arguments have been presented for challenging its constitutionality? What is the significance of the government's assertion that the CAA does not affect legal, democratic, or secular rights?

**EXPLAINER**

Aaratrika Bhaumik

**The story so far:**

Four years after Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the rules to implement the law on March 11. It fast-tracks citizenship for undocumented immigrants from six non-Muslim communities – Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, Christian and Jain – from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The CAA is also under challenge before the Supreme Court, with several petitioners moving fresh pleas seeking a stay on the implementation of the rules.

**What are the implications of CAA?**

In December 2019, Parliament passed an amendment to The Citizenship Act, 1955 (1955 Act) introducing a new proviso to Section 2(d)(b) which defines "illegal migrants." Accordingly, undocumented immigrants who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, and whom the Central government has exempted under the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, or the Foreigners Act, 1946, would be eligible for citizenship under the 1955 Act. However, certain tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura were exempted from the legislation's ambit. To access these protected areas, an Inner Line Permit (ILP) is needed from the concerned State governments.

A key concern is that when viewed in combination with the proposed all-India National Register of Indian Citizens (NRI), the CAA has the potential to disproportionately impact Muslims residing in India. In the event of people being excluded from NRI, non-Muslims may have an opportunity to get included through the CAA, while it may be denied to Muslims. A Supreme Court-monitored National Register of Citizens that took place in Assam in 2021 left out over 19 lakh people from the citizenship register.

On May 28, 2021, the Union government issued an order under Section 16 of the 1955 Act, granting District Collectors in five States with high migrant populations the power to grant citizenship to groups identified in the



Protest march: Petitioners challenge the Citizenship Amendment Act's constitutionality. AFP

2019 amendment. In its 2021-22 Annual Report, the MHA stated that in 2021, 1,414 citizenship certificates were granted under CAA provisions. However, after petitions were filed alleging that this order was a "ruse" to implement CAA, the MHA contended before the court that its order had "no relation whatsoever" with the CAA and that it merely delegated "the power (of granting citizenship by registration and naturalisation) to the local authorities in particular cases."

With the newly notified rules, the Centre has eased the process of granting Indian citizenship to members of the specified communities by excluding the requirement of a "valid passport" of their origin countries or a valid visa from India. Instead, "any document" that shows one of the parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents of the applicant was from one of these countries is sufficient to prove their nationality. Additionally, a certificate issued by an elected member of a local body can be a replacement for a visa.

After the legislation's enactment in 2019, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) filed a petition challenging its constitutionality, which was joined by close to 200 petitioners. These petitioners challenge the law for violating Article 14 of the Constitution by making religion a qualifier for citizenship.

The CAA has also been dubbed as a move to subvert the Assam Accord of 1985 that deems any person who cannot prove his ancestry beyond March 24, 1971, as an alien and does not differentiate on grounds of religion. The petitions contend

that the law will further multiply the "uncontrolled influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh to Assam."

**How has the Supreme Court responded?**

Calling the CAA a "benign piece of legislation," the Centre in its affidavit before the Supreme Court said that it seeks to provide amnesty to specific communities from specified countries with a clear cut-off date. It highlighted that the law does not in any manner affect the legal, democratic or secular rights of any Indian citizen.

The affidavit further stated that the "narrowly tailored legislation" was passed to "tackle a specific problem, i.e., the persecution on the ground of religion in the light of the undisputable theocratic constitutional position in these specified countries, the systematic functioning of these States and the perception of fear that may be prevalent amongst minorities as per the *de facto* situation in these countries."

On December 18, 2019, a Bench comprising former Chief Justice of India (CJI) S.A. Bobde refused to stay the operation of the law and instead suggested that the government publicise the actual intent of the Act. The court rejected a similar plea for stay on January 22, 2020, by underscoring that it needs to hear the government first.

On October 6, 2022, a Bench comprising former CJI U.U. Lalit passed an order stating that final hearings in the case would begin on December 6, 2022. However, the case has not been listed

since then. As per the Supreme Court's website, the petitions are currently listed before a Bench headed by Justice Pankaj Mithal.

**Why are petitioners seeking a stay on the rules?**

The IUML and others have moved the top court seeking a stay on the rules notified on March 11.

They have pointed out how the Centre had earlier averted a push for a stay of the CAA in the Supreme Court nearly five years ago by arguing that the rules had not been framed. It has also been highlighted that the rules have done away with the tiered scrutiny of applications for citizenship by District Collectors on the ground, and recommendations of State governments as to the wisdom of granting citizenship.

They said that the government ought to have waited for a final decision from the Supreme Court before implementing the rules.

**What is the significance of the challenge to Section 6A?**

The proceedings against the CAA are also dependent on the outcome of the challenge to Section 6A of the 1955 Act which was introduced in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the "Assam Accord" signed on August 15, 1985.

In December last year, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud reserved its verdict on the validity of Section 6A after orally observing that the provision was enacted as a humanitarian measure in the wake of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and was deeply interwoven in the country's history.

Section 6A determines who is a foreigner in Assam by establishing March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for entry – those who came to the State on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, were to be declared as "foreigners" and would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.

If March 24, 1971, is upheld as a valid cut-off date for entry into the State, then CAA can be held to be violative of the Assam Accord since it establishes a different timeline.

**THE GIST**

The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the rules to implement the CAA, which fast-tracks citizenship for non-Muslim immigrants from neighbouring countries. Despite delays, the Act faces challenges in the Supreme Court.

Petitions challenge the CAA's constitutionality, arguing it violates Article 14 by making religion a qualifier for citizenship.

Petitioners seek a stay on the recently notified rules, criticising the bypassing of tiered scrutiny for citizenship applications and the government's decision to implement rules before a final court decision.

## What are the causes of the flare-up in eastern Congo?

What are the underlying reasons behind the renewed clashes between the Congolese army and the M23 rebels? How has the humanitarian crisis worsened as a result of the recent escalation in violence?

Sumeda

**The story so far:**

Renewed clashes in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have sparked global concern, worsening the humanitarian crisis. Fighting between the Congolese army and Rwandan-backed M23 group intensified around Sake and Nyanzale, resulting in deaths, displacements, and food security risks. The U.S. urged both countries to avoid war, calling for Rwanda to withdraw its personnel and missile systems. The United Nations and several Western countries have also denounced the attacks and called on the M23 rebels to cease their offensive.

**What is the conflict?**

An unending cycle of violence has

engulfed the eastern region of the central African country for decades, with the conflict originating in two civil wars. In 1994, an estimated eight lakh minority ethnic Tutsis and Hutu moderates were killed by extremist Hutus in 100 days, in what is now known as the Rwandan genocide.

In the subsequent days, around two million people crossed the Congolese border (then known as Zaire) to settle in refugee camps in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu as a Tutsi government gained control of Rwanda.

Tutsi militias also banded together to fight extremist Hutus as tensions heightened between local Congolese and Rwandan emigrants. The ethnic tensions further set the stage for the First Congo War between the Zairean soldiers on one hand and the Tutsi militia and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the

Liberation of Congo (AFDL) on the other, with the backing of Rwanda and Uganda which wanted to root out the remaining perpetrators of the genocide. In 1997, the AFDL captured the capital Kinshasa and Zaire was renamed as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Another deadly war followed in 1998 after the new regime ordered Rwandan refugees and troops to leave the country. It feared that Rwanda would join forces with Uganda. The war that followed was dubbed 'Africa's world war.' A new Rwanda-backed rebel group, the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), began invading parts of Congo. In response, Congolese President Laurent-Désiré Kabila allowed armed Hutu refugees to organise in the east to fight against Rwanda.

Since then, several agreements have been signed to put an end to what has

been called one of the world's deadliest conflicts since the Second World War, but fighting has continued.

**Who are the M23 rebels?**

The March 23 Movement or M23, formed in 2012, claims to defend Tutsi interests against Hutu militias. Originating from a 2009 ceasefire agreement, it broke away from the Congolese army, accusing the government of failing to integrate Tutsis. The group resurged in 2022, citing attacks by Hutu militias. Recent attacks near Goma have escalated the humanitarian crisis, prompting protests urging Rwanda's withdrawal of support.

The worsening violence has led to an escalation in tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, with Congo accusing the latter of backing M23 rebels. Rwanda has repeatedly denied these allegations. Rwanda has claimed the escalation is due to Congo's decision to send back regional peacekeepers.

The new fighting could lead to an escalation of regional tensions and involve more countries. The International NGO Forum in Congo said the escalation has involved artillery attacks on civilian settlements, causing a heavy toll and forcing many health and aid workers to withdraw. There are concerns a new disaster could go unnoticed because of the attention on the war in Gaza and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**THE GIST**

Renewed clashes in eastern DRC between the Congolese army and Rwandan-backed M23 rebels have raised global concerns.

The conflict exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in the region, with increased fatalities, displacements, and food security risks.

The United Nations and several Western countries denounce the attacks and urge the M23 rebels to halt their offensive.



IN THE LIMELIGHT



A still from *Fighter*.

# Now playing politics: Bollywood movies goes into poll mode

Shunning the inclusive approach, Bollywood film narratives are busy promoting elements of aggressive nationalism and Islamophobia and are demonising left-leaning liberals before India votes this summer

Anuj Kumar

A female police officer vowing to eliminate left-leaning liberals that support the rights of tribals on natural wealth, a fighter pilot eager to occupy Pakistan, and a news anchor desperate to put out the truth of the fire in Sabarmati Express at Godhra station in 2002. The images of aggressive nationalism, Islamophobia, and the 'Red Scare' are wafting into theatres to build public opinion against the political opponents of the ruling dispensation.

As it seeks a third term, cinema halls are turning into rallying points for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to help create the *mahaul* (political atmosphere) in its favour. The notification of election is yet to be made and parties and alliances are still being broken and forged but a section of the film industry has already declared its manifesto and is indulging in dog-whistle politics.

A far cry from the stated credo of inclusivity defined by *sabka saath, sabka vikas* and *sabka vishwas*, historical events, it seems, are being skewed to fit a particular communal narrative by dividing communities into monolithic groups of heroes and villains based on religious and ideological identity. The spaces and issues that are contested or have existed for years in a grey zone are being insidiously turned into a black-and-white contrast that suits a political narrative.

The chronology of the release dates tells a story. Since January, every other week we have a film that reflects the ruling dispensation's thrust on a contentious issue, stated or otherwise. Hrithik Roshan's *Fighter* took a shot at the promised Akhand Bharat while reimagining the Pulwama attack and the subsequent Balakot strike. Yami Gautam's *Article 370* explained the government's vision of Naya Kashmir where peace is earned through the bullet and not negotiated through the back channel diplomacy. This week, Adah Sharma's

*Barstar: The Naxal Story* is holding left liberals, which the party leaders often describe as urban Naxals, to account for the Maoist insurgency.

This idea of finding the enemy within is taking another shape in the form of the upcoming film *JNU* whose provocative poster made it to social media this week where a reputed Central university's name is mischievously expanded as Jahangir National University – a centre of education that promotes anti-national ideas, teases the poster. The university is being repeatedly used to get even with political opponents with hardly any creative filters.

Then, *The Sabarmati Report* will unravel in the first week of May when the political temperature is expected to be peaking. In a statement, the makers said that the film narrates a story of events that took place in The Sabarmati Express on the morning of February 27, 2002, near the Godhra railway station in Gujarat. Before that *Razakar: The Silent Genocide of Hyderabad* backed by a BJP politician and set against the blood-soaked backdrop of Hyderabad's merger with India, is striking a disconcerting tone against a religion with its trailer.

### Changing ecosystem

Apart from seeing controversial issues and events in a 'new' light, an attempt is being made to put one source of light against the other to provide ideological muscle to the claims. It started with Rajkumar Santoshi's *Gandhi Godse: Ek Yudh*, where Gandhi was charged with appeasement and Godse had the last word.

It continued this year with Pankaj Tripathi's *Main Atal Hoon*, a sanitised biopic of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and is now ready to take the next level with Randeep Hood's *Swatantra Veer Savarkar* that seems keen on whitewashing the conflicted personality and legacy of a freedom fighter who wrote multiple mercy petitions to the colonial power and accepted a pension from those he once

fought against. Unlike Gandhi, Savarkar believed in the power of cinema, and, ironically, decades after his death, the medium is being used to help him scale Gandhian stature.

There is a concerted effort to correct the ecosystem which the right-leaning influencers in the film industry say hasn't changed as much as they wanted it to in the last ten years. They see it as an ideological shift and put it under the umbrella of freedom of speech, a counter view that was allegedly suppressed when film folks saw the world from the prism of *bhaichara* (brotherhood) or *Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb* (syncretic culture), euphemisms for appeasement politics.

However, in the real world, the Prime Minister still takes G-20 leaders to pay floral tributes at the Gandhi Samadhi. The new ecosystem speaks with a forked tongue. Replying to an RTI query, the Home Ministry said it didn't have any information about urban naxals or their activities.

We saw a similar but limited attempt without much box-office success before the 2019 polls as well but the new variants are a lot more technically polished and emotionally manipulative in putting the point across. Also, they are being headlined by competent actors such as Hrithik Roshan, Randeep Hooda, and Yami Gautam and are backed by producers for whom it is proving to be a safe proposition.

### Investing in political narratives

As the industry means business, producers are investing in political narratives after seeing the box-office success of *The Kashmir Files* and *The Kerala Story*. They feel there is a mass that wants to see the dramatic representation of what is dog-whistled at political rallies and newsroom debates and give the crude WhatsApp chats a creative shape. For the foot soldier, the advantage is that 'suitable' portions make it to reels to roll over the facts over and over again.

For instance, the Indian government had described the surgical strikes after

Pulwama as a 'non-military pre-emptive strike' but *Fighter* frames it clearly as revenge. The Central Board Of Film Certification, until recently was very careful about how the Prime Minister is portrayed on the screen, let a declamatory statement like "Show them who is daddy" go in his name in *Fighter*.

At another level, it shows the makers like politicians don't want the Pulwama episode and the Balakot strike to go off public memory. In 2019, we had *Uri: The Surgical Strike* on the same operation by the same producer. The difference is while the movie threatened home invasion, *Fighter* talked of the possibility of 'India Occupied Pakistan'. Telugu film *Operation Valentine* also milked the same events with lesser intensity and craft. Curiously, the creative fraternity, like the ruling party, is silent on the martyrs of Galwan so far.

It is not that this polarising cinematic discourse is going uncontested. Dissent is taking allegorical shapes to avoid censorship. Last year, it was very much present in the measured subversion of *Pathaan* and *Jawan* while *Afwaah* and *Bheed* measured the impact of disinformation. The surge in films around the 1971 war and Indian intelligence officers' exploits in Pakistan ended up endorsing the view that India had a well-endowed chest before 2014 as well.

*Ae Watan Mere Watan*, a Karan Johar production, releasing on an OTT platform next week documents the sacrifices the youth made to win us free speech. Based on the life of Usha Mehta, the freedom fighter who ran the secret Congress Radio during the Quit India Movement to take the message of the incarcerated Congress leadership to the people, the film will see socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia who has hardly been discussed in popular culture. Not to forget, Devashish Makhija's *Joram* evocatively talks of the deliberate invisibilisation of tribals in the name of development and Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* cleverly delivers a political punch on social hypocrisy by stimulating those who seek a ban on hijab to look within.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

MR. M. Jhabbar Ali, Hindustan Teleprinters, Madras, wants to know which is correct: (a) The board has decided (b) The board have decided.

Both are correct. When we use the singular verb, we think of the members of the board as a group. When we use the plural verb, we think of the board as individuals that make up the group. Other words like 'board' are: government, committee, family, gang, jury, mob, team, public, class, crowd, flock, herd, orchestra, panel, offspring, staff.

How is the team? It is fine.

How are the team? They are enthusiastic.

The committee has submitted its report. The committee are yet to arrive at a decision.

These collective nouns can be used either with the singular verb or the plural. But you should not mix the singular and plural. The team is noted for their liveliness' is wrong. Either it is 'The team is noted for its liveliness,' or 'The team are noted for their liveliness.' The use of the singular verb or the plural depends on whether you look at the collective noun as a unit or as individuals comprising the unit.

Mr. P. S. Mathur, Indira Nagar, Madras, wants to know whether – it is correct to use 'Britisher' for a British person. It is used by Americans and not by the British. 'British' is what is generally used in British English. He is British. He is a British citizen. The British introduced cricket wherever they went 'Briton' is also used in Britain to refer to a British person, mainly in newspaper reports concerning British people.

Ten Britons died in the air crash in Paris.

'Briton' also refers to the early inhabitants of Britain. Those who live in England are English people. The people of Britain are all British. Britain comprises England, Scotland and Wales. The term was first used in 1604 when James I was proclaimed 'King of Great Britain'. 'Great' was used to distinguish Britain from Britania Minor, Brittany in France. Those who belong to Scotland are Scots and those who belong to Wales are Welsh. In India, there is a tendency to use 'English' to refer to Scots and the Welsh also. Both resent this. Scotland is a country by itself and so is Wales. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland comprise the United Kingdom, or U.K. for short. There are certain terms where 'Scots' is used as an adjective: Scots law, Scotsman, Scotswoman. But 'Scottish' is more frequently used as an adjective: Scottish universities, Scottish newspapers, Scottish English. 'Scotch' is used for products originating in Scotland: Scotch whisky, Scotch wool. Scots call their national drink whisky rather than Scotch whisky or Scotch. The people of Scotland are Scots or the Scottish people and not Scotch. Scots are offended when you call them Scotch. They used to call themselves 'Scotch' during the 18th and 19th centuries, but now they do not like it. The blacks of America are offended when you call them Negroes. The Japanese dislike being called Japs. Even some highly educated people in India call the blacks 'Negroes' and the Japanese 'Japs' out of ignorance.

Published in *The Hindu* on June 11, 1991

## THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on the historical significance of the Ides of March, the day Roman statesman Julius Caesar was assassinated

Please send in your answers to [dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in](mailto:dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in)

Vasudevan Mukunth

### QUESTION 1

On months with 31 days, the ides fall on the 15th day. When do they fall in months with 30 days?

### QUESTION 2

In the first, a delegate from the senate marched to the Temple of Venus Genetrix to bestow upon Caesar various honours for his leadership in the Gallic Wars and the civil war that followed. But once the senators reached the temple, Caesar did X, which they construed to be an insult. What is X?

### QUESTION 3

In the second, two elected officials or tribunes stoked trouble in the senate after suspecting Caesar of Y. Following his clash with them Caesar had the

duo removed from the senate. The Romans held this to be an affront to democracy. What is Y?

### QUESTION 4

In the third, in a public event in February of 44 BC, \_\_\_\_\_ twice placed a crown on Caesar's head only for Caesar to take it off on both occasions. The second time, Caesar said only Jupiter (the deity) could be king of the Romans – but many perceived his actions to be a charade orchestrated by Caesar to check if he had the people's support to be king. Fill in the blanks.

### QUESTION 5

In Dante's *Inferno*, Satan is frozen waist deep in ice in the Ninth Circle of Hell. He has three faces. The one in the centre is munching on Judas Iscariot while the other two are consuming two 'traitors' involved in Caesar's assassination. One is Gaius Cassius Longinus. Who's the other?



### Visual Question:

This photograph shows three actors essaying a scene from Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. Name the left-most actor. He became famous for assassinating the leader of his country.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Why is March 14 observed as Pi Day? **Ans: Pi Day is observed on March 14 (the third month) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of pi**

2. Who founded this day and in which year? **Ans: It was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, an American physicist**

3. In 2019, UNESCO designated Pi Day to be celebrated as which day? **Ans: International Day of Mathematics**

4. People also celebrate Pi on other dates in the year. Which are they? Why? **Ans: July 22 (22/7 in the day/month format, an approximation of pi) and June 28 (6.28, an approximation of 2pi)**

5. In the year 2015, March 14 was celebrated as Super Pi Day. **Ans: The date is written as 3/14/15 in month/day/year format. At 9:26:53, the date and time together represented the first ten digits of pi, and later that second Pi Instant represented all pi's digits**

6. Name two common ways of celebrating Pi Day. **Ans: Pie eating competitions, recalling Pi to the highest number of decimal places**

7. Which famous scientist's birthday also falls on Pi Day? **Ans: Albert Einstein**

Visual: What is the symbol? How is it related to Pi? What is the specific time associated with the symbol? **Ans: Tau. Tau is double the value of Pi. Tau Time is at 6:28**

Early Birds: Saravanan C | Rajmohan V | Prashant Nain | Gautam Singh VishwanadhaRao Batchu | Tamal Biswas



## From Page One

## Poll bonds: 22 firms donated over ₹100 cr.

The All India Trinamool Congress received ₹1,609.50 crore (12.6%), followed by the Congress, which received ₹1,421.9 crore (11.1%), the second and third biggest parties in terms of encashment during the period. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (9.5%), Biju Janata Dal (6.1%), and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (5%) were the other parties which encashed more than ₹500 crore worth of electoral bonds during this period. Overall, 22 donated more than ₹100 crore during this period. Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL), headquartered in Hyderabad, was second on the list, having donated ₹966 crore. Western UP Power Transmission Company, which is also part of MEIL group of companies, donated ₹220 crore.

The other firms in the top 10 donor list for this period were: Qwik Supply Chain (₹410 crore), Halda Energy (₹377 crore), Vedanta (₹375.65 crore), Essel Mining and Industries (₹224.45 crore), Bharati Airtel (₹198 crore), and Keventer Foodpark Infra (₹195 crore).

Other major buyers include Grasim Industries, Piramal Enterprises, Torrent Power, DLF Commercial Developers, Apollo Tyres, Lakshmi Mittal, Edelweiss, PVR, Sula Wine, Welspun, and Sun Pharma. In total, electoral bonds worth over ₹12,155 crore were purchased by donors in this period and more than ₹12,769 crore were encashed by all parties during the same time.

## Bonds' serial numbers undisclosed

The information was put in the public domain by the EC on Thursday, after SBI disclosed the data on Tuesday. The Supreme Court had directed the EC to host this information on its website by Friday, which it did on an "as is where is" basis.

"In compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions... The Election Commission of India has today uploaded the data on electoral bonds on its website as received from SBI on 'as is where is basis'," the EC said in a statement. The information uploaded on the EC website showed that the SBI shared two sets of data: one with the name of the purchaser of each electoral bond, the date of purchase, and the denomination of the bond; and another with the name of the political party, date and denomination of bonds encashed. The data supplied by SBI does not include the serial numbers of the bonds.

(With inputs from Sreeparna Chakrabarty in New Delhi)

## Panel recommends simultaneous polls

To synchronise the elections, the Ram Nath Kovind Committee has suggested that the President, through a notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha post general elections set an 'Appointed Date'. This date would mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle.

State Assemblies, which are formed after the 'Appointed Date' and before the completion of the Lok Sabha's term, would conclude before the subsequent general elections. After this, election to the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies would be held simultaneously.

The panel recommended that fresh elections could be held to constitute a new Lok Sabha in the event of a hung House or a no-confidence motion, or any such event but the tenure of the House will be "only for the unexpired [remaining] term of the immediately preceding full term of the House". When fresh elections are held for Legislative Assemblies, then such new Assemblies – unless sooner dissolved – shall continue up to the end of the full term of the Lok Sabha.

To effect these changes, the panel has recommended amendments to Article 83 (duration of Houses of Parliament) and Article 172 (duration of State legislatures) of the Constitution. "This constitutional amendment will not need ratification by the States," the committee noted in its report.

## Ratification by States

The panel recommended suitable amendments to Article 324A of the Constitution to allow simultaneous elections in panchayats and municipalities; and Article 325 to allow the Election Commission (EC), in consultation with State election authorities, to prepare a common electoral roll and voter ID cards. Both these constitutional amendments would require ratification by the States, the report said. Presently, the EC is responsible for Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while local body polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by State election commissions.

In all, 18 amendments to the Constitution and other statutes have been suggested.

## 'Burden on the government'

"Now, several elections are being held every year. This casts a huge burden on the government, businesses, workers, courts, political parties, candidates contesting elections, and civil society at large," the panel said, adding, "the government must develop a legally tenable mechanism to restore the cycle of simultaneous elections".

The committee has crafted its recommendations in such a way that they are in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and would require bare minimum amendments to the Constitution, an official statement said after the report was handed over to President Murmu.

The committee had reached out to 62 political parties out of which 47 responded – 32 in support of holding elections simultaneously, 15 against it. The BJP and the National People's Party were the only two national parties that supported the move.

## Don't ride piggyback on Sharad Pawar to get votes, SC tells Ajit

Bench says Ajit Pawar should desist from using his uncle and NCP founder Sharad Pawar's name, photograph on notices and pamphlets of his breakaway faction; asks both groups to issue public statements clarifying their respective positions

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to not "ride piggyback" on uncle and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar to get votes.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and K.V. Viswanathan said Mr. Ajit Pawar should desist from using the elder Pawar's photographs and name on his party pamphlets and notices.

"Why are you using his [Sharad Pawar] photo? If you are so confident of your popularity and being a public leader, you get votes on your photos. Why are you riding on his back," Justice Kant asked senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the Ajit Pawar group.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the Sharad Pawar faction, said "if you [Ajit Pawar camp]



Better times: NCP founder Sharad Pawar with his nephew, Ajit Pawar, at an event in Mumbai, in this file photo.

have the guts, get your votes yourself, why get votes on my piggyback?"

## 'Own identity'

Mr. Singh said the workers, especially those in rural areas where not everyone had a smartphone to know that the uncle and nephew has separated ways, may be behind this turn of events.

"You [Ajit Pawar] chose to go separately. You say you are a separate political party now... You say you are two separate entities now, that you have separate identities... But to get to voters you need his [Sharad Pawar] face... Go with your own identity... or is that to win elections, you need him. Once you win, you don't need him," Justice Kant said.

Both factions have been

asked to issue public notices clarifying their respective positions and to establish their new identities. Mr. Singhvi said even the original NCP symbol of 'clock' should be frozen. "Clock' is intertwined with the Sharad Pawar name and identity," Mr. Singhvi said.

The court said it would hear the issue on March 19. The elder Pawar has already challenged the Election Commission (EC) decision on February 6 declaring Mr. Ajit Pawar's camp as the "real" NCP.

The Supreme Court, however, on February 19, allowed Mr. Sharad Pawar and his faction to operate under the name 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharad Chandra Pawar' apparently beyond the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on February 27.

On the Supreme Court's order, the EC had also allocated the 'trumpet' as the party symbol for the Sharad Pawar-led faction.

Both factions have been

## RLJP decides to stay with NDA despite Chirag's deal

The Hindu Bureau  
PATNA

A day after Chirag Paswan, leader of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), finalised a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP – which reportedly includes the coveted Hajipur seat once held by his father, the late Ram Vilas Paswan – the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), led by his estranged uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, the current Hajipur MP, indicated that it will stay within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as well.

RLJP State president Prince Raj posted on X on Thursday, that the RLJP was an integral part of the NDA.

Sources said that Mr. Raj had been offered a berth in the Cabinet of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, while Mr. Paras may be accommodated as a Governor or Rajya Sabha MP.

## West Bengal CM suffers injury after fall at residence

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was injured on her forehead after a fall at her residence in Kalighat here on Thursday.

The 69-year-old leader was rushed to the State-run SSKM Hospital here.

SSKM Hospital director Manimoy Bandopadhyay said Ms. Banerjee was brought to the hospital with injuries sustained in a fall after "a push from behind". She suffered cerebral concussion and had a sharp cut on the forehead and nose, he added.

Ms. Banerjee's family members said she was given four sutures. She remains stable and was discharged from the hospital later in the evening.

## People crowd hospital

Earlier, hundreds of people gathered at the hospital to enquire about Ms. Ba-



Mamata Banerjee has been discharged from hospital.

nerjee's health condition.

Leaders across political lines wished the Chief Minister a speedy recovery. Trinamool leader Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said Vice-President and former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhanekar enquired about Ms. Banerjee's condition.

State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar as well as Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wished her a speedy recovery. (With PTI inputs)

## CPI(M) names candidates for 16 LS seats in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

Amid talks of seat sharing with the Congress, the CPI (M)-led Left Front on Thursday announced candidates for 16 of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal.

"We are not ruling out an alliance with the Congress. If the Congress wants seat adjustments, we are not going to say no," Left Front chairperson Biman Basu said. As the Left Front had announced candidates for 16 seats, there was scope for an alliance with the Congress on the remaining seats, he said.

A few days ago, CPI(M) State secretary Mohammad Salim and Congress State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had held discussions on an electoral alliance. Mr. Chowdhury had said that the possibility of an alliance with the Left Front was open.

## CAA will be a fiasco in Assam, says Himanta

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019 would be a "fiasco" in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday.

He underlined the conditions a refugee must fulfil to predict that Assam would have the lowest number of people applying for citizenship.

"It has been four days since the rules for implementing the CAA were notified. There is not a single application on the portal in Assam," he said, downplaying the sporadic anti-CAA protests in the State.

"The CAA will be a fiasco in Assam. We may have to set up camps for people whose biometrics were locked during the exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and ask them to come and apply," Mr. Sarma said.

Some 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applicants were left out of the NRC, whose

## Switched to portraits of Y.B. Chavan, says Ajit

Shoumojit Banerjee  
PUNE

After the Supreme Court rapped the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction on Thursday for continuing to use photos of NCP founder Sharad Pawar, Mr. Ajit clarified that his faction was now using pictures of the late Y.B. Chavan, the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Talking to presspersons at Baramati, Mr. Ajit Pawar said that after he aligned with the Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) combine in July last year, his NCP faction had initially used the name and photos of his uncle, Sharad Pawar. "But after Sharad Pawar objected, we started using photos of Maharashtra's first CM Yashwantrao Chavan," said Mr. Ajit, who is the Deputy Chief Minister.

He also cautioned voters that the NCP patriarch would use sentiment to seek votes for his daughter, Supriya Sule, and exhorted his constituents to vote for the person whom he nominated as the ruling Mahayuti's candidate.



Himanta Biswa Sarma.

complete draft was published on August 31, 2019. They were rejected due to the alleged lack of documents to prove their citizenship.

The Chief Minister said people who did not apply for inclusion of their names in the NRC were unlikely to seek citizenship via the CAA because of questions that would arise.

"Not having applied for NRC means one did not come to India before December 31, 2014. The CAA is very clear that one has to provide evidence of having come to the country before the prescribed date," he said.

## Investigation continues into death of Khalistani separatist, says Canada

Subhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

Canada said on Thursday that it continues to "actively" investigate the killing of Khalistani separatist Canadian Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The comment came in response to statements by New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters during his visit to Delhi, where he spoke about the case in Canada, and evidence shared thus far by Canadian authorities.

Canada and New Zealand are part of the "five eyes" intelligence sharing network along with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, that regularly coordinate on security issues.

"Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a link between agents of the government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep



A Canadian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that authorities remain engaged with New Delhi on this 'serious matter'. FILE PHOTO

Singh Nijjar. Canada is a rule of law country and the protection of our citizens and the defence of our sovereignty are fundamental," the spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian Foreign Ministry, told *The Hindu* in a written response, doubling down on allegations made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Canadian parliament last year.

The spokesperson added that the Canadian

authorities remain engaged with New Delhi on this "serious matter" and that it was "pivotal to respect the justice process."

On Wednesday, Mr. Peters had said that the evidence of Indian government's involvement, as alleged by Mr. Trudeau, would only be known in its entirety when Canada takes the case to trial in court.

In an interview to the *Indian Express* earlier this

week, Mr. Peters seemed to question the quality of evidence, indicating a shift in New Zealand's position.

## 'No evidence'

"As a trained lawyer, I look okay, so where's the case? Where's the evidence? Where's the finding right here, right now? Well, there isn't one," Mr. Peters was quoted as saying, in comments that set off a diplomatic flurry.

On Wednesday evening, the Deputy Prime Minister Peters appeared to clarify the comments by saying that he meant that until the trial in the Nijjar case begins, the full extent of evidence would not be known.

"When you go to court that's when you find out all the evidence. If there is something suspicious, you wait for all the facts to come out," he told *The Hindu*, while speaking to presspersons at a reception in his honour.

## Suspended Congress MP from Patiala joins BJP

The Hindu Bureau  
CHANDIGARH

Preet Kaur, Lok Sabha MP from Punjab's Patiala and former Congress leader, joined the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) on Thursday.

Ms. Kaur, a four-time MP and a former Union Minister, is the wife of former Punjab Chief Minister and BJP leader Amarinder Singh. She was suspended from the Congress last year following allegations of anti-party activities.

She joined the BJP in New Delhi, in the presence of the party's in-charge for Punjab, Vijay Rupani, State president Sunil Jakhar, and national general secretaries Vinod Tawde, Tarun Chugh and Arun Singh.

Ms. Kaur, who is expected to be the BJP's candidate from Patiala for the Lok Sabha election, said she was thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the party leadership for giving her the chance to serve the people of Punjab.



## APPEAL

Miss Manshi Prajapati, Daughter of Ghanshyam Prajapati 9 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Ranipet is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of Life-Threatening Blood Disorder. The best option for her would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSC). The estimated cost of PBSC at this hospital is approximately Rs.15,00,000/-.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Manshi Prajapati. Our Account Details: S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A.Puram and IFSC CODE: SBIN001855. You can Donate through Google Pay No. 9846607377, UPI ID: savepoorlives@oksb. 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 Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. 044-42044165 & 044-35691848, Mobile: 9846607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com



# Gyanesh Kumar, Sukhbir Sandhu appointed Election Commissioners

Ex-bureaucrats were selected by panel headed by PM; Congress leader Adhir Ranjan submits dissent note, says shortlisted names were given to him just 10 minutes before meeting; SC to hear pleas challenging the appointment procedure today

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Retired bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed Election Commissioners on Thursday.

"The President is pleased to appoint Shri Gyanesh Kumar, IAS (Retd.) and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS (Retd.) as Election Commissioners in Election Commission of India with effect from the date of assumption of charge of their office," a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said.

A selection committee, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had earlier recommended their names.

This is the first time that the Election Commission



Former bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar (L) and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed as Election Commissioners on Thursday. ANI

ers have been appointed in accordance with the new Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 brought in by the government in December last year.

According to the Act, a selection committee headed by the Prime Minister and comprising a Union

Minister nominated by the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha will select members of the Election Commission.

In the current committee, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is the Cabinet Minister and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury represents the Opposition, being the Congress leader of the House in the Lok Sabha.

After the meeting, Mr. Chowdhury told the media that a total of six shortlisted names had been shared with him barely 10 minutes before the meeting. The other four names in reckoning were Utpal Kumar Singh, Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, Indeevar Pandey, and Sudhir Kumar Gangadhar Rahat.

The Congress leader said that late on Wednesday night, a list of 212 names had been shared with him. He also said that he had submitted a dissent note. "If the Chief Justice of India [CJI] had been there, it would have been a different matter," he said.

He was referring to the Supreme Court ruling in March 2023, which said that the selection committee should comprise the PM, the Leader of Opposi-

tion in the Lok Sabha and the CJI. The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament.

Till the SC ruling, Election Commissioners and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) had been appointed by the President after recommendations of the government.

The election panel is currently led by CEC Rajiv Kumar. The two Election Commissioners were appointed following vacancies in the poll panel caused by the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey on February 15 and the resignation of Arun Goel on March 9.

The Supreme Court had listed for urgent hearing on Friday petitions challenging the appointment procedure under the new law.

# EC asks Supreme Court to return sealed documents of data on electoral bonds

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is scheduled on Friday to hear an application filed by the Election Commission seeking the return of electoral bonds' documents handed over to the top court in a sealed cover and sealed boxes on two occasions.

The EC, represented by advocate Amit Sharma, said the documents were given to the court confidentially in compliance with two orders on April 12, 2019 and November 2, 2023.

The application referred to a direction issued on March 11 by the Bench in its order that the "copies of the statements which were filed by the EC before this court would be maintained



in the office of the EC".

The poll body said it had handed over to the top court a sealed cover, which contained 106 sealed envelopes, and then sealed boxes containing a total of 523 sealed envelopes in two tranches in pursuance of the judicial orders of April 2019 and November 2023.

The EC said it had not retained copies of these documents. "The Election Commission of India forwaded the documents received by it to this court in sealed covers/boxes without retaining any copies.

Documents/data/information submitted by the Election Commission of India to this court in sealed covers/boxes may be returned to it in order to enable the Election Commission of India to comply with the directions passed by the court on March 11, 2024, the application said.

On March 11, the five-judge Bench refused an extension of time till June 30 for the State Bank of India (SBI) to disclose the electoral bonds' purchase and encashment details to the EC. It was directed to publish the information handed over by SBI on its website by March 15.

The EC, in a statement on Thursday, said it had "uploaded the data on electoral bonds on its website as received from the SBI on "as is where is basis" in furtherance of disclosure and transparency.

# Modi wants 'one nation, no election', says Congress on Kovind panel report

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Reacting to the report on simultaneous elections submitted by a committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, the Congress on Thursday said the panel's aim was to "dismantle" the Constitution, with the objective of "one nation, no election".

In its report of over 18,000 pages submitted to President Droupadi Murmu, the panel recommended simultaneous

elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step, followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

"The Prime Minister's objective is very clear. He is going around asking for a clear majority, two-thirds majority, 400 seats, and the cat is out of the bag. They want to completely dismantle Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution and with what objective - 'one nation, no election', that is what they want," Congress communications chief Jai-

ram Ramesh said. Other Opposition parties also reacted sharply to the report. All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi said that frequent elections kept governments on their toes.

**Federalism in danger**  
"There are many constitutional issues with one nation, one election, but the worst is that governments will no more have to worry about people's fury for five years. It will be the death

knell for Indian federalism. It will convert India into a one party state," Mr. Owaisi posted on X.

Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja said that his party did not agree with the proposal as it was not practical in India which has a multi-party democracy. "What we should be discussing instead is comprehensive electoral reforms. This is just a sinister design to introduce a presidential form of government," Mr. Raja said.

# Will exclude farmers from GST, waive loans if INDIA bloc wins, says Rahul

**Abhinav Deshpande**  
NASHIK

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for working only for "media attention" through actions like performing undersea puja, flying an aircraft, and visiting the border areas along Pakistan and China while neglecting the urgent issues faced by farmers, including loan waivers.

He said the Indian National Developmental, In-

clusive Alliance (INDIA) would champion farmers' rights if elected, vowing to exempt them from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and work on only one tax, revamp crop insurance, and ensure a fair Minimum Support Price (MSP).

**'Voice of farmers'**  
Addressing a 'Shetkari Sammelan' (farmers' conference) at Nashik's Chandwaj, he said: "We will exclude

farmers from GST and restructure crop loan insurance schemes for your [farmers'] benefit. We will be the 'voice of farmers' and frame policies to protect you."

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut joined the former Congress president in his yatra.

He greeted the farmers with 'Rama Rama Mandali' and reaffirmed the Congress's pledge to enact a legal guarantee for MSP,

citing recommendations from the Swaminathan committee report, and that a government led by the INDIA bloc would always keep its doors open for farmers.

"The issues of farmers, inflation, unemployment, and Agniveers are the most prominent in the country today. You will never see TV channels discuss these issues. Instead, you see Mr. Modi going under the sea to do a puja, taking a seaplane, or at times visiting borders," he stated.

# Five Ministers in AAP first list of Punjab candidates

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday declared its first list of eight candidates for Punjab for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. Five of them are State Cabinet Ministers.

The Cabinet Ministers are Dr. Balbir Singh from Patiala, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer from Sangrur, Kuldeep Dhaliwal from Amritsar, Gurmeet Singh Khundian from Bathinda, and Laljit Singh Bhullar from Khadoor Sahib.

AAP MP Sushil Rinku will contest again from Jalandhar constituency. The party has fielded Karamjeet Anmol from Faridkot and former MLA Gurpreet Singh, who recently joined AAP from the Congress, as its candidate from Fatehgarh Sahib.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, in a statement, said the party will win all 13 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, e-Procurement Notice**  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
**BID IDENTIFICATION No.C.C.E.DK(R&B) 36/2023-24**  
Letter No.722 // Dt.11.03.2024

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

- Name of the work : Building / Road Works
- No. of works : 08 (Eight) Nos
- Estimated Cost : Rs.2.63 crore to Rs.6.49 crore (as given in the column No.03 of table)
- Cost of Tender Paper : Rs.10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class (as given in the column No.07 of table)
- Period of Completion of work : 06 (Six) to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months (as given in the column No.08 of table)
- Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents in the website : From Dt.18.03.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.02.04.2024.
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.03.04.2024 at 11.00 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](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

**B-1926**  
Chief Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal  
OIPR-34132/11/0049/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA, DIST. KALAHANDI**  
E-mail ID :- [ceetelbasinbhp@gmail.com](mailto:ceetelbasinbhp@gmail.com) / Phone No: 06670-230209

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
E-Procurement Notice No:- CE&B.M. Tel-20/2023-24 - Bid Identification No: CE&B-BID-12/2023-24

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna 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**

Pkg. No.	Name of works	Approx. Tender Cost	Class of Contractor	Bid Security / EMD (Online/BG) (in INR)	Cost of tender document (online) (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	Construction of Instream Storage Structure across river Sundar/Indra near village Kursud(Sindhakeila) in the district of Bolangir.	Rs.147,57,90,686/- (Excluding G.S.T)	'Super' Class	Rs.1,47,57,907/-	Rs.10,000/-	30 (Thirty) Calendar Months

**Table-2 : e-Procurement Details**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	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, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna	CE&B-BID-12/2023-24	Dt.18.03.2024 at 10.00 hours	Dt.12.04.2024 upto 17.30 hours	Dt.18.03.2024 to 03.04.2024 at office during office hours	Dt.15.04.2024 at 11.00 hours	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical Bid	Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
\*Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
\*The Corrigendum/ cancellation of Tender, if any, will be updated and can be seen from the above website only.

**Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna**  
OIPR-32317/11/0029/2324  
A-1692

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**

Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/340 to 342/2023-24, KIFB Works for Clear Water Gravity Main, Pipe Line Work, Road Restoration in Tanur Municipality and near pias, Jal Jeevan Mission - Malappuram Dist. Pipe Line Works and Provision of Drinking Water Connection, Road Restoration, Pumping Mains in Peruvallur Pt, Electro Mechanical Works and Installation and Supply of Pumping Main Pump Sets Transformer Distribution in Karulai Amarambalam, Moothadam, Chokkad Pts. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000 TO 5,00,000, Tender fee : Rs. 11025 TO 16540, Last Date for submitting Tender : 25-03-2024 03:00pm, Phone : 04832974871, Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in), [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

**KWA-JB-GL-6-2634-2023-24**  
Superintending Engineer  
PH Circle, Malappuram

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, e-Procurement Notice**  
WORKS DEPARTMENT  
**BID IDENTIFICATION No.C.C.E.K.C, KEONJHAR No.63/2023-24**  
e-mail : [ccekeonjharhpwdcircle@gmail.com](mailto:ccekeonjharhpwdcircle@gmail.com) / [sekcpwd\\_keonjhar@yahoo.com](mailto:sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com)  
Letter No.1334 // Dt.11.03.2024

- No. of the work : 02 Number Building Works
- Estimated Cost : Rs.338.21 Lakhs to Rs.353.07 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'A' Class
- Period of Completion : 09 (NINE) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal : From 11.00 Hours of 18.03.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 02.04.2024
- Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 16.00 Hours of 02.04.2024
- Date of Opening of Bid from portal : 11.30 Hours of 03.04.2024.
- Name and address of the officer inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar - 758001

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

**B-1934**  
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar  
OIPR-34033/11/0091/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA - JAJPUR**  
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR-754296, E-mail: [serw\\_kpd@yahoo.com](mailto:serw_kpd@yahoo.com)  
No. Tender Online RCK-13/24 Letter No.1465 Date:12.03.2024

**e - Procurement NOTICE**

- Name of the Work : Tender for the (Road & Bridge) works in the Dist. of Kendrapara - Jajpur
- Class of Contractor : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure
- Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
- Other details : As per Annexure attached

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	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara - Jajpur	Tender Online RCK-13/24	15.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	30.03.2024 at 05.00 P.M.	29.03.2024 upto 02.00 P.M.	02.04.2024 at 05.30 P.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

**Chief Construction Engineer**  
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara - Jajpur  
OIPR-25129/11/0076/2324  
Q-2794

**APPOINTMENT**

**नालको NALCO**  
National Aluminium Company Limited  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

S&P Complex, Nalco Nagar, Angul-759145, Odisha, India  
CIN : L27203OR1981G0100920  
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

**RECRUITMENT OF SUPT (JOT)/ OPERATOR (BOILER)**  
Adv. No.14240201 Date:14.03.2024

Applications are invited for the following posts: SUPT (JOT)-Boiler-01 post and Operator (Boiler) Gr.I (T2) - 01 post. For details, please visit 'career' section in [www.nalcoindia.com](http://www.nalcoindia.com).  
The last date of online application submission is 03.04.2024.  
GM (IE)-Rec'tt., S&P

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बारा**  
क्रमांक: 2669 दिनांक : 11/03/2024

**निविदा सूचना संख्या 10 /2023-24**  
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बजट घोषणा 2024-25 में नॉन पेचेबल/ मिसिंग लिंक/ सड़क उन्नयन हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रश्न में ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट <http://dipr.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है -  
NIB Code :- PWD2324A5038  
UBN No. :-  
1- PWD2324WSOB21950, 2- PWD2324WSOB21951, 3- PWD2324WSOB21952, 4- PWD2324WSOB21953, 5- PWD2324WSOB21954, 6- PWD2324WSOB21955, 7- PWD2324WSOB21956, 8- PWD2324WSOB21957

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सा.नि.व. वृत्त बारा  
DIPR/C/2921/24

**राजस्थान सरकार**  
**निदेशालय आयुर्वेद विभाग, राजस्थान-अजमेर**  
क्रमांक: प.1/अयुर्वि/मि/रा.का.का. वर्ष 2022-23/अयुर्वि/24/2124-29 दिनांक: 12.03.2024

**ई-बोली विज्ञापन वर्ष 2023-24**  
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से राज्यपाल में विगत पंजीकृत सूच्य एवं सूच्य उपयुक्त में पंजीकृत अर्द्धक अनुमतिपत्र राशि रु. 712.28 लाख एवं अर्द्धक/ विद्यमान निर्माण/ अधीकृत विक्रय में उपकरण अर्द्धक अनुमतिपत्र राशि रु. 334.17 लाख, रजिस्टर्ड अर्द्धक राशि रु. 106.995 लाख, लेटोपि हेतु अनुमतिपत्र राशि रु. 356.65 लाख, सभी जिलों से संबंधित 1000 आयुर्वेद केन्द्रों के लिए अनुमतिपत्रों के 19 सेक्टर पर कार्य करने हेतु एवं GEM PORTAL प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन बोली फार्म डाउनलोड कर लेने के दिनांक 13.03.2024 दोपहर 3.00 बजे से बोली फार्म अपलोड करने की पर्यवेक्षण, लेटोपि कार्य हेतु अंतिम दिनांक 18.04.2024 को दोपहर 1.00 बजे एवं उपकरण, पंजीकृत कार्य हेतु अंतिम दिनांक 18.04.2024 को रात 4.00 बजे तक है।  
बोली से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरणवेबसाईट <http://rajsthan.gov.in>, <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं <https://ayurved.rajasthan.gov.in> पर भी देखा जा सकता है।

1- Furniture	UBN No. : AYU2324GLOB00233
2- Upkaran	UBN No. : AYU2324GLOB00234
3- Refrigerator	UBN No. : AYU2324GLOB00237
4- Laptop	UBN No. : AYU2324GLOB00236

DIPR/C/3015/2024 निदेशक

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग (उपचय मूरतमद)**  
दूरभाष: 01509-220069 ई-मेल: [xensog.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:xensog.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in) दिनांक - 12.03.2024  
क्रमांक - 3835

**ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 12 वर्ष 2023-24**  
NIB Code: PWD2324A5084 (सड़क निर्माण कार्य)

Bid for:- Construction of various Missing Link Roads and Rehabilitation of Non Patchable roads under PWD Division Suratgarh are invited from interested bidders from dated 14.03.2024 to 02.04.2024 upto 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of above 02 Nos. Package procurement is Rs. 431.68 Lakhs.

- PWD2324WSOB22227 2. PWD2324WSOB22228

DIPR/C/2949/2024 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सा.नि.व. वृत्त बारा

**GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
Dated : 13-03-2024

Roc. No.248/2024/F2/PHSBM The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, invites online bids (Technical & Financial) from the eligible bidders for selection of agency to set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) for National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM) 2.0 as per Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP document can be downloaded from 14-03-2024 from the website of [tenders.aprocurement.gov.in](http://tenders.aprocurement.gov.in) for the details of eligibility criteria etc. The last date for submission of both bids is 28-03-2024. For Details : Chief Engineer/Chief Medical & Health Officer, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Email : [ce.gvmc2014@gmail.com](mailto:ce.gvmc2014@gmail.com) & [sbpmu1.gvmc@gmail.com](mailto:sbpmu1.gvmc@gmail.com)  
Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC, Visakhapatnam

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. उचित विभाग, जयपुर**  
शेन-द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर  
ई-मेल: [acc.region.jaipur@yahoo.com](mailto:acc.region.jaipur@yahoo.com) फोन नं. 0141-2702700  
क्रमांक: अनुज-11/अयुर्वि/2022-23/23108-129 दिनांक: 12.03.2024

**निविदा संयोजन सूचना**  
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से कार्य No 133/2023-24 हेतु जन स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रिकी विभाग एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूरसंचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रश्न में ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

क्रम संख्या	एन.आई.सी	यू.बी.एन कोड	निविदा संख्या
1	NIB ID: PHE2324A5407	UBN/PHE/2324WLOB/1922	133/2023-24

(अतिरिक्त कार्य)  
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता  
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रिकी विभाग  
जयपुर क्षेत्र (द्वितीय) गांधी नगर  
DIPR/C/2980/2024







**IN BRIEF**



**Petrol, diesel prices slashed by ₹2/litre, effective Friday**

Oil companies have cut petrol and diesel prices by ₹2 a litre, effective from 6 a.m. on Friday, said Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. "Reduction in petrol and diesel prices will boost consumer spending and reduce operating costs for over 58 lakh heavy goods vehicles running on diesel, six crore cars and 27 crore two-wheelers," Mr. Puri said in a post on X. Petrol prices were at ₹96.72 in Delhi, ₹106.31 in Mumbai, ₹106.03 in Kolkata and ₹102.63 in Chennai prior to the cut.

**Centre transfers Air India building to Maharashtra govt.**

The Centre on Thursday said it has approved the transfer of the Air India building at Nariman Point to the Maharashtra government from the Air India Assets Holding Company created to hold the national carrier's assets before its sale to the Tata Group. A consideration of ₹1,601 crore will be received from the State which has also agreed to waive dues of ₹298.42 crore that would have arisen from the transaction, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

**RIL to buy 13% in Viacom 18 from Paramount Global**

The Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) on Thursday informed stock exchanges that it had agreed to acquire 13.01% equity stake (on a fully diluted basis) of Viacom 18 Media Private Ltd. from two subsidiaries of Paramount Global for an aggregate consideration of ₹4,286 crore. Post the completion of this transaction, RIL's stake in Viacom18 will increase to 70.49% (on a fully diluted basis), Reliance Industries Ltd. said in a filing with the exchanges.

**Wholesale food inflation sped up in Feb. on onion, tomato**

WPI-based inflation eased marginally to 0.2% last month even as eight of 10 primary food items recorded accelerations in price gains; manufactured products, fuel, power register YoY deflation

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

Wholesale price inflation eased to a four-month low of 0.2% in February, from January's 0.27%, despite an acceleration in food and primary articles' inflation rates, owing to a sharper year-on-year drop in manufactured products' and fuel and power prices.

The Food Index quickened to 4.1%, from 3.8% in January, while primary articles' prices rose 4.5%. On a sequential basis, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 0.07% higher, with primary articles rising

**Wholesale concerns**

The wholesale Food Index quickened to 4.1%, from 3.8% in January, while primary articles' prices rose 4.5%



Five food items saw double-digit inflation including vegetables (19.8%), onion (29.2%), pulses (18.5%) and paddy (10.3%)

- Tomato prices surged 60.5%; potato rose 15.3%, breaking a 12-month deflation streak
- Overall fuel and gas prices were 1.6% lower than in February 2023

0.22% and food up 0.17%.

Eight of 10 primary food articles recorded faster price rise than in January, with five items recording double-digit inflation, including vegetables (19.8%),

onion (29.2%), pulses (18.5%) and paddy (10.3%). Tomato prices surged 60.5% while potato prices spurted 15.3%, breaking a 12-month deflation streak. India Ratings and Re-

search economists noted that inflation in onions and tomatoes had now been in the high double digits since August and November, respectively. Cereals and wheat inflation hit a three-month high of 6.6% and 2.3%, respectively.

Among non-food primary articles, crude petroleum inflation surged to a 14-month high of 16.7%. LPG prices, which were cut by ₹100 this month, rose 3.8%, compared with 0.4% in January.

However, overall fuel and gas prices were 1.6% lower than February 2023, marking the sharpest deflation in three months.

**NPCI allows Paytm to offer UPI as a TPAP**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Thursday allowed One 97 Communications Ltd. (OCL), which operates as Paytm, to offer UPI transactions as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) with Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India and Yes Bank serving as Payment System Provider (PSP) banks to OCL, NPCI said in a statement.

Yes Bank would also act as merchant acquiring bank for existing and new UPI merchants for OCL.

"This will enable existing users and merchants to continue to do UPI transactions and AutoPay mandates in a seamless... uninterrupted manner," it said.

**Fitch lifts India growth view to 7.8% for 2023-24**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Thursday raised its GDP growth projections for India to 7.8% for this year, and 7% for 2024-25, attributing the "sizeable upward revisions" to brighter prospects for emerging markets excluding China "particularly in India".

While raising world growth prospects for 2024 from 2.1% to 2.4%, Fitch said there are "upside risks" to its 2023-24 growth projection for India which is marginally higher than

the government's 7.6% estimate. Terming domestic demand and investment the main drivers of growth, Fitch said short-term growth would outpace the economy's estimated potential before moderating towards the trend next year.

The rating agency expects retail inflation to average 4% in 2024-25, from 5.7% this year, but pared its expectations of an interest rate cut from the central bank. "We now think that the RBI will cut rates only in the second half of 2024," Fitch said.

**DGFT looks to revamp trade rules for e-commerce exports**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry is in talks with the Reserve Bank of India and the Departments of Revenue and Posts to revisit trade-related regulations and facilitate more exports via the e-commerce route, Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi said on Thursday.

While globally, cross-border trade through e-commerce is expected to exceed \$2 trillion by 2030, such exports from India



currently stand at \$8 billion to \$10 billion. China, however, has leveraged e-commerce to export more than \$300 billion of goods, Mr. Sarangi observed.

Noting that 62 of India's 800 districts account for

80% of goods exports, Mr. Sarangi said boosting e-commerce shipments from craftsmen and smaller businesses in districts could bolster overall exports.

"Most of our trade laws and regulations were designed for B2B shipment of goods... it requires a tremendous mindset change for regulators to understand the changing landscape where a supplier based in India can connect directly with the consumer outside," he said at an Asia-Pacific e-commerce Policy Summit hosted by ICRIR.

**MARKETS**

**MARKET WATCH**

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,097	0.46
US Dollar	82.84	-0.03
Gold	66,200	0.37
Brent oil	85.16	2.12

**NIFTY 50**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3087.45	181.25
Adani Ports	1267.85	58.30
Apollo Hosp.	6023.15	14.75
Asian Paints	2892.25	32.10
Axis Bank	1058.25	-22.15
Bajaj Auto	8383.55	-1.35
Bajaj Finserv	1563.70	-9.45
Bajaj Finance	6397.45	-58.70
Bharti Airtel	1194.60	25.85
BPCL	608.75	11.00
Britannia Ind.	4938.90	82.25
Cipla	1496.65	25.40
Coal India	427.70	10.65
Divis Lab	3517.90	38.10
Dr Reddys Lab	6294.60	-8.20
Eicher Motors	3772.65	37.10
Grasim Ind.	2196.50	47.40
HCL Tech	1679.25	-47.75
HDFC Bank	1455.45	-4.95
HDFC Life	622.25	12.20
Hero MotoCorp	4675.30	163.20
Hindalco	525.25	18.25
Hind Unilever	2334.60	22.00
ICI Bank	1083.60	-0.35
IndusInd Bank	1476.75	-25.90
Infosys	1653.30	41.90
ITC	419.65	-2.80
JSW Steel	785.45	-7.50
Kotak Bank	1742.40	-12.85
L&T	3608.20	69.65
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5264.20	69.20
M&M	1890.55	36.85
Maruti Suzuki	11404.60	14.45
NestleIndia	2612.75	29.80
NTPC	321.85	-0.65
ONGC	263.25	7.90
PowerGrid Corp.	266.35	2.05
Reliance Ind.	2862.95	-1.40
SBI Life	1505.85	18.50
State Bank	741.05	-6.20
Sun Pharma	1570.20	11.60
TataConsumerPro-	1198.35	19.40
Tata Motors	967.75	-4.45
Tata Steel	142.45	-1.20
TCS	4207.60	58.60
Tech Mahindra	1293.35	16.15
Titan	3640.15	14.45
UltraTech Cement	9696.95	103.40
UPL	462.10	10.20
Wipro	517.95	13.55

**EXCHANGE RATES**

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.62	82.94
Euro	90.41	90.76
British Pound	105.90	106.32
Japanese Yen (100)	55.90	56.11
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	93.95	94.32
Singapore Dollar	62.02	62.27
Canadian Dollar	61.36	61.61
Malaysian Ringgit	17.62	17.70
Australian Dollar	54.73	54.94

**'Citroen India plans to expand its dealer network fourfold'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Citroen India plans to expand its sales and service touch points by almost four times to more than 200 from the current 58 by the end of 2024.

New dealerships across urban, semi-urban, and rural markets would significantly increase Citroen's footprint to more than 200 across India, the French automaker said in a statement.

**'Widening reach'**

"We are looking to aggressively make Citroen available to consumers and extend the potential of our products beyond Tier I/II



Shishir Mishra

cities," said Brand Director Shishir Mishra. "Our focus extends to Tier III and even Tier IV markets, strategically chosen for their proximity to Tier I and Tier II cities and their potential for substantial growth."

Earlier this year, Stellantis invested an additional ₹2,000 crore under its Citroen brand in India.

**AstraZeneca plans to expand GTC in Chennai**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The Global Capability Centre of AstraZeneca has announced that it plans to expand the scope of its Global Innovation and Technology Centre (GTC) in Chennai, including growing headcount by about 30% across information technology, software and business services over the next two years.

"With this expansion, GTC Chennai is set to make a significant contribution to AstraZeneca's global presence, highlighting our confidence towards the pool of talent available," said AstraZeneca India Pvt. Ltd.'s MD Siva Padmanabhan.

**Realty site Neoliv raises ₹300 crore in maiden fund closing**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Residential real estate platform Neoliv on Thursday announced that the first scheme of its Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered category II Alternative Investment Fund, 'Inliv Real Estate Fund' had completed initial closing with above ₹300 crore of its maiden fund raise.

Neoliv said it would achieve its corpus of ₹1,000 crore - ₹1,500 crore ahead of its two year limit. "The first of its kind residential equity fund has garnered participation from family offices and UHNW's (ultra high net worth indi-

viduals) across the country," Neoliv said, adding "funds will be utilised to develop high quality, middle-income residential properties in Mumbai MMR, Delhi NCR, and plotted opportunities in Tier 2 cities."

**Unique business model** Founded by Mohit Malhotra, former CEO of Godrej Properties, Neoliv has investment from 360 ONE, a wealth and alternatives-focused asset management firm with more than \$50 billion Asset Under Management (AUM).

The integrated platform with fund management and in-house development capabilities began in January 2023.

**DB Realty raises ₹920 crore by selling shares via QIP**

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

DB Realty on Thursday said it has raised ₹920 crore by selling shares to institutional investors, in-

cluding Morgan Stanley Asia, to fund its real estate projects. The company unveiled its Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) issue on March 7 and the issue closed on March 13.

**5 PSBs to reduce govt. shareholding**

Five public sector lenders are planning to reduce government stake to less than 75% to comply with SEBI's minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi has said. PTI

**Eris to acquire Biocon formulations for ₹1,242 cr.**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Eris Lifesciences announced it had entered into a definitive agreement for the acquisition of Biocon Biologics' India branded formulations business for ₹1,242 crore.

"The acquisition brings two major insulin brands Basalog and Insugen - into the Eris fold. These are the largest Indian brands in their respective segments with market shares of over 10%," Eris said. "With this acquisition, Eris's Diabetes care franchise will soon reach ₹1,000 crore in revenue," the company added.

**BenQ unveils home cinema projector for ₹6.5 lakh, says targeting HNIs in India**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Taiwan-based BenQ Corporation, specialising in display technologies unveiled W5800 home cinema projectors targeting high networth individuals (HNIs) in India. W5800 is priced ₹6.5 lakh apiece.

"With the W5800 home cinema projector, we aim to revolutionise home viewing, bringing the magic of cinema into our customers' living spaces," said Rajeev Singh, MD, BenQ India. "We believe this new addition will set new stan-



Rajeev Singh

dards in the industry," he added.

**India focus** With growth of about 30% year-on-year, Mr. Singh said India had become the third-largest market for BenQ worldwide after the U.S. and China.

BenQ imports its projectors, but Mr. Singh said it had plans to manufacture them in India in the near future. The BenQ Group with more than \$25 billion in revenue comprises 20 firms operating in more than 30 countries across numerous industries.

**TVS Motor Singapore invests \$5.5 mn in ION Mobility**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Co. (TVSM), through its wholly owned Singapore subsidiary, proposes to make an additional cash investment of \$5.5 million in ION Mobility in two tranches.

Post the deal, the aggregate shareholding of TVSM Singapore Pte. Ltd., will be 25.64%, the leading two and three wheeler manufacturer said in a filing.

On Thursday, TVS Motor (Singapore) subscribed to an additional 18,20,326 Series AA Shares of ION Mobility by paying \$2.5 million.

**SECURITY PRINTING PRESS, HYDERABAD (TS)**  
(A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.)  
Mini-Ratna Category-1 CPSE Wholly owned by Government of India  
Mint Compound : Saifabad, Hyderabad - 500 063  
Ph : (+) 91 - 40 - 23253606 Fax : (+) 91 - 40 - 23456687 email : spp.hyd@spmcil.com  
Website: https://spphyderabad.spmcil.com

**SPP/HR/Recruitment/2023-24/3441** Date: 15.03.2024

**ADVERTISEMENT NO.01/2024**

Security Printing Press, Hyderabad (A unit of SPMCIL) invites online applications from eligible candidates for filling up the various posts as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Level	No. of Posts	Scale of Pay (IDA Pattern)	Reservation Status					Horizontal Reservation		
					UR	EWS	SC	ST	OBC	Total	PWD	EX-SM
1.	Supervisor (Printing)	S-1	02	₹ 27600 - 95910	1	-	-	1	-	02	-	-
2.	Supervisor (Tech Control)	S-1	05		2	1	-	1	1	05	-	-
3.	Supervisor (OL)	A-1	01	₹ 21540 - 77160	1	-	-	-	-	01	-	-
4.	Jr. Office Assistant	B-3	12		6	1	2	-	3	12	1	2
5.	Jr. Technician (Printing/Control)	W-1	68	₹ 18780 - 67390	34	6	7	3	18	68	5*	6
6.	Jr. Technician (Fitter)		03		2	-	-	-	1	03	-	-
7.	Jr. Technician (Welder)		01		1	-	-	-	-	01	-	-
8.	Jr. Technician (Electronics / Instrumentation)		03		2	-	-	-	1	03	-	-
9.	Fireman (RM)		01		1	-	-	-	01	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>										<b>96</b>		

(\*): Out of 5 vacancies one Backlog vacancy in Printing & 2 backlog vacancies in Control

**Important Dates:**

Opening of website link for applying Online application	15.03.2024 to 15.04.2024
Payment of fees in online mode	15.03.2024 to 15.04.2024
Tentative date of Online examination	May / June-2024

**Note :** For complete details including Qualification, reservation, relaxation in upper age limit, examination fee, selection process, how to apply online, general information & instructions and other details, please visit our website <https://spphyderabad.spmcil.com>.

Sd/-  
**Addl. General Manager**  
(HR) & Head of Office.  
(For Chief General Manager)



## WASHINGTON

## Israel not a banana republic, Likud hits back as Schumer calls for polls



U.S. Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer called on Thursday for new elections in Israel, harshly criticising Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an obstacle to peace. Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party later said that Israel was not a banana republic and that Mr. Netanyahu's policy had wide public support. REUTERS

## SUVA

## Fiji High Court finds ex-PM guilty of perverting course of justice



Former Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama was found guilty on Thursday of illegally shutting down a sensitive police investigation. Mr. Bainimarama, a former military commander who became an elected leader, was convicted by the High Court of perverting the course of justice while leading the South Pacific island nation. AFP

## SEOUL

## Kim test drives a new tank and orders troops to prepare for war



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un joined troops training on a new model of tank and drove one himself, state media reported on Thursday. Mr. Kim praised the country's latest tank as "the world's most powerful" and told his troops to bolster their "fighting spirits" and complete "preparations for war," according to the media. AP

## SANHE

## Chinese city officials issue rare apology after media harassed



Officials of Sanhe city, near Beijing in eastern China, apologised to local presspersons after authorities were shown pushing them and trying to obstruct reporting from the site of a deadly explosion that killed seven and injured 27, in a rare acknowledgment of state aggression against journalists. AP

## Sri Lanka gets bomb disposal device through Chinese grant

The equipment will be used primarily for screening, bomb detection, and disposal, according to Army sources in Colombo; the official statement did not mention the cost of the equipment

Meera Srinivasan  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has received a stock of bomb squad equipment through a grant from the Chinese military, the Sri Lankan Army has said.

The Chinese Ambassador in Colombo handed over the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) equipment to the Secretary to Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence Gen. Kamal Gunaratne (Rtd) in a ceremony held on Wednesday, according to a media statement. The equipment will be used primarily for screening, bomb detection, and disposal, according to Army sources in Colombo. The statement did not mention the cost of the equipment.

The development came a day after the U.S. Department of Defence commenced a training programme for Sri Lanka's Air



Designated tools: Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment delivered to the Sri Lankan Army under Chinese military grant.

Force for enhanced protection of the island's maritime resources, to counter illicit trafficking and monitor its exclusive economic zone. It also coincided with the Chinese People's Liberation Army's recent engagement in the region, including in Sri Lanka.

On March 7, a senior Chinese military official was in Colombo for talks with the military establishment. Deputy Chief of the Office for International Mil-

itary Cooperation (OMIC) of the Central Military Commission (CMC), China, Major General Zhang Baoqun met Gen. Gunaratne to "exchange perspectives on prevalent regional security challenges and explore avenues for joint initiatives on enhancing maritime security collaborations on mutual ground," a press release from the Sri Lankan Army said.

Beijing on Wednesday confirmed that a military

delegation visited the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal from March 4 to 13 to discuss further defence cooperation. During the delegation's visit to the Maldives, the island nation's Minister of Defence signed a pact with Major General Zhang Baoqun for military assistance from China.

Beijing's enhanced military engagement in the region remains a cause for concern in New Delhi, even as India and Sri Lanka maintain long-standing defence ties, and currently have an annual defence dialogue at the level of Secretary to the Defence Ministry. The seventh round of the dialogue was held in New Delhi on February 23, 2023. Sri Lanka has a Liaison Officer posted at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located in Gurugram. (With inputs from Dinakar Peri in New Delhi)

## U.K. govt. releases new guidelines on extremism

Sriram Lakshman  
LONDON

The U.K. government on Thursday unveiled a new and expanded definition of extremism and announced a policy banning government association and funding for designated organisations. The guidelines were criticised before they were formally unveiled, and the process has been mired in controversy after the names of some organisations on the new extremism list were leaked.

The U.K. saw a surge in anti-Semitic and Islamophobic activity and a rise in far-right violence since Hamas's October 7 attack in Israel and Israel's retaliatory attacks in Gaza.

## 'Work together'

With Britain heading towards a general election before January 2025, several politicians, including three former Conservative Home Secretaries, had issued a statement, warning Conservative and Labour lawmakers to work together on the issue and not use it for "short-term tactical advantage".

"The proposed definition will hold that extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance that aims to negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, or undermine, overturn, or replace the U.K. system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights, or intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve these results," the U.K.'s Minister for Communities, Michael Gove



The U.K. saw a surge in anti-Semitic and Islamophobic activity since Hamas's October 7 attack in Israel. AP

said in the House of Commons.

The new guidelines do not involve changes to criminal law, but seek to list organisations that continue not to be banned from having any association with or funding from the government. The government has set up a 'Counter-Extremism Centre of Excellence' to identify new entities of concern.

Mr. Gove listed a few of the Neo-Nazi and Islamist organisations under scrutiny, including the British National Socialist Movement, Patriotic Alternative, Cage, MEND and the Muslim Association of Britain, which he described as a U.K. affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood. A legal inquiry has been constituted to look into how names got leaked to the press, as per Mr. Gove.

Among the critics of the government's new guidelines were the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who warned in a joint statement that the new rules could disproportionately impact Muslim communities and "drive us [Britons] apart".

"Islamism should never be confused with Islam," Mr. Gove said in the Commons on Thursday.

Extreme right-wing group activity in the U.K. is a "growing worry" as is the targeting of Muslims and Jewish communities, he said.

## Concerns about rules

Addressing concerns that the new rules could curb free speech, Mr. Gove said they would not apply to gender-critical campaigners, individuals with conservative religious beliefs, environmental protest groups or "those exercising their proper right to free speech".

Opposition parties also continued to call on the Conservatives to part with £10 million in donations from their largest donor, Frank Hester, who had reportedly said in 2019 that MP Diane Abbott made him want to "hate all black women" and that "she should be shot". Mr. Hester had apologised for the comments.

On Thursday, Mr. Gove called his remarks "clearly racist and regrettable", but made no commitments about the funding, when asked if the remarks met his definition of extremism and if the Conservative Party would return the money or donate it to charity.

## China says U.S. TikTok vote follows 'logic of a bandit'

Agence France-Presse  
BEIJING

China blasted Washington's "bandit" mentality on Thursday after the U.S. House passed a Bill that would ban TikTok unless it splits from its Chinese owner, and vowed to "take all necessary measures" to protect the interests of its companies overseas.

The short-video app has soared in popularity worldwide but its ownership by Chinese technology giant ByteDance – and alleged subservience to Beijing's ruling Communist Party – has fuelled concern in Western capitals.

On Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a Bill that would force TikTok to divest from its parent company or face a nationwide ban.

## Yet to become law

The Bill is yet to pass the Senate, where it is expected to face a tougher test in order to become law.

"The U.S. should truly respect the principles of a market economy and fair competition [and] stop unjustly suppressing foreign companies," Beijing's Commerce Ministry spokesperson He Yadong said at a press conference.

China has blocked Western online platforms such as Facebook and X for years on its heavily-censored internet.

TikTok has consistently denied that it is under the control of China's Communist Party.

The app is at the centre of long-running tensions between China and the United States.

## Israeli general in Gaza criticises political leaders, asks them to 'be worthy' of soldiers

Agence France-Presse  
JERUSALEM

An Israeli general leading troops in Gaza has delivered rare public criticism in regulation to return to the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Wednesday.

Goldfus, head of the 98th division deployed in Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis, also appeared to enter into a row over exempting ultra-Orthodox Jews from military service. He was subsequently summoned by the military leadership for his comments, which breached a long-standing taboo on un-

informed officers publicly wading into politics.

## On live TV

"You must be worthy of us," Mr. Goldfus said of his country's leaders, in comments broadcast on Israeli television on Wednesday.

He called for Israeli politicians "to push aside the extreme, and adopt togeth-

erness" in the Gaza war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel. The general vowed that military commanders and soldiers would take responsibility for their actions.

Neither Mr. Netanyahu nor Defence Minister Yoav Gallant publicly responded to Mr. Goldfus's remarks.

## Sport

## Atletico through after Oblak's heroics and Martinez's blunder

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press  
MADRID

Jan Oblak made two saves and Lautaro Martínez sent his shot over the crossbar as Atletico Madrid defeated Inter Milan 3-2 on penalties after scoring a late winner in regulation to return to the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Wednesday.

Oblak saved the penalties by Alexis Sanchez and Davy Klaassen before Lautaro missed the final kick for the last year's runner-up in the European competition.

Atletico reversed the 1-0 first-leg loss after Memphis Depay scored an 87th-mi-



Airborne: Oblak's outstanding work under the sticks during the shootout sent Atletico ahead. AFP

nute goal that gave Diego Simeone's team a 2-1 win in regulation.

Inter opened the scoring in regulation with Federico Dimarco in the

33rd, but Atletico equalised two minutes later with Antoine Griezmann in his return from injury.

In the other match, Borussia Dortmund defeated

PSV Eindhoven 2-0 at home to advance 3-1 on aggregate.

Jadon Sancho scored early in the contest and Marco Reus netted a late goal to send Borussia Dortmund through.

The eight teams in the draw for the quarterfinals are Atletico, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Arsenal and Barcelona.

**The results (last 16, second legs):** Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 35, Depay 87) bt Inter Milan 1 (Dimarco 33) (Tie level 2-2 on aggregate after extra time; Atletico wins 3-2 on penalties).

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Sancho 3, Reus 90+5) bt PSV Eindhoven 0 (Dortmund wins 3-1 on aggregate).

## African Gold and Jersey King may fight out the finish of the R. Ramakrishnan Memorial Million

## RACING

BENGALURU: African Gold and Jersey King may fight out the finish of the R. Ramakrishnan Memorial Million (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Friday (Mar 15). False rails (width about 3.75m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

**1. BJAPUR STAKES (Div. II), (1,200m),** rated 00 to 25, 1.30 pm: 1. My Solitaire (4) Arvind K 61, 2. Firefinch (3) R. Pradeep 59.5, 3. Marco Polo (6) Antony 59.5, 4. Superhero (1) Salman Khan 59.5, 5. Meghann (5) P. Siddharaju 59, 6. Quevega (10) Angad 59, 7. Air Blast (9) L.A. Rozario 58, 8. Fair Counsel (7) M. Naveen 58, 9. Perfect Love (2) P. Sai K 56, 10. Pettecs Halo (8) M. Rajesh K 55 and 11. Max Mueller (11) G. Vivek 52.

**1. MY SOLITAIRE,**  
**2. QUEVEGA,**  
**3. FAIR COUNSEL**  
**2. MARAVANTHE STAKES (1,400m),** rated 40 to 65, 2:00: 1. Anakin (7) P. Siddharaju 60, 2. Marzgowel (5) Akshay K 59, 3. Eridani (1) B.L. Paswan 58, 4. Ultimate Striker (2) Vivek 57.5, 5. Mazal Tov (3) Srinath 57, 6. Cross-

water (4) Antony 55 and 7. Anadale (6) Trevor 54.

**1. ANADALE,**  
**2. MARZGOVEL,**  
**3. MAZAL TOV**

**3. MANIPAL STAKES (Div. II), (1,200m),** rated 20 to 45, 2:30: 1. Schafenberg (11) Rayan 60, 2. Avicena (10) Antony 58, 3. Domina (2) Afsar Khan 58, 4. Everyone Godfather (8) S. Shareef 58, 5. Fire Within (3) Vivek 57.5, 6. Halchenemy (7) M. Rajesh K 57.5, 7. Knotty In Blue (6) G. Vivek 57.5, 8. Multisided (1) Arvind K 57.5, 9. The Lady Emporio (9) R. Pradeep 57.5, 10. Croissantino (12) B. Nayak 57, 11. Mega Success (5) Jagadeesh 56.5 and 12. Tigerking (4) Saddam H 55.5.

**1. MULTISIDED,**  
**2. THE LADY EMPORIO,**  
**3. KNOTTY IN BLUE**

**4. WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY STAKES (1,200m),** rated 60 to 85, 3:00: 1. Last Wish (8) Srinath 61, 2. Aldgate (2) Antony 59, 3. Tripitaka (3) Trevor 57.5, 4. Auspicious Queen (5) Angad 54.5, 5. Del Mar (5) Ashhad Asbar 54.5, 6. Obsidian (4) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 7. Prime Abbess (7) Akshay K 54, 8. English Bay (6) P. Siddharaju 53.5, 9. Maple Leaf (10) Salman Khan 53 and 10. Czar (9) I. Chisty 52.5.

**1. CZAR,**

**2. LAST WISH, 3. ALDGATE**

**5. PRESS REPORTERS STAKES (1,200m),** rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3:30: 1. Rapidus (8) Akshay K 60, 2. Macron (3) Arvind K 59.5, 3. Air Display (5) P. Siddharaju 59, 4. Born Dancer (2) M. Naveen 59, 5. Sola Prince (6) Darshan 58.5, 6. Southern Force (1) I. Chisty 56, 7. Agera (7) Saddam H 51.5 and 8. Measure Of Time (4) Salman Khan 51.5.

**1. MACRON,**  
**2. BORN DANCER,**  
**3. RAPIDUS**

**6. R. RAMAKRISHNAN MEMORIAL MILLION (1,200m),** 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4:00: 1. Jersey King (2) Srinath 57, 2. African Gold (10) Akshay K 53, 3. Iron King (5) P.S. Chouhan 53, 4. Joyful Spirit (11) Shreyas 53, 5. Silver Strike (9) B. Darshan 53, 6. Supercharge (1) Vinod Shinde 53, 7. Windcleaver (4) Jagadeesh 53, 8. Cascais (3) I. Chisty 51.5, 9. Icy Wind (6) Arvind K 51.5, 10. Mericle Beauty (7) Salman Khan 51.5 and 11. Mystical Forest (8) G. Vivek 51.5.

**1. AFRICAN GOLD,**  
**2. JERSEY KING,**  
**3. CASCAIS**

**7. BJAPUR STAKES (Div. I), (1,200m),** rated 00 to 25, 4:30: 1. Empress Bella (9) B.

Nayak 62.5, 2. Smile Of Beauty (10) P. Siddharaju 62.5, 3. Contractor (4) M. Naveen 62, 4. The Omega Man (1) Salman Khan 62, 5. Loving Pearl (7) S. John 61.5, 6. Samachar (8) Vivek 61.5, 7. Burst Of Blaze (6) P. Sai K 60.5, 8. Sacred Creator (9) Angad 60.5, 9. Flying Brave (11) Rayan 60, 10. Bellissimo (3) Afsar Khan 58 and 11. Infinite Spirit (2) C. Hemant 56.

**1. SMILE OF BEAUTY,**  
**2. LOVING PEARL,**  
**3. SAMACHAR**

**8. MANIPAL STAKES (Div. I), (1,200m),** rated 20 to 45, 5:00: 1. Star Concept (5) P. Siddharaju 62, 2. Grizzly (7) R. Pradeep 59.5, 3. Rembrandt (12) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 4. Rightly Noble (3) C. Hemant 59.5, 5. Ebotse (6) Antony 58.5, 6. Greeley (10) L.A. Rozario 58, 7. Ooh La La (1) Salman Khan 58, 8. Solid Power (8) Rayan 57, 9. Asagiri (4) Trevor 55.5, 10. Alacero (2) Arvind K 55, 11. Phoenix Surprise (9) Shreyas 55 and 12. Sea Jack (11) Saddam H 55.

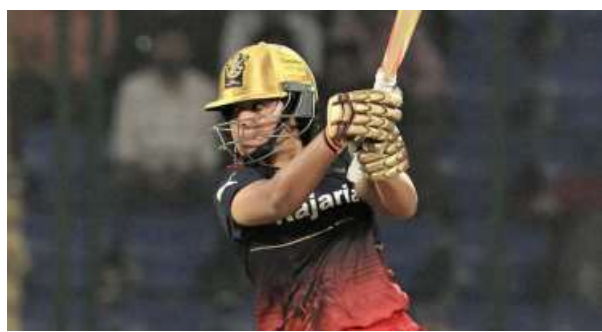
**1. REMBRANDT,**  
**2. ASAGIRI,**  
**3. GREELEY**

Day's best: ANADALE  
Double: CZAR - AFRICAN GOLD  
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (0): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.



**VITAL COGS**

**Williams hails Richa, Renuka and Shreyanka's contributions**



R.V. MOORTHY

RCB head coach Luke Williams hailed the side's Indian contingent for its role in the side making the playoffs. "Richa (Ghosh) has had a great tournament. Renuka (Singh) bowls tough overs in the PowerPlay against the best in the world. Shreyanka (Patil) is primed for some good performances. The Indian contribution has been important."

**LOFTY IDEAL**

**MI batting coach provides insight into Harmanpreet's 48-ball 95**



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Mumbai Indians batting coach Devieka Palshikar offered an insight into what went behind Harmanpreet Kaur's monstrous 48-ball 95 against Gujarat Giants. "Before each game, Harman asks for certain kinds of batting drills. The day she scored that 95, she came in and, for the first time, asked for more lofted shots. There was some instinct."

**PICKING THE THREAD**

**It didn't feel like he was batting after a long time: Amre on Pant**



PTI

Rishabh Pant's bat swing remains "vintage" and his batting in Delhi Capitals' pre-season camp doesn't indicate that he has been away from the game for 14 months, said the team's assistant coach Pravin Amre. Earlier this week, the BCCI declared Pant fully fit for the IPL, which will mark his comeback from a horrific car accident in 2022.

**ON A ROLL**

**Sharath continues his giant-killing run in Singapore Smash**



FILE PHOTO

A. Sharath Kamal continued his giant-killing run in the Singapore Smash table tennis tournament with a 11-4, 11-8, 12-10 victory over Omar Assar of Egypt in the round-of-16 on Thursday. Sharath had defeated World No. 13 Darko Jorgic of Slovenia a day earlier. This is his best performance in the tournament.

**Mumbai breaks Vidarbha's resolve, ascends Cloud 42**

Skipper Wadkar's century and his 130-run stand with Dubey for the sixth wicket delays the inevitable; Kotian bags four as the visitors crash to defeat losing the last five wickets for 15 runs

**RANJI TROPHY**

**Amol Karhadkar**  
MUMBAI

Akshay Wadkar and Harsh Dubey put on a great fight. But with the gargantuan target Vidarbha was chasing, the writing was on the wall even before the day started. As a result, 51 minutes into the fifth and final day's play Mumbai started riding high on Cloud 42 at the Wankhede Stadium here on Thursday.

It took its well-oiled bowling unit 42.3 overs to earn the remaining five scalps and engraved its name on the Ranji Trophy yet again. It was fitting that when the ninth wicket fell, Tushar Deshpande asked captain Ajinkya Rahane to throw the ball to Dhawal Kulkarni.

And the veteran pacer – playing his final game – moved the ball slightly and lured Umesh Yadav into a wild heave resulting in the red cherry disturbing the woodwork.

**Dramatic collapse**

That wicket completed a dramatic collapse, with Mumbai picking up the last five wickets for a paltry 15 runs in just 32 balls. Tanush Kotian finally sneaked through captain Wadkar's (102, 199b, 9x4, 1x6) defence after a remarkable knock. It ended the 130-run partnership between him and Dubey (65, 128b, 5x4, 2x6).

In the next over, Dubey succumbed to Deshpande's short-ball ploy,



**Journey of rediscovery:** Mumbai ended its second-longest title drought in the Ranji Trophy with a thumping win over Vidarbha on Thursday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

with Shams Mulani taking a lunging catch at short backward square-leg.

The same strategy saw Aditya Sarvate – suffering a back spasm – offering Ajinkya Rahane catching practice at mid-on. Kotian then bowled Yash Thakur before Kulkarni wrapped the game up.

**Seamless batting**

The morning session, though, belonged to Wadkar and Dubey. The overnight unbeaten duo continued to bat seamlessly on a slow surface to frustrate Mumbai and its loyal supporters

Only after Deshpande was introduced into the attack the batters started looking uncomfortable. And the wheels came off soon after Wadkar converted his eighth 50-plus score of the season into a hundred.

Mumbai took home the winner's cheque for ₹5 crore while Vidarbha was richer by ₹3 crore. The

Mumbai Cricket Association also announced a bonus of ₹5 crore to the squad for ending the eight-year title drought.

**The scores:**

**Mumbai – 1st innings:** 224.

**Vidarbha – 1st innings:** 105.

**Mumbai – 2nd innings:** 418.

**Vidarbha – 2nd innings:**

Atharva Taide lbw b Mulani 32, Dhruv Shorey b Kotian 28, Aman Mokhadde lbw b Musheer 32, Karun Nair c Tamore b Musheer 74, Yash Rathod lbw b Kotian 7, Akshay Wadkar lbw b Kotian 102, Harsh Dubey c Mulani b Deshpande 65, Aditya Sarvate c Rahane b Deshpande 3, Yash Thakur b Kotian 6, Umesh Yadav b Kulkarni 6, Aditya Thakare (not out) 0; Extras (b-1, lb-12): 13; Total (in 134.3 overs): 368.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-64, 2-64, 3-118, 4-133, 5-223, 6-353, 7-355, 8-356, 9-364.

**Mumbai bowling:** Mulani 35-9-75-1, Shardul 12-0-46-0, Kulkarni 8.3-0-38-1, Deshpande 16-1-53-2, Kotian 39-5-95-4, Musheer 24-3-48-2.

**Mumbai won by 169 runs.**

**PoM:** Musheer. **Pos:** Kotian.

**Fabulous 42**

Mumbai extended its Ranji Trophy record by clinching its 42nd title in the 89th edition of the tournament

**1934-1935:** bt Northern India by 208 runs (in Mumbai)

**1935-1936:** bt Madras by 190 runs (Delhi)

**1941-1942:** bt Mysore by an innings & 281 runs (Mumbai)

**1944-1945:** bt Holkar by 374 runs (Mumbai)

**1948-1949:** bt Baroda by 468 runs (Mumbai)

**1951-1952:** bt Holkar by 531 runs (Mumbai)

**1953-1954:** bt Holkar by 8 wickets (Indore)

**1955-1956:** bt Bengal by 8 wickets (Kolkata)

**1956-1957:** bt Services by an innings & 38 runs (Delhi)

**1958-1959:** bt Bengal by 420 runs (Mumbai)

**1959-1960:** bt Mysore by an innings & 22 runs (Mumbai)

**1960-1961:** bt Rajasthan by 7 wickets (Udaipur)

**1961-1962:** bt Rajasthan by an innings & 287 runs (Mumbai)

**1962-1963:** bt Rajasthan by an innings & 19 runs (Jaipur)

**1963-1964:** bt Rajasthan by 9 wickets (Mumbai)

**1964-1965:** bt Hyderabad by an innings & 126 runs (Hyderabad)

**1965-1966:** bt Rajasthan by 8 wickets (Jaipur)

**1966-1967:** bt Rajasthan on first innings lead (Mumbai)

**1967-1968:** bt Madras on first innings lead (Mumbai)

**1968-1969:** bt Bengal on first innings lead (Mumbai)

**1969-1970:** bt Rajasthan by an innings & 59 runs (Mumbai)

**1970-1971:** bt Maharashtra by 48 runs (Mumbai)

**1971-1972:** bt Bengal by 246 runs (Mumbai)

**1972-1973:** bt Tamil Nadu by 123 runs (Chennai)

**1974-1975:** bt Karnataka by 7 wickets (Mumbai)

**1975-1976:** bt Bihar by 10 wickets (Jamshedpur)

**1976-1977:** bt Delhi by 129 runs (Delhi)

**1980-1981:** bt Delhi by an innings & 46 runs (Mumbai)

**1983-1984:** bt Delhi on first innings lead (Mumbai)

**1984-1985:** bt Delhi by 90 runs (Mumbai)

**1993-1994:** bt Bengal by 8 wickets (Mumbai)

**1994-1995:** bt Punjab on first innings lead (Mumbai)

**1996-1997:** bt Delhi on first innings lead (Gwalior)

**1999-2000:** bt Hyderabad by 397 runs (Mumbai)

**2002-2003:** bt Tamil Nadu by 141 runs (Mumbai)

**2003-2004:** bt Tamil Nadu on first innings lead (Chennai)

**2006-2007:** bt Bengal by 132 runs (Mumbai)

**2008-2009:** bt Uttar Pradesh by 243 runs (Hyderabad)

**2009-2010:** bt Karnataka by 6 runs (Mysore)

**2012-2013:** bt Saurashtra by an innings & 125 runs (Mumbai)

**2015-2016:** bt Saurashtra by an innings & 21 runs (Pune)

**2023-2024:** bt Vidarbha by 169 runs (Mumbai)

**Proud of the way we dominated the season: Rahane**



**Over the moon:** Ecstatic members of the Mumbai team thank the crowd after the triumph. EMMANUAL YOGINI

**Amol Karhadkar**  
MUMBAI

Minutes after laying his hands on the Ranji Trophy and ending Mumbai's second-longest title drought, captain Ajinkya Rahane and the rest of his teammates took the team on a victory parade to celebrate along with the loyal fans.

As captain Ajinkya Rahane and head coach Omkar Salvi sat down to reflect on the team's title-run, the duo had a sense of pride. Rahane lauded the BCCI for forcing established cricketers to play the Ranji Trophy. "I want to mention about BCCI for giving importance to domestic cricket, which is a very good thing. Allowing players to go and play domestic cricket is very important," Rahane said.

In an endeavour to in-

centivise achievements in First Class cricket, the Mumbai Cricket Association announced an additional prize of ₹5 crore – over and above the prize money.

"For all the players, nowadays, there are very less institutions which provide jobs. For youngsters, there is also a lot of lure towards franchise cricket (where) there is also a lot of money," Salvi said.

Rahane said, "This victory means a lot to us. It is very special since almost 10 players were representing India or India-A across formats, which is a very good sign. We all are happy (for) guys who are representing India right now from (the) Mumbai team and extremely proud of ourselves for the way we have dominated the season."

**MI will hope for history to repeat itself as it meets RCB**

**WPL SEASON 2**

**Lavanya L**

Sports and superstition go together like wine and French cheese. Patterns are easy to spot and comfortable to believe in. So why shouldn't Mumbai Indians draw parallels from its Women's Premier League campaigns in the last two seasons?

"Don't you think history is repeating?" MI batting coach Devieka Palshikar asked ahead of the Eliminator against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Friday. "We lost against UP Warriorz last season in the league. We then bounced back in the Eliminator against them with a largely one-sided win. The same pattern this season... we're looking at it as a good luck sign," she quipped.

MI's strength lies in its bowling attack's ferocity and versatility. Shabnim Ismail has given the side the



**Eliminator beckons:** Come Friday, Harmanpreet or Smriti will earn the right to face Lanning's Capitals in the final. SPORTSPICS/WPL

comfort of feisty overs at the start which others like Amelia Kerr, Pooja Vastrakar and Saika Ishaque have been able to build on.

For RCB, the Ellyse Perry show against MI was a jail break as it helped the star-studded side scrape through to the playoffs.

The team has been unacceptably generous with extras and needs to be

tighter to contain a trigger-happy batting arsenal like MI's.

From Perry, Smriti Mandhana, S. Meghana and Richa Ghosh to Georgia Wareham, RCB's batting depth has been on display this season. A coordinated effort will be the ideal recipe on what could well prove a big day for Smriti's Bengaluru side.

**Lakshya advances, Sindhu bows out**



**Stunning:** Lakshya scored a thrilling win over Antonsen. GETTY IMAGES

**ALL ENGLAND**

**Press Trust of India**  
BIRMINGHAM

Lakshya Sen recorded a stunning win over World No. 3 Anders Antonsen to progress to the quarterfinals but an error-prone P.V. Sindhu lost in the second round of the All England Championships here on Thursday.

Lakshya fought his way back from a 2-8 deficit in the decider after losing the second game to prevail 2-

22, 11-21, 21-14 over Antonsen in the second round.

Sindhu seemed to be in good touch as she fought hard against World No. 1 An Se Young of Korea, but failed to curb her mistakes and slipped to a 19-21, 11-21 loss.

**Other results: Men's doubles (first round):** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan (Ina) 21-18, 21-14.

**Women's doubles (pre-quarterfinal):** Zhang Shu Xian & Zheng Yu (Chn) bt Tanisha Crasto & Ashwini Ponappa 11-21, 21-11, 21-11.

**Meteors overcome hiccups and a defiant Defenders**

**PVL**

**Saikat Chakraborty**  
CHENNAI

Mumbai Meteors recorded a 15-8, 13-15, 7-15, 16-14, 15-13 victory over Ahmedabad Defenders in a five-set thriller and opened its account in the Super 5 stage of the Prime Volleyball League here on Thursday.

Led by the all-round brilliance of universal-attacker Shubham Chaudhary, Meteors got off to a flying start by winning the first set 15-8. The defending champion bounced back in the second as Angamuthu and Max Senica led the charge. Even a "Super Serve" from Shubham couldn't stop Defenders from pulling level.

The momentum shifted dramatically in the third set. Defenders' Angamuthu, Shon T. John and Shikhar Singh unleashed a flurry of powerful smashes as the team cruised to a



**On the attack:** Meteors, pushed to the brink, made a smashing comeback. R. RAGU

15-7 win. To make matters worse for Meteors, Shubham suffered an injury.

Meteors, pushed to the brink, refused to give up. Attacker Amit Gulia and middle-blocker Shameemudheen stepped up in the fourth set to keep their side in the hunt. In the decider, Aditya Rana's powerful smashes and Shameemudheen's crucial blocks

sealed a win for Meteors. Senica's Super Serve couldn't save the day for Defenders.

In another nail-biting encounter, Calicut Heroes overcame Bengaluru Torpedoes 18-16, 16-14, 8-16, 11-15, 15-10 to reclaim the top spot. Skipper Jerome Vinith and substitute opposite-hitter Ashok Bisnoi were Calicut's heroes.



## IN BRIEF



BISWARANJAN ROUTH

## Odisha FC fails to make it to AFC Cup inter-zonal final

Indian Super League side Odisha FC failed to progress to the inter-zonal final of the AFC Cup after being held to a goalless draw in the home leg by Australia's Central Coast Mariners in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. Having lost the first leg to the A-League side, Odisha could not capitalise on the home advantage to concede the tie 0-4 on aggregate.



## Bournemouth engineers remarkable comeback

Bournemouth staged an astonishing fightback from three goals down to beat Luton 4-3 and spoil Tom Lockyer's emotional return to the scene of his near-death ordeal on Wednesday.

**The result:** Bournemouth 4 (Solanke 50, Zabarnyi 62, Semenyo 64, 83) bt Luton 3 (Chong 9, Ogbene 31, Barkley 45+1).

## Onaindia and Boris help FC Goa rally past Bengaluru FC

FC Goa registered a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over 10-man Bengaluru FC in Margao on Thursday. Young Shivaldo Singh had given BFC a dream start, putting the side ahead in the second minute with a first-time finish. But Odei Onaindia equalised with a fortuitous goal before Suresh Wangjam's red card two minutes into the second half tilted the scales in favour of the host. Boris Thangjam, with a tap-in in the 81st minute, gave Goa full points and prolonged BFC's wait for a first away win of the season.

**The result:** FC Goa 2 (Onaindia 22, Boris 81) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Shivaldo 2).

## Siddhartha Babu places 12th in mixed rifle prone

Siddhartha Babu shot 616.4 and placed 12th in the mixed 50m rifle prone event in the Para shooting WSPS World Cup that concluded in New Delhi on Thursday. Mona Agarwal in R2 women's air rifle was the only Indian to win a Paralympic quota place for Paris. She was the ninth Indian to win the quota place for Paris after Manish Narwal, singhraj Adhana, Rudransh Khandelwal, Avani Lekhara, Amir Ahmad Bhat, Nihal Singh, Sidhartha Babu and Sriharsha Ramakrishna.

**The results: R6 mixed 50m rifle prone:** 1. Juan Reinaldo (Esp) 250.4 (627.0); 2. Dong Chao (Chn) 249.6 (621.7); 3. Anna Benson (Swe) 229.1 (621.2); 12. Siddhartha Babu 616.4.

## Vasanti and Kathleen in doubles quarterfinals

Vasanti Shinde and Kathleen Kanev of Germany beat Italians Chiara Torrieri and Marta Valentini 6-0, 7-5 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis in Solarino, Italy.

## Prithviraj Tondaiman and Manisha Keer top trap trials

Prithviraj Tondaiman beat Olympic quota winner and qualification topper Bhowneesh Mendiratta (124) 46-45 to top the men's trap in the fourth National shotgun selection trials in Bhopal.

**The results: Trap: Men:** 1. Prithviraj Tondaiman 46 (121); 2. Bhowneesh Mendiratta 45 (124); 3. Lakshay Sheoran 35 (121). **Women:** 1. Manisha Keer 43 (113); 2. Nivetha Nenthirisigamani 41 (112); 3. Neeru 31 (116).

## LIVE TELECAST

**Badminton:** All-England Championships, BWF YouTube Channel & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 p.m. onwards.  
**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.  
**Afghanistan vs Ireland:** 1st T20I, FanCode, 9.30 p.m.  
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday).  
**Serie A:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday).  
**La Liga:** Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

## Fairytale finish as Kulkarni bids adieu to his First Class career on a high

The domestic stalwart, who has featured in five Ranji Trophy summit clashes that Mumbai has prevailed in, takes a wicket off his final ball



**Fitting finale:** Kulkarni had moments to cherish after Mumbai's triumph as his teammates carried him on their shoulders and his wife and daughter bask in the glory. EMMANUAL YOGINI



## CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar  
MUMBAI

Getting into the XI for the Ranji Trophy final in place of injured Mohit Avasthi – Mumbai's highest wicket-taker coming into the final – was the fairytale ending for Dhawal Kulkarni's First Class career. The script ended on an even better

note as Kulkarni – the king of Ranji finals – took the final wicket to end his career on a high.

It was the fifth final Mumbai had won where Kulkarni – the pacer who played his 96th First Class game – featured in. In the first four, he had three five-wicket hauls and a match-taker turning 87 with the willow – his personal best – against Karnataka in 2009-10, a match he describes as his “most memorable”. No

wonder then that Rahane stressed that the team requested him to prolong his retirement by a season while Rohit Sharma referred to him as “Mumbai's warrior” in a social media post.

## Road ahead unclear

For Kulkarni, though, the road ahead is unclear but being the workhorse he has been, he promised to be involved with cricket. “I have not thought about it

much, but cricket has given me so much that I want to give back to it, whether it be coaching or whatever I get,” Kulkarni said.

“Winning a final in a tough way is what you want and that's what we did as a team. We hung on to our nerves, put pressure, bowled really well, all the bowlers chipped in, it was what you could say bowling in partnership and that's what we did,” Kulkar-

ni said.

More than his 12 ODIs and two T20Is for India, Kulkarni is hailed as a domestic stalwart. Ever since he marked his Ranji debut with a five-wicket haul in November 2008, Kulkarni has been the leader of the Mumbai's pace pack. In fact, on Thursday, the quickest Mumbai pacer Tushar Deshpande asked captain Ajinkya Rahane to get Kulkarni to bowl and pick the last wicket.

“I should have played more (for India) than I did but that wasn't in my hands. I wanted to help Mumbai win by getting my A game, especially in the knockouts. Whenever I played for Mumbai, I wanted the lion to roar,” Kulkarni said.

As much as Kulkarni will miss wearing the lion's crest – the signature emblem of Mumbai Cricket Association – the lion's crest will also miss him.

## Good chance to defend title, but will not be easy: CSK bowling coach Bravo

## IPL

S. Dipak Ragav  
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Dwayne Bravo feels his side's bowling attack is even better going into the 2024 season, and is confident of defending the IPL title.

In the player auction held in December, the five-time reigning champion bolstered its pace attack by snapping up Shardul Thakur and Mustafizur Rahman.

“We have (Matheesha) Pathirana, Deepak (Char) and Shardul (Thakur)

is back; Fizz (Mustafizur) is there, and Mukesh (Choudhary) is back. We have a lot of depth with young fast bowlers,” said Bravo at the store opening of Avira Diamonds on Thursday.

“These guys add to what we had last year, and we have a better attack. It is always good to have depth in the squad.”

Bravo is regarded as one of the greatest T20 bowlers, especially in the death overs and helped the Super Kings be effective in the back end of an innings last year.

When asked if the team focussed on shoring up its death-bowling attack, the 40-year-old said, “I don't

have input in the auctions. But my job starts now. Death bowling is my speciality. I believe in T20s that (death overs) is a very important segment of the game. It requires a lot of skill, bravery, and planning.”

“You have to implement it in practice and get these guys to believe in the philosophy and work towards it. Last year, we had the best death bowling team, and we look forward to repeating it.”

Super Kings will kick off its title-defence campaign at home against Royal Challengers Bangalore on March 22, and the former Windies skipper felt his

side has a good chance of retaining the crown.

“Our chances are very good, just like the other teams. CSK starts as favourites in most seasons, but we can't go into the tournament thinking we are favourites and will win.”

## Preparation

“We must prepare well as a team, which we always do. The (mix of) experience and youth is a combination that has been working well for us.”

“With a good management staff and captain cool (MS Dhoni), we have a good chance to defend our trophy, but it will not be easy,” said Bravo.

## DELHI ROUND-UP

## Utarkarsh and Akash excel

Utarkarsh Nain took three for 12 and Akash Yadav made an unbeaten 46 as Super Star Club (SSC) beat Radhey Shyam Club (RSC) by 10 wickets in a low-scoring DDCA League match in just eight overs.

**The scores:** RSC 69 in 27.4 overs (lost to SSC 70/0 in 8.1 overs (Akash Yadav 46 n.o.).

York Club 346/6 in 40 overs (Vansh Bedi 119, Gaurav Sabharwal 84) bt MCD 205 in 32.3 overs (Harikishan Yadav 129).

FCI 307/7 in 40 overs (Nitin Saini 55, Rahul Choudhary 54, Mayank Siddana 53) bt KGG 265 in 40 overs (Harish Dagar 100, Hiten Dalal 59, Yashjeet 5/33).

Ajmal Khan Club 277/6 in 40 overs (Sarathak Pal 93, Dinesh Mor 52) bt Delhi Wonders 152 in 31.3 overs (Vimal Dubey 42).  
Bright Club 268/8 in 40 overs

(Vansh Mehra 64, Tilak Thakur 51) lost to Friends Club 269/5 in 39.5 overs (Prince Mehra 79, Ankit Bisht 72, Trinav Kumar 47).

Malviya Club 105 in 20.4 overs (Kabeer Sachdeva 4/23) lost to Raghuraj Willowers 109/2 in 15.3 overs.

## Santiago stars with seven goals

Santiago Marambio scored seven goals to guide Jindal Panther-Delta Polo to a 11-8 victory over Rajasthan Polo Club in a league match of the Northern India Polo championship at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Thursday.

**The results (league):** Jindal Panther-Delta Polo 11 (Santiago Marambio 7, Simran Shergill 3, Siddhant Sharma) bt Rajasthan Polo Club 8 (Juan Cruz 6, Salvador Jauretche, Padmanabh Singh).



S. Kushwanth Silora  
(South Zone, 143)

## Silora stars for South Zone

## Sports Bureau

S. Kushwanth Silora cracked 143 (116b, 18x4, 1x6) to help South Zone score a 91-run win over West Zone and enter the final of the Vizzy Trophy one-day cricket championship in Guwahati on Thursday.

Despite the loss, West also made it to the title clash by virtue of being second in the table in the round-robin format.

**The scores:** South 326/7 in 50 overs (S. Kushwanth Silora 143, Aditya Venkatesh 84, J. Gowrishankar 43, N.N. Thakur 4/54) bt West 235 in 46 overs (Tavleen Singh 56, Ramdev 41, Saurabh Singh 44).

North 183 in 43.5 overs (Abhishek Kaushal 73, Shibashish Sahoo 4/28) lost to East 184/9 in 47.2 overs (Gaurab Saikia 52).

## Shrivalli to meet Mikulskyte in quarters

## ITF TENNIS

## Sports Bureau

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty overcame a dip in form to defeat Viktoria Morvayova of Slovakia 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Indore on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Shrivalli, who had knocked out top seed Irina Maria Bara of Romania in the first round, converted five of six break points to win the two-hour duel. She will play fifth seed Justina Mikulskyte of Lithuania, the champion of the Gurugram event.

Shrivalli made the doubles semifinals with Vaidehi Chaudhari where they will play Zeel Desai and Sahaja Yamalapalli.

Third seed Ankit Raina downed Ekaterina Yashina for the loss of five games to set up a quarterfinal against seventh seed Polina Iatcenko.

The Russian beat the finalist of the last two tournaments in Gurugram and

Nagpur, Yeonwoo Ku of Korea, after losing the first set.

Sahaja could not battle on even terms against fourth seed Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand and eked out only five games in the match.

**The results: Pre-quarterfinals:** Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Viktoria Morvayova (Svk) 6-1, 2-6, 6-2; Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Yasmine Mansouri (Fra) 6-3, 7-5; Ankit Raina bt Ekaterina Yashina 6-3, 6-2; Polina Iatcenko bt Yeonwoo Ku (Kor) 1-6, 6-1, 6-1; Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) bt Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) 7-6(2), 6-2; Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-1, 6-4; Thasaporn Naklo (Tha) bt Sohyun Park (Kor) 6-4, 7-5; Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) bt Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-2.

## Doubles, quarterfinals:

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Akiko Omae & Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-4; Zeel Desai & Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Mei Hasegawa (Jpn) & Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-2; Ya-Hsuan Lee (Tpe) & Sohyun Park (Kor) bt Riya Bhatia & Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-3, 6-3; Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) & Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Thasaporn Naklo & Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) 7-6(2), 0-6, [10-6].

## Siddharth roars past Woobin; Ramkumar eases past Jang

Kamesh Srinivasan  
NEW DELHI

There is no better sight than when the national champion Siddharth Vishwakarma is in a mood for a fight.

The 29-year-old wiry left-hander played some of his best tennis in his 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 win over Korean Woobin Shin in the \$25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament pre-quarterfinals at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.

In a duel that lasted two hours and 26 minutes, Siddharth roared back from a first set down – that was triggered by a break of serve in the first game.

It was the 662nd ranked Siddharth who dictated the flow from the start of the second set.

He broke the Korean in the 10th game of the second set, and the 12th game of the decider to set up a quarterfinal against Ramkumar Ramanathan.

Third seed Ramkumar fired in six aces in the last game, out of 12 in the whole match, to convert



**Focussed:** Siddharth was in fierce form against Woobin.

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

the fourth match point for a fluent 6-1, 6-2 victory against Yuseok Jang.

**The results: Pre-quarterfinals:** Evgeny Donskoy bt Kabir Hans 6-2, 6-2; Florent Bax bt Grigory Shebekin 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Karan Singh bt Chirag Duhan 6-2, 6-3; Wishaya Trongchareonchaikul bt Yuchiro Inui 6-4, 6-4.

Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Woobin Shin 4-6, 6-4, 7-5; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt

Yuseok Jang 6-1, 6-2; Nam Hoang Ly bt Bang Shuo Yin 7-5, 6-4; Manish Sureshkumar bt Mitsuki Leong 6-0, 4-6, 6-1.

**Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Parikshit Somani & Manish bt Chirag Duhan & Inui 7-5, 7-6(3); Kazuma Kawachi & Woobin bt Nitin Kumar Sinha & Siddharth 6-4, 6-4; Siddhant Banthia & Vishnu Vardhan bt Hans & Faisal Qamar 6-3, 6-4; Ramkumar & Khumoyun Sultanov bt Wishaya & Bang Shuo Yin 6-0, 7-6(5).





# 'I like having a point to prove'

Exclusion from the Australian setup left seasoned all-rounder Jess Jonassen with a lot of self-doubt and thoughts of even retiring from the game; the four-time World Cup winner is making a case to feature in the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later this year with imperious performances in the Women's Premier League

## INTERVIEW

### Jess Jonassen

Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

In a 2019 column she penned for Athletes' Voice, Jess Jonassen likened herself to a boxer, a metaphor she attributed to her psychologist. She wrote, "Throughout much of my career – and definitely over the past six months or so – I've been on the ropes taking blow after blow. But I'm still standing. Still in the fight." Four years later, Jonassen's fight is yet to end.

It's been a particularly trying past couple of months. The 31-year-old found herself out of favour in the national setup, relegated to running drinks, a marked difference from carrying the team to world titles (four Women's T20 World Cup crowns, one ODI World Cup triumph, one Commonwealth Games gold medal).

This was courtesy a hammering at the hands of West Indies' Hayley Matthews last year. Since then, she featured in the one-off Test between India and Australia but was not in the mix for Australia's efforts against India in the white-ball leg, the whole multi-format series against South Africa at home or the upcoming tour of Bangladesh in the run-up to the T20 World Cup in the same nation later this year.

The Queensland-born all-rounder is currently in India for the second edition of the Women's Premier League, playing for Delhi Capitals. After missing the first two games, Jonassen has more than made up for it in the games that followed.

Cementing her place in DC side, she has been in constant contention for the purple cap and one of captain Meg Lanning's trusted commanders in crunch situations. Jonassen spoke to *The Hindu* about her axing, contemplating retirement, the World Cup in Bangladesh later this year and more.

#### How does it feel to be back on the cricket field and succeeding?

It has obviously been a challenging last couple of months, particularly with not playing as much cricket as I would have liked to. I was pretty nervous because I had not played for a while. The crowd at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium was incredible and I wanted to do well. Those initial nerves dissipated once the game started. I guess it was down to just all this time spent sitting around and waiting. I just loved the fact that I was out there running around again, trying to play a part and contributing because that was something I hadn't experienced in a while.

I was that person on the sidelines, being the No. 1 cheerleader. I wanted to be able to take a night off from mixing drinks (smiles). For me, there were questions over the past few months whether I was still good enough, whether I was capable. The push of wanting to do well for the team came from there.

#### How did you cope with life on the bench?

This environment and this group at Delhi Capitals has made sitting out actually not feel so bad, which is a really weird thing for me to say because I always want to be out on the field, contributing and doing my best. That said, the level of love and support and the fact that the girls just genuinely want each other to do well makes this a really nice place to be in and it's probably no surprise then that we have had the team success that we have so far.

Over the years, there's been a realisation that there always has to be somebody that misses out of the team in elite sports and it is the direction the women's game is heading in because of the professionalisation of it. You have to be on top of your game almost all the time. Sometimes when you're not or there's a run of games when you're not, that opens the door and opportunity for somebody else. To know that it's never just that one person that's missing out, that there



There were thoughts of whether it was time to retire from international cricket or not, whether I was still wanted, whether I was still good enough. But yeah, I'm not really thinking too far ahead now. It's just about taking up whatever opportunities pop up to try and give myself the best possible chance and do my very best

are other people in a similar situation as well has given me a greater perspective and empathy for others who went through that as well.

**Be it the likes of Shikha Pandey, Jemimah Rodrigues, Poonam Yadav or even Arundhati Reddy, DC is full of characters who at some point have had to prove they're still good enough. How much does that baggage get shared in the group?**

A lot of the time, it's always nice to be able to have conversations with people that truly understand what you've gone through. For example, the day the news of the Bangladesh squad came out, I had a knock on my door. It was Shikha. She just gave me a hug and said, "I saw the news this morning. I thought I'll come by and give you a hug to hopefully make it feel better." It's no surprise that our team is as close as we are. Yes, we're all cricketers. We all do the same sport and want to excel and succeed. But

yeah, there's those human and personable connections as well, which makes it extra special. There was a period of a couple of days when I just had so many of the girls just reaching out and checking in on me, the coaching staff as well and it's something I haven't experienced a lot before. This is also the first international squad that I've missed out for non-injury related reasons. I am learning how to be kind to myself as well as I give myself time to be able to process something that I've never actually experienced before.

**Have you been given an explanation about why you don't find a place in the scheme of things?**

Because I've been sitting on the sidelines for the last couple of series, they didn't see where or how I would get a game at this point. There was nothing really beyond that, just that I needed to keep staying ready and keep working hard and things could change quickly. I looked a little bit internally and knew that over the upcoming pre-season, there were a few things that I want to specifically work on, even back in my domestic setup as well being the captain of the two teams over there (Brisbane Heat in the WBBL and Queensland Fire in the WNCL). I've been taking the selfless approach especially with the bat, slotting myself down the order a bit more, thinking it's the best for the team. That's probably come at a cost for me. So it's about having relevant conversations I need to with people back home and working our way through to see what's the best for those teams while also making sure I am doing what's best



for me too.

**You have been Meg Lanning's go-to person in crisis so many times over the years. Is it a source of comfort to have her close during this time?**

I love Meg. I loved playing under her when she was captain. As a leader, she just had that ability to make you, as a player, feel like you were in control as well. She always believed I could do it and whenever she threw me the ball, my feeling was also that I don't want to let her down.

She's reached out to me at different times to say if I need anything or if I need to talk about anything, we'll catch up. But she knows the kind of personality I am as well. She knows that whatever it is, I'll just keep coming back. I'll keep fronting up and doing my best. It's really comforting knowing that somebody I've played a lot of cricket with is also in a franchise team on the other side of the world.

**Is that Bangladesh World Cup still on your mind?**

Honestly, it did cross my mind when I wasn't in this upcoming squad for the Bangladesh tour that, "Oh, well, there goes my World Cup as well."

I had my two-day pity party where I was feeling sorry for myself, but then I don't want news like that or decisions that are ultimately out of my control to dictate or influence my experience of where I currently am. I wanted to make sure I make the most of this season of the WPL.

A thing that sort of came as a result of missing out on the Bangladesh series is that I was nominated for The Hundred draft. So there's an opportunity to potentially play some more cricket. I feel like that's the only way that I'm going to push my way back into that eleven – by simply playing cricket wherever that may be.

I still have that drive and determination to want to keep playing. There were thoughts of whether it was time to retire from international cricket or not, whether I was still wanted, whether I was still good enough. But yeah, I'm not really thinking too far ahead now. It's just about taking up whatever opportunities pop up to try and give myself the best possible chance and do my very best for the team that I'm a part of at that time.

**Can Delhi Capitals go the distance this year?**

We're not being complacent. We know we still need to play good cricket. The last part of this tournament is in front of our home fans is a powerful feeling. I know a lot of the girls, myself included, are really relishing that.

We know the hurt that we felt last year and how close we came to being the inaugural winners. It's a deeper driving force, particularly for someone like me who relishes a little bit of needing a point to prove.



# Sparing no one: cardiac risk factors present even among the very poor

CVD risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, smoking, obesity, and dyslipidaemia were also present among adults in extreme poverty. Most were not treated for CVD-related conditions, particularly hypertension and have no access to medication to stabilise their condition

Ramya Kannan

It has conventionally been assumed that prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors among those living in extreme poverty in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) is low.

There are, of course, reasons for this: Historically, this group has been thought to take in fewer calories and have correspondingly lower body mass index, consume a largely plant-based diet and be in occupations associated with higher physical activity. All of these lifestyle patterns we know, decrease the risk of developing CVD and its risk factors. But there is very little data available on the prevalence of CVD risk factors among those living in poverty. A recent paper in *Nature Human Behaviour* by Pascal Geldsetzer et al, lists all of the above, but goes on to deliver results from a study that busts that assumption.

## Assumptions not necessarily true

The findings of a global study, have established that the assumptions are not necessarily true any more. Researchers pooled individual-level data from 105 nationally representative household surveys across 78 countries, representing 85% of people living in extreme poverty globally, and sorted individuals by country-specific measures of household income or wealth to identify those in extreme poverty. CVD risk factors (hypertension, diabetes, smoking, obesity and dyslipidaemia) were present among adults in extreme poverty. Most were not treated for CVD-related conditions, particularly hypertension.

The authors say: "Understanding the extent to which this assumption of a low prevalence of CVD risk factors among those in extreme poverty holds true is important for setting priorities within health policy and care delivery, both for equity and effectiveness. From an equity perspective, if CVD risk factors mostly affect wealthier population groups in LMICs, then investing in programmes aimed at preventing and treating CVD instead of focusing on those conditions that disproportionately affect those in extreme poverty could further worsen health inequities by wealth.

Poverty level was as stratified by World Bank country income category. Extreme poverty is generally defined by the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day, and to enable comparison with other income groups in LMICs, researchers also examined the prevalence of CVD risk factors for the population with an income <\$3.20 and <\$5.50 per day, as well as those with an income >\$5.50 per day.

In the analysis, they discovered that the prevalence of hypertension was similar between these poverty level groups and those with higher income levels. They found that among



Among those living in extreme poverty who should be taking a statin for secondary prevention of CVD, only 1.1% were on the drugs. GETTY IMAGES

participants living in extreme poverty, only diabetes was associated with differential prevalence by whether they lived in an urban centre or in rural areas, with urban dwellers at higher risk; men had a slightly higher prevalence of hypertension and a far higher prevalence of smoking than women. For diabetes, the prevalence was not statistically different between income categories in low-income countries or upper middle-income countries; only in lower middle-income countries did there exist a clear gradient wherein those with higher incomes had a higher prevalence of diabetes.

The prevalence of obesity displayed a positive income gradient across all World Bank country categories. The prevalence of smoking and dyslipidaemia (abnormal lipid levels) was low across poverty levels in low-income countries and high across population income groups in upper middle-income countries, with an income gradient in the prevalence in lower middle-income countries. These are all known factors predisposing individuals to a high risk of cardiovascular disease.

## Poor lack access to medicine

What was equally or more significant is that among those living in extreme poverty and who had hypertension, only 15.2% reported taking blood pressure (BP)-lowering medication and 5.7% had achieved hypertension control (BP < 140 mmHg/ < 90 mmHg). Of those poor living with diabetes, 19.7% reported taking blood glucose-lowering medication. Among those living in extreme poverty who should be taking a statin for secondary prevention of CVD according to WHO guidelines, only 1.1%



Only in lower middle-income countries did there exist a clear gradient wherein those with higher incomes had a higher prevalence of diabetes

were on the drugs. In low-income countries, hypertension treatment and control, diabetes treatment and statin use were low across poverty levels.

"This is an important study," says J. Amalorpavanathan, vascular surgeon, and member, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission. "The conventional belief that CVD is low among the poor is no longer valid. The major risk factors of CVD like Diabetes, Hypertension, Smoking etc have a significant prevalence across all sections, regardless of income. We also know that the health systems' engagement of poorer sections with these diseases is abysmal. As a *Lancet* study revealed, this group adds substantially to the suffering and mortality of the poorest billion in the world."

The authors state that the study estimating CVD risk factor prevalence among adults living in extreme poverty would provide a crucial empirical foundation for future work and addresses the call of the The Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission for "investigation regarding a broad range of priority NCDs ... with an additional focus on the rural poor". One of the authors of the study and professor of global health, at the Institute for Applied Research, Birmingham University, Justine Davies says: "We recommend that governments put in

place programmes to detect people with these risk factors that are targeted at poorer people. These may involve doing education, awareness, and screening programmes in areas where the government knows that socio-economically deprived people live. It is then important that once detected, people are referred to care and that care is accessible to them in terms of geography, costs, and overcomes other cultural or educational barriers that people who are less well-off often need to overcome."

## Mitigation initiatives

Some nations have some sort of scheme to address the issue in a limited sense. For instance, India has a National Programme for prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke and State governments have further added on with their own regional surveillance and intervention programmes. For instance, Tamil Nadu has a scheme wherein intervention for non communicable diseases is delivered at the door step of the patients. It is crucial to evaluate these schemes from time to time to ensure that they are addressing the target audience effectively.

"Tamil Nadu's 'Makkalai Theedi Maruthuvam' scheme is specifically designed to address this important gap in the health care system," Dr. Amalorpavanathan further explains. Under the scheme, since 2001, more than one crore people have been visited at their homes. About 1.50 crore people regularly receive drugs for hypertension, and 1.08 crore people get drugs for diabetes. "It is too early to comment about the long term control but data is being collected regularly for analysis. We shall certainly embark upon research to identify the relation between poverty and CVD and its contributive factors and effective ways to address them," he says.

Dr. Davies adds: "It is really important to do so, to see if they are effective at detecting people with risk factors and treating these in people who have them, but also for prevention in those who don't yet have the risk factors. As part of these effectiveness studies, it is also important to understand why the programme might or might not have worked, so it can be adjusted in order to improve effectiveness if needed."

Dr. Amalorpavanathan also says a key shortcoming in communicating the hazards of smoking is the lack of a vigorous public education. The poor seem to outnumber the rich in smoking, which is a major risk factor for diabetes. "We must include education, to see if it has a modifying role in the community. The government of Tamil Nadu and the State Planning Commission will certainly undertake this research," he adds.

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Rhodamine-B is a fluorescent dye used in cosmetics, textile and leather industries. It is used as a food colouring agent not only in cotton candy but also in sweets, various manchurian items and pakodas. GETTY IMAGES

## Why govts. are seeing red on Rhodamine B in street food

The Hindu Bureau

On February 17, Tamil Nadu banned the sale of cotton candy or candy floss after analysis confirmed the presence of Rhodamine-B, an industrial dye, in samples lifted from stalls in Chennai. Since then, the Karnataka government has banned the use of harmful colouring agents in cotton candy and "Gobi Manchurian", while Andhra Pradesh has begun lifting samples for analysis.

Rhodamine-B is a textile dye, and its use in food has a huge impact on health. Meenakshi Bajaj, dietician, Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, explains: "Rhodamine-B is a fluorescent dye used in cosmetics, textile and leather industries. It gives you brilliant pinks, greens and blues. Unfortunately, it is used as a food colouring agent not only in cotton candy but also in the preparation of sweets, various manchurian items and pakodas and in the preparation of sauces for Chinese food."

**Rhodamine-B can cause cell death. In long-term use, it can damage the cerebellum tissue and brainstem. There is recent evidence that it damages the kidney, liver and increases the risk of stomach tumour. It is not a food colour but is toxic to the human body and is a carcinogen**

"The problem has existed for many years," Prasad Eswaran, senior consultant, Medical Oncology, Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Chennai, said. "Rhodamine-B has been routinely used in many coloured foods such as cotton candy to make it look appealing and attractive to young persons and children. Fortunately, the government has woken up to a longstanding request from the medical fraternity. When taken in small quantities for many years, it can cause a lot of health problems including cancers," he added.

Long-term consumption can cause allergies that can manifest in the form of irritation of the lip, tongue as well as eyes and also cause upper respiratory allergies, Ms. Meenakshi said. "Studies have shown that Rhodamine-B can cause cell death. In long-term use, it can damage the cerebellum tissue and brainstem. There is recent evidence that it damages the kidney, liver and increases the risk of stomach tumour. It is not a food colour but is toxic to the human body and is a carcinogen."

Dr. Eswaran said, "While health issues such as gastric burning sensation, irritation and acidity can be managed with medicines and lifestyle modification, Rhodamine B can cause cancer too."

FSSAI has approved certain food colours and flavors as safe for consumption. These include: Caramel, Riboflavin (Lactoflavin), Saffron, Annatto, Curcumin (Turmeric), Carotene and carotenoids, including Beta-carotene, red colour from Ponceau 4R, Carmoisine, and Erythrosine, yellow colour (Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow FCF), blue colour (Indigo Carmine and Brilliant Blue FCF) and green colour (Fast Green FCF).

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## North Indian diet high on salt, low on potassium, proteins: study

R. Sujatha

A recent study of the north Indian diet has raised a host of red flags. The study found that their diet does not conform to recommended guidelines for salt, and nutrients such as potassium and proteins. The population's salt intake is very high and potassium intake is low, increasing the risk of developing hypertension, cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Consumption of protein is also below the recommended figure, according to researchers. Unsurprisingly, women were not getting sufficient nutrients compared to men. The study was conducted at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, and the George Institute for Global Health, India.

## Dietary variations

The Indian diet is varied and differs from region to region. In the south if the population predominantly eats rice, then in the northern parts people consume wheat. It is thus challenging for policymakers to come up with an all-encompassing guideline for the entire country.

To find ways to prevent CKD the researchers decided to assess the intake of nutrients such as sodium, potassium, protein and phosphorus. They included two groups of adults - one that was healthy and another of persons with stage 2 to 4 chronic CKD. The healthy population was drawn from among the family members of those with CKD.

Of the 404 adults who participated, 182 were healthy and 222 had CKD. The mean

age of the group was 47 years. An equal number of men and women were enrolled for the study. While 71 (32%) of the subjects were in stage 4 of CKD, 127 (57%) persons were in stage 3 and another 24 (11%) persons were in stage 2 of the disease.

"We analysed sodium, protein, potassium and phosphorus intakes using one-time 24-hour urinary excretion. Dietary intake was also analysed in sub-groups based on sex, body mass index, blood pressure and abdominal obesity," the researchers, Prabjot Kaur et al wrote in their research article published in the peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Nutrition*.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Medicine recommends a dietary allowance of 700mg/day of phosphorus and 0.80gm/kg/day of protein. The actual phosphorus and protein intake in the western population is around 1,056-1,617 mg/day and 1.30-1.40g/kg/day respectively, the researchers said. The intake of sodium was calculated at around 2 gm a day. They explained that dietary manipulation is an important strategy to manage patients with non-communicable diseases, including CKD. The participants' 24-hour urinary excretion was analysed to assess their nutrient intake.

## High salt intake

In the first of its kind study the researchers said they found that more than two-thirds of the subjects studied took salt higher than recommended levels. The amount of salt intake was lower in the study as compared to earlier studies done across the country, it acknowledged, attributing the reason for fall in salt consumption to bet-



RAVIKANTH

ter awareness after being educated on the benefits of a low-salt diet.

Healthy individuals consumed substantially less than 3.50g/day of potassium that is recommended for healthy population, and 2-4gm for those with early-stage CKD as per the Kidney Disease Outcome Quality Initiative 2020 guidelines. The diet contained just around 39.5g/kg/day of protein among the healthy population. The authors pointed out the diet reflected the low dietary diversity in the population whereas a balanced diet requires nuts, green vegetables and fruits, considered the main

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