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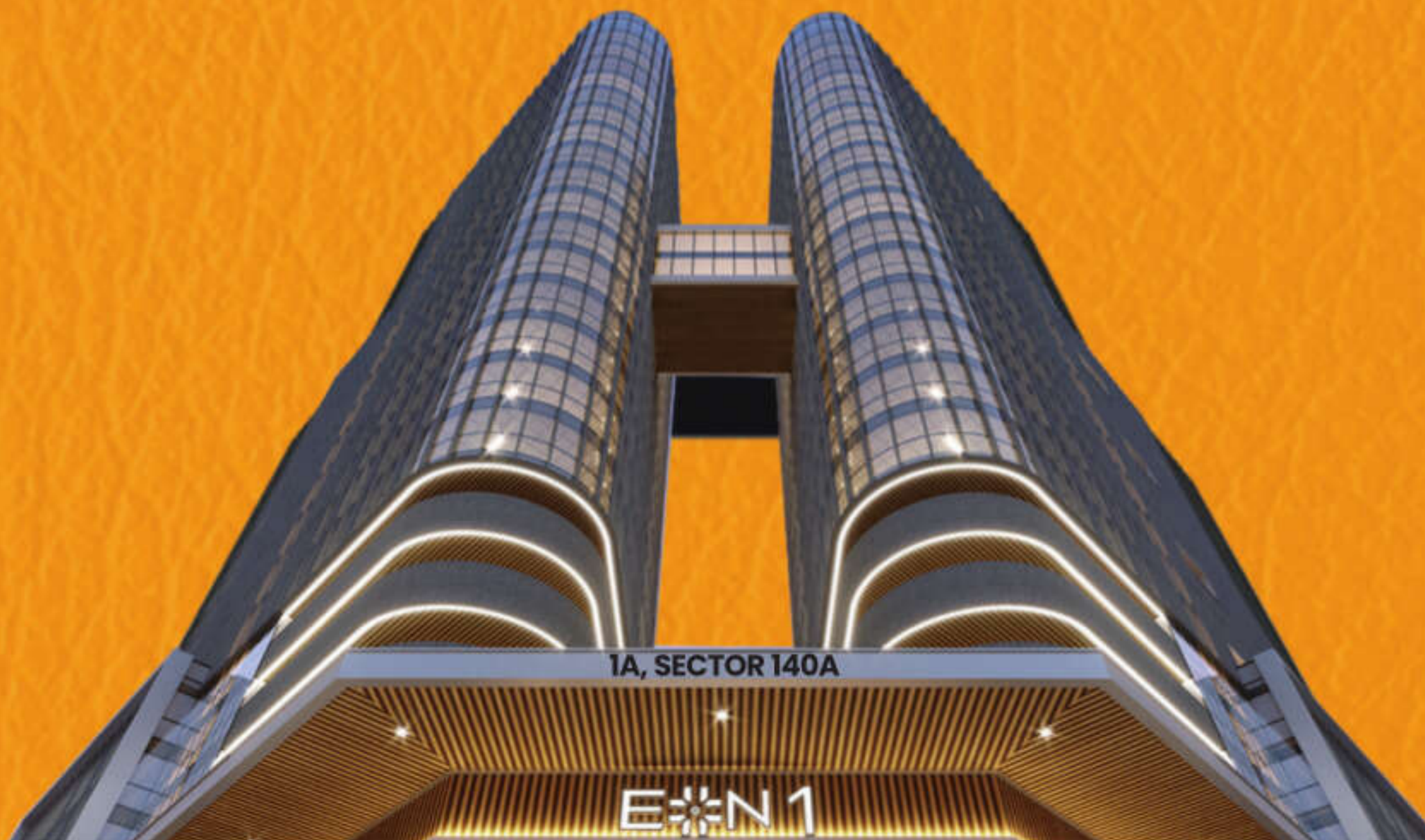
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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Plaintiffs in Tokyo on Thursday. AP

Bar on same-sex marriage unconstitutional: Japan High Court

Tokyo: A Japanese high court ruled Thursday that denying same-sex marriage is unconstitutional and called for urgent government action to address the lack of any law allowing for such unions. The court does not have the power to overturn the current marriage law, which has been interpreted to restrict marriage to a man and a woman. Government offices may continue to deny marriage status to same-sex couples unless the existing law is revised. The Sapporo High Court ruling said that not allowing same-sex couples to marry and enjoy the same benefits as straight couples violates their fundamental right to have a family. AP

ZIMBABWE

Police rescue 251 kids from religious sect

Harare: Zimbabwe police on Wednesday said they have arrested a man claiming to be a prophet of an apostolic sect at a shrine where believers stay in a compound and authorities found 16 unregistered graves, including those of infants, and more than 250 children used as cheap labor. In a statement, police spokesman Paul Nyathi said Ishmael Chokurongwa, 56, a "self-styled" prophet, led a sect with more than 1,000 members at a farm about 34 kilometers north-west of the capital, Harare, where the children were staying alongside other believers. AP

PAKISTAN

PIA bars pilots, cabin crew from Ramadan fasting

Karachi: Pakistan's national flag carrier, PIA has barred its pilots and flight attendants from fasting during the ongoing holy month of Ramadan on their on-flight duty days, citing a medical recommendation which says a person faces dehydration and issues of laziness and sleep while observing a fast. The Corporate Safety Management and Air Crew Medical Centre have both recommended that pilots and cabin crew members of Pakistan International Airlines should not fast during flights. AP

SPAIN

House to give amnesty to separatists

Barcelona: Spain's Parliament is set to give its initial approval Thursday to a controversial amnesty bill aimed at forgiving crimes — both proved and alleged — committed by Catalan separatists during a chaotic attempt to hold an independence referendum six years ago. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has promoted the amnesty as a way to move past a succession attempt by the then-leaders of Catalonia, a northeastern region centred around Barcelona. AP

TEL AVIV SAYS WILL ASK PEOPLE IN RAFAH TO MOVE TO CENTRAL GAZA

Egypt appeals for more aid by land to Gaza as Israel readies Rafah offensive

Israeli forces open fire at people waiting for aid in Gaza City, killing six and leaving dozens injured

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, MARCH 14

EGYPT'S TOP diplomat on Thursday made an emotional appeal for an urgent increase in humanitarian aid going into Gaza by land, even as an aid ship loaded with some 200 tons of food was on its way to the enclave, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been driven to the brink of starvation.

The push to get food in by sea — along with a recent campaign of airdrops into isolated northern Gaza — highlighted the international community's frustration with the growing humanitarian crisis and with Israel's restrictions that have prevented more aid getting in by land.

On Wednesday, Israel said it plans to tell 1.4 million Palestinians displaced in Gaza's southern city of Rafah to seek shelter "humanitarian islands" in central Gaza ahead of a planned military offensive into the south. Israel says Hamas maintains four battalions in Rafah.



A family breaks their Ramadan fast in Beit Lahia in northern Gaza on Thursday. Reuters

Humanitarian groups fear a military offensive into the densely crowded area would be a catastrophe. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been forced from their homes. The border crossing at Rafah is Gaza's main entry point for aid. More than 31,314 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, the territory's Health Ministry said.

Israeli fire killed six

Palestinians and wounded dozens of others as crowds of residents awaited aid trucks in Gaza City, Gaza health ministry officials said on Thursday. Palestinians were rushing to get aid supplies at the Kuwait Roundabout in northern Gaza City late on Wednesday evening when Israeli forces opened fire, residents and health officials said.

Meanwhile, US Senator Chuck

Schumer, Democrat of New York, Thursday delivered a pointed speech on the Senate floor exhorting Netanyahu as a major obstacle to peace in the Middle East and calling for new leadership in Israel. Netanyahu's Likud party rejected Schumer's call for new elections in Israel, saying Israel was "not a banana republic" and that Netanyahu's policy had wide public support.

Israel strike killed clearly identifiable reporter: UN report

Istanbul: An Israeli tank killed Reuters reporter Issam Abdallah in Lebanon last year by firing two 120 mm rounds at a group of "clearly identifiable journalists" in violation of international law, a U.N. investigation into the Oct. 13 incident has found.

The investigation by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon said its personnel did not record any exchange of fire across the border between Israel and Lebanon for more than 40 minutes before the Israeli Merkava tank opened fire. "The firing at civilians, in this instance clearly identifiable journalists, constitutes a violation of UNSCR 1701 (2006) and international law," the UNIFIL report said, referring to Security Council resolution 1701.

The seven-page report dated Feb. 27 said: "It is assessed that there was no exchange of fire across the Blue Line at the time of the incident. REUTERS

Panama Papers: Pak court cancels Nawaz sons' arrest warrants

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 14

IN A major relief to ex-Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif's family, an anti-corruption court on Thursday cancelled the permanent arrest warrants against his two sons, who recently returned from the UK after a seven-year self-imposed exile.

Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz left the country in 2018 after they were named in the 2016 Panama Papers scandal.

They faced charges in three corruption cases related to the Panama Papers but never appeared before the courts, which declared them absconders.

The brothers returned to Pakistan on Tuesday after an Islamabad anti-corruption court on March 7 suspended the perpetual arrest warrants against the two until Thursday, clearing the last hurdle for their safe return to the country.

On Thursday, Hassan and Hussain appeared at the Islamabad-based Accountability Court, which, after hearing the arguments, cancelled the permanent arrest warrant issued in the Flagship, Al-Azizia and Avenfield corruption cases.

The court also approved their bail against a surety bond worth Rs 50,000 each.

Both sons of the former prime minister also applied for exemption from attending court on the next hearing. The court adjourned the hearing till Friday.

The brothers, who are British nationals, were implicated in the cases in 2018 along with their father, Nawaz Sharif, sister Maryam Nawaz and her husband, Muhammad Safdar.

COURT REJECTS PLEA ON RESERVED SEATS

Peshawar: In a major blow to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, a top Pakistani court on Thursday rejected a petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council to allot it the reserved women and minority seats in the national and provincial assemblies. A five-member Peshawar High Court, which heard SIC's petition unanimously rejected it, Geo News reported. In a 4-1 majority verdict, the Election Commission on March 4 dashed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed Sunni Ittehad Council's hopes for a seat quota, citing "non-curable legal defects" and a violation of mandatory provisions. PTI

Nawaz Sharif, Maryam and Safdar were convicted in the Avenfield while the three-time former premier was also convicted in the Al-Azizia cases and acquitted in the Flagship case.

All of them separately challenged convictions in the Islamabad High Court. Maryam and Safdar were the first to get relief in 2022 when they were acquitted while Nawaz Sharif was still living in London. Last year, he returned and, after brief proceedings, was acquitted in all cases.

After their acquittal, only the two brothers were required to face the courts, as they were not formally tried due to their absence. PTI



People gather to watch SpaceX's mega rocket Starship launch its third test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, Thursday. (right) Starship blasts off. AP

SpaceX Starship takes off, destructs on return

REUTERS
TEXAS, MARCH 14

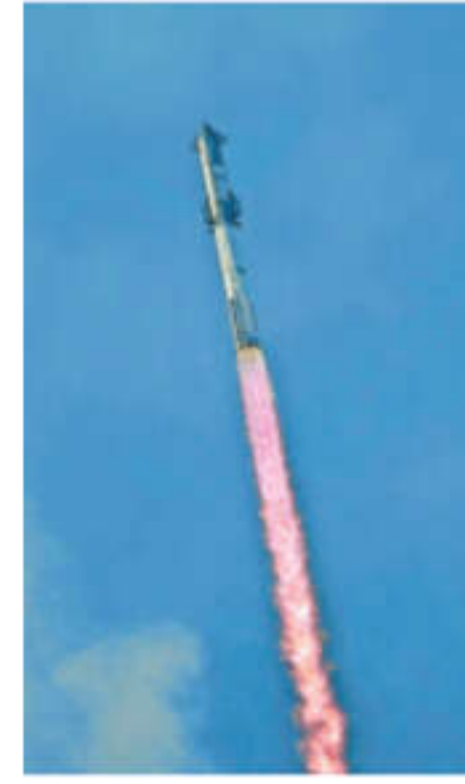
SPACEX'S STARSHIP rocket, designed to eventually send astronauts to the Moon and beyond, completed nearly an entire test flight on its third try on Thursday, making it much farther than before with a cruise through low orbit before being destroyed during a return to Earth, the

company said.

During a live webcast of the flight, SpaceX commentators said mission control lost communications with the spacecraft during its atmospheric re-entry. The vehicle was nearing a planned splashdown in the Indian Ocean about an hour after launch. A few minutes later, SpaceX confirmed that the spacecraft had been lost, presumably either burning up or

coming apart during re-entry or crashing into the sea.

Still, completion of most of the intended hour-plus test flight trajectory of Starship marked a major milestone in the development of a spacecraft crucial to Elon Musk's satellite launch business and NASA's Moon program. NASA chief Bill Nelson congratulated SpaceX on what he called "a successful test flight" in a statement posted on the so-



Chinese city officials issue rare apology after journalists harassed on TV

Taipei (Taiwan): City officials in eastern China apologised to local journalists after authorities were shown pushing them and trying to obstruct reporting from the site of a deadly explosion, in a rare acknowledgment of state aggression against journalists.

The city of Sanhe, near Beijing, issued a public apology Thursday after authorities were shown harassing reporters from state broadcaster CCTV during a live broadcast near the site of a suspected gas leak explosion that killed seven and injured 27 on Wednesday.

Harassment of journalists — especially foreign reporters — is common in China but almost never acknowledged by the state. A statement on the city's official website expressed "deep regret" over the treatment of the CCTV reporters and other media workers. It said authorities were trying to remove the journalists from the site because they were concerned about a potential gas leak. AP

Kremlin says Putin didn't threaten N-war, blames US

REUTERS
MOSCOW, MARCH 14

THE KREMLIN said Thursday that comments on nuclear weapons that Russian President Vladimir Putin made in an interview with state media did not constitute a threat to use them, and accused the US of deliberately taking the remarks out of context.

Putin said in the interview published on Wednesday that

Russia was technically ready for nuclear war and that if the US sent troops to Ukraine, it would be considered a significant escalation of the conflict.

Commenting on Putin's words, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that Washington understood that the Russian leader was restating Moscow's nuclear doctrine, but accused Russia of deploying "reckless and irresponsible" nuclear rhetoric throughout the Ukraine conflict.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday that Putin had merely been answering a journalist's questions on the subject and restating the already well known circumstances in which Russia would theoretically be forced to use nuclear weapons. Peskov also drew attention to the fact that Putin had said in the same interview that the idea of using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine had never crossed his mind.

Asked about the White

House comments, Peskov said: "This was deliberately taking something out of context. Putin made no threats about the use of nuclear weapons in this interview. The president was just talking about the reasons that could make the use of nuclear weapons inevitable."

Ukraine fired at least eight missiles at Russia's Belgorod border region, killing two people and wounding 12, local officials said Thursday, as Kyiv's forces apparently kept up efforts to rat-

tle the Kremlin on the eve of Russia's presidential election that is taking place amid a ruthless crackdown on dissent. The Russian Defense Ministry claimed its troops killed 195 Ukrainian soldiers and destroyed five tanks and four armored infantry vehicles, two days after saying it killed 234 Ukrainian troops in another border assault. The Ukrainian assaults on Russian territory have come as Russian President Vladimir Putin heads for re-election.

CRIMINALS' MOST PROMINENT POLITICAL ALLY IS GUY PHILIPPE, A FORMER POLICE COMMANDER AND COUP LEADER

Why everything changed in Haiti: Powerful gangs joined hands

MARIA ABI-HABIB,
NATALIE KITROEFF &
FRANCES ROBLES
PORT-AU-PRINCE

EVEN AS gangs terrorised Haiti, kidnapped civilians and killed at will, the country's embattled prime minister held on to power for years. Then, in a matter of days, everything changed.

In the midst of political upheaval not seen since the country's president was assassinated in 2021, Haiti's prime minister, Ariel Henry, agreed to step down. Now, neighboring countries are scrambling to create a transitional council to run the country and plot a course for elections, which once

seemed a distant possibility.

What made this moment different, experts say: The gangs united, forcing the country's leader to relinquish power.

"Prime Minister Ariel resigned not because of politics, not because of the massive street demonstrations against him over the years, but because of the violence gangs have carried out," said Judes Jonathas, a Haitian consultant. "The situation totally changed now, because the gangs are now working together."

What is apparent is that the gangs are trying to capitalise on their control of Port-au-Prince, the capital, to become a legitimate political force in the negotiations being brokered by foreign govern-



Jimmy Chérizier, the gang leader also known as Barbecue, in Port-au-Prince this month. Reuters file

ments including the United States, France and Caribbean nations.

In early March, Henry traveled to Nairobi to finalise a deal for a Kenyan-led security force to deploy to Haiti. Criminal groups seized on the absence of Henry, who is highly unpopular. Within days, the gangs shut down the airport, looted seaports, attacked about a dozen police stations and released about 4,600 prisoners from jail.

The criminals' most prominent political ally is Guy Philippe, a former police commander and coup leader who was recently released from US federal prison for laundering drug money. He has led the push for Henry to resign. Now Philippe is openly calling

for the gangs to receive amnesty.

Philippe does not have a seat on the transitional council appointed to lead Haiti. But he is using his connections to the Ptit Desalin political party to bring those demands to the negotiating table in Jamaica, where Caribbean and international officials are meeting to forge a solution to the crisis in Haiti.

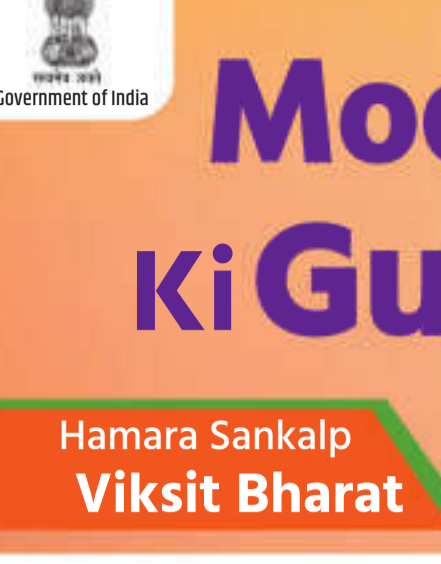
US officials concluded Henry was no longer a viable partner and sharpened their calls for him to move quickly toward a transition of power.

Since then, gang leaders have been speaking to journalists, holding news conferences, promising peace and demanding a seat at the table.

Jimmy Chérizier, a powerful gang leader also known as Barbecue, has become one of the best-known faces of the new gang alliance, known as Living Together.


A former police officer known for his ruthlessness, Chérizier's gang, the G-9, commands downtown Port-au-Prince and has been accused of attacking neighborhoods allied with opposition political parties, looting homes, raping women and killing people at random.

Yet in his news conferences, Chérizier has apologised for the violence and blamed Haiti's economic and political systems for country's destitution and inequality. Philippe has echoed that thinking. NYT



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ELECTION COMMISSION PUTS OUT bond buyers, party redemptions

PETITIONER LAWYER BHUSHAN says will ask SC to match lists

MOST FIRMS IN AREAS THAT NEED Centre, State licences, approvals

ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION REPORT

Who paid the parties

Curtail terms of Assemblies, sync with Lok Sabha polls: Kovind panel

INFRASTRUCTURE, CONSTRUCTION, MINING, PHARMA COMPANIES DOMINATE DONOR LIST

First veil of secrecy is lifted; top 20 donors account for just under half of the total Rs 12,156 crore purchased through electoral bonds 2019-24

3 of top 5 donors bought bonds with ED and I-T knocking on their door

5 days after ED attached Rs 409-cr assets, Future Gaming bought bonds worth Rs 100 cr

ANJISHNU DAS & DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

AT LEAST one veil of secrecy over political funding in India lifted days before the notification of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

THREE OF the top five poll bond donors to political parties between 2019 and 2024 are companies which have bought bonds even as they face Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax probes.

Future Gaming Engineering and mining giant Vedanta.

The No. 1 purchaser of electoral bonds in the data released by the Election Commission Thursday is Future Gaming and Hotels Pvt Ltd run by Santiago Martin. The lottery company has purchased bonds worth Rs 1,300 crore between 2019 and 2024.

Notably, ED began a money laundering probe against Future Gaming in early 2019. By July that year, it had attached assets worth over Rs 250 crore belong-

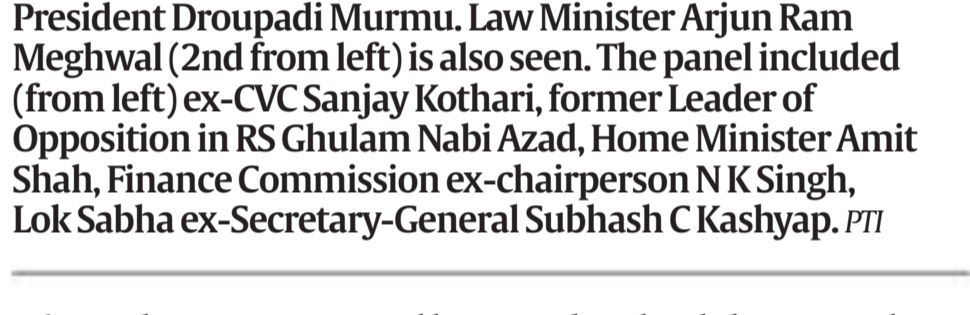
ing to the company. On April 2, 2022, the ED attached movable assets worth Rs 409.92 crore in the case.

On April 7, five days after the attachment of these assets, Future Gaming bought Rs 100 crore in electoral bonds.

The ED initiated investigation under the provisions of PMLA against Santiago Martin and his company M/s Future Gaming Solutions (P) Ltd (Presently M/s Future Gaming and Hotel Services (P) Ltd and formerly

Martin Lottery Agencies Ltd) on the basis of a chargesheet filed by Central Bureau of investigation (CBI). According to ED, Martin and others entered into a criminal conspiracy to violate the provisions of Lottery Regulation Act, 1998 and to obtain wrongful gain by cheating Sikkim Government.

"Martin and his associates made illegal gain to the extent of Rs 910.3 crores on account of inflating the prize winning tickets



Former President Ram Nath Kovind presents the report to President Droupadi Murmu. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal (2nd from left) is also seen. The panel included (from left) ex-CVC Sanjay Kothari, former Leader of Opposition in RS Ghulam Nabi Azad, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Commission ex-chairperson NK Singh, Lok Sabha ex-Secretary-General Subhash C Kashyap. PTI

Simultaneous polls can be held as early as 2029 if next govt accepts report

DAMINI NATH & RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

WHAT NEXT? GOVT WILL bring in constitutional amendments.

THE PRESIDENT, on the date of the first sitting of new LS, will issue notification.

TENURE OF state assemblies will last only till the end of the ongoing LS term.

AFTER THAT, Lok Sabha and state assembly elections will be held simultaneously. Local polls will be held within 100 days of these elections.

Pushed and prodded by the Supreme Court which struck down the electoral bonds scheme -- introduced by the first Narendra Modi government in 2018 -- the Election Commission of India released Thursday the list of those who purchased bonds. Among the biggest companies that donated money to political parties through the Electoral Bond scheme are Anil Agarwal-promoted Vedanta Ltd, Sunil Mittal-promoted Bharti Airtel, AV Birla Group-promoted Essel Mining Ltd, Bajaj Auto Ltd and DLF Ltd.

The total amount donated under the scheme from April 1, 2019 to February 15, 2024, was Rs 12,156 crore, of which almost half came from the top 20 donors alone, the data provided by the State Bank of India to the EC showed.

What is missing, however, is the unique bond number against each purchase and encashment, which would have revealed who

donated how much to political parties.

A large number of donors, and definitely more three-fourth of the top 20 donors, operate in sectors where resources are scarce, are controlled by the government, or require licences and clearances from various government agencies. These businesses range from mining and metals, energy and telecom to drugs and pharmaceuticals, and real estate and construction.

Cumulatively, the top 20 donors accounted for Rs 5,830 crore, which is almost 48 per cent of the total bonds purchased between April 2019 and February 2024.

The Donor Number 1 is Future Gaming, a lottery company owned by Chennai-based Santiago Martin, which purchased bonds worth Rs 1,368 crore, followed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd, promoted by PP Reddy and PV Krishna Reddy, which bought Rs 966-crore worth bonds. At Number 3 is Qwik Supply Chain Pvt Ltd with Rs 410 crore in bond purchases.

Three companies from West Bengal, Keventer Food Park Infra Ltd, MKG Enterprises Ltd and Madanlal Ltd, which are related

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

The top 20 electoral bond purchasers

From lottery to mining, from thermal power to mobile network — the top donors, according to data uploaded by the Election Commission

Future Gaming and Hotel Services Pvt Ltd ₹1,368 cr What it does: Lottery business, HQ in Coimbatore, established in 1991	Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd ₹966 cr Dams and power projects. Based in Telangana, est 1989	Qwik Supply Chain Pvt Ltd ₹410 cr Logistics and supply chain. Established in 2000	Haldia Energy Ltd ₹377 cr Thermal power plant located in West Bengal's Haldia, est 2015
Vedanta Ltd ₹376 cr Mining, largest producer of aluminium in India, est 1965	Essel Mining and Industries Ltd ₹225 cr Iron ore mining, located in Mumbai, est 1950	Western UP Power Transmission Co ₹220 cr Production, distribution of power. Est 2009	Bharti Airtel Ltd ₹198 cr Mobile network operator headquartered in New Delhi, est 1995
Keventer Food Park Infra Ltd ₹195 cr Dairy and FMCG, based in Kolkata, West Bengal	MKJ Enterprises Ltd ₹192 cr Trading in stainless steel business. HQ in Kolkata, est 1982	Party-wise amount received (in ₹ cr) BJP: 6,060.51 TMC: 1,609.53 INC: 1,421.87 BRS: 1,214.71 BJD: 775.50	

Madanlal Ltd ₹186 cr; Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital ₹162 cr; Utkal Alumina International Ltd ₹145 cr; DLF Commercial Developers Ltd ₹130 cr; Jindal Steel and Power Ltd ₹123 cr; BG Shirke Construction Technology Pvt Ltd ₹119 cr; Dhariwal Infrastructure Ltd ₹115 cr; Avees Trading Finance Pvt Ltd ₹113 cr; Torrent Power Ltd ₹107 cr; Birla Carbon India Pvt Ltd ₹105 cr

Reporting by Anjishnu Das, Adya Goyal, Sukhmani Malik, Shijith P Kunhithy

JINDAL, RUNGTA Mining, steel majors spent ₹825 crore, among them firms awaiting green nod

NIKHIL GHANEKAR & JAY MAZOOMDAAR NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE GIANTS of India's mining and steel conglomerates — Vedanta Limited, Rungta Sons Private Limited, Jindal Steel and Power (JSPL), Essel Mining and Industries Limited (EMIL) and Dempo — put together bought Rs 825 crore worth of electoral bonds, according to data made public by the Election Commission of India.

Of these companies, Rungta Sons Private Limited spent Rs 100 crore, Vedanta Ltd Rs 376 crore, EMIL Rs 224.5 crore, JSPL Rs 123 crore and Dempo Rs 1.5 crore.

Of the Rs 376 crore that Vedanta Ltd donated, a tranche of bonds worth Rs 98 crore was bought in the January 2022 window. This was just before the elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. The group's Sesa Goa company is one of the biggest iron ore mining companies in the country and it also has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

₹107 CR TWO MONTHS AFTER VICTORY TMC at No. 2 with Rs 1,609 crore, its bond redemption surged after Assembly win

LALMANI VERMA & ANJISHNU DAS NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

REDEMPTION OF electoral bonds by the Mamata Banerjee-led All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC), the second largest recipient of such donations to political parties between April 2019 and January 2024, increased after the party swept the West Bengal Assembly elections in 2021.

According to data uploaded by the Election Commission, the

AITMC redeemed electoral bonds totalling Rs 1609 crore between April 2019 and January 2024.

In October-November 2020 and January 2021, the party redeemed 65 electoral bonds worth Rs 43.4 crore — this was also the first year of the Covid pandemic.

Assembly elections were held in West Bengal between March 27 and April 29, 2021. In April, the AITMC redeemed 171 electoral bonds worth Rs 55.44 crore — up from the months

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

REACHED ACROSS POLITICAL DIVIDE

Bond Buyer No. 1: Santiago Martin, labourer turned 'Lottery King'

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, MARCH 14



Santiago Martin

THE STORY of Santiago Martin of Future Gaming and Hotel Services is one that intertwines dreams with political scandals; of a labourer in Myanmar who metamorphosed into the 'Lottery King'. Despite his humble beginnings, Martin's reputation burgeoned as he navigated the murky waters of Indian politics while selling dreams and fortunes to ordinary people

through lotteries.

According to data uploaded on the Election Commission website, Martin's company purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 1,368 crore between April 2019 and January 2024.

When it comes to business in

South India, few names have sparked as much controversy and intrigue as Martin, now 59. On his return from Myanmar, he started a lottery business in 1988 when he founded Martin Lottery Agencies Ltd in Coimbatore. What made his name, 'Lottery Martin', and his business a household name was the two-digit lottery craze that swept the region during the period.

Based in Coimbatore, he expanded his operations to Karnataka and Kerala, eventually

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

INSIDE

MEGHA ENGG SPENT ₹140 CR MONTH BEFORE WINNING TENDER FOR TUNNEL

IN TRANSPORT SECTOR, INDIGO, ASSOCIATES TOP DONORS

PHARMA, HEALTHCARE COMPANIES ALSO IN LIST

PAGE 6

FACING GST HEAT

A telling pattern: In pharma, different firms buy bonds on same days

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK & AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

FROM PHARMACEUTICAL companies buying electoral bonds en masse in 2022 to construction companies lining up to purchase them in 2019 and 2023, the electoral bonds data released by the Election Commission of India reveals a telling pattern: companies in specific sectors bought

bonds in apparent tandem over a span of just a few days. In some cases, this coincides with regulatory or investigative action some of them faced.

An illustrative example: On one particular day, November 10, 2022, major pharma companies including Cipla, Dr Reddy's, and Ipca Laboratories purchased bonds totalling close to Rs 50 crore. A day later, Glenmark and Mankind also purchased bonds

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Opp opposed, raised concerns on federalism, Constitutional changes

LALMANI VERMA & ANJISHNU DAS NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

OUT OF the 47 political parties which gave their opinion to the Ram Nath Kovind-led panel on simultaneous elections, 32 supported the idea, whereas 15 opposed it. Of the 32 in support, all the parties, importantly, are either BJP allies, or friendly towards the party.

Of the 15 against, five are parties outside the NDA umbrella which are in power in states, including the Congress.

In all, while 26 parties which are part of the NDA are in support

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

NDA, Election Commission must get a faster processor than BJP's

ONE NATIONAL ONE ELECTION REPORT

18000 Issues

MORE REPORTS PAGES 14, 16

Ex-bureaucrats Sukhbir Sandhu, Gyanesh Kumar new ECs; Adhir dissents

MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, MARCH 14



Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar

RETIRED IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed new Election Commissioners Thursday, hours after their selection by a three-member committee headed by the Prime Minister.

Sandhu, former Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, was named Secretary, Lokpal in February this year on contract

basis. Kumar retired in January as Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation. He was in the Ministry of Home Affairs at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

'Curtail terms of Assemblies, sync with LS polls'

term to ensure the simultaneous electoral cycle is not disturbed. Besides changes in laws to facilitate this, the committee — which submitted its 281-page report on simultaneous elections in India to President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday — has suggested amendments to a host of provi-

sions to empower the Election Commission of India to create a common electoral roll for Lok Sabha, state Assemblies and local bodies; holding local body elections within 100 days of general elections; and tying the entire one-election exercise to an appointed date that may be notified

by the President.

The committee has clearly noted that for holding elections to the state Assemblies along with Lok Sabha polls, a ratification by the state Legislative Assemblies is not required; but for a single electoral roll, and for holding municipal and Panchayat polls with general elections, a ratification by at least half the states is required.

"It is a historic day for the country's democratic system..." said Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was also a member of the committee.

Justifying joint elections, the report said, "Certainty is important for decisions central to good governance which leads to faster development. On the other hand, uncertainty invariably leads to

policy paralysis. The recommendations of the HLC which inter alia include synchronisation of elections in all three tiers of government... serve to forge an improved architecture of the governance."

A paper co-authored by NK Singh, a member of the committee, and Prachi Mishra of IMF, and included in the report, said simultaneous elections could add about 1.5 percentage points to the country's real GDP growth. As of FY24, this equals Rs 4.5 lakh crore, which the paper said is half the public expenditure on health, and a third on education.

According to sources, if the new government elected after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls accepts the committee's recommendation and initiates the process immedi-

ately upon taking charge, the first simultaneous polls could be held as early as 2029. During this transition period, all states with elections due between June 2024 and May 2029 — as many as 26 states — would see their terms expire alongside the 18th Lok Sabha.

The committee suggested a "one-time transitory measure", in which the President would notify an "appointed date" immediately after a Lok Sabha election and all state assemblies that go to poll after the said date would have their terms expire with the life of the recently-elected Lok Sabha.

So, if simultaneous elections are to be held in 2029, states such as West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, which are due for elections in 2026, or Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh in 2027, or Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana in 2028, will all have their terms expire alongside the 18th Lok Sabha in 2029.

"The new government, once

elects, will need to determine the starting point for implementing simultaneous elections. If the government aims to conduct simultaneous polls in 2029, preparations would commence immediately after this year's LS polls. Alternatively, if the government targets 2034, the appointed date would be identified soon after the 2029 Lok Sabha polls," a panel member told *The Indian Express*. "The committee cannot recommend a specific starting point to the government; we have only proposed the formula," he said.

To ensure that synchronicity is not disrupted due to the premature dissolution of Parliament or a state Assembly due to a no-confidence motion, a hung House or any other event, the committee has suggested that fresh elections be conducted only for the remainder of the term, or the "unexpired term", until the next cycle of simultaneous polls is due.

The committee recommended that Article 325 of the Constitution be amended to enable preparation of a single electoral roll and single Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC) by the EC in consultation with the State Election Commissions for municipal and panchayat elections to be held simultaneously with the others, it recommended insertion of a new Article 324A in the Constitution, which says that Parliament may make a law to ensure that elections to municipalities and panchayats be held together with General Elections.

As a part of its consultations, the committee had met political parties, retired Chief Justices, ex-Chief Election Commissioners, industrialists and economists. The five ex-Chief Justices of India and four retired CECs who met the committee all supported the idea, while 32 parties out of 47 that gave their views supported the idea, the report said.

• New ECs

time of the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Their appointment fills the vacancies created by the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey in February and the surprise resignation of Arun Goel last Saturday.

Its full strength restored, the EC is expected to announce the schedule for the LS elections any day now.

Soon after the meeting of the committee — it comprised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury — Chowdhury said he had recorded his dissent and questioned the procedure that was followed, saying the names of shortlisted officers were not made available to him in advance despite his request. He said the government sent him the names of over 200 officers Wednesday.

"Eight to ten minutes before the meeting started, the papers of the search committee were shared with me. I was given a short list of six names and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal apprised the selection committee of the details of these six officers, the posts that they had held, their administrative record and all. It was said that the committee has to select two names from this list of six officers," Chowdhury told *The Indian Express*. The six officers on the shortlist, according to Chowdhury, were Utpal Kumar Singh, Pradip Kumar Tripathi, Gyanesh Kumar, Indevvar Pandey, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Sudhir Kumar Gangadhar Rahate.

"Amit Shah then proposed two names — that of Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. The PM then asked whether I would like to say something. I told them that I had already asked the government to make available to me the bio-profiles of shortlisted candidates which would have helped me make an informed decision," Chowdhury said.

"But that was not done... So I told the Prime Minister and Home Minister that I have been presented with a fait accompli. I told them you have the majority in the panel... you have an open field... you can do whatever you want. What can I do? And I told them that I would oppose it because there are procedural lapses," Chowdhury said.

• Opposition opposed, raised concerns on federalism, Constitutional changes

of one nation, one election, only 1 (Naga People's Front) is opposed. All the 10 parties part of the INDIA bloc oppose the move. Of the parties not attached to any of the two fronts, 6 are in favour, and 4 against.

Only two of the 32 parties in support are national parties — the BJP and the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP), which is part of the BJP-led NDA and in power in Meghalaya.

The 15 parties that are opposed include all the remaining four parties recognised as national by the EC — the Congress, AAP, BSP and CPI(M). Of these 15, the Congress, AAP, DMK, TMC and CPI(M) are in power in states; the others include the AIUDF, AIMIM, CPI, Naga People's Front (NPF), SP, MDMK and Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi of Tamil Nadu, the CPI(M-L), and Social Democratic Party of India.

Apart from the BJP and NPP, the 32 parties which support simultaneous elections include BJP allies All Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU), Apna Dal (Soneylal), Asom Gana Parishad, Lok Janshakti Party (R), National Democratic Progressive Party (of Nagaland), Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Mizo National Front and United People's Party Liberal of Assam; JD(U), which recently returned to the NDA fold; Shiv Sena (a faction of which is with the NDA); the 'friendly to BJP' Biju Janata Dal; and the Akali

Dal and AIADMK, which were in alliance with the BJP till recently.

The remaining 15 of the 32 parties in support are small, unrecognised parties.

In terms of electoral representation, the 32 parties supporting simultaneous elections together account for 347 MPs in the Lok Sabha (including 290 from the BJP), 1,947 MLAs across states (including 1,482 of the BJP), and together got 48.3% of the vote share in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The combined political strength of the 15 parties opposed to simultaneous polls stands at 117 MPs, 1,460 MLAs and 35.9% of the vote share in 2019. Of this, the INDIA bloc members account for 104 MPs, 1,424 MLAs and 31.6% of the 2019 vote share.

The parties which did not respond to the panel were the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (which was in power till recently in Telangana), IUML, J&K National Conference, new BJP ally JD(S), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Kerala Congress (M), NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), RJD, Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), YSRCP (the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh); TDP and RLD (both of which are BJP allies now); Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann); Rashtriya Loktantrik Party; and

Sikkim Democratic Front.

The panel sought opinion from 62 political parties in all, of which 47 sent their replies, 15 did not respond, while voluntary responses came from others. Eighteen parties also held in-person interaction with the panel. The arguments put forward by the parties which opposed simultaneous elections:

Congress

The Congress said it would result in "substantial changes to the basic structure of the Constitution", went against "the guarantees of federalism" and would "subvert parliamentary democracy". It dismissed the argument regarding expenses saved on the cost of conducting repeated elections as "baseless", saying that "people will be willing to consider this small amount as the cost of free and fair elections".

AAP

The AAP submitted its response to the panel on January 18 this year, followed by personal interaction on February 8. It said simultaneous elections would undermine democracy, the basic structure of the Constitution, and federal polity.

TMC

The TMC, which sent its response on January 11, questioned "the constitutional and structural implications", calling it against the

federal structure of the Constitution and against "basic electoral principles". The TMC contended that forcing states into premature elections would be "unconstitutional" and lead to "suppression of state issues".

DMK

The DMK, in its letter dated January 16, and interaction in person on February 10, said it required premature dissolution of state Assemblies, and was "unconstitutional". It also called the constitution of the high level committee "illegal", and questioned its jurisdiction.

Samajwadi Party

The SP, which sent its response on January 11 and then met the panel on February 6, feared that simultaneous elections would result in national issues dominating regional issues. In case of such a scenario, the party said, state-level parties would not be able to compete with national parties in electoral strategy and expenditure. In its report, the Kovind panel said the SP had earlier supported simultaneous elections.

Bahujan Samaj Party

In its letter dated December 14 last year, the BSP suggested that the Kovind panel provide "a working framework" for simultaneous elections. While it did not explicitly op-

pose them, it highlighted concerns regarding the large territorial spread and population of the country, and said this could make holding simultaneous elections challenging.

CPI(M)

The CPI(M), in its response on December 7 last year, called the concept "fundamentally anti-democratic" and said it "strikes at the root of the parliamentary democratic system as ordained in the Constitution"

AIMIM

The AIMIM, in its letter dated January 15 this year, and a meeting in person on February 14, questioned the constitutional permissibility of incorporating such a "fundamental change".

CPI

The CPI, which gave its response on January 10 this year and then met the panel in person on February 7, called the proposal "restrictive for democracy and state rights".

Naga People's Front

The Naga People's Front, in a letter dated January 12, said simultaneous elections would "invariably defeat the spirit of federal structure", as "a national agenda would overshadow regional and local issues".

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Rules and regulations (Sanskrit)	Stories (Tamil)	God of something (Hindi)	Debate (Hindi)	Debate (Hindi)
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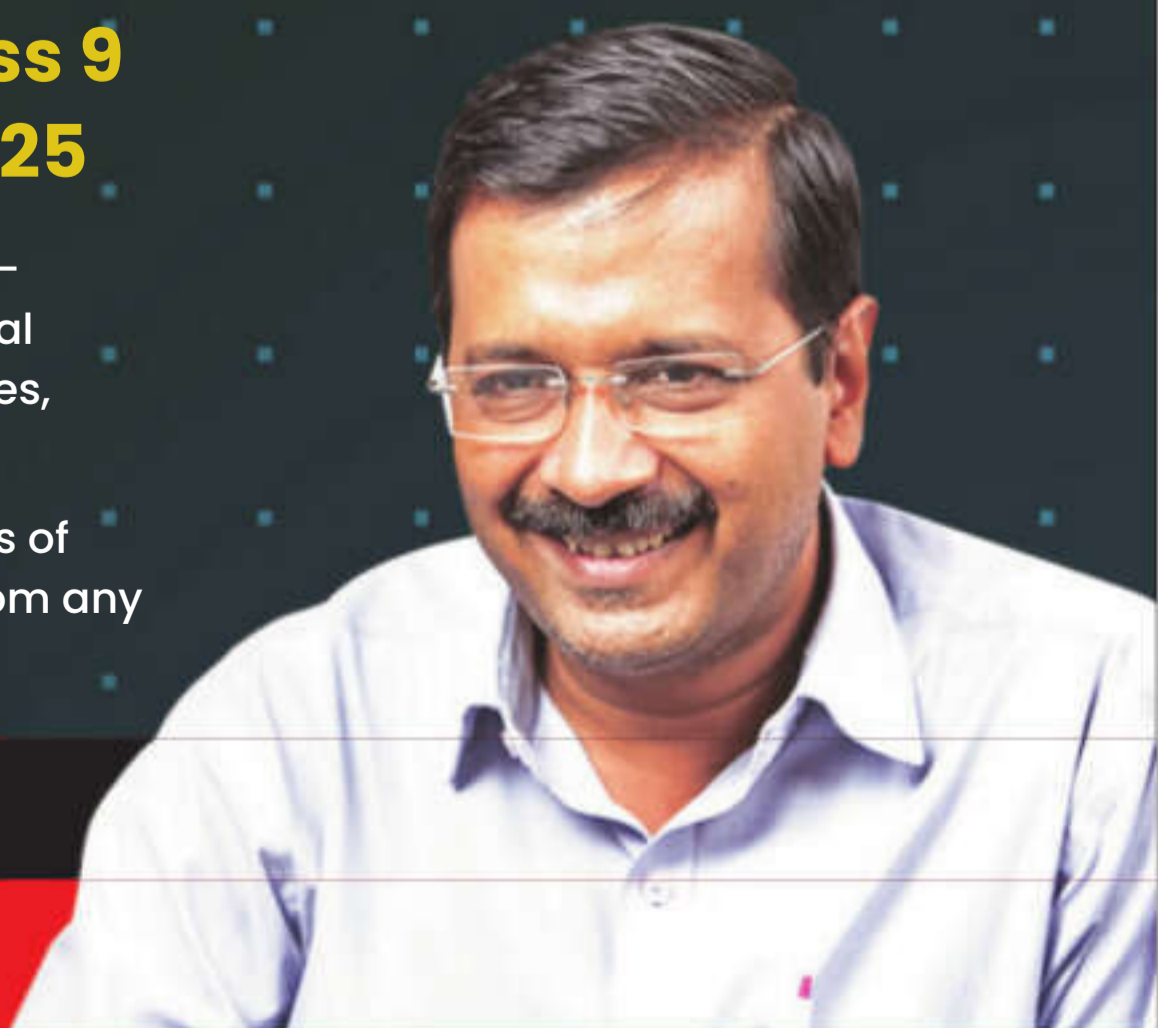
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DELHI LIQUOR POLICY CASE

CM challenges court summons, seeks an exemption from physical appearance

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

CHALLENGING A summoning order issued to him by a court, following two complaints by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over his alleged non-compliance in the Delhi excise policy case, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday argued that the person who issued the summons in the case should have filed the complaint in court — which, he said, was not the case.

He pointed out that the complainant is Assistant Director (ED) Sandeep Kumar Sharma and the person who summoned him is IO Joginder.

The ED had last Wednesday, for the second time, moved Rouse Avenue Court and filed a complaint against Kejriwal for allegedly not complying with its summons — 8 have been issued so far — in the Delhi liquor policy case. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Divya Malhotra then summoned Kejriwal to appear before it on March 16.

The CM moved court Thursday challenging the magistrate court order, and requested an exemption from physical appearance on Saturday.

Kejriwal has filed two revision petitions against two summons issued by the ACMM Court. While Senior Advocate Ramesh Gupta is appearing for Kejriwal in one, advocate Rajiv Mohan is appearing in the other. While the judge was hearing the first revision petition, the main issue being argued was who is the public servant "concerned" who must write the complaint. Gupta argued this had to be IO Joginder, but Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju, on behalf of the ED, said it could've been a different officer as well.

Said Gupta, "... only two people can file a complaint. One is a

public servant concerned (in this case IO Joginder who summoned him) or his superior. So, therefore, in this case, this complaint is barred by Section 195 of CrPC. Therefore, taking cognizance is also barred."

"Sandeep Kumar Sharma is a public servant 'concerned' as he is the co-investigating officer...he is equally authorised to issue summons as IO Joginder," argued ASG Raju. "... he (Kejriwal) says he is an aam aadmi... Can he be allowed to make excuses like these? He says 'mujhe udghatan karna hai, vipasana me jaana hai... Ek aam aadmi aese karta to kya Court usko allow karte?' added Raju.

"ED has 50 IOs. Sandeep never said he was the successor IO for Joginder. The complaint has to be by the officer 'concerned,'" Gupta replied. "Agar mujhe kahijaaana hai aur agar main nahii aa paaya to kya warrant issue kar doge (Suppose I have to go somewhere and I'm unable to comply with the agency's summons, will you issue an arrest warrant against me)?" said Gupta, stating that it would serve no purpose if Kejriwal appeared in court. "The ASG is appearing before the court when the maximum punishment under Section 174 IPC (non-attendance following an order by a public servant) is only one month and the fine is 1,000," said Gupta.

On February 3, after he skipped its fifth summons, the ED filed a complaint against the CM in court for not complying with the summons issued under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and not joining the investigation. The court had then told Kejriwal to appear before it on February 17. The AAP national convenor appeared before the court on the said date via video-conferencing, saying he could not appear physically due to the confidence motion and Budget Session in the Delhi Assembly.

EIGHT INJURED, FIR AGAINST UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

Two kids, newly wed couple die in Shahdara building fire

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

FOUR PEOPLE, including a newly wed couple and their two minor nieces, died after a fire broke out in a residential building in Shastri Nagar's Sarojini Park area early on Thursday.

Eight people, including two children, were injured in the blaze, according to Delhi Fire Services (DFS) chief Atul Garg.

As per the preliminary spot observation by the forensics team, a sparking in an electrical wire could have caused the fire, said DCP Shahdara Surendra Choudhary.

According to officials, the fire broke out around 5.20am in the parking area on the ground floor and filled the entire building with smoke. Local police, four fire tenders, three PCR vans and ambulances were rushed to the spot. Those rescued were taken to Hedgewar Hospital and Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital.

However, Manoj (30), Suman (28) and their two nieces — aged five and three — were declared brought dead at the hospital. Neighbours said the couple had got married only two months ago and had moved in with Manoj's brother Rakesh, who lives on the ground floor — next to the parking lot — with his family.

'Jumped to the next building to save life'

Babita (40), a survivor, said she woke up with racking coughs to see her second-floor flat engulfed in smoke. "We couldn't see anything in front of us, and anything we touched burned our hands," said Babita who saved herself by jumping on to a neighbouring building. Babita said the building's ownership was divided among her husband Kamal and his two brothers who had rented out flats to different people. The building was built three years ago, she said.



(Clockwise from top) Police personnel outside the building; survivors Babita and Saurabh. Amit Mehra



MAJOR INCIDENTS THIS YEAR

JAN 18: Six killed in fire that broke out at a four-storey residential building in Northwest Delhi's Pitampura.

JAN 26: Two mothers and their children, including an infant, died after a fire broke out in a four-storey building in Shahdara's Mansarovar Park Friday evening.

FEB 16: 11 people charred to death in a blaze at a paint factory in Alipur's Dayal market

FEB 21: An 83-year-old woman died after she jumped from the fourth-floor balcony of Pacific Apartment in Dwarka Sector 10 after her house caught fire



After the fire in Alipur in February. Archive

Saurabh Sharma (30), who lives on the fourth floor, said, "I woke my wife and father up and

rushed to the terrace where we jumped onto the terrace of the building behind ours."

Police have registered an FIR under various sections against unidentified persons in the case.

Top court dismisses Sisodia's curative plea challenging bail denial

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed the curative petition filed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia challenging the top court's order denying him bail in the excise policy scam case.

"Application for listing the Curative Petitions in open Court is dismissed. We have gone through the Curative Petitions and the connected documents. In our opinion, no case is made out within the parameters indicated in the decision of this Court in Rupa Ashok Hurra vs Ashok Hurra", a four-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said in its order on Wednesday.

The bench also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and SVN Bhatti.

The SC had, on October 30, 2023, dismissed Sisodia's bail plea, saying there is "material and evidence" which "tentatively" supports one of the charges against him under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) — that 14 wholesale liquor distributors earned "excess profit" of Rs 338 crore in about 10 months when the now-scrapped excise policy was in operation.

The ED had contended that Rs 338 crore was what accrued to the 14 wholesale distributors following the increase of their commission to 12% under the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 (from 5 per cent under the old policy). This, the agency had said, "would consti-



Manish Sisodia

tute proceeds of crime" and "were acquired, used and were in possession of the wholesale distributors who have unlawfully benefited from illegal gain at the expense of the government exchequer and the consumers/buyers". The Court, while refraining "from delving... in depth and detail" into some of the legal questions arising in the matter, said, "However, there is one clear ground or charge in the complaint filed under the PML Act which is free from perceptible legal challenge and the facts as alleged are tentatively supported by material and evidence."

The top court also dismissed his review petition filed against it on December 13, 2023.

The SC said, "We have carefully perused the review petitions as also the grounds in support thereof. In our opinion, no case for review of the judgment dated 30.10.2023 is made out. The review petitions are, accordingly, dismissed." After his review petition was dismissed, Sisodia approached the court with the curative petition.

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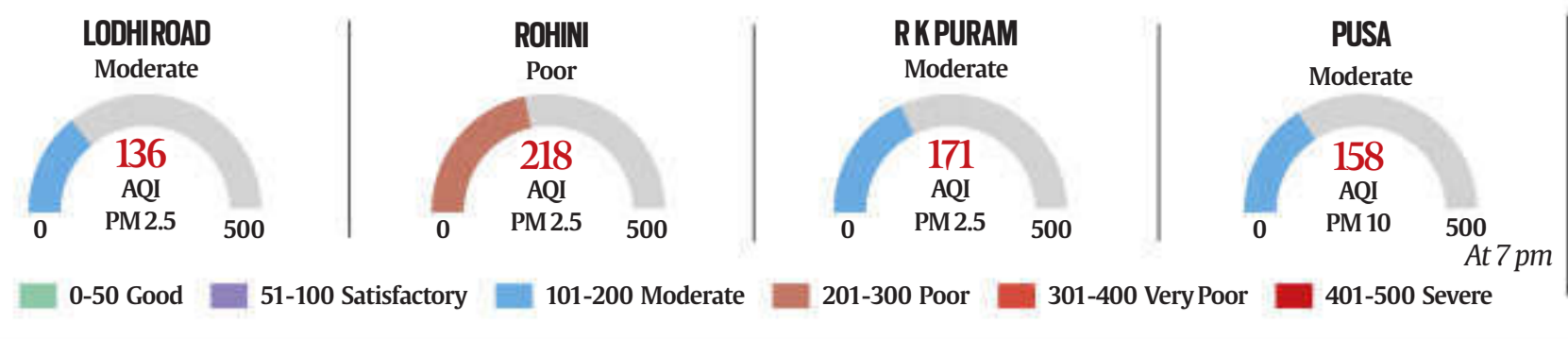
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FATHER RECENTLY BOUGHT VEHICLE, GAVE IT ON RENT TO CABBIE: POLICE

Parents out of town, teen took car for spin — rammed into shoppers, killed 1

The teenager and his friend, also a minor, have been apprehended

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

WITH HIS parents out of town, a 17-year-old boy decided to take his father's car out for a spin along with his friend on Wednesday night. He had only driven a car thrice so far and neither he nor his friend had a licence. As they neared the busy weekly market in East Delhi's Mayapuri Vihar Phase III, the boy suddenly lost control of the Hyundai Aura and allegedly ploughed into shoppers along a 500-metre stretch — killing a 22-year-old woman and injuring six others.

A day after the incident, the Delhi Police apprehended the boy and his friend, also a minor. Police said they were school dropouts.

According to police, the boy's father had recently purchased the car and given it on rent to a driver who worked with a cab-based aggregator — it was the driver who gave the boy the key when he asked for it, they said.

The DCP said they have lodged a case under IPC sections pertaining to rash driving and culpable homicide not amounting to murder against unknown persons and will issue a notice to the boy's parents and the driver to join the probe.

Police said they will book the cab driver, who knowingly gave an underage boy the keys to drive the vehicle.

What went wrong
Said an officer, "The boy behind the wheel had only driven a car thrice... his friend too didn't have a driving licence... the boy said they were out for a joyride



(Top) Wreckage of the car after the accident; Grab from CCTV footage which shows the vehicle ploughing into people at a local weekly market in East Delhi. PTI

when he lost control of the vehicle and hit passersby near Ryan International School."

CCTV footage of the incident shows the vehicle accelerating and hitting more shoppers and a vegetable vendor on the stretch opposite the school and eventually crashing into a bangle shop and a cloth shop. Footage shows several people surrounding the vehicle and trying to pull out the driver, but, after halting at the spot for a few seconds, the vehicle reverses and speeds away, taking a right towards Khoda Colony.

A little distance away, passersby managed to stop the car and beat up the boy; they also vandalised the vehicle. A PCR call was made and the minor boy

was taken into custody, while his co-passenger fled the spot. He was later nabbed. While the injured persons were admitted to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, mostly with leg and head injuries, one of them, 22-year-old Sita Devi, was declared dead on arrival. Officers said that during questioning, the minor claimed he did not have a lot of experience in driving and lost control of the car near the market. "He said he grew nervous after hitting a person and kept driving in a bid to flee the spot," said an officer. Meanwhile, the minor boy will be sent to an observation home. Police said they carried out a test and no alcohol had been found in his blood.

'... will be grateful if someone else can see through her eyes'

Victim's kin decide to donate her eyes

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

"OUR SITA is not here with us but we will be grateful if someone else can see through her eyes." A day after the 22-year-old was killed in an accident when a car ploughed through a weekly market in East Delhi, her brother said they would donate her eyes to a patient in need.

Around 7.30 pm on Wednesday, Sita and her elder sister Puja Devi stepped out of their house in Khoda Colony to buy vegetables at the market. Thirty minutes later, the car hit her from behind, causing injuries to the right side of her body, even as her sister narrowly escaped.

She is survived by her parents and five siblings, three of them brothers.

At the mortuary of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Sita's brother Kapil told *The Indian Express*, "... we had no idea about the incident until Puja called us and said a vehicle has gone on a rampage and is hitting every person in sight... she said she somehow swerved to the right and saved herself but Sita was hit."

Sita, her family members said, used to work at a fridge manufacturing factory in East Delhi and used to earn around Rs 7,000 a month. She was also pursuing an ITI course.

"... We had just bought a few vegetables when we heard loud noises and screams from behind... I saw a silver car driving in a zig-zag manner and hitting fruit,



Sita Devi was shopping for vegetables when the incident took place

cloth and bangle stalls... passersby were fleeing out of its way but by the time we could react, the vehicle was already close to us... Sita had fallen unconscious at the spot and was taken to the hospital by police and passersby," said Puja.

Meanwhile, *The Indian Express* spoke to those injured who could only recall seeing a vehicle rushing towards the busy market and crashing into everything in sight.

Sarita (30), who was at the market with her two children, sustained a fracture in her right leg. "I had come to buy clothes for a wedding next month in my village in UP... when the vehicle suddenly came towards me... I managed to push my children out of the way but it hit my right leg... I lost consciousness after a while but I remember that the driver kept accelerating..."

Dorjan (55), who had come to eat street food, sustained head injuries and a broken right leg after the vehicle rammed into him and the stall he was eating at. "I left home around 8 pm to eat and take a stroll... the vehicle crashed into anything in its way," he added.

'CAA dangerous... Centre will extend cut-off date...': CM takes on Amit Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Thursday said the Citizenship (Amendment) Act rules, which were notified earlier this week, will take away jobs and resources from the poor citizens of India. Urging Home Minister Amit Shah to pay heed to his objections, Kejriwal said the law was dangerous for the country's security.

He also said the country should bring back those 11 lakh businessmen who left India over BJP's adverse policies so they can create jobs for Indian youth.

Kejriwal was responding to Shah's statement that he had "lost his composure". Speaking to ANI, Shah had said, "The Delhi CM has lost his composure after his corruption was exposed. He does not know that all these people have already come and are living in India. If he is so concerned, why doesn't he talk about Bangladeshi infiltrators or oppose Rohingya? He is doing vote bank politics... He has forgotten the background of Partition and should meet the refugee families..."

Kejriwal, meanwhile, alleged the government could always extend the cut-off date to grant citizenship, which is December 31, 2014. "You (HIM Amit Shah) said people who have come before 2014 will be given citizenship... Till now, illegal immigrants were scared of being jailed, deported. Now they will not be scared... The message is India is giving legal recognition to illegal immigrants from these countries. Today, you are talking about people who came before 2014... Next, you will extend the cut-off date for eligibility and make it 2024. You spoke about Rohingya. They came when you were in

power. They came after 2014. How did they come? Because of your collusion or your incompetence?" Kejriwal said.

The AAP chief also said the



CM Arvind Kejriwal

REFUGEES PROTEST NEAR CM'S HOME

New Delhi: Hindu and Sikh refugees living in the city held a protest near CM Arvind Kejriwal's Civil Lines residence Thursday, demanding that he apologise for his statements on CAA. They tried to march towards his house but were stopped by police. Kejriwal, in a post on X, meanwhile, said even though farmers were not allowed to protest outside his home, "Pakistanis were allowed to protest outside my house with full police protection and respect, and farmers of this country are not even allowed to come to Delhi? Tear gas shells, sticks, rods and bullets on Indian farmers? And so much respect for Pakistanis?" **ENS**

power. They came after 2014. How did they come? Because of your collusion or your incompetence?" Kejriwal said.

country's youth will be robbed of jobs if CAA is implemented. "... You want to bring people from Pakistan, Bangladesh and settle them in the country... There are around 3 crore minorities in these countries... Coming to India and getting citizenship is like a dream for them... Even if 1 crore people come, how will we accommodate them?... Illegal immigrants from Pakistan will now be given government jobs... ration cards. Today, Delhi has around 72 lakh ration-card holders and these fall short. Time and again, we write to the Centre to increase the number of ration-card holders. The Centre does not do that, but it's willing to give ration cards to people from Pakistan," Kejriwal said.

He also said the country's security will be compromised if CAA is implemented. "I want to know from the people... will you be agreeable to a jhuggi of immigrants from Pakistan being set up across the road from your house?... Will you be safe? Will the country be safe? Pakistan might send some of its people. This is what I am worried about, Mr Home Minister... Why don't we learn from other countries? Look at Canada... It opened its doors and people from across the world came and settled. Now they're stopping migration. Look at UK. Other countries are stopping migration and you are opening your doors to the poor from other countries. Who will worry about the poor in our country?" he said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, meanwhile, said Kejriwal had lost all empathy: "He doesn't speak up against atrocities on Hindu and Sikh women in Pakistan and Afghanistan, let alone condemning shameful incidents like the recent desecration of temples... he has lost his moral compass..."

Delegation of judges from England pays visit to HC

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

WITH THOUSANDS of farmers and farm workers in attendance, a call for a "country-wide protest against the BJP" was made at the Kisan Mazdoor Mahapanchayat held in Delhi Thursday. A resolution was also passed to observe March 23 as "save democracy from the threat of money and muscle power day" in all villages.

The gathering was organised at Ramlila Maidan, amid heavy police deployment, by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM).

The 'sankalp patra' or letter of resolution adopted at the mahapanchayat by the SKM called for protests against the BJP across the country, under the banner of a "united peoples' movement" against the "corporate, communal, dictatorial regime", as well as observing March 23 as "save democracy from the threat of money and muscle power day" in all villages to protest the BJP having fielded Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni from Lakhimpur Kheri for the Lok Sabha polls.

In October 2021, four farmers were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri after a convoy of three SUVs, including one owned by Teni, allegedly hit a group of people protesting against the now-repealed Centre's farm laws. Mishra's son, Ashish, was allegedly driving one of the SUVs.

MSP, loan waiver demands unaddressed
At the mahapanchayat, farmers pointed out that their reasons for protesting in 2020-21 had not been addressed yet, with a Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantee and loan waiver for farmers yet to be ensured.

Addressing the gathering, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said, "Governments will try to break the Samyukta Morcha, be mindful... when the agitation

At kisan mahapanchayat, call for 'nationwide protest against BJP'

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

happens, they will say it is an agitation of a particular state or a particular community. With the agitations in the past, what has happened? *Desh me Sikh samaj ko badnaam karne ki badi sijish chali hui hain...* when there is an agitation, everybody should be together."

He added: "Whichever governments take decisions against farmers, we will continue our protest against them, no matter which party that is. Our agitation will continue."

Farmers from different parts of the country, including Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, UP and West Bengal, attended the mahapanchayat, having arrived

in Delhi in trains, buses, and their own vehicles.

Daljeet Singh, a farmer from Moga in Punjab, said he had arrived with others in their vehicle on Thursday morning and would return soon after the mahapanchayat. "We are here to ask for a legal guarantee of MSP, and that the loans of farmers be waived off. The barricades that were put up to keep us out of Delhi last month were a bad move... we were there for so long earlier, at Singhu and Tikri, but we have not caused any loss," he said.

Naveen Tyagi, from Hapur in UP, who is part of the BKU, also said a key issue was that of prices



At the gathering in Ramlila Maidan, Thursday; (left) Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait. Abhinav Saha



Caleigh Christy

for crops. "Crops like maize sell at rates that are far below the minimum prices fixed. Farmers also need to pay large amounts as electricity bills," he said.

Kuljeet Singh, from Barnala in Punjab, reiterated that the demands raised during the farmers' protest of 2020-21 are yet to be met. "The demand for a guaranteed MSP for crops should be met," he said.

Devender Singh, a farmer from Sonipat associated with the All India Krishak Khet Majdoor Sangathan, said, "In addition to loan waivers for farmers, we also demand that farm workers should be ensured work all year round."

Worker falls off 2nd floor while painting house in Gurgaon, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, MARCH 14

A WORKER died after falling off the second floor while painting a house in Gurgaon on Wednesday, police said.

Police said Farid (32), who was from Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, was employed by a man named Salim for painting the house in Sector 5 area.

An FIR has been registered against the contractor and the house owner.

"He was working as a painter ever since he shifted to Gurgaon. On Wednesday, Farid and two others were working under contractor Salim, who was supervising the work. Due to his negligence, my brother Farid fell from the second floor while painting. There were no proper safety measures and safety nets at the site when the incident took

place. This led to his death as he sustained serious injuries from the fall," Rahish, the brother of the deceased, alleged.

Rahish said Farid was living with his wife and three children in a rented house at Prem Nagar in Sector 12 for the last six months.

On the complaint by Rahish, an FIR was registered under IPC sections 336 (offence of causing grievous hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety), 304-A (death by negligence) and 34 (common intention) at Sector 5 police station.

Police said a post-mortem has been conducted and they are collecting evidence in the case.

"He was taken to hospital but was declared dead on arrival. He was painting a house where repair works were going on. A probe is underway and action will be taken against the accused," an officer said.

Probe nature of pets around Dhobi Ghat, HC tells cops

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday directed the police to "investigate the nature of pets kept in the vicinity" of the Dhobi Ghat area of Central Delhi's Tughlaq Lane where a one-and-half-year-old girl was mauled to death allegedly by stray dogs last month.

A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad asked the Delhi Police to file a status report and listed the matter on March 19. The HC was hearing the plea by the girl's father seeking compensation of Rs 50 lakh.

"The police are directed to investigate regarding the nature of pets that are kept in the vicinity..." the HC directed.

During the hearing, the HC said it wants to "remove" a "particular angle" concerning the apprehension that there was "some kind of ferocious dog" kept in the houses nearby, before it "proceeds further". **ENS**

Man tries to send opium to New Zealand, booked

Gurgaon: A man from Punjab was booked for allegedly attempting to transport over 500g of opium to New Zealand via courier, police said Thursday. Opium packets weighing 589 grams were found hidden in boxes containing cosmetic products and clothes, police said. The state Narcotics Control Bureau received information Wednesday about a parcel allegedly containing illegal drugs which was to be sent to New Zealand. **PTI**

'United to abuse me day and night': Modi slams INDIA bloc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

TAKING A dig at the Opposition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said the INDIA bloc's ideology is one of "corruption, misgovernance, and anti-nationalism". He said, "While Modi is busy working to improve the lives of poor and middle class... there is INDIA, which has united in Delhi with a manifesto to abuse Modi day and night."

Addressing a crowd which included beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi scheme at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Modi said, "What is the ideology of this alliance? Their ideas are of misgovernance, corruption... while Modi thinks of welfare of the nation."

Acknowledging the presence of street vendors linked to the event through video conferencing from different cities, he said, "Our life is incomplete without (them)."



PM Modi at JLN Stadium, Thursday. Anil Sharma

Referring to the new Metro corridors, the foundation stone of which he laid through video conferencing, the PM further said, "... Two additional corridors of Delhi Metro, Lajpat Nagar-Saket-G Block and Inderlok-Indraprastha, were also launched today. This is double gift for the people of Delhi..."

Targeting the earlier governments, he told street vendors, "The previous government never heard nor understood your problems or took any steps to address the is-

But... I have lived in poverty." Referring to the PM SVANidhi scheme, Modi said, "Until now, 62 lakh beneficiaries have received assistance worth Rs 11,000 crore... I am happy more than half of these beneficiaries are women."

On Metro and other rail services, he said, "Delhi Metro has expanded two times in the last 10 years... Nammo Bharat rapid rail is set to connect Delhi-NCR... The Centre is running more than 1,000 electric buses in Delhi to curb pollution and tackle traffic."

Maharashtra to be first state to buy land in Kashmir to build its state bhawan

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, MARCH 14

MAHARASHTRA IS set to become the first state to purchase land in Jammu and Kashmir to construct a facility for tourists and officials who visit the Union Territory.

The Maharashtra Bhawan – the first state bhawan in the Valley – will come up at central Kashmir's Budgam on the outskirts of Srinagar city. The Maharashtra cabinet sanctioned the purchase of the land on Wednesday.

The bhawan will come up on a plot of land measuring 2.5 acres at Ichgam, close to Srinagar airport.

The J&K government has approved the transfer of land to the state government, subject to a payment of Rs 8.16 crore.

"Sanction is accorded to the transfer of Shamlat Deh land measuring 20 kanal situated at estate Ichgam Budgam in favour of Maharashtra state... on payment of transfer value of Rs 8.16 crore, which is Rs 40.8 lakh per kanal, for construction of Maharashtra Bhawan," a Revenue department note states.

The process to purchase land and construct a tourist facility here was initiated after Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited J&K and

The facility for tourists and officials visiting the UP will come up on 2.5 acres of land at Ichgam, close to Srinagar airport

met Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in June last year.

The facility aims to offer comfortable accommodation and facilities for tourists and officials from Maharashtra.

In his budget speech, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who also holds the finance portfolio, had said the government is constructing two Maharashtra Bhawans in Srinagar and Ayodhya to "provide better and safer facilities to the tourists and devotees of the State at reasonable rates".

Pawar had said that the state government has allocated Rs 77 crore for constructing these two state guesthouse facilities.

Before the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in August 2019, only permanent residents could buy land in the erstwhile state. The government, though, could lease land for longer periods – of up to 99 years – to industries and people from outside.

Mamata suffers head injury after fall at home, discharged

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 14

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sustained a major injury after she reportedly fell and hit her head against a glass showcase at her residence in Kolkata on Thursday. She was rushed to state-run SSKM Hospital and was released after getting four stitches on her head, officials said.

According to reports, the CM had gone to Gariahat at Ekdaia Evergreen Club to inaugurate a statue of former minister Subrata Mukherjee. After the programme, she returned to her residence at Harish Chatterjee Street in Kolkata. "She was with her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, sister-in-law Kajari Banerjee and other relatives when the incident occurred. She was walking in her drawing room and suddenly slipped. She fell down and hit her head against a glass showcase. She had a deep cut over her forehead and started bleeding," said a TMC leader.

She was rushed to SSKM Hospital by Abhishek where she was admitted to Woodburn Ward and got four stitches on her head, the leader added.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leaves SSKM hospital in Kolkata on Thursday. Express

Sources said that the CM had to undergo a few medical tests including an MRI and a CT-scan.

SSKM Hospital director Dr Manimoy Bandopadhyay said, "Chief Minister of West Bengal reported to our hospital today around 07.30 pm with a history of fall within the vicinity of her home due to some push from behind. She had a cerebral concussion and had a sharp cut over her forehead and nose which was bleeding profusely... Three stitches were applied on the forehead and one on the nose and the required dressing was done. Investigations like ECG, CT scan, etc were done. Medical

personnel have provided their opinion in these regards. She was advised to remain admitted for observation, but she preferred to go home. She will again be assessed tomorrow and subsequent treatment will be decided accordingly..."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar wished for her quick recovery. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, Congress state unit chief leader Adhir Chowdhury, BJP state president Sukanta Majumder and many other political leaders wished her a speedy recovery.

Class X exam supervisor removed after Gujarat school asks Muslim students to remove hijab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, MARCH 14

A CLASS X Board exam supervisor of a private school in Anklshwar town in Bharuch district was removed from his post on Thursday after he allegedly instructed invigilators to remove the hijab of Muslim students ahead of the mathematics exam on Wednesday.

The Bharuch District Education Officer (DEO) Swati Raulji had Wednesday ordered an inquiry into the incident after receiving a complaint from the parents of one of the students whose hijab was removed.

The exam supervisor who was removed was identified as Ilaben Suratya, also the principal of the school, which was an exam centre for Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSHSEB).

Raulji told *The Indian Express* that the incident occurred on Wednesday ahead of the Senior Secondary Certificate (SSC) exam at Lions School, where invigilators were seen "collecting veils" of students.

"I received a complaint from a parent who alleged that his ward was asked to remove hijab while appearing for the exam at Lions School on Wednesday... On checking CCTV camera footage, the complaint was found to have merit and so, I pulled out the Board exam supervisor of the school and ordered further inquiry," Raulji said.

"The school, in its primary explanation, has verbally said that students were asked to remove the veil so that their faces can be matched with the image on the hall ticket," she added. The CCTV footage shows two invigilators and a helper going around the class and collecting hijabs of some Muslim students. The father of the student, who studies in a Gujarati medium school, also filed a complaint with the Anklshwar police station on Thursday. Members of the Muslim community as well as parents of some students gathered at the school to protest on Thursday. They also handed over a memorandum to the DEO.

CIVIL COURT PUNE MAHARASHTRA
IN THE COURT OF SHRI H. S. PURADUPADHYE
15TH JOINT CJSD AND ADDL CJM PUNE,
Pune City, Pune
SUMMONS IN A SUMMARY SUIT (0.37, R.2)
Spl.Sum.Suit/132/2018
Priya Capacitors Pvt. Ltd. Through
Mekktel Joseph Joy Vs M/s Shyam
Traders Through Padam Shyam Jindal,
Next Date : 22.03.2024
To, M/s Shyam Traders Through Padam
Shyam Jindal, 1/10, Roop Nagar, Delhi
110 007
Whereas Priya Capacitors Pvt. Ltd.
Through Mekktel Joseph Joy has
instituted a suit against you under Order
XXXVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908,
for ₹ and interest, you are hereby summoned
to cause and appearance to be entered for
you, within ten days from the service hereof,
in default whereof the plaintiff will be
entitled, after the expiration of the said period
not exceeding ten days, to obtain a decree for
any sum not exceeding the sum of ₹ and the sum of
₹ for costs together with such interest, if any,
as the Court may order.
If you cause an appearance to be entered for
you, Priya Capacitors Pvt. Ltd. Through
Mekktel Joseph Joy the plaintiff will
thereafter serve upon you a summons for
judgment at a hearing of which you will be
entitled to move the Court for leave to defend
the suit.
Leave to defend may be obtained if you satisfy
the Court by affidavit or otherwise that there
is a defence to the suit on the merits or that
it is reasonable that you should be allowed to
defend.
Given under my hand and the seal of the
Court, this 25.08.2023.
15th Joint CJSD and Addl CJM Pune
Visit ecourts.gov.in for updates or download
mobile app "eCourts Services" from Android
or IOS.
The process is system generated and
transmitted in secured manner by authorised
user as such physical signature not applied.

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(Established under the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014)
Website: www.rlbcau.ac.in Email: registrar.rlbcau@gmail.com Phone no.: 0510-2730555

Advertisement No: RLBCAU/04/2024 Dated: 14.03.2024

Short Vacancy Notification

Through advertisement no. RLBCAU/04/2024, applications from eligible Indian Nationals are invited for recruitment of one post of Dean College of Fisheries (Direct/Deputation) on level 14.

For more details viz. essential qualifications, category of reservation, pay scale, application fee, application form and other instructions, please visit University website www.rlbcau.ac.in. The closing date for receipt of application will be 30 April, 2024. Registrar

राष्ट्रीय औषधीय शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान गुवाहाटी
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH GUWAHATI

Employment Notification No. NIPER-G/Adv. 2024/01 Date: 14/03/2024

NIPER-Guwahati invites online applications for the various regular Teaching and Non-Teaching positions from eligible Indian Nationals

Date & time of commencement of Online Applications: 18/03/2024 from 11:00 AM

Last date & time of Online Application & Payment of Fees: 17/04/2024 up to 5:00 PM

Last date for receipt of hard copy of the online application along with all enclosures: 27/04/2024 up to 5:00 PM

For detailed advertisement containing eligibility criteria and general information, please visit the website: www.niperguwahati.ac.in Sd/- Registrar/IC

DIRECT RECRUITMENT : Non Technical Positions
Advt.No: C-DAC/MB/02/2024/2403

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is a premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

Applications are invited for the following Non Technical positions from eligible candidates:

Group C- Level 5	1 post (Unreserved)	Assistant
Group C- Level 4	1 post (OBC)	Junior Assistant

Interested candidates may visit "Careers" page of www.cdac.in for detailed notification and apply online on or before March 31, 2024.

Note: Addendum/further communication in this regard, if any, will be notified through C-DAC's website only.

Address: C-DAC, Gulmohar Cross Rd.No.9, Juhu, Mumbai 400049
CBC 06138/12/0006/2324

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Institute of Disaster Management, Delhi is seeking qualified candidates for followings contractual positions under the project "National Highway Climate Adaptation Policy and Guidelines (High CAP)":

S No.	Name of the position	No. of positions	Remuneration p.m. (Rs.)
1.	Project Manager	01	1,50,000/-
2.	Project scientist 'II'	02	67,000/- + HRA
3.	Senior Project Associate	02	42,000/- + HRA
4.	Project Associate	01	28,000/- + HRA

Details of the assignment and information for applicants can be found on the website at <https://nidm.gov.in>. The last date of submitting application is 22.03.2024.

CBC-19107/11/0036/2324 Executive Director, NIDM

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
For Airport Seating Works for Navi Mumbai International Airport

Navi Mumbai International Airport Private Limited ("NMIAL") has been granted the right to develop, operate and maintain the Navi Mumbai International Airport ("NMIA") on DBFOT basis. As a part of project development at NMIA, NMIAL proposes to undertake the award of Airport Seating Works.

The scope of work includes, but will not be limited to, "supply, installation, interfacing, warranty support and associated works of Airport Seating Work."

NMIAL invites responses to the Expression of Interest ("EOI") from qualified, experienced and reputed suppliers of Airport Seating Work.

Interested applicants may download and submit their response to the EOI by registering on the NMIAL e-portal (<http://nmiaairport.abcpocure.com/EPROC>). For further details and instructions, please visit the E-tenders section: www.nmiaairport.co.in.

The deadline for submission of the response to EOI is **29th March 2024 @ 19:00 hrs IST**.

Note: NMIAL reserves the right to reject any response to EOI or change / cancel the tender process at any time without prior notice or without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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CBC 09101/13/0060/2324

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Rajesh Mannal Agrawal

₹10,00,00,000
Raju Kumar Sharma

₹10,00,00,000
Rahul Jagannath Joshi

₹10,00,00,000
Harmesh Rahul Joshi

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CONG THIRD-HIGHEST, REDEEMED RS 1,421.8 CRORE VIA 3,146 BONDS

BJP encashed ₹1,700 cr before 2019 LS polls, ₹202 cr ahead of this year's

Redemptions high in November last year during polls in four states

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

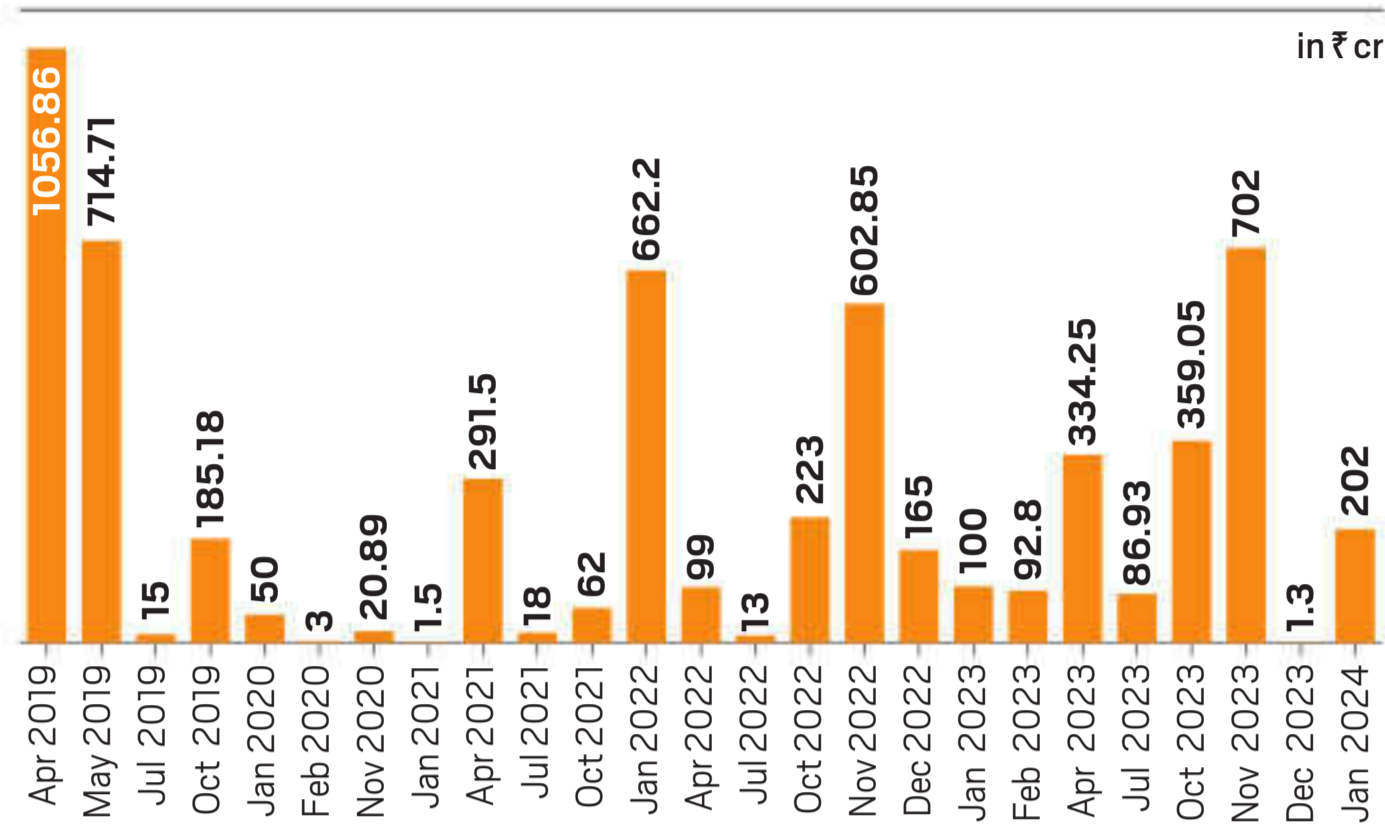
OFRS 12,769 crore worth electoral bonds encashed by the political parties in the last five years, ruling BJP bagged almost half, and one-third of this came during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In fact, the party has encashed electoral bonds worth Rs 202 crore in January this year, ahead of the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The electoral bond data released by the Election Commission of India on Thursday showed that the BJP encashed by far the highest amount of EBs (Rs 6,060.52 crore in total) among political parties.

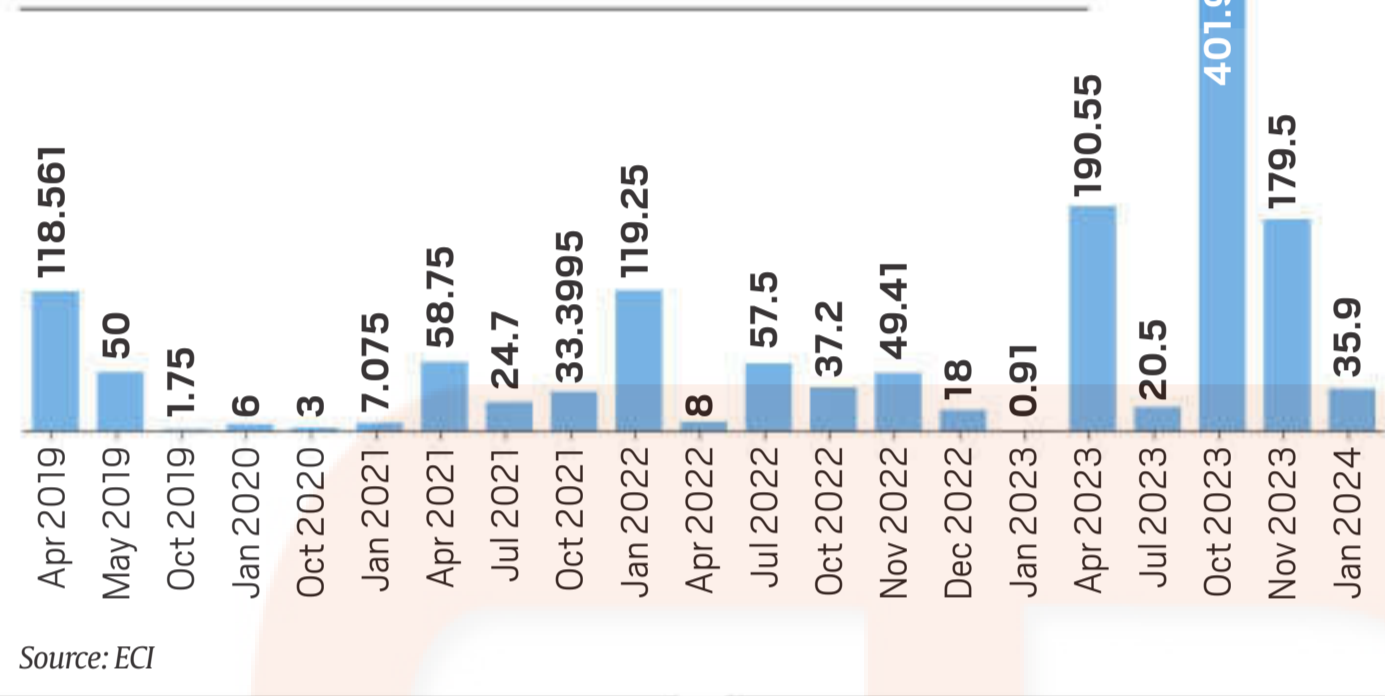
What the data also revealed was that the party redeemed the most during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the November 2023 elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

One-third of the total amount that the party redeemed from April 12, 2019 till January 24 this year was during April and May 2019 (Rs 1,056.86 crore in April 2019 and Rs 714.71 crore in May 2019).

BONDS ENCASHED BY BJP



BONDS ENCASHED BY CONGRESS



Source: ECI

2019).

During the latest Assembly elections in November 2023, the redemption increased to Rs.702 crore, from Rs 359.05 crore in October.

The BJP redeemed EBs throughout the period, in the form of 8,633 bonds.

The redemption fell to single digits three times — February 2020 (Rs 3 crore), January 2021 (Rs 1.50 crore) and December 2023 (Rs 1.30 crore).

Redemptions spiked in January 2022 (Rs 662.20 crore), when the elections to Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa assemblies were on; and again in November 2022, when the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assemblies went to polls.

The Congress, which got the third-highest amount among parties after the BJP and Trinamool Congress, redeemed a total of Rs 1,421.87 crore in 3,146 bonds from April 12, 2019 to January 22, 2024.

Interestingly, the party redeemed over three times as much in the run-up to the Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram elections in October 2023 (Rs 401.91 crore) than in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections (Rs 118.56 crore in April 2019).

In the most-recent tranche, in January this year, the Congress redeemed Rs.35.9 crore, as opposed to the BJP, which got Rs.202 crore in the same period.

Megha Engg bought bonds worth ₹140 cr month before getting Maharashtra project

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE HYDERABAD-headquartered infrastructure player Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL) purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 140 crore on April 11, 2023, a month before winning the tender for the Rs 14,400-crore Thane-Borivali twin tunnel project, the ECI data released Thursday showed.

Overall, the privately-held firm founded in 1989 was among the largest purchasers of electoral bonds, having purchased Rs 821 crore worth of the bonds, the data showed.

The Maharashtra government's Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) had floated the tender for the project — two road tunnels under the Sanjay Gandhi National Park — in January that year. MEIL was the only bidder whose technical bid was found responsive.

The *Indian Express* has earlier reported that the Bombay High Court in May 2023 dismissed two pleas of Mumbai-based engineering firm Larsen & Toubro (L&T) whose bids for the construction of the tunnels were rejected by MMRDA.

L&T had filed two petitions challenging the rejection of its technical bid, one for package 1 of the project, which includes



The Thane-Borivali twin tunnel project will provide direct connectivity between Eastern and Western Express Highways. File

constructing 5.75 km of the tunnel on the Borivali side. In its second petition, L&T had argued that its bid for package 2 (constructing 6.09 km of the tunnel on the Thane side) of the project was rejected by the authorities although it was a successful bidder.

The MMRDA had then submitted in court that L&T's request to rectify its error after the financial bid was opened could not be allowed as per norms and sought dismissal of both the pleas.

30 pharma and healthcare firms together bought bonds worth over ₹900 cr

Top buyers include Yashoda Super-Speciality Hospital (₹162 crore), Hyderabad; Dr Reddy's Laboratory (₹80 cr)

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

AT LEAST 30 pharma and healthcare companies bought electoral bonds worth over Rs 5 crore each, adding up to around Rs 900 crore, reveals the electoral bond data released on Thursday. This accounts for about 7.4% of the total Rs 12,155 crore amount for which the data was released.

The top buyers include Yashoda Super-Speciality Hospital (Rs 162 crore), Hyderabad; Dr Reddy's Laboratory (Rs 80 crore); Ahmedabad-headquartered Torrent Pharmaceuticals (Rs 77.5 crore); Hyderabad-based Natco Pharma (Rs 69.25 crore); and Hyderabad-Hetero Pharma and its subsidiaries. The founder of Biocon Limited Kiran Mazumdar Shaw also purchased bonds worth Rs 6 crore. Other big buyer of the poll bonds from the industry is Cipla (Rs 39.2 crore).

The biggest buyer Yashoda Super-Speciality Hospital purchased 80 bonds in six tranches, the highest being Rs 80 crore in April 2022. At the time of publication, it could not be ascertained whether the buyer was

ELECTORAL BONDS: BY DENOMINATION

Denomination (in ₹)	Number of Electoral Bonds	Amount of Electoral Bonds in ₹ crore
1,000	132	0.0132
10,000	220	0.22
1,00,000	2228	22.28
10,00,000	4620	462
1,00,00,000	11671	11671
Grand Total	18871	12,155.51

Hyderabad-based hospital or the one based in Ghaziabad as both share the same name. Hetero Pharma purchased the electoral bonds in April 2022, and July and October 2023 after IT raids that allegedly detected Rs 550 crore unaccounted income linked to the firm. Hetero Pharma is known for manufacturing active pharmaceutical ingredients, along with drugs for cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetes, among others.

Dr Reddy's Laboratory markets a wide range of generic, branded generics, and biologics. However, they are also one of the big companies manufacturing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). Significantly, the government dur-

ing the pandemic pushed for indigenous manufacturing of APIs, giving financial support to companies who manufacture it through its production-linked incentive scheme.

The sixth highest donor from the healthcare sector, Divi's Laboratory is one of the biggest API manufacturers in the world. Other than that, both Natco and Torrent pharmaceuticals are known for their cardiovascular and diabetes drugs.

Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturers Bharat Biotech (Rs 10 crore) and Biological E (Rs 5 crore), which received government approvals for Covid-19 vaccines, also figure in the list.

WILL PRESS FOR UNIQUE BOND NUMBER: BHUSHAN

Petitioners likely to knock on Supreme Court doors again

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

WITH THE State Bank of India not sharing the unique alphanumeric code printed on each electoral bond — which would have helped match donors with political parties — the petitioners in the case said they are likely to knock on the Supreme Court's doors once more.

Prashant Bhushan, who had argued the case on behalf of the petitioner, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), in Supreme Court pushing for electoral bonds to be made public, told *The Indian Express* that the petitioners are likely to approach the top court to press for the unique bond number against each purchase and redemption to help link each donor with the political party that benefited.

"The SBI has the unique number. We will probably go to court to demand for the same. This was implicit in the Supreme Court judgement," he said.

In a post on X, Bhushan wrote: "The Info of Electoral Bonds uploaded by EC (which they say is as received from SBI), does not give the serial number of the bonds, which is necessary for finding who gave bond to whom. This was implicit in SC judgement. SBI affidavit said this info is recorded though in separate silos."

Bhushan's comments came

EC to SC: Return data in sealed cover given earlier

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

EVEN AS the Election Commission of India Thursday released the data on electoral bonds issued from April 12, 2019 to February 15, 2024, it approached the Supreme Court asking it to return the data on the preceding period so that it could also be made public.

A five-judge Constitution Bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud is likely to take up the EC application on Friday.

The ECI had submitted the details of poll bonds sold and encashed before April 12, 2019 to the Supreme Court in accordance with the top court's interim orders passed

on April 12, 2019 and November 2, 2023.

On March 11, while rejecting SBI's request for more time to furnish the data on sale and redemption of the poll bonds, the Bench asked the ECI to also publish the earlier data as well, noting that copies of it "would be maintained in the Office of the ECI".

Urging the court to modify this part of the March 11 order, the ECI said it had not retained any copies of the documents to maintain confidentiality. In order to upload these details, the ECI said, the court will have to return the sealed cover documents.

While scrapping the 2018 poll bonds scheme, the Supreme Court had directed the SBI to give the ECI the data by March 6. The ECI was instructed to publish the data by March 13.

after the Election Commission of India uploaded on its website the data on electoral bonds as received from the State Bank of India.

ADR co-founder Jagdeep Chhokar said, "We are trying to

figure out what we can do with this data. Rather than saying what cannot be done, we are seeing what's possible to do with it before we seek more information. We are not going to make a call in a hurry."

Transportation sector: IndiGo, associates lead in poll bonds

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE INTERGLOBE GROUP, which operates India's largest airline IndiGo, led the pack of entities in the broader transportation sector in electoral bond purchases.

As per electoral bond data released by the Election Commission of India Thursday, three InterGlobe entities — InterGlobe Aviation, InterGlobe Air Transport, and InterGlobe Real Estate Ventures — purchased bonds worth Rs 36 crore. Additionally, InterGlobe promoter Rahul Bhatia bought bonds worth another Rs 20 crore in his individual capacity, the data shows.

InterGlobe group entities bought a total of 36 bonds of Rs 1 crore each, and 31 of those were bought in May 2019. The remaining five were bought in October 2023.

All of Bhatia's 29 bonds were bought in April 2021, at a time when the Indian aviation sector was still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The only other airline that featured on the list of electoral bond buyers was SpiceJet, which bought a total of 20 bonds between January and July of 2021 with a cumulative value of Rs 65 lakh.

Bonds worth ₹185 cr, Torrent Group on top among Gujarat firms

GOPAL KATESHIYA, ADITI RAJA & KAMAAL SAIYED
RAJKOT, VADODARA, SURAT, MARCH 14

POWER, PHARMA and textiles sector companies in Gujarat saw huge spending on electoral bonds from Gujarat, the highest being the Torrent Group that bought a total of Rs 185 crore worth of electoral bonds, going by the data released Thursday by the Election Commission of India.

The other top corporates from Gujarat that bought electoral bonds include the Welspun Group that spent Rs 50 crore, Vadodara based Sun Pharma that bought bonds worth Rs 31 crore and Nirma Group that

bought worth Rs 16 crore. Torrent Power promoted by the Rs 37,000-crore Torrent Group based out of Ahmedabad, is the top purchaser of electoral bonds from Gujarat, buying bonds worth Rs 107 crore while Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd, has bought bonds worth Rs 78 crore since 2019. Torrent Power has Principal Secretary, Energy and Petrochemicals Mamta Verma on board as a non-executive director.

Founded by the late Uttam Mehta, Torrent Group has his elder son Sudhir Mehta as Chairman Emeritus of the Torrent Power Ltd which is into power generation, distribution and transmission in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Among top 100 donors, many unknown entities

RITU SARIN & SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE SBI list of purchasers of Electoral Bonds includes in the top 100 donors a host of companies and enterprises relatively unknown but have contributed between Rs 105 crore to Rs 27.5 crore. These include:

Chennai Green Woods Private Limited: ₹105 CRORE

Incorporated in 2006, involved in the construction business.

Rungta Sons Pvt Ltd: ₹100 CRORE

Located in Kolkata, Rungta Sons Pvt Ltd was set up in 1943 and is involved in the forestry,

logging and other related sectors. Directors include Mukund Rungta and Siddharth Rungta.

Avees Trading Finance Pvt Ltd: ₹85.5 CRORE

Registered in Kolkata in 1988, Avees Trading Finance is involved in wholesale of non-agricultural intermediate products, waste and scrap.

M/s SN Mohanty: ₹45 CR

M/s. S.N. Mohanty is a company engaged in mining of iron ore, manganese and bauxite for the last three decades based in Odisha.

Rithwik Projects Private Limited: ₹45 CRORE

Construction and infrastructure development company founded in 1999 in Hyderabad.

Active in the building of hydropower projects, concrete dams, spillways, solar projects, tunnels, irrigation canals, bridges, highways, and housing colonies.

Sasml Infrastructure Private Limited: ₹44 CRORE

A West Bengal-based company is active in the warehousing sector

Transways Exim Private Limited: ₹41.5 CRORE

West Bengal-based firm involved in extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas.

Shirdi Sai Electricals Ltd: ₹40 CRORE

Based in Hyderabad. Company claims it is "one of the leading and largest distribution transformer manufacturers and

EPC contractors in India." **Modern Road Makers Pvt Limited: ₹40 CRORE**

Mumbai-based company involved in construction, civil engineering; designs and develops roads, highways, bridges, tunnels, and other infrastructures.

NEXG Devices Pvt Ltd: ₹35 CRORE

Based in Gurugram in NCR, it is involved in manufacture of television and radio receivers, sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus, and associated goods.

SWAL Corporation Limited: ₹35 CRORE

Mumbai-based firm manufactures and markets agrochemicals.

SAFAL Goyal Realty LLP:

Ex-President Pratibha Patil hospitalised, condition stable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, MARCH 14

FORMER PRESIDENT Pratibha Patil (89) was admitted to Bharati Hospital here on Wednesday night after she complained of

high fever and upper respiratory tract infection. Dr Sanjay Lalwani, medical director of Bharati Hospital, said, the former president was stable and recovering.

Patil, who was the 12th president of the country, had settled

in Pune post her retirement. Her husband had passed away last February.

Born in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, Patil had started her political career when she was elected as an MLA from Jalgaon in 1962. She had served as leader of opposition as well as a cabinet minister in Maharashtra before moving to national politics in 1991. After her retirement, Patil was busy with various philanthropic as well as social and educational work.



Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar with Sudha Murty and Leader of the House Piyush Goyal in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

Sudha Murty takes oath as Rajya Sabha MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

ENGINEER-TURNED-PHILANTHROPIST Sudha Murty on Thursday took oath as Rajya Sabha MP in the presence of her husband N R Narayana Murthy.

Murty took the oath in Kannada. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar administered the oath in his chamber in Parliament House. He also congratulated Murty and her husband after the oath-taking function. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal was also present on the occasion. Murty, 73, the former chairperson of Infosys Foundation and the author of several books, mostly for children, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha on International Women's Day last Friday. She is renowned for her contribution to Kannada and English literature and is a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Padma Shri (2006) and the Padma Bhushan (2023).

Former sprinter, Cong leader join BJP in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 14

FORMER INDIAN athlete Padmini Thomas and former Congress district committee general secretary Thampanoor Satheesh joined BJP on Thursday. Padmini, a recipient of the Arjuna Award, had served as the president of Kerala State Sports Council during the previous Congress regime.

BJP state president K Surendran had told reporters on Wednesday that many leaders from the Congress and the Left would join his party ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Pathanamthitta on Friday to kick start the NDA campaign for Lok Sabha elections in Kerala.

Padmini, who had won a silver medal in the 4x100-metre relay and a bronze in 400 metres in the 1982 Asian Games, had been close to Congress leadership in Kerala, which helped her to head the state's sports council. In 2020, she had superannuated from the Railways after 41 years of service. Thampanoor Satheesh had quit Congress only four days ago saying that he felt neglected in the party. While announcing his decision to quit Congress, Satheesh, a close aide of the late Karunakaran, had claimed that he would not join any party. He was reportedly upset that the party did not include him in the list of 78 secretaries when the KPCC was reorganised recently.

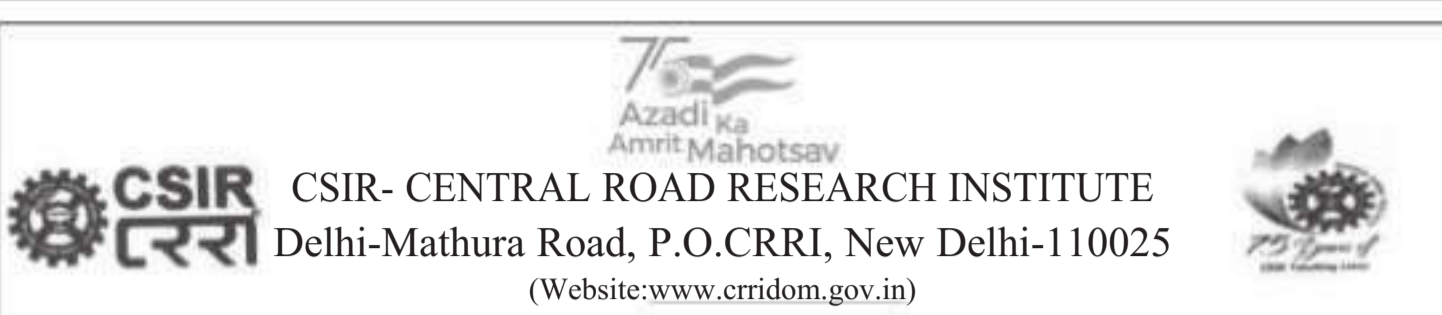
Four of family killed in J&K road accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 14

FOUR MEMBERS of a family were killed on Thursday evening after their Maruti Swift car fell into a deep gorge on the Kishtwar-Anantnag road.

Another person was injured and he was admitted to Kishtwar hospital. Police said that the car was on its way from Kishtwar towards Anantnag side in Kashmir Valley. As the vehicle reached Bandarkoot, it skidded off the road and fell into the gorge.

The deceased have been identified as Yasir Ahmad Bhat, 35, his wife Shehzada Begum and their two minor children, aged 8 and 6 years. Police have registered a case.



CSIR - CENTRAL ROAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Delhi-Mathura Road, P.O.CRRI, New Delhi-110025
(Website: www.crridom.gov.in)
Advertisement No. 02/PC/JHT-2024

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), a premier national laboratory established in 1952, a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is engaged in carrying out research and development projects on design, construction and maintenance of roads and runways, traffic and transportation planning of mega and medium cities, management of roads in different terrains, improvement of marginal materials, utilization of industrial waste in road construction, landslide control, ground improvements environmental pollution, road traffic safety and analysis & design, wind, fatigue, corrosion studies, performance monitoring/evaluation, service life assessment and rehabilitation of highway & railway bridges. The institute provides technical and consultancy services to various user organizations in India and abroad. For capacity building of human resources in the area of highway Engineering to undertake and execute roads and runway projects, Institute has the competence to organize National & International Training Programmes continuing education courses since 1962 to disseminate the R&D finding to the masses.

Accordingly, applications are invited from the Indian Nationals for one post of Junior Hindi Translator in CSIR-Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi as per the details given below on Direct Recruitment basis :-

Name of the Post	No. of Posts and Reservations Status	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	Maximum Age Limit on the last date of Submission of Online Application
Junior Hindi Translator	One Post Unreserved	Level-6 (Rs. 35,400-1,12,400)	30 Years*

* Please see 'Relaxations' column in the detailed advertisement for details regarding age relaxation. For other details and conditions etc., please visit our website <https://crridom.gov.in> and apply as per the listed procedure. All future notifications related to this Advertisement (i.e. extension of closing date, Results etc.) will be published on official website of CSIR-CRRI only.

Sd/-
Controller of Administration
CBC 36211/11/0007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-11

F. No. Date:.....
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on behalf of Search-cum-Selection Committees invites applications for the following posts of the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission and Autonomous Boards i.e. the Nursing and Midwifery Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Education Board, the Nursing and Midwifery Assessment and Rating Board & the Nursing and Midwifery Ethics and Registration Board under the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023:-

Sr. No	Category of post	Number of posts	Scale of pay
1.	Chairperson, National Nursing and Midwifery Commission	01	Rs. 182,200-224,100/- (Level 15)
2.	Secretary, National Nursing and Midwifery Commission	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
3.	Members under clauses (j), (k) and (1) of Section 4	06	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
4.	President, Nursing and Midwifery Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Education Board	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
5.	President, Nursing and Midwifery Assessment and Rating Board	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
6.	President, Midwifery Nursing and Ethics and Registration Board	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
7.	Whole Time Members, Nursing and Midwifery Under-Graduate and Post- Graduate Education Board	02	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
8.	Part Time Member, Nursing and Midwifery Under- Graduate and Post-Graduate Education Board	01	N.A.
9.	Whole Time Members, Nursing and Midwifery Assessment and Rating Board	02	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
10.	Part Time Member, Nursing and Midwifery Assessment and Rating Board	01	N.A.
11.	Whole Time Members, Nursing and Midwifery Ethics and Registration Board	02	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
12.	Part Time Member, Nursing and Midwifery Ethics and Registration Board	01	N.A.

- The last date for receiving the application will be **thirty days from the date of publication** of this advertisement in the Employment News.
- The particulars of the post, eligibility conditions etc., including the downloadable application format can be obtained from the MoHFW website at <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/>. A candidate can apply for more than one post but not more than three posts as per his/her eligibility. In case a candidate applies for more than three posts, application received for the first three posts shall be considered and applications for the rest of the posts will not be entertained.
- Application in prescribed pro-forma completed in all respects should reach to "Under Secretary (Nursing), Room no 504 'A' wing, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-011 or by email to nursing-mohfw@gov.in.
- Applications received after the due date or in different format or otherwise found incomplete will not be considered.

CBC 17101/11/0021/2324

EXPRESS explained.Live

PAKISTAN IN TURMOIL

What Happens Next

TCA Raghavan
India's former High Commissioner to Pakistan

In conversation with

Shubhajit Roy
Diplomatic Editor, The Indian Express

What are the implications of the Shehbaz Sharif-led government in Pakistan?

What is the future of Imran Khan?

Has Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir established his writ on the civilian government?

Have the people of Pakistan delivered a strong message by voting in favour of PTI-backed candidates?

Is there a possibility of re-engagement with Pakistan?

To know more, listen to former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan TCA Raghavan and Diplomatic Editor Shubhajit Roy.

20 March 2024

06:00 PM

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The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल, लाल डिग्री, अलीगढ़

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा का संक्षिप्त विवरण क्रमानुसार निम्नवत है:-

(1) नि०सं० विनविमंअ - 113 / 2023-24 वि०न०वि०खं०-प्रथम, अलीगढ़ के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत क्षतिग्रस्त वितरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने का कार्य। (2) नि०सं० विनविमंअ - 114/2023-24 वि०न०वि०खं०-द्वितीय, अलीगढ़ के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत क्षतिग्रस्त वितरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने का कार्य। (3) नि०सं० विनविमंअ-115/2023-24 वि०न०वि०खं०-तृतीय, अलीगढ़ के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत क्षतिग्रस्त वितरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने का कार्य। (4) नि०सं० विनविमंअ-116 / 2023-24 वि०न०वि०खं० - चतुर्थ, अलीगढ़ के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत क्षतिग्रस्त वितरण परिवर्तकों को बदलने का कार्य। (5) नि०सं० विनविमंअ - 117 / 2023-24 विद्युत नगरीय वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, अलीगढ़ व अधीनस्थ उपखण्डीय, केश काउण्टरों के प्रयोगार्थ ए-4 पेपर रिम की आपूर्ति। (6) नि०सं० विनविमंअ - 118 / 2023-24 विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल, अलीगढ़ व अधीनस्थ परीक्षण खण्ड के प्रयोगार्थ ए-4 पेपर रिम की आपूर्ति। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी उ०प्र० शासन की ई-प्रोक्वायर्मेंट पोर्टल www.etender.up.nic.in एवं दृ०वि०वि०नि०लि० की वेबसाइट www.dvvn1.org पर उपलब्ध है।

पत्र संख्या:- 1266 / वि.न.वि.मं. / अली. / विज्ञान अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
दिनांक:- 13.03.2024 वि.न.वि.मं., लाल डिग्री, अलीगढ़

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Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

City Engineering Department
Tender Notice No. NMMC/ CE/ 601 /2023-24

Name of work : System Improvements and Augmentation to SCADA Automation for Navi Mumbai Water Supply Scheme

Estimated Cost (Rs.) :- 110,53,42,206/-

Tender booklets will be available on e-tendering computer system at <https://mahatender.gov.in> on dt.15/03/2024. The tender is to be submitted online at <https://mahatender.gov.in> For any technical difficulties in the e-tendering process, please contact the help desk number given on this website.

The right to accept or reject any tender is reserved by the Hon'ble Commissioner of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

sign/-
City Engineer

NMMC PR Adv no./1462/2024 Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
EDUCATION & WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VIJAYAWADA

e-procurement Tender Notice

NIT No: 172 to 210/MD/APEWIDC/JA/2023-24, Dated: 14.03.2024
Downloading commencement on 15.03.2024 and closing date may be viewed in e-procurement.gov.in

Tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)/ Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) / authorised dealers of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) for Construction of 6'-0" Height (1.83M) Precast, Pre - Stressed Reinforced Cement Concrete Compound Wall with Pre - Stressed and Precast Panel and Precast Poles to the Govt. School (Educational Institutions) & Govt Jr. Colleges in Kurnool District (25 Works) and in other Districts of A.P (14 works) under MANABADI : NADU-NEDU with Estimated Cost ranging from Rs. 0.02 Crores to Rs. 17.96 Crores.

Further details may be viewed at <http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in> Contact No.08645 295758.

Note: 1. Changes / amendment if any will only be communicated through above e-procurement platform.
2. Reverse auction applicable as per G.O.Ms.No.67, dated 16.08.2019 of Water Resources (Reforms) Department and G.O No:79, Dated: 25.08.2020 of the Finance (HR.V-TFR) Dept.

Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

NEW VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS SERVICES

This is notified for the information of passenger that the Time-Table of recently inaugurated Vande Bharat services between H.Nizamuddin & Khajuraho and Varanasi & Ranchi will be as under:-

Train No. 22470/22469 H.Nizamuddin-Khajuraho-H.Nizamuddin (6 Days a week except Monday) Vande Bharat Express Train

TRAIN NO. 22470		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 22469	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
06:00	07:40	H.Nizamuddin	Agra Cantt	23:10	20:55
07:40	09:10	Gwalior Jn.	Virangana Lakshmbai	19:25	19:30
10:30	11:35	Lalitpur Jn.	Tikamgarh	18:20	18:25
11:35	12:21	Maharaja Chhatrasal Chhatarpur	Khajuraho	17:10	17:20
12:21	13:16	15:15	15:17	16:10	16:12
13:16	14:20	--	--	15:15	15:17
14:20	--	Khajuraho	--	--	14:50

Date of Introduction : 22470 Ex H.Nizamuddin and 22469 Ex Khajuraho from 15.03.2024.
Accommodation: Executive Chair Car and Chair Car.

Train No. 20887/20888 Ranchi-Varanasi-Ranchi (6 Days a week except Thursday) Vande Bharat Express Train

TRAIN NO. 20887		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 20888	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
05:10	06:10	Ranchi	Muri Jn.	23:55	22:48
06:10	07:10	Bokaro Steel City	Koderma Jn.	21:50	21:55
08:40	10:00	Gaya Jn.	Sasaram Jn.	19:50	19:52
10:00	11:03	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	Varanasi	18:45	18:50
11:03	12:15	--	--	17:48	17:50
12:15	13:00	--	--	16:40	16:45
13:00	--	--	--	--	16:05

Date of Introduction :20887 Ex Ranchi and 20888 Ex Varanasi from 18.03.2024.
Accommodation: Executive Chair Car and Chair Car.

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in

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8 GOVT & POLITICS

Bengal: Left's list of 16 names out, says still open to talks with Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 14

THE LEFT Front Thursday announced candidates for 16 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats of West Bengal and said that doors were open for "seat adjustment" with the Congress. Of the 16 candidates, 14 are fresh faces, including youth leaders Saira Shah Halim, Dipsita Dhar, and Srijan Bhattacharya. Only CPI(M)'s former Jadavpur MP Sujjan Chakraborty from Dum Dum and CPI's Bipul Bhatta from Medinipur are old faces.

Announcing the names, Left Front Chairman Biman Bose said that while CPI(M) is contesting 13 seats, Forward Bloc, CPI and RSP have been allotted one seat each. Forward Bloc's Nitish Chandra Roy was named Left Front's candidate from Cooch Behar and RSP leader Joydev Siddhanta Balurghat.

On seat-sharing talks with the Congress, Bose said: "We never said Congress *tajat jao* (Congress stay away). If the Congress wants to have seat adjustment, we have no problem. Let them finish their talks with senior leaders. We will sit again and discuss."



Left Front Chairman Biman Bose in Kolkata, Thursday.

State Congress president Adhir Chowdhury also expressed hope for seat adjustments with the Left Front. "Our central leadership will decide on it. We had talks with the CPI(M) and if possible, we can again sit with them."

Sources in the CPI(M) said the names of the candidates have been announced for those seats on which they had no talks with the Congress. "We are ready to do seat adjustment with the Congress but their central leadership is still fumbling even after the TMC announced its candidates for all the 42 seats. We can wait for them for two to three more days, but cannot wait indefinitely," a senior CPI(M) leader said.

Odisha BJP chief says party will form govt alone, retracts later

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 14

AMID UNCERTAINTY over a possible BJP-BJD tie-up in Odisha ahead of elections, state BJP president Manmohan Samal on Thursday raised eyebrows with his flip-flop on the issue.

On his return from Delhi earlier in the day, Samal told reporters that the BJP would form the government alone in the state, evading queries on a possible alliance. "Odia asmita (Odia pride) will be our key poll issue in the forthcoming elections," he said. His statement triggered a celebration at the state party office.

However, he later changed his tone, and also deleted his post on X saying the BJP would form the government alone in Odisha. "Whatever I said is my personal opinion and there should not be any interpretation of my words. I have not said a single word on an alliance. Any decision (on an alliance) will be taken by our national president

and parliamentary board; that will be final and we will obey them. We are working in all 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 Assembly seats," said Samal. Despite a series of meetings at different levels over the last 10 days, the BJD and BJP leaders had maintained a discreet silence so far.

Sources said the state BJP leaders, who visited Delhi thrice over the last fortnight, held a series of discussions with the party's central leaders, including with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday evening, where they tried to argue against an alliance with the BJD. The state leadership is learnt to have told the central leaders that the party would "lose credibility" if it aligned with the BJD. "BJP has been opposing the BJD ever since the regional party



Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal. File

unilaterally severed ties in 2009 after 11 years of alliance. Since then, the BJP has been fighting against the BJD. After Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, people have started looking at the BJP as an alternative to the BJD, and made the party the main Opposition party in Odisha in 2019. Our workers have undergone torture over the years, some have even sacrificed their lives. We have apprised the central leaders about these issues," said a senior BJP leader, requesting anonymity. Shah assured that he would convey the state leadership's concerns to Modi, who will take the final call, said the BJP leader.

Meanwhile, Odisha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik met senior party leaders and observers of different districts on Thursday to take stock ahead of polls. "The CM has taken reports on BJD organisation of almost every constituency and given valuable suggestions," said BJD senior vice president Debi Prasad Mishra. He did not comment on

whether the party discussed the issue of an alliance with the BJP. BJD sources said while there was overall agreement in the party on an alliance, the party has concerns over issues like seat-sharing.

"It would not be correct to brush aside the possibility of an alliance. The ball is in the courts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. They will take a call," said a senior BJD leader. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won eight seats, up from one in 2014, while its vote share increased from 21.9% to 38.9%. In the Assembly polls, which is being held simultaneously in Odisha, the BJP increased its tally to 23 seats with 32.8% vote share, up from 10 seats and 18.2% vote share in 2014.

The BJD won 12 seats and secured 43.3% vote share in the Lok Sabha, and 112 seats and 45.2% vote share in the Assembly. The Congress won only 1 seat (14% vote share) in the Lok Sabha, and 9 seats (16.3% vote share) in the Assembly. Before that, Sandhu was chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for nearly two years. The order issued by the Uttarakhand Personnel Department for Sandhu's appointment asked him to take charge "without delay".

An official from Uttarakhand told *The Indian Express*, "Sandhu streamlined the functioning of the bureaucracy, ensured coordination between the departments and held review meetings of different departments regularly as per the expectations of the government."

The draft UCC Bill prepared in Sandhu's tenure was passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly on February 7, a week after he completed his term as Chief Secretary on January 31. He also monitored the re-development of Kedarnath shrine in the state. In February, Sandhu was appointed as Secretary to the Lokpal in the Centre for a period of one year. During Sandhu's tenure in

The new ECs: Sandhu oversaw Uttarakhand UCC, Kumar ensured co-ops' transparency

LALMANI VERMA & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14



Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Gyanesh Kumar. File

BOTH SUKHBIR Singh Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar, the two Election Commissioners (ECs) appointed by a panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, are retired 1988-batch officers of the Indian Administrative Service and belonged to the Uttarakhand and Kerala cadres, respectively. While Kumar was posted in the Ministry of Home Affairs when the Centre abrogated Article 370 in 2019, Sandhu oversaw the preparation of Uttarakhand's draft Bill on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Sandhu was appointed Uttarakhand Chief Secretary in July 2021. It was the first bureaucratic change in the state days after the BJP's central leadership replaced Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat with Pushkar Singh Dhami. Sandhu was appointed Uttarakhand Chief Secretary in July 2021. It was the first bureaucratic change in the state days after the BJP's central leadership replaced Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat with Pushkar Singh Dhami. Sandhu was appointed Uttarakhand Chief Secretary in July 2021. It was the first bureaucratic change in the state days after the BJP's central leadership replaced Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat with Pushkar Singh Dhami.

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NHAI, arbitration disputes worth Rs 30,000 crore were resolved by conciliation, bringing a major relief to contractors and banks. When Sandhu was transferred to Uttarakhand, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari took to X to praise his accomplishments. "...National Highways witnessed a record award, construction and dispute resolution even during challenging times of COVID-19 during his tenure... His tenure was among the best ever achieved in NHAI. His contribution for construction of oxygen plants across India will always be remembered," Gadkari wrote.

Kumar superannuated as Cooperation Secretary on January 31. During his tenure, the Cooperation Ministry saw enactment of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) (Amendment) Act, 2023, to enhance transparency and increase accountability in the sector. He also oversaw formation of three new national cooperative bodies — Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited, National Cooperative Organics Limited, and National Cooperative Export Limited. He also played a crucial role in the timely launch of the CRCS-Sahara refund portal for submission of claims by the genuine depositors of four Multi-State Cooperative Societies of the Sahara Group.

Earlier, Kumar was Parliamentary Affairs Secretary at the Centre. When the Centre abrogated Article 370 in 2019, he was Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

18 OTT platforms blocked over vulgar content, says Govt

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE GOVERNMENT has blocked 18 OTT platforms for beaming obscene and pornographic content. Additionally, 19 websites, 10 apps and 57 social media accounts associated with these platforms were also disabled, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in a statement.

The OTT platforms that have been blocked include Dreams Films, Voovi, Yessma, Uncut Adda, Tri Flicks, XPrime, Neon X, VIP, Besharams, Hunters, Rabbit, Xtramood, Nueflicks, MoodX, Mojflix, Hot Shots VIP, Fugli, Chikoolflix, and Prime Play.

The Ministry said a major chunk of the content on these platforms portrayed women in a demeaning manner. "It depicted nudity and sexual acts in various inappropriate contexts, such as relationships between teachers and students, incestuous family relationships, etc," the statement said. "The content included sexual innuendos and, in some instances, prolonged segments of pornographic and sexually explicit scenes devoid of any thematic or societal relevance," it added.

The Ministry said the decision to act against the OTT platforms was taken under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in consultation with other Ministries/departments, and domain experts specialising in media and entertainment, women's rights, and child rights. It said these OTT platforms extensively utilised social media to disseminate trailers, specific scenes, and external links aimed at attracting audiences to their websites and apps. One of these OTT apps had more than one crore downloads, while two others had over 50

lakh downloads, the statement said, adding that the social media accounts of these OTT platforms together had over 32 lakh users. In November 2023, *The Indian Express* had reported that the Ministry planned a massive crackdown on OTT platforms hosting obscene content, and for the first time, had ordered three platforms — Hunters, Besharams and Prime Play — to take down such content or face action. Notices were issued in the last week of October regarding violation of the IT Rules, 2021, and other laws related to obscenity and vulgarity, including Sections 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material) and 67A (publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act) of the IT Act, 2000. The platforms were given five days to ensure compliance. According to sources, the I&B Ministry has been dealing with a rising number of complaints regarding vulgarity on OTT platforms. While there are 57 registered OTT platforms at present, most of these complaints pertain to unregistered platforms that have mushroomed in recent years. "The government is serious about the complaints of increasing abusive and obscene content on OTT platforms. If there is a need to make any changes to the rules over this, the ministry will consider it... The government won't back down from taking necessary action," Thakur said recently. Currently, there is no framework in place for censorship of OTT content. However, the new Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, provides for a consolidated framework to regulate all content, including direct-to-home (DTH), Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), OTT broadcasting and digital news.

'Boycott' Tipra Motha, BJP in LS polls: Cong urges tribals in Tripura

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, MARCH 14

CONGRESS WORKING Committee member Sudip Roy Barman, who held a meeting last month with Tipra Motha chief Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma to forge a larger anti-BJP alliance, Thursday accused Debbarma of "playing with sentiments of tribals" before joining BJP-led coalition government and putting up his sister as BJP candidate from East Tripura Parliamentary seat. He called upon the tribals to "boycott" Tipra Motha, BJP and vote for Congress in the LS polls. Barman called the recent tripartite agreement between central and state governments and Tipra Motha for amicable solution of all problems faced by tribals a "chatamatha" (bogus) paper.

On Pradyot's sister, Kriti Singh Debbarma contesting as Tipra Motha supported BJP candidate from East Tripura ST-reserved constituency, Barman said, "She doesn't live in Tripura. She is a resident of Chattisgarh, with her husband and family. What does she know about the problems faced by people from Reang, Jamatia, Chakma, Tripuri, Mog and other sub-tribes of the state?" Meanwhile, Debbarma returned to state along with his sister. He said someone like her sister was needed in Delhi to ensure smooth implementation of accord. On Congress and CPI(M) allegations, he said, "These parties had earlier neglected rights of tribals during their respective tenures in state governments."

In Nashik, Rahul woos farmers, says INDIA bloc will waive loans, exclude them from GST

MANOJ MORE
NASHIK, MARCH 14

EMPHASISING India is strong, stable and united because of country's farmers, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Thursday that if the INDIA bloc comes to power, farmers' loans will be waived off, the PM Fasal Bima Yojana will be restructured, and efforts will be made to ensure that farmers are excluded from the ambit of GST. Rahul, whose Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is passing through Maharashtra, was speaking at a farmers' rally in Chandwad taluka of Nashik district. "The country is strong and united because of farmers. Otherwise, it would have fallen apart. Our doors are always open for you and we will do everything possible for you unlike the BJP government which is insensitive to the plight of farmers," he said. Speaking at the rally, NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar said, "The Modi government is unconcerned with the plight of farmers. The farmers are agitating, protesting and committing suicide but the Modi government in Delhi does not seem to have anything to do with farmers who feed the entire nation," he said. State NCP chief Jayant Patil and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut expressed support on behalf of their parties to Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra and urged Rahul to keep fighting against the BJP. Rahul said, "When our government comes to power, we will go all out to alleviate your miseries."

Rahul said, "During the tenure of the Manmohan Singh government, we had waived off Rs 70,000 crore loans of farmers. The BJP government has waived off Rs 16 lakh crore loans of a handful of billionaires... If the loans of billionaires can be waived off, why can't the loans of farmers, workers, labourers, small shopkeepers?" Rahul said the PM Fasal Bima Yojana will be "restructured" so that it provides necessary cover "in case of natural calamities". He said farmers need MSP which the Centre has failed to ensure. "The Modi government says legal MSP is not possible. We will give MSP the legal status," he said. Rahul said even farmers have to pay GST. "Not just GST, farmers are burdened with different kinds of taxes... When our government comes to power, we will ensure farmers pay only one tax and we will make efforts to keep farmers away from GST ambit," he said.

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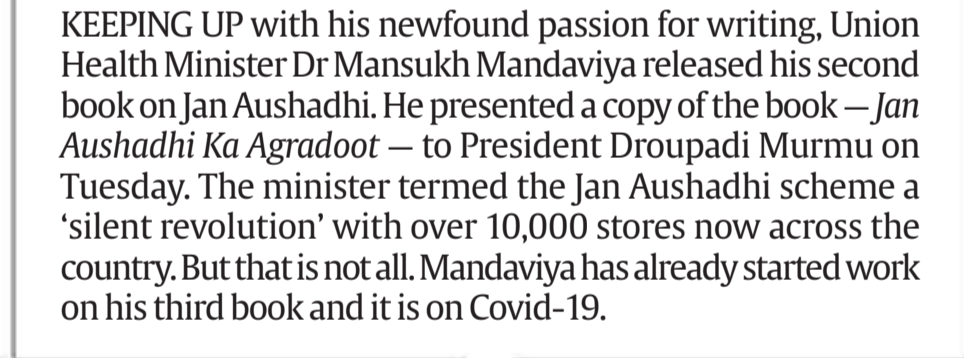


Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut in Nashik, Thursday. Express

Danish Ali meets Sonia, may contest from Amroha

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha MP Kunwar Danish Ali, who was suspended from the BSP last year, met senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi Thursday and sought her "blessings" for contesting LS elections from Amroha constituency on a Congress ticket. Sources in the Congress said Danish's name is among the ones shortlisted by party's UP state election committee for Amroha seat Sunday. Ali has been in touch with Congress top leaders for months and he even attended Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Amroha and Manipur. Incidentally, as part of its arrangement with the SP, the Congress is set to contest Amroha. Ali has been active on the ground in anticipation. **ENS**

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



WRITING SPREE

KEEPING UP with his newfound passion for writing, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released his second book on Jan Aushadhi. He presented a copy of the book — *Jan Aushadhi Ka Agradoot* — to President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday. The minister termed the Jan Aushadhi scheme a 'silent revolution' with over 10,000 stores now across the country. But that is not all. Mandaviya has already started work on his third book and it is on Covid-19.

ONE ISSUE, 2ND REPORT

THE 22ND Law Commission of India headed by former Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi also has its report ready on simultaneous polls and is expected to be released soon. It is learnt that while the report was signed in the last week of February itself, the panel was waiting for the high-level Ram Nath Kovind panel to first make its announcement. Once the report is made public, the panel's chairman Justice Awasthi is also likely to demit office nearly six months before his term ends. Justice Awasthi has been appointed a member of the Lokpal and is expected to take oath after the report is published.

Protest rallies in Manipur over arrest of top UNLF leaders

Imphal: There is unrest in Manipur again, this time over the arrest of top leaders of UNLF led by Pambei. The UNLF Pambei-led faction signed a ceasefire agreement with Manipur and Government of India on November 29, last year. The valley has been witnessing protest rallies since Wednesday night against the arrests and demanding their unconditional release. The Federation of Civil Society Organization, an umbrella of over 10 civil bodies of the valley, has also declared a 48-hour strike starting Thursday midnight. The arrested members include outfit's self-styled chief Thokchom Thouba, and intelligence officer Laimayum Ingba. They were arrested by a team of NIA and Assam Rifles Wednesday. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said the government was not intimidated about the arrests. He said the Centre has been requested for their unconditional release and intimating the state government about such operations. **ENS**

Chirag reigns over uncle, Kushwaha biggest loser as NDA inches closer to seat-sharing in Bihar

BJP, JDU may contest equal number of seats, LJP(R) likely to get 5 while smaller allies get one each

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, MARCH 14

THE BJP seems to be close to finalising a seat-sharing agreement with its allies in Bihar, with Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and Jamui MP Chirag Paswan likely to score over his estranged uncle and Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) chief Pashupati Kumar Paras. Sources said Chirag's demand for five Lok Sabha seats is likely to be accepted by the BJP, which may place the RLJP chief some other way. According to the seat-sharing agreement, the BJP and JD(U) are likely to contest an equal number of seats while the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) of Upendra Kushwaha and Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM (Secular) are to get one seat each. The Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) of Mukesh Sahani, who belongs to the Mallah community which falls under the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) category,



BJP may accept Chirag Paswan's demand for five LS seats. File

is also likely to get one seat. Sources in the NDA said chances of alliance partners swapping seats cannot be ruled out. Chirag may be fielded from the Hajipur seat, which is currently represented by Paras, and the LJP(R) may also get Vaishali and Nawada. However, there is no clarity yet on whether the Chirag-led outfit would contest Jamui, Khagaria or Samastipur. The BJP may field its candidate from one seat that the then united LJP con-

tested in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. "The choice is between Khagaria and Samastipur. If the BJP keeps Samastipur, it will face a dilemma regarding fielding sitting MPs Prince Raj (son of Ram Vilas Paswan's youngest brother Ramchandra Paswan) and Paras. It is up to them how they can defuse the tension in the Paswan family," an LJP(R) source said. The JD(U) and BJP are also likely to swap a few seats as a part of strategy. Sources said the JD(U) is

NITISH, RABRI ELECTED TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Patna: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar was Thursday declared elected unopposed to the legislative council, along with 10 others, who stood for the biennial polls to the Upper House. Besides Kumar, those who got elected include former CM Rabri Devi (RJD) and cabinet minister Santosh Suman. Among the elected candidates, 3 are from the BJP. To a barrage of questions, including on seat-sharing formula by the NDA, Kumar calmly said, "You will get to know it very soon." **PTI**

been to contest Jamui seat, the BJP has been urging its ally to give the Kishanganj seat in exchange for some other seat. The LJP(R) is also eyeing Valmiki Nagar seat, currently represented by the JD(U). The biggest loser in seat shar-

ing, mostly due to the return of the JD(U) to the NDA, seems to be Kushwaha, who had been demanding at least two seats. However, BJP sources said he may now be given only one — Karakat — which he had won in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and is currently represented by the JD(U)'s Mahabali Singh. Manjhi is likely to be fielded from Gaya, currently represented by the JD(U)'s Vijay Kumar. Sahani, who has been demanding the announcement of an EBC quota for the Mallah or Nishad community as a pre-condition for joining the NDA, is reportedly eyeing the Muzaffarpur or Khagaria Lok Sabha seat. Paras, meanwhile, held a meeting with his party leaders to decide the future course of action. "He needs the NDA to survive and contesting as a rebel from Hajipur may not work," a BJP leader said pointing out how Paras in 2019 had desperately sought help from the JD(U) to convince the BJP to leave the Paswan stronghold of Hajipur for him.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-11**

F. No..... Date: -----

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on behalf of Search-cum-Selection Committees invites applications for the following posts of the **National Dental Commission and Autonomous Boards i.e. Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Dental Education Board, Dental Assessment and Rating Board & Ethics and Dental Registration Board under the National Dental Commission Act, 2023 :-**

Sr.No	Category of post	Number of posts	Scale of pay
1.	Chairperson, National Dental Commission	01	Rs. 182,200-224,100/- (Level 15)
2.	Secretary, National Dental Commission	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
3.	Part-time Members under clause (a) of sub-section (4) of Section 4	03	N.A.
4.	Graduate, Under- Graduate and Post- Graduate Dental Education Board	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
5.	President, Dental Assessment and Rating Board	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
6.	President, Ethics and Dental Registration	01	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
7.	Whole Time Members, Under- Graduate and Post- Graduate Dental Education Board	02	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
8.	Whole Time Members, Dental Assessment and Rating Board	02	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
9.	Whole Time Members, Ethics Registration and Dental	02	Rs. 144200-218200/- (Level 14)
10.	Part Time Members, Under- Graduate and Post- Graduate Dental Education Board	01	N.A.
11.	Part Time Members, Dental Assessment and Rating Board	01	N.A.
12.	Part Time Members, Ethics and Dental Registration	01	N.A.

- The last date for receiving the application will be thirty days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.
- The particulars of the post, eligibility conditions etc., including the downloadable application format can be obtained from the MoHFW website at <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/>. A candidate can apply for more than one post but not more than three posts as per his/her eligibility. In case a candidate applies for more than three posts, application received for the first three posts shall be considered and applications for the rest of the posts will not be entertained.
- Application in prescribed pro-forma completed in all respects should reach to **"Under Secretary (Dental), Room no 504 'A' wing, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-011** or by email to dentaledu-mohfw@gov.in
- Applications received after the due date or in different format or otherwise found incomplete will not be considered.

CBC 17101/11/0018/2324

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank
Circle Office, Chanakya Tower, 2nd Floor, R-Block, Patna-800001
Ph.: 0612-2506712, Fax: 0612-2224180
NOTICE FOR CHANGE IN LOCATION OF BRANCH OFFICE
In our endeavor to consolidate and strengthen our services to our customers the following offices of Punjab National Bank will be shifted in new address up to 15.04.2024.

Sl. No	Office Name	Present Address	New address after shifting
1.	Punjab National Bank, Gaunpura (Bochachak), Patna	Punjab National Bank, Gaunpura (Bochachak), Phulwarsharif, Patna	Punjab National Bank, Branch: Gaunpura (Bochachak), Newton Dwarika Complex, Phulwarsharif, Patna

We solicit cooperation of our existing customers of the above offices for the aforesaid shifting and assure them that our base office is better equipped with resources and will extend services to all our customers in more effective and efficient manner.
Circle Head

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Branch- Bhagalpur
The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by registered post have been returned/ undelivered to the bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **21.03.2024 (Date)** failing which the said securities will be sold by the bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the bank's premises at **11:00 A.M./P.M. On 25.03.2024** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the bank.

Sl.No	Branch Name/Contact Number	Locker No.	Locker hirer Name and Address
1.	Canara Bank, Bhagalpur (0256) 8210998584	G-97, 123006710547	Surya Narayan Jaiswal, Gogha, Bhagalpur

Note:-Amount outstanding should include or liabilities of the party under Gold Loans as well as any other Loan/Credit Facility
Date-15.03.2024 **Authorised Officer**

SURYODAY Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector - 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Whereas the undersigned is the Authorised officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. ("SSFBL") under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to discharge in full their liability to the Company by making payment of entire outstanding including up to date interest, cost and charges within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued and the publication of the Notice as given below as and way of alternate service upon you. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset (s) have been mortgaged to SSFBL by the said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	Date of NPA	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.
1	LAN No.22700003475. 1) MR. JATIN VERMA, 2) MRS. MEENAKSHI VERMA, 3) MR. JAIGOPAL VERMA, 4) M/S. NEW JACK JEANS.	16-02-2024	03-02-2024	Rs. 89,75,887.32/- AS ON 16/02/2024

Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY NO.124, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, AREA MEASURING 153 SQ.YDS., PART OF KHASRA NO.5/29/2,SITUATED IN THE ABADI OF "RAM NAGAR", IN VILLAGE KHUREGI KHAS, DELHI-110051 AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: PROPERTY NO.125, WEST: PROPERTY NO.123, NORTH: ROAD, SOUTH: SERVICE LANE.

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place : VILLAGE KHUREGI KHAS, DELHI Date : 15-03-2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited

SH. SUDHIR KUMAR SIROHI
Special Judge, NDPS Act.
Room No.P-1, P.Building
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS
(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

NCB Vs DANISH.

- Whereas complaint has been made before me that Mr. Danish S/o Sh. Istikar Ali R/o H.No 1022, Mahigran Bharat Nagar, Roorkee, Haridwar, Uttarakhand has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 8(c), 21 (C), 23 and 29 of NDPS Act 1985 and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said Mr. Danish S/o Istikar Ali cannot be found and whereas it has shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mr. Danish S/o Istikar Ali has absconded, (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant)
- Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the day of 23.04.2024.

Sd/xxxx
Special Court, NDPS Act
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi

CBC-19126/11/0024/2324

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
Established by the Act of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi
RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR TEACHING POSTS
No. AUD/07/Acad./2024 Dated: 14.03.2024
In supersession of all recruitment advertisement for teaching positions as advertised by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi viz- Advt. No. AUD/01/Acad./2021 dated 10.04.2021, Advt. No. AUD/16/Acad./2022/Acad. Ser. dated 22.04.2022 and Advt. No. AUD/25/Acad./2023 dated 25.02.2023 & 12.05.2023 where the posts remained unfilled and vacant are being notified again as per the details given below for which the fresh advertisement is notified and fresh applications are invited:
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi is a State University established through Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi Act, 2007 by the Legislature of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi is one of the few universities in India with the core objective of promoting the study of humanities and social sciences and it recognizes these disciplines as pivotal to the understanding and imagination of a society in transition. University's aim is to reconceptualise social sciences with innovative curriculum and pedagogic processes. The University is currently offering undergraduate, postgraduate and research degree programmes at its four campuses located in Delhi, at Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Colony and Qutab Institutional Area. The University invites online applications from the eligible candidates for faculty positions (Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor) on regular basis in the following disciplines as given below. The details are given as under:

Sl. No.	School	Discipline	Professor (Pay Level-14)	Associate Professor (Pay Level-13A)	Assistant Professor (Pay Level-10)
1.	School of Vocational Studies	Vocational Studies/ Tourism & Hospitality/ Retail Management/ Early Childhood Education/ Accounting in Finance/ Education	UR-1	03 (UR-2 & OBC-1)	03 (SC-1, ST-1 & UR-1)
2.	School of Business, Public, Policy & Social Entrepreneurship	Management	UR-1	03 (UR-1, OBC-1 & ST-1)	04 (UR-3 & SC-1)
3.	School of Culture and Creative Expression	Literary Art/ Creative Writing Film Studies Performing Arts/ Performance Studies Visual Art	- - OBC-1 UR-1	UR-1 - - -	UR-1 OBC-1 - UR-1
4.	School of Global Affairs	Global Studies Urban Studies	SC-1 02 (SC-1 & ST-1)	- SC-1	02 (OBC-1 & ST-1) -
5.	School of Law, Governance and Citizenship	Law or Any Social Science/ Humanities Discipline	OBC-1	02 (OBC-1 & SC-1)	-
6.	School of Undergraduate Studies	Economics History Psychology Social Science and Humanities English Mathematics Sociology	UR-1 OBC-1 - UR-1 OBC-1 - -	UR-1 02 (SC-1 & EWS-1) OBC-1 02 (SC-1 & EWS-1) ST-1 UR-1 OBC-1	- - - 03 (UR-1, EWS-1 & OBC-1) - - -
7.	School of Human Ecology	Ecology and Environmental Studies	ST-1	-	-
8.	School of Liberal Studies	Sociology Economics	- -	UR-1 UR-1	- 02 (UR-1 & ST-1)
9.	School of Education Studies	Education	02 (EWS-1 & UR-1)	-	OBC-01
10.	School of Education Studies	History Political Science English	- - -	- - -	OBC-01 UR-01 ST-01
	Assistant Professor in Liberal Discipline and Pedagogy	English Communicative Skills Hindi Communicative Skills	- -	- -	EWS-01 OBC-01
11.	School of Human Studies	Psychology Disability Studies	- UR-1	UR-1 -	- -
12.	School of Design	Design	EWS-1	EWS-1	OBC-01
13.	School of Development Studies	Development Studies	-	OBC-1	-
14.	School of Letters	English	UR-1	-	UR-01
TOTAL POSTS			18	24	25

Out of above 67 positions, 05 position reserved for the persons with disabilities in the following category as details given below:
i) Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Category 'b' as mentioned in the DoPT OM dated 15.01.2018) - **01 post**
ii) Multiple Disability (Category 'e' as mentioned in the DoPT OM dated 15.01.2018) - **01 post**
iii) Locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy (Category 'c' as mentioned in the DoPT OM dated 15.01.2018) - **02 posts**
iv) Blindness and low vision (Category 'a' as mentioned in the DoPT OM dated 15.01.2018) - **01 post**

Note: The functional requirements and suitable category of Benchmark Disability for the above categories shall be regulated as per the Gazette of India Notification dated 07.01.2021 notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with the other instructions issued from time to time by the Govt. of India (DoPT OM dated 15.01.2018)/ GNCT of Delhi.
(UR-Unreserved, SC-Scheduled Caste, ST-Scheduled Tribe, OBC-Other Backward Class, EWS-Economically Weaker Sections)

For details, please visit University website <https://aud.delhi.gov.in> for Qualifications, General Instructions, Eligibility Criteria, online application form, payment of fee & other details.
Commencement of online application for all posts: 15.03.2024
Last date to apply online: 08.04.2024 (up to 23:59hrs)
The last date of receiving hard copy of application form: 12.04.2024 (upto 17:30 hrs)
A hard copy of the online application along with self-attested required documents, mentioning the name of the post/discipline on the top of the envelope, must reach at the following address:-
DEPUTY REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC SERVICES), ROOM No.3, DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI, LOTHIAN ROAD, KASHMERE GATE CAMPUS, DELHI - 110 006
REGISTRAR
Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi - 110 006, Email: hr@aud.ac.in
Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0392/23-24

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2
E-TENDER NOTICE
For and on behalf of the President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction-II), North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following work upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date: (1) Tender No.: EUC/TRD/JP/T01/23 (2) Name of work: Design, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV, 50 Hz, AC Single Phase Overhead equipment and modification to existing OHE in connection with Coach Care Complex KWP PH II (3) Approximate cost of the work: ₹45994810.00/- (4) Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹380000/- (5) Date & Time of closing E-Tender, Date & Time of Opening E-Tender: 05.04.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs., 05.04.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. (6) The Details of above E-Tender are available on Website: www.ireps.gov.in 351-DPR/24
Follow us at [f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [w](#) NWRailways NWRailways

TAMILNADU POWER FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of TamilNadu Enterprise)
No.490-3/4 "Tufidco-Powerfin" Tower, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

TN Power Finance Corporation invites application from candidates for the following post on Contract basis with Consolidated pay. The details are given below.

Name of the Post	Salary	Educational Qualification	Number of Post
Chief Investment Officer	As per Market Standard (Negotiable)	CFA /CPA / CA / MBA (Finance) from Business School. Experience: Minimum 5 years of experience in Investment banking, Mutual funds, NBFC, Insurance Sectors in which minimum 2 years of experience in raising securities from secondary market and adequate knowledge in SEBI regulations.	1

Age Limit for the above post is 50 years or below. The last date for submission of application is on **16.04.2024 @ 4.00 pm** and the bio-data containing educational qualifications, experience and other credentials shall be sent by registered post or speed post or e-mail to the following address.

Chief Financial Officer
TamilNadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited,
No.490/3-4, "TUFIDCO POWERFIN" Tower,
Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.

Email: cfo@tncpowerfinance.com
Note : The Board of Management reserves the right to fill or not to fill up the post without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Date: 14.03.2024 **DIPR/411/Display/2024** **Chairman and Managing Director**

REGIONAL OFFICE, GAYA:
2nd Floor, In Front of CRPF 159 Battalion, Jail Road, Gaya-823001
E-mail-rm.gaya@bankofbaroda.com, legal.gaya@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Secured Asset/s/ Dues/ Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s	Description of the Properties	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price of the Property	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	M/s Jai Mata Di Mini Rice Mill (Prop- Mr. Brajendra Kumar Rai) Branch- Dadar Branch (Kaimur)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mauza karamhari, bearing khata no 144, plot no-645, Thana no-411, P.S-Mohania, Area-10 Decimals, Sale deed No. 9013 & 9014, Dt. 30.07.1993 standing in the name of Mr. Brajendra Kumar Rai & Mr. Rajnish Kumar Rai within the registered sub-district kaimur and district-kaimur, Bihar, India. Boundaries of the Property - North-Rasta, South-Rasta, East-Bechari Rai & Others, West-Rasta	Outstanding- Rs.8,25,692/- (as on 28-07-2017)	24-04-2024, timing- 2 PM to 6 PM	Rs. 6,75,000/- Rs. 67,500/- Rs.10,000	Physical	05.04.2024 to 15.04.2024 timing- 11.00 am to 4 pm
2.	M/s Maa Tara Galla Bhandar (Prop- Shashikant Rai) Branch- Dadar Branch (Kaimur)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of plot no-725, khata no-6, Thana no-408, Area- 4 Decimals, Located at Mauza- Katrakala, P.s-Mohania, District-Kaimur, belonging to the name of Mr Lalita Rai S/o Sri Ambika Rai and Mr. Shashikant Rai S/o Mr.Lalita Rai at Katrakala, p.o-Mohania, District-Kaimur, Boundary-North-Gali and House of jagdish Rai, South-Main Gali & Vijay Kumar Rai, East-Rest area of plot no 725 house of Shivakant Rai, West-Gali & Raghunath & Dinanah Kahar	Outstanding- Rs.7,78,132/- (as on 30-07-2013)	24-04-2024, timing- 2 PM to 6 PM	Rs. 15,15,424/- Rs.1,51,542/- Rs.10,000	Physical	05.04.2024 to 15.04.2024 timing- 11.00 am to 4 pm

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://fbapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on **Mob. No.9284429606**
Date : 14.03.2024
Place : Kaimur
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NO LAST WORD

Panel on simultaneous polls does not engage with apprehensions brought to its notice. There must be wider debate

THE HIGH LEVEL Committee on Simultaneous Elections, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, has unanimously recommended that polls to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats be held at the same time. This is no surprise. With Congress Leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury refusing to participate, the eight-member panel comprised those mostly seen to agree with the government's views on the proposal. Its terms of reference also carried the presumption that simultaneous polls are in "national interest". The question, then, is whether the Kovind Committee report has merely rubber-stamped the government's proposal or if its conclusions are a product of considered deliberations. The report says that the panel invited suggestions and comments from political parties, legal experts, former election commissioners, economists, representatives of business organisations and members of the Bar Council. It says that "the committee carefully considered all the constitutional and legal objections" and its members "studied the relevant legal literature on elections, both in India and abroad". Unfortunately, in its substance, tone and tenor, the document does not seem informed by "in-depth research and analysis" and "participatory processes".

Simultaneous elections will impose an artificial unitary character on a federal system of multiple diversities. The report, at best, engages cursorily with this concern. Instead, its 320-odd pages belabour "that separate elections cause a waste of resources, result in policy paralysis and inflict huge socio-economic costs, besides leading to voter fatigue". This is only a harkening back to the *raison d'être* cited by the government in September last year when it mooted One Nation One Election (ONOE). The document notes that 15 political parties have opposed the move, but there is little by way of engaging with, or addressing, their criticism or that of dissenters like Tamil Nadu Election Commissioner, V Palanikumar, who told the panel that "ONOE could potentially dilute the focus on region-specific challenges and diminish the efficacy of local governance". The suggestion of former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Sanjib Banerjee — "state funding of elections is a more effective reform to tackle inefficiency" — finds a mention. So do the concerns of former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, AP Shah, "that simultaneous elections hinder political accountability as fixed terms offer representatives unwarranted stability without performance scrutiny." These compelling arguments have been crunched into a few sentences in the report. Unfortunately, the report does nothing more than dismiss these apprehensions as "misplaced".

Undoubtedly, the Indian electorate is, as the report says, "sagacious enough to differentiate between national and regional issues, as also between national and regional parties". But ONOE could flatten the political diversity that has marked India's electoral calendar since the Sixties when the synchronicity of the election calendar was first broken. Much has changed in the Indian polity since then, including the ascendancy of regional parties in large parts of the country. The Samajwadi Party's response underlined the fear that "State-level parties will not be able to compete with national parties in electoral strategy and expenditure", which too does not seem to adequately draw the attention of the committee. The panel's report cannot be the last word on a proposal with far-reaching consequences that go beyond political-ideological lines. In days to come, the legitimate concerns of those who disagree must be heard respectfully, and heeded.

IRRATIONAL EXUBERANCE

Steep rise in small cap stocks, signs of price manipulation, warrant closer scrutiny

STOCK MARKETS IN India have been experiencing heightened volatility. On Wednesday, the BSE Sensex fell 906 points or 1.23 per cent, ending the day at 72,762. The pain was felt across the wider market. The BSE Smallcap index fell 5.1 per cent, while the BSE Midcap index dropped 4.2 per cent. Markets recovered partially on Thursday — the Sensex was up 335 points or 0.46 per cent, while the mid and small cap indices were up 2.28 per cent and 3.11 per cent respectively. However, concerns over valuations, especially in the small and mid cap segments, persist.

Over the past year, small and mid cap stocks have seen a stunning rise. The BSE Smallcap index is up 54.2 per cent, while the Midcap index is up almost 60 per cent. The BSE Sensex is up 27 per cent. There have been huge capital flows into small and midcap funds — data from AMFI shows that between August 2023 and January 2024 net inflows into small and mid cap funds were to the tune of Rs 22,252.14 crore and Rs 13,042.1 crore respectively. The Smallcap index is currently trading at a price-earnings ratio of 28.83 while the Midcap index is currently trading at 26.24, even after the recent correction in both indices. The SEBI, the stock market regulator, has also raised concerns over valuations. On Monday, SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch had spoken about "irrational exuberance" and "froth" in some segments of the market. She also indicated that there were signs of actual price manipulation in the SME segment "at the IPO (initial public offering) level and the trading level". Both the Nifty Smallcap 100 and the Midcap 100 indices had fallen following these comments.

Alongside, mutual fund houses are set to disclose their stress-test results of mid and small cap schemes on March 15. These tests would provide an indication of the capacity of these schemes to fulfill their redemption obligations in cases of markets turning unfavourable. Some mutual funds have in fact already restricted flows into their small and mid cap schemes — as per reports, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund will not be accepting lumpsum subscriptions in its mid and small cap schemes from March 14. A few others have reportedly restricted flows into small cap schemes. These could help curb irrational exuberance.

JUST READ 1984

Big Brother, it turns out, isn't good for you — even when you are the one watching yourself

UNLIKE A WATCHED pot, people under surveillance — even when it's self-imposed — do boil over. A comprehensive study by the think tank, Institute for the Future of Work, Warwick Business School and Imperial College, London, has found that new technologies driven by artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms are making people less happy and healthy. The smart watch, the step counter, the constant monitoring of SPO2 and heart rates — the "trackers" are doing more harm than good. Then, there's the increasing use of algorithms in the workplace — to set tasks, track and watch workers and even replace them. But the machine does not break in to disrupt lives and livelihoods. It was welcomed in.

It's a curious dichotomy. Prefix "smart" to even the most basic machine — fridge, TV, watch, cycle, screwdriver and even hammer — and the techies, yuppies and wannabes will take on an EMI for the "aspirational" good. Every moment is to be maximised, every task "game-ified" — from how much you eat (remember to log your micro and macronutrients, the app will tell you) to the amount you need to move (10,000 steps, but it keeps changing). People are even judged while they are sleeping (the watch will watch you, and tell you when the slumber wasn't up to the mark). All these tricks and trinkets are meant, the ads tell us, for self-improvement. It would have been easier, cheaper and healthier to read 1984.

Big Brother, it turns out, isn't good for you — even when you are the one watching yourself. According to the study, not all tech is bad. Machines like laptops and services like email enhance quality of life and work. Perhaps it is only a matter of time. The slightly older technologies are now commonplace and are no longer seen as "disruptive". Or perhaps there's something to be said for going on a walk without counting the steps.

No going back to square one



S Y QURAISHI

The post-mortem of electoral bonds will go on, but let the debate now shift to the way forward

AFTER THE SUPREME Court declared the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional, and directed the SBI to deliver the data in its possession to the Election Commission of India which, in turn, has made it public, the nation is waiting with bated breath. Are there skeletons in the cupboards of the corporate donors and recipients? Has there been a nexus between donations and government largesse? What about quid pro quo?

By all accounts, from the figures declared by the SBI, it would be impossible to match the donors and recipients. In its application to the apex court, the bank had requested for extension of time up to June as it would take time to match the two (something the SC order never asked for) — the all-important information citizens are waiting for, to see the nexus. The SBI should now be asked to give this information even by June, since they have admitted it is possible, to match the two figures. That alone will establish if there has been a quid pro quo between corporates and the government.

The issue is of great significance as it directly relates to the core element of elections, namely political financing, which profoundly influences the character and integrity of our democracy. As the former Finance Minister, the late Arun Jaitley, in his budget speech of 2017, said, free and fair elections are not possible without transparency of political funding.

While the Court must be commended for a landmark judgment, it is important that we steer clear of easy triumphalism. The intervention of the SC, though belated, indeed averted a catastrophe, yet it has not resolved the fundamental issue of transparent political financing. Many critics say we are back to square one. Therefore, it is indispensable that we confront this issue head-on and think of alternatives that can improve the life of Indian democracy.

But first, are we back to square one? Not exactly. The fact is that the judgment has declared the law unconstitutional, and all the concomitant amendments to different laws like the Companies Act, IT Act, RP Act etc have also gone.

It is true that, before 2018, political funding was largely opaque, 70 per cent of all dona-

tions were in cash. But all donations of over Rs 20,000 were reported to the EC on whose verification they were entitled to income tax rebate. After the introduction of electoral bonds, there was a total shroud of secrecy about the donors and recipients. And of course, the suspected quid pro quo.

What's the way forward? What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that opaque political financing, which is the mother of all corruption, becomes totally transparent?

Corruption in elections has been a subject of debate for decades. Many parliamentarians have offered different solutions. The last serious attempt was made as far back as 1999, when the Indrajit Gupta committee recommended partial public funding of political parties, subject to internal democracy within them. Since inner party democracy has remained a pipe dream, the reform could not take off.

State funding of elections is often mentioned as a solution, to which I don't subscribe, as it is impossible to keep tabs on the money spent in elections. It will also lead to the rise of non-serious candidates, who will find it tempting to make some quick bucks at public expense. What I have been suggesting is the funding of political parties, not elections, based on their electoral performance.

I have suggested Rs 100 for every vote a party garners. We can suggest a higher figure. In the forthcoming general elections, suppose 65 crore votes are cast, we would need Rs 6,500 crore to pay political parties for the votes they get. Will this be enough? But if they get this money from the state exchequer by cheque gracefully, without corruption and arm-twisting of "donors", it will do tremendous good to their reputation. This proposal would imply a total ban on collection from corporates, which is at the root of allegations of crony capitalism. Besides, their accounts must be subject to audit by independent auditors from a panel suggested by the EC or CAG, and not by the in-house auditors of political parties who only do a whitewash job. Since the number of votes cannot be fudged, reimbursement based on this metric would ensure accuracy and transparency.

Another question is: Why should the pub-

lic bear the cost of funding political parties? The straightforward answer is: Honesty and transparency in governance, a goal well worth the small investment. If some find this idea unacceptable, let there be a small cess. Even one paisa per litre of petrol can fund the entire democratic process quite liberally.

Electoral trusts have been offered as another solution. In fact, there already exist 18 such trusts, but these also suffer from lack of transparency. The latest Reuters report has exposed serious issues. According to Milan Vaishnav, a scholar on the subject, "Trusts provide (just) one layer of separation between firms and parties". Another expert has called it a "semi fig leaf".

I feel the most viable solution is to establish a National Election Fund. Corporates and other private entities could be solicited to donate to this fund with income tax concessions already available for political donations. That would take away the alleged fear of the corporates of harassment from rival parties (read ruling parties). Incidentally, for 70 years they have been donating without any reprisal, which seems to be a new phenomenon — real or imaginary.

According to a study in 2012 titled "Political Finance Regulations Around the World" conducted by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, an official inter-country organisation in Stockholm of which India is a founding member, out of 180 countries analysed, 71 nations provide state funds to political parties based on the number of votes they secure. This system was prevalent in 86 per cent of European countries, 71 per cent in Africa, 63 per cent in the Americas, and 58 per cent in Asia. There appears no reason why it cannot work in India. There may be some possible questions on the operational details, like funding of new parties, independents, etc, which can surely be discussed.

While the post-mortem of the bonds goes on, let the debate now shift to the way forward.

The writer is former Chief Election Commissioner of India and author of India's Experiment with Democracy — the Life of a Nation through its Elections

BEYOND THE BSP

Kanshi Ram consolidated the Dalit identity



ADITI NARAYANI PASWAN

FROM THE CHANGING dimensions of democratic politics to the Mandal Commission report, from economic liberalisation to the quest for Ram Mandir, the 1980s and '90s were a vibrant time, marked by new economic, social, religious and political formations. This period also saw a transformation in Dalit politics with the arrival of the post-Ambedkar political discourse of assertion. It used the same social tools of caste, capital and consensus that had been the instruments of Dalit oppression.

This was the era of tall leaders like Ram Vilas Paswan and Kanshi Ram who were instrumental in bringing Dalits together as a bloc by cementing their political identity, cultivating their economic identity and re-asserting their social identity. Dalits were no longer seen as only Congress voters, under the broad umbrella of "Garibi Hatao, Desh Bachao". They organised themselves into a much stronger bloc capable of sending leaders from their own fold. In modern India, Kanshi Ram stands out as the stalwart who shaped Dalit politics. He gave Dalits a voice and a vehicle for social empowerment, the All India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF). Today, he is remembered as a charismatic gentleman, known for his simplicity and the art of sloganeering.

Kanshi Ram envisioned the furtherance of Dalit rights through economic empowerment. This paved the way for the establishment of BAMCEF. For him, empowered Dalits are economically independent, socially aware and spiritually awakened. This be-

came the first cadre-based organisation of Dalits and other marginalised groups and aimed at establishing wider solidarity. It worked to raise awareness about the economic disparities faced by marginalised communities. By highlighting these issues and advocating for policies and programmes to address them, BAMCEF contributed to the conversation about economic empowerment. Kanshi Ram exhorted Dalit government employees to contribute 2 per cent of their income for the welfare of society — what he called, "Pay back to society".

The intellectual section of BAMCEF consolidated Dalit political consciousness by focusing on the theme of "Ambedkarism — revival to survival" through rallies and conferences. Other segments of BAMCEF like Dattak Graham (Adoption), BAMCEF (Cooperative) and BAMCEF Bhaichara (Brotherhood) contributed in other dimensions. For example, BAMCEF Dattak's goal was rural welfare. This was done by adopting a few villages from a district and implementing government schemes there. BAMCEF Bhaichara aimed to bring together Dalits who migrated to urban areas with their rural counterparts. BAMCEF Sahkarita worked to encourage "creating one of the largest sections of consumers that do not possess capital, to create an economy of their own."

With all these objectives, BAMCEF was given the nomenclature of "mission" by Kanshi Ram. The organisation had political, economic and social dimensions, in order to

awaken Dalits and politically mobilise them for their welfare in democracy. This organisation went on to provide critical support to the BSP, whose major leaders came from the BAMCEF. But since BAMCEF members were government employees, Kanshi Ram formed the Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti on December 6, 1981, for political activities, and channelised this political force in favour of the BSP and Dalit identity politics.

Kanshi Ram emphasised that for Dalits, the solution must come from within the same fold. He insisted the fight was for Parity, not Charity. He also stressed that unless Dalits form part of the same social, political and economic system, they will not be able to help the larger cause of the community. His idea of Bahujan, which means "many" or "majority", continues to form the bedrock for achieving larger ideals of samajik samrasta among different castes and communities on the Bharatiya Subcontinent.

Kanshi Ram brought a social revolution by giving Bharat the first Dalit woman chief minister, Mayawati. His ideas are not restricted to one party. Dalits are not only fighting for their rights but for larger social integration. We might vote en bloc but our identity as Dalits is now seen beyond a vote bank. We now sit on the shoulders of giants but look out for everyone in society.

The writer is assistant professor, Department of Sociology, Lakshmi Bai College, University of Delhi

MARCH 15, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

GUNFIRE IN IMPHAL

THIRTEEN PEOPLE WERE killed and 32 injured in a fierce gun battle between extremists and security forces near the venue of a volleyball match in Imphal. While nine people were killed on the spot, four died of their injuries in hospital. Among the dead were a CRPF man and three children who had gone to see the match. Soon after the incident, security forces cordoned off the area and launched combing operations.

ANTULAY'S RESISTANCE

DESPITE THE TOUGH resistance put up by A

R Antulay, the Congress (I) high command expects that his ranks will soon thin out even if the former chief minister ultimately decides to take the plunge. The central leadership, which is in constant contact with AICC (I) general secretary G K Moopanar, who was sent to Bombay, is adopting a two-pronged strategy to deal with the crisis.

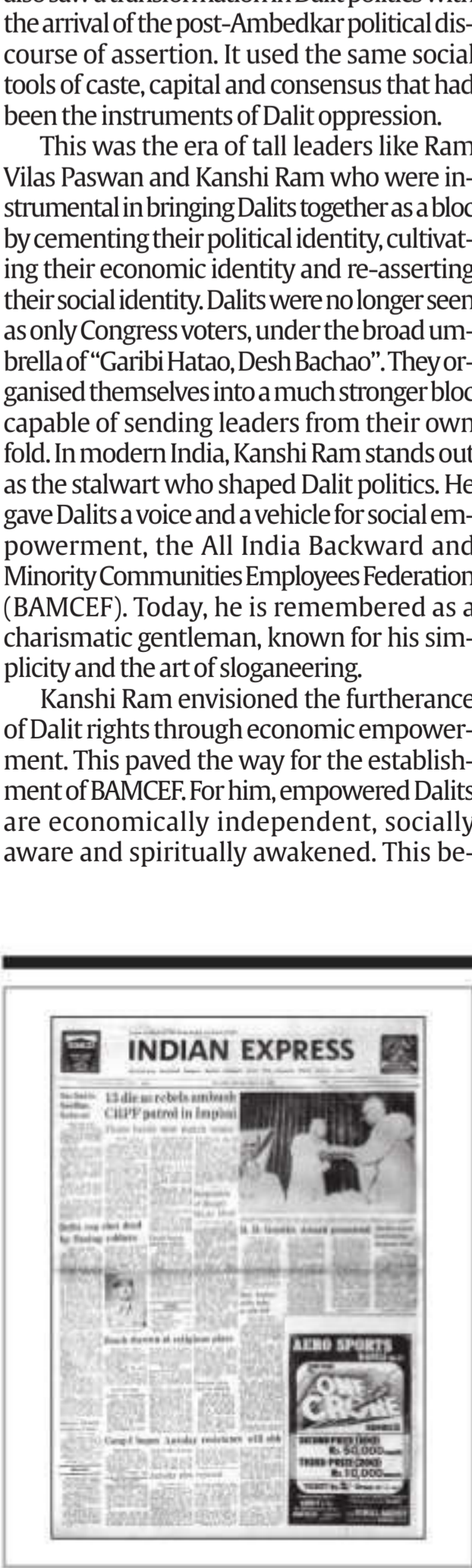
OIL AND GAS STRIKE

A NEW GAS strike in Godavari district and an oil and gas strike at Gandhar in the Cambay Basin were announced by Energy Minister Shiv Shankar, in Parliament. Shankar said gas with condensate was struck on March 10 at

Bhimanapalli in East Godavari district. After Shankar's statement, members from both sides congratulated Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) employees.

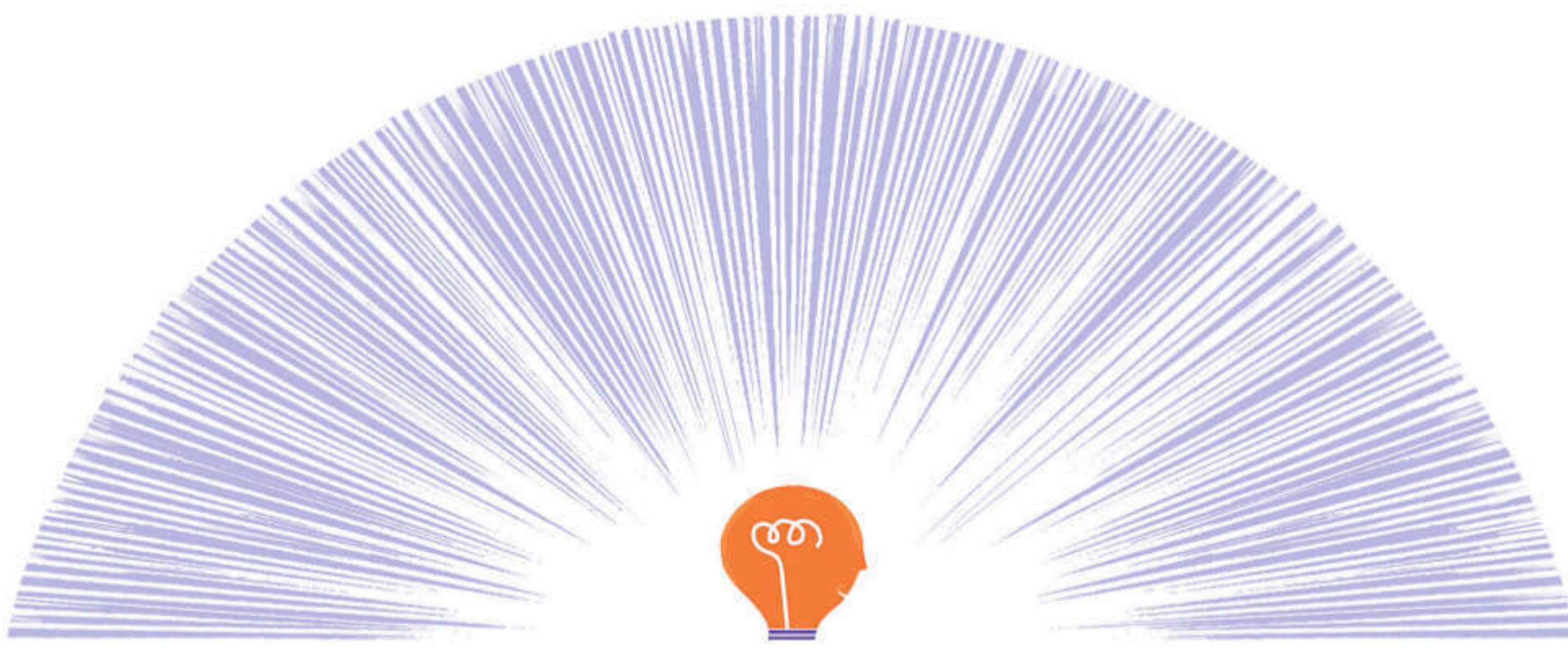
CONSTABLE SHOT DEAD

RAM CHANDER, AN unarmed Delhi Police constable, was shot dead by three suspected robbers while chasing them in a winding alley off Nicholson Road in North Delhi. The incident occurred around 8:15 in the morning when the two constables posted at a special checkpoint at Nicholson Road saw three boys moving in the area in suspicious circumstances and tried to follow them.



DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



CR Sasikumar

CBSE has suggested Open Book Examinations in select classes. Is the education system prepared for a new form of assessment?

Classroom is ready for change

By weaving technology into fabric of learning, open book exams promote inclusivity and innovation



RADHEY SHYAM SHARMA

THE OPEN BOOK examination (OBE) system simply means teaching, training and empowering individuals to translate theory into practice. One may also say that it is a system that protects the basic nature of human beings, that is, to remain curious and innovative. OBE stands at the frontier of India's educational evolution, signalling a return to our roots of experiential learning, as cultivated by ancient sages and encapsulated within our revered texts. This method, designed to solve real-world problems through discussion, debate, and critical thinking, diverges sharply from the conformity-over-creativity model introduced during colonial times.

Despite owing much to this traditional system for producing leaders across sectors, the prerequisite for embracing OBE lies in recognising the need for an educational transformation propelled by globalisation and technological advancements. The steps to achieve this involve marrying ancient wisdom with modern pedagogical practices, thereby preparing the Indian youth for global leadership roles. A major precaution in this endeavour is to ensure that the integration of OBE does not disregard the valuable aspects of the traditional system. The success criteria for this shift would be a balanced educational ecosystem that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, with flexibility for mid-course corrections based on evolving educational and global needs.

The introduction of OBE marks a significant departure from the conventional emphasis on rote memorisation... In the shadow of emerging artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and deep learning technologies, there is a threat of 'moronisation of masses'.

The introduction of OBE marks a significant departure from the conventional emphasis on rote memorisation. Recognising the limitations of the current education system's focus on memory over analysis is the prerequisite for this transition. Further, in the shadow of emerging artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and deep learning technologies, there is a threat of "moronisation of masses", with the obsolescence of the current educational paradigm. The goal is to evaluate students' abilities to think critically, apply knowledge creatively, and solve complex problems, steps that are not only timely but essential in an age dominated by AI and digital technologies. The precaution here involves crafting examination questions that go beyond mere facts, challenging students to demonstrate understanding and application.

India, celebrated as the youngest country globally, stands at a critical juncture. The demographic dividend, often touted as an asset, hinges on the realisation of its youth's potential. Students who are unable to focus in the background of a tsunami of distraction due to overuse and abuse of mobile phones and similar gadgets need protection and help to grow and flourish. OBE is the key to unlocking this potential, fostering a generation of thought leaders — "thoughtpreneurs" — capable of navigating the complexities of the modern world.

This paradigm shift is essential in an era where traditional academic achievements, signified by marks, are increasingly disconnected from the prerequisites of higher education and the professional world, as evidenced by initiatives like the Common University Entrance Test.

OBE promises an educational ethos where learning transcends memorisation limitations. In fact, the transition began over the past few years when the proportion of competency-based, analytical and applied questions gradually increased during the examinations. The success of this approach will be mirrored in an educational environment akin to ancient gurukuls, with continuous evaluations to incorporate innovative teaching methods.

The journey towards implementing OBE may further prepare the ground to ensure a solid foundation from primary levels. This preparation entails developing critical thinking, argument-formation skills, and a propensity for asking original, out-of-the-box questions. It is a journey from information to knowledge and from knowledge to wisdom, safeguarding our cognitive resources from the distractions of information overload. OBE is not merely an examination reform; it is a step towards developing a new psychological domain where excellence becomes common.

Implementing OBE is a collective endeavour, necessitating engagement from educators, policymakers, parents, and students. The prerequisite for this collective journey is the recognition of the need for collaborative effort to overhaul teaching methodologies, assessment strategies, and educational infrastructure supported by continuous training. However, clear communication and support are needed to mitigate resistance to meeting educational aspirations, with channels for ongoing dialogue to refine the OBE system as needed.

OBE's flexibility offers a lifeline to students with diverse learning preferences and abilities. It acknowledges and celebrates the myriad ways individuals absorb and process information, from auditory learners to visual thinkers. This inclusivity extends to students of humanities, who often find their subjects undervalued in traditional examination systems. In fact, students with different learning abilities will also find their equal place in the classroom and examination with pride as they can express their specific dominant ability rather than just replicating information based on memory.

The introduction of OBE is a departure from tradition, transforming educators into facilitators of inquiry and champions of a lifelong learning ethos. By weaving technology into the fabric of learning, promoting a culture of inclusivity, and prioritising the adaptability of students and educators alike, OBE promises a revolution in education that prepares students not just for the challenges of today but for the opportunities of tomorrow. As we embrace this journey, OBE's promise is clear: To cultivate a generation ready to lead with confidence, creativity, and a deep sense of social responsibility — a true testament to the enduring spirit of innovation and excellence in Indian education and the global market.

The writer is professor, department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi. He is also part of Curriculum Committee of CBSE

Open minds before open books

Open book exams will only work if students are encouraged to apply their knowledge, not focus on rote learning



AMIT KAUSHIK

RECENT MEDIA REPORTS suggested that CBSE was considering the introduction of open book examinations (OBE) in select schools on a pilot basis, although it was later clarified that only a study on their feasibility was under consideration. Should the study recommend their introduction, OBEs would initially be introduced in grades IX and XII, and not as part of the board examinations.

As a form of assessment, OBEs can be useful tools to determine the progress made by an individual learner. The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) recommended a shift to a more inquiry-based, competency-based system of learning and assessment. OBEs require students to be able to think, analyse, and apply acquired knowledge to given situations, thus allowing evaluators to assess their ability to utilise the crucial 21st century skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication that are increasingly valued all over the world.

Assessments are primarily of three types — classroom-based, that enable a teacher to assess the progress made by her students and take corrective action; diagnostic, usually standardised, (for instance, the National Achievement Survey run by NCERT), that allow policy makers and stakeholders to understand the health of their education system; and, external, which are competitive and used to determine achievement specified criteria, or to identify those appropriate for higher studies, jobs, etc. While the first two are low stakes assessments, the third is intrinsically high stakes. Yet, all three are equally important and have their place in an education system.

In India, board examinations at grades X and XII have become annual anxiety-inducing, high-stakes exercises, with unsuccessful students often harming themselves. The run-up to the board examinations is nearly as bad, with students being pressured to perform from grade IX onwards. Anything that boards can do to reduce the stress of students, parents, and teachers is a welcome step, and the open book format should be seen in this light.

It is worth recalling that CBSE had introduced OBEs in 2013-14, but they were eventually withdrawn based on feedback from parents and teachers. A major reason for discontinuing them was the lack of preparation within the system. Reintroducing OBEs will require more than just a change to the form of examination. Since such assessments require students to be able to analyse and apply knowledge, teaching in the classroom will also need to

privilege independent thinking and creativity; the business-as-usual form of rote learning will no longer be appropriate. Nor will the kinds of questions presently set in school examinations — exam setters will have to learn how to craft original and imaginative questions that challenge students to think and apply learning. And finally, teachers will need to be trained to evaluate OBE submissions in a fair and consistent manner, which, in turn, implies empowering them and returning to them some of the academic autonomy that has been lost over the last several years.

The NEP provides a broad policy direction within which several steps need to be taken to improve school education and move away from rote learning. Several initiatives will be needed to support these reforms, at both central and state levels, and some changes are already becoming visible. For instance, Delhi became the first state in the country to deliver a fully competency-based board examination for grades X and XII in 2023, through the newly established Delhi Board of School Education. The reintroduction of OBEs would be in keeping with the policy intention of NEP.

Any plans to reintroduce this format of assessment should take into account the learning from the last short-lived attempt to do so, as well as the distortions that crept into the so-called Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) that became overly prescriptive.

An ideal solution would be for the board to introduce broad guidelines for such assessments, leaving schools and teachers with the autonomy to administer them as they consider appropriate in the context of their individual schools and students.

As any class teacher will tell you, students in a classroom are usually at varying levels of ability; a small proportion will be one to two grade levels ahead, a similar proportion will be one or two grade levels behind, while the bulk will be more or less at grade level. An assessment, whatever its form, is merely a tool to provide information about where a learner is on their individual path of learning. As such, a student's development should be judged not only by the outcome of a single assessment such as an OBE, but by putting together a variety of progress indicators.

One reason India performed poorly the only time it participated in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) was because of our singularly rote-focused assessments — while our students were no less capable, those who participated in PISA had no idea of how to answer application-based questions. Assessments like OBEs could help build the capacities of students and teachers to look at education differently, developing their skills of thinking and questioning, and placing them on par with other international students.

The writer is a former director in the erstwhile Ministry of HRD, and CEO of the Australian Council for Educational Research (India). ACER is the global manager for PISA 2025

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The notification of the CAA weeks ahead of polls is clearly an election ploy, though the BJP's efforts to demonise Muslims in order to please its core constituency risks creating permanent communal fault lines... This campaign of vilification will only expand social fissures, not heal them." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

Super election year

In more than 60 countries, polls will decide direction of societies ruptured by conflicting ideologies



ZERO HOUR

BY DEREK O'BRIEN

THIS IS THE first time that Mexico could get a woman president. Joe Biden is seeking a second term in the United States. The Democratic People's Party in Taiwan has just won a historic third consecutive term. The fourth most populous country in the world, Indonesia, will elect a new President soon. Sheikh Hasina has won a fifth term in Bangladesh.

In 2024, national elections are scheduled in over 60 countries. Two billion voters will cast their votes. That's a quarter of the world's population.

This is a "super election year". Election booths will be buzzing in the United States, the United Kingdom, India and Indonesia. Psephologists and political enthusiasts will gleefully witness the dynamics of power, democracy, and unpredictability as elections play out on a global scale. Those suffering from politophobia (a morbid fear of politics and voting) would prefer to fast forward to 2025.

One dominant theme emerges from elections being held across the globe this year — societal divisions have been laid bare. From the deeply polarising issue of abortion rights to the contentious debate over corporatisation in agriculture, the fault lines are stark. Many of these elections, including India's, are not just about choosing leaders; they are about deciding the direction of societies ruptured by conflicting ideologies.

United Kingdom: Bookmakers' odds are often dependable barometers to predict results in sport and politics. Even though elections in the UK are expected to be held in the latter half of 2024, British bookmakers have virtually already called the result. According to Ladbrokes, one of England's oldest betting companies, the Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, are clear favourites to win, with odds of 1/10. To give you some sense of what 1/10 odds mean, let me share a similar example from cricket.

If India is playing Afghanistan in a T20 match, India will probably start at the odds of 1/10 — favourites to win. In other words, if you invest £1,000 on the Labour Party winning, you only stand to gain £100. So, as far as the bookmakers are concerned, it's pretty much a done deal for the Labour Party. In contrast, the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, has odds of 6/1. What this means is that a £1,000 bet on the Conservative Party will earn a huge £6,000 if the Conservatives win. The populist right-wing party Reform UK (earlier Brexit party), led by Richard Tice, are a distant third with odds of 50/1. It must be pointed out that there are multiple examples where favourites bite the dust.

United States: Trump versus Biden rematch. The economy, cost of living, LGBTQ

rights, the war in Ukraine, and conflict in Gaza are some of the hot-button issues which are dominating political debate on American television. From campaign rallies to made-for-television debates, one flash-point is certainly abortion rights.

The seismic 2021 overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and the Alabama Supreme Court's controversial decision equating frozen embryos with children have intensified the cultural chasm between conservative and liberal states. Abortion has surged to the forefront of political discourse, with one in eight voters deeming it critical. Research indicates a doubling since 2020 in patients travelling for abortions, with medical abortions now exceeding half of all procedures.

These have had a profound impact on reproductive rights, stirring voter mobilisation and accentuating enduring ideological divisions. As both the controversial Donald Trump and the octogenarian President Biden line up on the starting blocks for second terms, abortion rights might determine who crosses the finishing line first.

South Africa: In a historic shift post-apartheid, South Africa's upcoming general election on May 29 could see the African National Congress (ANC) receiving less than 50 per cent of the vote for the first time since 1994. I am no psephologist, but this could lead to a multi-party government, marking a significant moment for South Africans and the region.

India: The last five years have seen the country set many dubious records. Household savings have been at a 50-year low. Three out of four Indians cannot afford a healthy balanced diet. Four out of 10 graduates under the age of 25 are unemployed. Women earn just 60 per cent as compared to their male counterparts. And the Press Freedom Index ranks India 161 among 180 countries. These are the issues which the ruling dispensation will obfuscate. These are the issues which opposition parties across the country will need to amplify. These are the issues which television channels turned cheerleaders will ignore over the next six weeks.

Instead, the Union government will attempt to create a narrative around two laws — the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the Women's Reservation Bill. You don't have to be a Parliament junkie to know that the timing is suspect. Consider these: While the average time taken to frame rules for a law is nine months, the rules for CAA were notified after 51 months (over four years). The Union government had asked for nine extensions. Then there was the Women's Reservation Bill, passed in Parliament, but which can only be implemented after the Census and delimitation is carried out. 2034?

As the world's largest democracy goes to elections in the summer of 2024, women's political representation will only be limited to the glossy sheets of a slickly printed manifesto.

The writer is Member of Parliament and Leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha). Research credit: Rohini Narayanan, Ayushman Dey, Varnika Mishra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOME GOOD NEWS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Space to pivot' (IE, March 14). Data released by the NSO showed retail inflation remained unchanged at 5.1 per cent in February but below the 6.4 per cent recorded last year. Separate data showed industrial output growth moderated in January from December's upwardly revised number. Inflation in the miscellaneous group cooled off to a 51-month low of 3.6 per cent in February 2024, amid a broad-based dip across all the six sub-categories. Housing, clothing and footwear also eased to multi-month lows in that month, helping to moderate the core CPI inflation.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

BJP'S STRATEGY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An erstwhile kingmaker' (IE, March 14). Replacing JJP's Mohan Lal Khattar with BJP's Nayab Saini, the ruling party has seemingly dumped Dushyant Chautala's JJP. Ironically, the JJP had been the BJP's saviour helping it to form the government after the last assembly election. The BJP has not only broken its alliance with the JJP but also weakened its ally: there is a buzz that some JJP MLAs could cross over to the saffron party. What the JJP's fate has shown, once again, is the BJP's self-centred use of its allies. Repeatedly, they have found themselves cut to size after forming alliances with the party.

SS Paul, Noida

A BENEFICIAL PACT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Trade gains' (IE, March 13). Though it took 16 years, India's \$100 billion trade pact with EFTA will bring key benefits to the Indian consumers and our economy. After custom duty is phased out, we can have access to higher quality products. This pact will further foster open trade and closer economic ties. But what is most useful for us is the fact that these countries are known for R&D and innovation and India will now be able to benefit from the trade pact. Huge employment opportunities from this pact, both direct as well as indirect, would help our economy too.

Bal Govind, Noida

INJUSTICE OF CAA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Between the rules' (IE, March 13). Home Minister Amit Shah describing the notification of CAA as fulfillment of yet another election manifesto promise of the BJP is true. However, the implementation of promises and policies according to any ideology has to conform with the Constitution. CAA violates the principle of equality enshrined in Article 14. Unfortunately, the ruling dimension and its leaders have been indulging in acts that are openly in contravention of the Constitution. Failure of the country, particularly the judiciary, to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution has emboldened them. It is not a good sign for the future.

Sultan Farid, New Delhi

BJP suspends 2 Rajkot corporators after kin got 23 houses meant for slum-dwellers

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, MARCH 14

THE BJP on Thursday suspended corporators Devuben Jadav and Vajiben Goltar in the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) from the primary membership of the party for six years after an inquiry found that 23 of their family members had got homes meant for slum-dwellers, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) inspite of them already owning houses. However, the party stopped short of seeking their disqualification as corporators.

"The two corporators were facing allegations of having indulged in irregularities in housing schemes. Consequently, an inquiry committee was set up. As per its report, there indeed were irregularities... These two corporators are being suspended from the primary membership of BJP for six years," Mukesh Doshi, president of BJP's Rajkot city unit, told mediapersons.

The suspension came two days after the BJP served the two showcase notices on Tuesday, asking them why disciplinary action should not be taken against them.

Citing media reports, Congress had alleged that Jadav's husband Mansukh Jadav and

Goltar's mother-in-law were among the 23 who had applied for RMC houses in lieu of vacating their huts and kuchcha houses in Sagarnagar, Manchhanagar and Kabir Tekri slums on the bank of Randarda and Lalpari lakes for development of the two lakes.

The 23 were among the 193 applicants who were allotted 1 BHK flats in Gokulnagar and Ambavadi for free on March 7 through a computerised draw of lots. While Gokulnagar houses were constructed by the RMC under RAY, Ambavadi houses were constructed under PMAY.

The BJP, which has absolute majority in the 72-member RMC general board by virtue of having 68 members, stopped short of seeking disqualification of Jadav and Goltar. "They have been removed from the BJP. But they will continue as corporators... naturally as Independents," said Doshi.

Asked if the party would seek their disqualification as corporators, he said: "It is not within my powers. As president of the unit, I am directly responsible, as directed by our state high command, to suspend them from the party for six years... Party does not want any such workers."

Doshi said the party was not satisfied with the reply the two corporators had given to the showcase notices.

Two groups clash in Vadodara over use of loudspeaker, 30 booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, MARCH 14

OVER 30 people were booked by the Vadodara city police Thursday in an alleged case of rioting at the Ekta Nagar area of the city. Three persons were injured after two groups came face-to-face over the use of loudspeakers that led to the riot Wednesday evening.

Police on Thursday said they have rounded up four of the seven identified accused and initiated the process for formal arrest.

An argument began between neighbours residing in the area over playing the loudspeaker. "The argument began over two (of the seven identified) accused playing the Hanuman Chalisa chants on the loudspeaker in the area at the time when the members of the Muslim community were also breaking their Ramzan fast. The other accused, who belong to the minority community, objected to the high decibels of the chants as they were unable to hear the prayers from a nearby mosque... It led to a heated argument and escalated into a riot when more persons from both communities joined in. We have filed a case against members of both communities," said Inspector M R Sangada of Bapod police station where the FIR was lodged.

According to the FIR, one accused from the minority community called up the police control room and sought assistance,

stating that "his neighbours (co-accused in the case) were abusing him and picking up a fight". The FIR states that the police arrived at the spot to attend to the call but the incident had blown up into a riot accompanied by stone-pelting between two groups as "a mob of members from both Hindu and Muslim communities" had gathered "for a common intention".

The PSI, who is the complainant, stated, "Since it was the time for namaz, a huge mob had gathered from both sides and we did not have enough police force to bring the mob under control. Therefore, we called for more help and units from Bapod police station, Warasiya and Panigate police stations as well as the Detection of Crime Branch and Local Crime Branch (Zone 4) arrived at the spot to disperse the mob".

One injured person was rushed to SSG Hospital in the police van while others were attended to by ambulances. The Bapod police have booked the accused under Indian Penal Code Sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 149 (offence committed by every member of unlawful assembly in prosecution of common object), and 294B (uttering obscene words or actions).

Sangada added four persons have been rounded up while the process to identify the other accused has been initiated. "We are also checking the CCTV footage to identify other accused," Sangada said.

Pak urges India to comply with stipulated timeline of testing of ballistic missiles

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 14

PAKISTAN Thursday urged India to comply with the timeline stipulated in the pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles as it took note of the first flight test of India's indigenously developed Agni-5 missile.

Responding to a question about India testing a missile capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Islamabad had taken note of the Indian missile test on March 11 as New Delhi shared its advance notification to Islamabad.

However, she said India did not follow the three-day timeline stipulated in Article 2 of the Agreement on Pre-notification of the 'Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles'. "The agreement on pre-notification we believe must

be complied with in letter and spirit," she said.

On Monday, India successfully carried out the first flight test of an indigenously developed Agni-5 missile capable of deploying multiple warheads under its 'Mission Divyastra', joining a select group of nations having such a capability.

The missile with 'multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV)' tested from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha accomplished the designed parameters, according to the Defence Ministry in New Delhi.

Agni-V missile has a range of up to 5,000 km and it can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range.

India has already carried out several tests of Agni 5 but it was for the first time that the flight test was carried out with MIRV. **PTI**

FROM PAGE ONE

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3 of top 5 donors bought bonds with ED and IT knocking on their door

claim for the period from 01.04.2009 to 31.08.2010," ED said in a statement on July 22, 2019.

In the 2019-2024 period, the company bought its first tranche of electoral bonds on October 21, 2020.

The second largest donor to political parties is Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL) which has bought bonds worth Rs 1000 crore between 2019 and 2024. Run by Krishna Reddy, Megha Engineering is involved in marquee projects of the Telangana government such as the Kaleswaram Dam project. It is also building the Zojila tunnel and the Polavaram dam.

In October 2019, the Income Tax department raided the offices of the company. Following this, a probe by Enforcement Directorate was also started. Incidentally, on April 12 that year, MEIL had purchased poll bonds worth Rs 50 crore.

Last year, the government rejected a \$1-billion investment proposal of Chinese electric car maker BYD and its Hyderabad-based partner MEIL to set up an electric vehicle manufacturing plant.

Anil Aggarwal's Vedanta Group is the fifth largest donor having purchased bonds worth Rs 376 crore with the first tranche being purchased in April 2019 in the period.

Notably, in mid-2018, ED claimed it had evidence related to Vedanta Group's alleged involvement in the bribe-for-visa case where certain Chinese nationals were given visas by alleged bending of rules.

A reference sent by ED to CBI translated into a case of corruption in 2022 following which ED began a money laundering probe. On April 16, 2019, Vedanta Ltd purchased bonds worth over Rs 39 crore.

Over the next four years, barring the pandemic year of 2020, till November 2023, it bought bonds worth Rs 337 crore more taking the cumulative value of bonds bought by Vedanta to over Rs 376 crore.

● In pharma, different firms buy bonds on same days

in several tranches worth over Rs 30 crore. Three days later, on November 14, Alembic Pharmaceuticals, Alkem Laboratories and Piramal bought bonds worth over Rs 20 crore.

Incidentally, in March 2022, the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Investigation (DGGI) had started a probe against several pharmaceutical companies for alleged tax evasion including Glenmark Pharma, Cipla, Mylan and Aurobindo Pharma.

Earlier, on January 5, 2022, Aurobindo Pharma had purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 3 crore, while Torrent Pharma bought bonds worth Rs 10 crore two days later on January 7, 2022. Aurobindo Pharma again purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 15 crore on April 8, 2022 and the same day, MSN Pharmachem too bought bonds worth Rs 20 crore.

In July 2022, pharmaceutical companies again showed a surge in collective purchases of electoral bonds. While on July 1, Natco Pharma purchased bonds

worth Rs 12 crore, the very next day on July 2, Aurobindo Pharma bought bonds worth Rs 1.5 crore. On October 10, 2022, four pharmaceutical companies bought bonds: Ajanta Pharma (Rs 3 crore), Intas Pharma (Rs 20 crore), Torrent Pharma (Rs 15 crore), and Natco Pharma (Rs 3 crore). Next day, on November 11, 2022, Glenmark Pharma bought electoral bonds worth Rs 9.75 crore, while Mankind Pharma bought bonds of the amount Rs 24 crore.

Incidentally, in November 2022, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had arrested a director of Aurobindo Pharma as part of its investigation into the alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped liquor policy of the Delhi government.

Another pharma giant, Sun Pharma, was reported in May 2019 as being under the scanner for alleged tax evasion of service tax. On May 8, the company purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 10 crore, after having bought Rs

21.5 crore on April 15, 2019.

On May 7, 2019, Torrent Pharma also purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 2.5 crore, while on May 10, 2019, it again bought bonds worth Rs 5 crore.

On July 10, 2019, Cipla had purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 7 crore and worth Rs 8 crore on October 3, 2019. Within a gap of two days, on October 5, 2019, Natco Pharma purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 25 lakh.

The closely sequenced purchases of electoral bonds continued in later years as well. In 2021, Aurobindo Pharma purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 2.5 crore on April 3, 2021. Four days later, Torrent Pharma also bought bonds worth Rs 7.5 crore on April 7, 2021.

In its Annual Report for 2022-23, the DGGI had mentioned non-payment of tax on import of services such as expenses on intellectual property rights (IPR), patent, technology & dossiers expenses as one of the emerging areas of evasion of GST.

● TMC at No. 2 with Rs 1,609 cr

preceding the elections. But in July, after the party rode back to power at the head of a landslide – the election results were declared on May 2 – it redeemed 337 electoral bonds totalling Rs 107.56 crore.

In October 2021, the redemptions totalled Rs 141.92 crore and in January 2022, it was Rs 224 crore. Thereafter, there was a brief dip in the redemption of poll bonds. In April 2022, the AIMTC redeemed bonds of Rs 18 crore. In July 2022, that figure rose to Rs 66.5 crore. And in October 2022, the party redeemed poll bonds totalling Rs 143 crore.

● Who paid the parties

to each other, together bought bonds worth Rs 578 crore.

Several companies that have purchased bonds have faced action by investigative agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation, or have faced Income-Tax raids or surveys.

The Election Commission data also provided details of the electoral bonds redeemed by political parties.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party encashed bonds of the tune of Rs 6,061 crore, or over 47 per cent of the total issued, Trinamool Congress redeemed Rs 1,609 crore, and Congress Rs 1,421 crore.

The Electoral Bond scheme,

notified in January 2018, allowed individuals and companies to make donations to political parties.

Essentially in the nature of a bearer instrument, it provided anonymity to its holders, and was hence challenged in the Supreme Court.

On February 15 this year, the top court termed it "unconstitutional" and scrapped the scheme with immediate effect. It also directed SBI, the sole issuing authority, to provide all details of bond purchasers and their redemption to the ECI, which has been made public Thursday.

(WITH INPUTS FROM ADYA GOYAL, SUKHMALIK)

Minutes before she quit party, BJP suspends former Vadodara mayor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, MARCH 14

THE BJP Thursday suspended its Mahila Morcha national vice-president and former Vadodara Mayor Dr Jyoti Pandya, minutes before she held a press conference during which she questioned the party's "compulsion to repeat an inefficient and ineligible" candidate from the Vadodara Lok Sabha constituency for the third term. Pandya also announced she was "parting ways" with the BJP as her "conscience did not allow" her to continue working in the party. A senior party functionary, Pandya, was aspiring for a ticket from Vadodara, where Ranjan Bhatt is the sitting MP.

Expressing her anguish at the party's decision to repeat Bhatt

for a third term, Pandya, who also held the post of spokesperson of Central Gujarat Zone of the BJP, said, "I have no grudge against any leader – be it state president C. R. Paatil or Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. I consider Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah my idols but my conscience poked me all night even after I tried to accept the decision of the party and felicitated Ranjanbhai with a scarf last evening to congratulate her for her nomination... I am not against anyone but if a woman candidate has to be fielded, why should it be someone who is not eligible to have a third term? What is the compulsion of the party to repeat Ranjan Bhatt?"

She added, "As a woman candidate, why not me? I am eligible and have been in active public life for 30 years. I hold posts in

the party for which I have travelled across the country, leaving my family aside. I was the Vadodara mayor. Can anyone say, I am not eligible? I have the BJP in my DNA and have not joined the party after contesting as an independent candidate at some point".

Without naming any local leaders, Pandya went on to say that she was "distressed" at the "lack of development" in the city and the alleged "diversion of resources". "Look at Vadodara and then compare it with the development that Ahmedabad and Surat have seen... Just a few days ago, the Chief Minister was in Vadodara and spoke of development. But we all know where the resources allocated for the development are going... It is time for the party to introspect," said Pandya.

Punjab: In AAP LS polls list, 5 ministers, an actor, a Cong turncoat

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 14

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) Thursday fielded five cabinet ministers, a sitting MP, a former Congress MLA and a Punjabi artist considered close to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, in its first list of candidates in Punjab for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The AAP, which is a constituent of the opposition INDIA bloc, is contesting the parliamentary polls on its own in Punjab, which sends 13 members to the Lower House of Parliament.

"The Aam Aadmi Party proudly presents its candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024 in Punjab," said the party in

a post on X.

Those who have been fielded include Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh, Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Transport Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, AAP's only Lok Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Rinku, former Congress MLA Gurpreet Singh GP who recently joined the party, and Punjabi artist Karamjit Anmol.

The nominees represent a mix of political heavyweights and newcomers – Dhaliwal, Bhullar, Khudian and Balbir Singh are first-time MLAs. Should the five ministers emerge victorious, they will not only relinquish their Cabinet positions but also trigger by-elections for their Vidhan Sabha seats.

AAP has taken the lead in Punjab by announcing its candidates ahead of other parties. With both AAP and Congress opting to contest independently and refusing to form an alliance, Punjab is poised for a multi-faceted electoral battle, as the Shiromani Akali Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party have also not forged a coalition yet. Despite being part of the INDIA bloc at the national level, Congress and AAP remain rivals in Punjab.

Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh has been fielded from Patiala, challenging incumbent MP Preneet Kaur, who will now contest on a BJP ticket. Dr Singh, an eye surgeon, has a history of activism dating back to the JP movement in 1974 and the 2011 anti-corruption movement. He joined AAP before the 2014 Lok Sabha

Jindal Steel and Power, too, is among the top 15 donors with the company having donated Rs 123 crore through the bonds in the period. While the company has faced probes by Central agencies in the coal blocks allocation case, the ED raided the premises of the company and its promoter Navin Jindal in connection with a fresh case of forex violation in April 2022.

The company made its first tranche of purchases between 2019 and 2024 on October 7, 2022.

Apart from this, Ritwik Projects Pvt Ltd has purchased bonds to the tune of Rs 45 crore in this period. Ritwik Projects is owned by politician CM Ramesh.

In October 2018, the Income Tax department raided premises associated with the company and Ramesh, who was then a TDP MP.

The IT department alleged the company had siphoned off Rs 100 crore. Months later, Ramesh joined the BJP.

Aurobindo Pharma, which is embroiled in the Delhi liquor case, has also made donations of Rs 49 crore in the period. ED had arrested company director P Sarath Reddy in November 2022 in the case.

While the company made donations of about Rs 2.5 crore in 2021, majority of its electoral bond purchases were made in 2022 and 2023.

Rashmi Cement, which has donated Rs 64 crore to political parties, has been under ED scanner since 2022. On July 13, 2022, the ED carried out a searches at three places in West Bengal, in the case of "Rashmi Group of Companies" related to the loss of Rs 73.40 crore to public exchequer "by deliberately mis-declaring the facts and mis-utilizing the dual freight policy of the Indian Railways to avail the wrongful benefits of lower tariffs of freight for transportation of iron ore".

Similarly, Shirdi Sai Electricals, which purchased bonds worth Rs 40 crore in January this year, was raided by the IT department last year.

Bond buyer No. 1: Labourer turned 'Lottery King'

securing permissions to operate in Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra. His empire, built on the hopes and dreams of the common people, made him a figure of immense wealth and influence.

Martin's first brush with political scandal was in Kerala, a state where the lottery has a huge stake in people's psyche and the government's revenue. In 2008, when Martin was already facing allegations of defrauding the Sikkim government of over Rs 4,500 crore, he contributed Rs 2 crore to CPI(M) mouthpiece *Deshabhimani*. At a time when the CPI(M) Kerala unit was facing an internal feud over two groups led by Pinarayi Vijayan and V S Achuthanandan, the contribution came as an embarrassment to the Vijayan faction, which controlled the party and the mouthpiece then. Amid a direct attack by Achuthanandan himself against the party, the Vijayan faction had to retreat, return the money to Martin, and remove heavyweight Malabar leader E P Jayarajan as general manager of the publication. Thereafter, 'Lottery Martin' became a name associated with almost all political discourses about the decay of the Left in Kerala.

People who knew Martin, though, would have been surprised at the Rs 2 crore amount – a pittance as compared to what he would splurge at parties and individual politicians known to him. A few years later, Achuthanandan, in an interview to *The Indian Express* in 2015, tried to put Martin's business in perspective. Even though he was a rare leader who took on Martin, Achuthanandan saw lotteries as a lifeline and a glimmer of hope for the underprivileged. "For them (the public), it's a harmless dream," he said. The

lottery tickets revenue of Kerala is a testimony to this: The state's revenue increased from Rs 557 crore in 2011 to Rs 5,696 crore in 2015 to Rs 9,974 crore in 2020.

Martin's close association with the DMK also brought fluctuating fortunes. In 2011, he produced a Rs 20 crore Tamil film called *Ilaignan*, written by none other than the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi – his 75th screenplay based on Maxim Gorky's *The Mother*.

But when the AIADMK came to power, Martin's fortunes took a turn for the worse. He was arrested along with hundreds of DMK leaders and sympathisers under land grabbing charges and the Goondas Act, wielded by the Jayalalithaa regime to handle mafia leaders in the initial days of her taking charge. Later, the Madras High Court quashed his detention and he was released on bail.

While Martin was jailed for over eight months and started facing CBI chargesheets in several lottery cases, his wife Leema Rose started assuming an increasingly higher profile. She filed a police complaint in May 2012, accusing two lottery agents, including a person close to DMK chief M Karunanidhi's family, of trying to frame Martin in a fake lottery case. She also joined the Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi (IJK) and appeared on stage with the then Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi during an election campaign in Coimbatore before his ascendance to power.

Martin's son-in-law Aadhav Arjuna, who used to be in the close circle of M K Stalin's son-in-law Sabareesan, recently joined as the deputy general secretary of the Dalit political outfit and DMK ally, Viduthalalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK). While Arjuna's presence was always

associated with DMK's resource mobilisation during polls, a top source in the DMK first family said he left to join the VCK as he wasn't given a ticket for the Lok Sabha polls. "He has serious political ambitions," said the source about Arjuna, a basketball player and gym trainer.

In the last decade, Martin's businesses expanded beyond the lottery – Martin Homeopathy Medical College and Hospital near Coimbatore; SS Music, a television music channel; M and C Property Development; Martin Nanthavanam apartments; and Leema Real Estate Private Limited were some of them.

But he and his work were rarely out of news. In 2011, he faced searches from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka police forces as part of a crackdown on illegal lottery businesses. In 2013, the Kerala police conducted raids on Martin's premises as part of an investigation into illegal lottery operations in the state. In 2015, the Income Tax Department conducted raids on Martin's premises across various states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, on allegations of tax evasion and financial irregularities.

In 2016, the Enforcement Directorate raided his properties in connection with money laundering investigations related to his lottery businesses. And in 2018, CBI conducted searches at Martin's residences and offices in multiple states as part of a broader investigation into the illegal lottery operations and alleged financial crimes.

One of the last crackdowns on Martin was in May 2023, when the ED attached Rs 457 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in connection with a case linked to the alleged loss of over Rs 900 crore to the Sikkim government.

● Mining, steel majors spent over ₹850 cr

significant mining interests in Odisha. Vedanta has interests in iron ore, oil and gas, copper, aluminium and steel

JSP's mining, power and steel interests are largely concentrated in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand. The company made all their donations between October 2022 and November 2023.

The Aditya Birla Group's EMIL has statutory clearances pending for its Bunder Diamond project in the Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh.

Between 2019 and 2022, the EMIL purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 224.5 crore – Rs 50 crore in 2019, Rs 20 crore in 2020, Rs 104.5 crore in 2021, Rs 50 crore in 2022.

One of the country's largest private coal miners, EMIL acquired the mining lease for Bunder Diamond project in Chhindwara district in 2019. The project has failed to take off in the

face of strong local opposition.

In 2020, the Environment ministry returned the project's application for environmental clearance, asking EMIL to secure forest and wildlife clearances first due to the proximity of the mines to the Panna tiger reserve. Subsequently, the Environment ministry raised several queries against EMIL's proposal for forest clearance which remains pending.

Another such example is MSPL Ltd, the flagship company of Noida-based Baldota Group "with varied interests and investments in iron ore mining", which purchased bonds worth Rs 1 crore in April 2019 and Rs 3 crore in April 2023.

In January 2022, MSPL sought a few changes in the ToR (terms of reference) it had received in November 2021 for its 5 MTPA Iron Ore Processing Plant and 3 MTPA Pellet Plant over 26.44 Ha in Karnataka's Bellary district.

The changes sought included a nearly doubled production capacity, relaxation in dust emission norms, temporary permission to use groundwater, dropping the requirement for hydrological studies by rationalising the distance between the proposed plant and Tungabhadra river from 200 metres to 22.6 km etc. The Environment ministry amended the clearance conditions in February 2022.

At the lower end of the spectrum is GHCL Limited, another Noida-based company which purchased bonds worth Rs 50 lakh in 2019.

In September 2017, the GHCL had sought environmental clearance for modernising its soda ash factory and captive power plant in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district. The Environment ministry dropped the proposal in November 2019 with the observation that the company did not respond to the Ministry's queries.

elections and served as co-convenor until Bhagwant Mann's resignation following Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's apology to SAD leader Bikram Majithia. In the 2017 Assembly elections, he ran against former chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh in the Patiala Urban segment but was unsuccessful. However, he secured victory in the 2022 Assembly elections by defeating Mohit Mohindra, the son of senior Congress leader Brahm Mohindra, in the Patiala Rural segment.

Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian is set to run for the Bathinda seat, currently held by SAD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal. Khuddian gained prominence as a giant slayer when he defeated former five-time chief minister and

11-time MLA Parkash Singh Badal in his stronghold Lambi. He is the son of former Lok Sabha MP Jagdev Singh Khuddian and was previously associated with the Congress. Known to be close to Amarinder Singh, Khuddian served as his covering candidate during the 2017 Assembly elections when he contested against Badal in Lambi.

Dhaliwal, a former NRI who returned to Punjab to pursue a political career, has been nominated from Amritsar. As the rural development minister, he led a campaign to reclaim usurped land. Dhaliwal, formerly affiliated with the Congress, brings his experience to the electoral arena.

Laljit Singh Bhullar, currently an MLA from the Patti segment, rose to prominence by defeating

Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, the son-in-law of former CM Badal. Bhullar began his political journey as an AAP volunteer and contested against Kairon. He will now contest from the Khadour Sahib constituency.

Meet Hayer, a rising star in AAP, serves as the sports minister and has been nominated to run for the Sangrur seat. Currently, Sangrur is represented by SAD (Amritsar) chief Simranjeet Singh Mann and is also the home district of Chief Minister Mann, who himself served as a two-time MP from Sangrur. Former Congress MLA Gurpreet Singh GP, who recently joined AAP, has been selected as the candidate for Fatehgarh Sahib, GP, belonging to the SC category, previously served as an MLA from Bassi Pathana from 2017 to 2022.

Express Chief of Bureau is joint winner of Chameli Devi award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE INDIAN Express's Chief of National Bureau (govt) Ritika Chopra and independent journalist Greeshma Kuthar have been jointly awarded the Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year.

The Media Foundation, in a statement, said Chopra, who is also the national education editor at The Indian Express, "is known for her in-depth investigative stories in the fields of education and government policy".

Commending Kuthar for her "deeply-researched long-form investigative reporting from conflict areas such as Manipur", the Foundation in its release said that her reportage has a strong focus on the social and cultural impact of national political narratives on India's marginalised communities.

An independent jury comprising senior journalist and



Express's Ritika Chopra and (right) Greeshma Kuthar

columnist Radhika Ramaseshan (Chair), award-winning journalist and author Mariyam Alavi, and Down to Earth managing editor Richard Mahapatra selected the winners from more than 65 entries of women journalists.

The award presentation will take place at 6 pm on Friday at the India International Centre, New Delhi (CD Deshmukh Hall). It will be followed by the BG Verghese Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by NT Ninan, editor and author, on 'Work and Wages: Old Challenges in the Age of Automation and AI'.

Set up by the Media

Foundation in 1980, the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year is named after Chameli Devi Jain, a freedom fighter and community reformer, who was imprisoned during India's independence movement.

The first award was given in 1982 and since then, it has been presented every year to those practising impactful journalism in fields such as social development, politics, gender justice, human rights, health, conflict and consumer values.

Past winners include Barkha Dutt, Neeraja Chowdhury, Usha Rai, Pamela Philipose, Sunita Narain, Nirupama Subramanian, and Patricia Mukhim. The award has also recognised women journalists from rural areas whose stellar work often goes unnoticed.

The Media Foundation was instituted in 1979 with the aim of upholding freedom of speech, expression and information and enhancing the quality of life through media and communication.



DAY AFTER GETTING LS TICKET

Piyush Goyal addresses a BJP workers' meet in Mumbai on Thursday. An MP and also the current Leader of the Rajya Sabha, Goyal is set to make his Lok Sabha poll debut from Mumbai North constituency. X/@PiyushGoyal

No HC relief for Bloomberg against order to take down article

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday dismissed international media group Bloomberg's plea against a district court order, directing it to take down an allegedly defamatory news article on Zee Entertainment Enterprise Limited.

Bloomberg had appealed against a March 1 order of the Additional District Judge Saket, in Zee's lawsuit, seeking a declaration that the contents of an article "India Regulator Covers \$241 Million accounting issue at Zee" published on www.bloomberg.com are "defamatory" and had sought a "permanent injunction" against the appellants (Bloomberg, its South Asia, Middle East editor and two journalists) among other remedies to "remove" the article from the website. ENS

Amid legal row, TN Gov puts on hold reinduction of former DMK minister

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 14

TAMIL NADU Governor R N Ravi has deferred the swearing-in of senior DMK leader and former minister K Ponmudy, creating tension between the Raj Bhavan and the state government led by Chief Minister M K Stalin.

The move comes after the Supreme Court stayed the Ponnudiy's conviction in a disproportionate assets case, prompting a reconsideration of his position in the Cabinet.

Ponnudiy, a veteran politician and DMK deputy general secretary from Villupuram district, had his Assembly seat for Thirukkoyilur declared vacant after being sentenced to three years in jail by the Madras High

Court in December 2023. The decision was overturned when the Supreme Court stayed his conviction on March 11, leading to a swift response from the Tamil Nadu Assembly: Speaker M Appavu on Wednesday rescinded his earlier notification declaring Thirukkoyilur as vacant and the CM sent a request to the Raj Bhavan for Ponnudiy's swearing-in on Thursday.

The Governor, questioning the legal propriety of reinducting Ponnudiy into the Cabinet, delayed the oath-taking ceremony citing the need for further legal consultation. According to sources, the CM sought the swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday or Thursday. However, the Governor's planned three-day visit to Delhi has delayed Ponnudiy's reinduction into the Cabinet.

Stop using the name, photo of Sharad Pawar: SC to Ajit faction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE SUPREME Court Thursday asked the Ajit Pawar-led NCP to stop using the photos of Sharad Pawar in its promotional material.

"We need a categorical and unconditional undertaking that you will not use his name, photos etc. There can be an overlap," a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan told senior advocate Maninder Singh, who appeared for the Ajit Pawar-led faction, which has been recognised as the official NCP by the EC. The court was hearing a plea by Sharad Pawar, challenging the EC decision.

The ruling came after senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for Sharad Pawar, took up the issue of the Ajit Pawar supporters continuing to use the photos of the petitioner and the clock symbol of the Ajit Pawar-led faction, which has been recognised as the official NCP by the EC. The court was hearing a plea by Sharad Pawar, challenging the EC decision. The ruling came after senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for Sharad Pawar, took up the issue of the Ajit Pawar supporters continuing to use the photos of the petitioner and the clock symbol of the Ajit Pawar-led faction, which has been recognised as the official NCP by the EC. The court was hearing a plea by Sharad Pawar, challenging the EC decision.

Singhvi said the Ajit group must get votes on its own. "Why... piggybacking on our goodwill?" he said.

Stating that there was substance in Singhvi's submissions,

Justice Kant asked Maninder Singh "why are you using his photographs?", adding, "if you are so confident, then use your photographs".

Singh said it was not the party which was using it and it is difficult to stop workers and on-line platforms from doing so.

"Then who is responsible?... It is for you to control your workers," said Justice Kant. Seeking the undertaking that the party will stop all its members from using the photo, he added, "now that you are two separate entities, go only with your own identity. You have chosen to separate. Now stick to it".

The bench also suggested that the Ajit group consider using any symbol other than clock pending adjudication of the EC decision and the clock symbol being allotted to it.

"Tomorrow suppose we set aside this (EC) order? And let's say we do this in the middle of the election, what will happen?... Therefore, today, it's a suggestion... Why don't you also choose another symbol so that you can conduct your business peacefully? You can continue to use that symbol during elections. We are only saying please explore this idea..." said Justice Kant.

Singh said he will take instructions but pointed out that in the case of split in the Shiv Sena, the symbol of the original party is being used by the group which was recognised by the EC as the real Sena.

Plea in HC seeks centres for UPSC exams in Manipur hill dists for tribal aspirants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE DELHI High Court Thursday issued notice on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea, seeking directions for setting up exam centres with "adequate arrangements" in the hill districts of Manipur to enable tribal candidates to take the Civil Services (Preliminary Examination) 2024 and the Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination

2024, scheduled on May 26.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora issued notice to the UPSC, Centre and the Manipur government through its standing counsel in the Supreme Court and the Resident Commissioner, Manipur. The matter is next listed on March 19. The PIL also seeks directions for setting up exam centres in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi and reopening of application portal/window to enable candidates

to opt for the centre of their choice.

Appearing for the petitioner, Zomi Students Federation, advocate Nizam Pasha submitted that the plea seeks directions for opening more exam centres in the hill districts.

The counsel, appearing for UPSC, said it had written three letters seeking response from the Manipur government to the "proposal of opening of centres at Churachandpur, Kangpokpi and Ukhrul", but there is no response yet.

IE THINC SECOND EDITION: OUR CITIES

'Inequality, climate change to be big urban issues'

In this edition of IE-Thinc held in partnership with Omidyar Network India, experts talk about the changing definitions of what constitutes urban India, the growing traffic problem in Bengaluru, new ways to look at urban infrastructure and cluster-based planning of cities. The session was moderated by Associate Editor Udit Misra

On the traffic problem in Bengaluru

MN ANUCHETH: The vehicle population growth in Bengaluru is exponential, whereas the infrastructure to cope with that growth is linear. There is a lack of public transport and not many people use it. One estimate says about 28 per cent of Bengalureans use public transport, whereas, in other cities like Mumbai and Delhi, it's much higher. At least we can reach 50 per cent of people using public transport. There are so many bottlenecks, our road dimensions are not correct and footpaths are inadequate or non-existent. We are not promoting mobility.

What is the fastest, cheapest and greenest mode of transport? Once you start thinking along those lines, the entire focus shifts. Historically, Bengaluru did not have a robust public transport system. BMTCL carries about 40-50 lakh people a day. But the problem is that it has the same number of buses in 2024 as it did in 2000, which is 6,400. Public transport didn't keep pace with the requirements of the day. Hence, there has been a tendency to go for private transport. Today, we have the moniker of having the largest number of private vehicles in India. We overtook Delhi in January.

On macro problems with urbanisation in India

NARESH V NARASIMHAN: All the infrastructure that the government can think of when they hear the word development or traffic mitigation is a flyover. The Indian political, administrative, lawmaking and policy systems have been hugely biased towards rural development. Only in the last 20 years have we seen some attention being paid to urban India.

Mumbai has a population of 2.4 crore. Bengaluru has a population of 1.2 crore, about half. But Mumbai has 36 lakh private vehicles while Bengaluru has 1.1 crore private vehicles. I think it's the worst city in the world in terms of people-to-private vehicle ownership ratio, a vast majority of vehicles being two-wheelers. The cars in Bengaluru are about 15 lakh. This is a dystopian output from a cabal consisting of transport planners, consultants, politicians and the bureaucracy. Architects and designers have almost no role to



(From left) Udit Misra, Associate Editor, The Indian Express; Jaya Dhindaw, Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities And Director, WRI India Ross Center; MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Bengaluru; Naresh V Narasimhan, Managing Partner, Venkataraman Associates; Nithya Ramesh, Director of Urban Design, JNNU Urban Space Foundation; MV Rajeev Gowda, Vice Chairperson, State Institute For The Transformation of Karnataka; Vivek Mittal, Executive Director, Deloitte India.



doors. But the outdoors — public spaces, the quality of our streets, the quality of our attitudes towards garbage — all that also needs to change.

On infrastructure-related issues in cities

NITHYA RAMESH: Our focus is on large infrastructure projects, which are needed to grow our cities. However, there is not enough focus on urban design in most governments and bureaucracies. Urban planning and transport planning are, but urban design is often not recognised. The design of the outdoor space, the space as you step out of your home — whether it's your footpath, sidewalk, the neighbourhood park or the market where you shop — is not given adequate importance or funding. Cities grow and these places organically sprout because of people's needs, but they're not given priority. If we go to the West, one of the important places they'll take you on the walking tour is their food market. Whereas our food markets are smelly and not nice places to go to.

Large problem is recognising the need for the design of our cities in between buildings and not just streets. The second is looking at smaller infrastructure to improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood. If I have to create



MV RAJEEV GOWDA
VICE CHAIRPERSON, SITK

In India, the pace of urbanisation is way more rapid than what the policy systems can cope with. One of the challenges in Bengaluru is that we add practically as many vehicles as we add people. The traffic problem is because we didn't put in place a public transport infrastructure ahead of time. We've got two major metro lines, and once the network kicks in, a rapid transformation will happen.

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government launched the Shakti

Scheme, which opened up government bus travel for women free of cost. Suddenly there's so much demand for public transport that the government is coming up with innovative methods of financing and expanding the bus fleet. As that happens, you will start to see people shifting from using personal vehicles to choosing public transport.

After Mumbai, Bengaluru is the second city in this country to decide to take something called a climate action plan forward. We are thinking about the concept of a blue-green city. This means we must pay more attention to our water resources and harness them without affecting our green cover. We need to find ways to allow for more rainwater absorption. The blue-green infra model should be uniform across schools, colleges and workplaces.

We should think of an infrastructure that allows people to reach their destinations in 15 minutes.

a compact community, then I should be able to walk to everything I need in 15 minutes. My children should be able to go to the football class without assistance and my aged parents should be able to walk to the market and buy their fruits. Economic growth and job opportunities need to be supported with a good quality of life

which can come through planning and design. By design, it's not just aesthetics, it's also the engineering. Like a market has to be well-lit and ventilated. If it's a fish market, it needs to have drainage so that the water they constantly use doesn't overflow or smell.

On cluster-based planning of cities

VIVEK MITTAL: Cities are engines of economic growth and people come to cities in search of jobs and economic growth. As of now, all our cities are more focussed on spatial planning. Most cities do not even have the master plan or spatial plans.

But now cities should move around economic planning. This does not necessarily mean more industries. It means creating opportunities for everybody, an in-

formal economy. We have to take all of that into consideration and say, where does my city go in the next 20-30 years? Then all the policies around my spatial growth and my infrastructure growth can result in long-term growth.

Each city has its own identity and the entire planning should move around that. For example, Bengaluru worked around the IT industry. The city has to move around that — what kind of labour will be here? What kind of jobs will be there? What kind of infrastructure will be there? What kind of support systems will be put in? I think NITI

Aayog has already started a pilot project of making economic plans for four cities — Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam. If you see Indian urbanisation, it is not only about tier-one and tier-two cities. We have around 100,000 cities which have one lakh population. For economic development, we have to follow a cluster approach. How do we give resources to the cluster approach? In most tier-two and tier-three cities, you'll find that the local bodies have one or two technical officials, the rest are all like conservancy workers or class C and class D workers. If I don't build their ca-

pacities, how will I make them future cities? The cluster-based approach is important for them.

On the changing definition of urban India

JAYA DHINDAW: Who do you think is responsible for cities, sustainability and progress? We don't have clarity on that. We say India is 30 per cent urban and there's rapid urbanisation. When you're talking about 30 per cent urban, you're only considering a certain administrative boundary. In the last 15 years, over 150 per cent of the growth in most Indian cities has happened outside the municipal boundaries from where you're actually accounting for the urbanised population. When you're talking about rapid urbanisation in terms of numbers, it's not rapid because city centres within municipal boundaries are actually hollowing out; people are moving outside those boundaries. The growth is happening outside. According to the World Bank, the socio-economic built dimensions of the definition of urban for India is around 57 per cent. If you look at just built patterns, it's over 60 per cent already. So the basic definition lies with what is urban. When it comes to traffic, water, sewage, any service, it won't get provisioned for because you're not recognising it as urban. In Bengaluru, when you're building outside the peripheries, 85 per cent of the blue-green infrastructure is encroached by built-up because it's not regularised. Therefore, it just gets built in the wrong areas.

Another issue is finance. In the last 10 years, the government has made that a central agenda. But climate action, environmental resource security and air quality are not electoral agenda for anybody still. Cities need something like \$10 billion-\$1 trillion in the next 10 years for infrastructure growth. Right now, we need four times that, when you account for the kind of urban patterns we have. The question is, who is responsible, where does this money come from and that leads to issues of inequality in cities. Inequality and soon enough, climate change, are going to be our biggest problems to solve. The problem has to do with the city's ownership, the way you account for urbanisation.



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14 EXPRESS NETWORK

ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION: KOVIND-LED PANEL SUBMITS REPORT TO PRESIDENT

On yes side are BJP, allies or friendly parties

Most of them say simultaneous polls save expenditure, time, resources, and prevent 'disruptions' due to MCC

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

MOST OF the 32 parties which made submissions to the Ram Nath Kovind panel in favour of One Nation, One Election, argued that the move will save expenditure, time, and resources. And that repeated application of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) affects the progress of development works.

All these parties are either BJP allies, or friendly towards the party.

Bharatiya Janata Party

In its submission, dated February 20 this year, and interaction in person with the high-level committee, the BJP noted that simultaneous elections "worked seamlessly between 1952 and 1967", and that in several reports subsequently, the Election Commission and other panels backed One Nation, One Election.

The party talked about "significant loss of up to 800 days in five years" due to the MCC, saying this adversely affected developmental work and governance efficiency; as well as about the repeated diversion of security forces from crucial internal security duties.

The BJP proposed a single electoral roll for all three tiers of government.

The party specifically gave the example of Maharashtra, where it said 307 days had been lost to the MCC in a specific year.

National People's Party

The only other national party to support simultaneous polls, the ruling Meghalaya party and an NDA member said in its letter to the Kovind panel on January 28 that while it agreed with the idea in principle, separate consultations should be held with



BJP talked about 'significant loss of up to 800 days in five years' due to the MCC. File

PARTIES IN FAVOUR AND AGAINST SIMULTANEOUS POLLS, BY ALLIANCE

Alliance	No. of parties in favour	No. of parties against
NDA	26	1
INDIA	0	10
No alliance	6	4
Total	32	15

regional parties in the Northeast.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

In its response, on January 13, the Tamil Nadu-based AIADMK cited reduction in "disruptions" due to the MCC and administrative convenience as the advantages of simultaneous elections. However, it advocated that a "definitive period" be set aside "for getting necessary infrastructure". The AIADMK was an ally of the BJP till recently.

Apna Dal (Soneylal)

The UP-based ally of the BJP supported simultaneous elections on the premise of (i) difficulties faced by political parties in contesting frequent elections and (ii) the repeated application

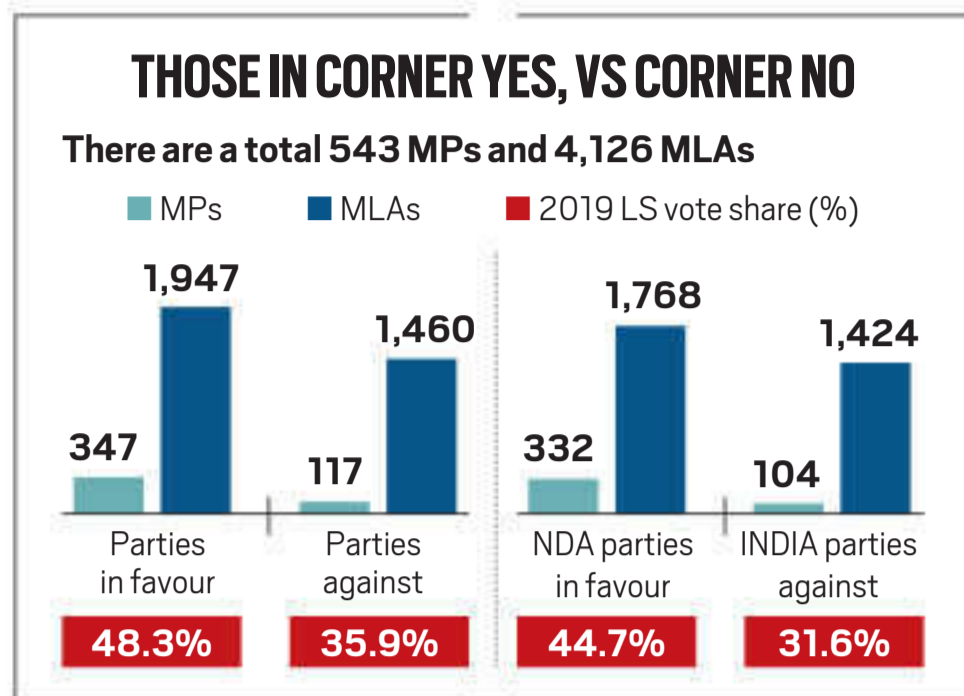
of the MCC hindering development activities. The Apna Dal (S) further suggested learning from the "good practices" of other countries like Indonesia, South Africa, and Sweden.

Asom Gana Parishad

The BJP's Assam-based ally refuted fears that simultaneous elections are impractical or involve Constitutional contradictions. It highlighted instead the challenges posed by frequent elections, stressing the negative impact on governance and the financial strain on government agencies.

Biju Janata Dal

The long-standing ruling party of Odisha, which already sees simultaneous elections



along with the Lok Sabha, has always supported One Nation, One Election. Its argument is that continuous polls cause fiscal strain and delays in governance, while simultaneous polls would help improve coordination and execution of development programmes and reinforce cooperative federalism.

The BJD, which has always sided with the Modi government on crucial issues and is in talks with the BJP for an alliance, hoped that the Kovind panel would take the issue to "its logical conclusion".

Janata Dal (United)

The party which has returned into the NDA fold said simultaneous elections help save costs and ensure policy continuity, encourage focused governance, and streamline the election process. The party, however, suggested that local body elections not be clubbed with Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, as these are held in different states under different laws. Instead, it suggested local elections across the country at the same time.

Lok Janshakti Party (R)

The BJP ally supported simultaneous elections as "a transformative proposal", setting "a new milestone in strengthening the

democratic process", while promoting free and fair elections, transparency, accountability, reduction in election expenditures, as well as "greater stability, national unity".

All Jharkhand Students' Union, National Democratic Progressive Party

The two BJP allies (based in Jharkhand and Nagaland) said that simultaneous elections will reduce cost, improve governance, and minimise disruption on account of the MCC.

Shiv Sena

The Sena faction which is in power with the BJP in Maharashtra said repeated elections resulted in financial burden, administrative paralysis, and security deployment challenges, and that simultaneous polls could lead to focused governance. In its interaction with the Kovind panel, Sena members, however, said elections to local bodies should not be synchronised with the Assembly and Lok Sabha.

As a united party, the Shiv Sena has long dominated the Mumbai civic body, among the richest in the country.

Shiromani Akali Dal

A former BJP ally, it submitted that simultaneous elections would save expenditure for the government, political parties, as well as candidates.

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha

The ruling Sikkim party, which is a part of the NDA, said simultaneous polls would help optimise resource allocation, reduce financial burden, better utilise limited resources, and reduce prolonged deployment of security forces, which disrupts everyday life.

The Others

The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) of Tamil Nadu supported simultaneous polls saying these would prevent frequent interruptions to development projects, which drives up their costs. But, the PMK called for holding local body polls along with the Assemblies, two-and-a-half years after the general elections.

The Republican Party of India (Athawale), which is a BJP ally, said frequent elections pose challenges to the public, and diverts the attention of political parties from governance to electoral activities.

The Tamil Maanila Congress (M), which is an NDA partner, said frequent MCC imposition halted development work.

Other parties who supported One Nation, One Election include the Mizo National Front, United People's Party Liberal of Assam, NCP (Ajit Pawar), Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal, United Kisan Vikas Party, Bharatiya Samaj Party, Gorkha National Liberal Front, Hindustani Avam Morcha, Indian Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam, Indigenous People's Front of Tripura, Jan Surajya Shakti, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, Nishad Party, Puthia Nidhi Party, and Democratic Progressive Azad Party.

Report: Opp told panel it's against the basic structure of Constitution

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THOSE WHO opposed the idea of simultaneous elections, including 15 political parties and two retired judges, told the high-level committee on One Nation One Election that it would be anti-democratic, anti-federal and against the basic structure of the Constitution, as per the committee's report.

The committee, chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, in its report, submitted to President Droupadi Murmu Thursday, countered the criticism saying that simultaneous elections did not impinge on rights of citizens or the federal structure.

"It (simultaneous elections) ensures the government remains continually responsive to the legislative body, reflecting the people's will... The concept of simultaneous elections in no way affects the governance mechanism, it only provides a way to better manage the whole election process," the report said.

Of the 47 national and state political parties that gave their views, 32 favoured the idea and 15 - mostly Opposition parties - opposed the idea. Against the proposal, AAP, BSP, CPM, Congress, All India United Democratic Front, TMC, AIMIM, CPI, DMK, Naga People's Front, Samajwadi Party, MDMK, VCK, CPI(M) Liberation and Social Democratic Party of India sent their written views to the committee.

The committee also interacted with former Chief Justices of India and judges of the Supreme Court and High Court,

most of whom supported the idea. Former Delhi High Court CJ AP Shah, who opposed the idea, said simultaneous elections would curb democratic expression. Justice Shah also expressed concerns about "distorted voting patterns and State level political alterations," the report said.

Former Chief Justice of Madras HC Sanjib Banerjee, too, opposed the idea and said it would undermine the federal structure and be prejudicial to regional issues. "He cited empirical data showing frequent midterm state elections, emphasising the importance of allowing people to exercise their choices. He suggested state funding of elections as a more effective reform to tackle corruption and inefficiency," the report said.

The Congress had opposed the idea saying it would lead to "substantial changes to the basic structure of the Constitution". AAP said the simultaneous elections would undermine democracy and the basic structure of the Constitution. CPI (M) said simultaneous elections are "fundamentally anti-democratic and strikes at the root of the parliamentary democratic system as ordained in the Constitution".

The committee, however, said the EC had the power to control Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and Article 327 gave Parliament the power to make provisions for the same.

"None of these principles are in any manner affected [much less infringed] by creating the rule of a full term and an unexpired term for the constitution of both the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies," the report said.

Jailer, 6 constables get life term for murder of 2 inmates 14 yrs ago

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 14

FOURTEEN YEARS after two undertrials were killed in a clash at Orai jail in Jalaun district, a court has convicted the then jailer of the prison, six constables, and seven jail inmates of murder and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

District and Sessions (Jalaun) Judge Lallu Singh on Wednesday also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on each of the 14 convicts.

In the clash that took place in March 2010 at Orai jail, Prince Ahmad and Nazir Khan - the two alleged associates of gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari - were killed and 13 others were injured.

According to an official of the Prosecution Department, Nazir's father Ayub Khan had lodged a complaint accusing jail officials at Orai prison of extorting money from inmates, and alleged that his son was killed after he couldn't pay money to the jailer and other prison officials.

The injured inmates had also alleged they were targeted as they had protested against the alleged anomalies in the jail and staged an agitation.

Based on Ayub Khan's complaint, an FIR case was registered against jail officials and some inmates under various sections of the IPC, including 302 (murder) and 384 (extortion).

The then Jail Superintendent of Orai prison, Avinash Gautam, and deputy jailer G Mishra, who were also named accused in the case, had got a stay on the trial proceedings against them from the Allahabad High Court.

Those convicted include the then jailer Nathu Singh; and constables Rammanorath, Ram Sharan, Rajkumar, Nipendra, Anil Sharma, and Shashikant Tewari. The inmates who have been sentenced to life imprisonment were identified as Sudhar Singh, Satyabhan, Raja Bhaiyya, Raju Teetra, Ramnarayan, Akhilesh, and Munna Kewat.

The police had submitted a chargesheet in the case on January 27, 2011.

People being misled, CAA won't snatch anyone's citizenship, says Rajnath in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOKRAJHAR/BARPETA (ASSAM), MARCH 14

EXUDING CONFIDENCE that the ruling NDA will win over 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said people are being misled over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and asserted that the law will not take away the citizenship of anyone living in India.

Addressing a rally in Assam's Barpeta, he said the CAA will grant citizenship to religiously persecuted people who came to India till 2014 from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Singh was campaigning for BJP ally Asom Gana Parishad's candidate Phani Bhusan Choudhury, who is contesting the Barpeta Lok Sabha constituency, currently represented by Congress MP Abdul Khaleque.

"The people are being misled over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act... I assure you that this Act will not take away the citizenship of anyone. It will only grant citizenship," the Defence Minister said.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a public meet in Barpeta, Assam, on Thursday. BJP state chief Bhabesh Kalita and Asom Gana Parishad leader Atul Bora are also seen. PTI

The Centre on Monday implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, notifying the rules four years after the law was passed by Parliament to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to India before December 31, 2014.

Appealing to the people to vote for the AGP candidate, Singh asserted that the CAA is being implemented as per the BJP's

election manifesto of 2019.

Addressing party workers of three NDA allies in Assam - BJP, AGP and UPPL, Singh earlier during the day said there will be no kutchra houses in the state and assured people that everyone will get pucca dwelling units if the Narendra Modi-led government returns to power for the third consecutive term.

"There is no doubt at all that our government will be formed at the Centre. I believe the NDA

will win more than 400 seats," he said, asking the party workers to campaign for this target in the run-up to the polls.

Singh also claimed that not just India, but the entire world knows the possible outcome of the Lok Sabha elections and has already accepted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be forming the government again.

He said that the Modi government has improved the lives of the poor drastically and they have been offered concrete housing units. "If we form the government this time, there will not be a single kutchra house left in Assam. All the dwelling units will be made pucca," the senior BJP leader said.

He also mentioned various other central schemes related to water distribution, electrification, health insurance, LPG connection and vaccination drive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Singh also spoke about the Ram Temple and said Lord Ram has moved to "his palace" after living in "a hut" for a long time. "We had said it earlier that nobody can stop us from having a grand Ram temple. Now, nobody can stop the establishment of 'Ram Rajya' in India," he added.

7-year-old raped in UP's Bareilly

MEENUT: A seven-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by an unidentified man in a village in the Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday afternoon, said the police. The victim was admitted to the district hospital, and her condition was stated to be stable.

As per the FIR, the Class 2 student had gone to collect flowers from a farm with two friends. The police said a man coaxed them to accompany him on his bike. Later, the man allegedly asked the victim's friends to convince her to accompany him to a nearby farm field. He allegedly raped her there and fled, said the police. "Nearly an hour after the incident, she managed to walk to her uncle and told him about it. The family members took her to the area police station, where the FIR was lodged, and she was taken to the hospital.

2 Indian Coast Guard men held for raping daughter of colleague

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
MUMBAI, MARCH 14

TWO EMPLOYEES of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), aged 30 and 23, were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly raping their colleague's 15-year-old daughter in Powai, police said.

According to police, the incident took place in the Powai house of one of the two accused persons, who is 30 years old, on October 17, 2023, when the survivor, a Class 10 student, returned from her coaching class in the evening. Her mother, younger sister and brother, had gone to attend a function that was going on in her colony. She was alone at home as her father had night duty, when the 30-year-old accused who re-

sides in the opposite flat knocked on her door. When she opened the door, he told her that his wife has called her for some work.

Since the girl's family and the family of the accused had a good relationship, she went to his house. As she entered the flat, another accused, who is 23 years old and was already inside the flat, grabbed her and gagged her, the girl stated in the FIR.

Both the accused then took her to the bedroom where both the accused took turns to rape her, an officer said requesting anonymity.

After a few minutes, the wife of 30-year-old accused called on his phone and said she was coming home with their neighbour - the girl's mother. Then the two accused threatened to kill the girl

and her father if she revealed about the incident to anyone.

The incident left the girl so traumatised that she slipped into depression. In December 2023, the girl narrated her ordeal to her mother, who informed her husband and an internal complaint with the ICG was filed.

On March 8, 2024, the girl wrote an email to the senior ICG officials after which the ICG on Wednesday sent their officer to assist the girl to the police station. An FIR has been lodged and the two accused have been arrested. The duo has been booked under IPC and POCSO Act.

Both the accused were produced before the court and were remanded in police custody. When contacted, the Indian Coast Guard declined to comment.

If criminals interfere with right to life of poor, they don't have right to live: Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMBEDKAR NAGAR, AYODHYA, MARCH 14

CRIMINALS DON'T have the "right to live" if they interfere with the right to life of the poor, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Thursday. Addressing a function in Ambedkar Nagar, Adityanath said criminals "right to live will be snatched" if they interfere with others' right to live.

The chief minister said that before the BJP government in the state, criminals would encroach on the lands of the poor and stop them from celebrating their festivals. "Can any mafia encroach over the land of the poor today? Can anyone harass our daughters? They know that if they ha-

arrass any daughter, 'Yamraj' will treat him at the next road intersection," Adityanath said after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of projects worth Rs 2,122 crore here.

"Tell me if the ongoing treatment of mafias is correct or not? Do you support it or not?" he asked the gathered crowd.

Adityanath said it was because of the "double engine government" that the criminals in UP were receiving this "treatment". The mafias were "creatures reared and brought up" by previous governments that served as their leaders' source of income", he said. "But we said that these creatures don't have the right to live if they interfere with the right to life of the poor. Their right to live will be snatched from them



UP CM Yogi Adityanath offers prayers at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Thursday. Reviewing preparations for Navratri, he directed senior officials to ensure 24-hour darshan and worship at the temple on Ashtami, Navami, and Dashami. PTI

and they will be eliminated (*khatm kar diya jayega*) if they interfere," the chief minister said. According to police data, over 180

alleged criminals have been killed between 2017 and 2023 in more than 10,900 police encounters in the state.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No.: 52/23-24/WE

नियम 92 (1) (क) (ii) ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना का प्रारूप मध्यप्रदेश शासन दिनांक: 13/03/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum Ref: i) Tender Notice No. 96/2023-2024 Dated: 23.02.2024 ii) Tender No. 15245055 due on 23.04.2024 01.

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006. H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of Republic of India, Dy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction-I), North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following work upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date.

UJVN LTD. H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006. H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. NWRGGSU(GEN)/07/2023-0/

एच.पी.स्टेट सिविल सप्लाइज कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड कसुमुटी शिमला-171009 (हिवाचल प्रदेश सरकार का एक उद्योग)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tender) NO. 2024-06-Material Collection, Date: 13.03.2024

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA) TENDER NOTICE E-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.

Office of the Executive Engineer Road Construction Department, Road Division, Garhwa. e-Procurement Notice For National Competitive Bidding (Very Short Term Tender)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. XEN/WS-Works/2024-25, दिनांक: 12.03.2024.

अखिल भारतीय आर्यविज्ञान संस्थान, राजकोट All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rajkot, Gujarat 360110

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), 5th Floor, North Western Railway, Head Quarter building, Near Jawahar Circle, Jaipur -302017

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Kapil S/o Balwan R/o House No. 222, Harijan Basti, VPO Nizampur, Kanjhawala, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 597/21 dated 05.09.2021 U/s 323/354/354(B)/451/34 IPC registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Kapil could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Kapil has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Kapil is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.04.2024.

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Executive Engineer Electricity Distribution Division (South) 18 E.C Road, Dehradun Email: eddsouth.upcl@gmail.com

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. XEN/WS-Works/2024-25, दिनांक: 12.03.2024.

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Victoria Park, Meerut E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE 1. Open tender is invited through e-tendering for supply of Safety Equipments for Sub Stations & Line Work against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/MM/57/24-25.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), 5th Floor, North Western Railway, Head Quarter building, Near Jawahar Circle, Jaipur -302017

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF REGISTRATION & CONTROLLER OF STAMPS New Administrative Building, Opp. Council Hall, Pune-1 Contact No. 020-26141082. e-Mail: do7.igro@igmaharashtra.gov.in

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Executive Engineer Electricity Distribution Division (South) 18 E.C Road, Dehradun Email: eddsouth.upcl@gmail.com

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. XEN/WS-Works/2024-25, दिनांक: 12.03.2024.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY General Public is hereby informed that one female Named: Unknown W/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found in unconscious condition at Paharganj side of Exit Gate No. 02, Near General Booking, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi on 10.03.2024 and admitted to Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi. During the treatment Doctors declared brought dead.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GANGA JAL PROJECT UNIT, PRATAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD Letter No.: 275/Nivida/36 Dated : 12.03.2024 E-TENDER NOTICE U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) E-tenders are invited on two bid system for "Construction of Brick wall along the Nala at 120 MLD WTP Campus, Pratap Vihar, under 50 Cusec Ganga Jal Water Supply Project, Ghaziabad" are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders.

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF TONER & DRUM AT VARIOUS IGR OFFICES The Inspector General of Registration & Controller of Stamps, Maharashtra State, Pune invites (also referred to as 'Purchaser') Bids (Technical and Commercial) for Procurement of TONER & DRUM at nearly 517 Sub-Registrar offices under the IGR office, which are working at different District, Taluka and Village places through out of Maharashtra State. For the procurement process, the bidders shall follow the procedure described on government e-Market place (GeM) website (http://gem.gov.in).

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Executive Engineer Electricity Distribution Division (South) 18 E.C Road, Dehradun Email: eddsouth.upcl@gmail.com

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. XEN/WS-Works/2024-25, दिनांक: 12.03.2024.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sushant Chauhan @ Akki S/o Sh. Subhash Chauhan R/o H.No. 519, Type-1, Staff Complex, Tihar Jail, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 469/2020 U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sushant Chauhan @ Akki cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sushant Chauhan @ Akki has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sushant Chauhan @ Akki of case FIR No. 469/2020 U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.05.2024.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE No. C/52/E-Auction/Notice Publication/23, Date: 11-03-2024 The bids are invited from registered entities on IREPS by Sr. DCM/IZN (ACO) through e-Auction for the Parking and Parcel Leasing contracts. The Catalogue has already been published on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. The detail of upcoming e-Auctions of Izzatnagar division is as under: Category: Parking, Catalogue No.: IZN-PARK-24-03, Asset Detail: E-Auction for Allotment of parking stand at Nigohi, Bhopatpur, Ganjundwara, Khattima, Kamalganj, Baisalpur, Banbasa, Sikandaraao, Shahi, Bhojipura, Ghatpuri, Bazzpur and Mendu Railway stations. Auction Start: 22-03-2024, 11:00 hrs., Auction End: 22-03-2024, 13:30 hrs. Category: Parcel, Catalogue No.: IZN-PLS-24-01, Asset Detail: Parcel leasing E-Auction at different trains over Izzatnagar Division. Auction Start: 22-03-2024, 12:00 hrs., Auction End: 22-03-2024, 16:20 hrs. Note: (1) Bidders are advised to visit website www.ireps.gov.in for more information related to e-Auction. (2) The bids have been invited through e-Auction Leasing module of IREPS website. (3) All the e-Auction related information as eligibility, scope of work, contract period, terms & conditions of contract etc. are available on IREPS. (4) Bidders can participate in e-Auction only as per the date & timing as indicated above. (5) All the prospective bidders are requested to visit website www.ireps.gov.in regularly for any corrigendum related to above e-Auctions. Assistant Commercial Manager, CP/RO/Vanija-296 Izzatnagar. Never travel on roof and foot boards.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Godda, Camp - Mahagama e-Procurement Tender Notice Tender Reference No. :- WRD/Mahagama/01SBD/2023-24 Dt : 14.03.2024

Office of the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, P.W.D., Nainital-263002 Phone/Fax:- 05942-235728/232030, E-mail: sepwdnt1@rediffmail.com

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र सं. XEN/WS-Works/2024-25, दिनांक: 12.03.2024.

CHHATRAPATI SAMBAHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Town Hall, Near Post Office, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Phone: 0240-233536 to 40 www.Chh.Sambhajinagamahapalka.org

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), 5th Floor, North Western Railway, Head Quarter building, Near Jawahar Circle, Jaipur -302017

ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

Unpacking Kovind panel's report

The High Level Committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind has laid down a scheme for implementing simultaneous elections. Here's what it says



At the first meeting of the members of the One Nation, One Election committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi in September 2023. PIB

How terms of many state Assemblies could be reduced

VIKAS PATHAK
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

IF THE Union government decides to implement simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies in 2029, the process will start almost as soon as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls end — and many state Assemblies will be dissolved much before the end of their current five-year terms.

That is, if the government that comes to power after the elections pushes forward with One Nation, One Election, and the constitutional provisions on the duration of Lok Sabha and Assemblies are amended during the term of the next Lok Sabha.

While the report of the High Level Committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind leaves it to the Centre to decide when it can be ready for simultaneous polls, this is the roadmap it has suggested for the inevitable one-time transition.

committee has recommended amendments to Article 83 that deals with the duration of Lok Sabha, and Article 172, that deals with the duration of a state Assembly.

This is likely to follow a Presidential notification. If the amendments fail to get parliamentary approval, the notification will become null and void.

If the amendments are adopted, simultaneous polls will become a reality and the terms of most state governments will get truncated during the transition.

While offering details of the steps to be followed for simultaneous elections, the committee has left it to the government to decide when it is ready for it. "The Government would have to decide when the arrangements are in place for holding simultaneous elections," says the report.

Laying down the steps for the transition, the report says, "After the general elections, when the House of the People is constituted, the President would by notification issued on the same date as the date of the first sitting of the House bring into force the provisions of the transition, and this date would be called the 'Appointed Date.'"

Once the appointed date is fixed, the terms of all state Assemblies constituted after this date shall end with the expiry of the Lok Sabha's term.

In case simultaneous polls become a reality, perhaps in 2029, if Lok Sabha or a state Assembly gets dissolved before its term of five years because of a loss of majority on the floor of the House after the "appointed date", the committee has proposed that fresh elections be held.

These will be "midterm elections" and the new government will last only for the remainder of the full term, which the committee has called the "unexpired term".

The transition to simultaneous polls may disincentivise no-confidence motions as Opposition parties are not expected to see much merit in pulling down a government and going for fresh elections, given that the term of the next government will not be for a full five years.

STATES OF PLAY

As the chart shows, the 10 states that got new governments last year will hold elections again in 2028, but those new governments will be in power for only about a year — or less. These states are Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Karnataka, Telangana, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Gujarat will go to polls next in 2027 — therefore, even if voters in these states deliver clear majorities to a particular party, the new governments will get two years or less in power.

Similarly, in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and Kerala, governments will get only three years even if the next Assembly elections in these states, currently due in 2026, produce clear majorities.

Only Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Haryana that are scheduled to go to polls this year — some simultaneously with Lok Sabha elections and some later in the year — can have a government for a full five years.

To make sure that simultaneous polls do not run afoul of the Constitution, the

WHEN ELECTIONS ARE DUE

STATES	TERM ENDS	STATES	TERM ENDS
2024		2027	
Arunachal Pradesh	June 2	Manipur	March 13
Sikkim	June 2	Goa	March 14
Andhra Pradesh	June 11	Punjab	March 16
Odisha	June 24	Uttarakhand	March 28
Haryana	November 3	Uttar Pradesh	May 22
Maharashtra	November 26	2028	
2025		Himachal Pradesh	January 1
Jharkhand	January 5	Meghalaya	March 5
Delhi	February 23	Nagaland	March 19
Bihar	November 22	Tripura	March 23
2026		Karnataka	May 21
West Bengal	May 7	Telangana	December 8
Tamil Nadu	May 10	Mizoram	December 11
Assam	May 20	Madhya Pradesh	December 17
Kerala	May 23	Chhattisgarh	December 18
Puducherry	June 15	Rajasthan	December 19

Changes suggested in Constitution, how they will ensure simultaneous elections

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM & ARJUN SENGUPTA
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

IN ITS report submitted to President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday, the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind has recommended that elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies should be held at the same time and, subsequently, elections to local bodies (municipalities and panchayats) too should be "synchronised" so that they are held within 100 days of the simultaneous state and national elections.

To give effect to its recommendation, the committee has suggested 15 amendments to the Constitution of India — in the form of both new provisions and changes to existing provisions — to be carried out through two Constitution Amendment Bills.

The first Bill will deal with the transition to a simultaneous election system, and the procedure for fresh elections to Lok Sabha or a state Assembly before the expiration of their stipulated five-year term.

According to the Kovind committee, this Bill can be passed by Parliament without the requirement for consultation with state governments or ratification by state Assemblies.

The second Bill will deal with municipal and panchayat elections, as well as the creation of a Single Electoral Roll by the Election Commission of India (ECI), with details of every voter and the seat for which they are eligible to vote.

The Kovind committee has acknowledged that this Bill deals with subjects on which states have the primary power to enact laws — and it would, therefore, require the approval or ratification of more than half of India's states before it can be enacted.

Move to simultaneous polls; Parliament's power on laws

The first Bill recommended by the Kovind committee would begin by insert-

ing a new article — 82A — into the Constitution. Article 82A will establish the process by which the country will move to a system of simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

According to the committee report, Article 82A(1) will state that "on the date of the first sitting of the House of the People after a general election", the President will issue a notification bringing Article 82A into effect. The date of this notification "shall be called the Appointed date".

Article 82A(2) will state that "all the Legislative Assemblies constituted in any general election held after the appointed date shall come to an end on the expiry of the full term of the House of the People".

The proposed Article 82A(3) requires the ECI to hold "General elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies simultaneously". If the ECI believes that elections to any legislative assembly cannot be conducted simultaneously, "it may make a recommendation to the President, to declare by an Order, that the election to that Legislative Assembly may be conducted at a later date". (Article 82A(4))

However, even in cases where the state Assembly election is deferred, "the full term of the Legislative Assembly shall end on same date as the end of the full term of the House of the People constituted in the General Election". (Article 82A(5))

The proposed Bill also recommends amending Article 327, which gives Parliament the power to make laws relating to elections to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and state legislatures, including the preparation of electoral rolls and delimitation of constituencies.

The Kovind committee has recommended that the power of Parliament under Article 327 should be expanded to include

"conduct of simultaneous elections" as well. **If LS or Assembly is dissolved before the 'full term' ends**

Lok Sabha and state Assemblies are constituted for a period of five years after each election. The committee has recommended that this five-year period be referred to as "the full term" by amending Sub-clause 2 of Article 83 ("Duration of Houses of Parliament") and Sub-clause 1 of Article 172 ("Duration of the State Legislatures").

If Lok Sabha or a state Assembly is dissolved before the expiry of the full term, the remaining period will be referred to as the "unexpired term", as per the suggested amendments to Articles 83(3) and 172(3).

The recommended Articles 83(4) and 172(4) state that the Lok Sabha or state Assembly that replaces the previous one will serve only for the remaining "unexpired term" before being dissolved again once simultaneous elections are conducted as scheduled.

These amendments are also a part of the first Constitution Amendment Bill proposed by the Kovind committee, which it says will not require ratification by states.

The report has also recommended the amendment of certain laws relating to legislative Assemblies in Union Territories such as The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. These laws would have to be amended to ensure that Assembly elections in UTs also take place simultaneously with Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections.

Local body polls, preparation of a Single Electoral Roll

The second Constitution Amendment

Bill recommended by the Kovind committee contains amendments that would require ratification by the states. Under Article 368(2), any constitutional amendment that deals with subjects in the State List (where states have the power to enact laws) would have to be ratified by at least half of the state legislatures in the country before it can be passed.

As the amendments suggested in the second Bill relate to municipal and panchayat elections, which fall under Entry 5 of the State List titled "Local government", they would require ratification by the states.

The committee has suggested the inclusion of a new Article 324A in the Constitution. This new article would empower Parliament to make laws to ensure that municipality and panchayat elections are held simultaneously with the General Elections (to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies).

The Kovind committee has also recommended that new sub-clauses should be added to Article 325 of the Constitution. This article says: "There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State..."

The new Article 325(2) proposed by the committee will create a "Single Electoral Roll for every territorial constituency for election in the House of the People, Legislature of a State or to a Municipality or a Panchayat".

This electoral roll "shall be made by the Election Commission in consultation with the State Election Commissions", and "the electoral roll prepared under this sub-article shall substitute any electoral roll prepared earlier by either the Election Commission under Art 325 or the State Election Commissions under Art. 243K and Art. 243ZA" (proposed Article 325(3)).

If this recommendation is accepted, the process of creating electoral rolls will be taken over by ECI, and State Election Commissions will play only a consultative role.



EXPLAINED LAW

IN FACT

Ratification by states: what it will take to make panel view legally tenable

APURVA VISHWANATH
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

A TOTAL of 15 Constitution Amendments which include changes in three provisions and new insertions in 12 provisions; amendments to three statutes that govern Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and all other Union Territories; and a Presidential notification of an "appointed date" to tie all elections — these are the key changes in the legal framework recommended by the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, in its report on Thursday.

According to the report, the framework for simultaneous polls could be kicked off as early as June this year, with the President issuing a notification to declare an "appointed date" as the "date of the first sitting of the House of the People after a general election".

Constitution are required for the President to draw her powers to issue such a notification. Essentially, the bundle of constitutional amendments and the notification by the President are likely to follow one another.

For the constitutional amendments that would sync Assembly elections with Lok Sabha elections, the Kovind panel has recommended that ratification by states is not needed. However, the panel said that ratification by states will be required for constitutional amendments for the preparation of a common electoral roll, and syncing municipal and panchayat elections with the general (simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly) elections.

Article 368 of the Constitution deals with the power and procedure to amend the Constitution. While several provisions can be amended by a simple majority like in passing any ordinary legislation, a special majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting is required for

other provisions.

For a third category of "entrenched provisions" that impact the federal structure of the Constitution or the powers of the state Assemblies, an amendment requires to be ratified by legislatures of at least half of the states. Specifically, Article 368(2)(d) lists the representation of states in Parliament as one of the issues that would require ratification.

While a textual reading of the provisions may not indicate that representation of states in Parliament would not be altered through simultaneous polls, the move has a huge impact on the states, impinging on their legislatures.

The Kovind panel has stated that states under Article 328 of the Constitution only have residual powers on conducting

Assembly elections; the power is mainly entrusted to Parliament through Article 327.

Article 328 ("Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature") states: "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and in so far as provision in that behalf is not made by Parliament, the Legislature of a State may from time to time by law make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, the elections to the House or either House of the Legislature of the State including the preparation of electoral rolls and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses."

The report of the Kovind panel says: "The elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies are held by the Election Commission of India under the Constitution of India, The Representation of People Act, 1950, The Representation of People Act, 1951, and the rules and orders made thereunder.

Therefore, the amendments required for simultaneous elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies do not fall under the purview of the proviso to Article 368(2) and hence, do not warrant a ratification by the States."

The question of ratification can also be judicially reviewed. In *Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu* (February 18, 1992), the Supreme Court struck down a part of the law dealing with disqualification of lawmakers on the ground that it was not ratified by the states.

The Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985, among other things, sought to bar the jurisdiction of courts in any matter connected with the disqualification process. This tinkered with one of the six aspects that require ratification by half the states — jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The Supreme Court struck down this part of the amendment while upholding the validity of the Tenth Schedule.

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17 SPORT

MUMBAI'S 42ND RANJI TITLE

A victory for the Maidans

In a squad of India stars, Musheer Khan, Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande stood out for timely performance during Mumbai's winning campaign

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, MARCH 14

COVERED IN glittering golden confetti, Mumbai's Tanush Kotian couldn't let go of the smile. Or the trophy. The player of the tournament was walking around hugging and hand-shaking anyone and everyone.

Moments before, he'd cut a frustrated figure. Mumbai believed they had set Vidarbha a mountain to climb in the Ranji Trophy final. After nearly five sessions and 129 overs, Vidarbha were showing the audacity to get closer to the summit. Chasing 538, Vidarbha brought the equation down to 205 runs in the last two sessions with five wickets in hand. The captain Akshay Wadkar had scored a fine century and with each passing run, the frustration among the Mumbai rank and file was increasing. "Aju bhai (Ajinkya Rahane), DK bhai (Dhawal Kulkarni) kept reminding us to stay patient," Kotian said. "But it wasn't easy."

And when the clock struck 1, the moment when the match swung decisively in Mumbai's favour, arrived. Kotian delivered a ball that was slightly quicker through the air. Wadkar tried playing it to the legside but couldn't connect and the ball hit him on the front pad below the knee-roll plumb in front of the stumps. The wicket proved to be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. Half an hour later, Vidarbha's resistance was over. Mumbai, who last won the Ranji Trophy in 2015-16, won by 169 runs to clinch their 42nd title.

It was fitting that Kotian was the architect of the decisive moment. For, in a squad of India superstars, it was the maiden boys who played central characters in helping them reclaim the Ranji Trophy after eight years.

Starting early

Growing up in Chembur, Kotian, the son of a cricket umpire from Udupi, was writing his cricketing dreams by putting in the hard yards from an early age. Like thousands of kids with soaring ambitions who stand under the harsh sun at the Oval, Cross and Azad maidans in their dusty whites, Kotian played the Giles Shield and Haris Shield - famous school competitions that act as launchpads.

His partner-in-crime this season, Tushar Deshpande, would join the morning rush, hop on to a local train and travel 50km from Kalyan, a distant suburb, to the city centre at Shivaji Park. At the fabled ground, one morning many years ago, Deshpande appeared for Under-12 selection trials. A keen batsman, he noticed that the queue for bowlers was shorter. So, slyly he went and stood there. To get his first breakthrough, Deshpande was prepared to let go of his first love. There was no such problem for Musheer Khan, born in a family of cricket tragedies led by an enterprising father, Naushad. Moeen, the elder brother of the latest Khan prodigy, shares a story about their father's obsession to nail the minutest of details.

Ahead of the Ranji Trophy semifinal, young Musheer had to prepare for tall Tamil Nadu spinner Sai Kishore. With few options to spar with in the vertically-challenged Mumbai team, his father stacked 2-3 bricks, stood on top of them and released the ball from a high point for hours together. It's the latest nugget of

street-smartness from the family that gave India its new Test player, Sarfaraz. The stories of these three players capture the essence of Mumbai cricket - Deshpande's opportunism, Khan's juggad and the structure that enabled Kotian's rise. Their paths intersected in Mumbai whites whose legacy can be both a burden and a privilege.

Through the course of these five days, some of the game's legends who have worn that famous shirt popped by to cheer the team, right from Sunil Gavaskar to Ravi Shastri, Dilip Vengsarkar to Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma. Wadkar, the Vidarbha captain who did everything in his capacity to stop Mumbai, knew they weren't up against just a team. It was a culture they were taking on. "Mumbai is the home of cricket. People play the sport here in every gully. To perform here, play here, is very special," he said.

Reasserting pre-eminence

There have been many famous title-winning campaigns but this will feel a lot sweeter for it comes at a time when Mumbai is reasserting its pre-eminence on the national scene. There are close to 10 Mumbai players across India teams - from the Test to white-ball sides and even India 'A' for whom

Deshpande recently played. The opening pair in Test cricket, Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal, is from Mumbai. And, in Kotian and Deshpande, the city also boasts of the finest No. 10 and 11 with the bat.

However, the team was without Jaiswal from the start and their other star, Sarfaraz, had to leave mid-season after getting a national team call-up while Shivam Dube was ruled out after picking up an injury.

The India discards were back but while Shardul Thakur was a major contributor to the title run, Prithvi Shaw, Ajinkya Rahane and, towards the later stage, Shreyas Iyer blew hot and cold. But Mumbai dealt with adversity in the most Mumbai way: with the maiden thoroughbred rising to the occasion.

Be it Mohit Avasthi, who set the tone in the first match of the season by rattling Bihar with his pace. Or the ever-reliable Shams Mulani, who produced valuable knocks with the bat while dutifully performing his primary role as a bowler, put his hand up whenever the team needed. Musheer, from the moment he joined the team after the Under-19 World Cup, became a rock, scoring at an average of more than 100 and coming up with crucial contributions with the ball - the wicket of Karun Nair towards the end of Day 4 of the final put the result beyond reasonable doubt.

And then there were Deshpande and Kotian, the pace-spin duo who could make some of the established batsmen look pedestrian. But it was symbolic that in a season where maiden youngsters came up with career-defining performances, it was one of the OG maiden legends who landed the final blow. Dhawal Kulkarni, playing his final match for Mumbai, dismantled Umesh Yadav's stumps to end his team's long title drought.

Brief scores: Mumbai 224 (S Thakur 75, Y Thakur 3-54, Dubey 3-62) and 418 (M 136, Iyer 95, Dubey 5-144) vs Vidarbha 105 (Rathod 27, Kotian 3-7, Kulkarni 3-15) and 368 (Wadkar 102, Nair 74, Kotian 4-95) by 169 runs.

The stories of these three players capture the essence of Mumbai cricket - Deshpande's opportunism, Khan's juggad & the structure that enabled Kotian's rise.



PERFECT FINAL DAY AT OFFICE

Dhawal Kulkarni, who played his last match for Mumbai, during the lap of honour at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

Pradip Das

Songs, dance, 15-day camp in Alur, 46 review meetings and flashback videos

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, MARCH 14

MUMBAI'S 42ND title was not made in a day. It was the result of meticulous planning, strategizing and hard work over the last ten months. From 46 review meetings and a pre-season residential camp in Alur near Bangalore to dance and songs competitions and storytelling exercises before the final against Vidarbha, the journey was mixed with fun, sweat and brainstorming, with heroes sprouting in every step.

Be it Mohit Avasthi, who set the tone in the first match of the season by rattling Bihar with his pace. Or the ever-reliable Shams Mulani, who produced valuable knocks with the bat while dutifully performing his primary role as a bowler, put his hand up whenever the team needed. Musheer, from the moment he joined the team after the Under-19 World Cup, became a rock, scoring at an average of more than 100 and coming up with crucial contributions with the ball - the wicket of Karun Nair towards the end of Day 4 of the final put the result beyond reasonable doubt.

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Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane with his children.

Pradip Das

15-day residential camp in Alur. It gave us the chance to understand players and bond with them. We wanted bhai-chara wala mahaul (relaxed, brotherly atmosphere) so that players can enjoy each other's success," Salvi said after the game.

The team always dined together. On off-days the team management engaged the players in off-field activities like singing and dancing competitions. A core committee group was formed within the team which comprised Salvi, Rahane, Dhawal Kulkarni and left-arm spinner Shams

Mulani. "Each player was identified and senior players were given roles. We had a core committee in place where Dhawal would look after the fast bowling department, Aju (Rahane) would take care of batting - he was like a big brother to all. Shams was overseeing the spin department," Salvi added.

Constant review

To ensure that the team is on the right track, the team management held 46 review meetings with coach, captain, selec-

tor and MCA secretary Ajinkya Naik and joint secretary Deepak Patil. In one meeting, some of the players were individually told that they were spending four hours on Instagram and they should refrain from it. "Each player used to be called and we discussed where they went wrong and how they could improve. Such a meeting was called to look at things critically so that the team can improve. The idea was to get better than before," MCA secretary Naik says.

On the day before the final game, Mumbai decided to have its last exercise. Each one had to narrate their journey this season. Salvi says instead of giving 'bhashan' (lecture) like the coaches in Hindi movies, they asked the players to give a flashback. A small video too was made.

Salvi stretches the Bollywood bit. "It was like a Bollywood movie. When we are down and someone came from behind and became the hero of the game. We had match winners in every game. We played a video of the journey. Later, each player was asked to speak on why winning the Ranji Trophy was important to them," he says.

They signed off the campaign with a song too. The singer was

Shardul Thakur, whose hundred in the semifinal against Tamil Nadu, turned out to be invaluable in the final outcome, hummed a song he had picked up from Chennai Super Kings. "Everywhere we go, everywhere we go, we are the Mumbai boys making all the noise, everywhere we go," he sang with all the energy and passion you associate with him. An England player would often sing the exact song in the CSK dressing room, and he just changed CSK to Mumbai part, he revealed. The campaign, though, was a song of ice and fire.

'I'M ECCENTRIC THAT WAY'

Decathlete Tejaswin losing muscle to target high jump spot for Paris

ANDREW AMSAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

TEJASWIN SHANKAR, who started his career in elite athletics as a high jumper and even won a Commonwealth Games medal in the discipline, later moved to decathlon in which he climbed the Asian Games podium. Now he wants to move back to his original event, targeting the Paris Olympics.

But this is nothing new for the 25-year-old from Delhi.

After his first career decathlon event in 2022, when he was the high jump national record holder, Tejaswin wrote to the Sports Authority of India seeking funds to procure equipment for the 10-event discipline.

For athletes, including Tejaswin, who are part of the sports ministry's TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme), such requests are swiftly approved. But the TOPS panel was a little flummoxed as to why India's first and only high jump Commonwealth Games medallist would need equipment for a multi-sport event.

"After I sent the mail, I got a call from the TOPS panel that I needed to attend a meeting. They had so many questions. Some said

okay, some said no, and a few said this was the stupidest thing. But ultimately, they took the gamble. They were shocked and probably thought I had gone a little crazy," Tejaswin tells *The Indian Express*.

Not crazy perhaps, but Tejaswin admits he has more than a touch of eccentricity to him. Even though he had dabbled in multi-discipline events during his stint as a student athlete at Kansas State University, no one, including him, was sure that he would pursue it wholeheartedly. Even more so after bagging a historic CWG bronze in Birmingham.

'A mind of my own'

After that medal, Tejaswin took a call that surprised everyone: he decided to switch to decathlon while aiming for the 2023 Asian Games. "I have a mind of my own. I do things because I want to and there isn't a lot of science behind it. Neither do I do things because people feel I should try it. If I feel like I need to prove a point, I just go for it. Tomorrow if I feel like becoming a shot putter, I will pursue it wholeheartedly. Even more so after bagging a historic CWG bronze in Birmingham."

Tejaswin silenced his doubters yet again by winning a silver medal and also shattered a 12-year-old national record at the Asiad. With such a stellar performance in the de-



Asian Games decathlon silver medallist Tejaswin Shankar is aiming to qualify in high jump for Paris Olympics.

cathlon, it would be safe to assume that the 25-year-old would continue in the multisport event, but Tejaswin has "a mind of his own".

It is easy to lose fat as an athlete because you are very motivated. But cutting down on muscle is not so easy. But the body is so smart that it automatically adapts to the sport you are training for."

TEJASWIN SHANKAR
ON REDUCING HIS WEIGHT

This time though, the move was a little more calculated. He is aiming to qualify for the Paris Olympics in high jump in which he first broke the national record as a 17-year-old.

Tejaswin has already hit the road and competed in two high jump events on the European circuit while training from the Kansas State facilities in the United States. He has crossed the bar at 2.23m (Belgium) and 2.22m (Czech Republic) which is still far from his personal best of 2.29m that came in 2018. But his immediate concern is not the results but fine-tuning his body for the event.

While training for the gruelling decathlon, Tejaswin had put on eight kilos (84 to 92 kgs). Shedding weight for professional athletes is

perhaps not a big deal but in Tejaswin's case, there's a catch. Those extra kilos are pure muscle mass he gained, especially in the upper body while training for throw events.

Changing body composition

"It is easy to lose fat as an athlete because you are very motivated. But cutting down on muscle is not so easy. But the body is so smart that it automatically adapts to the sport you are training for. In decathlon, you have to compete in 10 events with 95 percent intensity while in high jump you have only three or five attempts but have to put in 105 to 110 percent. It takes time to adapt, that's where the body composition changes," he explains.

The changes are already showing. Tejaswin's arms have become leaner, the broad decathlon shoulders have now toned down as he strictly follows a diet chart prepared by nutritionists at JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports.

"When I did 10 events, I could even digest a rock but now even if I eat a leaf, it shows. I have a weight number to get to. When I was in my best shape jumping, I was 84kg. But my fat content had dropped and I had gained 6-7 kilos of muscle. Now I am 88kg. Reducing weight rapidly is not a big deal, you see

wrestlers do that all the time. But to lose weight and still feel energised is something else," he says.

Training for the high jump may sound easier when compared to decathlon, but the definition of 'easy' changes according to the event. As a decathlete, Tejaswin used to train 5-6 hours a day but in high jump sessions at times are wrapped up in less than two hours.

"You can't push yourself too much so we do jumps only once a week but we have other activities and hit the gym. There is more intensity but the volume has reduced. I feel the training has become a lot easier but mentally challenging," he says.

Tejaswin is hoping to make the cut for Paris through the points system and has mapped out his competitions which include the Interstate meet in June. He is not ruling out the chance of earning a direct qualification by clearing the 2.33m mark set for the Games.

"Another option is hitting 2.33 and agar woh hogaya to main sanyas le lunga (If that happens, I will retire). Then I will leave the sport and ride that wave till I die. It has never happened in all these years but who knows, it might happen this year. When you need it the most, sometimes things happen," he says

BRIEFLY

Stimac: Focus is on progressing to third phase of qualifiers

Bhubaneswar: India is approaching the World Cup qualifying match against Afghanistan with a clear mindset and the focus is to secure a spot in the third phase of the qualifiers for the first time, said football coach Igor Stimac on Thursday. India will play back-to-back games against Afghanistan as part of the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2027 AFC Asian Cup joint qualifiers round 2, the first of which will take place in Abha, Saudi Arabia on March 21. India will then play their home game against Afghanistan. "We will go there to try and win the game. We are not looking at any massive calculations right now. Once we all get there, we will start talking about how to win the game from the very first second," Stimac said. **PTI**

Defending champions MP move into quarters

Pune: Defending champions Madhya Pradesh entered the quarterfinals with a 7-1 win over Bihar at the Senior Women's National Hockey Championship on Thursday. Hritika Singh (45', 50', 60') scored a hat trick, while Aishwarya Chavan (6'), Preeti Dubey (9'), Kanchan Nidhi Kerketta (32') and skipper Ishika Chaudhary (33') also registered their names on the scoresheet for MP. The goal for Bihar came from the stick of Ebha Kerketta in the final quarter as Hockey Madhya Pradesh went on to top Pool A and qualify for the knock-outs. Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand played out a thrilling 2-2 draw in a star-studded match. **PTI**

Singapore Smash: Sharath continues run

New Delhi: Veteran Indian table tennis player Sharath Kamal continued his giant killing run in the Singapore Smash by defeating world number 22 Omar Assar of Egypt to enter the quarterfinals here on Thursday. A day after he upset world number 13 Darko Jorgic of Slovenia, Sharath recorded a comfortable 11-4, 11-8, 12-10 win over Assar in the round of 16 of the USD 1.5 million event. World number 88 Sharath, who reached the main draw after winning the qualifiers, had it easy against the Egyptian in the first two rounds, but Assar put up a good resistance in the third round. **PTI**

Indian boxing's HPD Dunne resigns

New Delhi: India's performance in the recent Olympic Qualifiers for boxing has triggered a coaching crisis just four months before the Paris Games as High Performance Director Bernard Dunne has stepped down while coach Dmitry Dmitruk is likely to be shown the exit door very soon. Dunne, a former Irish professional boxer who was appointed as the HPD in October 2022, sent out his resignation from Italy, where he was with the Indian team for the World Olympic Boxing Qualifiers. "Bernard is out. We have called an executive meeting tomorrow, where we will assess everything. A call on Dmitry's future will also be taken in tomorrow's meeting," BFI Secretary General Hemanta Kalita said. **PTI**

Sen state of mind

Lakshya fights back from 2-8 in the third to defeat World No.4 Antonsen and enter last eight

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
MARCH 14

WHEN LAKSHYA Sen trailed 2-8 in the deciding third game in Birmingham on Thursday, there was a sense of déjà vu. It was the same scoreline he was on a few days back in Paris. Then, it was the semifinal against reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn at the French Open. Then, Lakshya couldn't arrest the slide as Vitidsarn ran away with it. Now, it was a second-round match against the red-hot Anders Antonsen at the All England Open, who hadn't lost a match on tour till last week. Now, Lakshya could arrest the slide briefly to gather some control. Now, Lakshya Sen was able to turn it around late on for a stunning fightback to win 15 of the last 17 points.

How quickly things can change in sport. Lakshya overcame the fourth seed from Denmark 24-22, 11-21, 21-14 in a 80-minute thriller to reach the quarterfinals at the prestigious Super 1000 tournament.

As Antonsen sent the shuttle wide on match point, Lakshya took a moment to let it sink in, went down on his knees on the grey court, and tapped it twice to let the steam out. As he got up, the first thing he did was to embrace his coaches - Vimal Kumar and Prakash Padukone - who were riding the rollercoaster along with Lakshya.

"It was a question of cutting down on the errors," coach Vimal told The Indian Express about Lakshya's turnaround. "When up 8-2 in the decider, Anders made a few casual mistakes and that was costly for him. At 11-6 change over in the third, Lakshya completely shut down on the error front and that was a huge plus."

Vimal was seen speaking quite animatedly to Lakshya as the players changed ends. While 6-11 wasn't ideal, Lakshya had done just enough to bring some momentum back to his side. "I was angry with him for the amount of silly errors he was committing and not getting really annoyed about it. I wanted him to get angry. And he steadied himself from then on," Vimal explained.

Right out of the blocks, Lakshya started taking control from the side where he struggled in the second game. 6-12 quickly became 9-12 as Lakshya hit three clean winners. A rare error in the end-game by Lakshya made it 13-14. And that would be the last point Antonsen won.

Drama followed as twice Antonsen was faulted for infractions at the net and on both occasions, he was incensed with the chair umpire (but replays suggested there was good reason for the calls.) It derailed Antonsen completely as Lakshya cantered to a win.

As good as the late fightback was, the opening game that Lakshya took 24-22 after some excellent net-play was crucial as well, as he set up a quarterfinal against Malaysian maverick Lee Zii Jia.

It wasn't long back that things looked bleak for Lakshya, in terms of results as well as qualifying for Paris. But his team remained confident of a turnaround, insisting that physically he has been posting great numbers in training and looked in good shape. Vimal had said in Delhi that one of the things he was going to focus on was mental conditioning. Not just the random conversation here or there after training, but dedicated sessions. "It has to be more regular. When he comes back from Indonesia, I am only looking at that. Because he has to find the confidence back, the inner stability," Vimal had said.

And a fitter, sharper Lakshya has turned his form around in the nick of time. The game is clicking for the most part, but the belief and drive are back. First, with three come-from-behind wins in Paris, and now with a fabulous fightback in Birmingham. Now, Paris is not just a distant dream but a highly probable reality.



Lakshya Sen defeated the World No 4 24-22, 11-21, 21-14 in a 80-minute thriller. **BAI**

Super An thrashes Sindhu at All England

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
MARCH 14

THERE IS a clear Fab Four in women's singles badminton currently. Tai Tzu Ying has a bag of tricks, so many different strokes in her arsenal to go with the ability to deceive her opponents. Akane Yamaguchi is like the Energizer Bunny on court, able to defend most things thrown at her. Chen Yufei, the reigning Olympic champion, has the footwork that helps her cover the corners of the court with efficient ease.

Then there is An Se Young who - scarily for the rest of the world - ticks all of those boxes. If you were to scientifically construct the perfect badminton player in a laboratory, the result would be somewhere close to this. On Thursday at the All England Open badminton championships, PV Sindhu would find that out for herself once more. The Indian went down 19-21, 11-21 in 42 minutes for her seventh defeat in as many matches against the Korean.

The World No 1 and the reigning World Champion, the outright favourite for Paris 2024 gold, is the most in-form player in the world over the last year. That she is a once-in-a-generation talent was evident even as a teenager, and at 22, she is dominating a category that was, not so long ago, one of the most wide-open in badminton.

Sindhu tried, though. In just her second World Tour event of 2024, Sindhu is still building up her physical and skill levels, and there were positives in Paris last week as she pushed Chen to the limits. In her quarterfinal run at the French Open, there were signs that Sindhu - now working with the legendary Prakash Padukone along with Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso - was adding a few more shots to her repertoire. A deceptive reverse slice here, a half smash there.

Her primary strength remains her ability to hit through opponents' defence and that is



PV Sindhu lost 19-21, 11-21 to An Se Young, arguably the most in-form player on the planet. **BAI**

where An has proved to be a tough nut to crack for Sindhu.

In the first five points of the round-of-16 clash against An in Birmingham, Sindhu raised hopes of a different outcome. A down-the-line winner to An's backhand, then a half-smash winner that caught her off guard, a crosscourt round-the-head smash that she failed to get to quickly enough... Sindhu was off to a flier.

Half a step ahead

But soon, An found her radar. As exemplary as her movement on the court is, the 22-year-old relies more on control than speed, and the ability to read her opponent's strokeplay. She is so often half-a-step ahead of what's coming from the other side of the net, and her balletic footwork ensures she gets into a good position early.

Trailing 8-11 at the interval, Sindhu received the message from Padukone to 'attack a bit more' and she'd do just that to close the gap to one point, coming out of the blocks with

high tempo.

Then came a point at 10-12 that would have deflated anyone. Sindhu constructed a super rally, starting off with a couple of clears to push An back. She then drew the Korean forward with a spinning shot at the net, before pushing her back again going crosscourt. A forehand punch clear from Sindhu had An off balance, as the Korean just managed to get to the shuttle. Sindhu saw an opening, rushed to the net, and hit a backhand kill that would have won the point against anyone else in the world, arguably. But An was ready. She took a step back to the center, just casually got her racket down in time, and played the perfect backhand block into the empty net. She even broke into a little celebration, raising her arms to flex.

As if playing that ridiculous shot once wasn't enough, she'd do that once more within a minute. The same punch-clear from Sindhu, the same off-balance forehand return from An. This time Sindhu went a little wider from An's body with her attempted kill shot, but An got her racket out in time to find the empty corner of the court. Again.

This art of turning defence into a window of attacking opportunity is what makes An so difficult to play against. It brought to mind a famous tennis quote. As Andy Roddick said about Roger Federer after the Wimbledon 2004 final, "I threw the kitchen sink at him, but he went into the bathroom and got the tub."

It's easy to say Sindhu should just go all-out attack but An's defence makes the Indian vulnerable to these subtle counterpunches. Sindhu stayed at it in the opening game, closing the gap down to 16-17, saved three game points but it was another defensive block winner, fittingly, that gave An the lead.

Sindhu had some moments of brilliance early in the second game, but soon the scoreboard pressure got to her. The Indian's challenge, sturdy until then, fizzled out after the mid-game interval as the errors piled up.

'Lamentable racist chants' aimed at Vini Jr

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MARCH 14

THE SPANISH league will report what it called "lamentable racist chants" aimed at Real Madrid forward **Vinicius Junior** before Atletico Madrid's Champions League game.

Video on social media showed a small group of Atletico fans jumping and chanting "Vinicius chimpanzee" before the team played Inter Milan on Wednesday in the round of 16 of the European competition. The video in which fans add "Vinicius chimpanzee" to one of their traditional songs was initially published by the site Agente Libre Digital.

The Spanish league said on Thursday it will report the incident to the Hate Crimes Prosecutor's Office. It said it will act even though the chants happened in a different competition and outside a stadium.

The league said it was "deeply committed to ensuring that football is a hate-free space and will continue to relentlessly pursue any acts of racism, homophobia, violence, hatred... regardless of the competition." There were also reports of hate chants against Vinicius before the Barcelona-Napoli match in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The Cadena SER published a video in which Barcelona fans chanted "Die, Vinicius," before the team's 3-1 win at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Montjuic. Similar chants had already been made against the Madrid player in other matches against Barcelona.

Vinicius, who is Black, has been subjected to insults since he came to play in Spain six years ago.

Atletico fans chanted "Vinicius, you are a monkey" in 2022 outside Metropolitan Stadium. Spanish state prosecutors at the time closed a probe into the case citing the impossibility to identify the perpetrators.

In 2023, Atletico fans hanged Vinicius' effigy from a bridge in Madrid before a city derby in the Copa del Rey. Prosecutors sought four-year prison sentences for the four hardcore fans accused by authorities.

Dortmund reach UCL quarters

Jadon Sancho scored early and Marco Reus netted late to send Borussia Dortmund to the Champions League quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over PSV Eindhoven in the second leg of their last 16 tie on Wednesday.

Sancho scored in the third minute and Reus sealed the win in the fifth minute of stoppage time to complete Dortmund's 3-1 win on aggregate after the teams drew the first leg 1-1 in Eindhoven.

Dortmund, which reached the final in 2013, is into the last eight for the first time in three years.

"We're looking forward to the next round because a big opponent awaits us," Niclas Fullkrug said of Friday's quarterfinal draw.

Dortmund coach Edin Terzic bemoaned his team's poor second half after starting with what he said was "the best 30 minutes of the season." Ian Maatsen tested PSV goalkeeper Walter Benítez in the second minute before Sancho scored the next.

Julian Brandt sent the England forward through to score his second goal in as many games for Dortmund with a precise shot inside the bottom left corner. Sancho scored his first goal since returning from Manchester United for Dortmund to beat Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

U-17 World Cups to be held every year: FIFA

REUTERS
MARCH 14

THE FIFA Under-17 World Cup will be held annually instead of biennially, with the next five editions from 2025 to take place in Qatar, world soccer's governing body said on Thursday. Like the senior men's World Cup, the Under-17 tournament will be expanded to 48 teams, FIFA said. The women's Under-17 World Cup will also be played annually from 2025, with Morocco hosting an expanded 24-team event until 2029. The 2022 edition had 16 teams.

"This followed a global call for expressions of interest in hosting both competitions, with a focus on leveraging the use of existing footballing infrastructure in the interest of tournament efficiencies and sustainability," FIFA said. The last men's Under-17 World Cup was held in 2023 with Germany winning the title.

Qatar hosted the 2022 senior men's World Cup in winter while Morocco are one of the co-hosts for the 2030 edition. FIFA also said a record \$2.25 billion had been earmarked for the 2023-2026 cycle for investment in football development.

"Thanks to its solid financial governance, FIFA is well on track to exceed its budgetary target of \$11 billion for the 2023-2026 cycle," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said at the FIFA Council meeting. Infantino also called for the imposition of stricter measures to combat racism. Last month, he called for teams to face automatic defeat if their fans displayed racist behaviour.

Vol XCII-107 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 R.N.I. No.506/1957 Printed and Published by R.C.Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida -201301 and Hindustan Media Ventures Ltd., Mauza-Daryapur, Police Station-Shahpur, Danapur District-Patna, Bihar-801503 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9&10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Ltd., Express Building, B1/B, Rammath Goenka Marg, Sector 10, Noida-201301. Phone: 01206651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka. Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha *** Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior

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CELEBRATING THE FINEST IN INDIAN JOURNALISM

Chief Guest
NITIN GADKARI
Hon'ble Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways

March 19, 2024 | 6:00 PM | New Delhi

Live streaming on: indianexpress.com | financialexpress.com | jansatta.com | loksatta.com

rngfoundation.com/awards

Small caps recover partially, Sensex rises

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MARCH 14

AFTER THE bloodbath on Wednesday, markets, especially small cap stocks, recovered partially on Thursday in the relief rally. While the BSE SmallCap which crashed by 5.11 per cent on Wednesday, rose by 3.11 per cent and the BSE MidCap rose by 2.28 per cent on Thursday. The Sensex which fell 906 points on Wednesday recovered partially by 335 points, 0.46 per cent, to 73,097.28 and the NSE Nifty index by 149 points to 22,146.65. Market regulator SEBI and AMFI had recently cautioned against the unbridled rally in small and mid caps.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, "The market was able to recover half of last trading day's sell-off as leverage based square-off neutralised it, while institutional buying sustained the buoyancy. Domestic economic data wholesale price inflation (WPI) eased to four-month low at 0.2 per cent year-on-year in February, bringing ease to upcoming CPI trajectory, a relief for future rate cuts." The broader market is outperforming the headline indices, taking advantage of Mid and Small cap as a bargaining strategy.

"The sentiment remains negative as the Index consolidated around the lower half of the previous session's candle on the daily timeframe," said Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst, LKP Securities.

However, bulls managed to push the Nifty back into the rising channel by the session's end, suggesting a possibility of a bullish trend reversal.

REVISED FUEL PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 15

Petrol, diesel prices cut by ₹2 ahead of LS polls

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

AHEAD OF the likely announcement of the general election schedule, the government on Thursday announced that oil marketing companies (OMCs) will slash petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2 per litre each. After a two-year-long hiatus in rate revision by the state-owned oil companies, petrol in the national capital will now cost Rs 94.72 a litre, down from Rs 96.72 per litre, and diesel prices will be Rs 87.62 against Rs 89.62.

"Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have informed that they have revised petrol and diesel prices across the country. New prices would be effective from 15th March 2024, 06:00 AM," the oil ministry said.

"Reduction in petrol and diesel prices will boost consumer spending and reduce operating costs for over 58 lakh heavy goods vehicles running on diesel, 6 crore cars and 27 crore two-wheelers," the ministry said.

Petrol in Mumbai will cost Rs 104.21 a litre from Friday, Rs 103.94 in Kolkata and Rs 100.75 in Chennai. A litre of diesel will be priced at Rs 92.15 in Mumbai, Rs 90.76 in Kolkata and Rs 92.34 in Chennai. Rates differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxes. Local sales tax or VAT is the highest among metros in BJP-ruled Maharashtra and lowest in Delhi.

Reduced petrol and diesel prices will benefit the citizens



The state-owned fuel retailers froze petrol and diesel prices for the past two years. Reuters

through more disposable income, boost for tourism and travel industries, control over inflation, increased consumer confidence and spending, reduced expenses for businesses dependent on transportation, enhanced profitability for logistics, manufacturing, and retail sectors, and reduced outgo for farmers on tractor operations and pump sets, the ministry added.

Last week, Rs 100 per cylinder reduction in cooking gas LPG price was announced, which brought down the rates of LPG for common users to Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder and that for the poor, who get free connections under the Ujjwala scheme, to Rs 503 after accounting for Rs 300 per bottle subsidy that the government gives.

International oil prices have been turbulent in the last couple of years. It dipped into the negative zone at the start of the pandemic in 2020 and swung wildly in 2022 - climbing to a 14-year high of nearly \$140 per barrel in March 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine, before sliding on weaker demand from top importer China and worries of an economic contraction. The three state-owned fuel retailers - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) froze petrol and diesel prices for the longest duration in the last two decades.

The three firms, which control roughly 90 per cent of India's fuel market, had till now resisted calls to revert to daily price revision and pass on softening in rates to consumers on grounds that prices continue to be extremely volatile - rising on one day and falling on the other - and that their past losses have not been fully recouped. But the financial numbers of the first three quarters showed them reporting bumper profit-talling over Rs 69,000 crore.

(With PTI inputs)

'Lead-acid batteries most successful example of a circular economy'

AMARA RAJA Energy & Mobility Limited is among the largest lead-acid battery manufacturers in India, clocking in a revenue of over Rs 10,000 crore in FY23. In response to the clean energy transition, they are also diversifying through their new energy business, which deals with lithium-ion technologies.

HARSHAVARDHANA GOURINENI, Executive Director (Automotive & Industrial) at Amara Raja, speaks to AGAM WALLA about the rise of lithium-ion, the future of lead-acid, entry of new players in the battery market, and the building circular supply chains.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH HARSHAVARDHANA GOURINENI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (AUTOMOTIVE & INDUSTRIAL) AT AMARA RAJA

How has the rise of lithium-ion battery technology across various applications impacted the lead-acid segment?

The main benefit of the lithium-ion technology is its far superior energy density. So, wherever form factor is the limitation, definitely lithium-ion is preferred. We see telecom moving rapidly that way. For industrial UPS, for areas where form factor is not a constraint, lead-acid still is quite relevant and has continued to dominate the market. Of course, certain changes are being brought into lead-acid also, where instead of prioritising long-term energy storage, it's moving more towards power application because backup times are getting shorter and the load that needs to be backed up is increasing, so the discharge is higher. These are all being managed within the technology, like using the stamped grid technology for higher power capabilities and resource efficiency. As the requirements change, some of it will be captured with

spreading our existing assets of technology and capacities - we are forerunners in terms of the lithium chemistries as well, so packs are being supplied to our existing customer partners. Whereas for the large cell towers, we're still offering the replacement in lead-acid. Lithium-ion is coming into the 5G small cell sites.

Across UPS ranges, lead acid has been dominant and we're not seeing a big move to lithium there. But for data centres, for the sake of a lower form factor for its business model, we're seeing much more lithium. There is lead-acid in this space but we do know that largely things will be moving on to lithium or a more cost-effective technology in the long-term. For railways and solar, we're seeing a mix of lead and lithium. But for energy storage at the grid level, both lead and lithium aren't meeting the criteria at the moment as the cost of solar is lower than fossil fuels but the blended cost of solar plus energy storage is not as competitive as fossil fuels.

What about the automotive sector?

Of course, EV is coming in rapidly in the two-wheeler segment because the cost of switching and total cost of ownership are just getting very competitive. We're still seeing healthy growth in ICE two-wheelers. Over time, there will probably be some consolidation and cannibalism, but I think we're well-placed to take advantage of both. A headwind for EVs

may be considered a tailwind for lead-acid, but we're well-positioned to make sure we realise value in all situations.

On the four-wheeler side, certain supply chain efficiencies have yet to be built within the country, and the initial cost of the four-wheeler is not competitive to address the bulk of the market right now. If we look at smaller SUVs and also the bulk of sedans, where most of the consumers are playing right now, EV is more of an aspirational purchase than it is for economics.

There's increasing focus on circularity in building sustainable battery value chains. Where does lead-acid stand in this regard?

The lead-acid battery and its ecosystem is the most successful example of a circular economy - 99 per cent of a lead-acid battery is recyclable and can be brought back in as raw materials. For our own batteries, we're looking at almost 80 per cent of the raw materials coming from recycled sources, which means that much less impact of mining and extraction. It's unparalleled, not just across battery technologies but across all products universally. I think that itself is a strong reason to make sure we continue innovating on this technology, to make sure that there is better energy or power density depending on the application.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

Centre approves transfer of Mumbai's Air India building to Maharashtra govt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

THE CENTRE has approved the sale of the iconic Air India building in Mumbai to the Maharashtra government for Rs 1,601 crore. The building, a well-known landmark in the high-profile Nariman Point area of India's financial capital, was not part of Air India's privatisation.

The state government, facing a space crunch at the Mantralaya and its annexe, plans to move some of its offices to the 23-storey sea-facing building, just a stone's throw away from the state secretariat. The Maharashtra Cabinet had approved the Rs 1,601-crore acquisition of the Air India building in November last year.

"GoI (Government of India) has approved transfer of Air India building, Mumbai... to Government of Maharashtra (GoM) at consideration of Rs 1601 cr. GoM has agreed to waive dues of Rs 298.42 cr, which would have been otherwise payable by AIAHL to GoM for this transaction," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

Prior to the sale of Air India to



The Air India building, designed by the renowned architect John Burgee, was constructed in 1974. Reuters

the Tata group, the building and some other assets and subsidiaries of the erstwhile government airline were transferred to AI Assets Holding (AIAHL), a special purpose vehicle of the central government.

The Air India building, designed by the renowned architect John Burgee, was constructed in 1974 on reclaimed land that the state government had leased to Air India.

Counted among the crown jewels of downtown Mumbai's skyline, the Air India building was one of the targets of the Mumbai serial blasts in 1993, in which 20 people were killed in a car bomb

Maharashtra, discussions to acquire the building restarted, with the state government finally decided to raise its offer to Rs 1,601 crore, and waive off nearly Rs 300 crore of dues - mainly unrealised income and interest for the leased land.

In 2022, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had met Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, seeking preference for the state government in the sale of the Air India building.

Following a major fire at the Maharashtra Mantralaya complex in 2012, a number of state government offices and departments were scattered across different areas of the city, some of which are far from the state secretariat and the state government has been paying hefty rent for these offices. With the acquisition of the Air India building, around 46,470 square metres of space will be available to the state government in close proximity to the Mantralaya.

Nine floors of the Air India building are currently vacant. Three floors house Goods and Services Tax (GST) offices while the Income Tax Department occupies eight floors. The ground and first floors are currently with Air India.

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam - 691583
Phone : +91-976-2651213 to 217, E-Mail : mml@kmmil.com, URL : www.kmmil.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmil.com.

No.	E-Tender ID	Items
1.	2024 KMMIL 69272	AMC for providing external inspection & follow up services for the period 2024
2.	2024 KMMIL 69274	For the supply of Pipe Inconel 600 SMLS 19mm thickness
3.	2024 KMMIL 69406	For the supply of Roaster Discharge Grating Assembly
4.	2024 KMMIL 69809	Dismantling and application of Refractory castable and Bricks in B-Stream pigment separator in U 300

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

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

No. : F-8()/RMS/EP/M-1/2023-24/NIB-824/1168 Dated :- 11/03/2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for Item (1) BIPAP Ventilator with well cushioned face mask and harness (2) Cushioned face mask and harness. Set are invited from interested bidders up to date 08.04.2024; 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>), <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> of the state; and <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>.

UBN No. : MSC2324GLRC00141 Executive Director (EPM) RMSC, Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/23/14844

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

Tender no.: BESCOM/2023-24/SE0120

BESCOM invites Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build, Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at Sub-Station (SS) level covering 91,056 IP sets in BESCOM jurisdiction, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM scheme". The bid documents will be available on or after 15.03.2024 in <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. The prospective bidders have to register on the bidding portal. For any queries regarding portal, please contact KPPP helpdesk no.:080-46010000, 080-68948777 or email: support@eproc.kppsc.com.

Sd/- General Manager (Ele.) DSM, BESCOM, Bengaluru.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
e-mail:- serw_tc@yahoo.com
No: Tender Online RWC- 11/2024 Letter NO.-1062 Date:- 09.03.2024

e-Procurement NOTICE

- Name of the work : Construction of Bridge works.
- Class of Contractor : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
6.00 Crore & upto Rs. 50.00 Crore
3. Estimated cost more than Rs. : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
1.00 Crore & upto Rs. 20.00 Crore
4. Estimated cost more than Rs. : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
20.00 Lakh & upto Rs. 3.00 Crore
- Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
- Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
- Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC- 11/24	14.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	30.03.2024 at 11.00 AM	28.03.2024 up to 02.00 PM	30.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR-25097/11/0057/2324

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.B3/AEE(II)/EENW&DC/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

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

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-87081 Date: 14.03.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2023-24/ INDD047/CALL-2	1.1 KV Pin Insulator Shells	1,00,000 Nos
MESCOM/2023-24/ INDD052/CALL-2	LOT-1: 11 KV 242 KVAR Capacitor Units for Mangaluru Zone LOT-2: 11 KV 242 KVAR Capacitor Units for Shivamogga Zone	400 Nos 400 Nos

The interested eligible bidders may log on to www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 15.03.2024.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.)
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Office of the Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services
No.4, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
Phone: 080-22262263, e-mail: phq.prisons-ka@gov.in

Short Term Tender Notification

The Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Bangalore invited the following tenders for Supply, Commissioning and Maintenance of Towers of the Harmonious Call Blocking System (T-HCBS) for various Central and District Prisons as under.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Approx. Tender Value
1	PCSD/2023-24/SE0008/CALL-2 DT.02/03/2024	Rs.624 Lakhs

The information of Pre-bid meeting, last date and time for tender submission and other details can be obtained at e-Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/-
Director General
Prisons and Correctional Services
Karnataka State.

DIPR/CP/4234/Maa/2023-24

Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775 / +915322504011, maghmelpamp@gmail.com

Notice Inviting E-Tender-For Empanelment of Agencies for Projects under Maha Kumbh Kala Kriti Abhiyan in Prayagraj

The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites Agencies for Tender No.16/MKM-2025 for "Empanelment of Agencies for Projects under Maha Kumbh Kala Kriti Abhiyan in Prayagraj". The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available from the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> on 15/03/2024 for Tender No. 16/MKM-2025. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal from 1500 hrs 15/03/2024 till 1600 hrs 04/04/2024 for Tender No. 16/MKM-2025 via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received by interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders at 1700 Hrs on 04/04/2024 for Tender No. 16/MKM-2025. Details regarding the tender shall be made available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>.

Meladhikari,
Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj

BRIEFLY

Completion of projects hallmark of development model: FM

New Delhi: Completion of projects after laying foundation is the hallmark of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development model, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday. The FM claimed that prior to 2014, projects were not completed on time. "The delay in completing projects adversely impacted the country's image, giving the impression that India does not finish its projects," Sitharaman said at the 'Viksit Bharat Ambassador Campus Dialogue' organised at IIT-Guwahati. PTI

Paytm gets NPCI nod to become third-party application provider

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MARCH 14

THE NATIONAL Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Thursday said it has granted One97 Communications Ltd (OCL) to participate in Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) under multi-bank model.

NPCI said four banks - Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India and YES Bank - will act as PSP (Payment System Provider) banks to OCL, which is the parent company of Paytm.

In February, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed NPCI, which owns and operates the UPI platform, to consider a request by OCL to become a TPAP.

A Third-Party Application Provider is an entity that provides the UPI compliant app(s)

to the end-user customers to facilitate UPI-based payment transactions. These applications could be mobile wallets, merchant apps, or any other platform that utilises UPI for payments.

Currently, all UPI transactions on the Paytm app are being routed through Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL), an associate company of OCL, which is now registered as TPAP.

On January 31, the RBI barred Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and NCMC card after February 29, 2024, in the wake of persistent non-compliances. The deadline was later extended to March 15.

As the RBI has asked the PPBL to shut its operations by March 15, there will be no TPAP registration for the Paytm app to be able to provide UPI payment services.

The TPAP approval to OCL will ensure continued UPI operation of the Paytm app.

NPCI further said that YES Bank will also be acting as a merchant acquiring bank for existing and new UPI merchants for OCL. "Paytm" handle will be redirected to YES Bank.

"This will enable existing users and merchants to continue to do UPI transactions and AutoPay mandates in a seamless and uninterrupted manner," the NPCI said in a release.

In February, OCL shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank from Paytm Payments Bank to continue seamless merchant settlements.

NPCI has advised One97 Communications to complete migration for all existing handles and mandates, wherever required, to new PSP banks at the earliest.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रेन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (2023-24)
विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल आगरा
1. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-40/विजा0पा0म0/आगरा/2023-24-

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA
Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender
Letter No. 1254 / 14M-AC/2024
1. The Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D. Agra on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, P.W.D. Road work.

Office of the Project Director
Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project
AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur - 302017 Tel No: +91 141 2721966,
Fax No: 0141-2721919 email: mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in, web site: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in
Invitation for Bids No: RSTDSP/OCB/NTL/41

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड
17/71, सिविल लाइन्स "केसा हाउस" कानपुर (An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा पृथक-पृथक दो भागों में निम्न सामग्रियों हेतु केस्को ई-निविदा वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी ख़ुलने एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि नीचे दिये गये तालिका में निर्धारित है।

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
SHEIKHPURA, PATNA - 800 014
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVT. OF BIHAR)
IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College
Tel: 0612 - 229731, 229709; Fax: 0612 - 229725;
Website: www.igims.org; E-mail: director@igims.org
Notice Inviting E-Tender for Civil & Electrical Work

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Name of work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Time of completion of work. Includes items like Construction of Lecture theater cum Auditorium, Post Graduate Institute of Dental Education & Research & Nuclear Medicine department at IGIMS, Patna.

The last date of Submission of complete tender document on line through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in is 30/04/2024 up to 3:00 P.M. Undersigned reserve the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
SHEIKHPURA, PATNA - 800 014
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVT. OF BIHAR)
IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College
Tel: 0612 - 229731, 229709; Fax: 0612 - 229725;
Website: www.igims.org; E-mail: director@igims.org
Notice Inviting E-Tender for Civil & Electrical Work

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Name of work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Time of completion of work. Includes items like Civil, Electrical and A.C Work for Extension of Prefabricated Structure for Seminar Hall of Skin and Psychiatry Deptt. on the Terrace Floor of OPD Block at IGIMS, Patna - 14.

The last date of Submission of complete tender document on line through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in is 22/04/2024 up to 3:00 P.M. Undersigned reserve the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Email: sernbphulbani@gmail.com
Phone: 06842 254004
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_26 of 2023_24
No. 515 Dated: 13/3/24

Table with 2 columns: Name of work, Estimated cost. Includes items like Modernisation work of Sindhi, Garh, Kalmati, Kureljodi MIPS under M.I. Division, Anandapur & 4 Minor Irrigation Tanks (8 Nos Works).

BINDESHWAR SINGH COLLEGE
Danapur, Patna - 800012
Auction Notice
Sealed tenders are invited through regd. Agencies / firms / persons "Auction sale for Demolition and disposal of condemned buildings" on or before 3.30 PM of 04.04.2024.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
(TWO PACKET SYSTEM)
Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-III, North Western Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tender. Tenderer shall submit their original/revised offer online before the date and time of closing of E-tender.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
E-Tender Notice No.- ECR-CAO-C-NETN-72-23-24
E-Tender is invited on behalf of The President of India for The Under Mentioned Work (1) Name of work with its location: Supplying of 1,00,000 cum. cum 5mm size machine crushed track ballast as per Railway RDSO's specification for B.G. Railway track & loading the same into any type of railway wagons F.O.R. Pakur/Bakudih siding various projects under CAO/Con/North, ECR. (2) Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 14,88,60,000.00 (3) Bid Security Amount: Rs. 8,94,300.00 (4) Date and time for closing of tender: 03.04.2024 at 14.30 hrs. (5) Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc.: The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website http://www.irops.gov.in. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.irops.gov.in at least 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender CAO/Con/North EC Rly. MHX, Patna PR/02547/CONN/ENGG/T/23-24/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. 23/TRD/DNR/OT/23-24. The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites sealed open tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works -
Tender No. : TRD/DNR/OT/26/23-24.
1. Name of work with its location : Shifting of PTFE at DNR for separation of feed of two adjacent TSS. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹77,32,305.97, 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹1,54,700.00, 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender : The tender have to be submitted online on www.irops.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 29.03.2024 will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : http://www.irops.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD)/E.C. Railway/Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required. Divnl. Railway Manager/ ECR/Danapur PR/02569/DNR/ETRD/T/23-24/40

"IMPORTANT"
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

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

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

No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-07/3343/2023-24 Date: 14.03.2024

KIADB is inviting tender for providing consultancy services for Project Management Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following works:

- Name of the Works : (1) Design Construction Testing & Commissioning for Implementation of 45 MLD External Water Supply Scheme to proposed Industrial Node in Dharwad Taluk & District Including Operation & Maintenance for 5 Years on Turnkey Basis. (2) Formation of industrial layout at Sector-1 in Adinarayanahoshalli industrial layout 2nd phase, Bengaluru Rural District. (3) Formation of industrial layout at Sector-2 in Adinarayanahoshalli industrial layout 2nd phase, Bengaluru Rural District. (4) Formation of industrial layout at Sector-1 in Badanaguppe-kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District. (5) Formation of industrial layout at Sector-2 in Badanaguppe-kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District. (6) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-3 in Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District. (7) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-4 in Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District. (8) Formation of industrial layout at Sector-1 in Nandur-Kesaratagi industrial area 3rd phase, Kalburgi Taluk and District. (9) Formation of industrial layout at Sector-2 in Nandur Kesaratagi Industrial area 3rd phase, Kalburgi Taluk and District. (10) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-3, Nandur Kesaratagi 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Kalburgi Taluk & District. (11) Formation of Industrial Layout at Mailanahalli Industrial Area, Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District. (12) Establishment, Commissioning of 1.50 MLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant with 0.50MLD Capacity RO System & ZLD Facilities on Total Turnkey basis Including Operation & Maintenance of entire plant for a period of 10 years at Sy.No-46 at Yarandahalli Village, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase Bengaluru Urban District for prevention of Pollution of Chandapura lake. (13) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-1 in Mummigatti Industrial Area, Phase-2, Dharwad Taluk & District. (14) Formation of Industrial Layout, at Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area, III Phase, Tumakuru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 23.04.2024 upto 4.00 pm.

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

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-68/1066/2023-24 Date: 14.03.2024

Item Rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License issued from KCEI, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below works:

- Name of the Works: (1) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastructure to Gowribidnur Industrial Area 3rd Phase, Chikkaballapura District. (2) Providing Basic Electricals Infrastructure Facilities to Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area Phase - 2, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

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

Scheduled of dates are as follows:

The Last date for submission of bids is : 22.04.2023 upto 04:30 pm.

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1. KIADB Bengaluru

केविल की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 5900 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 1180 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
10. निविदा सं0-140/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- सिंगल फेज एवं थ्री फेज डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन बॉक्स की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 18600 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 3540 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
11. निविदा सं0-141/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- 33 / 11 के0वी0 वी0सी0वी0 एवं बस कल्डर की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 428200 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
12. निविदा सं0-142/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- 33 के0वी0 लाईटनिंग रेपेक्टर की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 10500 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 3540 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
13. निविदा सं0-143/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता, विवरण- 250 के0वी0 कॉंप वॉल्टेज परिवर्तक की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 792000 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
14. निविदा सं0-144/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- विभिन्न साईज के एल्यूमीनियम लस एवं फेरुल की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 33400 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 3540 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
15. निविदा सं0-145/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता, विवरण- विभिन्न प्रकार की 33 / 11 के0वी0 एक्स0एल0पी0 केबिल बॉक्स की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 73100 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 3540 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
16. निविदा सं0-146/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- विभिन्न प्रकार के एल0टी0 एक्स0एल0पी0 केबिल की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 204700 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
17. निविदा सं0-147/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता, विवरण- 20 एम0वी0ए0 पॉवर परिवर्तक की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 160000 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
18. निविदा सं0-148/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- ए0सी0ए0स0आर0 ड्रॉग एवं वीजल कण्डक्टर की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 63000 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 3540 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
19. निविदा सं0-136/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता, विवरण- विभिन्न प्रकार की 33 के0वी0 एच0टी0ए0ए0ए0पी0ई0 केबिल की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 355500 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
20. निविदा सं0-137/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता, विवरण- 33 के0वी0 कण्ट्रोल रिले पैनल की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 230000 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
21. निविदा सं0-138/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- थ्री वे आर0एम0यू की आपूर्ति हेतु, धरोहर धनराशि- (रु) 250000 / - , निविदा धनराशि रु में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 5900 / - , ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-20.03.2024, ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि-21.03.2024
22. निविदा सं0-139/BP/23-24, पात्र फर्म-मूल निर्माता / अधिकृत विक्रेता, विवरण- विभिन्न प्रकार के कन्ट्रोल उपकरणों को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। 1. सूक्ष्म एवं लघु एवं स्टार्टअप इकाइयों को निविदा सेट निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा। 2. सूक्ष्म एवं लघु एवं स्टार्टअप इकाइयों को ई0एम0डी0 से छूट अनुमत्य है। 3. सूक्ष्म एवं लघु एवं स्टार्टअप से सम्बन्धित प्रश्न को अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। (मदन लाल)
अधिशायी अभियन्ता (मण्डार क्रय)
पत्रांक-1174 / एस0टी0पी0 / ए0-11 / 2023-2024, दिनांक 14.03.2024

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1. KIADB Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA, DIST. KALAHANDI
E-Mail ID: cetelbasinbhp@gmail.com/Phone No. 06670-230209
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-Procurement Notice No.- CE&BM.TEL - 21/2023-24
Bid Identification No: CETEL-BID-13/2023-24

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/BC) (in INR)	Cost of tender document (online)- (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	Construction of Instream Storage Structure across river Tel near village Kukudmal in the district of, Bolangir	Rs.526.33,43,253/- (Excluding GST)	Super Class	Rs. 5,26,33,433/-	Rs. 10,000/-	36 (Thirty Six) 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
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna	CETEL-BID-13/2023-24	From: 19.03.2024 at 10.00 hours To: 15.04.2024 up to 17.30 hours	19.03.2024 to 04.04.2024 at Office during office hours	16.04.2024 at 11.00 Hours	Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna

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

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-32317/11/0027/2324

DIRECTORATE OF TOWN & COUNTY PLANNING, HARYANA
2nd Floor, Block-A, Nagar Yojna Bhawan, Plot No.-3, Sector-18A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160018
Tel: 0172-271686, 2710035, 2710112; Website: www.topharyana.gov.in; Email: ccnrcr_tcp@hry.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for information of all concerned that the Draft Development Plan-2041 AD of Palwal and Prithla has been issued jointly by the Town and Country Planning Department and Urban Local Bodies Department vide notification No. CCP(NCR)/IDDP-2041/Palwal-Prithla/2024/348 dated 05.03.2024 under the provisions of Section 5(4) of the Haryana Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963 and Section 203C(5) of Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, for inviting objections/suggestions of the public on the proposals given therein.

Accordingly, anyone, who desires to file his objection/suggestion on this plan, may file the same in writing within 30 days i.e. on or before 04.04.2024 with the Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh addressed to Chief Coordinator Planner (NCR), Haryana, Chandigarh, for the areas falling outside the Municipal limits of Palwal and Prithla; and with the Director, Urban Local Bodies, Haryana, Panchkula, for the areas falling within the Municipal limits of Palwal and Prithla.

The copy of the concerned notification and the plan proposals may be inspected, on any working day and working hours before the expiry of the above said period, in following offices:

- Chief Coordinator Planner (NCR), Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Haryana, 2nd Floor, Block-A, Nagar Yojna Bhawan, Plot No.-3, Sector-18A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160018, Tel: 0172-2710112, Email: ccnrcr_tcp@hry.gov.in.
- Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sec-12, Faridabad, Phone: 0129-2220705 E-Mail: stp5.faridabad.tcp@gmail.com.
- District Town Planner, 1st Floor, HSVP Office Complex, Near Gym Khana Club, Hathin Road, Sector-12, Palwal, Phone: +911275-297454 E-Mail: dtp3.palwal.tcp@gmail.com.

The notification and the plan can also be accessed on the website of the Department i.e. "topharyana.gov.in" under the "Draft Development Plan" section.

Chief Coordinator Planner (NCR),
Haryana, Chandigarh.

25934

BPS GMS for WOMEN, KHANPUR KALAN, SONEPAT

Public Notice

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि भगत पूल सिंह महिला मैकेनिक कॉलेज खानपुर कला सोनीपत में अन्य अवधि/ अस्माई अवधि हेतु सोनीपत उपखण्ड कार्यालय के त्रिचर निविदा बंद कोटेशन या पंजीकृत फर्मों से पारदर्शक सूचित कोटेशन bpsgmc.purchase@gmail.com पर 26.03.2024 को दोपहर 12:00 तक जमा करा सकते हैं। कार्यालय में प्राप्त सभी निविदाएं दिनांक 26.03.2024 को दोपहर 03:00 बजे खोली जायगी। नियम व शर्तें महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.bpsgmc.khanpur.ac.in पर तथा किसी भी कार्य दिवस को कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।

Director
BPS GMC for Women
Khanpur Kalan, (Sonepat)

25914

AMARAVATI SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITY CORPORATION LIMITED
Lenin Center, Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002 (A.P.)

GeM Tender Notice

NIT No. ASSCL/CITIS/01 Dated: 14.03.2024

Name of Work: "Supply, fitting and erection of furniture, Play Equipment, Ball elements, Storage Containers, Patient examination tables and other items for schools, E-Health Centers and Anganwadi Centers (03 Nos) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Grid connected Solar Rooftop Systems in Schools, Anganwadi Centres, e-Health centres and Multi Faith Funeral Centre at Thulluru (1 No.) under CITIS Project through BOQ Bidding process in GeM- Total number of works: 4 Nos.. Estimate Amount- Rs.833.58 Lakhs

The bids can be downloaded on GeM portal from 15.03.2024 to 30.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 30.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 30.03.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details Please refer to www.gem.gov.in and www.asscl.ap.gov.in or www.crda.ap.gov.in

Sd/- MD & CEO, ASSCL

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tender (E-Tendering Process)

E-tender with E-reverse auction through e-procurement platform at <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> as per the instructions in the tender specification Coal 156 Dated 14.03.2024 Procurement of 5000 GAR imported Steam coal of any origin for delivery at Kamarajar Port, Ennore.

Sl No	Specification No.	Description of Work / Materials	Due date & time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal - 156 Dated 14.03.2024	Supply of 5000 GAR imported Steam coal of any origin for delivery at Kamarajar Port, Ennore through e-tender followed by e-reverse auction in the e-procurement platform in NIC portal under variable price mechanism as and when required basis for continuous running of NCTPS-III.	22.04.2024 14:00 Hours

Submission of E-Tender: Through this Hyperlink <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification: 17:00 Hrs. on 25.03.2024
Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification: 14:00 Hrs. on 22.04.2024
Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal, <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/1630/Tender/2024
CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL, TANGEDCO / CHENNAI-2

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-66-T-2023-24-E3
One time repairing & 8.03 years CAMC work of Fire Alarm System at Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi.

Approx cost of the works in Rs. 27.59 lacs

Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security: Rs. 55200.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 08.04.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender: 08.04.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

824/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय कृषि उपज मण्डी समिति जबलपुर जिला- जबलपुर
कमक/मण्डी/निर्माण/23-24/जबलपुर/N-383 दिनांक. 14.03.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

प्रमुख अभियंता मं प्र० लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त (एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली) पंजीकृत निविदाकारों से प्रतिशत दर आधार पर सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 2024 MPSAM_345601_1 अन्तर्गत ऑनलाइन निविदाएं दिनांक 15.04.2024 को शाम 15.30 बजे तक आमंत्रित <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य जानकारी निविदाकारों को मं प्र० शासन के ई-निविदा के पोर्टल पर प्राप्त होगी एवं उक्त निविदा से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी मण्डी बोर्ड के पोर्टल www.mpmmandiboard.gov.in पर भी अवलोकनीय होगी।

नोट:- आवश्यक होने पर उपरोक्त निविदा सूचना से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की संशोधन सूचना अथवा अन्य जानकारी केवल उपरोक्तनुसार पोर्टल पर प्रदर्शित की जावेगी।

हस्ता./-
सचिव
कृषि उपज मण्डी समिति जबलपुर
जिला- जबलपुर

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Email Id- sdhklpjd@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.D.H. (R&B) 36/2023-24
Letter No. 722 (D. 11/03/2024)

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

Sl No	Name of the work	Building/Road works
1	Name of the work	Building/Road works
2	No of works	08 (Eight) Nos
3	Estimated Cost	Rs.2.63 crore to Rs.6.49 crore (as given in column No. 03 of table)
4	Cost of tender paper	Rs 10,000.00
5	Class of contractor	'B', 'A' & Special Class (as given in column No. 07 of table)
6	Period of Completion of work	: 06(Six) to 11(Eleven) Calendar months (as given in column No. 08 of table)
7	Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website	: From Dt.18.03.2024 to 5.00PM of Dt.02.04.2024
8	Date of opening of bid	Dt:03.04.2024 at 11.00 AM

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Chief Engineer
Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal

OIPR- 34132/11/0048/2324

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
"Udyog Sarthi", MIDC (HQ), Mahakali Caves Road, Marol Industrial Area, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093 | Tel.: 022-47488312 / 4699 / 4679
Email: adminofficer@midcindia.org

E - TENDER NOTICE

No. / MIDC / GAD / Contract Labour / 03 / 2023-24

Online Tenders are invited from the reputed & experienced Companies/ Agencies for supply of manpower on contract basis for various post in various offices of MIDC all over Maharashtra. The details of nature of work, Terms & conditions for submission of the tender are available on MIDC's e-tender portal www.midcindia.org. The blank e-tender forms are available on e-tender portal of MIDC during the period from 15/03/2024 to 08/04/2024 (upto 15.00 hrs.)

Right to reject any or all the e-tender without assigning any reason thereof is reserved by competent authority of MIDC.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 64 / 2023-24

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:

Sl No	Name of Work	Bridge works
1	Name of Work	Bridge works
2	Nature of Work	: Bridge works
3	No of Work	: 03 nos.
4	Tender Cost	: Rs.10,000.00 (on-line).
5	Class of Contractor	: A/ Special 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://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (IC) Chief Engineer (Bridges), WBP, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR- 34003/11/0093/2324

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	PURCHASE OF HOT WATER GENERATORS	15.03.2024 30.03.2024	AS PER DNIT	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	01276-276302 vitarohak@gmail.com

25905/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	BALANCE WORKS AT BAL BHAWAN SEC-4 GURUGRAM	12.03.2024 28.03.2024	62.94 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9914544004 ee6@mcg.gov.in

25901/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	FORESTS DEPARTMENT HARYANA SONIPAT	NEW PLANTATION, MTS.OF PREVIOUS YEARS PLANTATION AND NURSERIES IN SONEPAT + 10 OTHER WORKS	12.03.2024 19.03.2024	276.57 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	01302988833 dfosonipat@yahoo.co.in

25929/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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

No. Tech-II/101/2023/9

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-1 e-tenders in two bid system (Technical 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	Proposed Construction of Bhergaon High School, Bhergaon, Udalguri (Assam)	751.45853	18 (Eighteen) months	2% of Bid value for General category and 1% of Bid Value for reserved Category	Rs.15030.00

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/17939/23/15-Mar-24

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)
Re-eTender No.- 383/ 2023-24- Ranchi, Dated: 13.03.2024
PR No 314531 Dated 27.12.2023 (4th Call)

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmsgytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY-III).

Sr. No.	Package ID	District Name	Block name	WORK NAME	Road/ LSB	Cost of Const. and Maint. With GST (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Time Period
1.	JH-P3-23-24-KHU-02	Khunti	Murhu	T08-T07-Rugdi to Godatoh, Murhu (Khunti-Chaibasa Main Road NH-75E) via Kolme, Chichigara, Hethgoba Road (L-18.65 KM)	Road	2250.32	45.00	15 Months
			Murhu	H.L Bridge over Local Nala in 9-585 KM, of T07-Rugdi to Godatoh, Murhu (Khunti-Chaibasa Main Road) (L-38.64 M)	LSB			

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmsgytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.
Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To	Technical bid	Financial bid
Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	15.03.2024 at 10.00 AM	22.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM	22.03.2024 at 05.30 PM	To be informed later.

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.
** Cost may change.

Note :-

- Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
- Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
- In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
- Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
- Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of GoI/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
- Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
- In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
- Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at ji-ce@pmsgy.nic.in Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
- Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
- Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
- For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
- The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason.

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

Chief Engineer
JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 322618 Rural Work Department(23-24)D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03
No. CE/DEV/TB/1338/2023-24/03

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Re-Bid)

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 2 (Two) no. of Package for Construction of Road and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup & Tamulpur District amounting to Rs. 958.01 Lakhs (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

Details may be seen from 16.03.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The scheme is not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non — sanction of the scheme, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note :- N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc.

Chief Engineer
(Roads), PWRD,
JANASANYOG/CF/6557/23/15-Mar-24 Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

LUCKNOW SOLAR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (LSPDCL)
(A Joint Venture of Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited New Delhi)
11th Floor, UPNEDA building, Vibhuti Khand, Gomtinagar Lucknow- 226010
Mob.No. 91-9839017624, Tel.No 0522-2720652
Website:www.upneda.org.in, E-Mail: lspldc2015@gmail.com/ho_nmkn@rediffmail.com

e- Tender Notice

LSPDCL invites Online Bids (e-tenders) for selection of Consultancy firm for establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) to assist on retainer-ship basis for execution, implementation and monitoring of its operational and upcoming Solar Parks/Solar Power Projects. To assist in Project Formulation, technical and financial appraisals of new projects on a continuous basis as per the details mentioned below:

Sl. No.	e-tender No.	e-tender document availability at site	Pre-bid Meeting	E-tender Submission Date	Technical e-bid opening Date
1.	LSPDCL/1/PMU/2024 dated 20.3.2024	20.03.2024	03.04.2024 at 12.30 PM	18.04.2024 upto 06.55 PM	19.04.2024 at 12.30 PM

The details of tenders can be seen or downloaded from e-Procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and UP Electronics Corporation's website www.upcl.in. Also available at www.upneda.org. Chairman, LSPDCL reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Chairman
LSPDCL

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Tender No: Edu/09/2023-24
Publication of Notice for Request for Proposal (RFP) for
'Empanelment of Vendors for Supply of School Items to PCMC Students

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) hereby invites 'Request for Proposal for 'Empanelment of Vendors for Supply of School Items to PCMC Students. Bidders are advised to study this RFP document carefully before submitting their proposals in response to this RFP Notice. Submission of a proposal in response to this notice shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its terms, conditions, and implications.

Interested Bidders are requested to download the RFP document published on www.mahatenders.gov.in from 14/03/2024. The last date for bid submission 03/04/2024 by 3:00 PM. The bidder may submit their proposal either on mahatenders or physically hardcopy at client address as per the RFP.

The downloaded bidding document shall be considered valid for participation in the electronic bidding process (e-Tendering) subject to the payment of RFP Fee. For any type of clarifications, Bidders can visit www.mahatenders.gov.in or contact help desk contact no. 0120-4001 462, 0120-4001 002, 0120-4001 005, 0120-6277 787, Email: support-eproc@nic.in

Name of Work	Tender Fees (Non Refundable)	EMD
Empanelment of Vendors for Supply of School Items to PCMC Students	INR 15,075 (Fifteen Thousand Seventy Five Rupees only)	INR 2,50,000 (Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Rupees only)

Commissioner, PCMC reserves the rights to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons thereof. In this regard his decision will be final and legally binding on all the Bidders.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Pimpri- 411 018

ADV.NO.-661
Date: 14/03/2024

Rural Works Department Notice Inviting Re-Tender (No.-RWD/MMGSY(NDB)/HQ/ET/77/2023-24)

The Government of Bihar has a loan no. [181N01] from New Development Bank (NDB) towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana) to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction & maintenance of works as detailed in the Table-1 below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

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

Sl. No.	Package	Description of the Works [CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B)]		Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable* (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division
		From	To						
1	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-500-NARKATIAGANJ	A1	Tarwa Tola Pipal Tree Road	0.688	84.440	5.450	89.890	8.824	Narkatiaganj
		A2	Sbi Bank	1.297	185.600	5.970	191.570		
		A3	Narkatiaganj Gaunaha Road	1.379	149.670	10.090	159.760		
Total		3		3.364	419.710	21.510	441.220	8.824	
2	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-704-KATIAR	A1	Part-A Sahariya Kas Bandh	1.480	146.706	22.993	169.699	14.736	Katihar
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC Bridge Span 3x18.75m at CH-14080 km over Sahariya Kas Bandh to Kundi Rani Baisa Govindpur with Approach Road = 89.13m	60.87m	561.002	6.090	567.092		
Total		1/1		1.630	707.708	29.083	736.791	14.736	
3	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-705-TRIVENIGANJ	A1	Gidrahi	4.516	577.288	46.997	624.285	12.486	Triveniganj
Total		1		4.516	577.288	46.997	624.285	12.486	
4	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-706-SUPAUL	A1	Mahpatiya	5.090	631.151	52.004	683.155	13.663	Supaul
Total		1		5.090	631.151	52.004	683.155	13.663	
5	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-707-NAVAGACHIA	A1	Hareram Jha House	3.182	490.889	41.520	532.409	10.648	Navgachia
Total		1		3.182	490.889	41.520	532.409	10.648	
6	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-708-DHAMDAHA	A1	Dhamdaha B Kothi RCD Road	4.450	454.400	69.348	523.748	10.475	Dhamdaha
Total		1		4.450	454.400	69.348	523.748	10.475	
7	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-709-DHAMDAHA	A1	Part-A Santhal Piryakar Tola	1.270	185.953	18.426	204.379	16.038	Dhamdaha
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC Bridge in Santhal Piryakar Tola to maheta Tola Paswan Tola Mandal Tola at Ch. -1+140 km Span 3x18.75m with Approach Road 89.13m	60.87m	591.900	5.620	597.520		
Total		1/1		1.420	777.853	24.046	801.899	16.038	
8	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-710-DHAMDAHA	A1	Part-A Goriyar Bhawanipur	1.199	124.847	15.586	140.433	14.467	Dhamdaha
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC Bridge Span 3x18.75m at Ch. -0+780km in Goriyar Bhawanipur to Goriyar Sautari with Approach Road-89.13m	60.87m	577.284	5.610	582.894		
Total		1/1		1.349	702.131	21.196	723.327	14.467	
9	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-711-BAGAHA-1	A1	Part-A Hardi Yadav Tola	4.064	462.704	45.824	508.528	19.255	Bagaha-1
		B1	Part-B Construction of H.L RCC Bridge Span 2x16.5m in Hardi Yadav Tola to Kaulachi Road with Approach Road 100.00m	36.12m	447.020	7.214	454.234		
Total		1/1		4.200	909.724	53.038	962.762	19.255	
10	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-712-BAGAHA-2	A1	Part-A Primary school at Nirmal Chaudhary Tola	3.450	363.925	39.547	403.472	25.843	Bagaha-2
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge Span 2x12.50m at CH-3+100 km in Primary school at Nirmal Chaudhary Tola to Bagwanpur road with Approach Road = 317m	26.22m	369.337	2.373	371.710		
		B2	Part-C Construction of RCC HL Bridge Span 2x18.75m at CH-3+400 km in Primary school at Nirmal Chaudhary Tola to Bagwanpur road with Approach Road = 490m	38.64m	513.520	3.469	516.989		
Total		1/2		4.322	1246.782	45.389	1292.171	25.843	
11	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-713-BAGAHA-2	A1	Part-A PP Tatband	3.291	390.304	44.466	434.770	18.067	Bagaha-2
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge Span 2x16.84m at CH-0+725 km in PP Tatband to Charmaraha road with Approach Road = 352m	33.76m	465.745	2.837	468.582		
Total		1/1		3.677	856.049	47.303	903.352	18.067	
12	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-714-BAGAHA-2	A1	Part-A PMGSY Road	1.935	256.083	20.430	276.513	19.228	Bagaha-2
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge Span 3x16.50m at Ch. -1+900 km in PMGSY Road to Dubaha Tola with Approach Road 373.00m	51.33m	681.303	3.561	684.864		
Total		1/1		2.359	937.386	23.991	961.377	19.228	
13	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-715-NARKATIAGANJ	A1	Part-A TMC to Murli Road	2.141	307.587	25.022	332.609	27.630	Narkatiaganj
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC Bridge Span 4x21.75m at Ch.-2+308km in TMC to Murli Road to Harbora River with Approach Road-500.00m	89.28m	1043.092	5.819	1048.911		
Total		1/1		2.730	1350.679	30.841	1381.520	27.630	
14	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-716-MOTIHARI	A1	Part-A Amar Dev Mahto Kauasaha Ward No.-17	4.800	484.200	44.180	528.380	10.568	Motihari
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge over Rajwahi River in Yodopur mangalpur pitch road to Ahir Tola road with Approach road = 260m	50.64m	637.858	5.850	643.708		
Total		1		4.800	484.200	44.180	528.380	10.568	
15	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-717-PAKRIDAYAL	A1	Part-A Saraiya to Meghua road	1.200	122.180	11.630	133.810	15.691	Pakridayal
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge Span 4x18.75m at CH-0+770 km over river in Saraiya to meghua road to Meghua Malikana road with Approach road = 100m	77.28m	648.350	2.400	650.750		
Total		1/1		1.377	770.530	14.030	784.560	15.691	
16	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-718-MAHARAJGANJ	A1	Part-A MR Road Phatehpur	2.670	234.930	27.450	262.380	16.829	Maharajganj
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge Span 3x18.75m in MR Road Phatehpur to Bin Tola	60.87m	576.920	2.150	579.070		
Total		1/1		2.731	811.850	29.600	841.450	16.829	
17	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-719-GOPALGANJ-1	A1	Part-A Yodopur mangalpur pitch road	1.441	171.622	13.260	184.882	16.572	Gopalganj-1
		B1	Part-B Construction of RCC HL Bridge over Rajwahi River in Yodopur mangalpur pitch road to Ahir Tola road with Approach road = 260m	50.64m	637.858	5.850	643.708		
Total		1/1		1.752	809.480	19.110	828.590	16.572	
GRAND TOTAL		19/12		52.949	12937.810	613.186	13550.996	271.020	

Sl. No.	Package	Description of the Works [CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B)]	Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable* (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division	
1	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-571-MADHUBANI	A1 Pakki Road Bhitto	1.361	142.900	8.280	151.180	5.152	Madhubani	
	A2	Jamsam Mahendra Sah House	0.963	102.160	4.240	106.400			
TOTAL		2		2.324	245.060	12.520	257.580	5.152	
2	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-572-MADHUBANI	A1	Basura Belam	0.906	88.890	5.310	94.200	4.764	Madhubani
		A2	House of Raja Ram Mahto Rampur	1.362	136.810	7.210	144.020		
TOTAL		2		2.268	225.700	12.520	238.220	4.764	
3	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-573-MAHARAJGANJ	A1	KarnautiMahindwara Path Balram Pokhar	0.872	97.170	3.640	100.810	4.630	Maharajganj
		A2	Kailash Rai Dukan	1.100	119.640	11.030	130.670		
TOTAL		2		1.972	216.810	14.670	231.480	4.630	
4	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-585-MUZAFFARPUR WEST	A1	Reo Road	0.473	48.496	2.656	51.152	1.023	Muzaffarpur West
TOTAL		1		0.473	48.496	2.656	51.152	1.023	
5	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-618-BARH	A1	Pura Nayia Bigha Road	0.610	50.260	4.460	54.720	1.094	Barh
TOTAL		1		0.610	50.260	4.460	54.720	1.094	
6	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-635-KISHANGANJ-2	A1	Hekal badi	0.712	66.701	5.906	72.607	12.334	Kishanganj-2
		A2	Chhamathia	1.497	168.020	21.025	189.045		
		A3	Jhankhor Nasim House	1.621	167.793	23.822	191.615		
		A4	Karigaon (Chechua badi)	1.146	145.648	17.771	163.419		
TOTAL		4		4.976	548.162	68.524	616.686	12.334	
7	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-636-KISHANGANJ-2	A1	Bangal border	0.997	114.030	15.879	129.909	12.592	Kishanganj-2
		A2	Adiwasi tola Hospital	0.846	97.002	11.855	108.857		
		A3	T04 Kishanganj Thakurganj	0.847	148.540	12.884	161.424		
		A4	Bhudhibhita	1.988	201.142	28.246	229.388		
TOTAL		4		4.678	560.714	68.864	629.578	12.592	
8	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-638-KISHANGANJ-2	A1	Indarpur MMGSY Road	1.700	229.264	20.908	250.172	18.776	Kishanganj-2
		A2	Kishanganj Thakurganj PWD road	2.942	302.466	40.428	342.894		
		A3	Kishanganj Thakurganj PWD road	0.614	80.653	5.672	86.325		
		A4	TaiyabpurSonapur Road	2.122	229.494	29.927	259.421		
TOTAL		4		7.378	841.877	96.935	938.812	18.776	
9	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-641-MASAUHRI	A1	PothahBarapur RCD Path keBeldirichak	0.600	64.070	4.730	68.800	1.376	Masaurhi
		B1	PWD to bachgawdurgasthan road	0.850	87.100	3.770	90.870		
TOTAL		1		0.600	64.070	4.730	68.800	1.376	
10	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-658-SAMASTIPUR	A1	L05 bajitpurSarsauna PMGSY path	0.545	45.410	4.630	50.040	7.473	Samastipur
		A2	Tajpur to chakphad RCD path	1.000	79.770	9.110	88.880		
		A3	Kuswaha tola to baital chowk path ward no 06	0.200	21.770	0.830	22.600		
		A4	Mahadali tola ward no 09	0.600	49.490	4.620	54.110		
		A5	Hajma chauk Ward No. 08	0.700	60.960	6.170	67.130		
		A6	Hajma chauk Ward No. 08	0.700	60.960	6.170	67.130		
TOTAL		6		3.895	344.500	29.130	373.630	7.473	
11	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-663-SUPAUL	A1	Ram tola madhura ward no-4 Jagdeo Ram ke Ghar	0.914	104.300	8.199	112.499	11.519	Supaul
		A2	Karhiya Ward No.6 and 7 Chandri Yadav keghar	0.720	79.948	8.232	88.180		
		A3	Karhiya Ward no. 11 kumkumprakash Mandal keghar	1.037	110.872	9.534	120.406		
		A4	Bela Panchayat main SikarhattaMajhari Low Bandh(Md Nasir Mia Ke ghar)	1.837	234.182	20.691	254.873		
TOTAL		4		4.508	529.302	46.656	575.958	11.519	
12	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-664-SUPAUL	A1	T01 kuhariya PMGSY road	1.908	257.820	19.459	277.279	11.165	Supaul
		A2	Parsauni Ward no 08 Kapil yadav House	0.712	105.028	6.799	111.827		
		A3	Belhi to Belga Road	1.317	155.000	14.165	169.165		
TOTAL		3		3.937	517.848	40.423	568.271	11.165	
13	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-671-DARBHANGA-1	A1	Kapleshwar House	0.110	18.686	0.279	18.965	0.379	Darbhanga-1
TOTAL		1		0.110	18.686	0.279	18.965	0.379	
GRAND TOTAL		35		37.729	4211.485	402.367	4613.852	92.277	

Table-2

Downloading of Bidding Documents	From 01.04.2024 (0900 Hours) to 22.04.2024 (1500 Hours)
Online Bid Submission last Date	on 22.04.2024 up to 1500 Hours
Offline Bid Submission last Date	on 22.04.2024 up to 1500 Hours
Online Bid Opening Date	on 22.04.202

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Ishabir Singh Kohli S/O Sh. Harcharan Singh R/O CC 53 E DDA Flat, hari nagar, west delhi 110064, inform that my daughter's name Manya Kaur Kohli & Maanya Kaur Kohli both are one and same person. 0050238964-1

It is for general information that I, Mohd. Aslam Siddiqui, S/o Moinuddin Siddiqui, R/o 1448, Chhatta Nawab Sahab, Farash Khana, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110006, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Mohd Aslam and Moin Uddin in my 11th-Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my father are Mohd. Aslam Siddiqui and Moinuddin Siddiqui. 0040719951-10

It is for general information that I Sourabh Sharma, S/o-Ram Kishan Sharma residing at-G-3/88, Model Town-3, Delhi-110009 declare that my minor daughter Date of Birth has been wrongly written as-31-05-2006 in my minor daughter (Aashna Sharma age-17 years) educational documents (10th-Class Certificate No.0009630, Roll-No.26111892). The actual Date of Birth my minor daughter is 31.01.2007 respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040719863-1

I, Yogesh S/O Mangal Sain, R/o, H.No.-400/1, Loni-Gate, Chhota Bazar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Yogesh Kumar, for all, future purposes. 0040719958-4

I, Varun Gupta, S/o Mahendra Kumar Gupta R/O, A1/808, Saya Zenith, Ahinsa-Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201014, have changed my name, from Varun Gupta to Varun Kumar Gupta, for all, future purpose. 0040719934-6

I, VIKRAM SHARMA R/O-H.NO-202, SECTOR-15 PART-1, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 CHANGED MY MINOR-DAUGHTER NAME VAANYA TO VAANYA SHARMA. 0040719947-9

I, VARINENDER JEET SINGH, S/o S. Baljit Singh, R/o Flat.No.406, Neelkanth Apartments, Sector-21, Faridabad, Haryana -121001, have changed my name to VIRENDER JEET SINGH, for all purposes. 0040719942-2

I, Tasleem, S/O Tole Khan, H.No-00, Street, Vill. Jawahar Nagar, Near-Taj Masjid, Post Kazipura, Moradabad, U.P.-244001, have changed my name to TASLEEM AHMAD. Permanently. 0040719951-9

I, Tabasum W/O Ikram, R/o E-129, Gali No-02, Shri Ram Colony, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to TABASSUM. Permanently. 0040719949-1

I, Sher Bahadur Singh, S/O-Late Ganga Singh, R/o-H.No.3331, Gali No.30-B, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi-110040, that Sher Bahadur Singh, and Munna Singh are one and same person. shall hereafter be known as Munna Singh 0040719958-2

I, Shamshad Malik, S/O Mastullah R/O H NO-1402/A, Gali, No-15, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, New Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to SHAMSHAD AHMAD. Permanently. 0040719949-2

I, Shushilender Pandey, S/O Gurudutt Pandey R/O H.No.845, Pkt-6, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sushlender Pandey. 0040719934-5

I, Sanjay Kumar, S/O Shri Shishu Pal Singh Solanki, R/o/1/181, 3rd flr, Subhash-Nagar, New-Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar Solanki, for all, future purposes. 0040719951-1

I, Sandeep S/O Jai Singh, R/O Bayyanpur (207), Vijayanpur, Sonapat, Haryana-131001, have changed my name to Sandeep Kumar, permanently. 0040719934-4

I, Sahil Arora, S/O Sh. Rakesh Kumar, R/o M-29, Kasturba Apartment, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name, from Sahil Arora to Saahil Arora, for all, future purposes. 0040719958-1

I, SAURABH KUMAR DUBEY, S/O RAJ NARAYAN DUBEY, ADD-D-730/37, GALLI.NO-11 ASHOK-NAGAR SHAHDARA, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110093, changed my name to SAURABH DUBEY, for all, future purposes. 0040719951-2

I, SATBIR SINGH MITTAL, S/O KRISHAN LAL MITTAL R/O MITTAL-CLINIC, BHALGARH(73), SONIPAT, HARYANA-131021, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATBIR MITTAL. 0040719958-5

I, SAIMA W/O MOHD NAVED, R/O 455 GALI SAROTE WALI MATIA MAHAL JAMA, MASJID DELHI-6, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAIMA REHMAN. 0040719934-7

I, Krishna Kumari W/o Late Honey Capt./Sub Pradip Kumar Dikshit R/o H-123, Vikaspuri, New Delhi have changed my name to Krishna Kumari 0040719951-3

I, SACHIN S/O RAM PRASAD VERMA R/O KHAUSRANO.17/1, GALI.NO.15, SW AROOP NAGAR, LIBASPUR, DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SACHIN RAJPUT. 0040719949-5

I, Rukhsar Khatoun, D/O Israr Ahmad Khan, R/o Tamkuhi Raj, Kushinagar, UP-274407, have changed my name to RUKHSAR KHANAM, for all, future purposes. 0040719947-8

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Amresh Mishra, R/O Amdahi Gonda, U.P.-271403, have changed my name to Rajesh Mishra. 0040720008-3

I, REKHA RANI W/O-SUSHIL GOYAL, R/O-2447/185, GANESH PURA, TRI NAGAR DELHI-110035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO REKHA GOYAL, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040719947-10

I, RAKESH KUMAR GOYAL S/O BASAKHI RAM GOYAL R/O D-16/210-211, GROUND-FLOOR, SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH GOYAL. 0040719949-6

I, RAJESH KUMAR S/O JAGDISH LAL R/O 129FF Sector-9, Gurgaon-122001, have changed my name to RAJESH KUMAR ARORA. 0040719947-1

I, Pradeep Kumar S/O Rajesh Mishra R/O, H.No.21, Block-12, Ground-Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar Mishra. 0040720008-1

I, Pooja Sharma W/O Shri Suhas Rai, R/O 11182 ATS Advantage, Near-Express Garden, Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 Inform that in MCD Birth-Certificate My Son name is Aryan Rai and my name is Pooja Rai, whereas our son correct-name is "Aryan Sharma" and my name is Pooja Sharma. 0040719934-9

I, Nitin Singh Solanki S/o Purushottam Singh R/O WZ-30, First-Floor, Keshopur-Village, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Nitin Singh. 0040720000-2

I, Nirmala, W/o Mangal Sain, R/O H.No.-400/1, Loni Gate, Chhota Bazar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Nirmal Devi, for all, future purposes. 0040719958-3

I, Naresh Chand Mangla, S/O Ramesh Chand R/O, 1728, 2nd Floor, Rishi-Nagar Kotla Mubarakpur Lodhi Road Delhi-110003, have changed my name to Naresh Chand. 0040719947-4

I, Nabi Hassan, S/O Tasleem Ahmed, R/O B-443, Gali No-06, Shri Ram Colony, Rajiv Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to NABI HASAN. Permanently. 0040719951-9

I, MOHMEED TOUSIF, S/O. MOHMEED SABIR, H.NO-349, GALI, NO.18, JAFRABAD, NORTH EAST DELHI-110053, changed my name to MOHD TOUSIF, for all, future purposes. 0040719951-3

I, MOHAMMAD KAZIM, S/O NAZAR ABBAS, R/O, K-63, BLOCK-K, BATLA HOUSE, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, SOUTH, DELHI-110025, have changed my name to MOHD KAZIM, for all, future purpose. 0040719947-7

I, MOHAMMAD AKRAM SALMANI S/O MOHAMMAD YAQOOB R/O 2361, RAJA PARK, SHAKUR BASTI, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD AKRAM. 0040719949-7

I, MD RIZWAN, S/O SHAIKH SIRAJUDDIN, ADD-E-193, BLOCK-E ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-2 SHAHEEN BHAG JAMIA NAGAR, DELHI-110025, changed my name to SHAIKH MOHAMMAD RIZWAN, permanently. 0040719934-10

I, MANISH CHAUHAN, S/O VIJENDER SINGH, R/O-51-VIJAY BLOCK LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092, THAT MY CORRECT AND ACTUAL NAME MANISH CHAUHAN WITCH ON MY AADHAR-CARD 0040719934-10

I, MAHARAJ IMTIYAZ MAULVIGUL AMULLAH, father of, RAYAN Presently, residing at FLAT-103, DDA-POCKET-13, MANGLAPURI, PALAM, New Delhi-110045, have changed my minor son's name, from RAYAN to MAHARAJ RAYAN vide-Affidavit, Dated-14.3.2024. 0040719951-7

I, Anup Solanki S/o Net Ram Solanki R/O-House.No-137, Pocket-23, Sector-24, Rohini Sector-7, Unity Apartment, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Anoop Solanki 0040719845-1

I, MAHARAJ IMTIYAZ MAULVIGULAMULLAH father of RAIHAN Presently residing at FLAT-103, DDA-POCKET-13, MANGLAPURI, PALAM, New Delhi-110045, have changed my minor son's name, from RAIHAN to MAHARAJ RAIHAN vide-Affidavit, Dated-14.3.2024. 0040719951-6

I, Km Premalata W/o Pradeep Kumar Mishra R/O, H.No.21, Block-12, Ground-Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Premalata Mishra. 0040720008-2

I, Kamal S/O Munshi, R/O Bichondiyala mohalla VPO Ghosera (161), Mewat Nuh, Haryana-122107, have changed my name to Kamaluddin, for all Purposes 0040719947-5

I, Irfan Malik S/O Shamshad Ahmad, R/O H NO-922, Gali, No-11, Rajiv-Gandhi Nagar, New Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to MOHD IRFAN. Permanently. 0040719949-3

I, Genda Ram S/o Late Sh. Lajja Ram, R/O V.P.O Rathesh Distt Mainpuri Uttar Pradesh-206303, Have changed my name to Genda Lal Permanently. 0040719947-6

I, Ruby D/O Ikram, R/O E-129, Gali No-02, Shri Ram Colony, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to RUBEE. Permanently. 0040719949-4

I, Esha Kumar, D/o Rajnish Kumar, R/O 120, Third Floor, Gali No-5, East Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Satpal Kumar permanently. 0040719934-3

I, DEEPAK S/O ANIL KUMAR, residing, PLOT NO-7, FLAT, NO-403 THIRD-FLOOR RAJU EXTENSION KAKROLA DWARKA, DELHI-110078, have changed my name to DEEPAK KUMAR, for all, future purpose. 0070894182-1

I, Charan Lal Gupta S/O Late Ram Kishore Gupta R/O G-74, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, changed my name to Shivcharan Lal Gupta. 0040719951-5

I, Ashakumari Georina w/o Rakesh Kumar R/o.H.No.530, D/A Block, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Asha Georina, Permanently. 0040719949-8

I, Nishim Samuel D/o John Samuel R/O Plot No-A-10, Flat No-A-1, Siddharth Apartment Phase-1, Aya Nagar, Delhi-47 have changed my name to Nimmy Massey 0070894188-1

I, Neha Pawar D/o Sunil Kumar, R/O H/o, UC 3/12 Chelmsford club, Raj- sina Road, New Delhi-1 declare that both the names NEHA PAWAR and NEHA pertain to the one and same person i.e NEHA PAWAR. 0070894176-1

I, Neelam W/o, Anoop Solanki R/O- House.No-137, Pocket-23, Sector-24, Rohini, Sector-7, Unity-Apartment, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Neelam Solanki 0040719868-1

I, Narender Sharma S/O Kesho Ram, R/O, H.No. 1/10002, Gali No.3-G, West Gorakhpark, Shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Naresh Kumar. 0070894137-1

I, NIKITA W/O DIVYANSHU SHARMA R/O Flat No.-55, Agroha Kunj, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to NIKITA SHARMA permanently. 0040719844-1

I, Mulanshri w/o Late Maharaj Singh, resident of village Khatira post pilkhana tehsil bharthana distric etawah Uttar Pradesh-206120. My Date of birth is 01-01-1942 and my correct name is Mulanshri which is true, the above name and Date of birth should be corrected. 0040719942-10

I, Laiq Ahmad S/o Shakeel Ahmad R/O E-037 Second Floor Ashwari Apartment, Alpha-1, Greater Noida U.P, have changed my name to Laiq Ahmad Ansari for all future purposes. 0070894183-1

I, Mohd Azimullah, S/O- Amanullah, Address-0-20/4 batla house jamia-nagar New Delhi-110025, changed my name to Azimullah. 0040719947-2

I, Kala Yadav w/o Om Prakash Yadav R/O H.NO-145-B, Katwaria Sarai, PO-Hauz Khas, Distt-South Delhi-110016 had changed my name to Kanta Yadav after my marriage, for all future purposes. 0070894178-1

I, Gagandeep Singh S/o Avtar Singh Malhotra R/O 118C, LIG Flats, D-110064, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to GAGANDEEP SINGH MALHOTRA. 0070894179-1

I, Divya Mohan Srivastava W/o Saket Bhatnagar R/O Flat No.2204, Tower-2, White Orchid, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP have changed my name to DIVYA BHATNAGAR for all future purposes. 0070894191-1

I, Shashi/Shashi Bala D/o Jai Kishan Chandriyal R/O WZ-13D, 3rd Floor, Gali No.4, Vashisitha Park, Sagarpur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110046 have changed my name from Shashi/Shashi Bala to Shashi Chandriyal for all future purposes. 0040719845-1

I, Sahodara Devi W/o Babu Ram R/O H.No. A-31/6M, Gali No.3, Shastrji Marg, Moujpur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Subhadra Devi, for all purposes. 0040719877-1

I, Sonia Rani, W/O Himanshu Khatri R/O I-7/24, Third (Top) Floor, Rohini, Sector-16, North West Delhi-110089, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sonia Khatri 0070893912-1

I, Sobhika Nisin, spouse of SGT Nisin V R resident of SMQ 377(F-4), Near Ganga complex, Subrato park, New Delhi-10 have changed my Name from Sobhika Nisin to Sobhika S vide affidavit dated 12/02/2024 0070894123-1

I, Seep Singh, W/o Saurabh Sabhlok, R/O 677 Kamaljit Sandhu Block, Asiad Village, Delhi 110049, have changed my name to Seep Sabhlok for all future purposes after my marriage on 20.02.2022. 0040719846-1

I, Sachin Singh Dhouni S/O Man Mohan Singh Dhouni, R/O B-33, Gali No-10, Dada Dev Mandir, Raj Nagar II Palam Colony, South West Delhi, Delhi-110077 I have changed the name of my minor daughter Twisha aghal above 2 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Aarna Dhouni 0070894136-1

I, SHIVAM PRASAD BIJLUWAN, S/O-SUNDER LAL BIJALWAN, R/O-VILLAGE-GAMRI, PO- MAHRAGAON, DIST-UTTARAKSHI, UTTARAKHAND-249196, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHIVAM BIJALWAN FOR ALL PURPOSE. 0040719957-1

I, SANJAY GUPTA S/O JIYA LAL GUPTA R/O 1481/102, GANESH PURA-A, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM HARDIK GUPTA TO HARDIK GARG FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0070894182-1

I, RUTVIK MOSUN S/O Sanjay Musun R/O H. No. C-211, 3rd Floor Greater Kailash Part 1, New Delhi-110048, have changed my name to RUTHVIK MOSUN for all purposes. 0040719855-1

I, Nisin V R resident of SMQ 377(F-4), Near Ganga complex, Subrato park, New Delhi-10 have changed my daughter's Name from Nainika to Nainika V N vide affidavit dated 12/02/2024. 0070894117-1

I, Nimmi Samuel D/o John Samuel R/O Plot No-A-10, Flat No-A-1, Siddharth Apartment Phase-1, Aya Nagar, Delhi-47 have changed my name to Nimmy Massey 0070894188-1

I, Neha Pawar D/o Sunil Kumar, R/O H/o, UC 3/12 Chelmsford club, Raj- sina Road, New Delhi-1 declare that both the names NEHA PAWAR and NEHA pertain to the one and same person i.e NEHA PAWAR. 0070894176-1

I, Neelam W/o, Anoop Solanki R/O- House.No-137, Pocket-23, Sector-24, Rohini, Sector-7, Unity-Apartment, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Neelam Solanki 0040719868-1

I, Narender Sharma S/O Kesho Ram, R/O, H.No. 1/10002, Gali No.3-G, West Gorakhpark, Shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Naresh Kumar. 0070894137-1

I, NIKITA W/O DIVYANSHU SHARMA R/O Flat No.-55, Agroha Kunj, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to NIKITA SHARMA permanently. 0040719844-1

I, Mulanshri w/o Late Maharaj Singh, resident of village Khatira post pilkhana tehsil bharthana distric etawah Uttar Pradesh-206120. My Date of birth is 01-01-1942 and my correct name is Mulanshri which is true, the above name and Date of birth should be corrected. 0040719942-10

I, Laiq Ahmad S/o Shakeel Ahmad R/O E-037 Second Floor Ashwari Apartment, Alpha-1, Greater Noida U.P, have changed my name to Laiq Ahmad Ansari for all future purposes. 0070894183-1

I, Mohd Azimullah, S/O- Amanullah, Address-0-20/4 batla house jamia-nagar New Delhi-110025, changed my name to Azimullah. 0040719947-2

I, Kala Yadav w/o Om Prakash Yadav R/O H.NO-145-B, Katwaria Sarai, PO-Hauz Khas, Distt-South Delhi-110016 had changed my name to Kanta Yadav after my marriage, for all future purposes. 0070894178-1

I, Gagandeep Singh S/o Avtar Singh Malhotra R/O 118C, LIG Flats, D-110064, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to GAGANDEEP SINGH MALHOTRA. 0070894179-1

I, Divya Mohan Srivastava W/o Saket Bhatnagar R/O Flat No.2204, Tower-2, White Orchid, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP have changed my name to DIVYA BHATNAGAR for all future purposes. 0070894191-1

I, Shashi/Shashi Bala D/o Jai Kishan Chandriyal R/O WZ-13D, 3rd Floor, Gali No.4, Vashisitha Park, Sagarpur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110046 have changed my name from Shashi/Shashi Bala to Shashi Chandriyal for all future purposes. 0040719845-1

I, hitherto known as BABLU alias VIRENDER PRATAP S/O LATE ASHOK KUMAR R/O H.NO-305, C-BLOCK, GALI NO-9, PART-1, MUKUNDPUR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIRENDER PRATAP 0070894121-1

INITIN VASHISHT S/O SHRI MADHU SHARMA R/O B-222/6, RAMA GARDEN NEAR MUKHIYA MARKET, KARAWAL NAGAR, DELHI 110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM INITIN KUMAR VASHIST TO NITIN VASHISHT & MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 28.12.1982 FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040719866-1

I Ganesh Singh Bhandari S/O Darshan Singh Bhandari, R/O Kashirampur Talla, House No-34, Kottdwara, Pouri Garhwal Uttarakhand -246149, Declared that I have changed my Name Ganesh Singh to Ganesh Singh Bhandari for all purpose in future. 0040719848-1

Dharamvir Singh Khatri S/O-Aman Singh R/o-House No.499, V.P.O.Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana-131028 have changed my name to Dharamvir for all purposes. 0040719862-1

IBHARAT S/O NAVEEN TYAGI R/O-378 Hastal-Village Uttam-Nagar D.K. Mohan-Garden West Delhi-110059, have changed my name to BHARAT PARASHAR. 0040720000-10

I, sheetal, W/o Chetan Lal, R/O 183, could camp thuts vasant vihar, south west delhi, pin 110057, have changed my name to sheetal parchhey permanently. 0040719934-2

TYFFYN provides All types of Women/ Men Jeans, Jackets, Blazers. Contact us- Shri Balaji Traders, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031. Mobile- 9873664951, 9319450631. 0040718751-7

I, Pushpa Devi W/o Lt. Raghuvir Singh have lost original lease deed dated -14/10/1981 executed by the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority, in favor of Smt. A.M Verghese W/o V Mattew Verghese R/O E-44 Kirti Nagar New Delhi in respect of the said property regd. Book no. 1 Volume No. 96 at pages 244-256, document no.3960 regd on-14-10/1981 0070894186-1

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I, Kala Yadav w/o Om Prakash Yadav R/O H.NO-145-B, Katwaria Sarai, PO-Hauz Khas, Distt-South Delhi-110016 had changed my name to Kanta Yadav after my marriage, for all future purposes. 0070894178-1

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